

Extending Generative NLP: Incorporating Diversity, Context, and Inclusivity in Neural Text Generation

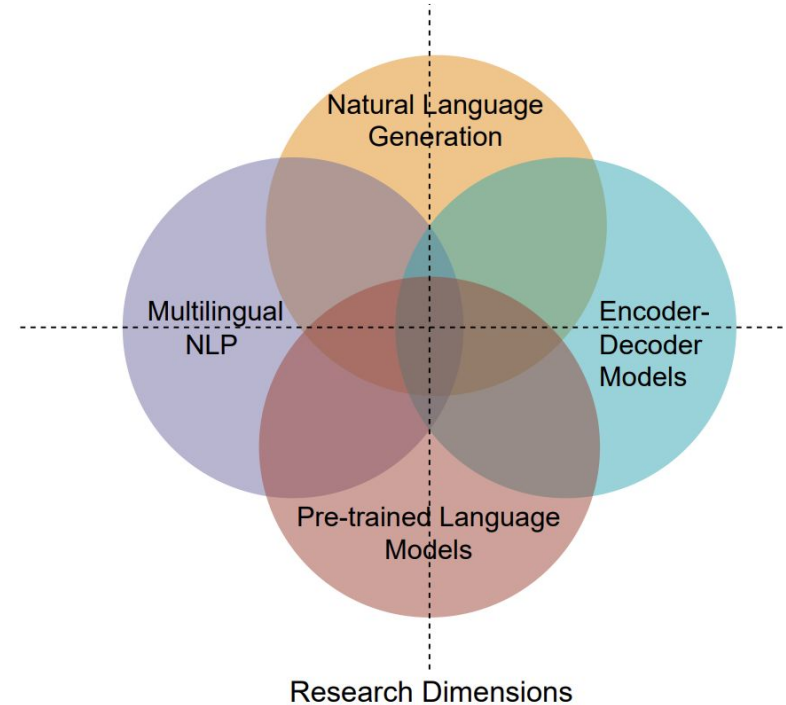
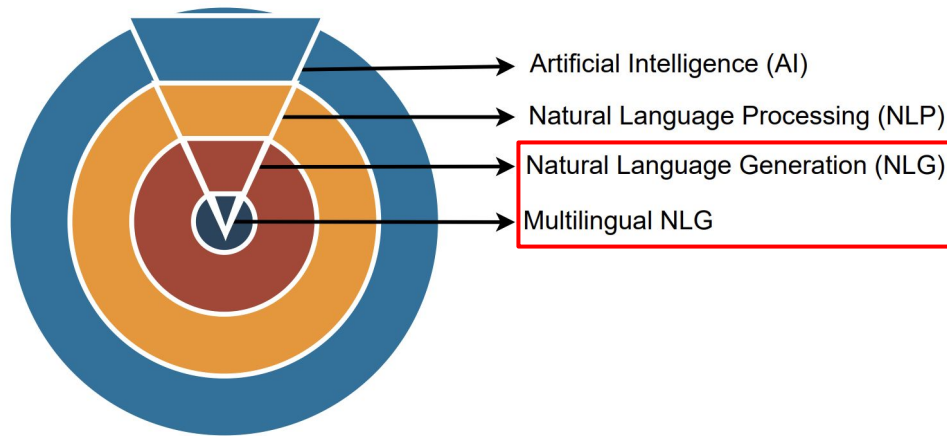
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Outline

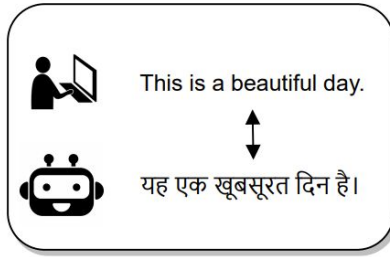
- ❑ Introduction
- ❑ Thesis Overview, Objectives and Contributions
- ❑ **Deep Dive:** Meta-Learning for Zero-Shot Cross-Lingual Generation
- ❑ **Deep Dive:** Machine Translation for Extremely Low-resource Languages
- ❑ Conclusion

Introduction: Thesis Research Space

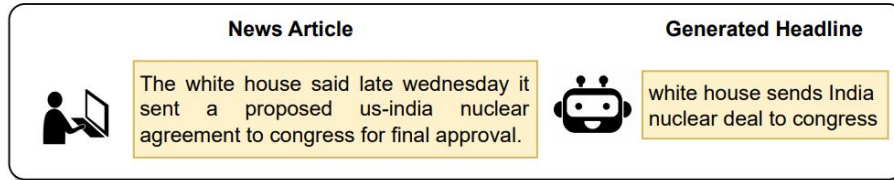


Introduction: Natural Language Generation (NLG)

NLG automates the generation of human-like text from a given input context.



Machine Translation



News Headline Generation



Image source: Internet

Need for further explorations: Thesis Objectives

Diverse Text Generation

Generates multiple outputs that are semantically related yet lexically diverse, all derived

- from a single input: one-to-many setup

Distractor generation for Reading Comprehension MCQs

Text Generation with Limited Context

Context that guides the generation is limited, making it challenging to generate relevant output

Autosuggest generation for incomplete search queries

Text Generation with Limited Labeled Data

Focusing on tasks/languages where available data is limited

- No task specific training data
- No parallel data and limited monolingual data

Multiple NLG tasks on multiple languages

Need for further explorations: Thesis Objectives

Diverse Text Generation

Generates multiple outputs
that are semantically related
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- from a single input:
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Distractor generation for
Reading Comprehension
MCQs

Definition: Diverse Text Generation

Diverse text generation is a *one-to-many setup*, where the model generates multiple outputs that are semantically related yet lexically diverse, all derived *from a single input*.

Passage	Ole bull was a very famous violinist from norway. He really liked to play the violin. But his father thought that playing the violin was not useful. So his father sent him to university to study. However, playing the violin was his dream. He did n't want to give up his dream. So he left university before he finished his studies and spent all his time and energy practicing the violin. Unfortunately, his violin teacher was not very good. So when it was time for him to start his concert tour, he still couldn't play the violin very well. Therefore, a milan newspaper critic criticized him and said that he was an untrained violinist. When facing this kind of problem, some people may become very angry and some people try to learn from it. Fortunately, ole bull belonged to the second group. He went to the newspaper office and found the critic. Instead of being angry, he talked about his mistakes with the man and listened to the man's advice. After he met the critic, he gave up the rest of his concerts. Then he went back to practice the violin with the help of good teachers. In the end, he got great success when he was only 26. He also became one of the most famous violinists in the world.
Question	Why didn't ole bull's father like him to play the piano?
Correct Answer	Because he thought playing the violin was useless.
Distractor - I	Because playing the violin would cost lots of money.
Distractor - II	Because the violin was not good.
Distractor - III	Because he didn't like to play the violin.

Distractor Generation

News	China filed the highest number of patent applications globally in 2020 retaining its top position for the second consecutive year the UN s World Intellectual Property Organization WIPO said. China filed 68,720 applications last year while the US filed 59,230. In 2019 China had replaced the US as the top patent application filer for the first time in over four decades.		
Reference Headlines	China files highest patents globally for 2nd year in a row: UN	China becomes world's top patent filer after four decades with US on top	China extends lead over U.S. in global patents filings U.N. says

Diverse News Headline Generation

Definition: Distractor Generation

Given a reading comprehension MCQ, i.e., <passage, question, correct answer> triplet, it is the task of generating multiple incorrect options, i.e., distractors.

Ideal distractors should be:

1. Contextually related with question
2. Semantically dissimilar with answer
3. Diverse from each other
4. Confusion-inducing

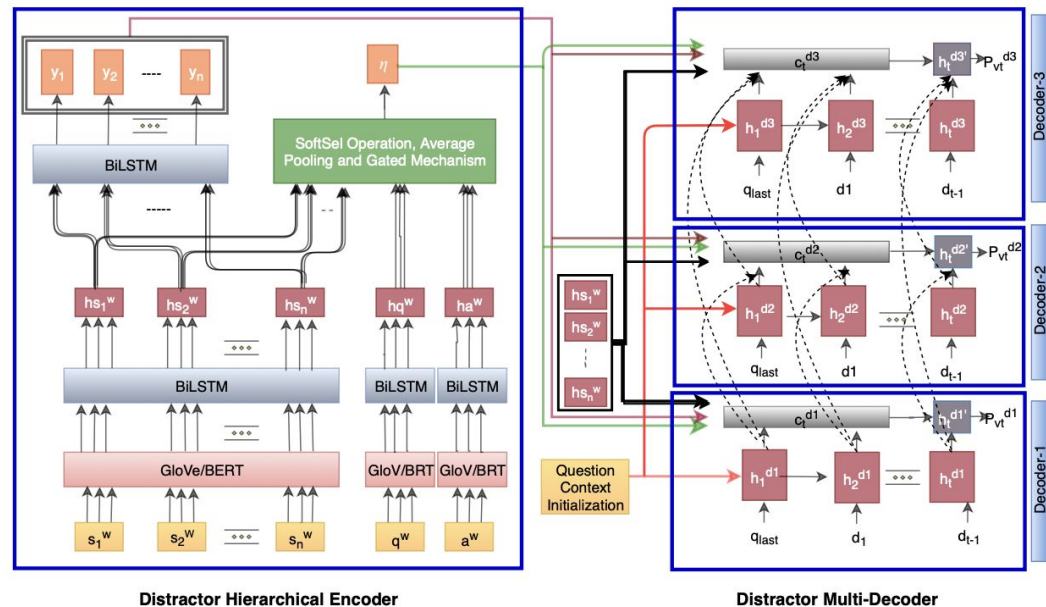
Distractor Generation: Contribution

Encoder Side:

- SoftSel operation
- Gated Mechanism
- Semantic Decoupling

Decoder Side:

- Multi-decoder Network
- Question Context Initialization
- Decoder interactions



HMD-Network

Need for further explorations: Thesis Objectives

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Distractor generation for Reading Comprehension MCQs

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Autosuggest generation for incomplete search queries

Personalized Query Auto-Completions (PQAC)

Generating top-m completions given the user-specific <session, prefix>

- Query Auto Completion (QAC): Recommend a list of relevant complete queries for partially typed search query (i.e. prefix)
- Helps in:
 - Saving keystrokes
 - System's understanding of search intent
 - Assisting users in efficiently expressing their intent

Session: mountains images||caves
images||mountainside caves||mountain
caves||timber wolves
Prefix: wolf p
Correct Query: wolf poetry

Generations:

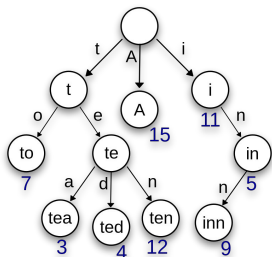
1. wolf poetry
2. wolf pictures
3. wolf photos
4. wolf pics
5. wolf picture
6. wolf photo
7. wolf prints
8. wolf print

Sample from Bing Query log

Credit: Bing query log

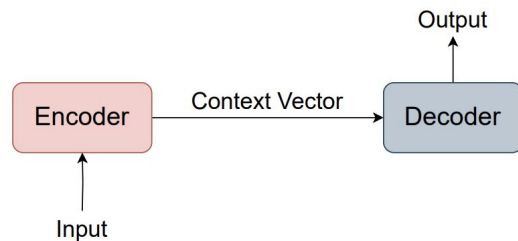
Limited Context in Existing PQAC Models

Trie/Ranking Models



- + Suggestions are more **meaningful** as they come from **user log**
- **No personalization**
- Provide **limited number of suggestions**
- No suggestions for **unseen prefixes**

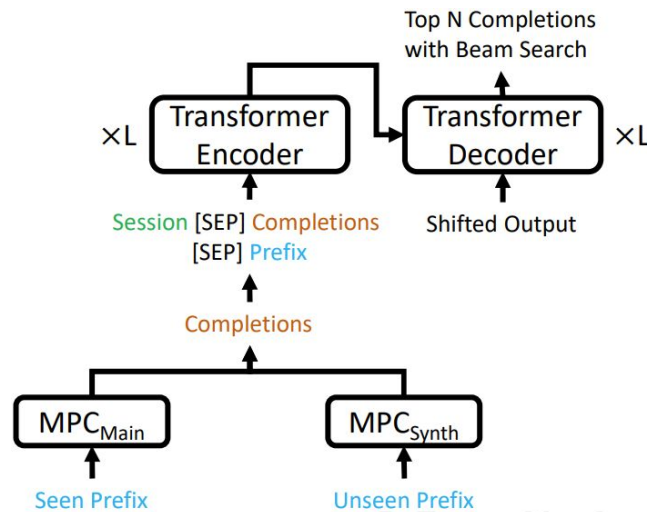
NLG Models



- + Can model **personalization**
- + Generate suggestions for **unseen prefixes**
- For **short-prefixes**, suggestions are bad due to **limited context**
- Learn the **generation biases** from training dataset

Limited Context in Existing PQAC: Contribution

- Best of both (Trie and NLG): Augment top trie completions in NLG model for short and unseen prefixes
- Proposed Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) type modeling framework
- This mitigates the issues of Limited Context in PQAC and boost the model performance
- This is first such study



Trie-NLG Model

Need for further explorations: Thesis Objectives

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Distractor generation for Reading Comprehension MCQs

