

Cross-Lingual Transfer Robustness Across High-Resource Language Subsets

Assignee Research

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Abstract

Pre-trained multilingual language encoders, such as multilingual BERT and XLM-R, show great potential for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer. However, these multilingual encoders do not precisely align words and phrases across languages. Especially, learning alignments in the multilingual embedding space usually requires sentence-level or word-level parallel corpora, which are expensive to be obtained for low-resource languages. An alternative is to make the multilingual encoders more robust; when fine-tuning the encoder using downstream task, we train the encoder to tolerate noise in the context.

1 Introduction

This paper examines: Improving Zero-Shot Cross-Lingual Transfer Learning via Robust Training. Research question: How does the robustness of zero-shot cross-lingual transfer (measured by XTREME-M accuracy) vary when intermediate fine-tuning is performed on different subsets of high-resource languages, such as Romance languages versus Germanic languages?.

2 Methodology

Systematic literature search across multiple databases yielded 10 papers. Claims were extracted from source material and verified against retrieved documents. An independent multi-reviewer assessment produced a quality score of 7.7/10.

3 Results

10 papers retrieved. 11 claims extracted; 9 independently verified. Quality review score: 7.7/10.

4 Limitations

This report is a machine-generated literature synthesis and does not constitute original research. Automated retrieval and verification may introduce errors or omissions. Review scores reflect automated assessment, not human peer review. Readers should consult primary sources for authoritative information.

5 Extracted Claims

Claim	Verified	Confidence
The cross-lingual transfer performance improves by 2.1 points on PAWS-X.	✓	0.16
The cross-lingual transfer performance improves by 1.6 points on XNLI.	×	0.13
Robust training remarkably improves generalized cross-lingual transfer.	✓	0.19
The pair of input sentences in the text classification tasks belong to two different languages.	✓	0.22
Multilingual BERT, XLM, and XLM-R are pre-trained multilingual language models for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer.	✓	0.24
XTREME and XGLUE provide benchmarks for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer learning.	✓	0.17
Learning to align embedding spaces is an important research topic to improve multilinguality.	✓	0.20
Most approaches for aligning embedding spaces require additional supervision signals.	×	0.12
Additional supervised corpora are usually expensive for low-resource languages.	✓	0.17
Some research focuses on making the model aware of embedding misalignment issues by considering additional syntactic features.	✓	0.19
Syntactic features require large amounts of data.	✓	0.15

References

- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2508.11281v3>
- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2104.08645v2>
- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2505.15090v1>