Translating Movie Subtitles by Large Language Models using Movie-meta Information

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Abstract

Large language models (LLMs) have advanced natural language processing by understanding, generating, and manipulating texts. Although recent studies have shown that prompt engineering can reduce computational effort and potentially improve translation quality, prompt designs specific to different domains remain challenging. Besides, movie subtitle translation is particularly challenging and understudied, as it involves handling colloquial language, preserving cultural nuances, and requires contextual information such as the movie's theme and storyline to ensure accurate meaning. This study aims to fill this gap by focusing on the translation of movie subtitles through the use of prompting strategies that incorporate the movie's meta-information, e.g., movie title, summary, and genre. We build a multilingual dataset which aligns the OpenSubtitles dataset with their corresponding Wikipedia articles and investigate different prompts and their effect on translation performance. Our experiments with GPT-3.5, GPT-4o, and LLaMA-3 models have shown that the presence of meta-information improves translation accuracy. These findings further emphasize the importance of designing appropriate prompts and highlight the potential of LLMs to enhance subtitle translation quality.

1 Introduction

Large language models (LLMs) trained on large unlabeled corpora have emerged as powerful tools in the field of natural language processing (NLP) (Zhao et al., 2025) under model scaling, which allows prompting for downstream applications (Chowdhery et al., 2023; Brown et al., 2020; Laskar et al., 2023). As a result, a new paradigm of pretrain, prompt, and predict has emerged (Liu et al., 2023), enabling LLMs to perform very high-quality machine translation (MT), even though they were not explicitly trained for this task (Brown et al., 2020). While studies on prompting for MT exist

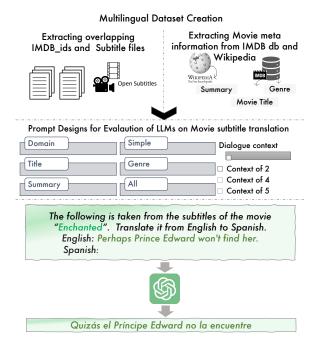


Figure 1: Quick overview of the Multilingual dataset creation process and the Prompt design for evaluating LLMs.

(Zhang et al., 2023; Puduppully et al., 2023), the application of LLMs across different MT domains (Eschbach-Dymanus et al., 2024) still presents opportunities for further exploration.

In this paper, we focus on prompting LLMs for MT, specifically targeting the translation of movie subtitles. In machine translation, translating subtitles poses particular challenges due to accuracy and context sensitivity (Karakanta et al., 2022). Movie subtitle translation requires the disambiguation of polysemous terms, e.g., "chamber", based on the context provided by the story and scenes and also the handling of colloquial phrases and slang (Gupta et al., 2019). This study aims to address these challenges by integrating the movie's meta-information, such as the title, genre, summary, and categories, into the translation prompt and evaluating how the

performance of LLMs varies.

We create a multilingual, context-enriched dataset by mapping subtitles to corresponding movie meta-information, where the title and genre are sourced from IMDb, and the summary is obtained from Wikipedia. This dataset¹ focuses on translations from English into four languages: German, Spanish, French, and Finnish. We evaluate various prompting strategies for LLMs that integrate this meta-information to improve subtitle translation, using GPT-3.5, GPT-40, and LLaMA-3 as testbeds. We aim to compare the effects of different types of movie meta-information, e.g., title, summary, and genre, on translation accuracy to understand how these elements influence the quality of translations, as shown in Figure 1.

Our findings shows that 1) while meta-information does not drastically change translation quality, including the *movie title* consistently improves performance, with GPT-40 seeing the greatest improvement. 2) LLaMA-3 struggles with complex contextual information, such as summaries. 3) Including previous dialogue lines improves the scores compared to simple prompts. 4) Combining meta-information with dialogue context yields strong results, especially for LLaMA-3, although the overall improvements remain modest. 5) Spanish (En-Es) benefited most from the additional information. These findings highlight the importance of prompt design in improving subtitle translation quality.

2 Background and Related Work

2.1 Prompt Engineering

Prompt engineering is the process of creating a suitable prompt that gets the best performance on the downstream task (Patel et al., 2023). In general, there are four major factors that guide the LLMs in performing tasks effectively: the task description, input data, contextual details, and prompt style (Zhao et al., 2025). Therefore effectiveness of prompting is highly influenced by how the prompt is presented, with even minor changes potentially leading to differences in performance. This has motivated researchers to create more advanced prompting techniques to maximize the potential of LLMs. Previous studies have found that LLMs can perform machine translation without being specifically fine-tuned (Radford et al., 2019).

