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

3	A Special Problem
1	Presented to
5	the Faculty of the Division of Physical Sciences and Mathematics
õ	College of Arts and Sciences
7	University of the Philippines Visayas
3	Miag-ao, Iloilo
)	In Partial Fulfillment
)	of the Requirements for the Degree of
ı	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science by
2	FLAUTA, Neil Bryan
3	GIMENO, Ashley Joy
1	GIMENO, Carl Jorenz
5	Francis DIMZON, Ph.D.
õ	Adviser
7	May 26 2025

18	•	Approval Sheet				
19	The Division of Physical Sc	iences and Mathem	atics, College of Arts and			
20	Sciences, University of the Philippines Visayas					
21	certifies that this is the appr	roved version of the	following special problem:			
22 23	LOST IN TRANSLATION Z INTERNET SLAN					
24	Approved by:					
	Name	Signature	Date			
	Francis D. Dimzon, Ph.D.					
25	(Adviser)					
25	Ara Abigail E. Ambita					
	(Panel Member)					
	Kent Christian A. Castor					
	(Division Chair)					

27	College of Arts and Sciences						
28	University of the Philippines Visayas						
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.						
	Name Signature Date						
34	Flauta, Neil Bryan (Student) Gimeno, Ashley Joy (Student) Gimeno, Carl Jorenz (Student)						

Division of Physical Sciences and Mathematics

Dedication

- This study is dedicated to our loved ones, especially our loving parents, for their unwavering support throughout our academic journey and our continual source of inspiration and strength when we were on the verge of giving up.
- To our dear friends, we are grateful for your warm presence, valuable insights, and constant encouragement, which helped us complete this study.
- Finally, to our future selves, may this hard work serve as a testament to the obstacles you have overcome. Let this milestone remind you to keep learning and face the future with courage, even if the path is uncertain.

Acknowledgment

- We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Francis D. Dimzon for his patient
- guidance throughout this study. His thoughtful mentorship in the field of machine
- learning contributed to the foundation and direction of this study.

48 Abstract

Internet slang is an informal variation of language that is prominent to the younger generation. Its widespread use has contributed to the generational divide between younger and older generations. This study aimed to develop a translation tool leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs) to bridge this divide. 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. The BLEU and ROUGE-L scores of 0.8151 and 0.8396 respectively, indicates a high degree of similarity between the generated text and the reference, suggesting that the model produces translations that closely match the formal equivalents of the Gen Z slang sentences. Furthermore, manual evaluation results showed that 53.5% of the respondents preferred the translations produced by the fine-tuned model, supporting the results of the automatic metrics. The results suggest that fine-tuning LLMs can significantly improve their ability to translate internet slang into formal English.

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

66 Contents

67	1	Intr	roduction	1
68		1.1	Overview	1
69		1.2	Problem Statement	4
70		1.3	Research Objectives	4
71			1.3.1 General Objectives	4
72			1.3.2 Specific Objectives	5
73		1.4	Scope and Limitations of the Research	5
74		1.5	Significance of the Research	6
75	2	Rev	view of Related Literature	9
76		2.1	Communication Gap between Generations	9
77		2.2	Generative AI	10

78		2.3	Existing Studies	10
79		2.4	LoRA for Fine Tuning	13
80		2.5	Data Augmentation through Synthetic Data Generation	13
81		2.6	Evaluation Metrics	14
82		2.7	Chapter Summary	15
83	3	Res	earch Methodology	19
84		3.1	Research Activities	19
85			3.1.1 Data Gathering	20
86			3.1.2 Data Preprocessing	20
87			3.1.3 Model Fine-Tuning	21
88			3.1.4 Model Evaluation	22
89	4	Res	ults and Discussions	25
90		4.1	Dataset	25
91		4.2	Model Evaluation	26
92			4.2.1 Model Training	26
93			4.2.2 Text Generation	28
94			4.2.3 Automatic Evaluation Metrics	28

	CC	ONTI	ENTS	ix
95			4.2.4 Manual Evaluation Metrics	29
96		4.3	Summary	35
97	5	Con	nclusion	37
98		5.1	Limitations	38
99		5.2	Recommendations	38
100	6	Ref	erences	39

