

The Turkish National Corpus (TNC): Comparing the Architectures of v1 and v2

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Abstract— Turkish National Corpus (TNC) released its first version in 2012 is the first large scale (50 million words), web-based and publicly-available free resource of contemporary Turkish. It is designed to be a well-balanced and representative reference corpus for Turkish. With 48 million words coming from the written part of it, the untagged TNC v1 represents 4438 different data sources over 9 domains and 34 different genres. The morphologically annotated, 50 million words TNC v2 with 5412 different documents compiled from written and spoken Turkish is planned for release in 2016 offers new query options for linguistic analyses. This paper aims to compare architectures of the TNC v1 and v2 on the basis of a set of queries made on both versions. Standard, restricted and wildcard lexical searches are performed. Then, the speed of two versions in retrieving the query results in concordance lines is compared. Finally, it is argued that TNC v2 performs better and faster than that of TNC v1 due to the in-memory inverted index structure. Since building language corpora is a very recent issue for Turkish, the architecture of TNC v2 would serve as a model for similar corpus construction projects.

Keywords—*Turkish National Corpus (TNC); corpus building; architecture; inverted index; relational database; in-memory data structures*

I. INTRODUCTION

There are at least two different kinds of corpora in Turkish today: (i) large-sized general linguistic corpora that are constructed and made available for users with proper corpus tools, (ii) NLP corpora built with no linguistic criteria in mind but rather as tools for testing algorithms devised for different applications [1]. The first electronic linguistic corpus designed to represent modern Turkish is the 2 million words, downloadable Middle East Technical University Turkish Corpus (MTC) [2]. MTC is tagged by XCES style annotation using special software developed by the members of the project group as well as its corpus query workbench. In the years following the construction of the MTC, the need for a large-scale general reference corpus of Turkish has become more and

more obvious. To meet the challenge, Turkish National Corpus (TNC) is built as reference corpus of Turkish. The project team followed the best practices at all stages of corpus development. Major design principles were adopted from the experiences of the British National Corpus with minor modifications. The end product is the TNC, a well-balanced, representative, and large-scale (50 million words) free resource of a general-purpose corpus of contemporary Turkish [3].

As maintained by [14] “if the corpus in question claims to be general in nature, then it will be typically balanced with regard to genres, domains that typically represent the language under consideration”. In line with this definition, the major aim in building the TNC is to represent texts from different genres, domains and types in a balanced manner so that the conclusions drawn from quantitative and qualitative analysis of corpus data hold true for language use in general. Genre balance is an important aspect of corpus design [15]. Both versions of the TNC have data from different domains and genres set them apart from text archives or a collection of texts difficult to categorize and separate by genre, such as the Web. The number of linguistic and computational linguistic studies using the TNC as a reference corpus is increasing. While most of the linguistic and NLP studies use TNC for compiling naturally occurring language evidence and for hypothesis-testing [16, 17, 18, 19], there are still others following a corpus-driven approach and attempt to build hypotheses and describe Turkish on the basis of the TNC [20, 21]. Overall, the usefulness of the TNC as a general corpus primarily is due to the data itself. With 48 million words, the TNC v1 represents written component of the corpus which contains 4438 different data sources over 9 domains and 34 different genres, and was published as a free resource for non-commercial use in October 2012. Size of the TNC v2 is 50,997,016 running words, representing a wide range of text categories spanning a period of 23 years (1990-2013). It consists of samples from textual data representing 9 different domains (98%) with 4,978 documents and transcribed spoken data (2%) with 434 documents. The morphologically annotated, complete version

of the TNC v2 is planned for release in 2016, offering new query options for linguistic analyses.

This paper is organized as follows: Section two explains the design features of the TNC. Section three describes basic features of the TNC interface. The architectures of the TNC v1 and v2 are presented in section four. Section five displays the comparative query results obtained through the two versions of the corpus. The paper finally argues that in-memory inverted index structure and relational database structure are effective in terms of speed and extension of web-based language corpora.

II. DESIGN OF THE TNC

The only Turkish corpus of its kind, the TNC is constructed following the principles used to construct the British National Corpus in its basic design and implementation. The distribution of samples in written component of the corpus is determined proportionally for each text domain, time, and medium. Table I and II show the distribution of texts across domain and medium, respectively.

