SuVashantor: English to Bangla Machine Translation Systems

Mahjabeen Akter, M. Shahidur Rahman, Muhammed Zafar Iqbal and Mohammad Reza Selim

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet 3114, Bangladesh

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Abstract: This paper presents the system description of Machine Translation (MT) systems for English-Bangla language pair. Our goal was to create two benchmark MT systems that produce a better quality translation and comparatively higher evaluation score than existing MT systems for English to Bangla. In our experiments, we implemented two baseline MT systems using both statistical and neural methods for the said language pair. Our phrase-based statistical model and 2-layer LSTM neural model were trained and evaluated with a large dataset that is carefully pre-processed and contains unique training data to avoid biases from the cross-validation and test data. We achieved the highest scoring BLEU for our experiments with these setups. Furthermore, we improved the performance of the neural model using pre-trained embedding and synthetic monolingual data which are cutting-edge technology for neural models.

Keywords: Machine Learning, Machine Translation Systems, Statistical Machine Translation Systems, Neural Network, Neural Machine Translation Systems, Pre-trained Word Embedding, Synthetic Monolingual Data

Introduction

Machine translation systems have been adopted by many professionals over the last few decades to reduce human efforts, to break the linguistic barriers among the knowledgeable resources and for so many other reasons that are meant to put us at ease. Whereas there are many approaches available to achieve a computer-translated sentence or paragraph, statistical and neural network approaches are playing the lead role for a translation system. Statistical Machine Translation (SMT) was implemented by (Koehn et al., 2003). Neural Machine Translation (NMT) system was brought into action by (Sutskever et al., 2014; Bahdanau et al., 2014). Phrase-Based SMT (PBMT) is known to translate better the rare words while NMT is capable of producing fluent translations. But both systems need huge parallel data to acquire sufficient knowledge to generate acceptable translations. Bangla is considered as a resource-poor language. The amount of English-Bangla parallel data to conduct large scale machine translation experiments is notably insufficient. Most of the time, these data are domain-specific; hence the vocabulary range is limited which is a key problem for producing a fluent translation. Also, the morphological structure of both languages differs in a way, that it makes it difficult to meet up a major challenge of MT systems-alignment of words or phrases. Many pieces of research have been conducted to solve these issues, but the results were not so impressive. We discuss more details about different approaches to English-Bangla machine translation in the Related Works section.

In this study, we propose two baseline MT systems for English-Bangla using Statistical and Neural Network approach and two more systems with state of the art researches like pre-trained word embedding and synthetic monolingual data to explore the improvement over the baseline of Neural Network MT. Our contributions include:

- We carried out the experiments with a handpicked English-Bangla parallel corpus where the training, validation, and test data are pre-processed carefully to cover the problem of miserly vocabulary and biased output. We intend to make this corpus publicly available on Github to enable future research in this area
- We achieved a remarkable evaluation score in NMT compared to other available MT systems for English-Bangla language pair

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows. The ‘Related Works’ section presents the previous
approaches to English-Bangla machine translations and their results. The ‘Background’ section describes the statistical approach and neural network approach to machine translation in detail. We also describe how to incorporate pre-trained word embedding and synthetic monolingual data to a neural network in this section. The ‘Methodology’ section discusses the process of data preparation and the methodology for our experiments. In the ‘Experiments’ section, we illustrate the experimental process and discuss the evaluation metric, respectively. The ‘Result and Analysis’ section presents the results and sample translations. Finally, the ‘Conclusion and Future Direction’ section concludes the discussion by summarizing the experiments and by pointing out some scopes for future research.