 \mathbf{x} CONTENTS

$_{\tiny 101}$ List of Figures

102	3.1	Summarized Methodology	19
103	4.1	Training loss curve of the fine-tuned model across training steps .	26
104	4.2	Evaluation loss curve of the fine-tuned model across training steps	27
105	4.3	Evaluated using BLEU metric	27
106	4.4	Evaluated using ROUGE-L metric	28
107	4.5	Form 1 Evaluation	30
108	4.6	Form 2 Evaluation	31
109	4.7	Form 3 Evaluation	31
110	4.8	Form 4 Evaluation	32
111	4.9	Form 5 Evaluation	33
112	4.10	Form 6 Evaluation	34
113	4.11	Summary Evaluation	34

List of Tables

2.1 Summary of Existing Studies		1
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Chapter 1

11 Introduction

1.1 Overview

Language is how humans communicate and express themselves (Crystal & Robins, 2024). It evolves, adapting to the changing needs of users (Jeresano & Carretero, 2022). New words are borrowed or invented (Mantiri, 2010), and most linguistic changes are initiated by young adults and adolescents (Thump, 2016 as cited in (Jeresano & Carretero, 2022)). The younger generation demographic tends to focus on belonging to self-organized groups of peers and friends, forming what can be described as the "we" generation. Through their interactions, language changes differently, making them remarkably distinct from previous generations.

Slang is a great example of the dynamic nature of language. Slang is an informal language used by people in the same social group (Fernández-Toro, 2016). It serves multiple social purposes: identifying group members, communicating in-

formally, and opposing established authority (McArthur, 2003). Slang is highly contextual and pervasive, even in non-standard English. Its figurative nature and how it twists the definitions of the words used make it difficult for outsiders to understand.

In recent years, the Internet has become a significant medium for the evolution and spread of language, giving rise to 'Internet slang' (J. Liu, Zhang, & Li, 2023).

Internet slang is a collection of everyday language forms used by various online groups (Barseghyan, 2014). Ujang et al. (2018, as cited in (binti Sabri, bin Hamdan, Nadarajan, & Shing, 2020)) state that internet slang is not easily understood by people outside the social group or people who are not fluent in the language where the slang is used. This phenomenon is particularly prominent among the younger generation (Maulidiya, Wijaya, Mauren, Adha, & Pandin, 2021), where they use it to communicate and interact with friends.

Generation Z, individuals born between 1996 and 2009, are regarded as "digital natives" because technology is an integral part of their upbringing (Dua et al., 2024). Even the language of this generation is greatly affected by technology, where newly coined terms and phrases, called Gen Z slang, are tied to the media culture they've grown up with (Jeresano & Carretero, 2022). However, this evolution of language often creates communication barriers with older generations (Venter, 2017 as cited in (Ghazali & Abdullah, 2021)). Furthermore, studies show that even within Generation Z, people with limited exposure to social media may struggle to understand the prevalent slang (Vacalares, Salas, Babac, Cagalawan, & Calimpong, 2023).

These gaps highlight the need for a tool that can bridge the generational divide,

1.1. OVERVIEW 3

making it easier for individuals to understand the language of Generation Z. Multiple studies have tried translating slang into a formal language using machine learning. Khazeni et al. achieved a 81.91% accuracy in translating Persian slang to formal Persian language using deep learning. Another study by Nocon et al. created a translator to translate Filipino colloquialisms into the Filipino language using Tensorflow's sequence-to-sequence model and Moses' phrase-based statistical machine translation. Furthermore, Ibrahim and Sharief developed a slang translator using models from Hugging Face.

- Building on these studies, this study created a translation tool specifically to translate Gen Z slang. The tool will utilize Low Rank Adaptation (LoRA) to a selected Large Language Model (LLM). The results will be evaluated using the Recall-Oriented Understudy for Gisting Evaluation (ROUGE).
- By fostering mutual understanding, this tool aims to promote more effective and harmonious interactions across age groups, ultimately enhancing relationships and reducing miscommunication.
- The main contributions of this study are as follows:
- Enhance linguistic understanding between generations by using fine-tuning
 a LLM to translate Gen Z slang to formal language, leveraging the strengths
 of advanced NLP techniques
- Bridge communication gaps between generations using the proposed model to foster better relationships
- Create a scalable framework that can be adapted to translate slang in other languages

77 1.2 Problem Statement

Internet slang fosters informal, relatable communication within the younger generation (Ghazali & Abdullah, 2021), 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 (Vacalares et al., 2023). 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.

33 1.3 Research Objectives

94 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.

97 1.3.2 Specific Objectives

- 198 Specifically, the study aims to:
- 1. create a dataset of sentences containing Generation Z slang used in differing contexts and its formal translation,
- 201 2. create a LoRA implementation for fine-tuning an existing model,
- 3. fine-tune an existing LLM to translate sentences containing Generation Z slang into formal sentences, and
- 4. evaluate the performance of the trained model and compare it to the baseline model using several performance metrics.

