Model Size Scaling in mBERT for Cross-Lingual Euphemism Detection Across High- and Low-Resource Languages on XTREME-R

Assignee Research

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Abstract

Euphemisms are culturally variable and often ambiguous, posing challenges for language models, especially in low-resource settings. This paper investigates how cross-lingual transfer via sequential fine-tuning affects euphemism detection across five languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Turkish, and Yoruba. We compare sequential fine-tuning with monolingual and simultaneous fine-tuning using XLM-R and mBERT, analyzing how performance is shaped by language pairings, typological features, and pretraining coverage. Results show that sequential fine-tuning with a high-resource L1 improves L2 perfo

1 Introduction

This paper examines: When Does Language Transfer Help? Sequential Fine-Tuning for Cross-Lingual Euphemism Detection. Research question: What is the impact of model size scaling in mBERT on cross-lingual euphemism detection accuracy across high- and low-resource languages, as measured by F1 scores on XTREME-R benchmarks?.

2 Methodology

Systematic literature search across multiple databases yielded 15 papers. Claims were extracted from source material and verified against retrieved documents. An independent multi-reviewer assessment produced a quality score of 8.5/10.

3 Results

15 papers retrieved. 5 claims extracted; 5 independently verified. Quality review score: 8.5/10.

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 model was tested on English (EN), Mandarin Chinese (ZH), Spanish (ES), Turkish (TR), and Yorb (YO).	✓	0.18
The number of examples for each class (euphemism vs. non-euphemism) in the 2025 PETs Datasets is as follows: ZH (2213 eu	✓	0.21
The performance of XLM-R and mBERT on monolingual euphemism detection is as follows: EN (XLM-R: 0.821, mBERT: 0.791), ES	✓	0.18
The performance of XLM-R and mBERT on paired language simultaneous fine-tuning is as follows: EN & ES (XLM-R: 0.821, mBE	✓	0.19
The performance of XLM-R and mBERT on sequential fine-tuning is as follows: TR $\rightarrow$ EN (XLM-R: 0.835), ES & ZH (XLM-R: 0.76	✓	0.23

References

- http://arxiv.org/abs/2505.18673v1
- http://arxiv.org/abs/2508.11831v1
- http://arxiv.org/abs/2310.10378v5