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Data Augmentation Methods for Low-Resource Orthographic Syllabification

1. **First submission (19 July 2020)**
2. LoA with Minor Revision (06 Augustus 2020)
3. Responses to Reviewers, Final submission (08 August 2020)
4. Final paper of source latex submitted (08 August 2020)
5. Creative Commons Attribution License (08 August 2020)

IEEE Access - Manuscript ID Access-2020-35994

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Data Augmentation Methods for Low-Resource Orthographic Syllabification

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ABSTRACT An n -gram syllabification model generally produces high error rate for a low-resource language, such as Indonesian, because of the high rate of out-of-vocabulary (OOV) n -grams. In this paper, a combination of three methods of data augmentations are proposed to solve the problem, namely swapping consonant-graphemes, flipping onsets, and transposing nuclei. An investigation on 50k Indonesian words shows that combination of the three data augmentation methods drastically increases the amount of both unigrams and bigrams. A previous procedure of flipping onsets has been proven to enhance the standard bigram-syllabification by relatively decreasing the syllable error rate (SER) by up to 18.02%. Meanwhile, the previous swapping consonant-graphemes has been proven to give a relative decrement of SER up to 31.39%. In this research, a new transposing nuclei-based augmentation method is proposed and combined with both flipping and swapping procedures to tackle the drawback of bigram syllabification in handling the OOV bigrams. An evaluation based on k -fold cross-validation (k -FCV), using $k = 5$, for 50 thousand Indonesian formal words concludes that the proposed combination of the three procedures relatively decreases the mean SER produced by the standard bigram model by up to 37.63%. The proposed model is comparable to the fuzzy k -nearest neighbour in every class (FkNNC)-based model. It is worse than the state-of-the-art model, which is developed using combination of bidirectional long short-term memory (BiLSTM), convolutional neural networks (CNN), and conditional random fields (CRF), but it offers a low complexity.

INDEX TERMS Indonesian, bigram, flipping onsets, orthographic syllabification, swapping consonant-graphemes, transposing nuclei

I. INTRODUCTION

A syllabification can be defined as a splitting a word into syllables automatically. It is important not just in some researches but also in many linguistics-based applications. It is generally used in speech recognition [1] [2], speech synthesis [3] [4] [5], emotion classification [6] [7], speaker's dialect identification [8], speaking rate estimation [9], speaking proficiency scoring [10], word count estimation [11], phonemization [12] [13], collecting a minimum sentence set in developing speech corpus, as described in [14] [15] [16], etc.

The syllabification is preferably applied to graphemes than phonemes because of both simplicity and flexibility. Although a graphemic (or orthographic) syllabification generally gives lower accuracy [17] than the phonemic one [18], it can be easily applied to both unseen words and named-

entities that have so many exceptions and ambiguities.

Most researchers prefer a statistical-based syllabification much more than the rule-based one as it is simpler and accurate [19]. For example, a simple N ave Bayes produces quite low SER of around 12.90% for the Romanian language [20]. Some other statistical models use decision tree [20] [21], treebank [22], random forest [20], neural network [23] [24] [25] [26], support vector machine [20] [27], finite-state transducers [28] [29], context-free grammars [30], hidden Markov model [31], syllabification by analogy [19], dropped-and-matched model [32], n -gram [33], conditional random fields [34] [35], nearest neighbour [17], and unsupervised model [36].

The neural language models proposed in [37] [38] give excellent results. A recent model based on BiLSTM-CNN-

CRF gives the state-of-the-art result [39]. But, some n -gram models produce comparable accuracies as well as offer simplicity and fast processing [40] [41] [42].

In [33], the researchers prove that n -gram syllabification, which is one of the simplest models, produces a low word error rate (WER) of 0.15% for the phonemic sequences of the Germany language. It can be generalized into any language since it does not need any knowledge of a particular language. However, the n -gram model is generally poor for a tiny dataset producing many OOV n -grams. In [43], the researcher proposes a simple combined standard bigram and flipping onsets model (BFO) to tackle the OOV problem. Compare to the standard bigram models, the simple procedure can relatively reduce the SER by 18.02%. However, its performance is not stable for a tiny dataset.

In [44], the researcher proposes a simple backoff smoothing procedure called swapping phonological similarities (CBSPS) model, which can boost a bigram-based orthographic syllabification. It also performs better than the BFO model. In this research, a new model called a combination of flipping-onsets with standard-trigram and augmented-bigram syllabification (CFTABS) is proposed to solve the problem. Standard trigram is expected to perform better than bigram. Three augmentation methods of swapping consonant-graphemes, flipping onsets, and transposing nuclei are proposed to reduce the OOV rate. Next, CFTABS is evaluated and compared to BiLSTM-CNN-CRF [39] using 50 k Indonesian words based on 5-fold cross-validation scheme.

II. PRELIMINARY STUDY ON INDONESIAN

For many languages, those three methods of data augmentations commonly create many illegal syllables for both unigrams and bigrams. But, for other simpler languages with a nearly one-to-one grapheme-to-phoneme mapping, such as Indonesian, they generate many legal ones. Swapping several consonant-graphemes in a word for all combinations may generate some new words. It is performed by replacing them with other similar ones in the same manner and/or place of articulations. For example, swapping consonant-graphemes in an original formal word "*be.ras*" (rice) generates three other words: "*be.las*" (mercy), "*pe.ras*" (squeeze), and "*pe.las*" (pity) with no shifting the syllabification boundaries as both ⟨b⟩ and ⟨p⟩ are pronounced as the plosive-bilabial phonemes while ⟨r⟩ and ⟨l⟩ are pronounced as the trill and lateral-dental phonemes. Flipping two onsets in the original word yields another word "*re.bas*" (boil) without shifting the syllabification point. Flipping two onsets in the three consonants-swapped words produces three other words: "*le.bas*" (too ripe), "*re.pas*" (fragile), and "*le.pas*" (free). Transposing two nuclei in the original word produces another new word, "*ba.res*" (OOV). Transposing two nuclei in all consonants-swapped and onsets-flipped words produces seven new words: "*ba.les*" (reply), "*pa.res*" (OOV), "*pa.les*" (discordant), "*re.bas*" (OOV), "*la.bes*" (OOV), "*ra.pes*" (OOV), and "*la.pes*" (OOV). Thus, in this case, the three methods augment a short original formal word "*be.ras*" (rice) into nine

new formal words and six OOV words.

Furthermore, the Indonesian language has 18 prefixes [45]. Swapping some graphemes in the prefixes produce much more other legal suffixes than the illegal ones called noises, as described in [44]. A preliminary study shows that the dataset of 50 k Indonesian words produces up to 161,981 unigrams. Applying three augmentation procedures to the dataset generates up to 9,620,054 augmented unigrams (87.20% are legal). The 50 k words generate a total of 111,412 bigrams. The augmentation procedures yield 7,308,702 augmented bigrams (77.26% are legal). Finally, the 50 k words generate a total of 136,812 syllable trigrams. In this research, the augmented syllable trigrams are not generated since they produce a high sparsity of trigrams and consequently they are not effective in the syllabification process. Based on a particular criterion, such as phonotactic rule, those grams can be classified into two classes: legal and illegal. However, it is quite hard to recognize them as legal or illegal. Therefore, CFTABS are designed to use all generated syllable unigrams and bigrams without filtering to focus this research on examining how much the proposed CFTABS decreases the SER.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

The training process of the proposed model can be easily explained as the combination of normal (or standard) and swapped syllabifications. A dataset containing pairs of words and syllabification points is scanned to create two lists of normal syllable unigrams and bigrams as well as two lists of augmented syllable unigrams and bigrams, which is illustrated in Fig. 1.

Next, both normal and swapped unigrams as well as bigrams are used to test the model, which is illustrated in Fig. 2, to maximize the final score to produce the best syllable sequence as the output. For example, let a given grapheme sequence is ⟨*beras*⟩ (rice). First, two vowel-graphemes ⟨*e*⟩ and ⟨*a*⟩ are searched and their positions are listed as {2, 4}. Next, two candidates syllabifications are then generated, i.e. ⟨*be.ras*⟩ and ⟨*ber.as*⟩. Flipping onsets in each candidate is then performed. The score of each candidate for both standard and flipped syllabifications are then calculated and finally a candidate having the biggest score is chosen as the output. For example, the candidate ⟨*be.ras*⟩ obtains the biggest score so that is selected as the best syllabification. It can be easily explained as follows. Although both original bigram ⟨*be.ras*⟩ and its flipped version ⟨*re.bas*⟩ do not appear in the training set, they may come from other words that are augmented using the three proposed methods and listed in the table of augmented bigrams, such as "*be.las*" (mercy), "*pe.ras*" (squeeze), "*pe.las*" (pity), and other words described in Section II. Hence, this candidate has a high score (probability). Meanwhile, the other candidate ⟨*ber.as*⟩ and its flipped version ⟨*er.bas*⟩ cannot come from other augmented words that are listed in the table of augmented bigrams so that it has a lower score than the first candidate. Therefore, the proposed CFTABS model is capable of syllabifying the given grapheme sequence ⟨*beras*⟩ into ⟨*be.ras*⟩.