56 1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Research

This study focused on the use of internet slang by Filipino Generation Z, with an emphasis on the English language, as it is widely used across various digital platforms, including social media. English has become a dominant medium of communication in the Philippines' digital landscape, particularly among younger demographics. According to a study by (Olobia, 2024), social media platforms serve as powerful tools for communicating in English as a second language, significantly influencing students' language use. The prevalence of English in social media facilitates learning opportunities and cross-cultural communication, highlighting its integral role in the digital communication practices of Filipino youth.

Furthermore, the extensive use of English on social media platforms reflects its

status as a marker of education and social standing in the Philippines. As noted by Mateo (2018) cited by (Esquivel, 2019), the widespread use of English in social media underscores its significance in Filipino society, where proficiency in English is often associated with educational attainment and social mobility.

These findings underscore the importance of focusing on English in studies of internet slang among Filipino Generation Z, as it remains a prevalent and influential language in their digital interactions.

224 1.5 Significance of the Research

This study contributes to the growing body of research on the evolving linguistic landscape shaped by the use of Internet slang, highlighting the communication practices of Generation Z. As digital platforms become increasingly central to daily interactions, Generation Z continues to develop and adopt informal linguistic expressions that reflect their identity, creativity, and cultural environment. While this form of communication enhances peer connectivity, it can also create barriers for individuals outside this demographic, particularly older generations.

The findings of this study offer practical benefits for various stakeholders. For educators, the insights can support the development of more inclusive and responsive
classroom communication strategies, enabling them to better understand and engage with their students' language use and cultural context. For parents, the study
provides a framework for interpreting the language their children use online and
in casual conversations, helping in bridging communication gaps and improving
parent-child relationships. For media practitioners and digital marketers, under-

- standing the patterns and meanings behind Gen Z slang can inform the creation of more relatable and culturally relevant content, enhancing audience engagement.
- 241 By addressing the communicative divide brought about by generational language
- differences, this research encourages a more informed approach to language vari-
- 243 ation in contemporary digital spaces. Ultimately, the study underscores the im-
- 244 portance of adapting to linguistic change in order to foster clearer, more effective
- 245 intergenerational communication.

Chapter 2

style with their peers.

Review of Related Literature

2.1 Communication Gap between Generations

- Language is dynamic in nature and thus, constantly evolving over time. One example of this behavior is the development of internet slang. Internet slang is a
 result of language variation and is often regarded as informal (S. Liu, Gui, Zuo,
 & Dai, 2019). In the study, *The Use of Online Slang for Independent Learning in*English Vocabulary (Ambarsari, Amrullah, & Nawawi, 2020), students used internet slang to express their feelings and emotions, and to align their communication
- However, this development has its challenges. It is suggested that younger generation should use slang to communicate with each other instead of older generations because it might cause confusion between them (Jeresano & Carretero, 2022).
- This miscommunication is prominent between generations with differences in lin-

guistic familiarity as Suslak (Suslak, 2009) argues that age influences language use, noting that language evolves across generations. Supporting this, a study by Teng and Joo (Teng & Joo, 2023) found that the older a person is, the less likely they are to understand internet language.

Studies have shown that using internet slang improves relationships between those
who use it. However, using internet slang for inter-generational communication
can be a hindrance to proper and effective communication (Gonzaga, 2025).

2.2 Generative AI

Generative AI encompasses machine learning models that create new content, such as text, images, and audio, based on patterns learned from extensive data (Euchner, 2023). These models, including LLMs like those used in ChatGPT and Bing AI, use neural networks to predict the next word or phrase in a sequence, enabling them to generate human-like text (Brynjolfsson, Li, & Raymond, 2023). The ability of generative AI to understand and produce diverse content, ranging from creative writing code, makes it potentially useful for various applications, such as language translation (Fui-Hoon Nah, Zheng, Cai, Siau, & Chen, 2023).

2.3 Existing Studies

Zephyr-7b-beta has shown performance comparable to that of larger models, most notably, GPT-4 (?, ?). This is further corroborated by the study by Vergho et al. (Vergho, Godbout, Rabbany, & Pelrine, 2024), which compared multiple

open-source LLMs with GPT-3.5 and GPT-4.0 models at that time. They found that zephyr-7b-beta is a viable open-source alternative to these models and is comparable with the latest GPT-4.0 model.