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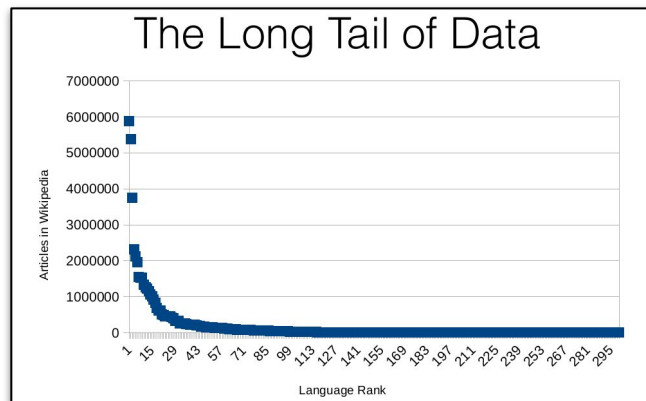
Focusing on tasks/languages where available data is limited

- No task specific training data
- No parallel data and limited monolingual data

Multiple NLG tasks on multiple languages

Landscape of Low-resource Languages (LRLs)

- 7000+ languages across the globe [3]
- Only ~300 languages has wikipedia page
- The majority of NLP research focuses on English [3, 4] only - less inclusive and less diverse.
- The majority of the global population—roughly 95%—does not speak English as their primary language, and a staggering 75% do not speak English at all¹



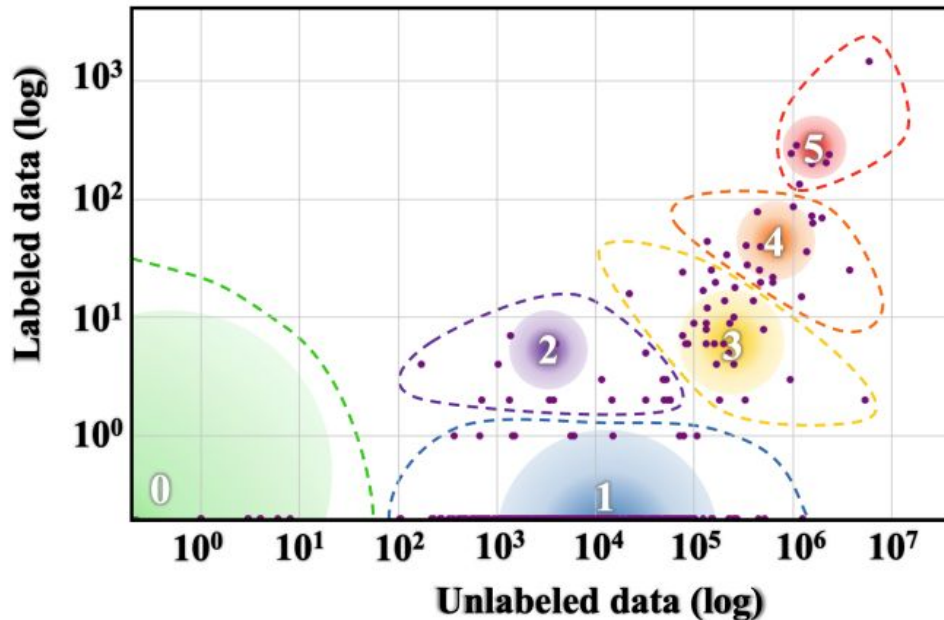
Source: Graham Neubig Multilingual NLP Lectures

- [3] P. Joshi, S. Santy, A. Budhiraja, K. Bali, and M. Choudhury. The State and Fate of Linguistic Diversity and Inclusion in the NLP World. In Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics. Association for Computational Linguistics, Online, 2020 6282–6293.
- [4] Bender, Emily. "The# benderrule: On naming the languages we study and why it matters." *The Gradient* 14 (2019).

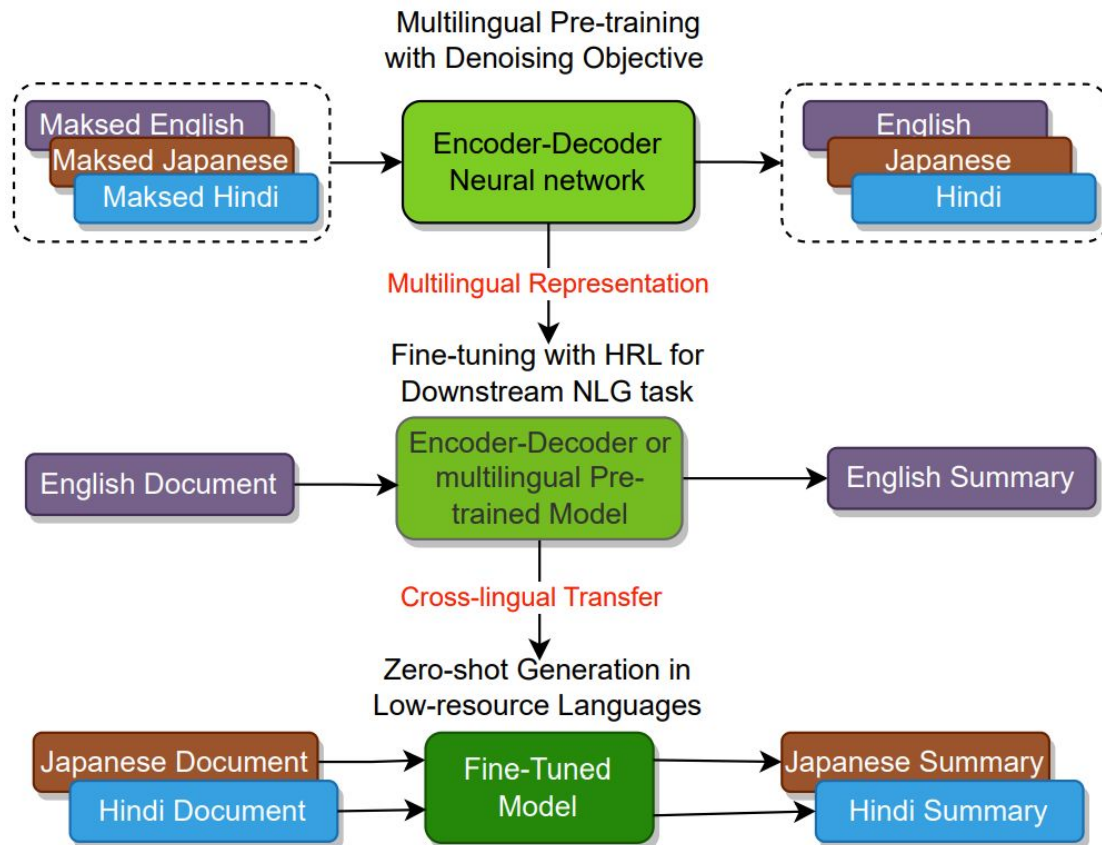
¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_languages_by_total_number_of_speakers

Limited data for LRLs

- 88% languages fall into **class 0** and untouched by language technology [3]
- **Task-specific** NLG labeled data in LRL is **even more rare**
- Only **~100 languages** are part of existing large language model, even for those languages, NLG **adaptability** is challenging [5]



Hopeful Direction: Cross-lingual Modeling in NLP



Cross-lingual Modeling: Challenges and Contributions

Challenge 1: Catastrophic Forgetting (CF) Problem

- After fine-tuning with task-specific HRL data, the **model forgets** the previous multilingual pre-training.
- While attempting zero-shot generation in LRL, the generation is **in HRL**, or **code-mixed with HRL and LRL**.

Our Proposal: ZmBART Framework

1. Proposed **unsupervised adaptive** pre-training-based framework -ZmBART
2. Only require **small** monolingual data in LRLs
3. Successfully **mitigate** the the is CF problem and generates **well-formed** zero-shot generation in LRLs
4. Evaluated across **4 tasks** and **3 languages**
5. In **zero-shot** and **few-shot** settings

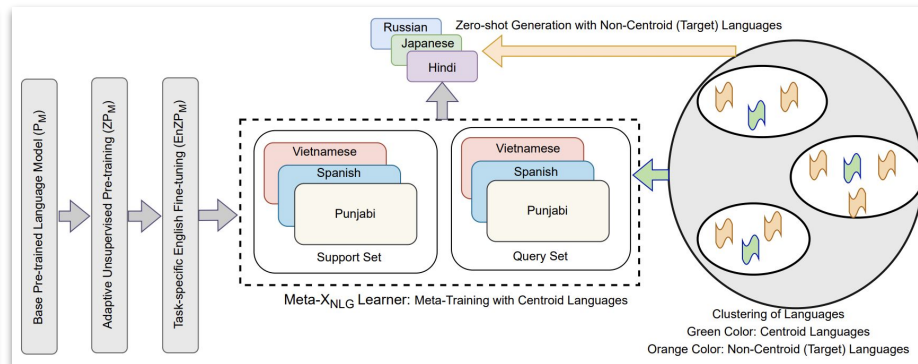
Cross-lingual Modeling: Challenges and Contributions

Challenge 2: Non-Uniform Supervision Transfer

- Supervision transfer from HRL is **uneven across LRLs**, i.e., LRLs which are similar to HRL, the transfer is high, and vice versa.
- Models **do not account** for **cultural** and **linguistic aspects** in the modeling.
- These factors lead to **large performance gaps** for LRLs.

Our Proposal: Meta-XNLG Framework:

- First study to propose modeling framework to transfer cross-lingual signals **more uniformly** with **Meta-learning (MAML)** and **Language clustering**



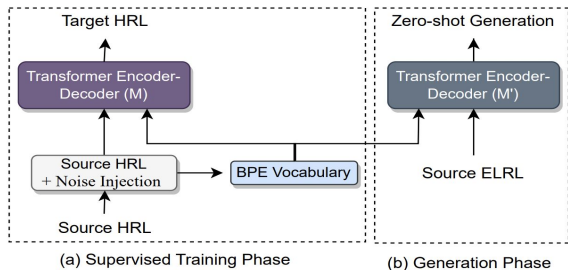
Cross-lingual Modeling: Challenges and Contributions

Challenge 3: Machine Translation for Extremely LRLs (ELRLs)

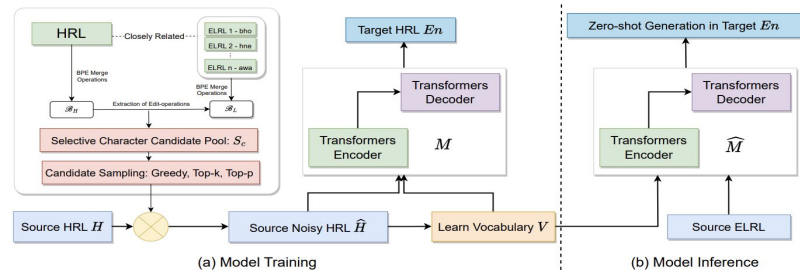
Lack parallel data, have limited monolingual data, and language representations absent in mPLMs.

Our Proposal: SELECTNOISE [8] and CHARSPAN [9] Models

- Based on noise augmentation
- Small monolingual data (1k examples): SELECTNOISE; No monolingual data: CHARSPAN