2.2 Translations by LLMs

Finding the right prompt recipe to enhance MT accuracy with LLMs has become a topic of research (Zhang et al., 2023). Most research has focused on using simple prompts like {Source text} = {Target text} or Translate to {language_name} : {text} (Brown et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2023). Moslem et al. (2023) examined GPT-3 and GPT-3.5 for MT, focusing on domain-specific adaptation, while Bawden and Yvon (2023) found they often fall short of SOTA MT systems and commercial translators.

Briakou et al. (2023) studied the impact of LLM data on MT. Recently, Vilar et al. (2023), investigated the use of prompting with PaLM (Chowdhery et al., 2023) for translation and found that even randomly selected high-quality examples can perform as well as or better than those chosen based on input relevance. Agrawal et al. (2023) explored input-specific examples and found that n-gram overlap enhances prompt effectiveness.

A comprehensive study of how different prompting strategies influence performance was lacking. So, a case study was done by Zhang et al. (2023) focusing on GLM-130B (Zeng et al., 2023) and found that prompting performance varies widely across different templates, with simple English templates generally working best for machine translation, and language-specific templates are effective when translating into languages the LLMs were pre-trained on. Inspired by the human translation process, He et al. (2024) proposed MAPS, which involves three steps: knowledge mining, knowledge integration, and knowledge selection. Evaluation on the WMT22 test set shows that MAPS improves the performance of models like text-davinci-003 and Alpaca.

Despite these advancements, Zhang et al. (2023) point out that prompting for machine translation still faces challenges such as copying errors, mistranslation of entities, hallucinations, poor direct translation between non-English languages, and the "prompt trap," where translating the prompt itself becomes complex and problematic.

2.3 Subtitle Translation

Recent research shows that Neural Machine Translation (NMT) can be highly effective for movie subtitle translation, especially with post-editing to reduce effort (Huang and Wang, 2023). However, challenges including subtitle block limitations, lex-

¹https://huggingface.co/datasets/Ash96/ SubtitleMetaData

ical consistency, lexical errors such as the translation of idioms and figurative language, and context-related errors persist (Karakanta et al., 2022).

3 Prompting for MT with Meta-information

3.1 Dataset Creation

For the multilingual dataset, we selected the language pairs from English to French, German, Spanish, and Finnish in OpenSubtitles 2018 (Lison et al., 2018). The OpenSubtitles dataset is a large collection of parallel corpora containing multilingual subtitles from movies and TV shows. It is freely available to the research community on the OPUS². These particular language pairs were selected because they are well supported by LLMs and also share the same Latin script. We included Finnish because it is both a gender-neutral and agglutinative language, whereas Spanish, German, and French are gendered and fusional languages.

To create the dataset, we first downloaded XML files from the OPUS website. Each file contains subtitles for a specific language pair and includes meta-data about the subtitle and its associated movie or TV episode, such as the title, release year, and IMDb identifier in numerical format. Here, IMDb (Internet Movie Database) ³ is an online platform that provides detailed information about movies, TV shows, actors, and production details.

These files encoded information using the format lang/year/imdb_id/opensubtitles_id.xml.gz, where sentence IDs align across languages. Following discussions on the Hugging Face GitHub⁴ and using the script from HuggingFace⁵, we combined the data into a JSON format. This included meta-data like IMDb ID, subtitle ID, sentence ID, and translations across parallel files for each language pair.

Next, we extracted overlapping IMDb IDs to obtain subtitle files for the same movie across languages, followed by aligning the overlapping subtitle IDs with English sentence IDs to ensure consistency across languages. Meta-data such as movie titles and genres were sourced from the IMDb database, and movie summaries were retrieved from Wikipedia articles in all language pairs. The

dataset consist of 10,777 and 21,575 parallel sentences for testing and training, respectively, across the four languages. The statistics of the datasets are provided in the Table 9 and 10 in Appendix A.

3.2 Prompting Strategy for MT

We designed the zero-shot prompts, which were structured mainly around two components: metainformation integration and contextual integration.

Meta-Information Integration We designed a total of six prompt templates as shown in Table 1. The first prompt *simple* is a simple template from Zhang et al. (2023), and the second prompt *movie domain* serves as the base template for our study which includes the domain information of movie subtitles. The following prompts were derived from it to include specific meta-information: *title* (movie title), *summary* (movie summary), *genre* (movie genre), and *all* which incorporates all three.

Contextual Integration As shown in Table 2, we designed the prompts to include the previous N lines (N=2 to N=5) as dialogue context to measure the impact of prior contexts without metainformation (Rikters et al., 2021).

Combining Meta-Information and Contextual Integration Our preliminary studies show that the best-performing meta-information prompt was "title" and the optimal context length without meta-information was 4. Therefore, we selected N=4 from the previous dialogue line evaluations, combined with the title, to further enhance translation quality. This approach aimed to leverage both the focused context provided by the movie title and the conversational flow from preceding lines, assessing whether this combination produced better results than using either method alone.