Related Works

In this section, we discuss a few SMT and NMT based English to Bangla MT systems that have been developed in recent years. Islam et al. (2010) developed an SMT system, where they handled Bangla prepositions during translation. They also used a transliteration module to improve translation quality and accuracy. But their data was not sufficient enough for the system to perform well for all types of sentences. Their system works quite reasonable for short sentences only. Also, their system was unable to translate Out-Of-Vocabulary (OOV) words in many cases. Pal et al. (2013a; 2013b; Pal and Naskar, 2016) proposed a phrase-based SMT where a rule-based aligner is used to align Named Entities (NE), Multi-Word Expressions (MWE) and compound verbs. They showed improved performance in terms of translation quality for the various word alignment models. However, they trained their systems with a very small parallel corpus which contains only about 23,000 sentences. Also, their monolingual Bangla corpus is only the tourism domain-centric. Moshuil and Kamrul (2014) used an A* search algorithm in the statistical model to translate different types of English sentences into Bangla. They were able to reduce grammatical complexity and dependency on the structure of the sentence, but their system performs poorly in terms of execution time. This work also suffers from a data sufficiency problem. Therefore, their method works for only short sentences. Pal et al. (2014) incorporated a source chunks re-ordering method in English-Bangla phrase-based SMT. They showed that word alignment-based reordering of the source chunks is better than other reordering approaches for language pair with different word order like English and Bangla. However, they could not ensure their word alignment quality due to the unavailability of the gold-standard word alignment. Al Mumin et al. (2018) developed an SMT system using Neural Probabilistic Language Model (NPLM). They found that the system using NPLM is more capable of retaining the syntactic structure of the target Bangla text than a system that uses n-gram language model. But their system failed to retain subject-verb order of sentences in some cases.

Dandapat and Lewis (2018) developed an NMT system with several different techniques to boost data store and tackle data sparseness, like crowd translation of selected monolingual data, back translation using synthetic monolingual data, data augmentation and early stopping. However, the quality of their synthetic data remains questionable, as they varied significantly across sentences. Ojha et al. (2018) developed both SMT and NMT systems for bidirectional English-Indic language which include Bangla. Their NMT system was based on Short Long Term Memory (LSTM) architecture and it outperformed their own SMT system which was trained with two different language models. But the NMT systems remained challenged in low-resource scenarios like Bangla language. Banerjee et al. (2018) developed a baseline bidirectional SMT system for English and Indic languages and an NMT system using multilingual transfer learning approaches including many-to-one, one-to-many or many-to-many translations. They were unable to provide any major improvement over the traditional PB-SMT system though.

The summary of all these systems is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of previous English-Bangla MT systems

| System reference             | Type     | Training data size (# parallel sentence) | Evaluation metric, best score |
|------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Islam et al. (2010)          | SMT      | 10,850                                   | BLEU = 11.4                   |
| Pal et al. (2013a; 2013b; Pal and Naskar 2016) | PB-SMT   | 23,492                                   | BLEU = 20.87                  |
| Moshuil and Kamrul (2014)    | SMT      | 2700                                     | TFLD = 1.15                   |
| Pal et al. (2014)            | SMT      | 22,176                                   | BLEU = 13.17                  |
| Al Mumin et al. (2018)       | SMT      | 3,330                                    | BLEU = 5.7                    |
| Dandapat and Lewis (2018)    | SMT, NMT | 9,76,634                                 | BLEU = 9.80                   |
| Ojha et al. (2018)           | SMT, NMT | 3,37,428                                 | BLEU = 17–18                  |
| Banerjee et al. (2018)       | PB-SMT   | 3,37,428                                 | BLEU = 11.34                  |
Background

In this section, we briefly describe the basic theory for Statistical Machine Translation and Neural Machine Translation method. We also describe the fundamentals of two approaches that can enhance the performance of a neural method when added with the original model; Pre-trained Word Embedding and Synthetic Monolingual Data.