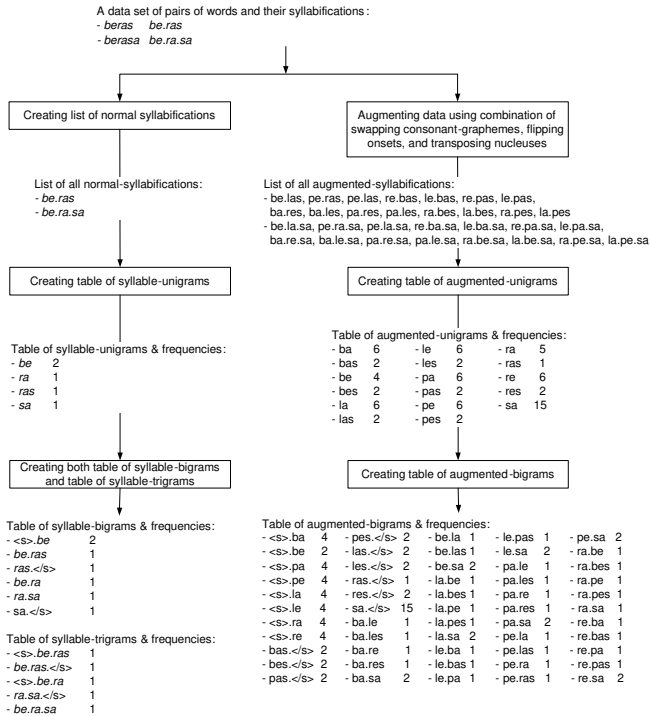


FIGURE 1. Training process of the proposed combination of flipping-onsets with standard-trigram and augmented-bigram syllabification (CFTABS).

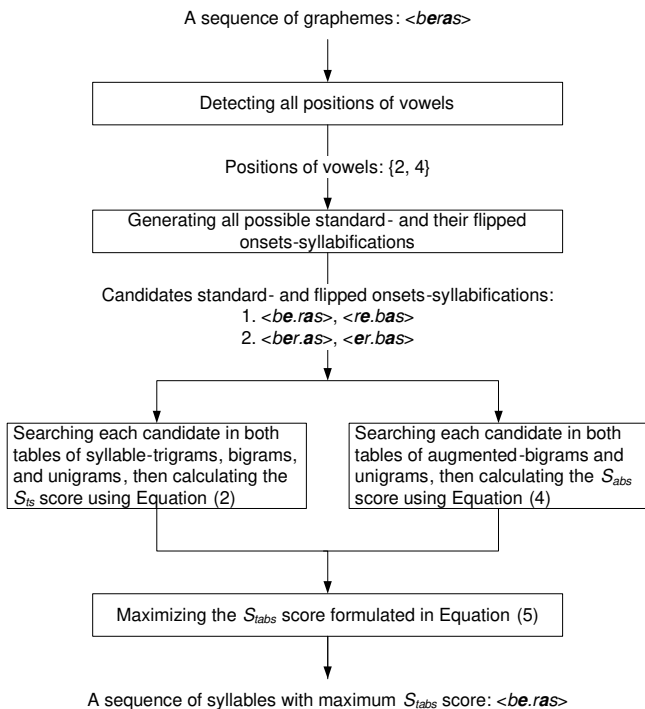


FIGURE 2. Block diagram of the proposed CFTABS model.

A. TRIGRAM-SYLLABIFICATION MODEL

A trigram-syllabification (TS) is a longer version of a bigram-syllabification (BS) described in [44]. It works by maximiz-

ing the likelihood (or probability) of a given sequence of syllables. A trigram-syllabification probability of L tokens $P(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_L)$ is commonly calculated using a probability chain. This probability is commonly estimated using many smoothing methods to tackle the OOV problem. One of the smoothing methods is the *Stupid Backoff* described in [46], where the estimated probability called a score S (since it can be greater than 1) is formulated as

$$P(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_L) = \prod_{i=1}^L P(w_i | w_{i-2} w_{i-1}) \approx \prod_{i=1}^L S(w_i | w_{i-2} w_{i-1}), \quad (1)$$

$$S_{ts}(w_i | w_{i-2} w_{i-1}) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(w_{i-2} w_{i-1} w_i)}{f(w_{i-2} w_{i-1})} & \text{if } f(w_{i-2} w_{i-1} w_i) > 0 \\ \alpha S_{bs}(w_i | w_{i-1}) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$$S_{bs}(w_i | w_{i-1}) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(w_{i-1} w_i)}{f(w_{i-1})} & \text{if } f(w_{i-1} w_i) > 0 \\ \alpha \frac{f(w_i)}{N} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where S_{ts} and S_{bs} are the scores of both trigram and bigram, respectively, $f(w_{i-2} w_{i-1} w_i)$, $f(w_{i-1} w_i)$, and $f(w_i)$ are the trigram, bigram, and unigram frequencies happen in the trainset, respectively, w_i is the i th syllable (or unigram), $w_{i-1} w_i$ is a bigram that is built from both $(i-1)$ th and i th syllables, $w_{i-2} w_{i-1} w_i$ is a trigram that comes from $(i-2)$ th, $(i-1)$ th, and i th syllables, α is the backoff factor that commonly recommend to be 0.4 as described in [46], and N is the total grams in the trainset.

In general, TS produces quite low performance when the trainset is tiny with many OOV syllables [35]. Another technique to improve the performance of TS is a procedure of decreasing the OOV rate.

B. TFO MODEL

In this research, the combined trigram and flipping onsets-based syllabification model (TFO) is an improved version of the bigram and flipping onsets-based syllabification model (BFO) described in [43]. TFO is a modification of the TS, which is explained in the subsection III-A, by adding a simple procedure of flipping two first onsets in a word. Similar to the BFO described in [43], here TFO is easily described in a pseudocode below:

- 1) Detect positions of both vowels and diphthongs in the input grapheme sequence
- 2) Generate C possible bigram-syllabifications (all candidates) and then calculate their scores S_i using TS model, where $i = 1, 2, \dots, C$;
- 3) For each candidate consisting of two or more syllables, generate a new candidate by flipping their onsets

contained in the first two syllables and then define the average score \bar{S}_i calculated from both scores of TS and its flipped onsets; and

- 4) Choose the i th candidate that has the biggest \bar{S}_i as the output.

C. CFTABS MODEL

In this research, the three proposed augmentation methods function to reduce the number of OOV grams in BS. They create a variant model, which is called augmented bigram-syllabification (ABS), with a new score formulated as

$$S_{abs}(w_i|w_{i-1}) = \begin{cases} B \frac{f_s(w_{i-1}w_i)}{f_s(w_{i-1})} & \text{if } f_s(w_{i-1}w_i) > 0 \\ U\alpha \frac{f_s(w_i)}{N_s} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where $f_s(w_{i-1}w_i)$ and $f_s(w_i)$ are the augmented- bigram and unigram frequencies happen in the normal trainset, w_i is the i th syllable (or unigram), $w_{i-1}w_i$ is a bigram that is composed from $(i - 1)$ th and i th syllables, N_s is the number of grams in the augmented training-set, B and U are the weights of augmented- bigram and unigram, respectively, and α is the backoff factor in Equation 3. As a bigram plays more critical role to syllabifying a word than the unigram, the value of B should be much bigger than U .

Next, a combined trigram and augmented bigram syllabification (TABS) model is created using a score S_{tabs} formulated as

$$S_{tabs} = S_{ts} + \beta S_{abs} \quad (5)$$

where S_{ts} is the trigram-syllabification score in Equation (2) and S_{abs} is the augmented-bigram-syllabification score in Equation (4), and β is the weight that is used in the augmented-bigram score.

Finally, both TFO and TABS models are then combined to be CFTABS, which takes into account unigrams, bigrams, and trigrams (that are built from the original words) as well as both augmented-unigrams and augmented-bigrams (that are developed from the augmented words). The detailed explanation of CFTABS with a simple example of syllabifying a word is illustrated in Fig 2.

D. THREE AUGMENTATION METHODS

Since most Indonesian graphemes are pronounced as the same phonemes, some onset graphemes can be swapped based on the phoneme categorization in [45]. Table 1 illustrates some Indonesian graphemes and their swaps. There are 14 graphemes and their swaps, each of which is simply mapped into those phoneme categorizations. This mapping is possible due to their strong relation to the corresponding phonemes [45] [47]. A word that consists of one or more graphemes in Table Table 1 can be swapped to produce one or more other words.

