

Rare Word Handling: Word-Level vs Subword

Word-Level: Information Loss

Input: "pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis"

Very long medical term (rare word)

<UNK>

PROBLEM: All information lost!

Model has no idea what
the original word meant

Subword (BPE): Meaning Preserved

Input: "pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis"

Very long medical term (rare word)

pneum

ono

ultra

micro

scop

ic

...

SUCCESS: Meaning preserved!

Model can understand:
"pneum" (lung), "micro" (small),
"scop" (viewing), etc.