

Evaluating Bilingual Embeddings in Bilingual Dictionary Alignment

Çift Dilli Kelime Temsilleri ile Sözlük Eşlenmesi

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Submitted to
Graduate School of Science and Engineering of Hacettepe University
as a Partial Fulfilment to the Requirements
for the Award of the Degree of Master of Science
in Computer Engineering

2019

Declaration of Authorship

I, Yiğit Sever, declare that this thesis titled, “Evaluating Bilingual Embeddings in Bilingual Dictionary Alignment” and the work presented in it are my own. I confirm that:

- This work was done wholly or mainly while in candidature for a research degree at this University.
- Where any part of this thesis has previously been submitted for a degree or any other qualification at this University or any other institution, this has been clearly stated.
- Where I have consulted the published work of others, this is always clearly attributed.
- Where I have quoted from the work of others, the source is always given. With the exception of such quotations, this thesis is entirely my own work.
- I have acknowledged all main sources of help.
- Where the thesis is based on work done by myself jointly with others, I have made clear exactly what was done by others and what I have contributed myself.

Signed:

Date:

Abstract

Yiğit Sever

Evaluating Bilingual Embeddings in Bilingual Dictionary Alignment

Dictionaries catalog and describe the semantic information of a lexicon. WordNet provides an edge by presenting distinct concepts with the hierarchy information among them. Research in computer science has been using this hand crafted tool in natural language applications such as text summarization and machine translation. Original WordNet has been compiled for English yet counterparts for other languages are not as readily available nor as comprehensive. In order for research on languages other than English to benefit from the power of a WordNet, machine assisted creation and evaluation methods are essential.

Word embeddings can provide a mapping between words and points in a real valued vector space. Using these vectors, representing documents as well as forming geometric relationships between them is a well studied area of research. In this thesis we start by hypothesizing that a dictionary definition captures the semantic basis of the described word. We used word embeddings as building blocks to map dictionary definitions into a multidimensional space. These spaces can be aligned to accommodate two languages, allowing the transfer of information from one language to another. We investigate the success of retrieving and matching discrete senses across languages by employing supervised and unsupervised methods. Our experiments show that dictionary alignment can be evaluated successfully by using both unsupervised and supervised methods but corpora sizes should be taken into consideration. We further argue that some methods are not viable considering their poor performance.

Acknowledgements

The acknowledgments and the people to thank go here, don't forget to include your project advisor...

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For/Dedicated to/To my...

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Dictionaries

Dictionaries are living records of a society's language usage. Languages change over time, people adopt new words for new senses while others fall out of use. Concepts appear as a result of technological advancements or social shifts, giving birth to new senses and words to define them. Meanwhile, the term *dictionary* is a broad one to define. On its own, it brings forth the monolingual dictionary into consideration [1]. This type of dictionary presents words alongside their definitions following an alphabetical order. The intention is to inform the user about the words [2]. Other types of dictionaries vary with regard to their use case, target audience, and scope. For instance, bilingual dictionaries present words alongside their translations in the target language, often used by language learners or translators. Domain specific dictionaries list technical terms that target people who are familiar with the terminology.

The term that precedes the entries is called *headword* or *lemma*. Usually, lemmas are the form of a word without inflections. The sense they convey is as comprehensive as possible, reducing the number of otherwise redundant entries that would have been the derivatives of the unmarked form [3].

Dictionaries also inform the user about how senses relate to each other. **Polysemous** words share the same spelling while having related, often derivative meanings. For example; under the entry for the term *bank*, a definition might clarify the meaning *financial institution* while another can define *the building*

of a financial institution. In contrast, **homonymous** words have distinct meanings while having identical spellings through coincidence. Formal definition of homonymy separates sound based and spelling based homonymy differently as homophones and homographs but for the purposes of our text based arguments, we do not delve into the specifics. The *bank of a river* is homonym to the given examples. Homonyms are often shown in discrete blocks of descriptions.

Synonymity is another lexical relation we are interested in. A word is synonymous to another if they share the same meaning but are not spelled alike, such as the terms *right* and *correct*. However, synonymity is seldom shown in dictionaries.