For example, both ⟨b⟩ and ⟨p⟩ are pronounced as plosive-bilabial phonemes. In general, swapping ⟨b⟩ into ⟨p⟩ generates some new legal unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ba.ku*"

TABLE 1. Graphemes and their swaps based on phoneme category

Phoneme category	Gr.	Sw,	Example
Plosive-Bilabial: {b, p}	b	p	<i>ba.ku</i> (standard) → <i>pa.ku</i> (nail)
	p	b	<i>pe.ri</i> (fairy) → <i>be.ri</i> (give)
Plosive-Dental: {d, t}	d	t	<i>de.bu</i> (dust) → <i>te.bu</i> (cane)
	t	d	<i>ta.yang</i> (show) → <i>da.yang</i> (court lady)
			<i>ga.bung</i> (join) → <i>ka.bung</i> (mourning)
Plosive-Velar: {g, k}	g	k	<i>ka.mis</i> (thursday) → <i>ga.mis</i> (clothes)
	k	g	<i>ce.ruk</i> (niche) → <i>je.ruk</i> (orange)
Affricative-Palatal: {c, j}	c	j	<i>ja.wat</i> (stretched out) → <i>ca.wat</i> (loincloth)
	j	c	<i>fo.li</i> (thin metal) → <i>vo.li</i> (volley)
Fricative-Labiodental: {f, v}	f	v	<i>vi.si</i> (vision) → <i>fi.si</i> (fission)
	v	f	<i>a.sam</i> (acid) → <i>a.zam</i> (aim)
Fricative-Dental: {s, z}	s	z	<i>ze.ni</i> (soldier) → <i>se.ni</i> (art)
	z	s	<i>lang.ka</i> (rare) → <i>rang.ka</i> (frame)
Thrill/Lateral-Dental: {l, r}	l	r	<i>ram.bu</i> (sign) → <i>lam.bu</i> (canoe)
	r	l	

(standard) is swapped to be "*pa.ku*" (nail), "*ba.wang*" (onion) to be "*pa.wang*" (handler), "*be.ta*" (I am) to be "*pe.ta*" (map), etc. Swapping the grapheme ⟨p⟩ into ⟨b⟩ also generally creates several new syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*pe.ri*" (fairy) is swapped to be "*be.ri*" (give), "*pa.da*" (on) to be "*ba.da*" (after), "*pi.ta*" (tape) to be "*bi.ta*" (bytes), etc.

The grapheme ⟨d⟩ is in the same category with grapheme ⟨t⟩, i.e. plosive-dental. Swapping the grapheme ⟨d⟩ into ⟨t⟩ generally produces some new legal syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*de.bu*" (dust) is swapped to be "*te.bu*" (cane), "*de.bar*" (flutter) to be "*te.bar*" (spread out), "*da.ra*" (virgin) to be "*ta.ra*" (the same level), etc. Swapping the grapheme ⟨t⟩ into ⟨d⟩ also generally creates several new syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ta.yang*" (show) can be swapped to be "*da.yang*" (court lady), "*ta.pa*" (asceticism) is swapped to be "*da.pa*" (ransom slaves), "*ta.rah*" (flat) to be "*da.rah*" (blood), etc.

Both ⟨g⟩ and ⟨k⟩ are plosive-velar. Swapping grapheme ⟨g⟩ into ⟨k⟩ generates several legal unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ga.bung*" (join) is swapped to be "*ka.bung*" (mourning), "*ge.tar*" (shakes) to be "*ke.tar*" (daunted), "*gi.la*" (crazy) to be "*ki.la*" (stake), etc. Swapping the grapheme ⟨k⟩ into ⟨g⟩ also generally creates several new syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ka.mis*" (thursday) to be "*ga.mis*" (clothes), "*ke.mit*" (night guard) is swapped to be "*ge.mit*" (poke), "*ka.ri*" (curry) to be "*ga.ri*" (handcuffs), etc.

The grapheme ⟨c⟩ is in the same category with grapheme ⟨j⟩, i.e. affricative-palatal. Swapping the grapheme ⟨c⟩ into ⟨j⟩ commonly produces some legal syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ce.ruk*" (niche) is swapped to be "*je.ruk*"

(orange), "*ca.ri*" (search) is swapped to be "*ja.ri*" (finger), "*ca.har*" (liquid) to be "*ja.har*" (loud), etc. Swapping the grapheme ⟨j⟩ into ⟨c⟩ also generally creates several new syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ja.wat*" (stretched out) is swapped to be "*ca.wat*" (loincloth), "*ja.ra*" (small drill) to be "*ca.ra*" (way), "*ja.ran*" (horse) to be "*ca.ran*" (woman fighting), etc.

In [45], the authors state that Indonesian does not have phoneme /v/, where the grapheme ⟨v⟩ is always pronounced as phoneme /f/ so that it can be swapped into ⟨f⟩. For instance, the word "*fo.li*" (thin metal) is swapped as "*vo.li*" (volley) and "*vi.si*" (vision) is swapped as "*fi.si*" (fission).

Both graphemes ⟨s⟩ and ⟨z⟩ are in the same category: fricative-dental. In general, swapping the grapheme ⟨s⟩ into ⟨z⟩ generates some new legal syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*a.sam*" (acid) is swapped to be "*a.zam*" (aim). Swapping the grapheme ⟨z⟩ into ⟨s⟩ converts a word "*ze.ni*" (soldier) into "*se.ni*" (art).

Finally, both graphemes ⟨l⟩ and ⟨r⟩ are considerably in the same category: thrill/lateral-dental. In general, swapping the grapheme ⟨s⟩ into ⟨z⟩ generates some new legal syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*lang.ka*" (rare) is swapped to be "*rang.ka*" (frame). Swapping the grapheme ⟨z⟩ into ⟨s⟩ converts a word "*ram.bu*" (sign) into "*lam.bu*" (canoe).

However, swapping graphemes does not always produce other formal words. Sometimes, it creates an illegal word. For instance, swapping grapheme "p" in the word "*pa.ha*" (thigh) creates a new word "*ba.ha*", which is illegal (OOV). But, the interesting fact is that the new word is a sub-word that comes from another word "*ba.ha.gi.a*" (happy). Of course, the swapped word increase the number of bigrams. Thus, the swapping word can be considered as one of the data augmentation methods. It can be expected to provide a more accurate score in Equation (5) to give a better syllabification.

Furthermore, Table 2 shows some examples of augmented words that are built from two original words without changing the syllabification points. First, the original word "*be.ri*" is swapped for all combinations to produce three new words: "*be.li*" (buy), "*pe.ri*" (fairy), and "*pe.li*" (OOV). Both original and swapped words are then augmented using the flipping onsets to generate four OOV words: "*re.bi*", "*le.bi*", "*re.pi*", and "*le.pi*". Finally, all the original, swapped, and flipped words are augmented using transposing their nuclei to produce eight OOV words: "*bi.re*", "*bi.le*", "*pi.re*", "*pi.le*", "*ri.be*", "*li.be*", "*ri.pe*", and "*li.pe*". Thus, this original word is augmented to be 15 new words, where only two words are formally found in the Indonesian dictionary while the rests are OOV words. But, an interesting phenomenon is the OOV words can be some sub-words for many other formal words. For example, the OOV word "*pe.li*" is a sub-word that comes from other words: "*pe.li.as*" (spell), "*pe.li.cin*" (lubricant), "*pe.li.ta*" (light), etc. The second formal word "*ba.tu*" is also augmented into 15 new words, where seven words are formal and the rests are OOV words that can also be some sub-words for many other formal words. Therefore, no doubt that the augmented words are capable of increasing the number of

both unigrams and bigrams, which is expected to make the *cbsps* score in Equation (5) more accurate.

TABLE 2. Example of some augmented words that are generated using combination of swapping consonants-graphemes, flipping onsets, and transposing nuclei in the original words without shifting the syllabification points

Original word	Augmented words
<i>be.ri</i> (give)	<i>be.li</i> (buy), <i>pe.ri</i> (fairy), <i>pe.li</i> (OOV), <i>re.bi</i> (OOV), <i>le.bi</i> (OOV), <i>re.pi</i> (OOV), <i>le.pi</i> (OOV), <i>bi.re</i> (OOV), <i>bi.le</i> (OOV), <i>pi.re</i> (OOV), <i>pi.le</i> (OOV), <i>ri.be</i> (OOV), <i>li.be</i> (OOV), <i>ri.pe</i> (OOV), <i>li.pe</i> (OOV)
<i>ba.tu</i> (stone)	<i>ba.du</i> (checkered patterned), <i>pa.tu</i> (small pickaxe), <i>pa.du</i> (coherent), <i>ta.bu</i> (taboo), <i>da.bu</i> (OOV), <i>ta.pu</i> (OOV), <i>da.pu</i> (OOV), <i>bu.ta</i> (blind), <i>bu.da</i> (OOV), <i>pu.ta</i> (OOV), <i>pu.da</i> (OOV), <i>tu.ba</i> (tube), <i>du.ba</i> (OOV), <i>tu.pa</i> (OOV), <i>du.pa</i> (incense)

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The three parameters of the proposed CFTABS: U , B , and β are jointly optimized using a fixed $\alpha = 0.4$ as suggested in [46]. The result is illustrated in Fig. 3. The optimum parameters are $U = 0.1$, $B = 100$, and $\beta = 0.75$ that give the lowest SER of 2.37%. This result proves the hypothesis explained in subsection III-C, where the value of B should be much bigger than U since bigram is more critical than unigram in syllabifying a word. The optimum $\beta = 0.75$ also makes sense because the percentage of legal bigrams produced by the proposed augmentation methods is 77.26% as stated in Section II.