TABLE I. THE DISTRIBUTION OF TEXTS ACROSS DOMAINS IN THE TNC

Domain	No. of words	% of words	No. of documents	% of documents
Imaginative: Prose	9,365,775	18.74 %	674	13.54 %
Informative: Natural and pure sciences	1,367,213	2.74 %	253	5.08 %
Informative: Applied science	3,464,557	6.93 %	461	9.26 %
Informative: Social science	7,151,622	14.31 %	671	13.48 %
Informative: World affairs	9,840,241	19.69 %	757	15.21 %
Informative: Commerce and finance	4,513,233	9.03 %	429	8.62 %
Informative: Arts	3,659,025	7.32 %	347	6.97 %
Informative: Belief and thought	2,200,019	4.4 %	297	5.97 %
Informative: Leisure	8,421,603	16.85 %	1,089	21.88 %
Total	49,983,288	100.00 %	4,978	100.00 %

TABLE II. THE DISTRIBUTION OF TEXTS ACROSS MEDIUMS IN THE TNC

Medium	No. of words	% of words	No. of documents	% of documents
Unspecified	10,541	0.02 %	1	0.02 %
Book	31,456,426	62.93 %	2,141	43.01 %
Periodical	15,968,240	31.95 %	2,092	42.02 %
Miscellaneous: published	958,999	1.92 %	294	5.91 %
Miscellaneous: unpublished	1,589,082	3.18 %	450	9.04 %
Total	49,983,288	100.00 %	4,978	100.00 %

The representativeness of the TNC is secured through balance and sampling of varieties of contemporary language use. The selection of written texts is done via the criteria of text domain, medium, and time. The criterion of domain means that

texts are distributed along two major types, namely imaginative and informative. While the imaginative domain is represented by texts of fiction, the informative domain is represented by texts from the social sciences, the arts, commerce-finance, belief-thought, world affairs, applied sciences, natural-pure sciences, and leisure. The criterion of medium refers to text production. The texts collected to represent the written medium are carefully selected from books, periodicals, published or unpublished documents, and texts written-to-be-spoken such as news broadcasts and screenplays, among others. The criterion of time defines the period of text production. Here, the distribution of the size of the texts for each year is decided in terms of relative representation of each domain in the medium.

Transcriptions from authentic spoken language constitute 2% of the TNC's database, which involve everyday conversations recorded in informal settings such as conversations among friends, talk among family members and friends, etc., as well as speeches collected in particular communicative settings, such as meetings, lectures, and interviews. The spoken component of the TNC contains a total of 1,013,728 running words. Of these words, 439,461 of them come from orthographic transcriptions of everyday conversations and their relevant medium, and 574,267 of them are orthographic transcriptions of context-governed speeches.

Part-of-speech annotation, morphological tagging, and lemmatization of the TNC are done by developing a natural language-processing (NLP) dictionary based on the NooJ_TR module [13]. The unique, semi-automatic process of developing the NLP dictionary includes the following steps: (i) automatically annotating the type list with the NooJ_TR module, which follows a root-driven, non-stochastic, rule-based approach to annotating the morphemes of the given types using a graph-based, finite-state transducer; (ii) manually checking and revising the output and eliminating artificial/non-occurring ambiguities and theoretically possible multi-tags. After these stages, the entries of the NLP dictionary and actual running words of the corpus are matched via the software which has been developed by using PHP and MySQL.

III. FEATURES OF THE TNC INTERFACE

Web-based interface of the TNC provides for multitude of features for the analysis of corpus texts including concordance display (Fig. 1), sorting concordance data (Fig. 2), creating descriptive statistics for query results over the language-external restriction categories of texts via distribution (Fig. 3), and compiling lists of collocates (Fig. 4) for query terms on the basis of several statistical methods.



Fig. 1. TNC v1 concordance results page

Fig. 1 shows the query results in the TNC which are given as concordance display (key word in context-KWIC). “A concordance is a list of all the occurrence of a particular search term in a corpus presented within the context in which they occur-usually a few words to the left and right to the search term” [22]. A search term in TNC can be a single word, multiword phrases and words containing wildcards. Concordances can be sorted alphabetically not only according to the node word but also the context up to 5 words to the left or right of the node word. This function of the TNC help users find linguistic patterns easily.

Fig. 2. TNC v1 sorting function

Users can also view distributional information of the query result based on pre-defined meta-textual categories. The distribution page allows users to access descriptive statistics concerning the distribution of the query result of without performing multiple queries.