Dictionaries take an immense amount of time and expertise to prepare. We can talk about the examples after narrowing our scope down to the dictionaries that are still available today. A survey by Uzun [4] notes that the first instalment of the modern Turkish dictionary, led by a team of experts, has taken over 6 years to prepare. Kendall [5] talks about how Noah Webster, the writer of the *An American Dictionary of the English Language* had to mortgage off his home in order to finish his project which took over 26 years. The bulk of this effort is collecting documents and other written material in order to establish a *corpus* [4]. This endeavour is necessary since a corpus is crucial to create the vocabulary of a language. Once the corpus is at hand, researchers can extract the lemmas. The resulting wordstock is called the *lexicon* of the language.

The internet radically changed the way researchers aggregate data. The advancements in digital storage technology allowed the data to be persistent. Improvements in networking ensured that people can share the volume of it among themselves. With the popularization of social media, the internet generates everyday conversations at an unprecedented rate that researchers are using for natural language applications. Moreover, efforts on open, collaborative, web based encyclopedias generate structured, multilingual data often used in machine translation and text categorization tasks. Once the cumbersome task of corpus attainment is now akin to web crawling. With the digitized data, it was only natural for dictionaries to go digital as well since it's generally acknowledged that they are no longer viable if they are not electronic [1].

1.2 WordNet

George A. Miller started the WordNet project in the mid-1980s. On its early days, project members studied theories that were aimed towards enabling computers to understand natural language as intrinsically as humans do. While working on then popular semantic networks and sense graphs, they have started something that will evolve into an expansive, influential resource [6].

Traditional dictionaries are rigid, constrained by the nature of the printed form. Today, people can browse WordNet via queries, like an online dictionary or a thesaurus. Behind the scenes, a sprawling lexical database has relationship information for more than 117000 senses. Figure 1.1 shows a brief result for the query string “run”.

Noun

S: (n) **run**, tally (a score in baseball made by a runner touching all four bases safely) *"the Yankees scored 3 runs in the bottom of the 9th"; "their first tally came in the 3rd inning"*

direct hyponym / full hyponym

- S: (n) earned run (a run that was not scored as the result of an error by the other team)
- S: (n) unearned run (a run that was scored as a result of an error by the other team)
- S: (n) run batted in, rbi (a run that is the result of the batter's performance) *"he had more than 100 rbi last season"*

direct hypernym / inherited hypernym / sister term

- S: (n) score (the act of scoring in a game or sport) *"the winning score came with less than a minute left to play"*

derivationally related form

- W: (v) run [Related to: run] (make without a miss)
- W: (v) tally [Related to: tally] (keep score, as in games)
- W: (v) tally [Related to: tally] (gain points in a game) *"The home team scored many times"; "He hit a home run"; "He hit .300 in the past season"*

S: (n) test, trial, **run** (the act of testing something) *"in the experimental trials the amount of carbon was measured separately"; "he called each flip of the coin a new trial"*

S: (n) footrace, foot race, **run** (a race run on foot) *"she broke the record for the half-mile run"*

Verb

- S: (v) **run** (move fast by using one's feet, with one foot off the ground at any given time) *"Don't run--you'll be out of breath"; "The children ran to the store"*
- S: (v) scat, **run**, scarper, turn tail, lam, run away, hightail it, bunk, head for the hills, take to the woods, escape, fly the coop, break away (flee; take to one's heels; cut and run) *"If you see this man, run!"; "The burglars escaped before the police showed up"*

Figure 1.1: WordNet result for the query “run”, truncated for brevity.

WordNet lists terms, much like a traditional dictionary, alongside its polysemes but also their homonyms. Additionally, there is a horizontal association; for any sense, the lemmas that share the row with the target term are synonyms. This set of synonyms is aptly named *synsets*. A short description is also provided to clarify the meaning. These descriptions, hence the meanings for any synset is unique within the WordNet. During this discussion, we have used sense and synset interchangeably.