The CFTABS is then compared to five other models: BS [43], BFO [43], CBSPS [44], FkNNC [17], and BiLSTM-CNN-CRF [39]. Evaluation based on 5-FCV using a dataset consisting of 50 k Indonesian words explained in [17] [43] [44].

The results that are shown in Fig. 4 show that CFTABS better than three other bigram-based models but worse than FkNNC as well as BiLSTM-CNN-CRF. It produces SER of 2.37% that is lower than BS, BFO, and CBSPS with average SER of 3.80%, 3.11%, and 2.61% respectively. It means that CFTABS relatively reduces the average SER of BS by up to 37.63%. FkNNC gives a slightly lower SER of 2.27%. Meanwhile, BiLSTM-CNN-CRF reaches the lowest SER of 0.44%.

Based on the results, the proposed CFTABS is comparable to FkNNC. But, by offering a low complexity, it can be more preferable than FkNNC. It just computes the probabilities of tens or less candidates based on both original and augmented n -grams to decide a syllabification point. Meanwhile, FkNNC should: firstly, computes the dissimilarities between a candidate pattern of syllabification and the others in the trainset (up to 250 k patterns); secondly, chooses k neighbours in each class; finally, select the smallest dissimilarity to make a decision. Compared to BiLSTM-CNN-CRF in terms of complexity, the proposed CFTABS is also better. It needs much lower training time (only ten minutes) than BiLSTM-CNN-CRF (up to ten hours).

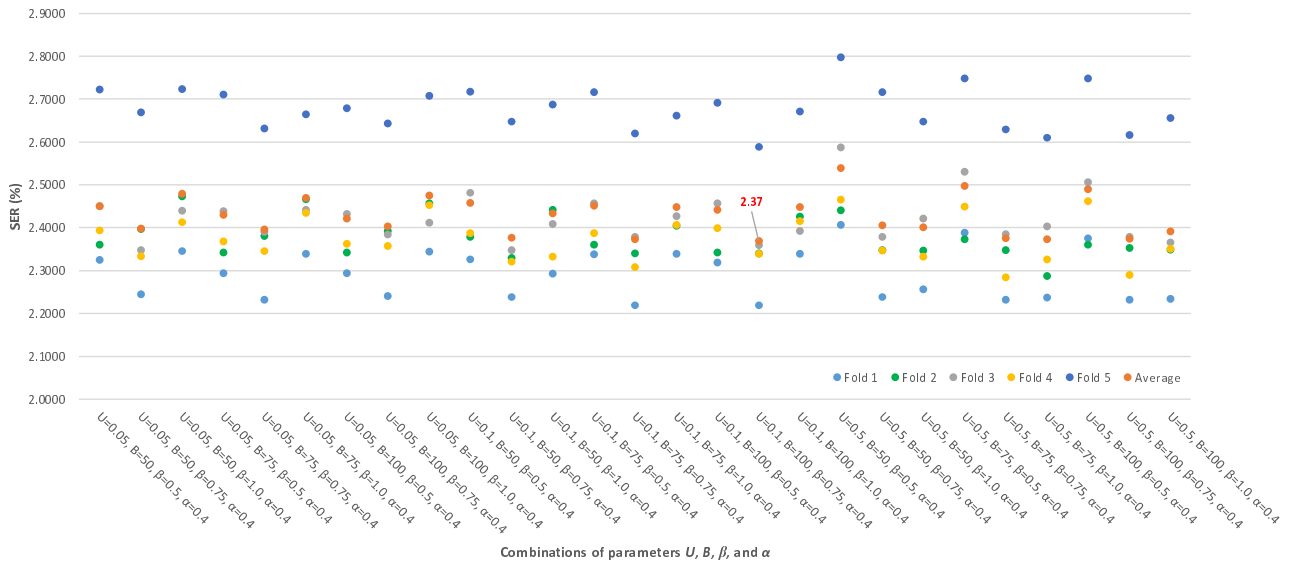


FIGURE 3. SERs produced by the proposed CFTABS using a fixed $\alpha = 0.4$ and jointly optimization of three parameters: U , B , and β .

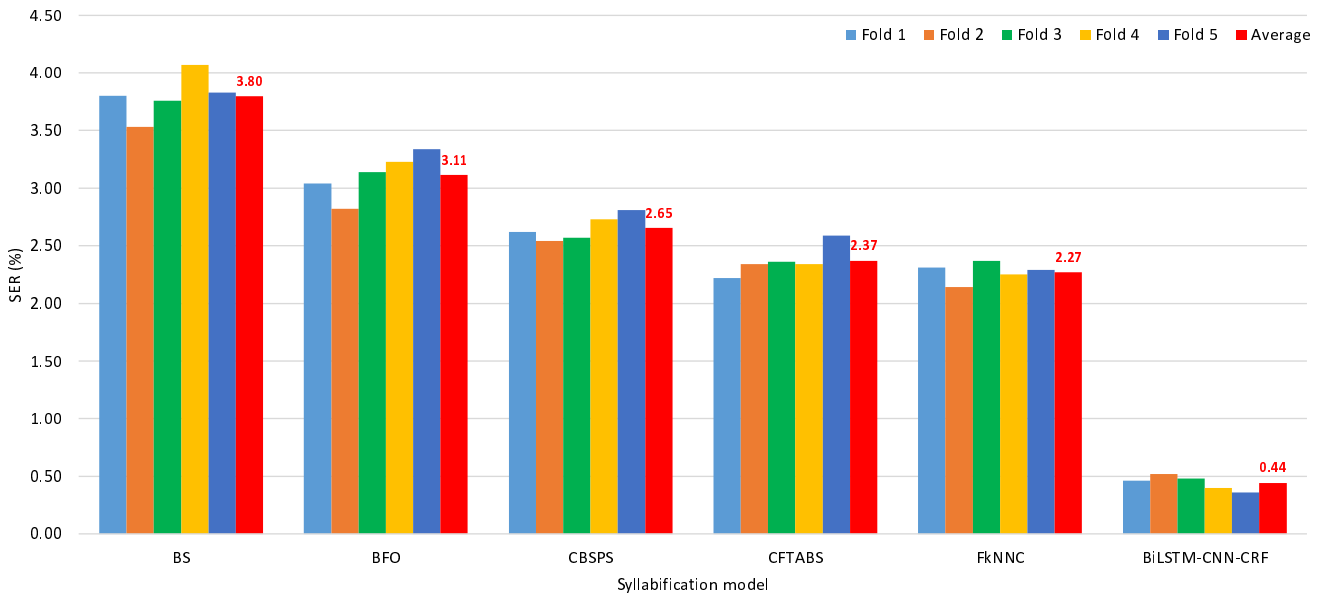


FIGURE 4. SERs produced by BS, BFO, CBSPS, CFTABS, and FkNNC for each fold and the average.

However, the proposed CFTABS is a bit unstable. It produces low SERs for Fold 1, Fold 2, Fold 3, and Fold 4 but it gives a higher SER for Fold 5. A filtering procedure can be introduced to select the possible legal-bigrams. For instance, a swapped word "zdlug.dul" (OOV) that comes from the formal word "struk.tur" (structure) should be detected as an illegal bigram.

Besides, CFTABS also has difficulty to differentiate a diphthong from a regular sequence of grapheme and suffix

since the input is a grapheme sequence (not phoneme sequence). For example, a diphthong $\langle ei \rangle$ is hard to be distinguished from a grapheme sequence of $\langle e \rangle$ and the suffix $\langle i \rangle$. The detail investigation shows that most SER produced by this case since Indonesian has up to eighteen suffixes [45]. This problem can be solved by adding a procedure of diphthong recognition.

Another crucial problem is that CFTABS is applied on the syllable-level, which produces many OOV grams. Al-

though three augmentation methods have been applied, the OOV rate is still high. Therefore, a grapheme-level is potentially applied to reduce the OOV rate. For instance, a word "*struktur*" (structure) just produces a syllable-level bigram of "*struk.tur*". But, it generates many grapheme-level bigrams, trigrams, until 8-gram: "*st*", "*tr*", "*ru*", ... "*struktur*". However, the use of grapheme-level approach will make the complexity of the model slightly higher.

V. CONCLUSION

The proposed CFTABS is capable of improving the performance of BS model, where the average SER is relatively decreased by up to 37.63%. It is comparable to the FkNNC-based syllabification and offer simplicity as well as flexibility since it just calculates the combined probabilities of both standard and augmented trigrams, bigrams, and unigrams to accurately define the syllabification points. Meanwhile, CFTABS gives a higher SER than BiLSTM-CNN-CFR but it provides a faster training time. In the future, a particular procedure to filter legal bigrams as well as unigrams can be introduced to increase its performance. Another improvement can also be performed by using grapheme-level grams, instead of the syllable ones.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research is fully funded by the Research and Community Service, Telkom University.

