

1 LOST IN TRANSLATION: TRANSLATING GENERATION
2 Z INTERNET SLANG USING MACHINE LEARNING

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10 of the Requirements for the Degree of
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The Division of Physical Sciences and Mathematics, College of Arts and
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certifies that this is the approved version of the following special problem:

**LOST IN TRANSLATION: TRANSLATING GENERATION
Z INTERNET SLANG USING MACHINE LEARNING**

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29 **Declaration**

30 We, Neil Bryan Flauta, Ashley Joy Gimeno, and Carl Jorenz Gimeno, hereby
31 certify that this Special Problem has been written by us and is the record of work
32 carried out by us. Any significant borrowings have been properly acknowledged
33 and referred.

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Dedication

36 This study is dedicated to our loved ones, especially our loving parents, whose
37 unwavering support throughout our academic journey and our continual source of
38 inspiration and strength, especially when we were on the verge of giving up.

39 To our dear friends, we are grateful for your warm presence, valuable insights,
40 and constant encouragement, which helped us complete this study.

41 Finally, to our future selves, may this hard work serve as a testament to the
42 obstacles you have overcome. Let this milestone remind you to keep learning and
43 face the future with courage, even if the path is uncertain.

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47 learning contributed to the foundation and direction of this study.

Abstract

Internet slang is an informal variation of language that is prominent to the younger generation. The usage of this language brought a generational divide between them and the older generations. This study aimed to develop a translation tool leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs) to bridge this issue. A dataset of Generation Z slang sentences and their formal equivalents was used to fine-tune Zephyr-7B-Beta model. The performance of the fine-tuned model was evaluated against the base model using automatic metrics (BLEU and ROUGE-L) and manual evaluations through online surveys involving Gen Z students. Results showed that the fine-tuned model only slightly outperformed the base model in terms of automatic metrics, and it was generally preferred by human evaluators. These results indicate the fine-tuned model's effectiveness in producing more contextually appropriate and user-aligned formal translations.

Keywords: Internet Slang, Generation Z, Generational Divide, LoRA,
LLM

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109 Chapter 1

110 Introduction

111 1.1 Overview

112 Language is how humans communicate and express themselves (?, ?). It evolves,
113 adapting to the changing needs of users (?, ?). New words are borrowed or invented
114 (?, ?), and most linguistic changes are initiated by young adults and adolescents
115 (Thump, 2016 as cited in (?, ?)). The younger generation demographic tends to
116 focus on belonging to self-organized groups of peers and friends, forming what
117 can be described as the “we” generation. Through their interactions, language
118 changes differently, making them remarkably distinct from previous generations.

119 Slang is a great example of the dynamic nature of language. Slang is an informal
120 language used by people in the same social group (?, ?). It serves multiple social
121 purposes: identifying group members, communicating informally, and opposing
122 established authority (?, ?). Slang is highly contextual and pervasive, even in

123 non-standard English. Its figurative nature and how it twists the definitions of
124 the words used make it difficult for outsiders to understand.

125 In recent years, the Internet has become a significant medium for the evolution
126 and spread of language, giving rise to ‘Internet slang’ (?). Internet slang is a
127 collection of everyday language forms used by various online groups (?). Ujang
128 et al. (2018, as cited in (?)) state that internet slang is not easily understood
129 by people outside the social group or people who are not fluent in the language
130 where the slang is used. This phenomenon is particularly prominent among the
131 younger generation (?), where they use it to communicate and interact with
132 friends.

133 Generation Z, individuals born between 1996 and 2009, are regarded as “digital
134 natives” because technology is an integral part of their upbringing (?). Even the
135 language of this generation is greatly affected by technology, where newly coined
136 terms and phrases, called Gen Z slang, are tied to the media culture they’ve grown
137 up with (?). However, this evolution of language often creates communication
138 barriers with older generations (Venter, 2017 as cited in (?)). Furthermore,
139 studies show that even within Generation Z, people with limited exposure to
140 social media may struggle to understand the prevalent slang (?).

141 These gaps highlight the need for a tool that can bridge the generational divide,
142 making it easier for individuals to understand the language of Generation Z. Mul-
143 tiple studies have tried translating slang into a formal language using machine
144 learning. Khazeni et al. achieved a 81.91% accuracy in translating Persian slang
145 to formal Persian language using deep learning. Another study by Nocon et al.
146 created a translator to translate Filipino colloquialisms into the Filipino language

147 using Tensorflow's sequence-to-sequence model and Moses' phrase-based statis-
148 tical machine translation. Furthermore, Ibrahim and Sharief developed a slang
149 translator using models from Hugging Face.

150 Building on these studies, this study proposes to create a translation tool specifi-
151 cally to translate Gen Z slang. The tool will utilize Low Rank Adaptation (LoRA)
152 to a selected Large Language Model (LLM). The results will be evaluated using
153 the Recall-Oriented Understudy for Gisting Evaluation (ROUGE).

154 By fostering mutual understanding, this tool aims to promote more effective and
155 harmonious interactions across age groups, ultimately enhancing relationships and
156 reducing miscommunication.

157 The main contributions of this study are as follows:

- 158 • Enhance linguistic understanding between generations by using fine-tuning
159 a LLM to translate Gen Z slang to formal language, leveraging the strengths
160 of advanced NLP techniques
- 161 • Bridge communication gaps between generations using the proposed model
162 to foster better relationships
- 163 • Create a scalable framework that can be adapted to translate slang in other
164 languages

1.2 Problem Statement

Internet slang fosters informal, relatable communication within the younger generation (?), especially Generation Z, but it presents challenges in understanding for people outside this demographic. The gap in comprehension with older generations widens as internet slang evolves, often leading to miscommunication affecting social relationships that contribute to the generational divide (?). A more specific translation tool developed using language models can be used to bridge this divide.