Fig. 3. TNC v1 distribution function

Fig. 4. TNC v1 result of a collocation analysis of 'haber' news

Collocation function allows users to list collocates (the words that the query-term occurs most frequently with) by offering six statistical association measures for calculating collocational strength: Log-likelihood, MI, MI3, T-score, Dice coefficient and Log Dice coefficient.

TNC v2, on the other hand, offers new features and query options. Since v2 is morphologically annotated, lemma form searches, morphemes and morpheme sequences and PoS-tag restricted searches (Fig. 5 and Fig. 6) can be conducted. As for some of the new features, users can save query history and they can search spoken component of the corpus by using meta-textual categories such as genre, domain, interaction type, speakers' age, sex.

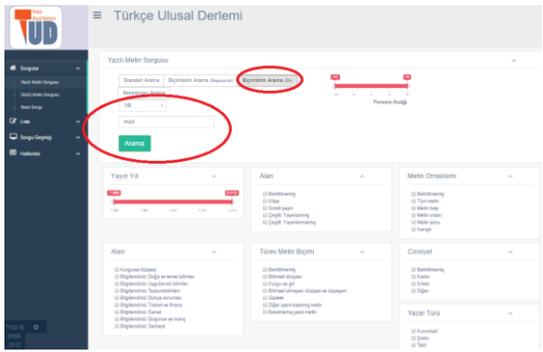


Fig. 5. TNC v2 PoS-tag query

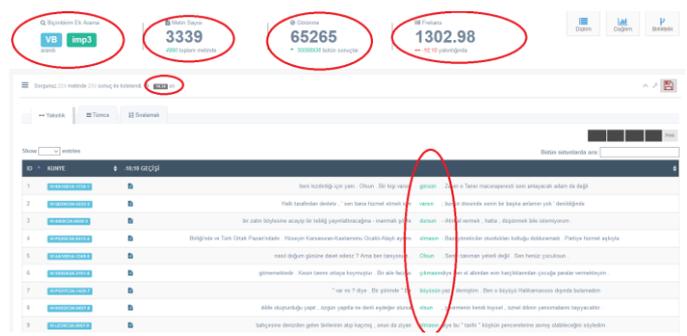


Fig. 6. TNC v2 PoS-tag query results

IV. THE ARCHITECTURES OF TNC v1 AND TNC v2

TNC is a user-friendly, platform independent, Web-based corpus developed for Turkish language. HTML [12], CSS [7], PHP [5] [6], and JavaScript [8] languages, and MySQL [4] database management system are used for implementation of the TNC. The main architecture of TNC version 1 is presented in Fig. 7. To develop TNC v1, text documents in the written component of the corpus are first pre-processed to extract metadata such as author, year, source, domain etc. that describe each document in the collection. Metadata of each document are stored in a MySQL table on disk. After metadata extraction step, each token, which is a character string separated by white space characters, in each document is identified and unique token list is formed from all documents in the collection. Each token is given a unique identifier and while unique tokens are found from documents, their frequencies in each document are also counted. Unique tokens, their ids, and frequencies are stored in another MySQL table. For each unique token found from the document collection, a kind of inverted index structure is formed. In the index structure position of each unique token are stored for each document in the collection. This index structure is stored over disk by using MyISAM file structure of MySQL. By using the inverted index structure, concordance data, descriptive statistics, and lists of collocates

for unique tokens in the corpus are computed and they are stored as compressed files over disk by applying IGBinary [9] compression method of PHP. IGBinary applies binary data compression and storage therefore reading and decompression of the data are performed faster with respect to other compression methods. The unique token list and names of its compressed data files including concordance data are then loaded to memory as a hash table to improve performance of user searches. When a user sends a query by using the TNC GUI, the queried token is searched from the hash table and the name of the compressed concordance file of the token is found. After that the compressed concordance file is read from disk to memory, then this file is decompressed and if the user gives some filtering options in his query these filters are applied over the decompressed file, then the computed results are randomly shuffled and displayed to the user.

