

# BabelBack

Babelback: Unlock the Meaning of Music Across Languages.

try it out at [bb.bhishmaraj.org](https://bb.bhishmaraj.org)

Summary:

Babelback is a web application designed to bridge language barriers in music appreciation. Addressing the limitations of simple lyric translations, Babelback leverages advanced multimodal AI to provide nuanced, verse-level translations of song lyrics into multiple languages. Users upload YouTube videos of songs, and Babelback extracts the audio, identifies verses, and delivers comprehensive lyric understanding.

Key Features & Value Proposition:

- **Nuanced Translation:** Goes beyond literal translations to capture the true meaning, emotion, and cultural context of lyrics, powered by multimodal LLMs.
- **Verse-Level Breakdown:** Lyrics are segmented into verses, allowing users to focus on specific sections and navigate songs easily.
- **Multi-Language Support:** Initially supporting English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Bengali, with potential for expansion.
- **Transliteration:** Provides lyric transliteration in the target language to aid pronunciation for singing along or understanding phonetic sounds.
- **Meaningful Translation:** Offers a proper, culturally relevant translation of each verse, ensuring deeper comprehension.
- **User-Friendly UI/UX:** Clean and intuitive interface designed for easy song upload, verse navigation, and language selection.
- **Open Source & Accessible:** Built as an open-source project, promoting community contribution and accessibility. Hosted option available for convenience.

## Target Audience:

- Music lovers interested in understanding songs in different languages, especially pan-Indian content.
- Language learners who want to learn languages through music.
- Individuals seeking a deeper cultural connection to music from diverse linguistic backgrounds.
- Anyone frustrated with inadequate, literal lyric translations.

Mission: Babelback is more than just translation; it's about building bridges of understanding and appreciation for music across linguistic and cultural divides, fostering a richer and more inclusive global music experience.

---

# Babelback: UI/UX Ideas

Here are some UI/UX ideas focusing on a clean, intuitive, and verse-centric experience:

## 1. Core Screen - "Verse Player":

- Central Verse Display: The main area of the screen is dedicated to displaying the current verse lyrics.

- Three-Panel Display (Toggleable):
  - Panel 1: Original Lyrics (Source Language): Displayed prominently.
  - Panel 2: Transliteration (Target Language): Below or to the side of the original.
  - Panel 3: Meaning/Translation (Target Language): Below the transliteration, with clear visual separation.
  - Users can toggle panels on/off to focus on what they need.
- Integrated Music Player: A compact music player is embedded at the top or bottom, with basic controls (play/pause, skip, volume).
  - Verse Highlighting: As the song plays, the current verse in the lyric display is highlighted, karaoke-style.
- Verse Navigation:
  - Visual Verse Breaks: Clear visual separators (lines, spacing, subtle dividers) between verses in the lyric display.
  - Verse Numbering/Titles (Optional): Number verses or use automatically generated verse titles (if feasible with LLM analysis).
  - Seek Bar with Verse Markers: The music seek bar could have visual markers indicating verse start points, allowing users to jump to specific verses.
  - Verse Selection Dropdown/List (Optional): A dropdown or side panel listing verses for direct selection.

## 2. Language Selection & Settings:

- Prominent Language Switcher: Easily accessible dropdown or button to switch between target translation languages (English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali...).
  - Flag Icons: Use flag icons next to language names for visual clarity.
- Settings Icon (Gear): Access to user settings:
  - Font Size Adjustment: For lyric display.
  - Panel Layout Preferences: Option to rearrange or hide lyric panels.

- Transliteration On/Off Toggle.
- Theme Selection (Light/Dark).

### 3. Song Upload & Library:

- "Upload YouTube Link" Input: A clear input field at the top to paste YouTube video URLs.
  - "Process Song" Button: Button to initiate audio extraction and translation.
  - Progress Indicator: Visual feedback during processing (loading spinner, progress bar).
- Song Library/History (Optional, for logged-in users):
  - List of recently processed songs or a saved library of songs.
  - Search functionality within the library.

### 4. Onboarding & Tutorial:

- Brief Interactive Tutorial (First-time users):
  - Highlight key features: Verse-level translation, transliteration, nuanced meaning.
  - Guide users through the core UI elements: Verse display, language selection, player controls.
- Tooltips/Help Icons: Subtle "?" icons next to key UI elements to provide context and explanations on hover.

### 5. Visual Style:

- Clean and Modern Design: Prioritize readability and clarity over overly flashy visuals.
- Neutral Color Palette: Use calming and unobtrusive colors (blues, grays, whites) to keep focus on the lyrics.
- Good Typography: Choose clear and legible fonts for lyrics in all languages.
- Responsive Design: Ensure the UI works well on desktop and mobile browsers.

#### Key UX Principles:

- Simplicity: Easy to use, minimal clutter.
- Clarity: Information is presented clearly and understandably.
- Focus on Lyrics: The lyrics and translations are the central focus.
- Control: Users have control over language selection, display options, and navigation.
- Feedback: Provide clear feedback during song processing and interactions.

---

Revision #2

Created 2 August 2025 17:47:27 by bhishma

Updated 11 March 2026 13:49:17 by bhishma