Khazeni et al. (Heydari, Albadvi, & Khazeni, 2024) used deep learning to create a model for translating Persian slang text into formal ones. The researchers explored the challenges of translating Persian slang into English within the context of film subtitling, specifically focusing on the performance of three neural machine translation (NMT) systems, namely Google Translate, Targoman, and Farazin. The primary interest of the paper lies in the understanding of how these NMT systems handle the complexities of slang translation. It was revealed that the NMT systems often struggle to capture the nuances of slang, leading to unnatural and inaccurate translations. Targoman performed best in naturalness, but it fell short of human translation quality. This implies the need for specialized algorithms or training data suitable for slang, and potentially human post-editing, to achieve accurate and culturally appropriate translations in this domain.

The study by Nocon et al. (Nocon, Kho, & Arroyo, 2018) explored translating
Filipino colloquialisms, such as Conyo and Datkilab, into standardized Filipino,
addressing comprehension barriers for non-familiar speakers. Two machine translation (MT) approaches were evaluated: Tensorflow's Sequence-to-Sequence model
using Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and Moses' Phrase-based Statistical
MT. Moses outperformed Tensorflow on test data due to its handling of phrase
combinations and unfamiliar words, while Tensorflow excelled on training data,
indicating potential with refinement and more training data. The research underscores the need for robust datasets and highlights the strengths of phrase-based
statistical MT in tackling slang translation challenges.

Ibrahim and Mustafa (Ibrahim & Sharief, 2023) developed a system to translate slang into formal language, addressing challenges posed by slang's informality and variability. 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.

While general-purpose instruction tuning is now well-documented, less attention has been paid to fine-tuning LLMs for tasks involving informal or non-standard language such as slang. However, studies are emerging that suggest promising outcomes. For example, the SlangDIT benchmark (?, ?) developed a testbed 318 specifically for slang understanding and translation, and preliminary findings indicate that even relatively small models fine-tuned on slang-rich datasets can rival zero-shot GPT-4 performance. This supports the notion that domain adaptation—particularly to informal linguistic domains—benefits substantially from task-specific training, even if the examples are synthetic. A study of Sun et al. (?, ?) also showed that even a small dataset of slang sentences helped GPT 3.5 324 perform better than zero-shot GPT-4.0 at slang detection. While it is a classi-325 fication task, this suggests a promising approach to improve the performance of LLMs in slang translation tasks.

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 (Hu et al., 2021). 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. (Zhao et al., 2024), 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. (Nguyen, Wilson, & Dalins, 2023) 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 Data Augmentation through Synthetic Data Generation

Datasets specifically of slang sentences are hard to come by especially ones dedicated to a certain group. This is where synthetic data generation comes into play. Modern LLMs fine-tuning leverages synthetic data generation in many ways. A good example of which is the model we are using, zephyr-7b-beta. This model is fine-tuned from Mistral 7B and was trained on ultrachat dataset (?, ?), which is a synthetic dataset from data obtained from the Internet (?, ?). In addition, the model showed performance comparable to larger open-source models in language tasks.

Synthetic data on its own is not enough to create a model that can perform well in slang translation tasks. A study by Liang et al. (?, ?) showed that even a small dataset of slang sentences can help improve the performance of LLMs in slang translation tasks. This suggests that domain adaptation, particularly to informal linguistic domains, benefits substantially from task-specific training, even if the examples are synthetic. Nadas et al. (?, ?) also showed that synthetic data generation can be used to create a synthetic dataset. The measures they used made sure that the dataset is almost as good as a dataset of real slang sentences, especially when augmenting a small dataset. This is particularly useful for slang translation tasks, where datasets are often limited and hard to come by.

2.6 Evaluation Metrics

Automatic evaluation metrics are essential for assessing the performance of machine translation systems, especially in the context of slang translation. These
metrics provide a quantitative measure of translation quality, allowing for efficient
comparison between different models and approaches. Commonly used metrics
include BLEU (Bilingual Evaluation Understudy) and ROUGE (Recall-Oriented
Understudy for Gisting Evaluation). BLEU measures the overlap between the
machine-generated translation and one or more reference translations, focusing
on n-gram precision (Papineni, Roukos, Ward, & Zhu, 2001). ROUGE, on the

other hand, evaluates the quality of summaries by comparing them to reference summaries, emphasizing recall and precision (Lin, 2004). For slang translation, these metrics can be particularly useful in assessing how well a model captures the nuances and informal expressions characteristic of slang. However, it is important to note that while these metrics provide valuable insights, they may not fully capture the semantic richness and cultural context inherent in slang expressions (?, ?). Therefore, human evaluation is often recommended to complement automatic metrics, ensuring a more comprehensive assessment of translation quality. As such, a pairwise comparison of the generated translations against a reference translation is often used to evaluate the performance of LLMs, as it is done with other studies (Zhao et al., 2024)(?, ?). This method allows for a more nuanced understanding of how well a model captures the informal expressions and cultural context inherent in slang, providing a more comprehensive assessment of translation quality.

