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Analysis of Cultural Biases in Language Models

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Introduction

Large Language Model (LLM)-based systems are increasingly used across various fields recently, from medical to industrial and personal to professional applications. Although LLMs enhance efficiency, they are susceptible to biases and vulnerabilities that must be addressed to ensure fair and equitable AI usage [3,7,13]. Cultural bias in LLMs can lead to the reinforcement of stereotypes or the exclusion of minority viewpoints, resulting in unfair outcomes for marginalized groups. Cultural bias refers to the tendency of systems or individuals to favor certain cultural norms or perspectives over others, often leading to unfair treatment or misrepresentation. This bias can manifest in gender disparities, social hierarchies (such as caste), dialectical differences, racial stereotypes, and religious prejudices, affecting how individuals are perceived and treated across various domains of life.

Related Works

Recent studies on various types of cultural biases have proposed numerous methods for identifying these biases [2]. For instance, [4] built upon [6]'s work, revealing that stereotypes related to regional identities are present in datasets like Wikipedia and IndicCorp-en, as well as in language models such as MuRIL and mBERT. Additionally, [11] investigates gender biases in English-Hindi machine translation using a modified TGBI metric.

This metric assesses gender biases in translation systems, taking into account the grammatical aspects specific to Hindi. Furthermore, [5] found that content moderation on Quora inferred Bengali users' nationality and religious identities based on their linguistic behavior, favoring Indian Hindu dialects while marginalizing Bangladeshi Muslim dialects. Regarding racial biases, previous research has applied techniques such as word embedding debiasing [9] and implemented strategies to mitigate biases in hate speech detection [12]. In South Asia, caste-based biases in LLMs often reinforce stereotypes about lower-caste groups, portraying them as less educated or confined to menial roles. Finally, dialect-related biases have been a focus of recent research, with studies such as [1] introducing dialect-aware fine-tuning to improve the handling of dialectal variations, and [13] conducting both qualitative and quantitative evaluations of dialect-based biases in Bengali.

Methodology

Our research will utilize <u>Cultural Alignment Test</u> (Hoftede's CAT) [10] to quantify cultural alignment, which is using Hofstede's cultural dimension framework [8], which offers an explanatory cross-cultural comparison through the latent variable analysis. We will apply our approach to quantitatively evaluate LLMs—namely GPT-4, GPT-3.5, Claude 3.5, and Gemini 1.5-against the cultural dimensions of regions (which is called racial biases) like the U.S., France, and Iran, using different prompting styles and exploring the effects of language-specific fine-tuning on the models' behavioural tendencies and cultural values.

Thave selected GPT-4, GPT-3.5, Claude 3.5, and Gemini 1.5 as the target LLMs for this study due to several compelling reasons. To begin with, these models are freely accessible, making them suitable for academic research without incurring significant costs. They, moreover, have demonstrated exceptional performance across various natural language processing tasks, including those involving nuanced cultural contexts.

I also selected the U.S., France, and Iran for this study because their cultural differences allow us to better observe how LLMs respond to diverse contexts. These countries vary significantly in language, values, and social norms, offering a broad spectrum for evaluating cultural biases. In contrast, selecting similar countries, like the U.S. and Canada, might yield

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13 October 🕴 Preparing questionnaires for different countries Developing Code to apply 18 October questionnaires on differnt LLMs using their API Analyzing the results and 01 November compareing them with each other 15 November Preparing for the Final Exam (No work) 22 November Preparing the poster and writing the final report Present the work 29 November

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similar results, limiting our ability to fully explore the LLMs' adaptability. This diverse selection ensures more meaningful comparisons.

Timeline

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