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Date of publication xxxx 00, 0000, date of current version xxxx 00, 0000.

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/ACCESS.2017.DOI

Data Augmentation Methods for Low-Resource Orthographic Syllabification

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This research is funded by the Directorate of Research and Community Service PPM, Telkom University, with grant number: KWR.0067/PNLT3/PPM-LIT/2020.

ABSTRACT An n -gram syllabification model generally produces a high error rate for a low-resource language, such as Indonesian, because of the high rate of out-of-vocabulary (OOV) n -grams. In this paper, a combination of three methods of data augmentations is proposed to solve the problem, namely swapping consonant-graphemes, flipping onsets, and transposing nuclei. An investigation on 50k Indonesian words shows that the combination of three data augmentation methods drastically increases the amount of both unigrams and bigrams. A previous procedure of flipping onsets has been proven to enhance the standard bigram-syllabification by relatively decreasing the syllable error rate (SER) by up to 18.02%. Meanwhile, the previous swapping consonant-graphemes has been proven to give a relative decrement of SER up to 31.39%. In this research, a new transposing nuclei-based augmentation method is proposed and combined with both flipping and swapping procedures to tackle the drawback of bigram syllabification in handling the OOV bigrams. An evaluation based on k -fold cross-validation (k -FCV), using $k = 5$, for 50 thousand Indonesian formal words concludes that the proposed combination of the three procedures relatively decreases the mean SER produced by the standard bigram model by up to 37.63%. The proposed model is comparable to the fuzzy k -nearest neighbor in every class (FkNNC)-based model. It is worse than the state-of-the-art model, which is developed using a combination of bidirectional long short-term memory (BiLSTM), convolutional neural networks (CNN), and conditional random fields (CRF), but it offers a low complexity.

INDEX TERMS Indonesian, flipping onsets, orthographic syllabification, swapping consonant-graphemes, transposing nuclei

I. INTRODUCTION

Syllabification can be defined as a splitting a word into syllables automatically. It is important not just in some researches but also in many linguistics-based applications. It is generally used in speech recognition [1] [2], speech synthesis [3] [4] [5], emotion classification [6] [7], speaker's dialect identification [8], speaking rate estimation [9], speaking proficiency scoring [10], word count estimation [11], phonemization [12] [13], collecting a minimum sentence set in developing speech corpus, as described in [14] [15] [16], etc.

The syllabification is preferably applied to graphemes than phonemes because of both simplicity and flexibility. Although a graphemic (or orthographic) syllabification gen-

erally gives lower accuracy [17] than the phonemic one [18], it can be easily applied to both unseen words and named-entities that have so many exceptions and ambiguities.

Most researchers prefer a statistical-based syllabification much more than the rule-based one as it is simpler and accurate [19]. For example, a simple Naïve Bayes produces quite low SER of around 12.90% for the Romanian language [20]. Some other statistical models use decision tree [20] [21], treebank [22], random forest [20], neural network [23] [24] [25] [26], support vector machine [20] [27], finite-state transducers [28] [29], context-free grammars [30], hidden Markov model [31], syllabification by analogy [19], dropped-and-matched model [32], n -gram [33], conditional

random fields [34] [35], nearest neighbour [17], and unsupervised model [36].

The neural language models proposed in [37] [38] give excellent results. A recent model based on BiLSTM-CNN-CRF gives state-of-the-art result [39]. However, some n -gram models produce comparable accuracies as well as offer simplicity and fast processing [40] [41] [42].

In [33], the researchers prove that n -gram syllabification, which is one of the simplest methods, reaches a low word error rate (WER) of 0.15% for the phonemic sequences of the Germany language. It can be generalized into any language since it does not need any knowledge of a particular language. However, the n -gram model is generally poor for a tiny dataset producing many OOV n -grams. In [43], the researcher proposes a simple combined standard bigram and flipping onsets model (BFO) to tackle the OOV problem. Compare to the standard bigram models, it can relatively reduce the SER by 18.02%. However, its performance is not stable for a tiny dataset.

In [44], the researcher proposes a simple backoff smoothing procedure called swapping phonological similarities (CBSPS) model, which can boost a bigram-based orthographic syllabification. It also performs better than the BFO model. In this research, a new model called a combination of flipping-onsets with standard-trigram and augmented-bigram syllabification (CFTABS) is proposed to solve the problem. The standard trigram is expected to perform better than bigram. Three augmentation methods of swapping consonant-graphemes, flipping onsets, and transposing nuclei are proposed to reduce the OOV rate. Next, CFTABS is evaluated and compared to BiLSTM-CNN-CRF [39] using 50 k Indonesian words based on a 5-fold cross-validation scheme.

II. PRELIMINARY STUDY ON INDONESIAN

For many languages, those three methods of data augmentations commonly create many illegal syllables for both unigrams and bigrams. But, for other simpler languages with a nearly one-to-one grapheme-to-phoneme mapping, such as Indonesian, they generate many legal ones. Swapping several consonant-graphemes in a word for all combinations may generate some new words. It is performed by replacing them with other similar ones in the same manner and/or place of articulations. For example, swapping consonant-graphemes in an original formal word "*be.ras*" (rice) generates three other words: "*be.las*" (mercy), "*pe.ras*" (squeeze), and "*pe.las*" (pity) with no shifting the syllabification boundaries as both ⟨b⟩ and ⟨p⟩ are pronounced as the plosive-bilabial phonemes while ⟨r⟩ and ⟨l⟩ are pronounced as the trill and lateral-dental phonemes. Flipping two onsets in the original word yields another word "*re.bas*" (boil) without shifting the syllabification point. Flipping two onsets in the three consonants-swapped words produces three other words: "*le.bas*" (too ripe), "*re.pas*" (fragile), and "*le.pas*" (free). Transposing two nuclei in the original word produces another new word, "*ba.res*" (OOV). Transposing two nuclei in all consonants-swapped and onsets-flipped words produces seven new

words: "*ba.les*" (reply), "*pa.res*" (OOV), "*pa.les*" (discordant), "*re.bas*" (OOV), "*la.bes*" (OOV), "*ra.pes*" (OOV), and "*la.pes*" (OOV). Thus, in this case, the three methods augment a short original formal word "*be.ras*" (rice) into nine new formal words and six OOV words.

Furthermore, the Indonesian language has 18 prefixes [45]. Swapping some graphemes in the prefixes produces many more other legal suffixes than the illegal ones called noises, as described in [44]. A preliminary study shows that the dataset of 50 k Indonesian words produces up to 161,981 unigrams. Applying three augmentation procedures to the dataset generates up to 9,620,054 augmented unigrams (87.20% are legal). The 50 k words generate a total of 111,412 bigrams. The augmentation procedures yield 7,308,702 augmented bigrams (77.26% are legal). Finally, the 50 k words generate a total of 136,812 syllable trigrams. In this research, the augmented syllable trigrams are not generated since they produce a high sparsity of trigrams, and consequently, they are not useful in the syllabification process. Based on a particular criterion, such as a phonotactic rule, those grams can be classified into two classes: legal and illegal. However, it is quite hard to recognize them as legal or illegal. Therefore, CFTABS are designed to use all generated syllable unigrams and bigrams without filtering to focus this research on examining how much the proposed CFTABS decreases the SER.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

The proposed model's training process can be easily explained as the combination of normal (or standard) and swapped syllabifications. A dataset containing pairs of words and their syllabification points is scanned to create two lists of normal syllable unigrams and bigrams, as well as two lists of augmented syllable unigrams and bigrams, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

Next, the normal and swapped unigrams, as well as the normal and swapped bigrams, are used to test the model to maximize the final score to produce the best syllable sequence as the output, as illustrated in Fig. 2. For example, let a given grapheme sequence is ⟨*beras*⟩ (rice). First, two vowel-graphemes ⟨*e*⟩ and ⟨*a*⟩ are searched and their positions are listed as {2, 4}. Next, two candidates syllabifications are then generated, i.e. ⟨*be.ras*⟩ and ⟨*ber.as*⟩. Flipping onsets in each candidate is then performed. The scores of each candidate for both standard and flipped syllabifications are then calculated and finally, a candidate having the biggest score is chosen as the output. For example, the candidate ⟨*be.ras*⟩ obtains the biggest score, and consequently, it is selected as the best syllabification. It can be easily explained as follows. Although both original bigram ⟨*be.ras*⟩ and its flipped version ⟨*re.bas*⟩ do not appear in the training set, they may come from other words that are augmented using the three proposed methods and listed in the table of augmented bigrams, such as "*be.las*" (mercy), "*pe.ras*" (squeeze), "*pe.las*" (pity), and other words described in Section II. Hence, this candidate has a high score (probability). Meanwhile, the other candidate ⟨*ber.as*⟩ and its flipped version ⟨*er.bas*⟩ cannot come from