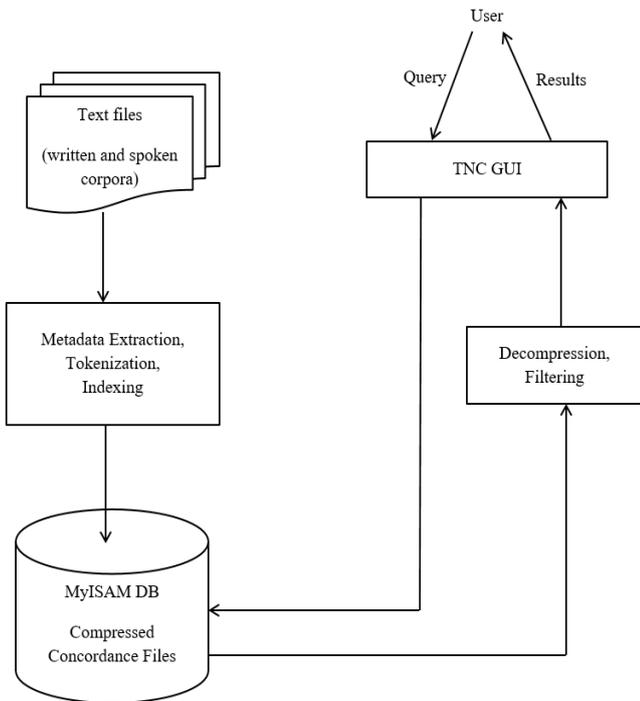


Fig. 7. Architecture of the TNC v1

The TNC v2 is an updated and improved version of the TNC v1. Metadata extraction, tokenization and indexing steps are similar to that of the TNC v1. Metadata are stored over disk as a MySQL table. Unique token list including frequencies for each document are loaded to memory instead of storing over disk. Only document collection and metadata for the documents are stored on disk. For all unique tokens in the collection, a kind of inverted index structure is constructed in which the positions of the token in each document are stored. This inverted index structure is located in memory by using Redis [10] which is an open source (BSD licensed), in-memory data structure store and supports data structures such as strings, hashes, lists, sets, sorted sets, etc. When a user sends a query by using the TNC GUI, the queried token is searched from the in-memory inverted index and unique types forming the concordance output of queries, descriptive statistics for query results, and lists of collocates are computed in real time. If the

user gives some filtering in his query, these filters are searched from metadata table stored in the database, and the results of this search are used to filter unique type lists for the given token. Finally, the computed concordances are shuffled and a random number of results are displayed to the user. The architecture of the TNC v2 is presented in Fig. 8. As the inverted index structure is stored in memory, all computations are performed very fast as it is shown in the next section.

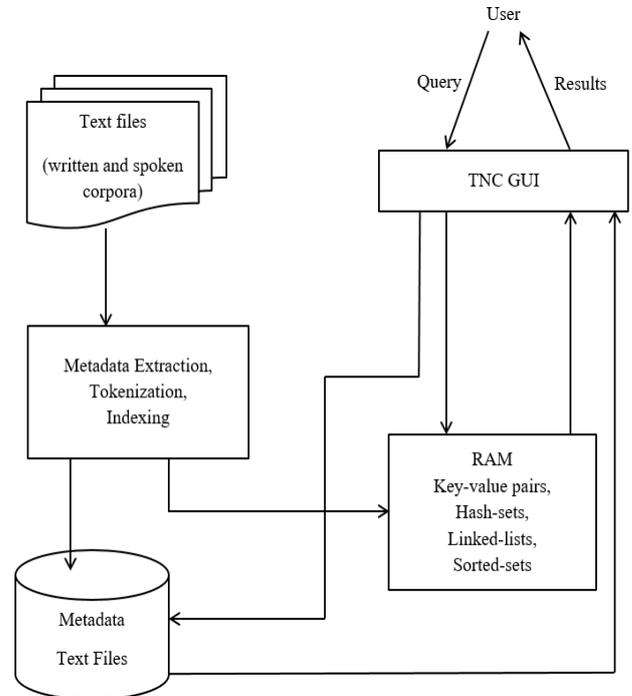


Fig. 8. Architecture of the TNC v2

On the other hand, the system specifications of the computer running the TNC v1 interface are prominently different from the TNC v2. The system properties of the server running the TNC v2 interface seems sufficient enough to process and store huge amount of data in memory. Table III briefly presents the major hardware specifications of both versions.

