A Study on Performance Improvement of Prompt Engineering for Generative Al with a Large Language Model

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Abstract

In the realm of Generative AI, where various models are introduced, prompt engineering emerges as a significant technique within natural language processing-based Generative AI. Its primary function lies in effectively enhancing the results of sentence generation by large language models (LLMs). Notably, prompt engineering has gained attention as a method capable of improving LLM performance by modifying the structure of input prompts alone. In this study, we apply prompt engineering to Korean-based LLMs, presenting an efficient approach for generating specific conversational responses with less data. We achieve this through the utilization of the query transformation module (QTM). Our proposed QTM transforms

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input prompt sentences into three distinct query methods, breaking them down into objectives and key points, making them more comprehensible for LLMs. For performance validation, we employ Korean versions of LLMs, specifically SKT GPT-2 and Kakaobrain KoGPT-3. We compare four different query methods, including the original unmodified query, using Google SSA to assess the naturalness and specificity of generated sentences. The results demonstrate an average improvement of 11.46% when compared to the unmodified query, underscoring the efficacy of the proposed QTM in achieving enhanced performance.

Keywords: AI, large language model, generative AI, few-shot learning, prompt engineering, AI Chatbot.

1 Introduction

Recent advancements in AI and NLP (natural language processing) have garnered attention, leading to active research in the field of LLM (large language models) related to chatbot technology. As chatbots and AI technologies continue to evolve, their performance has been steadily improving. With the evolution of them, which are trained on massive datasets using LLMs, they have reached a level where they can provide responses at a similar level to that of humans [1, 2].

Representatively, large-scale language models of the GPT (generative pre-trained transformer) series [3] have been introduced and are showing excellent performance in various NLP tasks. This is considered a key basic technology for Generative AI [4], which learns content patterns and creates new content with inference results. Many global tech giants, including OpenAI, Google, Deepmind, Meta, and other research institutes are conducting several large-scale projects based on different strategies and approaches [5].

Typically, models such as the GPT series are trained on large general corpus datasets such as web pages, books, papers, and articles. It can then be applied to a variety of natural language processing tasks using adaptive methods such as fine-tuning [6]. As a result, LLM has more than millions of parameters, allowing the model to learn a variety of language patterns and structures. This technological evolution of the LLM is having a significant impact on the AI community, revolutionizing the way AI algorithms are developed and used.

As for the LLM's model capacity, it is improving by expanding the model size or data size in the pre-trained language model (PLM). As a recent

example, much larger PLMs, GPT-3 with 175B parameters and PaLM with 540B parameters, were trained to explore performance limits. Although the expansion is mainly done at different model sizes using similar processes of architecture and pre-training operations, these large PLMs show superior performance compared to small PLMs represented by 330M parameter BERT and 1.5B parameter GPT-2. Generally, large-scale language models (LLMs) refer to language models containing hundreds of billions (or more) of parameters, such as GPT-3, PaLM, Galactica, and LLaMA which have been trained on large-scale text data [7].

ChatGPT, taking a closer look, is a model based on GPT-3.5, and is an advanced model through changes in the model and learning method from the existing GPT-1 to GPT-3. The main change from GPT-1 to GPT-3 is the change in model size, which improves performance by learning more information from various datasets. GPT-3 uses few-shot learning, a technique to effectively learn a model even in situations where very little data is given, and prompt learning, a method of utilizing domain knowledge for model learning through input in the form of human-readable text. Prompt based learning performs various functions such as random writing, translation, web coding, and conversation. Furthermore, it is fine-tuned based on GPT-3.5 and allows human intervention during the learning process. By applying RLHF (reinforcement learning from human feedback), a reinforcement learning algorithm, to GPT-3.5, bias and harmfulness are reduced. Currently, in RLHF, humans rank the model's responses and reflect feedback through a reward function, so that human preferences are reflected in the model. The learning method consists of three stages, allowing additional learning of GPT-3.5 through prompt-based supervised learning and the RLHF algorithm. They consist of demo answer collection and a policy compliance verification stage, comparison data collection and a reward model training stage, and policy optimization stage with a reinforcement learning algorithm [7].