WordNet also includes other relationships such as *hypernymy* and *hyponymy*, semantic relation of senses being type-of one another [7].¹ For instance, the term “building” is a hyponym of “restaurant” since it encompasses a more general sense; the restaurant is type of a building. While coffee shop is a hypernym to the restaurant since it is a more specific sense. One other relation is the meronymy, defined as a sense being part of or a member of another [8]. Keeping to our building example, windows are meronym to buildings. Other relationships exist but listing them is outside the scope of this thesis. Bottom line is the effort that has gone through to map 117,000 senses according to different semantic relationships. Sagot & Fišer [9] argue that the semantic relationships between senses are not tied to a specific language. With this assumption at hand, we can infer the effort behind the WordNet does not need to be repeated but can be translated to other languages.

Since it’s inception, other projects built lexical databases, using the same WordNet design. Fellbaum [10] talks about the correct terminology that we abide for the thesis; “As WordNet became synonymous with a particular kind of lexicon design, the proper name shed its capital letters and became a common designator for semantic networks of natural languages”. Hence *WordNet* refers to English Princeton WordNet, while *wordnets* created for other languages are not stylized.

¹not to be confused with homonymy

1.3 Multilingual Wordnets

Authorities list more than 7000² living languages but only 40³ of them have a sizeable presence on the internet. Among this small fraction, English is the dominant language of the web. English is not the centrepiece for natural language processing research because of any linguistic attribute. It is simply the most abundant language on web, giving researchers data to work with.

Natural language processing library spaCy⁴ resorts to lemmatizations such as =PRON= to denote pronouns in order to collapse the senses for “I” “you”, “them” etc.. The sense and the accompanying word for being the brother of a person’s father or mother differs in Turkish while both collapse in “uncle” in English. Studying other languages can provide insight towards concepts that are not present in English.

Translation, information transfer from foreign languages is a valid way of enriching a language’s corpora; if a term that for a sense does not have a match in the target language, it is a good indication for the linguists of that language to look into their lexicons and work towards expanding it [3]. Further research in the area contributes to languages other than English having access to tools that will incorporate them into the literature.

Open Multilingual WordNet [11] set out to discover the effects related to the choice of license for wordnets. Their criteria for usefulness is the number of citations a publication tied to the wordnet has gotten on literature. They identified two major problems with the current distributions;

- some projects have picked restrictive licenses, effectively barring access to their tools for research purposes.
- the structures of the wordnets are not standardized, creating additional cost for creating programs to parse and use the wordnets.

In order to overcome the standardization issue, Bond & Paik have aligned the wordnets according to their English Princeton WordNet lemma ids and have

²<https://www.ethnologue.com/statistics>

³https://w3techs.com/technologies/history_overview/content_language/

⁴<https://spacy.io/>

written individual scripts to parse them. They are currently hosting the results from a single source.⁵

With alignment information at hand, we have created our dataset that we will assume to be perfectly aligned; a golden corpus. Among the 34 wordnets available on Open Multilingual WordNet, only 6 of them have gloss information available. Given this thesis will only investigate the ability to map senses using definitions of the sense, we used the subset of Albanian [12], Bulgarian [13], Greek [14], Italian [15], Slovenian [16] and Romanian [17] wordnets. Table 1.1 shows brief statistics about them. We should note that the languages of the wordnets used in the thesis are all present in the 40 languages that have a significant presence on the internet that we have mentioned before. We have constrained this study to use only the freely available wordnets and not considered wordnets that are gated behind restrictive licenses.

Table 1.1: Summary of the Wordnets used.

Name of the Project	Language	Number of Definitions
Albanet	Albanian	4681
BulTreeBank WordNet	Bulgarian	4959
Greek Wordnet	Greek	18136
ItalWordnet	Italian	12688
Romanian Wordnet	Romanian	58754
SloWNet	Slovenian	3144

1.4 Thesis Goals

In this thesis, we will study document matching and document retrieval methods.

We will evaluate existing methods for their performance on cross-lingual document retrieval but our documents are dictionary definitions which are short, descriptive snippets of text. At the end of this study, we will answer the following research questions;

1. Is it possible to create wordnet like lexical databases using unsupervised document matching and retrieval techniques.