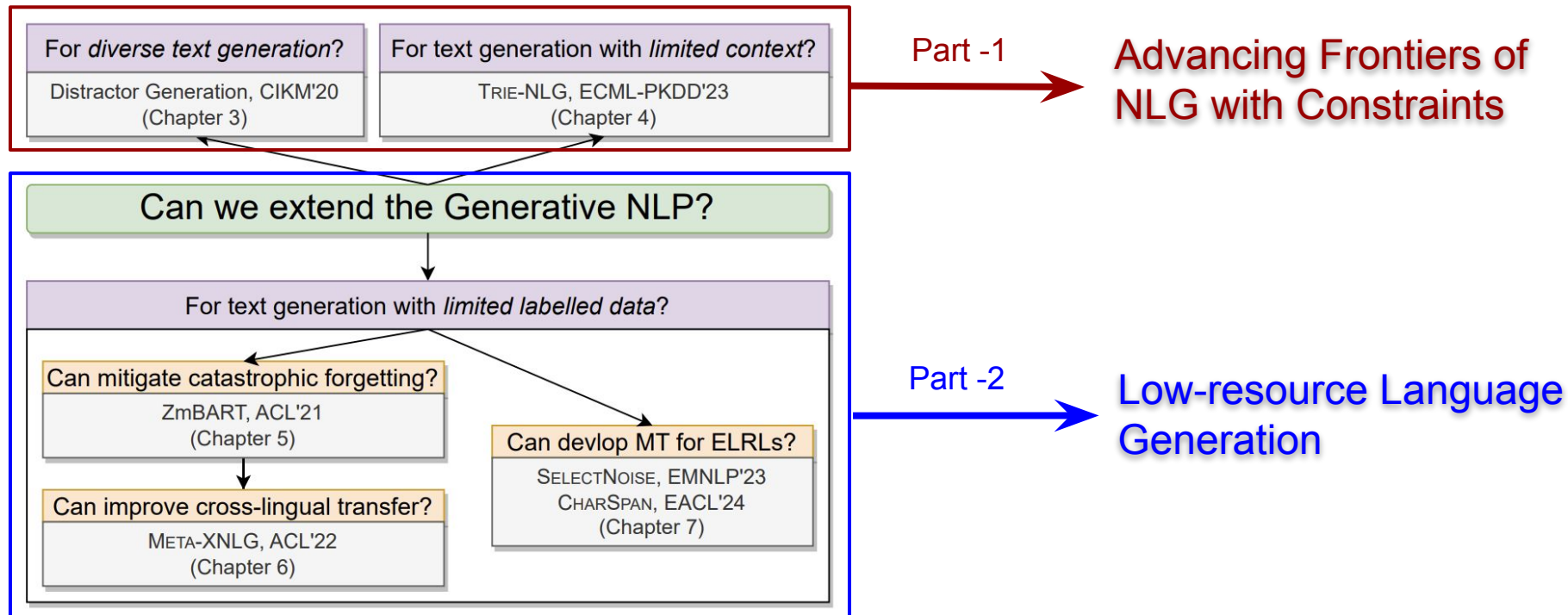
CHARSPAN Model



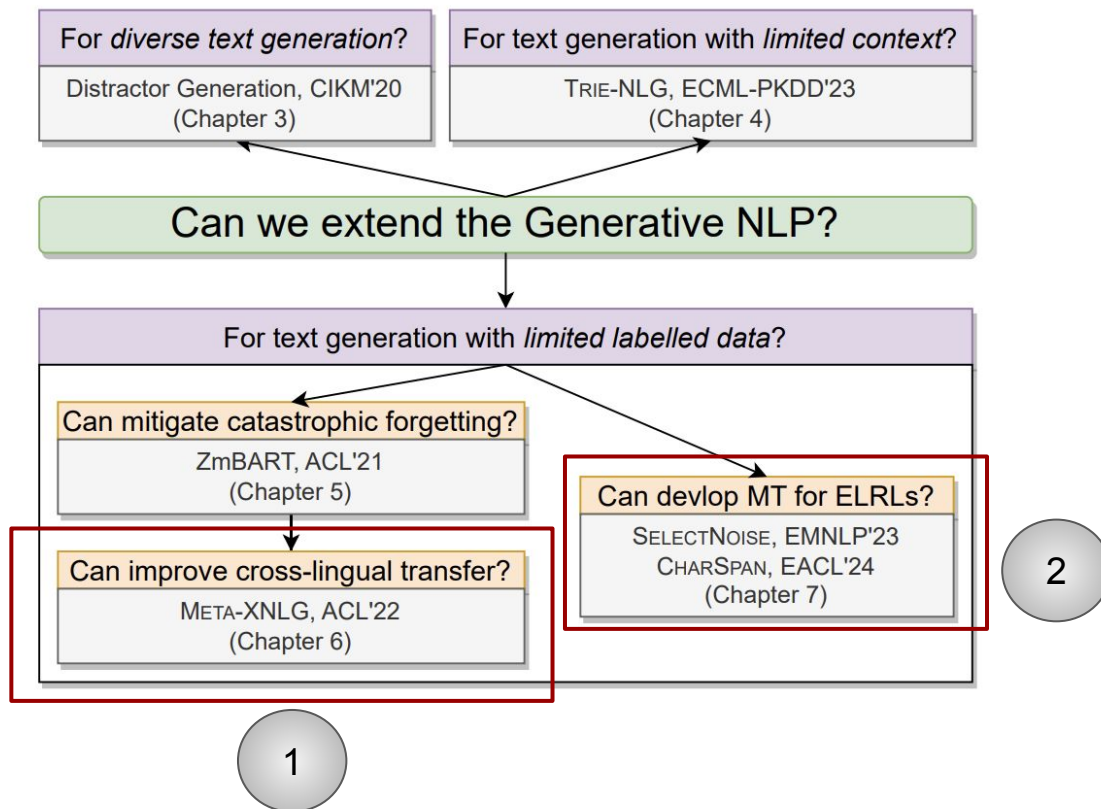
SELECTNOISE Model

- [8] Maharaj Brahma*, Kaushal Kumar Maurya*, and Maunendra Desarkar. "SelectNoise: Unsupervised Noise Injection to Enable Zero-Shot Machine Translation for Extremely Low-Resource Languages." In Findings of EMNLP 2023.
- [9] Kaushal Kumar Maurya, Rahul Kejriwal, Maunendra Desarkar and Anoop Kunchukuttan. "CharSpan: Utilizing Lexical Similarity to Enable Zero-Shot Machine Translation for Extremely Low-Resource Languages." In EACL 2024.

Thesis Organization



Deep Dive: Meta-XNLG and SELECTNOISE

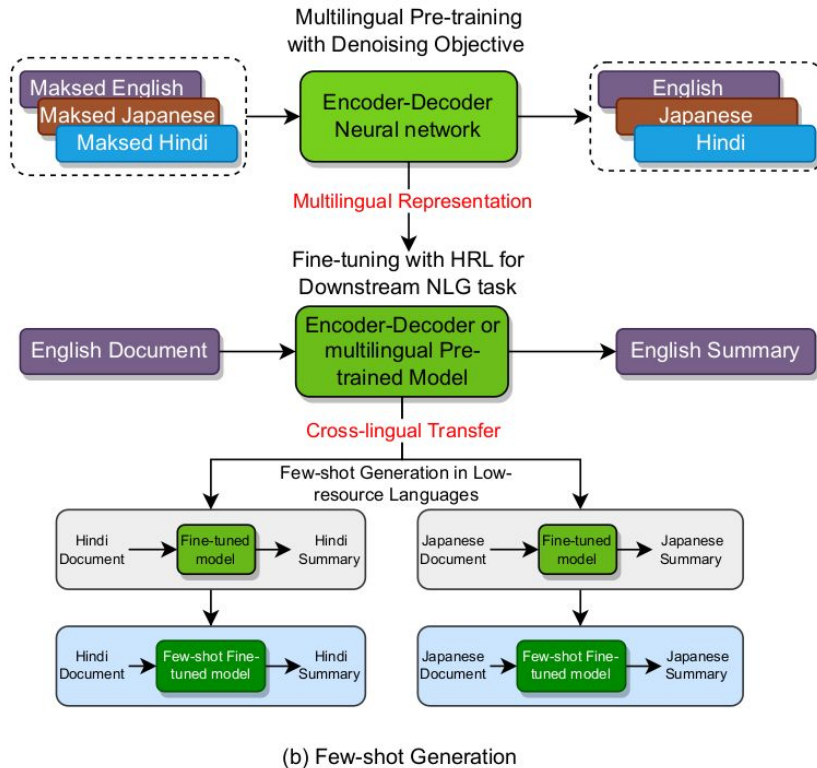
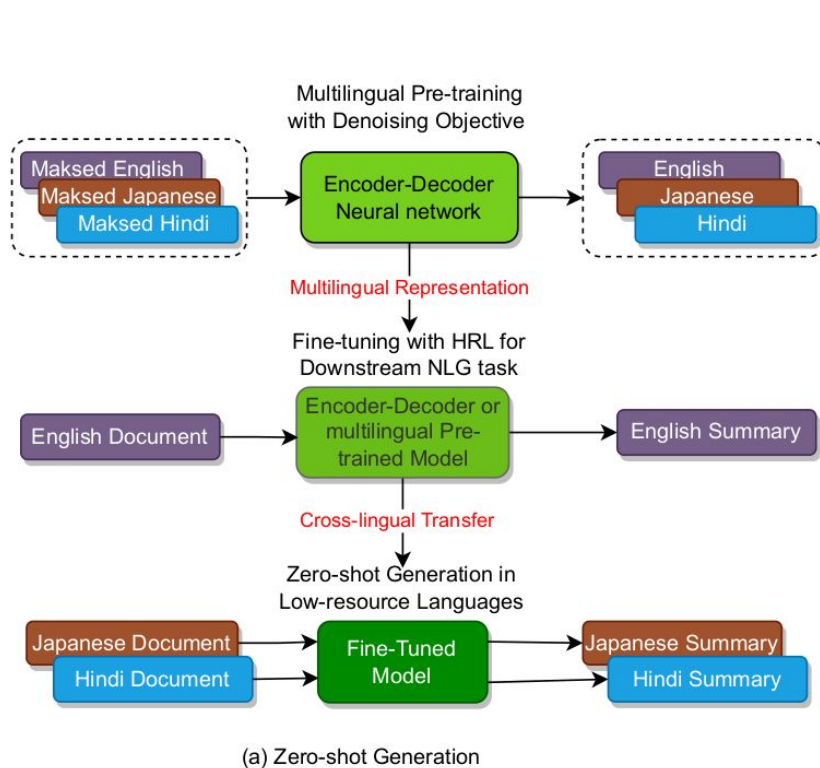


Introduction: Terminology

- **Zero-shot Generation:** An NLG model to generate output text in a language L (or domain D) **without** prior explicit labeled training in L (or D).
- **Few-shot Generation:** An NLG model to generate output text in a language L (or domain D) **with limited labeled** training examples in L (or D).
- **Low-Resource Language Generation:** It is the task of generating textual output from a given task with a **limited amount of training data** or **linguistic resources**.
- **Cross-Lingual Transfer and Generation:** It is a task in which a **model learns a generative task from labeled data** in **one language (typically English)** and then **performs the equivalent generative task in another language [10]**.

[10] Tu Vu, Aditya Barua, Brian Lester, Daniel Cer, Mohit Iyyer, and Noah Constant. Overcoming catastrophic forgetting in zero-shot cross-lingual generation. In Proceedings of the 2022 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, pages 9279–9300, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, December 2022. Association for Computational Linguistics.

Introduction: Terminology [Cont...]



Meta-XNLG: A Meta-Learning Approach Based on Language Clustering for Zero-Shot Cross-Lingual Transfer and Generation

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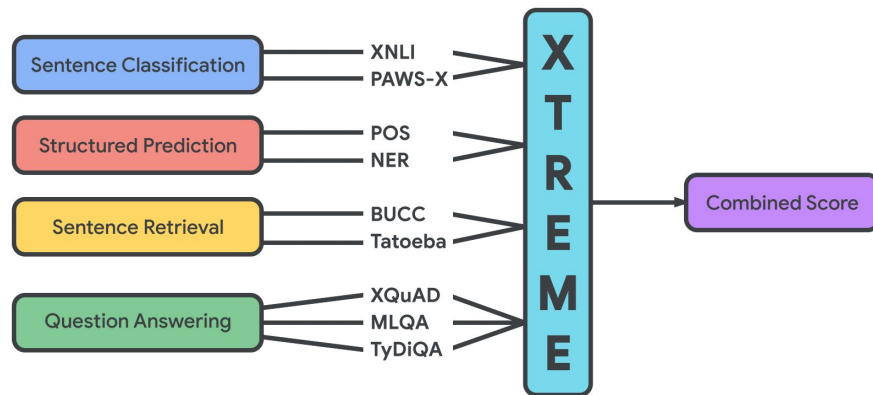


❏ Meta-XNLG: Introduction

Efforts in Cross-lingual Research

Rank	Model	Submission Date	Dataset Translation	Parameter (Million)	QG	NTG	XGLUE-Generation Score
1	SAG (MS Ads Creative)	2022-01-12	Yes	270M	12.6	12.4	12.5
2	ProphetNet-X (USTC+MSRA)	2021-04-22	No	270M	12.2	11.6	11.9
3	Unicoder Baseline (XGLUE Team)	2020-05-25	No	270M	10.6	10.7	10.7
4	MP-Tune (ByteDance MLNLC)	2021-01-12	Yes	304M	8.1	9.4	8.7

XGLUE-Benchmark [11]



XTREME-Benchmark [12]

- [11] Liang, Yaobo et al. "XGLUE: A New Benchmark Dataset for Cross-lingual Pre-training, Understanding and Generation." *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing* (2020).
- [12] Hu, Junjie, et al. "Xtreme: A massively multilingual multi-task benchmark for evaluating cross-lingual generalisation." *International Conference on Machine Learning*. PMLR, 2020.

Current Limitations

- Non-uniform supervision transfer from HRL to LRLs
 - More similar LRL to the HRL → better supervision transfer and vice-versa.
 - Cultural and linguistic aspects are not considered in the modeling [13, 14]
 - Leads to large performance gaps.

[13] Guokun Lai, Barlas Oguz, Yiming Yang, and Veselin Stoyanov. 2019. Bridging the domain gap in cross-lingual document classification. CoRR, abs/1909.07009.

[14] Damian Blasi, Antonios Anastasopoulos, and Graham Neubig. 2022. Systematic Inequalities in Language Technology Performance across the World's Languages. In Proceedings of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers), pages 5486–5505, Dublin, Ireland. Association for Computational Linguistics.

Hopeful Direction

- Learn shareable structures across multiple tasks with limited annotated data: Modeling with Meta-Learning [15]
 - Constraint: all tasks should share some common structure (or come from a task distribution)
 - The world's different languages follow this constraint
 - As they came into existence with a common goal of communication, and share some structure.
- We consider all the languages as tasks

Hypothesis and Modeling Direction

Hypothesis: Meta-learning algorithm trained with few *typologically diverse* languages (as training task) provide *language-agnostic initialization* for the *zero-shot* cross-lingual generation.

- We propose *Meta-XNLG*, a framework for *effective cross-lingual transfer and generation* based on Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning (*MAML*; [16]) algorithm.
- This was *first attempt* to study meta-learning techniques for cross-lingual natural language generation (XNLG).
- Particularly, we *focus on zero-shot* XNLG for low-resource languages.

❏ Meta-XNLG: Background

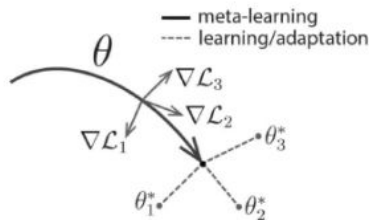
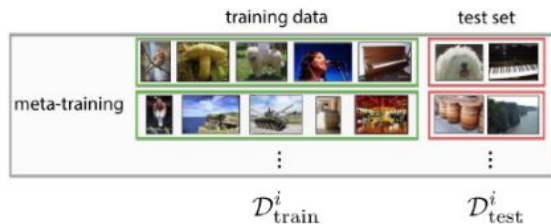
Meta-Learning

- Meta-learning or **learning to learn** [15]
 - A learning paradigm
 - Model is trained on **diverse tasks** (and learns structures)
 - **Quickly adapts** to new tasks given a **handful** of examples.
- Among others, we focus on **optimization-based** algorithms, i.e., Model Agnostic Meta-Learning (**MAML**) due to its **recent success**.



Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning (MAML)

a general recipe:



$$\theta \leftarrow \theta - \beta \sum_i \nabla_{\theta} \underbrace{\mathcal{L}(\theta - \alpha \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta, \mathcal{D}_{\text{train}}^i), \mathcal{D}_{\text{test}}^i)}_{\text{"meta-loss" for task } i}$$

* in general, can take more than one gradient step here
** we often use 4 – 10 steps

Chelsea Finn

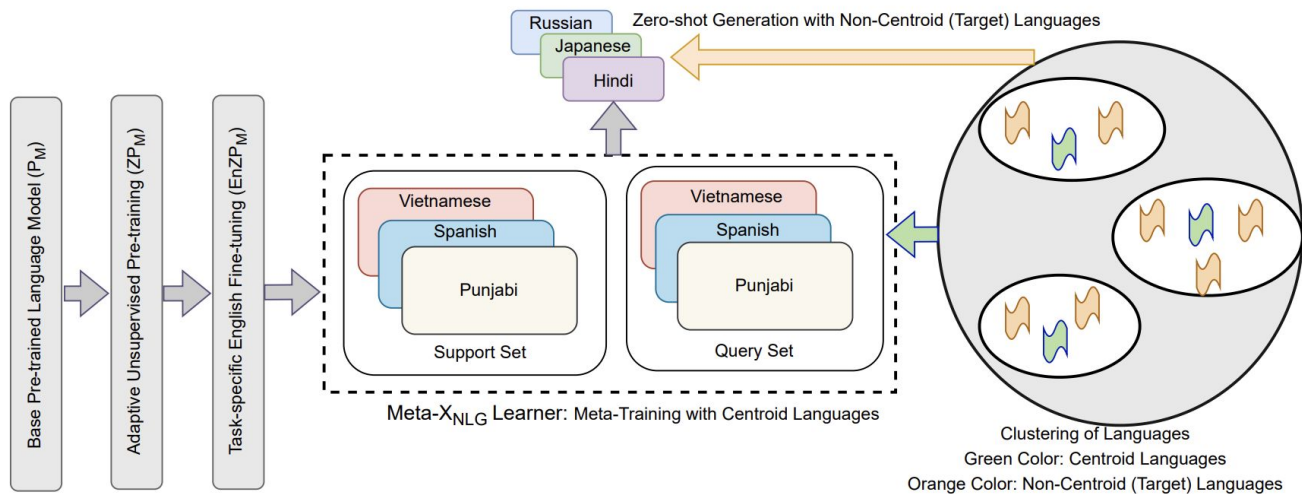


Finn et al., "Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning"

Slide Credit: Sergey Levine

❏ Meta-XNLG: Proposed Approach

Meta-XNLG: Overview



1. **Cluster** the languages and find the **centroid** languages
2. **Train MAML** with **centroid** languages
3. **Evaluate** the Trained MAML model with **non-centroid** languages in zero-shot setting while **overcoming accidental translation problem**

Meta-XNLG: Intuition

- **Generalization Goals:** Intra-cluster and Inter-cluster
 - **Intra-cluster:** Training with **one** centroid language per cluster
 - **Inter-cluster:** Training with **multiple** centroid languages across cluster
- **Number of clusters (meta-training language) Vs Generalization**
 - → **single** cluster → **over-generalization** → fails to learn different typological structures
 - → **too many** clusters → many centroid languages → many typological structures → **learning distracted**
 - Empirical evidence: **three clusters** provide **best** generalization

Language Clustering: Representation of Languages

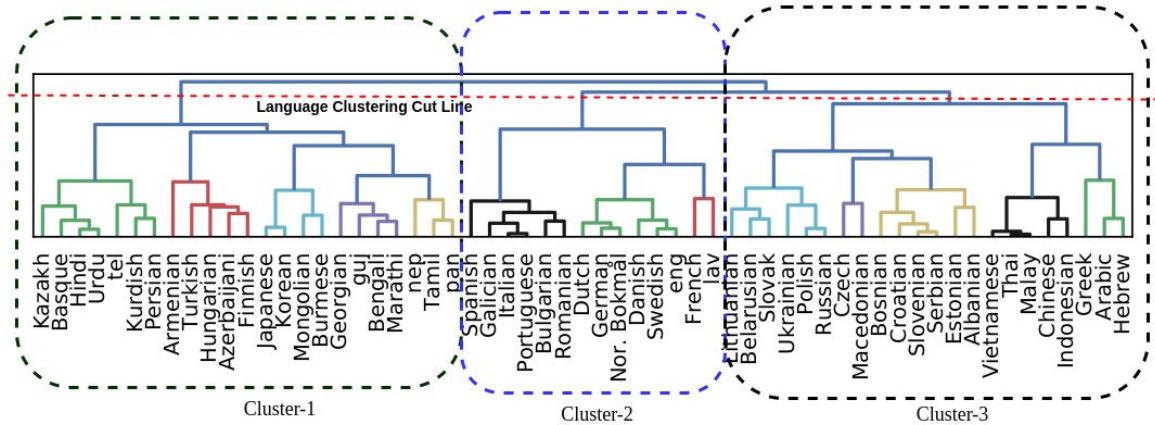
- **Typologically Learned:** Use typological information from linguistic knowledge-base like WALS [17]
- **Task-learned:** Extract learned language tag representations from tasks like machine translation [18]
- **Multi-View:** Fuse typologically learned and task-learned language representations using singular vector canonical correlation [19]

[17] Dryer, Matthew S., and Martin Haspelmath. "The world atlas of language structures online." (2013).

[18] Chaitanya Malaviya, Graham Neubig, and Patrick Littell. 2017. Learning language representations for typology prediction. In EMNLP 2017.

[19] Arturo Oncevay, Barry Haddow, and Alexandra Birch. 2020. Bridging linguistic typology and multilingual machine translation with multi-view language representations. In EMNLP 2020.

Language Clustering

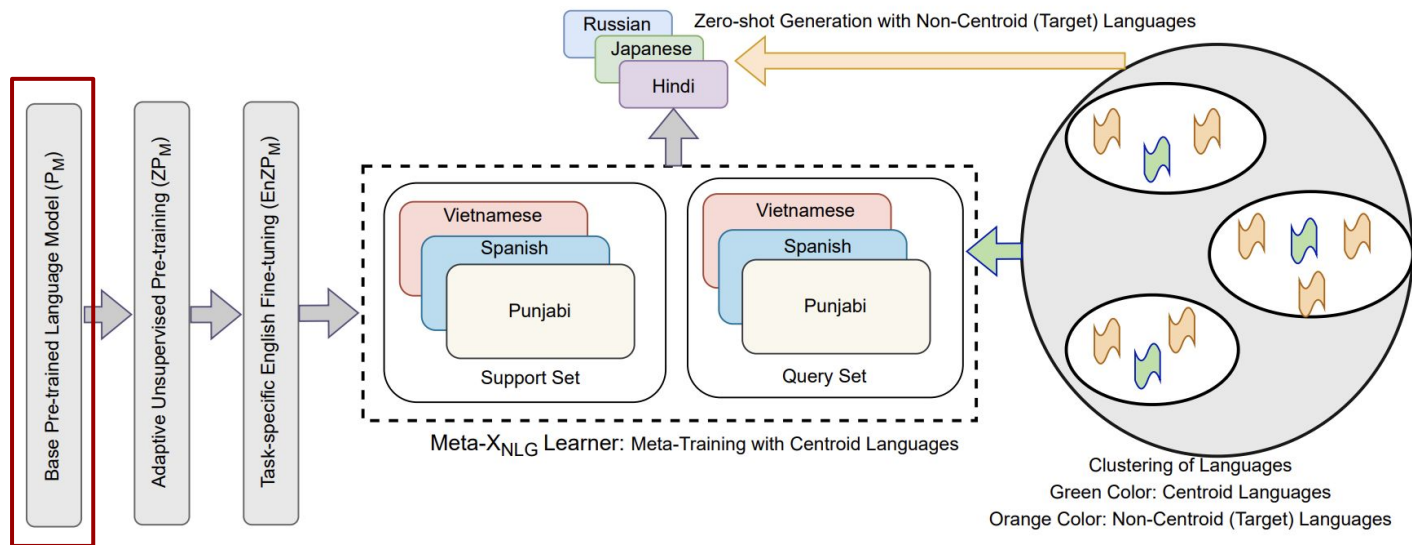


- Given cluster $C = \{L_1, L_2, \dots, L_n\}$ and d is cosine distance then the **centroid language** $L^* \in C$ is defined as:

$$L^* = \arg \min_{L_i \in C} \sum_{L_j \in C} d(L_j, L_i)$$

Cluster-1(14)	Cluster-2(8)	Cluster-3(8)
hi,ur,te,tr,ja,fi,ko,gu, bn,mr,np,ta,pa,sw	es,it,pt,ro, nl,de,en,fr	ru,cs,vi,th, zh,id,el,ar

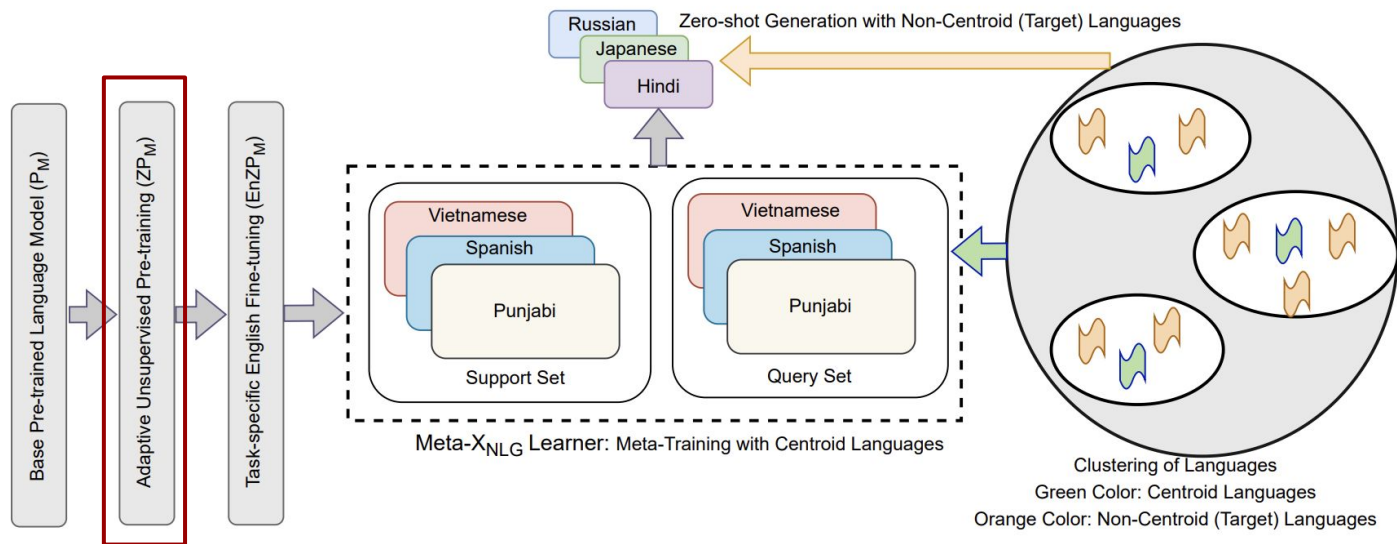
Model Training: Step-1



[Step-1] Selection of Base Pre-trained Model:

1. Pre-trained **model-agnostic**
2. Used sequence-to-sequence multilingual pre-trained language
3. We use **mT5**

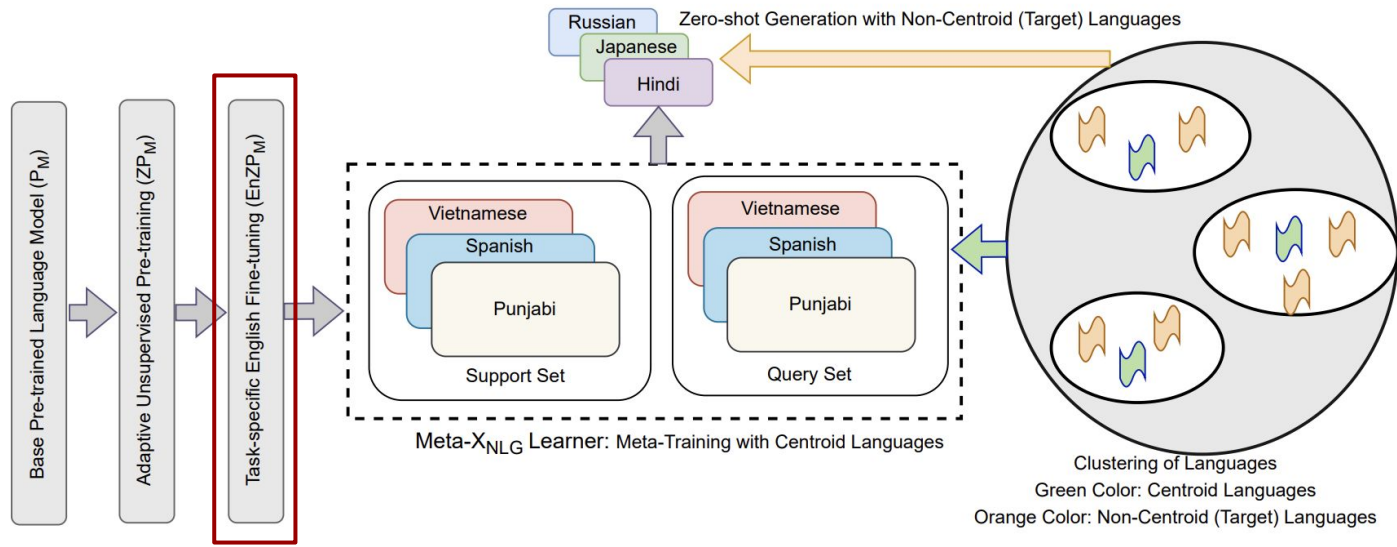
Model Training: Step-2



[Step-2] Adaptive Unsupervised Pre-training:

1. An adaptive pre-training step on top of mT5
2. Use rand-summary training objective (more on this later)
3. Helps in mitigate catastrophic forgetting/accidental translation/off-target problem

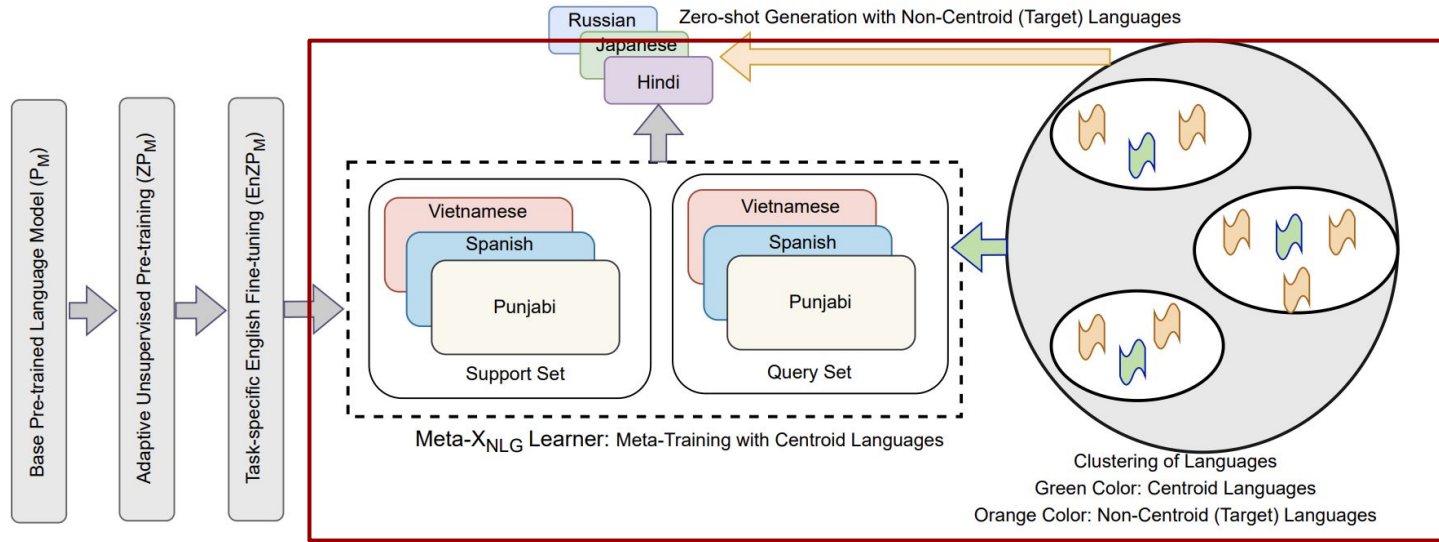
Model Training: Step-3



[Step-3] Fine-tuning with High Resource Language:

1. Task specific supervised training with HRL (English) dataset
2. The supervision will transfer from English to LRLs

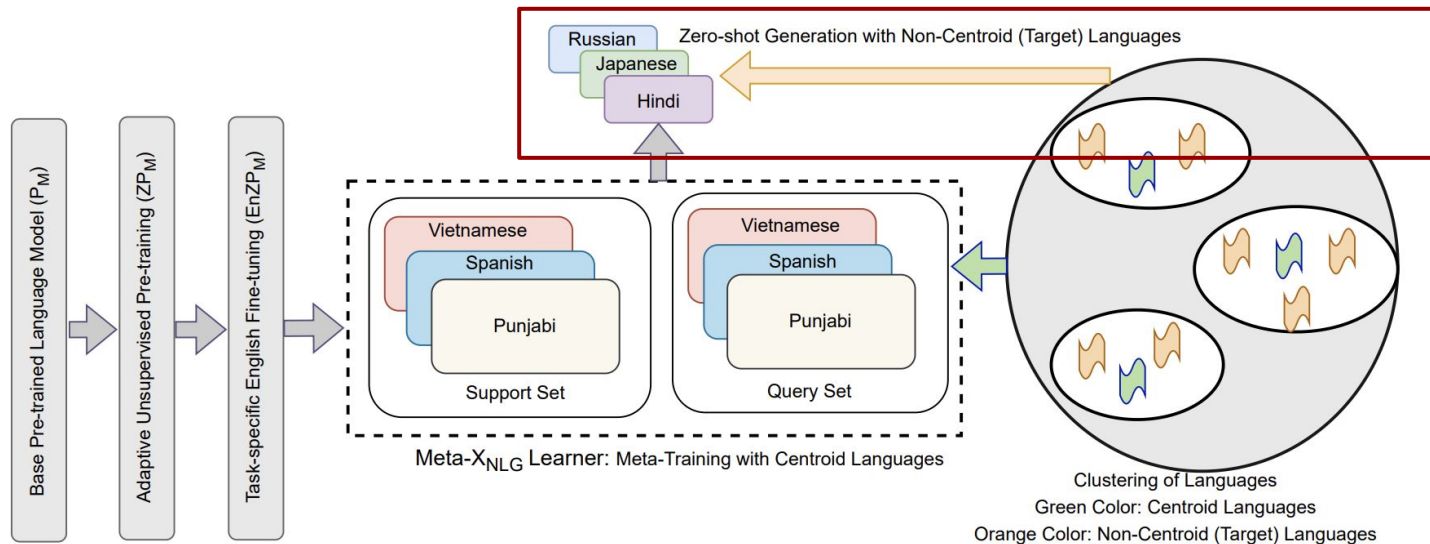
Model Training: Step-4



[Step-4] Meta-Training with Low-resource Centroid Languages:

1. Train MAML with centroid languages
2. Obtain meta-learned checkpoints

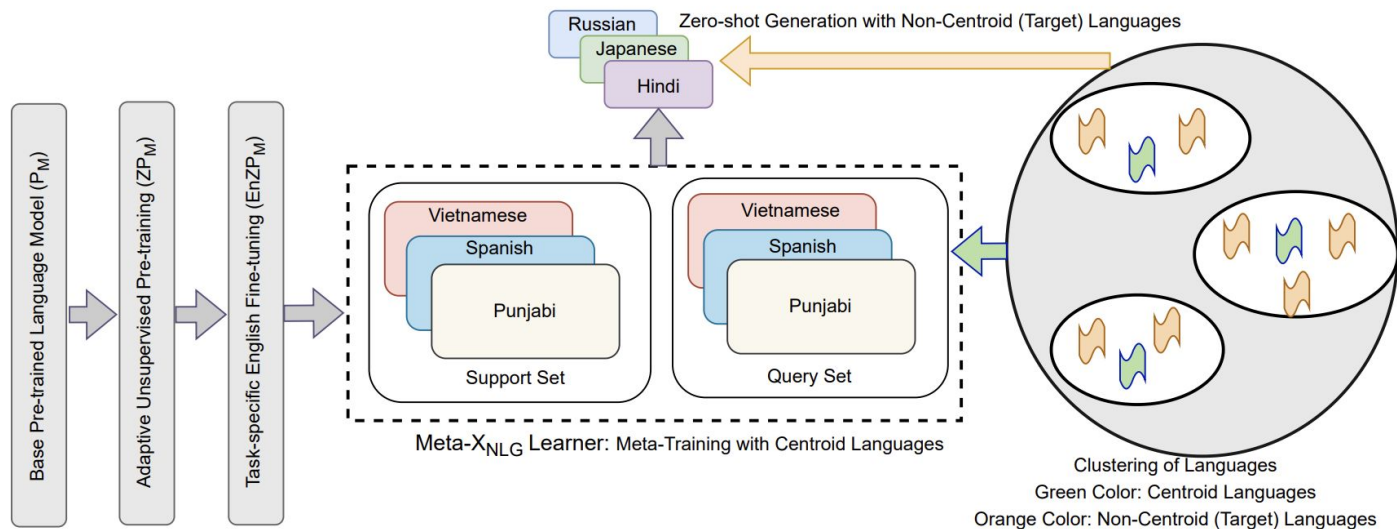
Model Training: Step-5



[Step-5] Meta-adaptation for Zero-shot Evaluation:

1. Evaluate the meta-learned model with **non-centroid** languages
2. Evaluations are done in the **zero-shot** setting

Meta-XNLG: Summary



1. [Step-1] Selection of Base Pre-trained Model
2. [Step-2] Adaptive Unsupervised Pre-training
3. [Step-3] Fine-tuning with High Resource Language
4. [Step-4] Meta-Training with Low-resource Centroid Languages
5. [Step-5] Meta-adaptation for Zero-shot Evaluation

Meta-XNLG: Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Meta Learning Algorithm

Require: Task set distribution $p(D)$, pre-trained model $EnZP_M(P)$ with parameters θ_P , meta-learner f_θ with parameter θ .

Require: α, β : step size hyper-parameters

- 1: Initialize $\theta \leftarrow \theta_P$
- 2: **while** not done **do**
- 3: Sample batch of tasks $T = T_1, T_2, \dots, T_b \sim p(D)$
- 4: **for** all T_i in T **do**
- 5: Initialize $\theta_i \leftarrow \theta$
- 6: Split D_i to form support set S_i and query set Q_i
- 7: **for** all inner_iter steps m **do**
- 8: Compute $\nabla_{\theta_i^{(m)}} L_{T_i}^{S_i}(P_{\theta_i^{(m)}})$
- 9: Do SGD: $\theta_i^{m+1} = \theta_i^m - \alpha \nabla_{\theta_i^{(m)}} L_{T_i}^{S_i}(P_{\theta_i^{(m)}})$
- 10: **end for**
- 11: MetaUpdate: $\theta = \theta - \beta \nabla_\theta \sum_{j=1}^b L_{T_j}^{Q_j}(P_{\theta_j^{(m)}})$
- 12: **end for**
- 13: **end while**
- 14: Do zero-shot/few-shot learning with meta-learner f_{θ^*} where θ^* is learned optimal parameters of meta-learner.

Catastrophic Forgetting / Accidental Translation/Off-trager Problem

- In **zero-shot** setting, model **suffers** from **ill-formed generation** for unseen low-resource and problem is known as catastrophic forgetting or accidental translation or off-trager problem
- Where model **generates whole/part** of the output in the **fine-tuning HRL** [20] i.e., **HRL** or **code-mixed with HRL and LRL**

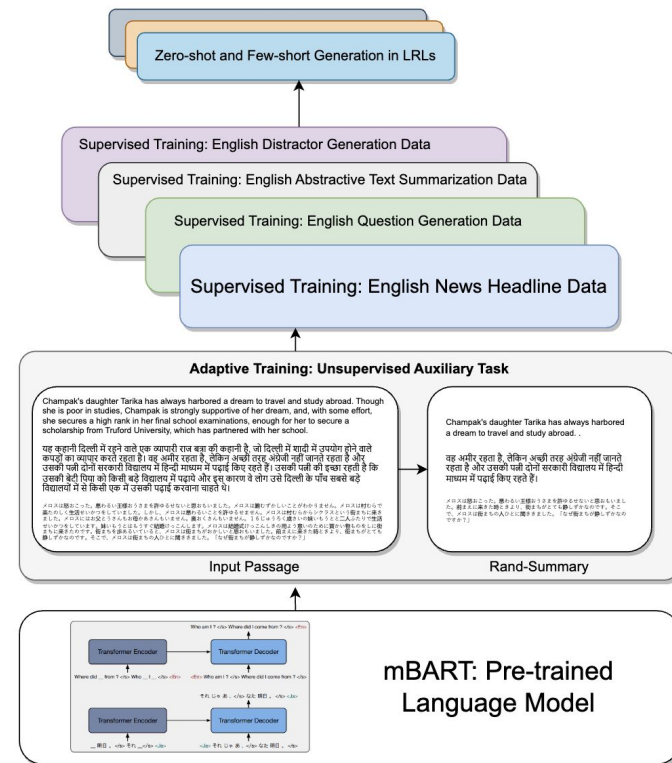
[20] Linting Xue, Noah Constant, Adam Roberts, Mihir Kale, Rami Al-Rfou, Aditya Siddhant, Aditya Barua, and Colin Raffel. 2021. mT5: A massively multilingual pre-trained text-to-text transformer. In Proceedings of the 2021 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies, pages 483–498, Online. Association for Computational Linguistics.

ZmBART Framework

- [6] Kaushal Kumar Maurya, Maunendra Sankar Desarkar, Yoshinobu Kano, and Kumari Deepshikha. “ZmBART: An Unsupervised Cross-lingual Transfer Framework for Language Generation.” In Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2021, pages 2804–2818, Online.