This paper applies prompt engineering to Korean-based LLMs, presenting an efficient approach for generating specific conversational responses with less data. For this purpose, we proposed a technique of utilizing the query transformation module (QTM). The proposed QTM transforms input prompt sentences into three distinct query methods, breaking them down into objectives and key points, making them more comprehensible for LLMs. This paper is composed as follows: Sections 2 overviews the GPT series; Section 3 introduces the proposed query transformation module; Section 4 includes the simulation environment, method, and results; finally, a conclusion and future works section follows.

2 Backgrounds

In general, LLM can be associated with the GPT series models. GPT stands for 'generative pre-trained transformer', representing AI models that are pre-trained on extensive data through machine learning to generate sentences. In particular, in the recent revolution of Generative AI, ChatGPT has gained prominence for its ability to engage in human-like conversations. ChatGPT can formulate responses to questions in a manner resembling human sentence construction [8–11].

2.1 GPT-1

Before the era of GPT, language models typically relied on labelled data and supervised learning. However, obtaining a large amount of labelled data is challenging due to the absolute necessity of human involvement in the labelling process. Naturally, unlabelled data is more easily accessible in significant quantities. Existing language models lacked effective methods to leverage unlabelled data. Therefore, GPT-1 focused on developing an efficient generative pre-training model using unlabelled data [12].

In GPT-1, to simplify the model and reduce computational complexity, only the decoder component of the transformer in Figure 1 [8] is utilized. Figure 2 [12] illustrates the form with the cross self-attention portion removed from the transformer [8, 9].

As training is conducted in an autoregressive manner, predicting the next word as illustrated in Formula (1), models in the GPT series demonstrate superior performance compared to conventional language models.

$$L_1(u) = \sum_{i} \log P(u_i | u_{i-k}, \dots, u_{i-1}; \theta).$$
 (1)

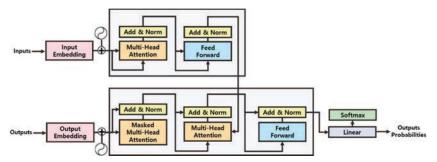


Figure 1 Transformer model.



Figure 2 GPT-1 model.

Table 1 Method of in-context learning

Method	Description
Zero-shot learning	The model cannot look at any examples from the target class
One-shot learning	The model observes only one example from the target class
Few-shot learning	The model observes few examples from the target class

Autoregressive learning, by predicting the next word, enables the acquisition of the language's structure and the understanding of contextual and linguistic patterns, resulting in superior performance. When employing pretrained models, a crucial step involves fine-tuning for the specific end task. Autoregressive learning proves beneficial in fine-tuning by promoting a more generalized training approach that avoids being overly biased towards particular problems [8, 9, 12].

2.2 GPT-2 and GPT-3

The objective of the GPT-2 model was to create a general language model through unsupervised pre-training, allowing for zero-shot downstream task execution without the need for fine-tuning. At the time, GPT-2 achieved stateof-the-art (SOTA) performance in many domains as an unfine-tuned model. This accomplishment underscored the potential of unsupervised pre-training, signifying a significant achievement by surpassing task-specific models and reaching the SOTA [8, 9, 12, 13].

Conventional LLMs commonly suffer from the drawback of being unable to perform tasks without fine-tuning. When the model is trained to execute a specific task through fine-tuning, its generalization ability is compromised.

In GPT-3, to address these issues, in-context learning is employed. Incontext learning enables the pre-trained model to perform specific tasks without fine-tuning by providing examples when solving problems. In incontext learning, various methods exist, such as those outlined in Table 1, including zero-shot, one-shot, and few-shot, depending on the number of examples provided.



Figure 3 Model capacity of LLMs.

As another approach to enhance the model and address issues, increasing the model capacity, i.e., the number of parameters, is employed to enable the execution of more computations. As depicted in Figure 3 [1], recent high-performing LLMs exhibit a gradual expansion in model capacity, contributing to their superior performance [12–14].