4 Experimental Setup

In this section, we outline the experimental setup used to evaluate the impact of different prompting strategies on subtitle translation quality. We compare various levels of meta-information, including movie titles, summaries, and genres, using the OpenSubtitles dataset across multiple language pairs using LLaMA-3 GPT-3.5 and GPT-40. We also examine the effect of incorporating previous dialogue context to enhance translation accuracy. In addition, we compared our method against the MAPS framework (He et al., 2024).

²https://opus.nlpl.eu/

³https://www.imdb.com/

⁴https://github.com/huggingface/datasets/

https://huggingface.co/datasets/Helsinki-NLP/
open_subtitles/blob/main/open_subtitles.py

| ID | Template (in English) |
|--------------|--|
| simple | <pre>English: {en_sentence} [tgt] :</pre> |
| movie domain | The following is taken from the subtitles of a movie. Translate it from English to [tgt] English: {en_sentence} [tgt]: |
| title | The following is taken from the subtitles of the movie {title}. Translate it from English to [tgt] English: {en_sentence} [tgt]: |
| summary | Here is a summary of a movie: {summary} The following is taken from the subtitles of that movie. Translate it from English to [tgt] English: {en_sentence} [tgt] |
| genre | The following is taken from the subtitles of the {genre} movie. Translate it from English to [tgt] English: {en_sentence} [tgt]: |
| all | Here is a summary of the {genre} movie {title}: {summary} The following is taken from the subtitles of that movie. Translate it from English to [tgt] English: {en_sentence} [tgt] |

Table 1: Templates for translation prompts incorporating meta-information. The target language name is represented by the tgt while en_sentence represents the source text, which is a subtitle.

4.1 LLM Models

For evaluation, we used leading LLMs alongside traditional NMT systems. We examined Meta's LLaMA-3-70B-Instruct (Grattafiori et al., 2024), GPT-3.5-turbo-0125 (Brown et al., 2020), GPT-4o-2024-05-13 (OpenAI et al., 2024), and the multilingual NMT model M2M100 (Fan et al., 2021).

4.2 Evaluation Metrics

Automatic Evaluation We adopted the widely used COMET score (Rei et al., 2020) as our primary evaluation metrics. Additionally, BLEU score (Papineni et al., 2002) and chrF++ (Popović, 2017) were used. BLEU and chrF++ focus on surface-level features by comparing the n-grams, while COMET is a neural network-based metric that captures semantic meaning more effectively. Furthermore, statistical significance testing (Koehn, 2004) was performed using SacreBLEU (Post, 2018) with the default parameters for significance testing with paired bootstrap resampling, where p < 0.05 means the difference is significant.

Human Evaluation In addition to automatic evaluations, we conducted a human evaluation to better understand the impact of incorporating meta-

```
Here is a dialogue taken from a movie, translate the last line from English to [tgt].

Line 1
Line 2
:
Line N

English: {en_sentence}
[tgt]
```

Table 2: Translation prompts using previous context. The target language name is represented by the tgt while en_sentence represents the source text, which is a subtitle. In this setup, we consider the number of previous sentences, ranging from N=2 to N=5.

information. This is based on relative ranking (Callison-Burch et al., 2008), a method commonly used in WMT tasks, where translations are ranked relative to each other. Native speakers were used as annotators for each language, with two annotators assigned to each language except Finnish, where no annotators were available. Each annotator was given all the sentences to rank from best to worst. For this task, we selected 40 entries which had six distinct translation outputs from the GPT-40 model.

5 Results

Table 3 summarizes the performance across different language pairs based on the prompting strategies detailed in Section 3.2.

Domain Knowledge Although prior studies (Zhang et al., 2023) show that simple prompts obtain good results in general, it is simply outperformed by "movie domain" which explicitly includes the domain knowledge of movies. This small amount of additional domain information generally leads to slight improvements in translation quality over simple, resulting in modest increases in BLEU and COMET scores across most language pairs. For example, En→Es direction achieves gains of 1.07 BLEU points with GPT-4o. However, performance drops were observed in the En \rightarrow Fi direction with GPT-3.5 with 0.78 BLEU points. Although still relatively simple, this prompt helps the model recognize that the task involves translating movie subtitles, which can aid in understanding colloquial language, idiomatic expressions, and cultural references typical of film scripts. By explicitly indicating that the input is a movie subtitle, the models are better equipped to make informed translation choices with a significant difference.