By leveraging the ability of LLM to generate a more nuanced and properly constructed answer, a better tool can be made to translate the slang into proper sentences. It has already been proven by the likes of GPT being modified and tailored for use in several automated chatbots to provide customer service. However, no such tool exists for slang translation of Generation Z, which arguably has the most diverse slangs compared to other generations. The creation of this tool will allow translating of such texts into formal sentences and help with bridging the generational divide between them and older people, especially teachers.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General Objectives

This study aims to fine-tune the zephyr-7b LLM for use in the translation of Generation Z internet slang used by Filipinos in social media.

185 1.3.2 Specific Objectives

186 Specifically, the study aims to:

- 187 • create a dataset of sentences containing Generation Z slang used in differing
188 contexts and its formal translation
- 189 • create a LoRA implementation for fine-tuning an existing model
- 190 • fine-tune an existing LLM to translate sentences containing Generation Z
191 slang into formal sentences
- 192 • evaluate the performance of the trained model and compare it to the baseline
193 model using several performance metrics

194 1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Research

195 This study focused on the use of internet slang by Filipino Generation Z, with
196 an emphasis on the English language, as it is widely used on different digital
197 platforms, such as social networks.

198 1.5 Significance of the Research

199 The study contributed to understanding the evolving linguistic landscape shaped
200 by Internet slang, especially as used by Generation Z. The insights gained from
201 this study aid educators, parents, and communication professionals in bridging

202 inter-generational communication gaps and fostering better understanding across
203 age groups.

204 Chapter 2

205 Review of Related Literature

206 2.1 Communication Gap between Generations

207 Language is dynamic in nature and thus, constantly evolving over time. One
208 example of this behavior is the development of internet slang. Internet slang is a
209 result of language variation and is often regarded as informal (?, ?). In the study,
210 *The Use of Online Slang for Independent Learning in English Vocabulary* (?, ?),
211 students used internet slang to express their feelings and emotions, and to align
212 their communication style with their peers.

213 However, this development has its challenges. It is suggested that younger genera-
214 tion should use slang to communicate with each other instead of older generations
215 because it might cause confusion between them (?, ?).

216 This miscommunication is prominent between generations with differences in lin-
217 guistic familiarity as Suslak (?, ?) argues that age influences language use, noting

218 that language evolves across generations. Supporting this, a study by Teng and
219 Joo (?, ?) found that the older a person is, the less likely they are to understand
220 internet language.

221 Studies have shown that using internet slang improves relationships between those
222 who use it. However, using internet slang for inter-generational communication
223 can be a hindrance to proper and effective communication (?, ?).

224 2.2 Generative AI

225 Generative AI encompasses machine learning models that create new content, such
226 as text, images, and audio, based on patterns learned from extensive data (?, ?).
227 These models, including LLMs like those used in ChatGPT and Bing AI, use
228 neural networks to predict the next word or phrase in a sequence, enabling them
229 to generate human-like text (?, ?). The ability of generative AI to understand and
230 produce diverse content, ranging from creative writing code, makes it potentially
231 useful for various applications, such as language translation (?, ?).

232 2.3 Existing Studies

233 Vergho et al. (?, ?) used multiple open source LLMs and compared them with the
234 latest ersion of GPT-3.5 and 4.0 models at that time. They determined zephyr-
235 7b-beta is a viable open-source alternative to these models and is comparable with
236 the latest GPT-4.0 model.

237 Khazeni et al. (?, ?) used deep learning to create a model for translating Persian
238 slang text into formal ones. The researchers explored the challenges of translating
239 Persian slang into English within the context of film subtitling, specifically
240 focusing on the performance of three neural machine translation (NMT) systems,
241 namely Google Translate, Targoman, and Farazin. The primary interest of the
242 paper lies in the understanding of how these NMT systems handle the complexities
243 of slang translation. It was revealed that the NMT systems often struggle
244 to capture the nuances of slang, leading to unnatural and inaccurate translations.
245 Targoman performed best in naturalness, but it fell short of human translation
246 quality. This implies the need for specialized algorithms or training data suitable
247 for slang, and potentially human post-editing, to achieve accurate and culturally
248 appropriate translations in this domain.

249 The study by Nocon et al. (?, ?) explores translating Filipino colloquialisms,
250 such as Conyo and Datkilab, into standardized Filipino, addressing comprehension
251 barriers for non-familiar speakers. Two machine translation (MT) approaches
252 were evaluated: Tensorflow's Sequence-to-Sequence model using Recurrent Neural
253 Networks (RNNs) and Moses' Phrase-based Statistical MT. Moses outperformed
254 Tensorflow on test data due to its handling of phrase combinations and unfamiliar
255 words, while Tensorflow excelled on training data, indicating potential with
256 refinement and more training data. The research underscores the need for robust
257 datasets and highlights the strengths of phrase-based statistical MT in tackling
258 slang translation challenges.

259 Ibrahim and Mustafa (?, ?) developed a system to translate slang into formal
260 language, addressing challenges posed by slang's informality and variability.
261 Using updated datasets of slang words, formal equivalents, and contextual

sentences, they fine-tuned pre-trained models from Hugging Face’s Transformer library. While the T5-base model showed promise during training, it performed poorly in testing. In contrast, the “facebook/bart-base” model excelled, demonstrating high accuracy and low loss values. The study highlights the importance of fine-tuning and updating datasets for effective slang translation and emphasizes the potential of transformer models like “facebook/bart-base” in bridging informal and formal language gaps.