Even with an increased model capacity and the application of few-shot learning in pre-trained models, the model may fail to accurately comprehend the purpose and direction of the task it requires. In such instances, the model cannot generate the intended response as envisioned by the questioner.

In this paper, we propose a novel approach to enhance the response generation performance of the GPT series LLM by introducing a method for constructing prompt structures.

3 Proposed Method

In general, the ChatGPT series of LLM (large language models) exhibits significant variations in the quality of generated sentences depending on the training data or environment. Therefore, methods such as fine-tuning or few-shot learning are often employed to instruct the model on how to generate high-quality responses [15–19]. Fine-tuning involves training the LLM on a large amount of additional data to generate responses. In contrast, few-shot learning generates responses based on a few sample sentences. Typically, when building conversational models such as chatbots using LLM, fine-tuning is predominantly employed, which requires a substantial amount of training data. However, in cases where specialized knowledge is not required,

few-shot learning can be leveraged for a quicker and more straightforward development of conversational models [16–19].

In order to create conversational models using few-shot learning, the data input into the prompts plays a crucial role. The process of finding combinations of input values that can yield high-quality desired responses from LLM using prompt input data is referred to as prompt engineering. However, research in utilizing this approach for building conversational models in Korean LLM has been lacking, and it remains underutilized in the context of conversational models [18, 19].

3.1 Prompt Engineering

In general, language generation models tend to have the nature of generating connected sentences and paragraphs based on the input query. Figure 4 illustrates a case applying prompt engineering. When a user's query, which hasn't been trained through methods like fine-tuning, is input into a language generation model, as shown in (a) of Figure 4, it extends the query rather than generating a response, resulting in additional queries instead.

To go beyond this characteristic of LLM and generate appropriate interactive responses without fine-tuning, users are encouraged to input their queries in a simplified and suitable form. This approach, as depicted in (b) of Figure 4, allows the model to generate responses to the queries effectively.

This process is referred to as prompt engineering, and it involves creating prompt queries used in language generation models to generate natural and appropriate responses to queries. Additionally, prompt engineering enables the generation of input data that allows LLM to produce the most suitable questions or answers based on user input, improving the conversational flow of chatbots and creating more natural interactions. This, in turn, enhances chatbot efficiency and user satisfaction. Therefore, by appropriately



Figure 4 Response generation methods in LLM. (a) Conventional response generation method. (b) Few-shot learning-based interactive response generation method.

configuring a Korean prompt-based few-shot learner, one can anticipate performance improvements in LLM [20–23].

3.2 Proposed Query Transformation Module

The query transformation module (QTM) in Figure 5 transforms queries in a manner distinct from the conventional approach (a), opting instead for the method illustrated in (b). In this study, we explore and propose a methodology where queries, engineered through prompt engineering using the approach in (b), serve as prompt queries for LLM. This ensures the precise recognition of the user's query intent by the LLM, effectively conveying the necessary objectives for proficient interactive response generation.

The original query technique involves presenting user-input queries directly to the language generation model without preprocessing or transformation for experimental purposes. In this work, the proposed technique utilizes four types of prompt queries: general query, preceding phrases query, cloze query, and purpose explicit query.

The preceding phrases query (PPQ) technique involves providing the initial sentence or words necessary for a relevant and appropriate response, allowing the subsequent sentence to be generated. As shown in the sample in Table 1, essential content required for the response, particularly the opening statement, is input into the language generation model. If there are no specific instructions in the input query, the language generation model can intentionally induce the required response by completing the subsequent sentence related to the preceding phrase.

The cloze query (CQ) technique involves presenting a sentence with certain parts left blank, accompanied by examples, and then completing the sentence by filling in the blanks. This method is commonly referred to as "fill

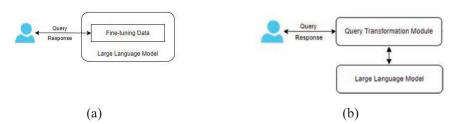


Figure 5 Application of the query transformation module. (a) Conventional approach. (b) Proposed method.

in the blanks" and is frequently employed in language generation models. In other words, it entails providing a few question–answer pairs as examples and inducing similar responses based on them.

