

Urdu to Roman-Urdu Translation Model

Introduction

This project focuses on developing a machine translation model that converts Urdu text, especially poetry, into Roman-Urdu while preserving semantic meaning and poetic expression. The project demonstrates the practical application of Neural Machine Translation (NMT) using Seq2Seq architectures with LSTMs, tokenization techniques, and extensive hyperparameter tuning.

Methodology

We designed a Seq2Seq model with a BiLSTM encoder and multi-layer LSTM decoder. Byte Pair Encoding (BPE) was used for effective tokenization of both Urdu and Roman-Urdu corpora. The model was trained with variations in embedding dimensions, hidden sizes, and number of layers, and evaluated using BLEU, perplexity, and loss tracking. Experimentation allowed us to fine-tune hyperparameters and overcome common challenges like dimension mismatches, tokenization scope, and scheduler compatibility.

Deployment

To make the model accessible, we deployed a demo application where users can test Urdu-to-Roman Urdu translation interactively.

■ Deployed Demo: <https://naqsh-e-urdu.streamlit.app/>

Publications & References

1. Medium Article: <https://medium.com/@abrar11ahmad99/developing-a-urdu-to-roman-urdu-translation-model-a-collaborative-effort-with-muhammad-taha-under-24fbdd02f724>
2. LinkedIn Post: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/abrar-ahmad-a31a3b248_urdu-machinetranslation-nlp-activity-7376945936083800064-8Jvu?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&cm=AAD1guwUBjIVO3e1HTIORNrLOWvSKtTuYDXU

Conclusion

This collaborative effort successfully demonstrates how deep learning can be leveraged to bridge linguistic gaps in literature and culture. By translating Urdu into Roman-Urdu, we aim to enhance accessibility and preserve poetic essence for wider audiences.