$_{ iny 85}$ ${f 2.7}$ 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. (Heydari et al., 2024) used deep learning to translate Persian slang, while Nocon et al. (Nocon et

al., 2018) created a Filipino slang translator using statistical models. Moreover,
Ibrahim and Mustafa (Ibrahim & Sharief, 2023) 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. (Zhao et al., 2024) and Nguyen et al.
(Nguyen et al., 2023) 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. However, datasets specifically for slang translation are often
limited, making synthetic data generation a valuable tool.

Table 2.1: Summary of Existing Studies

Author	Focus	Gaps	Problem
Tuttion	10005	Сарз	Solved
Nocon et al.	Developing	Tensorflow	Demonstrated
Nocon et al.	machine	models had	the feasibility
	translators	issues with	of machine
		unknown	translation
	for Filipino		
	colloqui-	tokens and	for Filipino
	alisms using	repetitions,	colloqui-
	sequence-	and limited	alisms, with
	to-sequence	ability to	Moses as a vi-
	models and	generalize to	able solution.
	statistical	unseen data.	
	machine		
	translation		
	(Moses).		D
Ibrahim et.al	Developing	The study	Demonstrated
	an intelligent	noted that	an effective
	system to	more power-	model for
	transform	ful processors	translating
	English slang	could improve	English slang
	words into	the training	to formal
	formal words.	and testing,	English and
		and that pre-	highlighted
		vious datasets	the impor-
		were outdated	tance of
		and needed	fine-tuning
		updating.	pre-trained
			models.
Khazeni et al.	Persian slang	The BERT	Created a
	text conver-	models used	tool to con-
	sion to formal	did not align	vert Persian
	and deep	well with the	slang to for-
	learning of	informal data	mal text and
	Persian short	used in the	improved
	texts on social	sentiment	sentiment
	media	analysis.	analysis of
		-	short texts
			using deep
			learning.
	I	l	

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

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

3.1 Research Activities

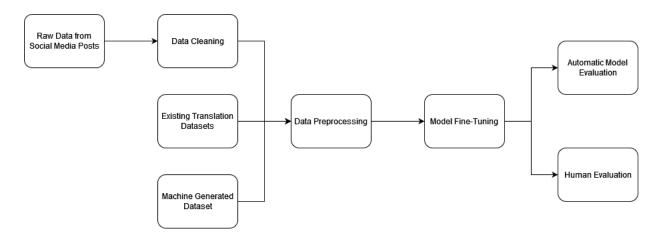


Figure 3.1: Summarized Methodology

$_{ ext{\tiny 409}}$ 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-40 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

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

437 3.1.3 Model Fine-Tuning

The model used in this study was zephyr-7b-beta because it is open-source and was proven to perform better than other models of the same size. In addition, it can be trained in a GPU with 16GB of VRAM, necessary as we are using the free plan of Google Colab as the platform of choice for prototype fine-tuning of the model. However, during the training process with the full dataset, the Pro+ plan of Google Colab was used for faster training time and background execution of the training process, allowing the training to continue uninterrupted regardless of the network connection. This study used the example codes provided by HuggingFace in the documentation of their various libraries and sample notebook provided in the zephyr-7b-beta repository.

The model was loaded using the Transformers library and was quantized into 4 bits through BitsandBytes library to fit the entire model in the allocated resources while having enough headroom for training. In addition, the Unsloth library was used to speed up the training time and reduce the resources used even more (Daniel Han & team, 2023). A LoRA adapter was then attached to the model to further reduce the parameters to be trained.

To evaluate the model training process and ensure that the model is not overfitting, BLEU and ROUGE will be used. These metrics use n-grams, making them superior to standard recall and precision metrics as they take into account the positioning of the words. These two metrics were implemented using the Evaluate library by HuggingFace, making it easier to integrate with the rest of the model training process. These metrics was calculated at every epoch of the training process and is used for an early stopping callback to immediately stop the model training if the model seems to be overfitting.