The purpose explicit query (PEQ) technique involves stating the purpose or objective and providing categorized examples accordingly in the query. The PEQ method goes beyond the cloze query technique by not only specifying the purpose behind the query but also presenting a variety of examples in different categories. This approach aims to guide language generation models to produce more natural responses by helping them understand the specific purpose behind the query and showcasing various forms of examples.

Each query technique is denoted as Query, PPQ, CQ, and PEQ. In accordance with Figure 6, experiments are conducted utilizing the appropriate responses for each method. The form and quality of the generated responses are then scrutinized and evaluated based on their respective query construction methods.

4 Experiment

In this section, we specify the settings for the models, and evaluation metrics for few-shot learning. We conduct our experiments and analyses based on the experimental settings specified in this section. More details about training environments and hyperparameters are described as follows.

4.1 Experiment Environment and Method

Google Colab, an open-source service offered by Google, is accessible to individuals with Gmail accounts. Google Colab is a valuable resource for researchers who may lack the necessary hardware resources or cannot financially afford GPU access. This service provides a substantial allocation of computing resources, including 12.72 GB of RAM and 358.27 GB of hard disk space for each runtime session. It's important to note that each runtime session has a duration of 12 hours, after which it automatically resets, requiring users to establish a new connection [24–26].

In Google Colab, we executed SKT GPT-2 and Kakaobrain KoGPT-3 models and queried them using the four query methods outlined in Section 3.2 in response to the experimental 3 queries from Figure 6. The results were then processed to remove special characters such as Korean characters, English characters, numbers, and periods using LinQ [27].

Type	Query	PPQ	cq	PEQ
대화형질의		. (질의) 무율해 하지 마세요.	(예시) 질문은 우울해. 응	(목적, 목표) 우울한 사람에게 응원 및 조언을 합니다. (분류별 예시) 임내세요! 당신은 해낼 수 있어요!=응원 우울한 기분은 일반적인 경우에도 느낄 수 있는 자연스러운 감정의 일부입니다. 그러나, 같은 감정이 지속적이거나 강해지면 심리 적 문제를 잃으키거나 일상 생활에 영향을 줄수 있습니다. 우울한 기분을 극복하는 방 법으로는 운동, 음악, 예술, 친구나 가족과의 대화, 심리 상담 등이 있습니다. 이러한 것들 을 시도해보고, 계속해서 우울한 기분이 지 속되면 전문가에게 상담을 받는 것을 추천합 니다.=조언
				(질의) 우울해 하지마세요.=
				우둘에 아시마세요.= (목적, 목표) 감정이 힘든 사람에게 응원과 조언을 합니다.
대화형질의	너무 힘들고 죽고 싶어	(질의) 힘내세요.	(예시) 질문은 힘들고 죽 고싶어. 응답은 힘내세요. 마음이 힘들다면 전문가 에게 조언을 구하는 것이 도움이 될 수 있습니다. (질의) 질문은 너무 힘들 고 죽고싶어 응답은	(분류별 에시) 힘내세요! 때론 힘들고 아플지라도 당신은 이겨낼 수 있음을 확신합니다!=응원 저는 그러한 마음을 이해합니다. 그러나, 같 은 감정이 오래 지속되면 건강에 부정적인 영향을 미칠 수 있습니다. 또한, 전문가의 도 음을 받는 것도 좋은 방법입니다.=조언
				(질의) 힘내세요.=
				(목적, 목표) 사랑하는 감정을 나타내는 사람 에게 사랑을 전하는 말을 합니다.
대화형질의	너무 사랑해!	(질의) 저도 사랑해 요.	(예시) 질문은 사랑해. 응답은 나도 사랑해. (질의) 질문은 너무 사랑해! 응답은	(분류별 에시) 저도 당신을 사랑합니다.=공감 당신에게 "사랑해"라는 따뜻한 말을 전하고 싶습니다. 이 세상에는 많은 사람들이 당신 용 사랑하고 있으며, 당신도 그들을 사랑하고 소중히 여기는 것이 중요합니다. 사랑은 서로를 위해 노력하고 배려하는 것이며, 어 려운 시간에 서로를 지지해주는 것입니다. 당신도 자신을 사랑하고, 자신의 가치를 인 정하며, 행복한 삶을 위해 노력해보세요.=조 언
				(질의) 저도 사랑해요.=

Figure 6 Query examples and query methods.

