Some Useful Notes on Encoding and Decoding:

1. Humans use text. Computers speak bytes

2. What is Unicode?

Unicode provides a unique number for every character,

no matter what the platform,   
no matter what the program,   
no matter what the language

3. What is the purpose of Unicode?   
There are so many symbols in this world from so many languages that are spoken.   
We need the unicode values for efficiently transmitting and storing these letters, numbers and symbols.   
Unicodes have a unique number for all the character sets of all known major languages in this world.   
Unicodes help in transfer of these different, non-English characters to be effectively used in the program

4. These Unicodes are fine. But Computers send information in bytes.

Hence we need to convert unicodes to bytes - this is called encoding. Converting bytes to unicodes is called decoding

5. **Conclusion**: When strings contain non-ASCII characters, they can either be 8-bit strings - byte strings (or otherwise known as encoded strings),or they can be Unicode strings (which are decoded strings.

Hence you have to **encode a decoded unicode string** AND **decode an encoded byte string**

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/28583565/str-object-has-no-attribute-decode-python-3-error>

Begin with Python 3, all string is unicode object.

a = 'Happy New Year' # Python 3

b = unicode('Happy New Year') # Python 2

the code before are same. So I think you should remove the .decode('utf-8'). Because you have already get the unicode object.