The model was then trained using SFTTrainer class from the Transformer Reinforcement Learning (TRL) library of HuggingFace to simplify the training process (?, ?). The model was trained with the following parameters: optimizer is paged 465 4bit AdamW, batch size of 8, learning rate of 2e-5, and maximum number of 466 epochs of 50. These parameters were chosen based on the GPU provided in Co-467 lab, the test notebook by HuggingFace and the default parameters of SFTTrainer.

$_{468}$ 3.1.4 Model Evaluation

The model was evaluated using both automatic and manual evaluation metrics.

Identical answers and answers with minimal difference, such as punctuation, between the fine-tuned and the base model were removed in the test set to ensure that the model is evaluated properly. After filtering, a total of 143 sentences were used to evaluate the model. The model was then prompted to generate a formal sentence for 170 sentences in the test dataset. The generated sentences were then compared to the formal translation of the sentence using BLEU and ROUGE metrics. The base zephyr-7b-beta model was also prompted to generate

23

ate sentences for the BLEU and ROUGE metric and the pairwise comparison for human evaluation.

An online survey was conducted using Google Forms to compare the outputs of the
fine-tuned model and the base model in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the
fine-tuning process. Participants were presented with sentence pairs generated
by both models and were asked to choose the more accurate translation of a
given Generation Z slang sentence based on accuracy, naturalness, and contextual
appropriateness. To minimize potential ordering bias, the sequence in which the
outputs from the two models were displayed was randomized for each pair. The
researchers implemented a Split Questionnaire Design (SQD) by dividing the full
survey into multiple sets to improve response rates and reduce respondent fatigue.
A total of 143 questions was unevenly distributed into six forms. In addition, the
number of responses per form varied which leads to an unbalanced results with
some items being evaluated more than others.

To address these challenges, aggregated weighted average was utilized. In weighted average, the results of each form was weighted so that responses are represented proportionately (?, ?). Specifically, the responses to each item were first summarized using their average scores. These scores were then weighted by the number of respondents per item to account for variations in form size and respondent count. This weighting approach allowed us to combine results from the six forms in a way that gave appropriate emphasis to the sample size behind each item's score, providing a fair and interpretable basis for comparison across all 143 questions.

This method offered a simple yet effective way to integrate responses from an SQD structure without requiring overlap or complex modeling assumptions. It also

 $_{501}$ ensured that items answered by more respondents contributed more substantially

 $_{\rm 502}~$ to the overall evaluation while avoiding bias from unequal form lengths.

503 Chapter 4

Results and Discussions

505 4.1 Dataset

We built a dataset containing a total of 1155 Gen Z internet slang sentences and
their corresponding formal translations. The created dataset was then combined
with another dataset from Hugging Face that contains 548 Gen Z internet slang
and their corresponding formal translation for a total of 1703 sentence pairs.
The dataset was then split into training, validation, and test sets with a ratio of
81:9:10. The training set contains 1380 sentence pairs, the validation set contains
153 sentence pairs, and the test set contains 170 sentence pairs. The dataset was
then tokenized using the tokenizer of the base model, zephyr-7b-beta, to prepare
it for training. The tokenized dataset was then saved in a JSON format to be
used for training the model.

6 4.2 Model Evaluation

$_{\scriptscriptstyle 17}$ 4.2.1 Model Training

The model was trained for 7 epochs before the early stopping callback was triggered 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.