Overview of ZmBART Model

- It is an **unsupervised framework** to **mitigate** CF/AT/OT problem and **cross-lingual transfer** and generation
- **Enable** zero-shot well formed generation in target LRLs
- Developed on **mBART** pre-trained model checkpoint
- Evaluated with **4 NLG** tasks with **3 languages** (HRL: English and LRLs: Hindi, Japanese)

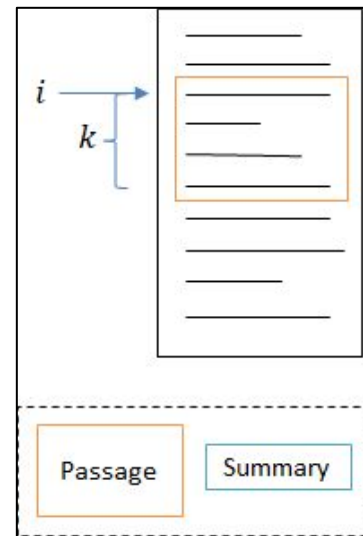


Auxiliary Task: Adaptive Pre-training

“Given an input passage, generate few random sentences (called rand-summary) from the passage”

Data preparation steps for the auxiliary task are given below:

1. Generate a random number $k \in \{5, \dots, 25\}$.
 k denotes the size of input passage
2. **PASSAGE**: Append k continuous sentences, starting from a random index of monolingual corpus D_i of the i^{th} language
3. **RAND-SUMMARY**: Randomly select 20% sentences from the passage
4. Repeat steps 1 to 3 for p languages
5. Repeat steps 1 to 4 for N times, to collect Np $\langle \text{PASSAGE}, \text{RAND-SUMMARY} \rangle$ pairs

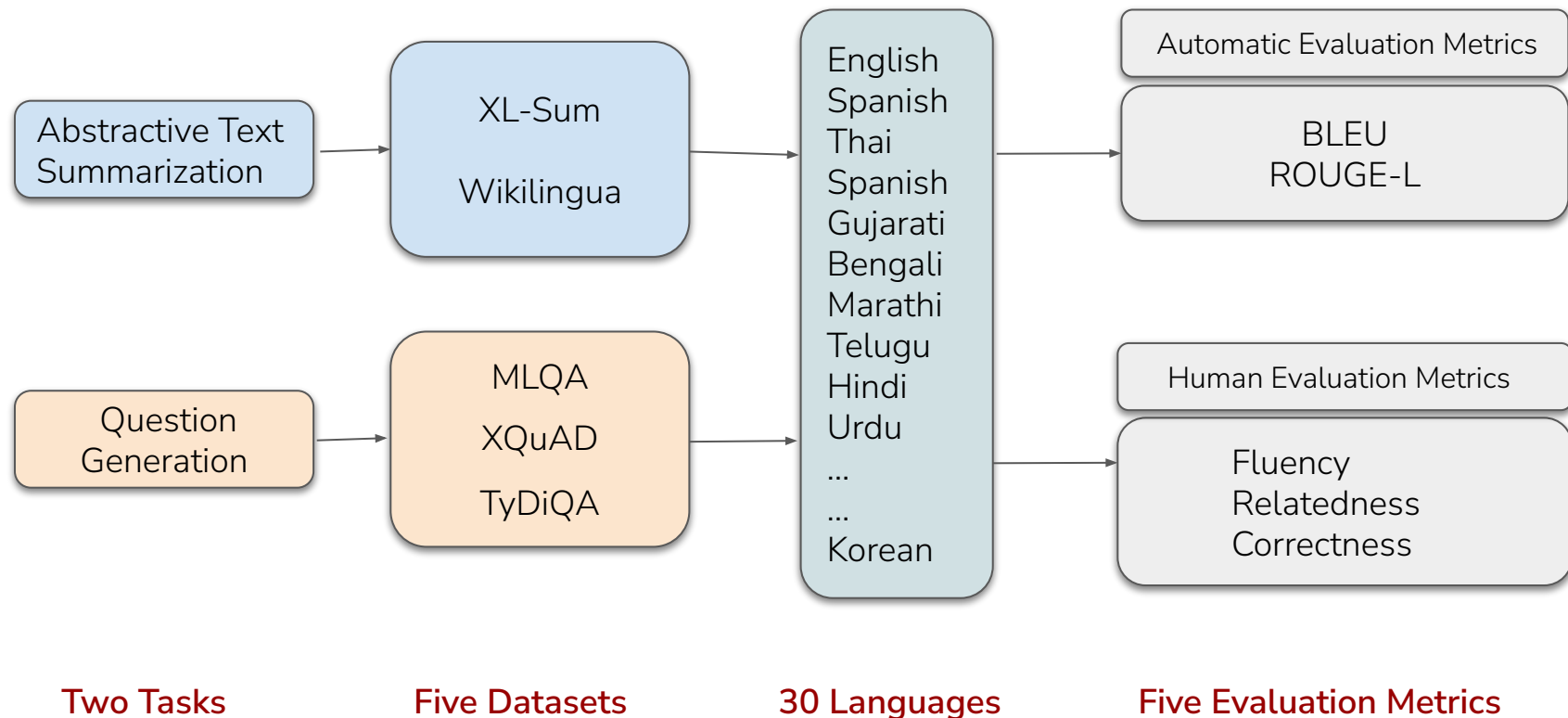


What Worked?

1. Added Language Tag: <fxx><2xx>
2. Adaptive Unsupervised Pre-training
3. Freezing model Components: Freeze token embedding and all the parameters of decoder layers

❏ Meta-XNLG: Experimental Setup

Experimental Setup



Baselines

- **EnZmT5:** Inspired from [6]. Adaptive pre-training + supervised fine-tuning with HRL + zero-shot evaluation in LRLs
- **FTZmT5:** Inspired from [21]. Fine-tune EnZmT5 with centroid Languages + zero-shot evaluation in LRLs

- [6] Kaushal Kumar Maurya, Maunendra Sankar Desarkar, Yoshinobu Kano, and Kumari Deepshikha. "ZmBART: An Unsupervised Cross-lingual Transfer Framework for Language Generation." In Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2021.
- [21] Lewis, M., Ghazvininejad, M., Ghosh, G., Aghajanyan, A., Wang, S., & Zettlemoyer, L. (2020). Pre-training via paraphrasing. Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 33, 18470-18481.

❏ Meta-XNLG: Results and Analyses

Results: Automated Evaluation

XL-SUM

Model	fr	gu	id	th	ta	hi	mr	ja	ko	tr	ru	sw	pt	ar	te	ur	ne	bn	zh
EnZmT5	18.45	13.21	19.77	21.53	11.58	22.24	11.89	22.81	18.74	17.72	15.27	18.91	18.92	18.44	10.77	21.61	16.24	16.12	21.07
FTZmT5	21.83	7.98	19.27	24.68	10.80	11.92	8.94	23.32	16.82	14.99	12.90	21.01	20.07	15.85	9.14	13.05	11.06	12.66	15.20
Meta-X _{NLG}	22.83	14.02	21.54	24.61	12.88	23.09	12.58	25.33	20.12	18.65	17.31	22.63	20.24	20.11	12.07	23.41	15.45	17.96	22.95

Wikilingua

Model	id	fr	ar	pt	it	th	ru	cs	nl	de	ja	zh	hi	tr
EnZmT5	15.34	18.72	15.70	17.21	15.05	26.66	14.67	9.42	17.97	13.69	22.32	20.12	18.88	14.45
FTZmT5	13.69	19.37	12.66	17.80	15.54	23.72	11.95	10.20	16.74	12.22	22.81	18.64	17.32	13.84
Meta-X _{NLG}	16.85	20.26	15.66	18.36	16.03	27.71	14.89	11.76	19.09	14.11	22.83	22.45	19.60	15.23

MLQA

Model	ar	de	zh	vi	hi	el	ru	ro
EnZmT5	8.55	9.99	23.76	17.29	9.55	8.18	10.98	11.27
FTZmT5	5.82	9.040	22.87	16.47	9.05	6.95	8.87	10.31
Meta-X _{NLG}	8.63	10.52	24.89	20.92	11.90	9.01	11.41	12.24

Model	fi	ru	id	sw	ko	bn	ta
EnZmT5	7.87	5.52	5.75	4.48	8.59	5.77	3.08
FTZmT5	8.39	7.28	11.42	5.51	10.05	7.96	2.022
Meta-X _{NLG}	9.08	7.47	9.36	6.42	12.67	9.17	9.76

XQuAD

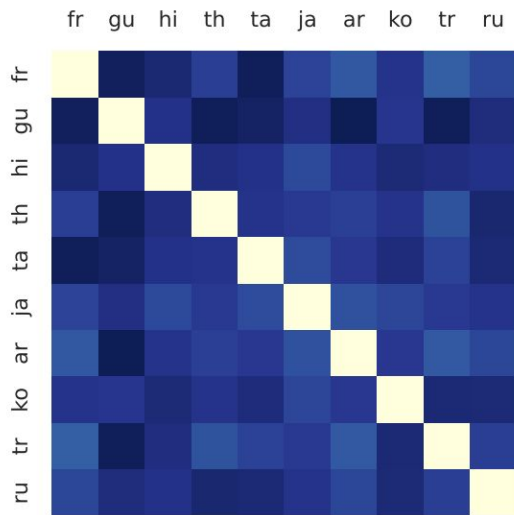
Model	hi	es	ar	zh
EnZmT5	5.06	6.94	3.46	13.70
FTZmT5	5.14	6.16	2.21	13.38
Meta-X _{NLG}	5.66	7.03	3.66	15.13

TyDiQA

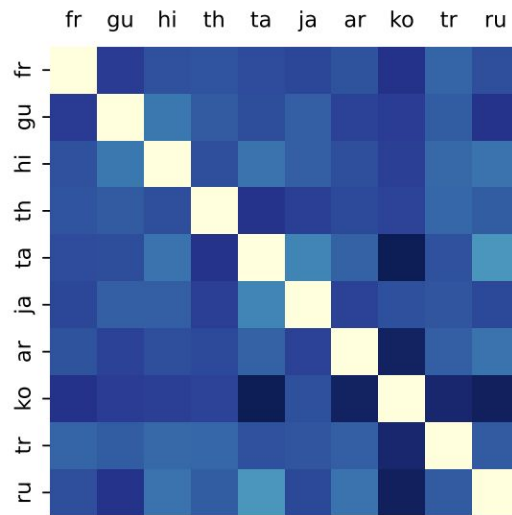
Results: Human Evaluation

Model	Task/Data/Lang	Flu	Rel	Corr	Task/Data/Lang	Flu	Rel	Corr
Annotator set-1								
EnZmT5	ATS/XL-Sum/bn	4.06	3.58	2.84	ATS/XL-Sum/te	4.28	3.94	3.70
FTZmT5		2.82	3.18	2.08		3.46	3.46	3.22
Meta-X _{NLG}		4.12	4.34	3.44		4.50	4.22	4.04
Annotator set-2								
EnZmT5	ATS/XL-Sum/bn	3.70	3.23	3.26	ATS/XL-Sum/te	3.56	3.50	3.20
FTZmT5		2.62	2.48	2.16		3.02	2.84	2.60
Meta-X _{NLG}		3.97	3.48	3.28		4.18	4.10	3.88
Annotator set-1								
EnZmT5	ATS/Wiki/hi	4.00	3.72	3.68	QG/XQuAD/hi	4.12	4.24	2.54
FTZmT5		4.07	3.39	3.83		4.22	4.02	2.56
Meta-X _{NLG}		4.09	3.80	3.97		4.42	4.34	2.86
Annotator set-2								
EnZmT5	ATS/Wiki/hi	4.38	4.22	4.00	QG/XQuAD/hi	3.28	3.63	2.82
FTZmT5		4.57	4.44	4.08		3.24	3.34	2.89
Meta-X _{NLG}		4.66	4.44	4.16		3.59	3.67	3.24
Annotator set-1								
EnZmT5	QG/MLQA/hi	3.48	3.70	3.46	QG/TyDiQA/ta	4.25	4.06	3.10
FTZmT5		3.44	3.42	3.18		3.25	3.01	2.07
Meta-X _{NLG}		3.70	3.74	3.56		4.74	4.20	3.39
Annotator set-2								
EnZmT5	QG/MLQA/hi	3.30	3.28	2.40	QG/TyDiQA/ta	3.00	4.08	2.82
FTZmT5		3.10	3.44	2.84		2.55	3.045	1.83
Meta-X _{NLG}		3.24	3.70	2.88		4.04	4.46	3.20

Analysis-I: Cross-lingual Transfer



(a) Baseline



(b) Meta- X_{NLG}

Cosine distance between language tags obtained from EnZmT5 and Meta-XNLG for 10 languages from XL-Sum dataset. Dark color indicate higher cosine distance.

Analysis-II: Effect of Meta-Training Languages

SetUp	MTrain Lang	ar	de	zh	vi	hi	el	ru	ro	avg
1	tr	6.14	8.61	23.67	19.81	10.91	6.80	9.53	10.17	11.89
2	es	6.68	10.82	20.89	16.84	7.96	7.79	10.02	13.28	11.78
3	th	5.43	8.47	23.10	17.46	7.99	6.85	9.41	8.98	11.08
4	ro	4.78	9.49	19.80	15.75	6.01	-	8.25	9.90	10.56
5	es,th	6.07	10.30	18.74	16.10	7.74	7.14	9.56	12.37	11.00
6	tr,th	6.02	8.58	25.05	19.08	10.38	6.64	9.27	10.40	11.92
7	ro,de	5.53	-	22.69	15.37	7.59	6.37	8.85	-	11.06
8	zh,ar	-	8.92	-	15.55	8.22	6.58	9.72	10.49	9.91
9	de,ru	6.02	-	17.68	12.40	8.05	7.32	-	12.56	10.67
10	vi,th, el	6.15	9.86	23.26	-	8.86	-	9.94	11.71	11.63
11	de,tr,el	5.91	-	14.29	18.15	9.50	-	9.88	12.28	11.66
12	tr,es,th, ru	6.03	11.88	23.13	19.56	9.58	7.04	-	13.62	12.97
13	tr,es,th,de	6.34	-	17.25	19.47	8.91	7.73	9.95	13.14	11.82
14	tr,es,th,de,ru	6.45	-	25.14	16.31	9.51	6.72	-	12.39	12.75
15	tr,es,th,de,ru,ar	-	-	22.58	15.65	8.04	6.74	-	11.81	12.96
16	Meta-X _{NLG}	8.63	10.52	24.89	20.92	11.90	9.01	11.41	12.24	13.69

- Zero-shot results on different training languages combinations of the XQuAD dataset.
- '-' indicates the language used in training, so scores are not zero-shot and not included.