Statistical Machine Translation (SMT)

The likelihood of a translation in an SMT is determined by Statistical probabilities. The parameters of the statistical model are analyzed by a bilingual text corpus. The basis for the SMT says that the probability distribution \( p(e|f) \) implies, a string \( e \) in the target language is the translation of another string \( f \) in the source language. This probability distribution is modeled in the computer by accomplishing two sub-tasks. One generates the translation model \( p(f|e) \) that gives the probability of the source language string as a translation of the target language string. Another creates a language model \( p(e) \) that discovers the target language string in the bilingual text. These two models are combined as Bayes Theorem (Koehn et al., 2003) suggests \( p(e|f) \approx p(f|e) \cdot p(e) \). Here, the \( p(f|e) \) is decomposed with the help of a decoder, that generates all possible translations and chooses for the most probable one from among them. In a Phrase-Based SMT (PB-SMT), the source input sentence \( f \) is segmented into a sequence of phrases \( I \) during the decoding process. Then each source phrase \( i \) is translated into a target phrase \( e_i \). It is important to notice that, the target phrases may be re-ordered, which is modeled by a relative distortion probability distribution \( d(\alpha_i,b_{i+1}) \), where \( \alpha_i \) stands for the start position of the source phrase that is translated into the \( i \)th target phrase and \( b_{i+1} \) stands for the end position of the source phrase translated into the \( i \)-th target phrase.

State of the art PB-SMT decoders like Moses (Koehn et al., 2007) uses a Beam search algorithm inspired by (Jelinek, 1997). Here, the beam size denotes the maximum number of the hypothesis (probable target translations), is fixed to a certain number that is linear with the sentence length. Thus, the beam size not only limits the search space, but also the search quality. Hence, the proper trade-off between speed (low beam size) and performance (high beam size) has to be found carefully.

Along with the phrases or translation units, the modern PB-SMT systems uses a log-linear framework by (Och and Ney, 2002), that models the translation probability \( p(x|y) \) as a log-linear combination of features as Equation 1:

\[
p(e|f) = \exp\{\sum \lambda_i h_i f_i^e \cdot e^*\}
\]

Here, \( h_i \) is the feature function that can be added if necessary. Popular feature functions include a distortion model, a word penalty model, a phrase penalty model, a target language model, and phrase and lexical translation probabilities. The weights \( \lambda_i \) are optimized using an optimization function on a cross-validation data set that is used to fine-tune the translation model.

Figure 1 shows the basic PB-SMT system.

Neural Machine Translation (NMT)

While an SMT system has a separate language model, a translation model, and a re-ordering model, a neural network based MT system only has a single sequence model instead; to predict one word at a time. Kalchbrenner and Blunsom (2013; Sutskever et al., 2014; Cho et al., 2014) proposed the first neural network models, most of them belong to the encoder-decoders family, where an encoder reads a source sentence and encodes it into a fixed-length vector; from this encoded vector, the decoder translates an output. But, the necessity to compress all the information of a source sentence into a fixed-length vector arises the issue of translating a long sentence correctly. Bahdanau et al. (2014) addressed this issue by adding an extension to the basic encoder-decoder model that learns to align and translate jointly, which has become very popular and is used by most of the modern NMT tools now. In this architecture, each conditional probability is defined by Equation 2:

\[
p(y_i | y_{i-1},...,y_1,x) = g(y_{i-1},s_i,c_i)
\]

where \( X = (x_1, ...., x_t) \) is the sequence of a vector that the encoder reads as an input sentence, \( y_i \) is the next word to be predicted by the decoder, \( s_i \) is a hidden state for the time \( i \), computed by \( s_i = f(s_{i-1}, y_{i-1}, c_i) \). Here, for each target word \( y_i \), \( c_i \) is a distinct context vector on which the probability is conditioned. From this equation, we further get an alignment model, which is given by Equation 3:

\[
e_i = a(s_{i-1},h_i)
\]

where, \( h_{t, ..., t} \) is a sequence of annotations, to which the encoder maps the input sequence and \( a_{i,i} \) is the weight of each annotation \( h_i \).

This alignment model implements an attention mechanism in the decoder and thus relieves the encoder from having to encode all information in the source sentence into a fixed-length vector. Figure 2 depicts how this neural model predicts the \( t \)-th target word \( y_t \), given a source sentence \( (x_1, x_2, ..., x_t) \). Figure 2 shows an attention-based NMT system.
For machine translation task, usually, the Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) is used, but a gated RNN like LSTM helps the model learns long-distance features by (Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, 1997), which we adapted. 