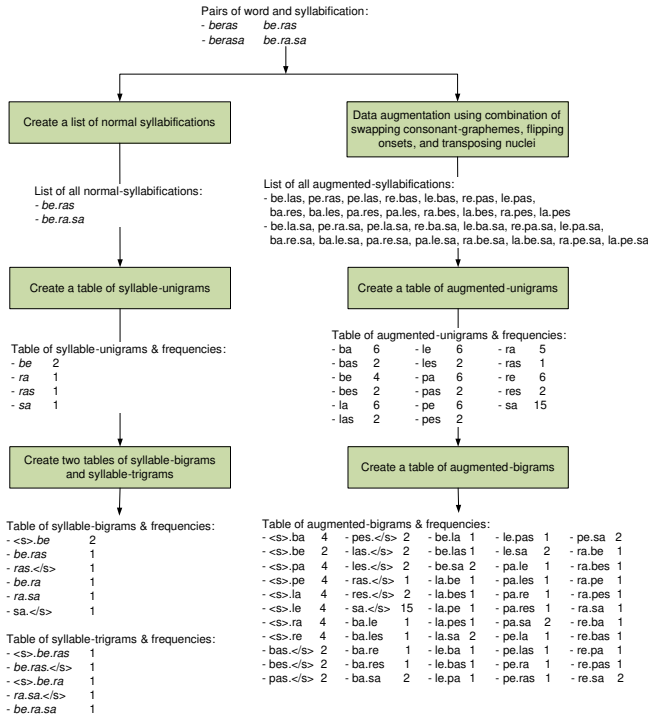


FIGURE 1. Training process of the proposed combination of flipping-onsets with standard-trigram and augmented-bigram syllabification (CFTABS).

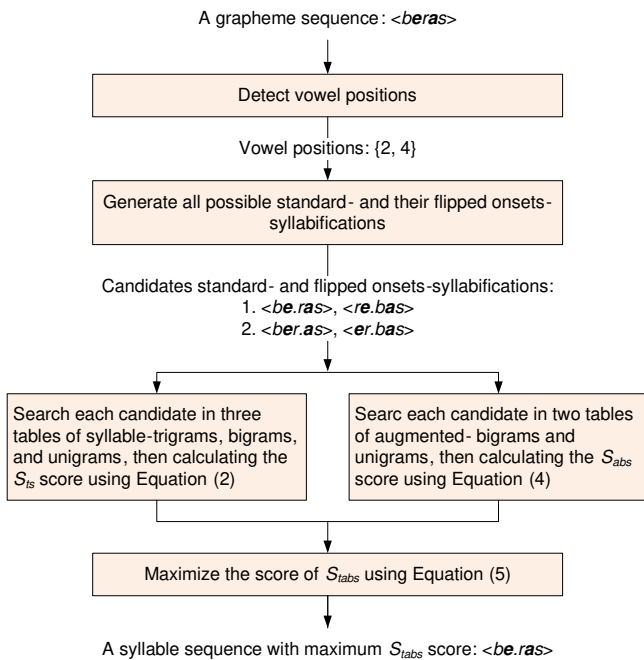


FIGURE 2. Testing process of the proposed CFTABS model.

other augmented words listed in the table of augmented bigrams so that it has a lower score than the first candidate. Therefore, the proposed CFTABS model is able to syllabify the given grapheme sequence *<beras>* into *<be.ras>*.

A. TRIGRAM-SYLLABIFICATION MODEL

A trigram-syllabification (TS) is a longer version of a bigram-syllabification (BS) described in [44]. It works by maximizing the likelihood (or probability) of a given sequence of syllables. A trigram-syllabification probability of L tokens $P(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_L)$ is commonly calculated using a probability chain. This probability is commonly estimated using many smoothing methods to tackle the OOV problem. One of the smoothing methods is the *Stupid Backoff* described in [46], where the estimated probability called a score S (since it can be greater than 1) is formulated as

$$P(w_1, w_2, \dots, w_L) = \prod_{i=1}^L P(w_i | w_{i-2} w_{i-1}) \approx \prod_{i=1}^L S(w_i | w_{i-2} w_{i-1}), \quad (1)$$

$$S_{ts}(w_i | w_{i-2} w_{i-1}) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(w_{i-2} w_{i-1} w_i)}{f(w_{i-2} w_{i-1})} & \text{if } f(w_{i-2} w_{i-1} w_i) > 0 \\ \alpha S_{bs}(w_i | w_{i-1}) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$$S_{bs}(w_i | w_{i-1}) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(w_{i-1} w_i)}{f(w_{i-1})} & \text{if } f(w_{i-1} w_i) > 0 \\ \alpha \frac{f(w_i)}{N} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where S_{ts} and S_{bs} are the scores of both trigram and bigram, respectively, $f(w_{i-2} w_{i-1} w_i)$, $f(w_{i-1} w_i)$, and $f(w_i)$ are the trigram, bigram, and unigram frequencies happen in the trainset, respectively, w_i is the i th syllable (or unigram), $w_{i-1} w_i$ is a bigram that is built from two syllables with indices of $(i-1)$ and i , $w_{i-2} w_{i-1} w_i$ is a trigram that comes from three two syllables with indices of $(i-2)$, $(i-1)$, and i , α represents the backoff factor that commonly recommend to be 0.4 as described in [46], and N is the total grams in the trainset.

In general, TS produces quite low performance when the trainset is tiny with many OOV syllables [35]. Another technique to improve the performance of TS is a procedure of decreasing the OOV rate.

B. TFO MODEL

In this research, the combined trigram and flipping onsets-based syllabification model (TFO) is an improved version of the bigram and flipping onsets-based syllabification model (BFO) described in [43]. TFO is a modification of the TS, which is explained in subsection III-A, by adding a simple procedure of flipping two first onsets in a word. Similar to the BFO described in [43], here TFO is easily described in the pseudocode below:

- 1) Detect positions of both vowels and diphthongs in the input grapheme sequence
- 2) Generate C possible bigram-syllabifications (all candidates) and then calculate their scores S_i using TS model, where $i = 1, 2, \dots, C$;

- 3) For each candidate consisting of two or more syllables, generate a new candidate by flipping their onsets contained in the first two syllables and then define the average score \bar{S}_i calculated from both scores of TS and its flipped onsets; and
- 4) Choose the i th candidate that has the biggest \bar{S}_i as the output.

C. CFTABS MODEL

In this research, the three proposed augmentation methods function to reduce the number of OOV grams in BS. They create a variant model, which is called augmented bigram-syllabification (ABS), with a new score formulated as

$$S_{abs}(w_i|w_{i-1}) = \begin{cases} B \frac{f_s(w_{i-1}w_i)}{f_s(w_{i-1})} & \text{if } f_s(w_{i-1}w_i) > 0 \\ U \alpha \frac{f_s(w_i)}{N_s} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where $f_s(w_{i-1}w_i)$ and $f_s(w_i)$ are the augmented- bigram and unigram frequencies happen in the normal trainset, w_i is the i th syllable (or unigram), $w_{i-1}w_i$ is a bigram that is composed from two syllables with indices of $(i-1)$ and i , N_s represents the number of grams in the augmented training-set, B and U are the weights of augmented- bigram and unigram, respectively, and α is the backoff factor in Equation 3. As a bigram plays a more critical role in syllabifying a word than the unigram, the value of B should be much bigger than U .

Next, a combined trigram and augmented bigram syllabification (TABS) model is created using a score S_{tabs} formulated as

$$S_{tabs} = S_{ts} + \beta S_{abs} \quad (5)$$

where S_{ts} is the trigram-syllabification score in Equation (2) and S_{abs} is the augmented-bigram-syllabification score in Equation (4), and β is the weight that is used in the augmented-bigram score.

Finally, both TFO and TABS models are then combined to create CFTABS, which takes into account unigrams, bigrams, and trigrams (built from the original words), and both augmented-unigrams and augmented-bigrams (that are developed from the augmented words). The detailed explanation of CFTABS with a simple example of syllabifying a word is illustrated in Fig 2.