❏ Meta-XNLG: Summary

Summary

- We propose a novel Meta-XNLG framework based on meta-learning and language clustering to uniformly transfer supervision.
- This is the first study that uses meta-learning for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer and generation.
- The evaluations are done on two challenging NLG tasks (ATS and QG), five publicly available datasets and 30 languages and consistent improvements are observed.

SELECTNOISE: Unsupervised Noise Injection to Enable Zero-Shot Machine Translation for Extremely Low-resource Languages

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Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India

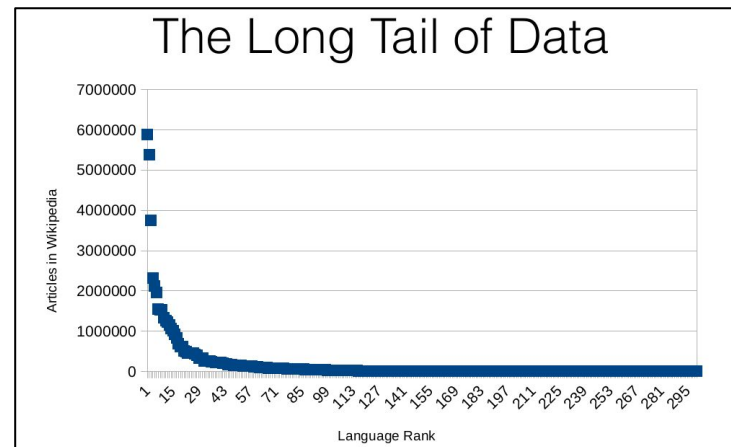
*Equal Contribution



SELECTNOISE: Introduction and Motivation

Recollect: Language Landscape

- 7000+ languages across the globe [3]
- Around only 300 languages have wikipedia articles
- Languages data resources availability follows long-tail distribution
- Majority of research focus on English - Less Inclusivity and Diversity [3, 4]



Source: [Graham Neubig Multilingual NLP Lectures](#)

- [3] P. Joshi, S. Santy, A. Budhiraja, K. Bali, and M. Choudhury. The State and Fate of Linguistic Diversity and Inclusion in the NLP World. In Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics. Association for Computational Linguistics, Online, 2020 6282–6293.
- [4] Bender, Emily. "The# benderrule: On naming the languages we study and why it matters." *The Gradient* 14 (2019).

Introduction: Extremely LRLs (ELRLs)

- Lack parallel data
- Limited monolingual data
- Representations are absent from existing multilingual pre-trained language models

SELECTNOISE: Problem Statement

“Machine Translation from ELRL to English in the zero-shot setting.”

Literature Review: MT for LRLs

- Cross lingual transfer among languages: Multilingual NMT
- Reduce reliance of parallel data: Unsupervised NMT
- Monolingual corpus incorporated NMT: Back-translation
- Data augmentation approaches for MT: Perturbation Models
- BPE vocabulary overlapping among related languages [22]

Limited Efforts has been made for ELRL for MT task

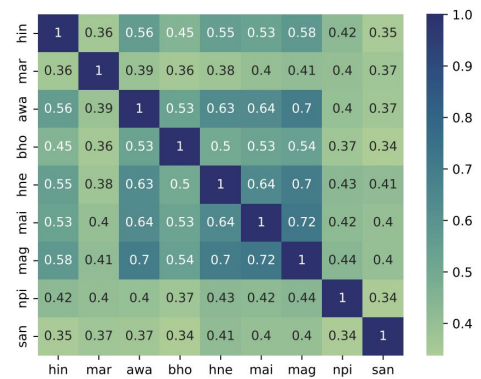
Motivation: Hopeful direction

- Utilize relatedness among languages
 - Dialectal variations
 - Vocabulary sharing
 - Similarities due to Geographical proximity
- Many ELRLs are related with some High resource Language (HRL)

Hindi: कनाडियन के खिलाफ नडाल का सीधा रिकॉर्ड 7-2 है।

Bhojpuri: कनाडा के खिलाफ़ नाडाल के हेड-टू-हेड रिकॉर्ड 7-2 के बा।

Lexical level similarity between languages



Lexical Similarity heatmap

Motivation: Hopeful direction

Earlier Success for ERL:

- Recall: Exploit lexical similarity through random noise augmentation [23]

ENG:	Nadal's head to head record against the Canadian is 7–2.
HIN:	कनाडियन के खिलाफ़ नडाल का सीधा रिकॉर्ड 7-2 है।
	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
N-HIN:	कनडियन के खिलाफ़ा नडा क सीधा रिकॉर्ड 7-2 हा।
BHO:	कनाडा के खिलाफ़ नाडाल के हेड-टू-हेड रिकॉर्ड 7-2 के बा।
	Random Character Noise Injection (Lexical Similarity = 0.61)

Limitations:

- Studies limited to NLU tasks only
- Random Noise Injection in HRL may be suboptimal for NLG task especially MT as injections are random
- Noising strategy should be systematic and incorporate linguistic signals

SELECTNOISE: Proposed Approach

SELECTNOISE: Overview

- **Modeling Approach:** Introduce *selective* character noise augmentation to improved cross-lingual transfer from HRL to ELRLs.
- **Noise Augmentation:** In the *source side of HRL* to English parallel data.
- **Proxy Training Data:** Utilize noise-augmented parallel data as *proxy training data* for ELRL to English translation task.
- **Noise Candidate Extraction:** Extract noise injection candidates using BPE merge operations and *edit operations*, known as *selective Candidate*.
- **Sampling Algorithms:** Greedy, top-k, and top-p.

SELECTNOISE: Overview

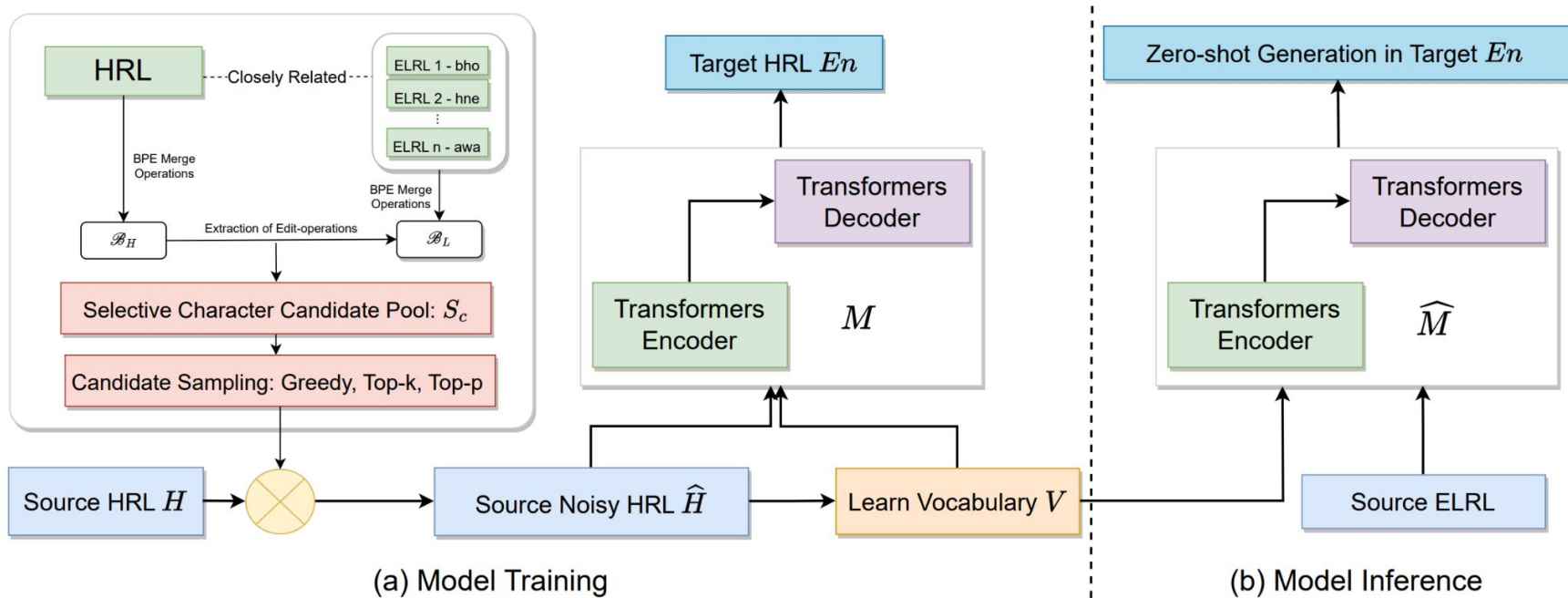
- **Intuition:**

- Noise augmentation act as regularizer.
- Facilitates better a cross-lingual transfer

- **Hypothesis:**

- SELECTNOISE is expected to outperform random noise augmentation approaches.
- SELECTNOISE performance should match supervised noise augmentation model.

SELECTNOISE: Overview



SELECTNOISE: Candidate Extraction

Hindi corpus	Bhojpuri corpus
<p>⋮</p> <p>आज सोमवार हे <i>Today is Monday</i></p> <p>मैंने उसे सोमवार को देखा था <i>I saw him on Monday</i></p> <p>वैज्ञानिकों का अद्यायन प्रगति है <i>The study of scientists is progress.</i></p> <p>मैं टीवी देख रहा हूँ <i>I am watching TV</i></p> <p>⋮</p>	<p>⋮</p> <p>चलीं सोमार का दिने चलल जाव <i>Let's go on Monday</i></p> <p>काल्ह सोमार के दिन बा <i>Tomorrow is Monday</i></p> <p>टीबी बंद हो गईल <i>TV has turned off</i></p> <p>वैज्ञानिक लोग के अध्ययन सुंदर बाटे <i>The studies of scientists are beautiful.</i></p> <p>⋮</p>
Merge operations	Extracted edit operations
<p>⋮</p> <p>(ट, ीवी)</p> <p>(ैज, ्ज्ञानिकों)</p> <p>(ह, ूँ)</p> <p>(ै, य)</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>Hindi</p>	<p>⋮</p> <p>(ैज, ्ज्ञानिक)</p> <p>(ह, ो)</p> <p>(ै, य)</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>Bhojpuri</p>
	<p>⋮</p> <p>'व' : {I:0,D:0,S:{'ब': 1, ...}}</p> <p>'ी' : {I:0,D:1,S:{...}}</p> <p>'ू' : {I:0,D:1,S:{...}}</p> <p>'ूँ' : {I:0,D:1,S:{'ो':1}}</p> <p>'य' : {I:1,D:0,S:{...}}</p> <p>⋮</p>



Candidate Pool (S_c) Template
<p>{</p> <p>$C_1: \{ 'I': f_1, 'D': f_3, 'S': \{ E_1: f_4, E_2: f_5, \dots \} \},$</p> <p>$C_2: \{ 'I': f_4, 'D': f_3, 'S': \{ E_3: f_6, E_2: f_7, \dots \} \},$</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>$C_i: \{ 'I': f_2, 'D': f_4, 'S': \{ E_1: f_2, E_3: f_1, \dots \} \}$</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>$C_n: \{ 'I': f_1, 'D': f_4, 'S': \{ E_1: f_4, E_3: f_5, \dots \} \}$</p> <p>}</p>
Few Sample Elements of Candidate Pool (S_c)
<p>{</p> <p>'ः': { 'I': 62, 'D': 1561, 'S': { 'ह': 1482, ... } }</p> <p>'र': { 'I': 92, 'D': 97, 'S': { 'ो': 1482, ... } }</p> <p>'ि': { 'I': 1552, 'D': 15, 'S': { 'य': 397, ... } }</p> <p>'S': { 'I': 0, 'D': 33, 'S': { } }</p> <p>}</p>

BPE Merge operation and Edit-operations

Selective Character Candidate Pool

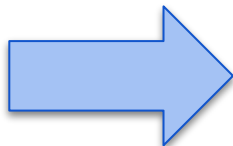
SELECTNOISE: Candidate Augmentation

Candidate Pool (S_c) Template

```
{  
   $C_1$ : {'I':  $f_1$ , 'D':  $f_3$ , 'S': {  $E_1$ :  $f_4$ ,  $E_2$ :  $f_5$ , ... }},  
   $C_2$ : {'I':  $f_4$ , 'D':  $f_3$ , 'S': {  $E_3$ :  $f_6$ ,  $E_2$ :  $f_7$ , ... }},  
  ⋮  
   $C_i$ : {'I':  $f_2$ , 'D':  $f_4$ , 'S': {  $E_1$ :  $f_2$ ,  $E_3$ :  $f_1$ , ... }},  
  ⋮  
   $C_n$ : {'I':  $f_1$ , 'D':  $f_4$ , 'S': {  $E_1$ :  $f_4$ ,  $E_3$ :  $f_5$ , ... }},  
}
```

Few Sample Elements of Candidate Pool (S_c)

```
{  
  'Q': {'I': 62, 'D': 1561, 'S': { 'ह': 1482, ... }},  
  'र': {'I': 92, 'D': 97, 'S': { 'ो': 1482, ... }},  
  'ि': {'I': 1552, 'D': 15, 'S': { 'य': 397, ... }},  
  'S': { 'I': 0, 'D': 33, 'S': {} }  
}
```



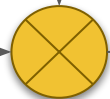
Greedy

Top-k

Top-p

D
I
V
E
R
S
E

Source HRL H



Noisy Source HRL

SELECTNOISE: Training and Evaluation Setups

- Constraints: HRLs and LRLs should be closely related
- Data Sources:
 - No parallel data for ELRLs.
 - 1000 monolingual examples for each ELRLs
- Model Training: No pre-trained LLMs, trained from scratch.
- Operations [char-level]: Insertion, deletion and substitution.
- Noise Injection Percentage: Injected noise at 5-10%.
- Zero-shot Evaluation:
 - Trained on proxy HRL parallel data.
 - Evaluated with unseen ELRLs

SELECTNOISE: Why it should work?