**NMT with Pre-trained Word Embedding**

Although an NMT system is better than SMT for morphologically rich target language because of selecting more correct words and less re-ordering error (Bentivogli et al., 2016), for low-resource language like Bangla, it results in worse quality performance (Qi et al., 2018; Koehn and Knowles, 2017). In this case, where the availability of bilingual data is not sufficient enough, monolingual data plays a more effective role. Cheng et al. (2016) showed that there are several methods for using monolingual data in an NMT system. Among these, pre-trained word embedding has shown to improve BLEU score when integrated into the NMT system either as a standard translation system (Neishi et al., 2017) or as a method for learning translation lexicons in an unsupervised manner (Conneau et al., 2017). In our experiment, we initialize both encoder and decoder networks with pre-trained weights (embedding) of the source and target language models and then fine-tuned them with the bilingual corpus. We used the method proposed by (Ramachandran et al., 2017), where they observed, the improved generalization due to the pre-trained features provides the main advantage.

Pre-Trained word embedding brings in outside information and reduces the number of parameters that a neural network usually learns from scratch. For example, when a neural network encodes a word with a one-hot vector \([0,0,\ldots,1,0,\ldots,0]\), it places 1 at the index corresponding to the appropriate vocabulary word and 0 everywhere else. This is the case where word embedding is missing. When \(v\) is the size of the vocabulary and \(h\) is the size of the hidden layer, the weight matrices connecting word-level inputs and the network's hidden layer would each be \(v \times h\). When 100,000 words are fed into an LSTM layer with 100 nodes and 4 gates, the model needs to learn 400 million parameters in total (4 different weight matrices (for each gate of the LSTM), each with 100 million weights). But, with pre-trained word embedding, which maps each word onto a low-dimensional vector \(w \in \mathbb{R}^d\), where \(d\) is roughly 100, the number of parameters needed to be learned are effectively reduced. As the embedding is chosen based on the context in which words appear, it turns out, words that appear in a similar context, like 'bread' and 'butter' have similar embedding, while words that are not alike, like 'flower' and 'exam' have dissimilar embedding.

Figure 3 shows how pre-trained word-embedding is incorporated into the neural network architecture.

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**Statistical machine translation**

**Fig. 1: PB-SMT system**

**Fig. 2: Attention-based NMT System learning to align and translate jointly**

**Fig. 3:** Shows how pre-trained word-embedding is incorporated into the neural network architecture.
**NMT with Synthetic Monolingual Data**

SMT systems have been using target-side monolingual data to train language models from the beginning to boost fluency. An encoder-decoder NMT also can be trained with a language model from monolingual data without having to change the architecture of the neural network (Burlot and Yvon, 2018; Sennrich et al., 2015). To mix the monolingual target sentences into the training set, one can use dummy source sentences, or synthetic source sentences can be used, which is obtained via back-translation. We adapted the latter technology. Back translation refers to a process where an automatic translation of the monolingual target text into the source language is performed. Then the original parallel data (human translated or otherwise obtained) is mixed with the synthetic parallel data to train the system, while no network parameters are changed or discarded. Figure 4 shows the basic architecture for adding monolingual synthetic data into an NMT.

**Methodology**

In this study, we propose mainly two English to Bangla machine translation systems using a phrase-based statistical method and neural network method. We further exploit the neural method with two additional features that are unique for English-Bangla language pair; one with adding pre-trained word embedding for source and target data, another with adding synthetic monolingual data. All our systems are trained, tuned, and evaluated with a dataset, that is rich in vocabulary, diverse in a domain, and contains much larger data compared to other MT systems publicly available for English-Bangla language settings. We prepared our corpus in a way, that the training, validation, and test data do not contain duplicate sentences, rather the same context is present in all three sets of data. Thus we ensured the decoder can pick the most related vocabulary while translating. This method boosts the translation accuracy of our baseline systems. Also, by adding pre-
trained word embedding in the neural model, we reduce its workload. Furthermore, by adding synthetic data to our neural network, we ensured the decoder suffers less from the Out Of Vocabulary (OOV) problem. Our systems require some pre-processing, like corpus preparation, building the word embedding for the target language, generating synthetic data for the source language, etc., which are described in the next subsection. Then we trained both systems with the same data sets and finally, the decoders of the systems generated the translations. We describe our methodology through a flow chart in Fig. 5. The main components of this flow chart are described in the next subsection.