D. THREE AUGMENTATION METHODS

Since most Indonesian graphemes are pronounced as the same phonemes, some onset graphemes can be swapped based on the phoneme categorization in [45]. Table 1 illustrates some Indonesian graphemes and their swaps. There are 14 graphemes and their swaps, each of which is simply mapped into those phoneme categorizations. This mapping is possible due to their strong relation to the corresponding phonemes [45] [47]. A word that consists of one or more

TABLE 1. Graphemes and their swaps based on phoneme category

Phoneme category	Gr.	Sw,	Example
Plosive-Bilabial: {b, p}	b	p	<i>ba.ku</i> (standard) → <i>pa.ku</i> (nail)
	p	b	<i>pe.ri</i> (fairy) → <i>be.ri</i> (give)
Plosive-Dental: {d, t}	d	t	<i>de.bu</i> (dust) → <i>te.bu</i> (cane)
	t	d	<i>ta.yang</i> (show) → <i>da.yang</i> (court lady)
Plosive-Velar: {g, k}	g	k	<i>ga.bung</i> (join) → <i>ka.bung</i> (mourning)
	k	g	<i>ka.mis</i> (thursday) → <i>ga.mis</i> (clothes)
Affricative-Palatal: {c, j}	c	j	<i>ce.ruk</i> (niche) → <i>je.ruk</i> (orange)
	j	c	<i>ja.wat</i> (stretched out) → <i>ca.wat</i> (loincloth)
Fricative-Labiodental: {f, v}	f	v	<i>fo.li</i> (thin metal) → <i>vo.li</i> (volley)
	v	f	<i>vi.si</i> (vision) → <i>fi.si</i> (fission)
Fricative-Dental: {s, z}	s	z	<i>a.sam</i> (acid) → <i>a.zam</i> (aim)
	z	s	<i>ze.ni</i> (soldier) → <i>se.ni</i> (art)
Thrill/Lateral-Dental: {l, r}	l	r	<i>lang.ka</i> (rare) → <i>rang.ka</i> (frame)
	r	l	<i>ram.bu</i> (sign) → <i>lam.bu</i> (canoe)

graphemes in Table Table 1 can be swapped to produce one or more other words.

For example, both ⟨b⟩ and ⟨p⟩ are pronounced as plosive-bilabial phonemes. In general, swapping ⟨b⟩ into ⟨p⟩ generates some new legal unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ba.ku*" (standard) is swapped to be "*pa.ku*" (nail), "*ba.wang*" (onion) to be "*pa.wang*" (handler), "*be.ta*" (I am) to be "*pe.ta*" (map), etc. Swapping the grapheme ⟨p⟩ into ⟨b⟩ also generally creates several new syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*pe.ri*" (fairy) is swapped to be "*be.ri*" (give), "*pa.da*" (on) to be "*ba.da*" (after), "*pi.ta*" (tape) to be "*bi.ta*" (bytes), etc.

The grapheme ⟨d⟩ is in the same category with grapheme ⟨t⟩, i.e. plosive-dental. Swapping the grapheme ⟨d⟩ into ⟨t⟩ generally produces some new legal syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*de.bu*" (dust) is swapped to be "*te.bu*" (cane), "*de.bar*" (flutter) to be "*te.bar*" (spread out), "*da.ra*" (virgin) to be "*ta.ra*" (the same level), etc. Swapping the grapheme ⟨t⟩ into ⟨d⟩ also generally creates several new syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ta.yang*" (show) can be swapped to be "*da.yang*" (court lady), "*ta.pa*" (asceticism) is swapped to be "*da.pa*" (ransom slaves), "*ta.rah*" (flat) to be "*da.rah*" (blood), etc.

Both ⟨g⟩ and ⟨k⟩ are plosive-velar. Swapping grapheme ⟨g⟩ into ⟨k⟩ generates several legal unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ga.bung*" (join) is swapped to be "*ka.bung*" (mourning), "*ge.tar*" (shakes) to be "*ke.tar*" (daunted), "*gi.la*" (crazy) to be "*ki.la*" (stake), etc. Swapping the grapheme ⟨k⟩ into ⟨g⟩ also generally creates several new syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ka.mis*" (thursday) to be "*ga.mis*" (clothes), "*ke.mit*" (night guard) is swapped to be "*ge.mit*" (poke),

"*ka.ri*" (curry) to be "*ga.ri*" (handcuffs), etc.

The grapheme ⟨c⟩ is in the same category with grapheme ⟨j⟩, i.e. affricative-palatal. Swapping the grapheme ⟨c⟩ into ⟨j⟩ commonly produces some legal syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ce.ruk*" (niche) is swapped to be "*je.ruk*" (orange), "*ca.ri*" (search) is swapped to be "*ja.ri*" (finger), "*ca.har*" (liquid) to be "*ja.har*" (loud), etc. Swapping the grapheme ⟨j⟩ into ⟨c⟩ also generally creates several new syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*ja.wat*" (stretched out) is swapped to be "*ca.wat*" (loincloth), "*ja.ra*" (small drill) to be "*ca.ra*" (way), "*ja.ran*" (horse) to be "*ca.ran*" (woman fighting), etc.

In [45], the authors state that Indonesian does not have phoneme /v/, where the grapheme ⟨v⟩ is always pronounced as phoneme /f/ so that it can be swapped into ⟨f⟩. For instance, the word "*fo.li*" (thin metal) is swapped as "*vo.li*" (volley) and "*vi.si*" (vision) is swapped as "*fi.si*" (fission).

Both graphemes ⟨s⟩ and ⟨z⟩ are in the same category: fricative-dental. In general, swapping the grapheme ⟨s⟩ into ⟨z⟩ generates some new legal syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*a.sam*" (acid) is swapped to be "*az.am*" (aim). Swapping the grapheme ⟨z⟩ into ⟨s⟩ converts a word "*ze.ni*" (soldier) into "*se.ni*" (art).

Finally, both graphemes ⟨l⟩ and ⟨r⟩ are considerably in the same category: thrill/lateral-dental. In general, swapping the grapheme ⟨s⟩ into ⟨z⟩ generates some new legal syllable unigrams and bigrams, such as "*lang.ka*" (rare) is swapped to be "*rang.ka*" (frame). Swapping the grapheme ⟨z⟩ into ⟨s⟩ converts a word "*ram.bu*" (sign) into "*lam.bu*" (canoe).

However, swapping the graphemes does not always produce other formal words. Sometimes, it creates an illegal word. For instance, swapping grapheme "p" in the word "*pa.ha*" (thigh) creates a new word "*ba.ha*", which is illegal (OOV). But, the interesting fact is that the new word is a sub-word that comes from another word "*ba.ha.gi.a*" (happy). Of course, the swapped words enlarge the number of bigrams. Thus, the grapheme swapping can be a data augmentation method that is expected to enhance the score formulated in Equation (5) to give a better syllabification.

Furthermore, Table 2 shows some examples of augmented words that are built from two original words without changing the syllabification points. First, the original word "*be.ri*" is swapped for all combinations to produce three new words: "*be.li*" (buy), "*pe.ri*" (fairy), and "*pe.li*" (OOV). Both original and swapped words are then augmented using the flipping onsets to generate four OOV words: "*re.bi*", "*le.bi*", "*re.pi*", and "*le.pi*". Finally, all the original, swapped, and flipped words are augmented using transposing their nuclei to produce eight OOV words: "*bi.re*", "*bi.le*", "*pi.re*", "*pi.le*", "*ri.be*", "*li.be*", "*ri.pe*", and "*li.pe*". Thus, this original word is augmented to be 15 new words, where only two words are formally found in the Indonesian dictionary while the rests are OOV words. But, an interesting phenomenon is the OOV words can be some sub-words for many other formal words. For example, the OOV word "*pe.li*" is a sub-word that comes from other words: "*pe.li.as*" (spell), "*pe.li.cin*" (lubricant),

"*pe.li.ta*" (light), etc. The second formal word "*ba.tu*" is also augmented into 15 new words, where seven words are formal and the rests are OOV words that can also be some sub-words for many other formal words. Therefore, no doubt that the augmented words are capable of increasing the number of both unigrams and bigrams, which is expected to make the *cbsps* score in Equation (5) more accurate.

TABLE 2. Example of some augmented words that are generated using combination of swapping consonants-graphemes, flipping onsets, and transposing nuclei in the original words without changing the points of syllabifications

Original word	Augmented words
<i>be.ri</i> (give)	<i>be.li</i> (buy), <i>pe.ri</i> (fairy), <i>pe.li</i> (OOV), <i>re.bi</i> (OOV), <i>le.bi</i> (OOV), <i>re.pi</i> (OOV), <i>le.pi</i> (OOV), <i>bi.re</i> (OOV), <i>bi.le</i> (OOV), <i>pi.re</i> (OOV), <i>pi.le</i> (OOV), <i>ri.be</i> (OOV), <i>li.be</i> (OOV), <i>ri.pe</i> (OOV), <i>li.pe</i> (OOV)
<i>ba.tu</i> (stone)	<i>ba.du</i> (checkered patterned), <i>pa.tu</i> (small pickaxe), <i>pa.du</i> (coherent), <i>ta.bu</i> (taboo), <i>da.bu</i> (OOV), <i>ta.pu</i> (OOV), <i>da.pu</i> (OOV), <i>bu.ta</i> (blind), <i>bu.da</i> (OOV), <i>pu.ta</i> (OOV), <i>pu.da</i> (OOV), <i>tu.ba</i> (tube), <i>du.ba</i> (OOV), <i>tu.pa</i> (OOV), <i>du.pa</i> (incense)

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The three parameters of the proposed CFTABS: U , B , and β are jointly optimized using a fixed $\alpha = 0.4$ as suggested in [46]. The result is illustrated in Fig. 3. The optimum parameters are $U = 0.1$, $B = 100$, and $\beta = 0.75$ that give the lowest SER of 2.37%. This result proves the hypothesis explained in subsection III-C, where the value of B should be much bigger than U since bigram is more critical than unigram in syllabifying a word. The optimum $\beta = 0.75$ also makes sense because the percentage of legal bigrams produced by the proposed augmentation methods is 77.26%, as stated in Section II.