⁵<http://compling.hss.ntu.edu.sg/omw/>

2. How well does the studied techniques perform.
3. What attributes need to be considered regarding the available data.

1.5 Thesis Outline

Fill later...

Chapter 2

Background Information & Related Work

James Somers puts down the modern dictionaries by saying “The definitions are these desiccated little husks of technocratic meaningese, as if a word were no more than its coordinates in semantic space.” [18]. Even though the author criticises the efficiency of the dictionary definitions, we will build the thesis on the idea that we can represent senses using their dictionary definitions.

2.1 Word Embeddings

Recent studies have been using word representations, commonly known as *word embeddings*. Word embeddings are real valued, dense feature vectors for words. They are induced in order to map a lexicon to a multidimensional latent space. This representation allows researchers access to the tools of a broad literature in linear algebra and machine learning. Since the embeddings and their respective words (labels) can be saved to the disk, researchers have been sharing their models on the internet for other researchers to simply download and use them on their own applications. Word embeddings acquired this way are often called *pre-trained*.

In this section, we will present a brief history of word embeddings. At the end of the section, we will study our selected model, *fasttext* [19].

Word embeddings is a sprawling subject that has been built upon ideas from probabilistic, statistical and neural network models. We have omitted approaches that are not used for our study and constrained ourselves only to the literature that lead up to the model we will use.

2.1.1 History of Word Representations

In order to talk about how words can be mapped to a multidimensional space, first we should talk about how the idea that they can has been theorized.

Linguistic Background

In his 1954 article, Harris [20] introduced his ideas which later came to known as *distributional hypothesis* in the field of linguistics. He argued that similar words appear within similar contexts. The famous quote by Firth [21] captures the idea as; “You shall know a word by the company it keeps!” For instance, the semantic similarity between the terms *jacket* and *coat* can be theoretically proven since they will be accompanied by similar verbs, such as *wear*, *dry clean* or *hang*, and similar adjectives such as *warm* or *leather*. However, for a researcher to extract these rules by hand would have been infeasible.

Even though Harris argued that “language is not merely a bag of words”, using unordered collection of word counts to capture the semantic information will be used in the literature and be known as the *bag-of-words* hypothesis.

Vector Space Model

The vector space models first appeared in the information retrieval field. Initial vector space model developed by Salton *et al.* [22] and presented in “A Vector Space Model for Automatic Indexing”. It was the first application of bag-of-words hypothesis on a corpus to extract semantic information [23]. Salton *et al.* presented the novel idea of a *document space*, consisting of fixed sized vectors as the columns of a term document matrix. The dimensions of the vectors were the whole vocabulary of the corpus.

In this space, a document D_i is represented using t distinct terms as a row vector;

$$D_i = (d_{i1}, d_{i2}, \dots, d_{it})$$

The weights for the index terms are calculated by using the *tf-idf* measure introduced by Jones [24]. *tf-idf* is the multiplication of two metrics;

tf the number of times a term k occurs in a document

idf the inverse of the number of documents that contain k .

Salton *et al.* presented their particular weighting scheme where the term frequency is multiplied by the following inverse document frequency for the term k .

$$IDF_k = \lceil \log_2 n \rceil - \lceil \log_2 d_k \rceil + 1$$

Where n is the number of documents in the collection and d_k is the number of documents that consists the term k . The weighting scheme was selected to “assign the largest weight to those terms which arise with high frequency in individual documents, but are at the same time relatively rare in the collection as a whole”. Finally, they have cast their similarity function between documents i and j , as the inner product between their vectors which corresponds to the cosine similarity.

The vector space model allowed Salton *et al.* to handle the similarity between documents as the angle between two vectors. More importantly, they have shown that there is merit to handling documents as real valued vectors.

Latent Semantic Analysis

Deerwester *et al.* [25] introduced latent semantic analysis in order to address a crucial problem with the vector space model. They have identified that synonyms and homonyms cannot be handled by the naive term document matrix approach due to the fact that vector space model requires the words to match exactly between the two documents. Synonymity is an issue because the query might have terms that have the same meaning as the target word. On the other hand, homonyms might match with an unrelated word. Their model seeks the higher order latent semantic structure.