2.4 LoRA for Fine Tuning

Low Rank Adaptation, or LoRA, is an efficient Parameter Efficient Fine Tuning (PEFT) method proposed by Hu et al (?). This can significantly decrease the required storage for training while producing comparable results and in some cases even outperforming other adaptation methods. In addition, it has minimal chance of catastrophic forgetting as the original weights are not being tampered with, unlike other fine-tuning methods. These factors make it a suitable option for slang translation as a quick yet accurate solution. In a study conducted by Zhao et al. (?), they determined that some LLMs using LoRA for fine tuning can outperform GPT-4, one of the most advanced LLM models currently. A study by Nguyen et al. (?) used LoRA in fine tuning a pre-trained Llama 2 7B model for text classification of a dataset that contains slang. They were able to create a more accurate model compared to models by existing studies at that time.

2.5 Chapter Summary

This chapter shows how generational differences create communication gaps, especially due to internet slang. Younger people tend to use slang to express emotions and connect with friends, but this can confuse older generations who aren't as familiar with these terms. Research shows that as language changes over time, older people are generally less likely to understand the newest internet language. To bridge this gap, some recent studies have utilized machine learning to translate slang into more standard language. For instance, Khazeni et al. (?, ?) used deep learning to translate Persian slang, while Nocon et al. (?, ?) created a Filipino slang translator using statistical models. Moreover, Ibrahim and Mustafa (?, ?) fine-tuned pre-trained models to learn slang meanings. One promising technique for this is Low Rank Adaptation (LoRA), which is a fine-tuning method that keeps the original model stable while using less storage. Studies by Zhao et al. (?, ?) and Nguyen et al. (?, ?) show that LoRA models are not only efficient but can even outperform advanced models like GPT-4 when it comes to slang translation and text classification.

Table 2.1: Summary of Existing Studies

Author	Focus	Gaps	Problem Solved
Nocon et al.	Developing machine translators for Filipino colloquialisms using sequence-to-sequence models and statistical machine translation (Moses).	Tensorflow models had issues with unknown tokens and repetitions, and limited ability to generalize to unseen data.	Demonstrated the feasibility of machine translation for Filipino colloquialisms, with Moses as a viable solution.
Ibrahim et.al	Developing an intelligent system to transform English slang words into formal words.	The study noted that more powerful processors could improve the training and testing, and that previous datasets were outdated and needed updating.	Demonstrated an effective model for translating English slang to formal English and highlighted the importance of fine-tuning pre-trained models.
Khazeni et al.	Persian slang text conversion to formal and deep learning of Persian short texts on social media	The BERT models used did not align well with the informal data used in the sentiment analysis.	Created a tool to convert Persian slang to formal text and improved sentiment analysis of short texts using deep learning.

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

This chapter lists and discusses the specific steps and activities that will be performed to accomplish the project. The discussion covers the activities from pre-proposal to Final SP Writing.

3.1 Research Activities

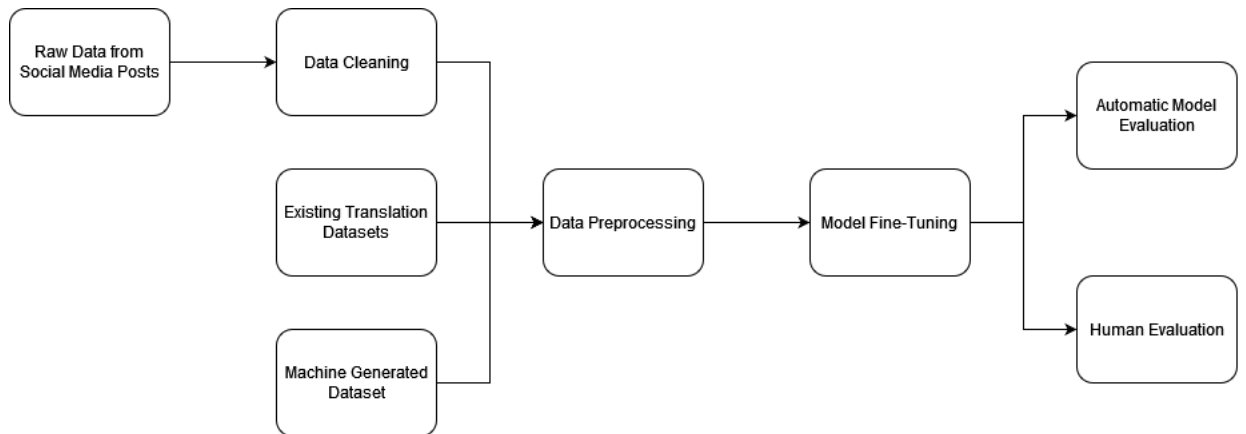


Figure 3.1: Summarized Methodology

3.1.1 Data Gathering

A dataset of sentences containing Generation Z slang and its formal translation was used in this study. This dataset was created using several source: data obtained from social media posts and manually translated by the researchers, existing datasets from HuggingFace, and machine generated and translated sentences using GPT-4o from OpenAI.

The data obtained from social media posts were from verified users of X whose ages are within the Generation Z, so that the dataset is accurate. The data was manually translated by the researchers to ensure that the translation is accurate and reflective of the target demographic. Data obtained from existing datasets and GPT-4o was checked manually to check if whether the sentence is one used by Generation Z. These processes ensured that the dataset is of high quality and representative of what and how Generation Z slang is used.

3.1.2 Data Preprocessing

The dataset used for the fine-tuning of the model was preprocessed to ensure optimal performance of the model. Unnecessary information such as email addresses and URLs was removed. The data was then manually cleaned up to remove unnecessary characters such as emojis and fixed issues such as typos. A similar approach was done with existing and machine generated datasets to ensure consistency within the training dataset.