The CFTABS is then compared to five other models: BS [43], BFO [43], CBSPS [44], FkNNC [17], and BiLSTM-CNN-CRF [39]. Evaluation based on 5-FCV using a dataset consisting of 50 k Indonesian words explained in [17] [43] [44].

The result in Fig. 4 shows that CFTABS better than three other bigram-based models but worse than FkNNC and BiLSTM-CNN-CRF. It produces SER of 2.37% that is lower than BS, BFO, and CBSPS with average SER of 3.80%, 3.11%, and 2.61%, respectively. It means that CFTABS relatively reduces the average SER of BS by up to 37.63%. FkNNC gives a slightly lower SER of 2.27%. Meanwhile, BiLSTM-CNN-CRF reaches the lowest SER of 0.44%.

Based on the results, the proposed CFTABS is comparable to FkNNC. However, by offering a low complexity, it can be favored than FkNNC. It just computes the probabilities of tens or fewer candidates based on both original and augmented n -grams to decide a syllabification point. Meanwhile, FkNNC should: firstly, computes the dissimilarities between a candidate pattern of syllabification and the others in the trainset (up to 250 k patterns); secondly, chooses k neighbors in each class; finally, select the smallest dissimilarity to make

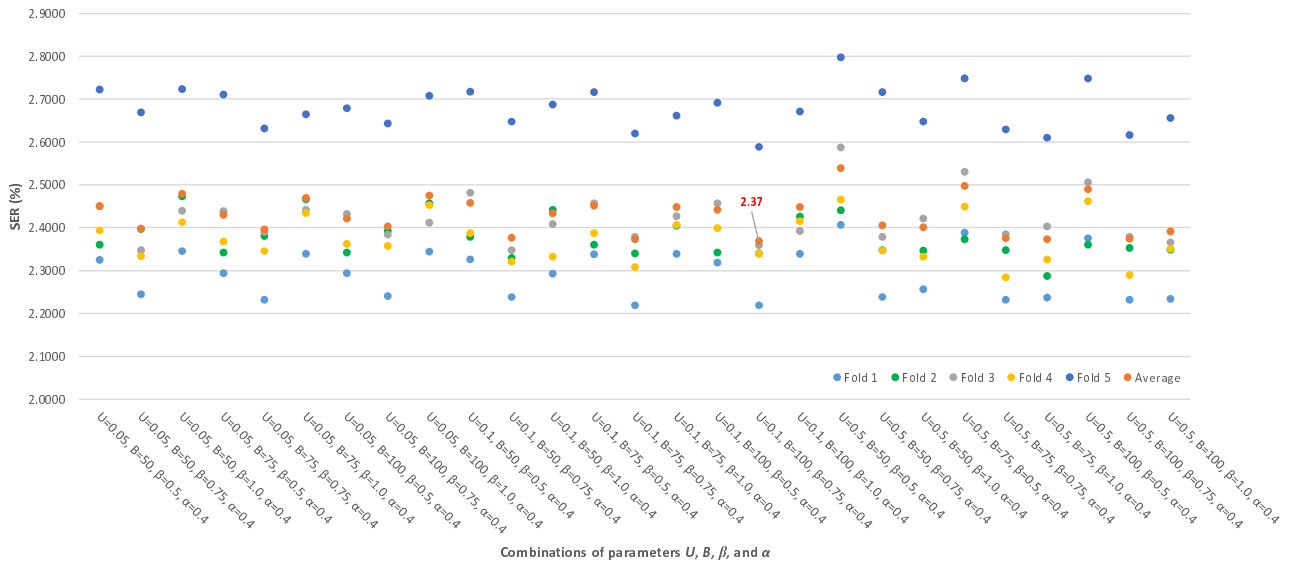


FIGURE 3. SERs produced by the proposed CFTABS using a fixed $\alpha = 0.4$ and jointly optimization of three parameters: U , B , and β .

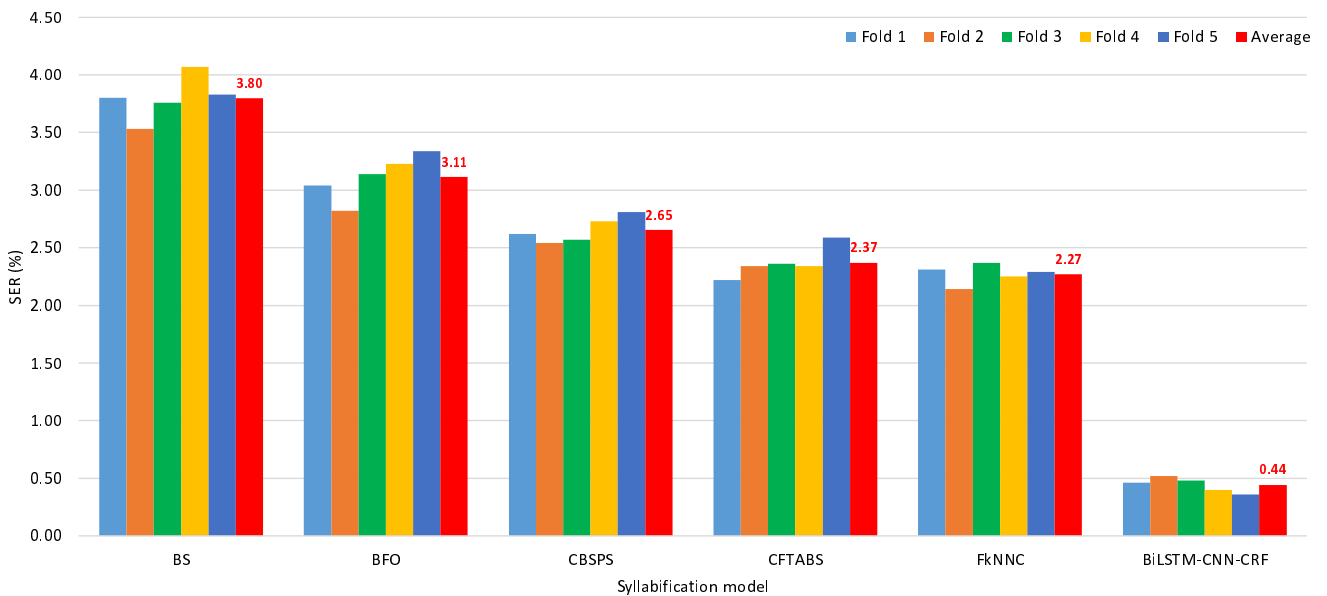


FIGURE 4. SERs produced by BS, BFO, CBSPS, CFTABS, and FkNNC for each fold and the average.

a decision. Compared to BiLSTM-CNN-CRF in terms of complexity, the proposed CFTABS is also better. It needs much lower training time (only ten minutes) than BiLSTM-CNN-CRF (up to ten hours).

However, the proposed CFTABS is a bit unstable. It produces low SERs for Fold 1 to Fold 4, but it gives a higher SER for Fold 5. A filtering procedure can be introduced to select the possible legal-bigrams. For instance, a swapped word "zdlug.dul" (OOV) that comes from the formal word

"struk.tur" (structure) should be detected as an illegal bigram.

Besides, CFTABS also has difficulty to differentiate a diphthong from a regular sequence of grapheme and suffix since the input is a grapheme sequence (not phoneme sequence). For example, a diphthong $\langle ei \rangle$ is hard to be distinguished from a grapheme sequence of $\langle e \rangle$ and the suffix $\langle i \rangle$. The detailed investigation shows that most SER produced by this case since Indonesian has up to eighteen suffixes [45]. This problem can be solved by adding a procedure of diph-

thong recognition.

Another crucial problem is that CFTABS is applied on the syllable-level, which produces many OOV grams. Although three augmentation methods have been applied, the OOV rate is still high. Therefore, a grapheme-level is potentially applied to reduce the OOV rate. For instance, a word "struktur" (structure) just produces a syllable-level bigram of "struk.tur". But, it generates many grapheme-level bigrams, trigrams, until 8-gram: "st", "tr", "ru", ... "struk.tur". However, the use of a grapheme-level approach will make the complexity of the model slightly higher.

V. CONCLUSION

The proposed CFTABS is capable of improving the performance of the BS model, where the average SER is relatively decreased by up to 37.63%. It is comparable to the FkNNC-based syllabification and offers simplicity as well as flexibility since it just calculates the combined probabilities of both standards and augmented trigrams, bigrams, and unigrams to define the syllabification points accurately. Meanwhile, CFTABS gives a higher SER than BiLSTM-CNN-CFR, but it provides a faster training time. In the future, a particular procedure to filter legal bigrams and unigrams can be introduced to increase its performance. Another improvement can also be performed by using grapheme-level grams, instead of the syllable ones.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research is funded by the Directorate of Research and Community Service PPM, Telkom University, with grant number: KWR.0067/PNLT3/PPM-LIT/2020.

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