| Models | Template ID | En- | →Es | En→De | | En→Fr | | En→Fi | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wiodels | Template 1D | COMET | BLEU | COMET | BLEU | COMET | BLEU | COMET | BLEU |
| M2M100 | - | 0.7902 | 21.7 | 0.7502 | 18.0 | 0.7906 | 17.4 | 0.7906 | 11.8 |
| MAPS _{LLama-3} comet | He et al. (2024) | 0.8230 | 24.97 | 0.8060 | 20.57 | 0.7830 | 19.96 | 0.8260 | 13.69 |
| | simple movie domain | 0.8484 0.8523 | 32.62 33.69 | 0.8231 0.8253 | 26.43 26.83 | 0.7638 0.8072 | 26.67 26.50 | 0.8685 0.8712 | 19.91 20.59 |
| CIPT 4 | + N = 2 + N = 3 + N = 4 + N = 5 | 0.8518 0.8521 <u>0.8522</u> 0.8510 | 33.91 33.92 <u>34.03</u> [†] 33.97 | 0.8265 0.8268 <u>0.8272</u> 0.8262 | 27.20 27.17 27.12 27.25 | 0.8057 0.8064 <u>0.8065</u> 0.8065 | 26.67 26.79 26.74 26.85 | 0.8717 0.8716 <u>0.8718</u> 0.8267 | 20.64 20.67 <u>20.83</u> 20.74 |
| GPT-4o | + title + summary | 0.8540 0.8522 | 34.01 33.96 | 0.8280 0.8252 | 27.33 [†] 27.30 | 0.8079 0.8074 | 26.23 26.96 [†] | 0.8724 0.8723 | 20.81 20.92 [†] |
| | + genre | 0.8521 0.8527 | 33.96 34.26 [†] | 0.8269 0.8259 | 27.08 27.29 | 0.8074 0.8072 | 26.62 26.88 | 0.8719 0.8721 | 20.62 |
| | title + $N = 4$ | 0.8543 | 34.06 | 0.8278 | 27.34 [†] | 0.8082 | 26.93 | 0.8727 | 20.93† |
| | simple movie domain | 0.8472 0.8493 | 33.01 33.02 | 0.8206 0.8224 | 26.01 26.07 | 0.8012 0.8023 | 26.01 25.96 | 0.8607 0.8626 | 20.04 19.29 |
| | + N = 2 + N = 3 + N = 4 + N = 5 | 0.8474 0.8493 <u>0.8494</u> 0.8328 | 32.93 33.14 33.15 33.15 | 0.8186 0.8216 <u>0.8219</u> 0.8214 | 25.96 26.13 <u>26.17</u> 26.14 | 0.8007 0.8020 <u>0.8027</u> 0.8028 | 26.14 26.21 <u>26.31</u> 26.29 | 0.8582 0.8603 <u>0.8623</u> 0.8618 | 19.20 19.27 <u>19.41</u> 19.32 |
| GPT-3.5 | + title | 0.8500 | 33.19 | 0.8233 | 26.28 | 0.8036 | 26.23 | 0.9763 | 19.32 |
| | + summary + genre all | 0.8099 0.8491 0.8328 | 34.25 [†] 33.01 29.40 | 0.8232 0.8229 0.8230 | 25.92 26.16 25.89 | 0.8019 0.8022 0.8019 | 26.16 26.03 26.05 26.34 [†] | 0.8609 0.8618 0.8613 | 19.28 19.27 19.17 |
| | simple movie domain | 0.8495 0.8202 0.8354 | 33.29 29.57 29.67 | 0.8227 0.8077 0.8119 | 26.24 24.22 24.05 | 0.8034 0.7850 0.7876 | 23.14 23.07 | 0.8626 0.8232 0.8349 | 19.45 14.65 15.60 |
| LLaMA-3 | + N = 2 + N = 3 + N = 4 + N = 5 | 0.8367 0.8368 <u>0.8369</u> 0.8365 | 29.94 29.98 29.99 [†] 29.93 | 0.8109 0.8113 <u>0.8113</u> 0.8111 | 24.13 24.23 24.33 24.24 | 0.7896 0.7893 <u>0.7894</u> 0.7892 | 23.88 23.76 23.79 23.87 † | 0.8307 0.8307 <u>0.8308</u> 0.8300 | 15.15 15.19 <u>15.27</u> 15.16 |
| | + title + summary + genre | 0.8360 0.8291 0.8354 0.8310 | 29.72 29.64 29.59 29.64 | 0.8137 0.8077 0.8109 0.8093 | 24.39 24.13 24.05 24.23 | 0.7897 0.7591 0.7889 0.7572 | 23.21 23.20 23.01 22.97 | 0.8351 0.8042 0.8335 0.8293 | 15.66 15.64 15.61 15.54 |
| | title + $N = 4$ | 0.8377 | 30.09^{\dagger} | 0.8121 | 24.45 | 0.7902 | 23.88^{\dagger} | 0.8309 | 15.24 |

Table 3: COMET and BLEU scores for zero-shot prompts including meta-information and previous context for GPT-3.5, GPT-40, and LLaMA-3 models. The rows labeled N=2 to N=5 show the results of using previous context lines in the prompt. The highest scores for meta-information are in bold, while the highest scores for context are underlined. Cells highlighted in red indicate the overall highest scores across both meta-information and context. Moreover, the decoration of \dagger on the best scores for each section means it is significantly different than baselines according to the significance test with p < 0.05.