ENG: Nadal's head to head record against the Canadian is 7-2.

HIN: कनाडियन के खिलाफ नडाल का सीधा रिकॉर्ड 7-2 है।

N-HIN: कनाडियन के खिलाफ़ा नडा क सीधा रिकॉर्ड 7-2 हा।

BHO: कनाडा के खिलाफ़ नाडाल के हेड-टू-हेड रिकॉर्ड 7-2 के बा।

Random Character Noise Injection (Lexical Similarity = 0.61)

ENG: Nadal's head to head record against the Canadian is 7-2.

HIN: कनाडियन के खिलाफ नडाल का सीधा रिकॉर्ड 7-2 है।

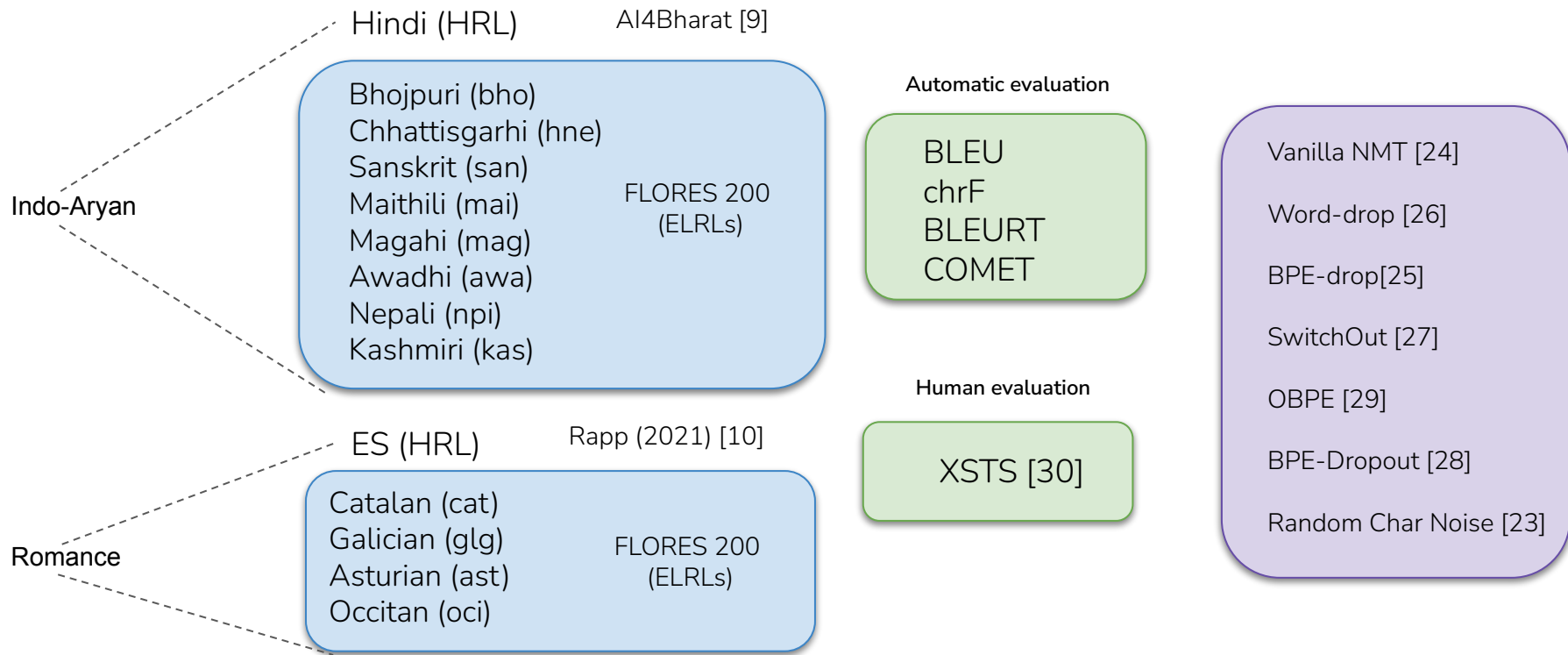
N-HIN: कनाडियन के खिलाफ़ नाडाल के सीधा रिकॉर्ड 7-2 बा।

BHO: कनाडा के खिलाफ़ नाडाल के हेड-टू-हेड रिकॉर्ड 7-2 के बा।

SELECTNOISE Model (Lexical Similarity = 0.77)

SELECTNOISE: Experimental Setup

Experimental Setup



SELECTNOISE: Results and Analyses

Automated Evaluation Results: ChrF Scores

Models	Indo-Aryan								Romance				Average
	bho	hne	san	mai	mag	awa	npi	kas	cat	glg	ast	oci	
Vanilla NMT	40.3	46.8	22.3	40.0	49.3	47.6	29.6	21.3	33.0	41.0	40.7	33.0	37.08
Word-drop	39.5	47.2	21.8	40.6	49.0	47.6	28.6	20.6	37.6	43.6	43.4	36.0	37.96
BPE-drop	39.1	46.8	22.6	40.4	48.7	46.7	29.2	21.1	33.8	41.7	41.5	33.0	37.05
SwitchOut	36.1	43.2	20.1	38.2	45.6	42.7	28.3	18.8	29.0	34.9	34.9	29.1	33.41
OBPE	41.3	47.5	23.4	41.8	50.4	49.7	30.5	21.1	34.1	41.2	41.3	33.8	38.00
BPE-Dropout	39.8	47.4	22.5	39.9	49.6	47.7	29.3	21.2	33.2	40.8	41.4	33.0	37.15
Random Char Noise	40.9	48.4	23.8	40.8	50.0	47.5	31.2	21.9	40.9	46.1	46.4	38.2	39.68
SELECTNOISE Model													
SELECTNOISE + Greedy	42.1	51.0	25.2	43.4	51.7	49.9	33.4	23.7	42.0	47.1	47.4	38.5	41.28
SELECTNOISE + Top-k	42.4	49.9	26.0	43.0	51.0	48.8	33.4	23.3	41.5	47.1	47.8	38.5	41.06
SELECTNOISE + Top-p	42.0	49.6	24.1	42.4	50.6	48.8	33.6	23.3	41.6	47.1	47.5	38.8	40.78
Supervised Noise Injection Model													
Selective noise + Greedy	41.4	49.1	25.4	42.2	50.1	48.7	32.9	22.2	41.6	47.2	47.7	38.7	40.60
Selective noise + Top-k	41.7	49.3	26.3	43.3	50.8	48.7	34.2	23.6	41.9	46.8	47.5	38.7	41.10
Selective noise + Top-p	41.4	49.9	27.3	43.3	51.6	48.9	33.9	23.4	41.6	47.7	48.2	39.0	41.35

Zero-shot chrF scores for ELRLs → English

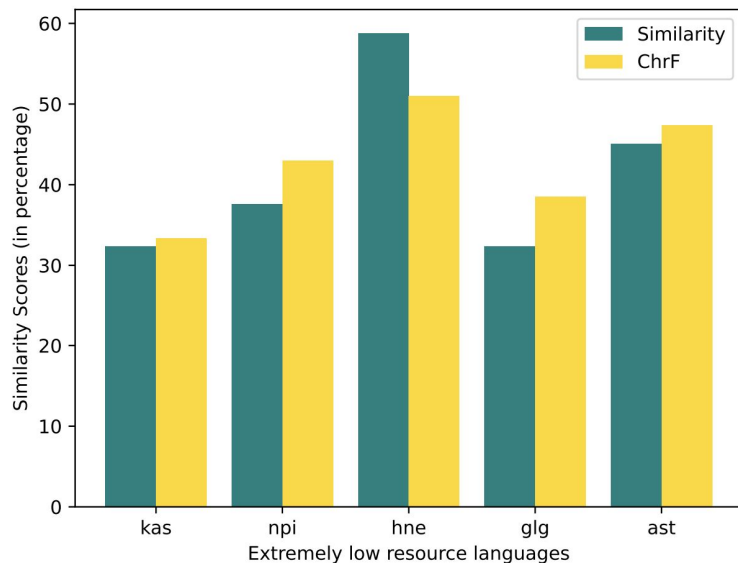
- Similar improvements for BLEU, COMET and BLEURT metrics

Human Evaluation Results: **XSTS** Scores

Models	Languages		
	bho	san	npi
Annotator set-1			
Vanilla NMT	3.54	2.42	2.21
BPE Dropout	3.29	2.37	1.83
SELECTNOISE Model	4.17	2.83	2.50
Annotator set-2			
Vanilla NMT	3.42	1.96	2.17
BPE Dropout	2.79	1.83	1.96
SELECTNOISE Model	3.54	2.17	2.21

- Evaluation on **24 examples for each language**
- Cross Lingual Semantic Text Similarity (**XSTS**)[30] metric scores between 1-5

Analysis: Language Similarity vs. Performance



Observation: The ELRL(s) that exhibit higher lexical similarity with HRL lead to better performance.

Analysis: Impact of Monolingual Data Size

Language	Data size	BLEU	chrF
hne	997	19.5	49.6
	6000	20.3	50.3
mai	997	11.9	42.4
	6000	12.4	43.2
npi	997	6.7	33.6
	6000	7.2	33.8

Observation: Larger the monolingual data, more accurate extraction of selectively candidates, resulting in improved performance.

SELECTNOISE: Summary

SELECTNOISE: Summary

- SELELCTNOISE model **outperforms** strong baselines across 12 ELRLs for ELRLs → English MT task
- The model requires **no parallel** data, only **limited** monolingual data, and **no LLM** multilingual representation
- Unsupervised noise injection gives **comparable performance** with Supervised approach
- Highly **Scalable**
- Cumulative gain of **11.3% chrF** over Vanilla-NMT

Thesis Conclusion

- With this thesis we made an effort to **extend neural text generation** in three diverse dimensions
 - **Diverse** text generation
 - Text generation with **limited context**
 - Text generation with **limited data/supervision** for LRLs
- We have developed the novel modeling approaches that tackle each of problems and sub-problems
- With the **introduction of large language models** - **we still believe that**- the proposed modeling approaches **will hold value, especially in low-resource settings**, as the large language models are **not inherently multilingual** and **not scalable** to LRLs (or ELRLs).

Future Research Directions

- Unified Modeling for diverse text generation
- Advancing the RAG modeling
- Language technology for next 7000+ languages
- Modeling towards multilinguality
- Evaluation of multilingual NLG
- Evaluation without reference
- Many more..

Publications **Included** in the Thesis

1. **K. K. Maurya**, and M. S. Desarkar. “Learning to distract: A hierarchical multi-decoder network for automated generation of long distractors for multiple-choice questions for reading comprehension.” in **CIKM 2020**.
2. **K. K. Maurya**, M. S. Desarkar, Y. Kano, and K. Deepshikha. “ZmBART: An Unsupervised Cross-lingual Transfer Framework for Language Generation.” In Findings of **ACL 2021**.
3. **K. K. Maurya** and M. S. Desarkar. “Meta-XNLG: A Meta-Learning Approach Based on Language Clustering for Zero-Shot Cross-Lingual Transfer and Generation.” In Findings of **ACL 2022**.
4. **K. K. Maurya**, M. S. Desarkar, M. Gupta, and P. Agarwal. “Trie-NLG: trie context augmentation to improve personalized query auto-completion for short and unseen prefixes.” in **ECML-PKDD (DAMI) 2023**.
5. M. Brahma*, **K. K. Maurya***, and M. S. Desarkar. “SelectNoise: Unsupervised Noise Injection to Enable Zero-Shot Machine Translation for Extremely Low-Resource Languages.” In Findings of **EMNLP 2023**.
6. **K. K. Maurya**, R. Kejriwal, M. S. Desarkar and A. Kunchukuttan. “CharSpan: Utilizing Lexical Similarity to Enable Zero-Shot Machine Translation for Extremely Low-Resource Languages.” In **EACL 2024**.

Publications **NOT** Included in the Thesis

1. Sreekanth Madisetty, **Kaushal Kumar Maurya**, Akiko Aizawa, and Maunendra Sankar Desarkar. “A neural approach for detecting inline mathematical expressions from scientific documents.” **Expert Systems** 38, no. 4 (2021): e12576.
2. Arkadipta De, Venkatesh E, **Kaushal Kumar Maurya**, Maunendra Sankar Desarkar, “Coarse and FineGrained Hostility Detection in Hindi Posts using Fine Tuned Multilingual Embeddings.” CONSTRAINT workshop, **AAAI-w 2021. Shared task best paper honorable mention.**
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Publications **NOT Included** in the Thesis [Cont..]

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8. **Kaushal Kumar Maurya**, Aishwarya M, Manish Gupta and Maunendra Desarkar. “ECoAdapters: Efficient Multilingual Controlled Text Generation with Adapters.” 2023. [Under Review](#).

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Thank You!!!



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