Language Representation Models for Low and Medium-Resource Languages

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Overview

- **Question**: How can we efficiently pre-train language models when language and computational resources are scarce?
- My research is focused on:
 - Subword tokenization algorithms (e.g., comparing BPE vs. Unigram)
 - Multilingual pre-training corpora (few vs. many languages)
 - Text filtering (rule-based and classifier-based)
 - Data-efficient pre-training tasks (e.g., MLM vs. RTD)
 - Data augmentation (e.g., back/machine translated text)



Results so far

- Subword tokenization
 - The choice of algorithm doesn't appear to have a significant effect
 - Increasing the vocabulary size can improve downstream performance, but at a cost
- Multilingual corpora
 - Adding other Nordic languages to an Icelandic pre-training corpus improves performance for some tasks, but on average the performance is about the same
- Text filtering
 - Most commonly applied rules only filter out a handful of documents
 - Perplexity-based classifiers are highly successful



Thank you

- If you have any questions or comments, or are interested in collaborating with me, feel free to contact me!
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