4.2 Experiment Results and Evaluation

Based on the experimental models presented in Section 3, the results obtained from SKT GPT-2 were consistent with Figure 7, while the outcomes derived from Kakaobrain's KoGPT-3 matched those in Figure 8. It was observed that as we progressed from a general query to PPQ, CQ, and PEQ, the responses gradually became more conversational in nature. Upon comparing Figure 7, which illustrates SKT GPT-2 (117M parameters), with Figure 8, which showcases Kakaobrain KoGPT-3 (6B parameters), it becomes evident that Kakaobrain KoGPT-3, with a higher number of parameters, exhibits superior overall response quality.

```
Model
                                                                                                   Query
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  PPQ
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      cq
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   PEQ
                                     힘내세요.
SKT GPT-2
                                                                                                                                                                                   다. 그대시간시, 어제도나 도급한
아이도 엄마처럼 젖가슴을 만져보았다. 쉬어도 몸이 가벼워지는 느낌이
눈물은 었습니다.
                                      나무 사랑해!"
*그림, 그건 뭐야? 난 너한테도 미안
한테.*
그리고는 다시 한 번 나를 쳐다보았다.
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이 들었다.
나는 고개를 그먹었다.
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이 들었다.
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등에 함께 하는 사람 등에 수를 함께 수를 돈을 받면에 먹으니까 맛있네요^ ^ ~ " 으 앞도 맛있는 거 먹고 싶은 마음이 간절 없었다.
그래서 우리는 서로를 함께 수를 돈 보다 생각이 되어 있어요 않는 맛있는 거 먹고 싶어서 왔어요
있는데, 그래나 이제부터는 보는 것이다 끝난
그래서 우리는 서로를 함께 수를 돈 무슨 것이 하는데 이렇게 되어 있어요 있어요 있는데, 그래나 사랑하는 사람을 함께 수를 받는다고 있어요 나를 함께 수를 받는다고 싶은 마음이 간절 있다.
그래서 우리는 서로를 함께 수를 돈 보다 가장나 있는데 이렇게 나를 보다 있다.
그래서 우리는 서로를 함께 수를 돈 같아 보다 맛있네요^ ^ " " 으 앞도 맛있는 거 먹고 싶어서 왔어요 오늘의 점심에 뉴는 치킨샐러는 무슨 가장. 나를 다가왔다.
그라고 기때 나를 보다 있다.
그라고 있다고 나를 보다 있다.
그리고 그래나 이제부터는 보는 것이다 말 나를 함께 수를 받는다고 있다.
그래서 우리는 나를 있어요 것이다. 요. 사랑하는 사람 생각하는 사람 등이 함께 안 보다는 나를 있어요 것이다. 요. 사랑하는 것은데 먹으니다. 그래서 제가 사랑하는 사람 을 만나고 싶은 마음이 간절 시는데 있다. 수 " " 그렇게 되어 있어요 ^ 1 는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 있어요 ^ 1 는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 함께 나를 보다 있다. 나를 함께 나를 있어요 ^ 1 는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 하는데 있어요 ^ 1 는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 함께 나를 보다 있다. 나를 있어요 ^ 1 는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 하는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 하는데 있다. 나를 하는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 되었다. 나를 하는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 하는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 하는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 하는데 이렇게 되었다. 나를 있다고 나를 하는데 이렇게 되었다. 
                                          너무 사랑해!"
                                                                                                                                                                                    도 되기했다.
우리는 서로의 얼굴을 번갈아 보며
                                            건데.
그러면 그때서야
```

Figure 7 Experiment results for SKT GPT-2.