Contextual Integration Including previous lines as context generally improves translation quality across all language pairs over the *simple* and *movie domain* prompts. For instance, En→Es using GPT-40 sees a slight increase in BLEU from 32.62 to 34.03 and a considerable gain in COMET from

0.8253 to 0.8522 when 4 lines of previous context are added. For most language pairs, N=4 appears to be the optimal number of previous context lines, providing the best balance between translation accuracy and context usage.

Meta Information Incorporating meta-information such as *title*, *summary*, and *genre* into the prompts enhances the quality of translation in all metrics over the baselines. The use of *title* consistently improves translation performance with modest gains in COMET scores in all language pairs. This trend is noticeable in all models, but especially in GPT-3.5 and LLaMA-3, where the inclusion of movie *title* improves BLEU scores in En \rightarrow De, En \rightarrow Es and En \rightarrow Fr language pairs. Compared with GPT-4o's BLEU results, the improvements are especially clear in En \rightarrow De direction with a gain of 0.9 BLEU points.

summary yields mixed results, with slight BLEU gains for En-Fr and En-Fi using GPT-40 but lower COMET scores than title (gaining 0.73 and 0.11 BLEU points, respectively, over the *title*); however, the difference is not significant. In fact, with LLaMA-3, the performance of the summary is lower than the *title* for all language pairs. The decrease in performance observed when using summaries as context can be attributed to the increased cognitive load associated with processing longer prompts. On average, summaries contain approximately 980 tokens, compared to the significantly shorter length of titles, which average around 60 tokens. This disparity in input length likely overwhelms the model, diverting its focus from the essential information needed for accurate translation. These findings align with prior research by Levy et al. (2024), which showcases how longer input sequences can impact the reasoning performance of LLMs.

The genre prompt produces variable results and is often less effective than the *title* prompts. This may be because genre does not provide as direct a context as the title, resulting in less improvements. The all prompt shows moderate improvement in both BLEU and COMET, though it does not exceed the performance of the title prompt. However, for the En

Es language pair it performs better than title especially with GPT-40, where it ranks the highest among all prompts. In contrast, GPT-3.5 shows a significant drop, with a decrease of 3.91 BLEU points, which is much lower than the other prompts. This may be due to the limited capacity to handle multiple pieces of information effectively in GPT-3.5. For other language pairs, the all prompt does not perform well. While it gives detailed context, using too many meta-information elements can make things too complicated, leading to a drop in translation quality. However, in

| prompt type | En→Es | En→De | En→Fr |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| simple | 0.510 | 0.553 | 0.455 |
| movie domain | 0.577 | 0.553 | 0.615 |
| + title | 0.593 | 0.600 | 0.565 |
| + summary | 0.493 | 0.340 | 0.525 |
| + genre | 0.397 | 0.500 | 0.400 |
| all | 0.430 | 0.453 | 0.440 |

Table 4: Expected wins for different prompt types across language pairs in human evaluation task

LLaMA-3, adding meta-information does not perform better than using just the previous context. Overall, GPT-40 performed best among all models. The En→Es direction achieved the highest BLEU score, while En→Fi had lower BLEU but higher COMET scores due to Finnish's agglutinative nature, making word-for-word matches challenging.

Combining Meta-Information and Contextual Integration This shows greater gains, particularly in GPT-40 and LLaMA-3. For example, in the En→Fi direction with GPT-40, the BLEU score improves by 1.02 over the simple prompt, and the COMET score increases from 0.8675 to 0.8727. GPT-3.5 sees moderate improvement, but performs better with just meta-information. LLaMA-3 benefits the most, especially in the En→Es direction, where the BLEU score increases from 29.57 to 30.09, with a statistically significant difference, and the COMET score increases from 0.8202 to 0.8377.

We also evaluated the MAPS framework (He et al., 2024) using LLaMA-3 model on our test dataset and observed that our method achieves higher scores in subtitle translation. Although MAPS effectively integrates external knowledge for context-rich tasks, it is less effective for subtitles, which are fragmented and lack sufficient context, limiting the usefulness of the mined knowledge. In contrast, our approach leverages the unique characteristics of subtitles, such as their brevity and conversational tone, to deliver more accurate and contextually appropriate translations.

