

Dzongkha NLP — Bhutan's AI Translation, Speech and Text-to-Speech Tool for the National Language, Built on a Nu 21 Million Budget

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Bhutan

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Bhutan's GovTech Agency and a Royal University college built Dzongkha NLP — machine translation, speech recognition and text-to-speech for the national language — but officials openly report accuracy of only 30–50% given limited training data.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-22

College of Science and Technology (Royal University of Bhutan), GovTech Agency, Department of Culture and Dzongkha Development, Druk Holding & Investments, Thimphu TechPark, Omdena — accessed 2026-09-22

BBS: Dzongkha machine translation system launched to digitise and preserve national language — accessed 2026-09-22

Omdena: The First Ever Machine Translator Built for Dzongkha to English — accessed 2026-09-22

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