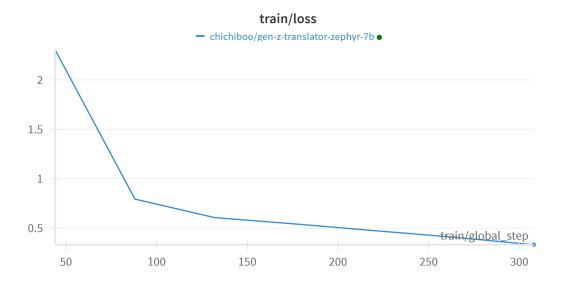


Figure 4.1: Training loss curve of the fine-tuned model across training steps

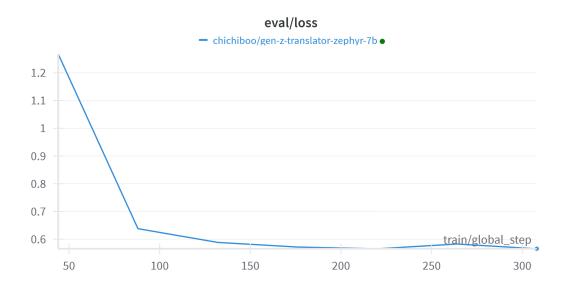


Figure 4.2: Evaluation loss curve of the fine-tuned model across training steps

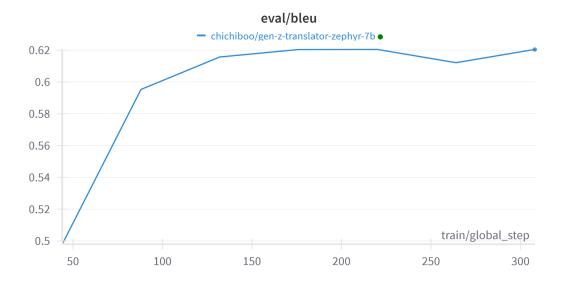


Figure 4.3: Evaluated using BLEU metric

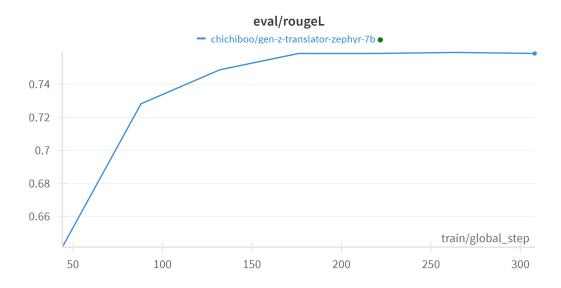


Figure 4.4: Evaluated using ROUGE-L metric

7 4.2.2 Text Generation

A total of 170 sentences were translated using both the base zephyr-7b-beta model and the finetuned model. The translations are then filtered to remove duplicate answers between models or has minor differences such as punctuation or filler words that does not contribute to the meaning of the sentence. A total of 143 sentences then 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-L 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 fine-tuned model obtained a BLEU score of 0.8151 and ROUGE-L Score of 0.8396. While the difference between the models is minimal, this does not completely represent the performance of the models as these metrics are only used to determine if the generated text is close to the reference text, regardless of the context and the overall quality of the generated text. However, it does show that the fine-tuned model has little improvement over the base model.

⁵⁴⁶ 4.2.4 Manual Evaluation Metrics

A manual evaluation was conducted by the researchers through a survey administered via Google Forms to determine which of the two models is preferred by
Generation Z students at University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV). The survey comprised a total of 144 questions, which were distributed across five separate forms. The first form contained 20 questions, the second 19, the third 20,
the fourth 20, the fifth 14, and the sixth 50 amounting to 143 questions
in total. Each question presented two translation options: one generated by the
fine-tuned model and the other by the base model. Respondents were asked to
select the translation they preferred in each case. A total of 114 individuals participated in the survey, with 29, 22, 22, 21, and 20 respondents
completing Forms 1 through 5, respectively.

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

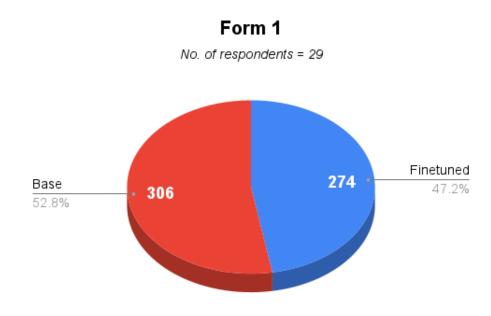


Figure 4.5: Form 1 Evaluation

Figure 4.5 shows that among the 29 respondents, 306 responses or 52.8 percent preferred the base model, while 274 responses or 47.2 percent favored the fine-tuned model. This indicates a slight preference for the base model in this particular form. Notably, this result deviates from the overall trend observed in the other four forms, where the fine-tuned model tends to be favored. Form 1 is the only instance in which the base model outperformed the fine-tuned model, suggesting that specific characteristics of this form may have influenced the preferences of the respondents.

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

Form 2
No. of respondents = 22

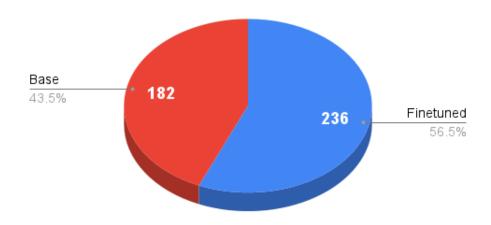


Figure 4.6: Form 2 Evaluation

Form 3

No. of respondents = 22

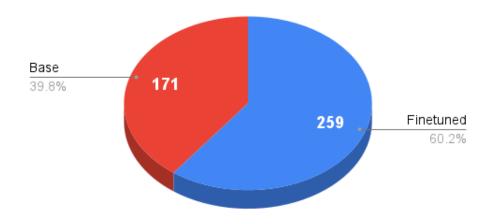


Figure 4.7: Form 3 Evaluation

Figure 4.7 illustrates that among the 22 respondents, the fine-tuned model received a significantly higher preference, with 259 responses or 60.2 percent, compared to the base model with 171 responses or 29.8 percent. This 20.4 percent margin represents the widest gap among all forms. This strongly indicates the superior performance of the fine-tuned model on translating, presented in Form 3.