A term document matrix X can be decomposed into;

$$X = T_0 S_0 D'_0$$

Each term or document is then characterized by a vector of weights indicating its strength of association with each of these underlying concepts. That is, the “meaning” of a particular term, query, or document can be expressed by k factor values, or equivalently, by the location of a vector in the k -space defined by the factors.

They have used the obtained \hat{X} in both document similarity task but more importantly to measure *word similarity*.

So that the words can be represented by much lower dimensionality. Deerwester *et al.* has reported 100 dimensions.

Lund & Burgess provided a method to obtain feature vectors to represent the meaning of words building an co-occurrence information. Their crucial contribution was to use a window to constrain the co-occurrence information to spatially close terms.

Bengio *et al.* [27] proposed the first neural network model. Neural network models will be the centrepiece in word embedding research later. They wanted to pursue the curse of dimensionality initially because the corpora were getting bigger and term document matrices were They claimed that “we use a continuous real-vector...”

The idea presented by Lund & Burgess similar words should have similar feature vectors is presented here. Lund & Burgess has shown this hypothesis with co-occurrence vectors and Bengio *et al.* used a distributed feature vector, learned by a probability distribution.

Collobert & Weston suggested a deep neural network model to solve various natural language processing tasks but relevant to our study, have proposed to explicitly learn the feature vectors at the same time.

They have also used a window that looked ahead and behind of the target word instead of previous methods which have traditionally only looked up to the word, sticking to $P(w_t|w_{t+1})$. Jointly with Collobert & Weston, P. Turian *et al.* steered

the work on word representations to the today's route. Distributed word representations. They showcased that word embeddings can indeed be used as ready made feature vectors and once trained, can be used for other applications by other researchers. Important to note that they reported training times in the order of days, even weeks.

Word2Vec by Mikolov *et al.* [30] brought together the advancements and attractiveness that were brewing in the word embedding research. First and foremost, they used an efficient loss function for their neural network architecture, the hierarchical softmax.

With training time under manageable conditions Used negative subsampling, essentially a probability for a word to be discarded by inversely proportional to how frequent it is in the dataset. Their most famous contribution is the quality of the vectors they have learned. The theory set out by ? was empirically shown by Mikolov *et al.* by demonstrating that countries and their capital cities exhibited a linear pattern on the PCA.

Also element-wise addition in section 5. They have been hosting their project open source but perhaps more importantly, they published an word2vec pre-trained model on English on the internet. Researchers and industry professionals have been using the embeddings since the semantic similarity between close words were relevant in numerous applications.

2.2 Bilingual Word Embeddings

2.3 Document Retrieval

2.4 Matching

2.5 Approaches in Wordnet Generation

WordNet generation is broken down into 4 categories

1. Expand model, Vossen [31], fixed synsets are translated from English to target language.

2. Link English entries from machine-readable bilingual dictionaries to English Princeton WordNet senses Knight & Luk [32].
3. Taxonomy parsing Farreres *et al.* [33].
4. Ontology matching Farreres *et al.* [34]

Gordeev *et al.* [35] uses unsupervised cross-lingual embeddings to match cross-lingual product classifications. Working on taxonomy matching, they use out of domain pre-trained embeddings due to small size of their corpora and investigate methods using untranslated and translated text.

Lesk [36] represent words using their gloss. Relied upon traditional dictionaries. Banerjee & Pedersen [37] developed on lesk algorithm and included WordNet definitions. Khodak *et al.* [38] used word embeddings and WordNet.

Metzler *et al.* [39] talked about short text retrieval and lexical matching. They reported that lexical matching is good for finding semantically identical matches.

Sagot & Fišer [9] built a French wordnet.

Xiao & Guo [40] another embedding paper.

Kusner *et al.* [41] is Word Mover's Distance.

Balikas *et al.* [42] suggested using optimal transport for cross-lingual document retrieval.

Arora *et al.* [43] simple but tough-to-beat baseline for sentence embeddings.

Klementiev *et al.* [44] base paper for cross lingual word embeddings?

Irvine & Callison-Burch [45] used as a guideline on best practices.