Human Evaluation Table 4 shows the summary of Expected Wins, which computes the probability that the system's translation is ranked higher compared to a randomly chosen opposing system, evaluated on a randomly selected sentence by a randomly picked judge (Bojar et al., 2014). A higher score indicates a better performance in human evaluation. For En \rightarrow Es and En \rightarrow De, the probability

| Metric | Shot | $En{\rightarrow}Es$ | $En{\rightarrow}De$ | $En{\rightarrow}Fr$ | $En{\rightarrow}Fi$ |
|--------|--------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 0-shot | 29.72 | 24.39 | 23.21 | 15.66 |
| BLEU | 3-shot | 30.72 | 24.86 | 24.54 | 15.95 |
| | 5-shot | 31.19 | 25.09 | 24.72 | 16.10 |
| | 0-shot | 0.8360 | 0.8137 | 0.7897 | 0.8357 |
| COMET | 3-shot | 0.8395 | 0.8133 | 0.7915 | 0.8380 |
| | 5-shot | 0.8413 | 0.8149 | 0.7921 | 0.8395 |
| | 0-shot | 56.72 | 51.63 | 50.24 | 46.86 |
| chrF++ | 3-shot | 56.84 | 51.52 | 50.56 | 47.21 |
| | 5-shot | 57.22 | 51.73 | 50.56 | 47.27 |

Table 5: Few-shot learning results on LLaMA-3

of a sentence being translated accurately is higher with *title*, making it the most effective for these language pairs. In contrast, for En \rightarrow Fr, the *movie domain* yields the best performance. These results suggest that adding meta-information, such as a summary, does not necessarily improve translation accuracy. The consistency in scores between *simple* and *movie domain* for En \rightarrow De indicates that both prompts are equally effective for this language pair, with a higher likelihood of accurate translation without the need for complex meta-information.

Few-shot Learning We evaluate the few-shot learning performance of LLMs. Few-shot learning is also denoted as K-shot, with K representing the number of examples provided before the query, where in our case, examples are randomly sampled from the training set. For this we used the prompt title detailed in Appendix section B.3, as our earlier results showed that movie titles provide a strong signal for subtitle translation, while summaries or genres may introduce noise due to varying levels of detail. The experiment results are presented in Table 5. When K >= 3, the model consistently outperforms the 0-shot scenarios. This indicates that few-shot prompting clearly improves translation quality by leveraging the provided examples.

6 Analysis

The experiment was initially designed based on the hypothesis that summaries would enhance subtitle translation quality more than titles due to their more detailed nature. However, the results revealed that prompts that included titles performed slightly better than those that included summaries. Although we expected a performance improvement with summaries, the difference in performance between the use of titles and summaries, measured by COMET and BLEU scores, was minimal. This suggests that

| | BERTScore | | |
|--|-----------|---------|--|
| Movie name | GPT-40 | LLaMA-3 | |
| The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian | 0.8435 | 0.8281 | |
| Enchanted | 0.8213 | 0.8319 | |
| The Duchess | 0.8275 | 0.8090 | |
| Frozen Fever | 0.8259 | 0.8352 | |
| Dreamgirls | 0.8274 | 0.8063 | |
| The Life Before Her Eyes | 0.8261 | 0.8264 | |
| High School Musical 2 | 0.8324 | 0.8309 | |
| Star Trek | 0.8068 | 0.8012 | |
| Spider-Man 3 | 0.8229 | 0.8048 | |
| The Princess and the Frog | 0.8319 | 0.8453 | |
| Thor | 0.8335 | 0.8299 | |
| Dear John | 0.8327 | 0.8399 | |
| Letters to Juliet | 0.8506 | 0.8330 | |
| Gridiron Gang | 0.8318 | 0.8184 | |

Table 6: BERT Scores against the LLM generated summary to the Wikipedia summary.

while summaries provide more information, titles offer more focused and relevant context for subtitle translation.

Evaluating LLMs' Knowledge of Movie Plot

Summaries: To investigate why including the *title* in the prompt performs better than including summaries, we conducted an experiment to check whether the content of a movie might already be familiar to LLMs when only the title is provided. This approach tested the hypothesis that LLMs, pre-trained on massive datasets, are able to retrieve accurate movie knowledge based on titles alone and leading to more effective subtitle translations.

To achieve this, we queried the LLM to generate plot summaries for each movie listed in Table 9 using the prompt "What is the summary of the plot of this "title" movie?". Then, the responses generated by the models were compared to Wikipedia summaries to evaluate how accurately the LLMs could retrieve relevant pre-learned knowledge based solely on the movie titles.

Based on the results in Table 6, the high BERTScores (Zhang et al., 2020) show that the generated plot summaries are contextually similar to those found in Wikipedia. This suggests that the movie title alone provides sufficient information about the movie, likely because the model has been pre-trained on extensive sources, including Wikipedia. Using the title simplifies the prompt, allowing the model to leverage its pre-existing knowledge efficiently. These findings show that titles serve as short cues, allowing LLMs to retrieve more focused and relevant context for subtitle translation.