**Corpus Preparation**

We performed various pre-processing on our corpus. We made sure there are no HTML tags, English characters and non-Unicode characters are present in the Bangla data. We normalized our texts with the same set of punctuation marks on both source and target side, with an additional 'dari' for Bangla. Then we tokenized the text, true-cased them for English, and removed empty or overly long sentences. We created pre-trained embedding for Bangla and synthetic English data from monolingual Bangla data using back-translation.

**Training**

In this step, we used the pre-processed dataset to train both MT systems to produce translation models. The training period was different for statistical and neural methods due to their system architecture. For statistical method, a language model is generated from the target side data, which was not the case for the neural network, as we discussed before that, the neural model does not require a separate language model. We also tuned the SMT system with validation data after the training is done. For the neural network, the validation is done simultaneously while training is going on.

**Decoding**

In the final step, both systems generate Bangla translations from English data with their decoders. The translation model generated from the previous step is used for this purpose. In this study, we compare all our systems to gain the intuition of translation accuracy.

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Fig. 5: Our methodology
Experiments

In this section, we briefly describe the experimental settings used to develop the PBSMT and NMT systems for English-Bangla language pair.

Datasets

We used a comparatively large parallel corpus for English and Bangla language pair in MT tasks. This parallel corpus is constructed by combining multiple open-source parallel corpora. The detailed statistics of these corpora are demonstrated in Table 2 which was used to train the MT systems. The parallel data were further divided into training, tuning, and testing sets among which 4,84,131 sentences were used for training, 2000 sentences for tuning, and 2000 sentences were used for evaluating the systems. The detailed information of the split is presented in Table 2. This corpus consists of data from various domains, like political news, history, movie subtitle, user manual of different tools and applications, literature, the scripture of the Holy Quran, etc.

Pre-Processing

We performed the following pre-processing steps for the scope of this work. Both types of corpora were tokenized using the Polyglot scripts. We true-cased the English representations of the corpora and cleaned (empty sentences are removed) the data using the Moses scripts. To avoid biases, we ensured that the training, tuning, and testing data do not contain duplicate sentences on the target side, although we kept the paraphrased translations to enrich our dataset with a larger vocabulary.

For our pre-trained embedding experiments, we extracted source (English) embedding from the Glove word embedding by (Pennington et al., 2014). For target (Bangla) embedding, we created our word embedding using gensim by (Rehurek and Sojka, 2010). For synthetic monolingual data, we trained our NMT to translate from Bangla to English with the original parallel corpus whose information is given above in Table 2 and then obtained 1,00,000 translated English sentences as synthetic data. We added this additional data with our original corpus.

Statistical Machine Translation System (SMT)

We built our phrase-based statistical MT systems using the Moses toolkit. To extract phrases from the corresponding parallel corpus, we used the GIZA++ toolkit by (Och and Ney, 2003) with the grow-diagonal-and heuristic. We used the IRSTLM toolkit by (Federico et al., 2008) to build a 5-gram language model. We used the Polyglot tokenizer by (Chen and Skiena, 2016) to tokenize the English and Bangla representations of our experiments.

Neural Machine Translation System (NMT)

We used OpenNMT-tf (the tensorflow port of OpenNMT toolkit) by (Klein et al., 2017) to build our Neural Machine Translation system. We used a 2-layer LSTM by (Hochreiter and Schmidhuber, 1997). This model is trained with mini-batches of 64 with 512 hidden units, a vocabulary size of 50,113 and 50,057 respectively for the source and target-side of the data. We maintained a static NMT-setup using the same hyper-parameters setting across the pre-trained embedding and synthetic monolingual data experiments.