Figure 8 Experiment results for Kakaobrain KoGPT.

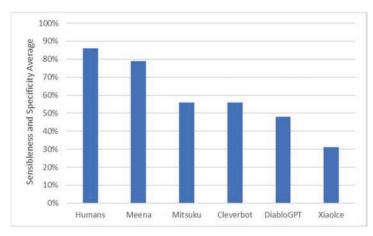


Figure 9 Evaluation metrics for Google SSA models [29].

Google Brain introduced the sensibleness and specificity average (SSA) evaluation method to address the challenges of objectively assessing generative language models' performance, considering the inherent complexities of understanding sentence ambiguity and meaning. Unlike traditional metrics like ROUGE and BLEU, which may not effectively evaluate models' ability to engage in human-like conversations, SSA has become a preferred method for evaluating conversational models. SSA evaluates whether a model's responses make sense "sensibleness" and provide specific, contextually relevant information "specificity" in a human-like manner, assigning binary scores of 0 or 1 for each aspect. This metric plays a crucial role in assessing the quality of natural language generation models, particularly in the context of conversational dialogue [28, 29].

As observed in Figure 9, humans received an evaluation score of 86%, while other language generation models received an average score of 56%. Examining the evaluation results based on SSA in Table 2, we observe that the language generation model Kakaobrain KoGPT, which did not undergo fine-tuning, received a very low average score of 21.4% for Q1. However, it is worth noting that there was an improvement in performance, reaching 44.4%, for Q2–4 through preprocessing and query transformation.

Figure 10 illustrates that sensibleness and specificity consistently improved for Q1–4. These results indicate that, across various language generation models, it is possible to achieve a usable level of conversational response generation through prompt engineering.

 Table 2
 Experimental results

		4		Table Typellineling Leading					
		Query	ıry	Оdd	~	00	~	PEQ	
Model	Query	Sensibleness	Specificity	Specificity Sensibleness	Specificity	Specificity Sensibleness Specificity	Specificity	Sensibleness	Specificity
SKTGPT-2	오늘 너무 우울해	0.567	0.067	9.0	0.067	0.2	0.067	0.133	0.033
SKTGPT-2	너무 힘들고 죽고싶어	0.167	0.033	0.233	0.067	0.167	0.1	0.533	0.467
SKTGPT-2	너무 사랑해!	0.533	0.1	0.567	0.033	0.133	0.033	0.533	0.433
KakaobrainKoGPT	오늘 너무 우울해	0.533	0.2	9.0	0.167	0.5	0.433	9.0	0.433
KakaobrainKoGPT	너무 힘들고 죽고싶어	0.1	0.1	0.133	0.1	0.533	0.5	0.567	0.533
KakaobrainKoGPT	너무 사랑해!	0.133	0.033	0.2	0.1	0.533	0.433	0.567	0.5
	Average	0.339	0.089	0.389	0.089	0.344	0.261	0.489	4.0
	Average Total	0.214	41	0.239	6	0.303	33	0.444	4

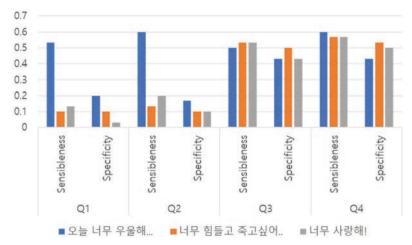


Figure 10 Comparison of experimental results.

5 Conclusion

In this research, we present an efficient approach for generating specific interactive responses with limited data, utilizing prompt engineering on Korean-based LLM. As a part of our methodology, we introduce the query transformation module (QTM), which refines input prompt sentences into three distinct query methods by deconstructing them into objectives and key points. The performance of each query method is assessed through Google SSA to evaluate sentence naturalness and specificity [9]. Our results demonstrate an average enhancement of 11.46% compared to unaltered queries that lack the objectives and intent of the input data. This paper only conducted evaluations for a total of 12 models using three example sentences and four query methods. Future research endeavours involve investigating techniques for improving prompts without relying on QTM.

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