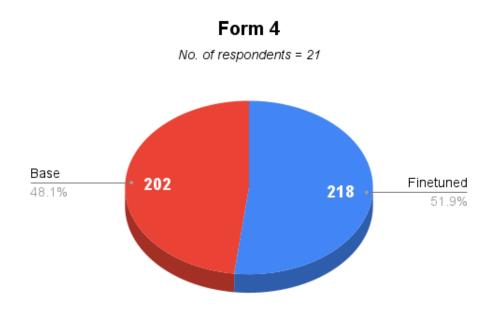


Figure 4.8: Form 4 Evaluation

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

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

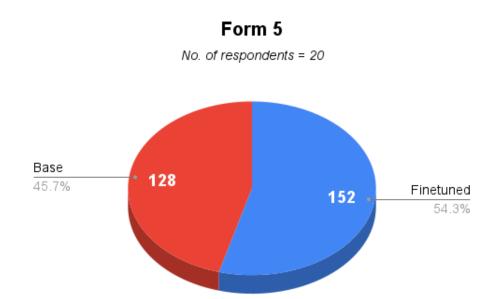


Figure 4.9: Form 5 Evaluation

the fine-tuned model across all forms.

Figure 4.10 indicates the results of the sixth form. 21 respondents in Form 6 showed a slight preference for the base model, garnering 52.5%, over the fine-tuned model, with 47.5%. Along with Form 1, this result contrasts with the overall trend observed across all gathered data.

Figure 4.11 presents the overall summary across all five forms, with a total of 135 responsees garnered in the survey. In total, the fine-tuned model received 53.5%, while the base model garnered 989 preferences or 46.5%. The resulting 7% 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.

Form 6
No. of respondents = 21

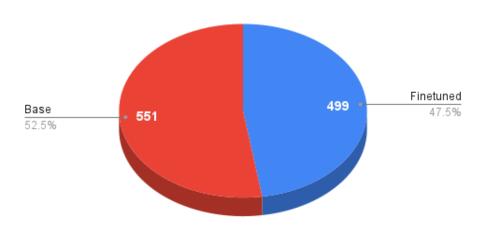


Figure 4.10: Form 6 Evaluation

Form 1 to 6 Summary

No. of respondents = 135

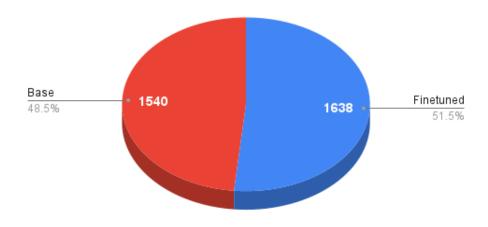


Figure 4.11: Summary Evaluation

4.3. SUMMARY 35

599 **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 support 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 six forms. Results showed
a moderate overall preference for the fine-tuned model, with 53.5% of responses
in its favor. While one form showed a slight preference for the base model, the
fine-tuned model was generally preferred, especially in Form 3 where it showed
the largest margin.

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

$_{11}$ Chapter 5

622 Conclusion

In this study, we constructed a dataset, containing 1,703 pairs of Gen Z internet slang sentences and their corresponding formal translations. We fine-tuned a zephyr-7B-Beta model and evaluated its performance against the base model. Model training was stopped early to prevent overfitting, and the best model was selected based on validation performance. Both automatic and manual evaluation methods were employed to assess translation quality. Automatic metrics, using BLEU and ROUGE-L, showed that the fine-tuned model slightly outperformed the base model with scores of 0.8151 and 0.8396. Manual evaluation, conducted via online surveys with Generation Z students at UPV, indicated a moderate overall preference for the fine-tuned model, which received 53.5% of the total responses. These results suggest that while the improvement in performance was not drastic, the fine-tuned model better aligned with the expectations and preferences of the target demographic.

$_{\scriptscriptstyle 636}$ 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.

$_{49}$ Chapter 6

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