Instruction: You know the following movie from your training data. What is the name that fills in the [MASK] token? The name is exactly one word long, and is not a pronoun or any other word. You must make a guess even if you are uncertain.

Example:

Input: The door opened, and [MASK], dressed and hatted, entered with a cup of tea.

Output: Gerty

Input: These are not the issues that burden the Duke, Lady [MASK].

Table 7: Example of the name-cloze task in subtitles, where the model predicts a masked character name based on subtitle context alone.

Assessing LLMs' Subtitle Knowledge In addition to querying plot summaries, we evaluated whether the LLMs had prior exposure to subtitle data by asking them to predict the next sentence in a subtitle sequence using the prompt, "Here is a subtitle from the movie title. Please provide the next sentence." We aimed for evidence of the ability of the models to memorize specific details of subtitles. Instead, they often produced generic responses indicating their inability to provide the specific line.

Therefore, we used the name-cloze method described by Chang et al. (2023) instead of predicting the next subtitle. Their method involves giving a passage from a book with a masked character name to the model and asking it to predict the masked word. This method helps evaluate the model's ability to recall and predict specific entities from the text. We applied this to 100 subtitles, each with a single proper entity, masking the name without providing the movie title as shown in Table 7. The model's name-cloze accuracy was only 3%, indicating that the context alone provided little information to infer the correct character name. However, when the title was included, the accuracy increased to 26%. This indicates that the title alone contains embedded information about the movie, providing enough context for the model to more accurately identify character names when the title is provided. This suggests that while LLMs may have broad movie knowledge from sources like Wikipedia, specific subtitle data is less accessible, and titles play a more significant role in aiding subtitle translation tasks.

Qualitative Analysis We used the PIE corpus (Adewumi et al., 2022) to evaluate idiomatic translation quality, extracting 20 idioms from the dataset.

| English: French: | Catch you on the fly, homey. À plus, mon pote |
|---------------------|--|
| M2M | Tu t'as pris dans le vol, Homéy. |
| simple | Attrape toi en vol, mon pote. |
| title | À plus, mon frère |

Table 8: Example of a translation from English to French, including an idiomatic expression, generated by LLaMA-3.

Spanish translations, generated using the title prompt, were assessed on a 1-3 scale (Li et al., 2024), with GPT-40 scoring 2.5 and LLaMA-3 scoring 2.4. Both models captured figurative meanings but often relied on literal or descriptive translations, indicating room for improvement in cultural nuance. In the Table 8 the title prompt ("À plus, mon frère") effectively captures both the idiomatic farewell ("Catch you on the fly") and the slang term ("homey") by using "A plus" (see you later) and "mon frère" (bro). In contrast, the simple prompt ("Attrape toi en vol, mon pote") translates the idiom too literally, while M2M ("Tu t'as pris dans le vol, Homéy.") is incorrect and misinterprets both the idiom and slang. Further analysis of the idiomatic and colloquialisms is provided in Appendix C.

7 Conclusion

In this work, we compare the performance of GPT-40, GPT-3.5, and LLaMA-3 in translating movie subtitles, with a focus on how different types of meta-information, such as movie titles, summaries, and genres, impacted translation quality. Our results show that GPT-40 always outperformed the others for multiple language pairs, especially when movie titles were given in the prompt. Spanish translations (En \rightarrow Es) benefited the most from additional context, while Finnish translations (En \rightarrow Fi) posed challenges, with minimal gains from meta-information. Simpler prompts often led to more stable results, with basic prompts ranking higher in human evaluations.

Overall, this research shows the importance of prompt design in subtitle translation by LLMs, while meta-information can be useful in particular contexts, careful selection is essential in order not to fall into diminishing returns. Future work could explore testing the model's ability with low-resource languages to assess its performance in more challenging translation scenarios.

Limitations

This study has several limitations:

Human Evaluation First, due to resource constraints, human evaluation was not conducted for the English-Finnish (En \rightarrow Fi) language pair, restricting a comprehensive assessment of this model's performance in that language.

Linguistic Analysis of Polysemy Another limitation in the study is that we did not conduct a linguistic analysis to evaluate how the subtitle translations handled polysemous words. Instead, we relied on BLEU and COMET scores and focused heavily on the impact of meta-information, such as movie titles, summaries, and genres, on translation quality.

Language Selection The study is limited by the selection of languages, and a broader evaluation across more diverse language pairs is necessary to better understand the model's capabilities across different linguistic contexts.