TABLE III. HARDWARE SPECIFICATIONS OF COMPUTERS RUNNING TWO VERSIONS OF THE TNC

	OS	RAM	CPU	Disk
TNC v1	FreeBSD 9.0	16 GB	1 X Intel Xeon x3440 2.53 GHz 4 cores	500 GB SATA 2
TNC v2	Ubuntu Server 14.04 (Virtual machine running on FreeBSD host)	64 GB	2 X Intel Xeon E5-2630v2 2.60 GHz 2 cores	350 GB Virtual Disk

V. QUERIES ON TNC V1 AND TNC V2

In what follows the speed of two versions of the TNC are compared on the basis of standard, restricted and wildcard queries conducted on the written component of the TNC v1 and written and spoken components of TNC v2. Fig. 9 and Fig. 10 respectively show the main pages of the both versions.

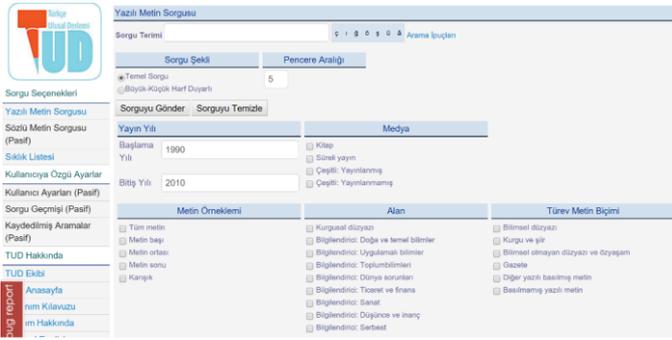


Fig. 9. TNC v1 main page

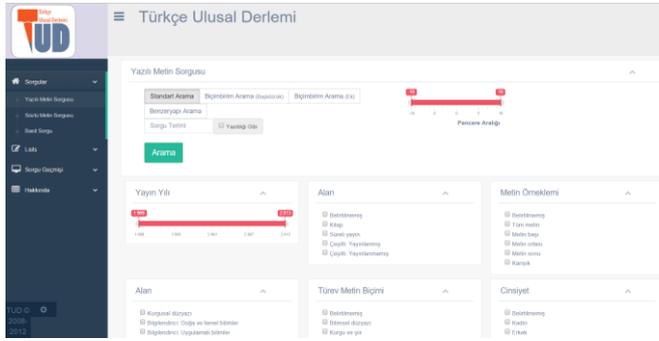


Fig. 10. TNC v2 main page

A. Standard Queries

Standard search in the TNC offers users to make searches in the whole of the corpus without filtering the queries on the basis of written or spoken parts of the corpus. Users type the search term in the form labeled query term and send it. Just on top of the results page, users can view frequency information of the node word. A normalized frequency of a 1-million-word scale is also stated. Query results are displayed in a KWIC view by default. Each column in the result page displays the ID of the concordance line, the text where the node word is found and the concordance line, respectively. Users can display the further context to the left and right of the node word by clicking search term in the concordance lines. When such a query is made for exact form of the node word *fakat*, it takes just about 5.52 seconds to compute concordance lines among 2758 different corpus text in the TNC v2 (Fig. 11), while it takes 14.57 seconds for the same query word in the TNC v1 (Fig. 12).

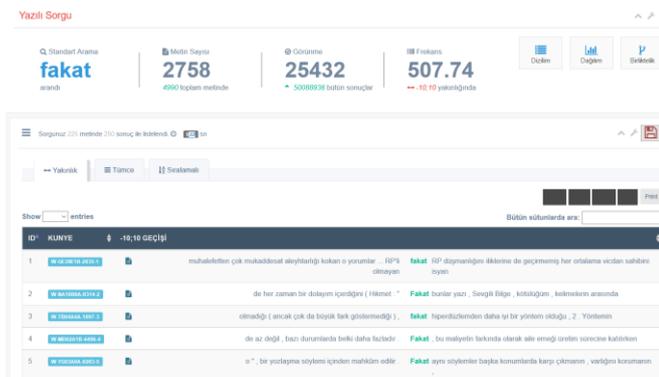


Fig. 11. TNC v2 query results-*fakat* 'but'



Fig. 12. TNC v1 query results-*fakat* 'but'

On the other hand, while the TNC v1 does not allow the search of one of the most frequent word *kadar* 'until', which ranks 45 with 142693 frequency of occurrence in the frequency list of the TNC, the architecture of TNC v2 allows its search by displaying random in 10.82 seconds to users.

