



Goa University

Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature
Discipline of French and Francophone Studies

Report on
A Hands-On Introduction to Subtitling

The Discipline of French and Francophone Studies at Goa University organised a hands-on workshop titled “A Hands-On Introduction to Subtitling” on Thursday, 15 October 2026, from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm for second-year students of the M.A. French programme. The workshop introduced participants to subtitling as a form of audiovisual translation and as a practical means of making short videos more accessible to multilingual audiences.

The resource person was Mr. Franz Schubert Cotta, Assistant Professor and Programme Director of the B.A. Portuguese programme in the Discipline of Portuguese and Lusophone Studies, Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature, Goa University. Mr. Cotta brings extensive translation experience, including more than fifteen years of legal practice, work with investigative agencies and private firms, and involvement in a research project concerning seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Portuguese documents. He is also a former member of the Government of Goa’s Committee for Empanelment of Private Portuguese Translators. Drawing on his experience of subtitling and on more than six years of teaching the subject, he introduced students to the practical and technical aspects of subtitle preparation.

The workshop addressed the relevance of subtitling in contemporary digital communication, particularly as short videos and reels are frequently viewed without sound or by audiences who do not understand the original language. The discussion highlighted the role of subtitles in supporting access for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers, facilitating viewing in sound-sensitive settings, and enabling communication across languages. The multilingual context of Goa provided a useful setting for considering subtitling as both a translation practice and a media skill.

The practical component focused on Aegisub, a free, open-source subtitle editor. Participants were introduced to its interface and workflow, including the use of the audio waveform to synchronise subtitles with speech. The workshop covered the preparation and segmentation of subtitle lines, timing, line breaks, duration, reading speed and characters per line. Attention was also given to creating and editing subtitle styles suitable for vertical and horizontal videos, as well as to checking and exporting

subtitle files. The hands-on task centred on subtitling a short reel of each participant's own choice, connecting the technical procedures to an authentic piece of media that could be prepared for publication.

The workshop demonstrated how subtitling can connect translation skills with digital content creation and accessibility. It introduced students to a workflow through which subtitles can be timed, formatted, checked and exported for use with video content, including social-media reels. The session also highlighted the importance of balancing readability and synchronisation with the linguistic choices involved in translating spoken content. These practical skills complement the students' academic study of French and translation by extending it to audiovisual material.

The workshop was organised by the Discipline of French and Francophone Studies, Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature, Goa University and coordinated by Ms. Kshama Dharwadkar. It provided an opportunity for M.A. French students to engage with subtitling as a practical translation activity and to become familiar with an accessible, open-source tool for preparing subtitles.

Signature

Coordinator: Ms. Kshama D. Dharwadkar

Designation: Assistant Professor

Signature

Dean: Prof. Anuradha Wagle

Seal of the School

Dr. Natasha Gomes

Programme Director, M.A. French

Date: 15-10-2026



Photos



Attendance

GOA UNIVERSITY
Shenoi Goembab School of Languages and Literature
Discipline of French and Francophone Studies

A Hands-on Introduction to Subtitling
15th October 2026

[illegible]

Poster



GOA UNIVERSITY
SHENOI GOEMBAB SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

WORKSHOP

00:00:02,140 → 00:00:06,900

A HANDS-ON INTRODUCTION TO SUBTITLING



**Bring a two-minute reel.
Leave with it subtitled.**

DATE	TIME	TOOL
15 OCT 2026	2 - 4 PM	AEGISUB

WHAT YOU'LL DO

01

Set up your own reel in Aegisub

02

Time your subtitles on the waveform

03

Apply the conventions — line length, breaks, reading speed

04

Style them for a vertical reel

05

Export .srt and .ass, then burn them in

LED BY

Franz Schubert Cotta

Assistant Professor & Programme Director, B.A. Portuguese
Discipline of Portuguese and Lusophone Studies, Goa University

You leave with a timed, styled subtitle file for your own reel, a cheat sheet and a resource list.

FOR **Second-year M.A. French students** · ORGANISED BY **Discipline of French and Francophone Studies**

Ms. Kshama D. Dharwadkar
Co-ordinator

Dr. Natasha Gomes
Programme Director, M.A. French

Prof. Anuradha Wagle
Dean, SGSLL