The dataset is then split into train and test datasets in a 90/10 ratio to maximize the data learned by the model without compromising on the model's ability to

326 generalize to new data. The train dataset is then split again into a 90/10 ratio
327 to ensure no overfitting while still allowing the model to adapt to the pattern
328 of slang. The cleaned up dataset was then tokenized through the Transformers
329 library provided by HuggingFace as the library already has tokenizers available
330 for their pretrained models. This ensures that the data is formatted properly as
331 required by the model to be used.

332 3.1.3 Model Fine-Tuning

333 The model used in this study was zephyr-7b-beta because it is open-source and
334 was proven to perform better than other models of the same size. In addition,
335 it can be trained in a GPU with 16GB of VRAM, necessary as we are using the
336 free tier of Google Colab as the platform of choice for prototype fine-tuning of the
337 model.

338 This study used the example codes provided by HuggingFace in the documentation
339 of their various libraries and sample notebook provided in the zephyr-7b-beta
340 repository.

341 The model was loaded using the Transformers library and was quantized into 4
342 bits through BitsandBytes library to fit the entire model in the allocated resources
343 while having enough headroom for training. In addition, the Unsloth library was
344 used to speed up the training time and reduce the resources used even more (? , ?).
345 A LoRA adapter was then attached to the model to further reduce the parameters
346 to be trained.

347 To evaluate the model training process and ensure that the model is not overfitting,

348 Bilingual Evaluation Understudy (BLEU) and Recall-Oriented Understudy for
349 Gisting Evaluation (ROUGE) are used. BLEU is used to measure the precision of
350 the model by determining how much of the generated text appear in the reference
351 text (?, ?) while ROUGE is used to measure recall as it determines how much
352 of the reference text is in the generated text (?, ?). These metrics use n-grams,
353 making them superior to standard recall and precision metrics as they take into
354 account the positioning of the words. These two metrics were implemented using
355 the Evaluate library by HuggingFace, making it easier to integrate with the rest
356 of the model training process. These metrics was calculated at every epoch of the
357 training process and is used for an early stopping callback to immediately stop
358 the model training if the model seems to be overfitting.

359 The model was then trained using SFTTrainer from the TRL library of Hugging-
360 Face to simplify the training process. The model was trained with the following
361 parameters: optimizer is paged 4bit AdamW, batch size of 8, learning rate of 2e-5,
362 and maximum number of epochs of 50. These parameters were chosen based on
363 the GPU provided in Colab, the test notebook by HuggingFace and the default
364 parameters of SFTTrainer.

365 3.1.4 Model Evaluation

366 The model was evaluated using both automatic and manual evaluation metrics.
367 The model was then prompted to generate a formal sentence for each sentence in
368 the test dataset. The generated sentences were then compared to the formal trans-
369 lation of the sentence using BLEU and ROUGE metrics. The base zephyr-7b-beta
370 model was also prompted to generate sentences for the BLEU and ROUGE metric

371 and the pairwise comparison for human evaluation. Identical answers between the
372 finetuned and the base model were removed to in the test set to ensure that the
373 model is evaluated properly. A total of 144 sentences were used to evaluate the
374 model.

375 A survey was conducted to compare the finetuned model to the base model to
376 determine if the finetuning was effective. The survey was conducted online using
377 Google Forms asked the participants to pick which of the following sentences is the
378 more accurate translation of the given sentence based on accuracy, naturalness,
379 and context. The order in which sentences from the two models were shown was
380 randomly selected to avoid bias. To improve the response rate of the survey,
381 the survey was split into multiple sets, answered by the same groups of people,
382 allowing them to answer any or all of the survey forms.

383 Chapter 4

384 Results and Discussions

385 4.1 Dataset

386 We built a dataset containing a total of 1155 Gen Z internet slang sentences and
387 their corresponding formal translations. The created dataset was then combined
388 with another dataset from Hugging Face that contains 548 Gen Z internet slang
389 and their corresponding formal translation.

390 4.2 Model Evaluation

391 4.2.1 Model Training

392 The model was trained for 7 epochs before the early stopping callback was trig-
393 gered because the evaluation metrics has not improved by at least 0.01 for 3

consecutive epochs. This prevented the overfitting seen in the following figure. Figure 4.1 shows that the training loss is decreasing and in Figure 4.2 the validation loss is increasing and other metrics are not improving. These indicate that the model is overfitting to the training data and may not generalize well to new data. The model training was stopped in just 7 epochs and the best model amongst the epochs, the one with the lowest validation loss and highest metrics, was chosen as the final model.