Validation

Validation or tuning is done to improve translation quality and speed. For statistical approach, the decoder scores translation hypothesis using a linear model that measures the probabilities from language model, translation model, reordering model etc. Validation refers to find the optimal weights for this linear model. Here, optimal weights maximize translation performance on a small set of parallel data (Validation or Tuning data). In neural model, the validation is done in parallel with the training phase. To validate our systems, we used Minimum Error Rate Training (MERT) by (Och and Ney, 2003), which is a batch tuning algorithm.

Evaluation Metrics

We used Bilingual Evaluation Understudy (BLEU) by (Papineni et al., 2002) to evaluate the results of our systems. To calculate BLEU score, we need to compute precision for n-grams of size 1 to 4, then add the brevity penalty for too short translations.

Unigram precision is calculated as:

\[ P = \frac{m}{w_i} \]  

(4)

Here, \( m \) is the number of candidate words found in the reference and \( w_i \) is the total number of candidate words.

| Corpus name       | Training | Tuning | Testing | Total parallel sentence | Author/Developer       |
|-------------------|----------|--------|---------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| SuPara            | 17,496   | 300    | 300     | 18,096                  | Al Mumin et al. (2012) |
| Indic Parallel    | 25,665   | 300    | 400     | 26,365                  | Post et al. (2012)     |
| Open Subtitles    | 74,398   | 400    | 300     | 75,198                  | Tiedemann (2012b)      |
| OPUS Ubuntu       | 5,111    | 400    | 300     | 5,811                   | Tiedemann (2012d)      |
| OPUS Gnome        | 1,31,884 | 300    | 300     | 1,32,484                | Tiedemann (2012a)      |
| OPUS Tanzil       | 2,29,577 | 300    | 300     | 2,30,177                | Tiedemann (2012c)      |
Then, the brevity penalty is calculated as:

$$BP = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } c > r \\
\frac{1}{e^{|c-r|}} & \text{if } c \leq r 
\end{cases}$$

(5)

Here, $c$ is the length of the candidate translation and $r$ is the effective reference corpus length.

Finally, the BLEU score is calculated as:

$$BLEU = BP \cdot \exp \left( \sum_{n=1}^{N} w_n \log p_n \right)$$

(6)

In our baseline, we used $N = 4$ and uniform weights $w_n = 1/N$.

Results and Analysis

In this section, we describe our experiment results in 2 ways: The automatic evaluation result and the human evaluation result. We also present some sample translations and analyze them.

Automatic Evaluation Result

We used the BLEU metric for our automatic evaluation. Equation 4 to 6 were used to calculate the BLEU score which gives the translation accuracy. The BLEU metric measures how many words overlap in a given translation when compared to a reference translation, giving higher scores to sequential words. BLEU score ranges from 0-100%. The higher the score, the better the translation accuracy is. Table 3 shows the overall results in terms of BLEU. We highlight the best system in bold and give progressive improvements in italic between consecutive systems.

From Table 3 we observe that our PB-SMT system scored the least BLEU, while the baseline NMT system scored a little higher. When provided with the pre-trained embedding for both source and target language, the NMT scored 0.16 higher BLEU than the baseline NMT. The monolingual synthetic data also outperformed the baseline NMT by 0.70 BLEU.

Human Evaluation Result

We performed a manual evaluation of the MT systems along with the automatic evaluation. We followed the guideline by (Brockett et al., 2002) to carry out the human evaluation. We assign values from a four-point scale to represent the translation quality on an absolute scale. The human evaluation scale is mentioned in Table 4.

We asked 5 independent evaluators to score 50 translation outputs that were randomly chosen from both the SMT and NMT (Baseline, +pre-trained embedding, +synthetic monolingual data) systems. The human evaluation scores lie in the possibly acceptable to an acceptable range (2-3) for all the systems.