TABLE IV. THE STANDARD QUERY OF *FAKAT* 'BUT' AND *KADAR* 'UNTIL' WITHIN WRITTEN COMPONENT OF THE TNC

Query item	TNC version	Word count	Text count	Hits	Different text	Time
<i>fakat</i> 'but'	TNC v1	47641688	4458	22331	2486	14.57 sec
	TNC v2	50088936	4990	25432	2758	5.52 sec
<i>kadar</i> 'until'	TNC v1	47641688	4458	N/A	N/A	> 60 sec
	TNC v2	50088936	4990	133807	4252	10.82 sec

B. Restricted Query

Restricted queries can be performed in the written component of TNC with the criteria of publication date, media, sample, domain, derived text type, author information, audience and genre. Table V demonstrates such a sample query performed by restricting the node word *büyük* 'big' in terms of the publication date (between 1995-2005), medium (books) and sample (whole text) of the corpus documents. Once again the TNC v2 is fast in the restricted query search. It only takes 3.52 seconds to produce concordance lines in the v2, while the same query lasts 9.31 seconds in the v1.

TABLE V. THE RESTRICTED STANDARD QUERY OF *BÜYÜK* 'BIG' IN TERMS OF PUBLICATION DATE (1995-2005), MEDIUM (BOOKS) AND SAMPLE (WHOLE TEXT) WITHIN WRITTEN COMPONENT OF THE TNC

Query item	TNC version	Word count	Text count	Hits	Different text	Time
<i>büyük</i>	TNC v1	47641688	4458	3476	168	9.31 sec
'big'	TNC v2	50088936	4990	3079	170	3.52 sec

C. Wildcard Queries

Wildcards are also used in standard and restricted queries in the TNC. Special character * permits users to search word forms starting with *kol*, such as *kolay* 'easy', *kollarına* 'to his arms', *koltuğa* 'to the armchair', as is seen in Table VI the TNC v2 is slightly faster than that of v1 in displaying query results.

The wildcard query aims to obtain word forms containing both /b/ and /p/ as the final sound of *kitap* is only permitted in the TNC v2 and 41,098 hits are found in across the corpus documents in 22.25 seconds.

Multi-unit search pattern where *beyaz* ‘white’ or *peynir* ‘cheese’ is queried across the corpus documents. The speed of the TNC v2 is again better than v1. The query in written and spoken parts of the corpus returned 12,212 hits in 2,085 different texts in 1.73 seconds.

Owing to in-memory index structure of the TNC v2 it is possible to search lexical items used frequently in Turkish such as *ama* ‘but’ (ranking 43 among 73,383 lemmas in the NLP Dictionary of TNC) and *bu* ‘this’ (ranking 6 among 73,383 lemmas in the NLP Dictionary of TNC) in a reasonable fastness. *Ama* ‘OR’ *bu* wildcard query returned relevant strings within 15.66 seconds in the TNC v2 but the same query takes more than 60 seconds in the v1. As a final remark, the speed of TNC v2 concerning some other wildcard query options needs to be optimized.

TABLE VI. THE WILDCARD QUERIES IN THE TNC

Query item	TNC version	Word count	Text count	Hits	No. of diff. text	Time
kol*	TNC v1	47,641,688	4,458	53,041	3,523	30.78 sec
	TNC v2	50,088,936	4,990	58,154	3,864	22.95 sec
kita[b,p]*	TNC v1	47,641,688	4,458	N/A	N/A	N/A
	TNC v2	50,088,936	4,990	41,098	2,687	22.25 sec
beyaz peynir	TNC v1	47,641,688	4,458	10,881	1,894	6.46 sec
	TNC v2	50,088,936	4,990	12,212	2,085	1.73 sec
ama bu	TNC v1	47,641,688	4,458	N/A	N/A	N/A
	TNC v2	50,088,936	4,990	836,838	4,565	15.66 sec

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper describes the design principles, interface features and the architecture of the TNC. Then it compares the architecture of the TNC v1 and v2. On the basis of the standard, restricted and wildcard corpus queries, it is shown that in-memory inverted index structure of the TNC v2 computes better and faster than that of v1 which is designed as disk-based compressed concordance data files for each unique term. In terms of speed, the v2 architecture allows users to perform searches across many corpus files (5,412 data files of the TNC) very rapidly, but such architecture needs more memory to display query results fast. We should also note that the relational database structure used in both versions of the TNC has its advantages to process large corpus files such that it

allows for a “modular structure in which any number of features can be incorporated in to the architecture” [11]. For future work any extension in the features of the TNC would be possible via relational database and inverted index structures.

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