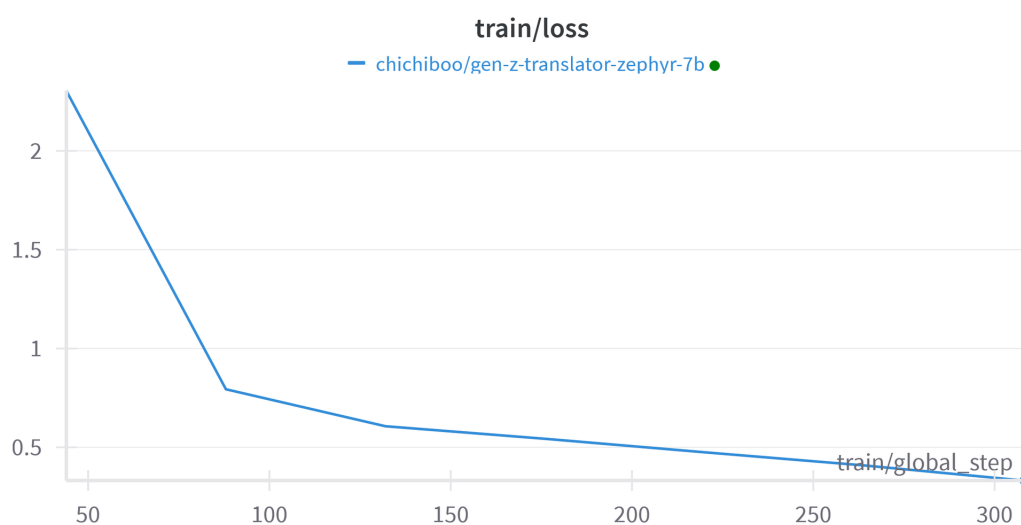


Figure 4.1: Training loss curve of the fine-tuned model across training steps

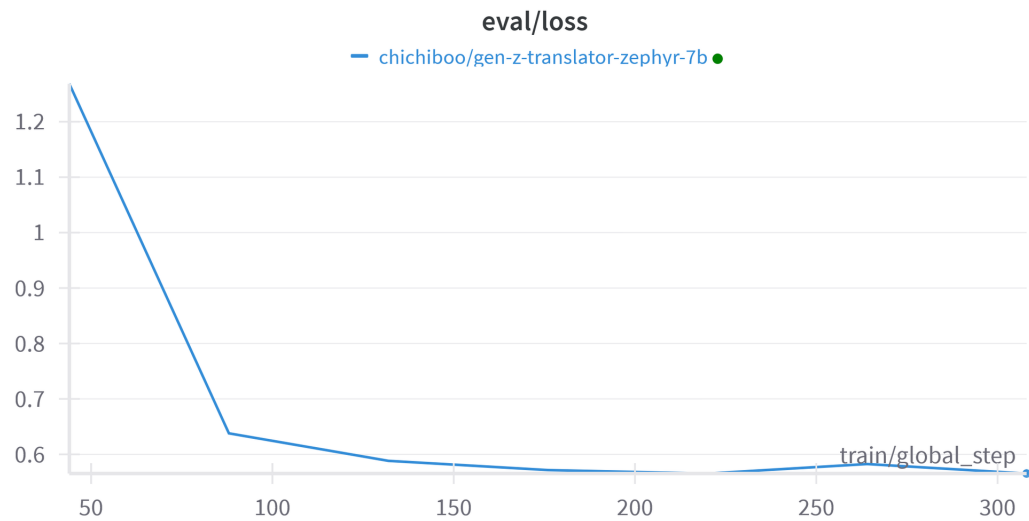


Figure 4.2: Evaluation loss curve of the fine-tuned model across training steps

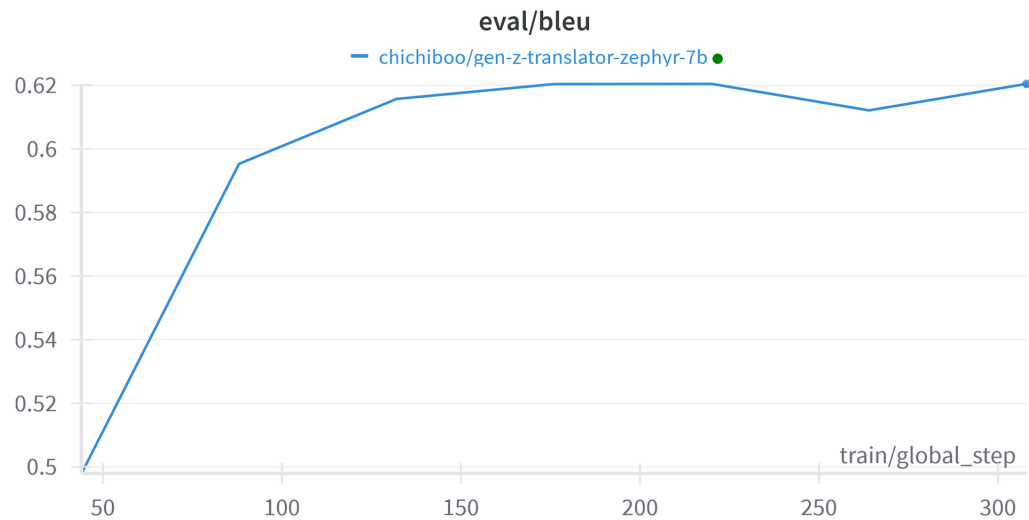


Figure 4.3: Evaluated using BLEU metric

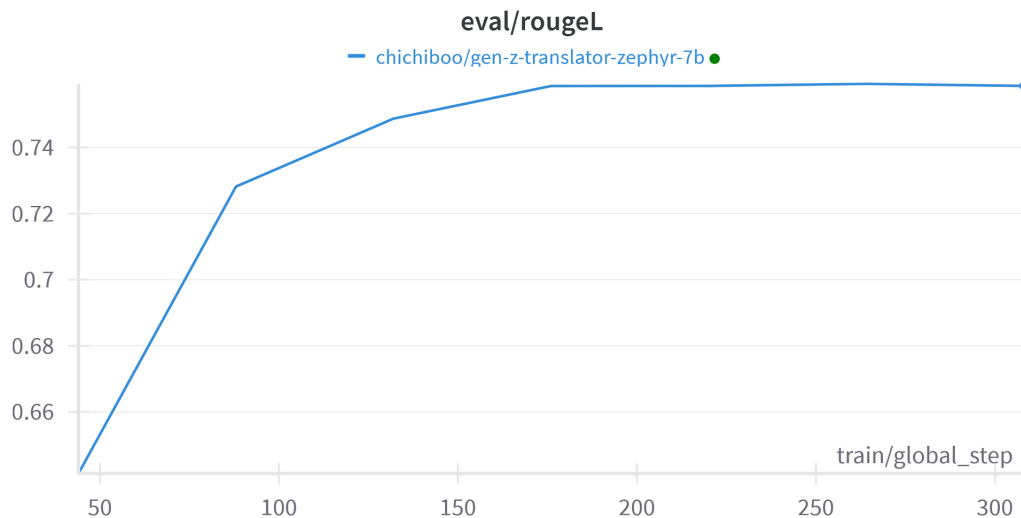


Figure 4.4: Evaluated using ROUGE-L metric

4.2.2 Text Generation

A total of 197 sentences were translated using both the base zephyr-7b-beta model and the finetuned model. These served as the dataset used to evaluate the performance of the model and comparing it with the other base model.