Chapter 3

Unsupervised Matching

3.1 Machine Translation

The first method we have investigated works naively by translating the target language's corpora to English using Google Cloud API. As before, we have created a baseline/golden/basis aligned corpora where English WordNet definitions are aligned to the translated target language definitions. Casting the task to monolingual retrieval, we can establish a baseline using *tf-idf* retrieval. We have chosen *tf-idf* as to ask if the task at hand can be solved by naive tools. In order to get *tf-idf* scores of the documents, first a term-document matrix is created. Documents being definitions and with an average of 10.62 words per definition, the resulting matrix is parse. In a *tf-idf* matrix, for an entry in the matrix $w_{i,j}$, we can give the formula for it as:

$$tf_{w,d}-idf_w = \sum_{w' \in d} f_{w',d} \cdot \log \frac{N}{df_w}$$

Such that term $w_{i,j}$ depicts the importance of term t with relation to its general importance throughout the corpus. Now we can define the similarity between the documents as the cosine similarity between their *tf-idf* vectors. For the row w_t and w_p , cosine similarity between definitions t, p is

$$\cos(\theta) =$$

Definitions are then separated into queries and corpora. Query definitions is then matched up against every definition in the corpora and the ten documents

that are closest in terms of cosine similarity is retrieved. Within the retrieved documents, if the document with the matched sense id is retrieved in the first result, this is taken as a hit at 1. Mean Reciprocal Rank is also calculated in order to show the success of a retrieval scenario.

Where monolingual retrieval falls short, we leveraged the power of word embeddings to capture the semantic information of the words. A famous example for the inadequacy of *tf-idf* is illustrated by [41]. For two snippets of text; *Obama speaks to the media in Illinois* and *The President greets the press in Chicago* Kusner argues that while they convey the same information, they would be near orthogonal in a bag of words setting. Yet before moving forward with WMD, we wanted to test sentence embeddings.

3.2 Linear Assignment Using Sentence Embeddings

Edilson A. Corrêa *et al.* [46] used sentence embeddings that were tailored for short text. Their work was on Twitter where the need for word embeddings to capture the essence of the text is crucial given the low amount of data packed in a Twitter document or a tweet. For our purposes, we used sentence embeddings as described in their implementation; Then, with the term-embedding matrix at hand, we have calculated sentence embeddings using;

$$S_{\text{emb}}(S) = \sum_{w_i \in S} \text{tf}_{w_i, S} \cdot \text{idf}_{w_i} \cdot \text{Emb}_w(w_i) \quad (3.1)$$

Every word that makes up a definition is scaled by its vector in \mathbb{R}^n , then concatenated to form sentence embeddings on \mathbb{R}^n .

Given the N vectors from source and target language, we hypothesize that there exists a matching where every source definition vector is perfectly mapped to one target vector. Given that this problem naively iterates over $N!$ matchings, we have looked into an algorithm.

Chapter 4

Unsupervised Retrieval

4.1 Cross Lingual Document Retrival

4.1.1 Optimal Transport

4.1.2 Sinkhorn

Chapter 5

Supervised Validation

5.1 Main Section 1

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5.1.1 Subsection 1

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pretium lorem. Pellentesque eget ornare odio. Proin accumsan, massa viverra cursus pharetra, ipsum nisi lobortis velit, a malesuada dolor lorem eu neque.

5.2 Main Section 2

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Chapter 6

Experiments and Evaluation

6.1 Main Section 1

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6.1.1 Subsection 1

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Chapter 7

Conclusion

7.1 Main Section 1

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Appendix A

Frequently Asked Questions

A.1 How do I change the colors of links?

The color of links can be changed to your liking using:

```
\hypersetup{urlcolor=red}, OR
```

```
\hypersetup{citecolor=green}, OR
```

```
\hypersetup{allcolor=blue}.
```

If you want to completely hide the links, you can use:

```
\hypersetup{allcolors=.}, or even better:
```

```
\hypersetup{hidelinks}.
```

If you want to have obvious links in the PDF but not the printed text, use:

```
\hypersetup{colorlinks=false}.
```


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