Sample Translation

We present three sample translations for English to Bangla translated by our baseline SMT and NMT systems along with pre-trained word embedding and synthetic data experiments. We observe that our NMT system produces better translation than SMT. Table 5 represents the reference translations with the source sentences. Table 6 represents the translations from our SMT and NMT systems.

Table 4: Human evaluation scale

| Scale     | Definition                                              |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 = Unacceptable | Absolutely not comprehensible and/or little or no information transferred accurately. |
| 2 = Possibly acceptable | Possibly comprehensible (given enough context and/or time to work it out); some information transferred accurately. |
| 3 = Acceptable           | Not perfect, but definitely comprehensible and with accurate transfer of all important information. |
| 4 = Ideal                | Not necessarily a perfect translation, but grammatically correct and with all information accurately transferred. |

Table 5: English to Bangla source and reference translations

| Source                                          | Reference                        |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Why they didn't do it in the first place?       | তারা প্রথমে এটি কেন করলনা? |
| See you later                                   | পরে দেখা হবে।                      |
| Image used with permission                      | ছুবি অনুমুক্তিক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হয়েছে।    |

Table 6: English to Bangla sample translations from our systems

|                      | Baseline SMT | Baseline NMT | NMT with Pre-trained Embedding | NMT with Synthetic Data |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| তুমি কেন তারা এটি কি ? | কেন তুমি এটি প্রথম পদক্ষেপ নিল না? | কেন তুমি এটি আগে করলনা? | তুমি কেন এটি পদক্ষেপ নিল না? | তুমি কেন এটি আগে করলনা? |
| পরে দেখা হবে।      | পরে দেখা হবে। | পরে দেখা হবে। | পরে দেখা হবে। | পরে দেখা হবে। |
| অনুমুক্তিক্রমে ব্যবহৃত। | ছুবি অনুমুক্তিক্রমে ব্যবহৃত। | ছুবি অনুমুক্তিক্রমে ব্যবহৃত। | ছুবি অনুমুক্তিক্রমে ব্যবহৃত। | ছুবি অনুমুক্তিক্রমে ব্যবহৃত। |
We can see from Table 6, in sentence no. 1, for an interrogative sentence, our NMT performs the worst, NMT with monolingual data missed the punctuation mark ‘?’, but baseline NMT and the enhancement with pre-trained embedding produce translations fairly closer to the reference. In sentence no. 2, for a simple affirmative sentence, all our systems produce the exact reference translation. In sentence no. 3, the baseline NMT produces an extra punctuation mark ‘|’, which was not present in the source sentence. Also, all the systems produce translation quite deviated from the reference translation.

Conclusion and Future Direction

In this study, we investigate the performance of Statistical Machine Translation systems and Neural Machine Translation systems for English to Bangla language pair with a substantially large parallel corpus. The overall results of our systems show that the system using synthetic monolingual data achieves an additional improvement of 0.7 BLEU score compared to the system using standard NMT language model. The resources used by our system are publicly available, which can be used to continue further research in English-Bangla machine translation.

Data Availability

The raw parallel English-Bangla text corpus data used to support the findings of this study have been deposited in online repositories, which are cited at Table 2. However, we used a pre-processed version of these data by HEQEP under license and so the final version cannot be made freely available.

Our baseline SMT and NMT systems are online for demonstration in this link: https://mt.sustbanglaresearch.org/.

To stimulate the baseline SMT and NMT systems, the official commands from Moses and OpenNMT-tf can be followed.

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Author’s Contributions

Mahjabeen Akter: Background study, data collection and preparation, determining the methodologies, running experiments, preparing the final manuscript.

M. Shahidur Rahman: Background study, contributing to data collection, proof-reading of the manuscript.

Muhammed Zafar Iqbal: Contributing to data collection, investigating different phases of the experiments.

Mohammad Reza Selim: Supervising the research.

Ethics

It is testified by the authors that this article has not been published anywhere else and contains no ethical issues.

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