4.2.3 Automatic Evaluation Metrics

The dataset was automatically evaluated using BLEU and ROUGE metrics, specifically the ROUGE-L metric as the dataset do not contain newlines that ROUGE-Lsum uses to separate the input with. These scores were then averaged to determine the score of the models. The base model obtained a BLEU score of 0.8099 and ROUGE-L Score of 0.8336 and the finetuned model obtained a BLEU score of 0.8151 and ROUGE-L Score of 0.8396. While the difference between the models

412 is minimal, this does not completely represent the performance of the models as
413 these metrics are only used to determine if the generated text is close to the refer-
414 ence text, regardless of the context and the overall quality of the generated text.
415 However, it does show that the finetuned model, while not significantly better
416 than the base model, is close to the reference model.

417 4.2.4 Manual Evaluation Metrics

418 A manual evaluation was conducted by the researchers through a survey admin-
419 istered via Google Forms to determine which of the two models is preferred by
420 Generation Z students at UPV. The survey comprised a total of 93 questions,
421 which were distributed across five separate forms. The first form contained 20
422 questions, the second 19, the third 20, the fourth 20, and the fifth 14, amounting
423 to 93 questions in total. Each question presented two translation options: one
424 generated by the fine-tuned model and the other by the base model. Respondents
425 were asked to select the translation they preferred in each case. A total of 114
426 individuals participated in the survey, with 29, 22, 22, 21, and 20 respondents
427 completing Forms 1 through 5, respectively.

428 The data presented below illustrate respondent preferences between the base and
429 fine-tuned models across the five survey forms, as well as the overall summary of
430 the results. Each graph visualizes the outcomes for an individual form, specifically
431 indicating both the raw number of responses and the corresponding percentages
432 favoring each model. A systematic evaluation for each graph is provided as follows:

433 Figure 4.5 shows that among the 29 respondents, 306 responses or 52.8 percent pre-

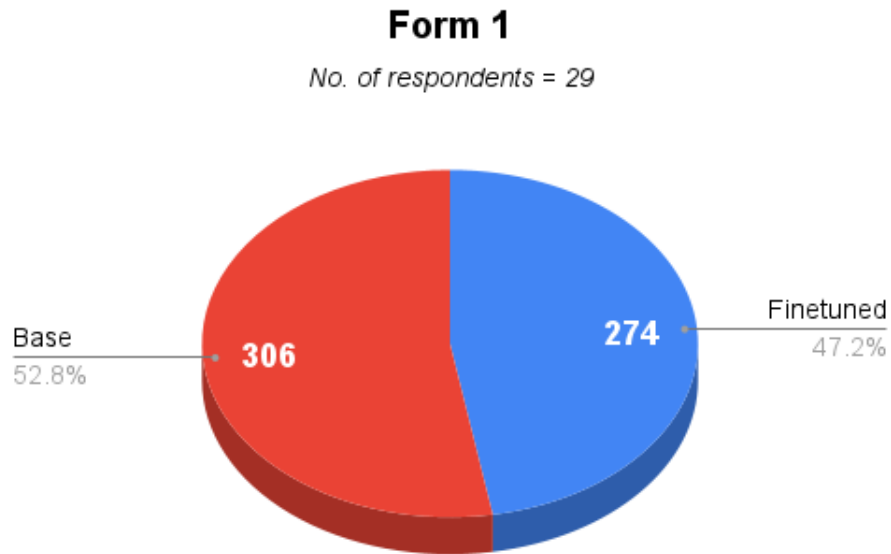


Figure 4.5: Form 1 Evaluation

434 ferred the base model, while 274 responses or 47.2 percent favored the fine-tuned
 435 model. This indicates a slight preference for the base model in this particular
 436 form. Notably, this result deviates from the overall trend observed in the other
 437 four forms, where the fine-tuned model tends to be favored. Form 1 is the only
 438 instance in which the base model outperformed the fine-tuned model, suggesting
 439 that specific characteristics of this form may have influenced the preferences of
 440 the respondents.

441 Figure 4.6 implies that among 22 respondents, 236 responses, or 56.5 percent,
 442 favored the fine-tuned model, while 182 responses, or 43.5 percent, preferred the
 443 base model. This 13 percent margin reflects the clear preference for the fine-tuned
 444 model, which is consistent with the overall trend observed across the other forms.

445 Figure 4.7 illustrates that among the 22 respondents, the fine-tuned model received

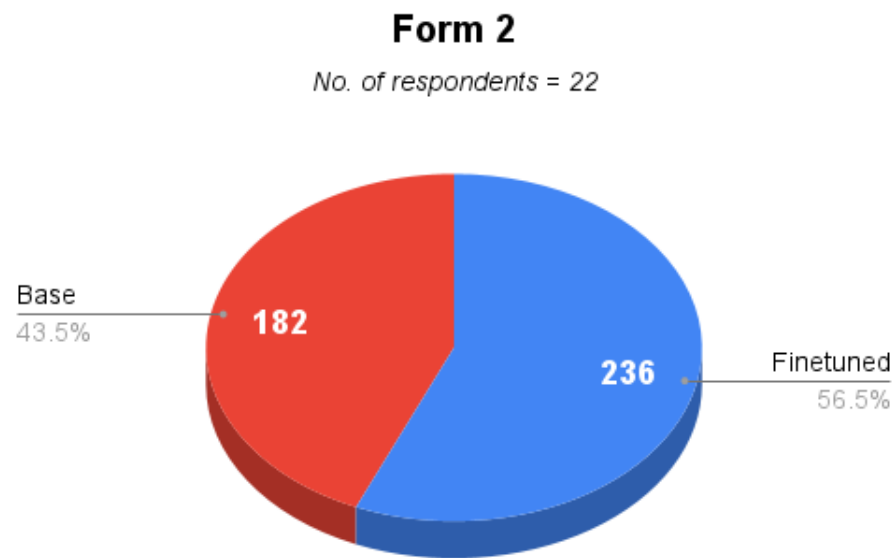


Figure 4.6: Form 2 Evaluation

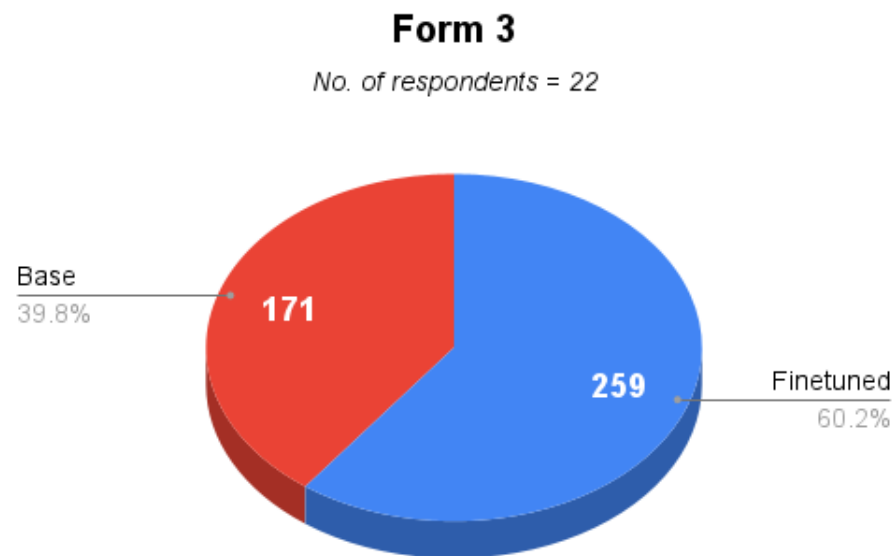


Figure 4.7: Form 3 Evaluation

446 a significantly higher preference, with 259 responses or 60.2 percent, compared to
447 the base model with 171 responses or 29.8 percent. This 20.4 percent margin
448 represents the widest gap among all forms. This strongly indicates the superior
449 performance of the fine-tuned model on translating, presented in Form 3.

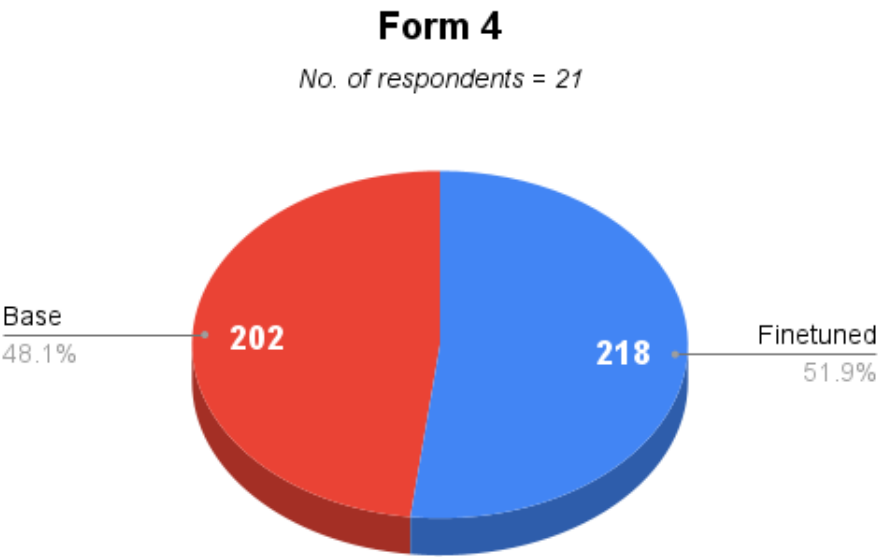


Figure 4.8: Form 4 Evaluation

450 Figure 4.8 highlights that the 21 respondents in Form 4 yielded a nearly even
451 distribution of preferences, with 218 responses or 51.9 percent favoring the fined-
452 tuned model and 202 responses or 48.1 percent preferring the base model. This
453 narrow 3.8 percent difference suggests a comparable level of performance between
454 the two models in this particular form.

455 Figure 4.9 conveys that among the 20 respondents in Form 5, 152 responses or
456 54.3 percent selected the fine-tuned model, while 128 responses or 45.7 percent
457 chose the base model. This 8.6 percent margin reinforces the general trend toward
458 the fine-tuned model across all forms.

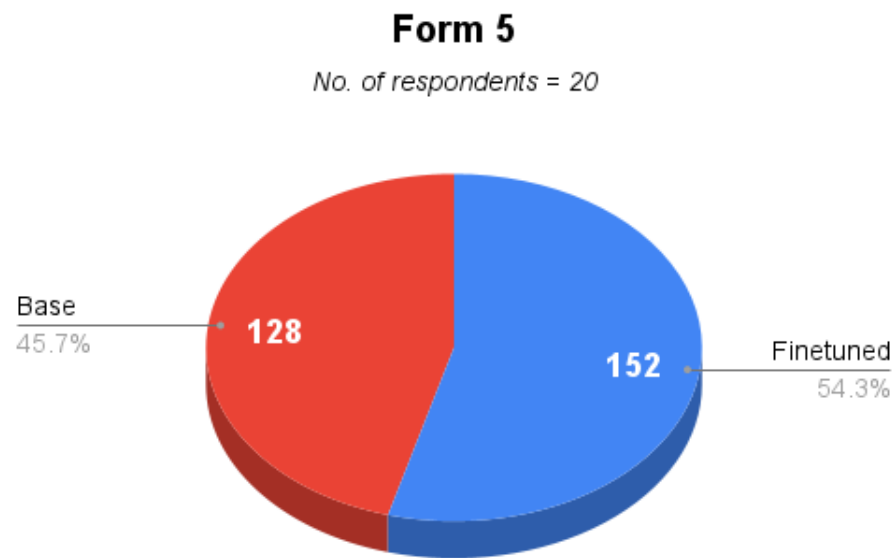


Figure 4.9: Form 5 Evaluation

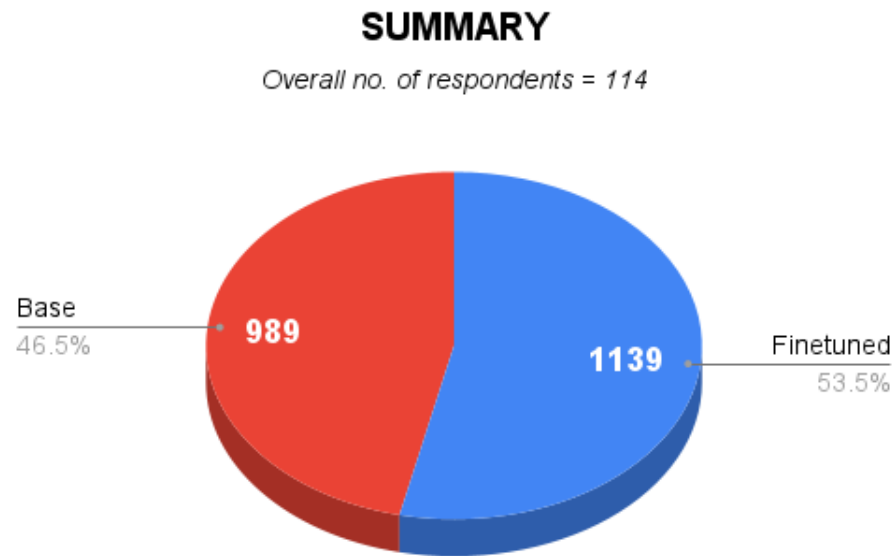


Figure 4.10: Summary Evaluation

Figure 4.10 presents the overall summary across all five forms, with a total of 114 respondents participating in the survey. In total, the fine-tuned model received 1,139 preferences or 53.5 percent, while the base model garnered 989 preferences or 46.5 percent. The resulting 7 percent margin between the two model indicates a moderate overall preference among Gen Z students at UPV for the fine-tuned model, suggesting its relatively better performance in meeting the participants' expectations for translation quality.

4.3 Summary

The chapter presented the evaluation results and discussions on the performance of the fine-tuned language model for translating Gen Z internet slang into their formal translations. The dataset used for training consisted of 1,703 sentence pairs, combining original and publicly available data. The model was trained for seven epochs, with early stopping employed to prevent overfitting, which was evident from the divergence between training and validation losses.

Evaluation was conducted using both automatic and manual methods. The automatic evaluation, using BLEU and ROUGE-L metrics, showed marginal improvements in the fine-tuned model compared to the base model, suggesting slightly better alignment with reference translations.

To complement the results of automatic evaluation metrics, a manual evaluation was carried out through online surveys among Generation Z students at UPV. Participants compared translations from both models across five forms. Results showed a moderate overall preference for the fine-tuned model, with 53.5% of re-

481 sponses in its favor. While one form showed a slight preference for the base model,
482 the fine-tuned model was generally preferred in the remaining forms, especially in
483 Form 3 where it showed the largest margin.

484 In summary, the findings indicate that the fine-tuned model slightly outperformed
485 the base model in terms of automatic metrics and showed a modest but consistent
486 preference among target users, supporting its effectiveness in translating Gen Z
487 slang into more formal language.

488 Chapter 5

489 Conclusion

490 In this study, we constructed dataset, containing 1,703 pairs of Gen Z internet
491 slang sentences and their corresponding formal translations. We fine-tuned a
492 zephyr-7B-Beta model and evaluated its performance against the base model.
493 Model training was stopped early to prevent overfitting, and the best model was
494 selected based on validation performance. Both automatic and manual evaluation
495 methods were employed to assess translation quality. Automatic metrics, using
496 BLEU and ROUGE-L, showed that the fine-tuned model slightly outperformed
497 the base model. Manual evaluation, conducted via online surveys with Generation
498 Z students at UPV, indicated a moderate overall preference for the fine-tuned
499 model, which received 53.5% of the total votes. These results suggest that while
500 the improvement in performance was not drastic, the fine-tuned model better
501 aligned with the expectations and preferences of the target demographic.

5.1 Limitations

Language is dynamic and constantly evolving, making it difficult to establish clear boundaries on when slang terms emerge or fade within a generation. Additionally, the dataset created for this study was relatively small, and the number of evaluators involved was limited. In addition, as stated in Section 3.1.3, the computational constraints posed a challenge—loading a model with 7 billion parameters requires approximately 66 GB of memory, while Google Colab provided 16GB of VRAM which is insufficient for high-capacity models.

5.2 Recommendations

Future researchers are encouraged to expand the vocabulary of slang terms used on the Internet and explore more recent trends, taking into account the dynamic nature of language. It is also recommended that future studies utilize a larger and more diverse dataset to improve the robustness of the findings.

Chapter 6

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