Evaluation Another limitation is our evaluation does not account for discourse-level effects of meta-information. Future work should explore discourse-aware metrics like APT (Miculicich Werlen and Popescu-Belis, 2017), and BlonDe (Jiang et al., 2022) to better capture phenomena such as pronoun translation and lexical consistency.

Knowledge Cutoff A further limitation is that the models lack awareness of movies released after their knowledge cutoff dates December 2023 for LLaMA-3⁶, October 2023 for GPT-4o⁷, and September 2021 for GPT-3.5. To address this, the method can be adapted for newly released movies by fine-tuning the model with additional training data collected. This approach would enable the model to incorporate updated domain knowledge and effectively handle subtitle translation for newly released movies. However, this approach faces challenges such as knowledge editing, which involves modifying specific information without extensive retraining, and continual learning, which ensures new information is integrated without causing catastrophic forgetting of previously learned knowledge (Ghosh et al., 2024).

Ethics Statement

In conducting this research, we adhered to ethical guidelines throughout the study. All data used, including subtitle translations and meta-information, was sourced from publicly available datasets (e.g., OpenSubtitles, IMDb, and Wikipedia). No personal or sensitive data was involved in the research process, ensuring privacy and data protection standards were met. Moreover, there is no harmful content included in the examples used in the paper. Additionally, human evaluations were conducted with full consent of the annotators. All recruited annotators were paid above the minimum wage.

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⁶https://github.com/meta-llama/llama3/blob/ main/MODEL_CARD.md

⁷https://platform.openai.com/docs/models/ gpt-4o#gpt-4o

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A Dataset Statistics

The test dataset comprises 14 movie files, containing a total of 10,777 parallel sentences across the four languages, as shown in Table 9. In contrast, the training dataset consists of 20 subtitle files, 21,575 parallel sentences, as detailed in Table 10. Figure 2 presents a part of the collected data with meta information and translations.

```
"meta": {
    "imdb_id": "499448"
    "title": "The Chronicles of Narnia:
   Prince Caspian",
"year": 2008,
    "genres"
        "Action"
        "Adventure",
        "Family"
        "Fantasy"
    "summary": {
    "en": EN_SUMMARY
            "es" ES_SUMMARY
            "de":DE_SUMMARY
            "fr":FR_SUMMARY
            "fi":FI SUMMARY
"translations": [
      "en_sentence_id": "3"
      "en": "You have a son.",
      "es": "Tenéis un hijo."
            "Vous avez un fils."
      "de":
            "Ihr habt einen Sohn.",
            "Teillä on poika.
      "en_sentence_id": "4",
"en": "The heavens have blessed us."
            "Los cielos nos han bendecido.",
            "Les dieux nous ont bénis."
            "Der Himmel hat uns gesegnet.",
            "Taivas on siunannut meitä.
```

Figure 2: Sample of the collected data: JSON structure containing movie meta-information and translations

B Experiments

B.1 Details of experiment settings

For the experiments, we used GPT-3.5-turbo-0125 (Brown et al., 2020) and GPT-4o-2024-05-13 (OpenAI et al., 2024), with the top_p set to 0 and tem-

perature set to 0.5 for both models We also used Meta's LLaMA 3 (Grattafiori et al., 2024) for the experiments, conducted on a single NVIDIA RTX 6000 Ada GPU, with 4-bit quantization utilized for model generation.

Table 11 present the chrf++ scores across different language pairs based on the prompting strategies detailed in Section 3.2.

B.2 Additional Experiments

To verify the observed tendency, we collected 20 additional film files and tested them using the LLaMA-3 model with our methodology. The results in Table 12 indicate that the tendency remains consistent for the title.

B.3 Few shot Learning

The prompt template used is detailed in Table 13. Few-shot learning is also denoted as K-shot, with K representing the number of examples provided before the query, where in our case, examples are randomly sampled from the training set.

C Qualitative Analysis of Results

Colloquialisms and idioms are language constructs that depend upon culturally learned and contextually learned meanings to carry meaning beyond their literal expressions. In subtitle translation, these elements are particularly challenging as they must be concise while maintaining the original intent, tone, and cultural relevance.

Idioms To assess the translation quality of idiomatic expressions, we used the PIE corpus (Adewumi et al., 2022), which contains 1,197 idioms and 5,170 related sentences. From this dataset, we extracted English idioms that overlapped with those present in our movie subtitle dataset, resulting in a subset of 20 sentences. These idioms fell under the categories of personification, metaphor, and simile as classified in the PIE dataset, and were evaluated based on their Spanish translations generated using the title prompt. To evaluate idiom quality, we used the scoring method of Li et al. (2024), which assigns points from 1 to 3, where 1 indicates a completely inaccurate meaning, 2 suggests the meaning requires minor refinements, and 3 reflects a perfect capture of nuanced cultural meanings. We applied this method to the translations produced by LLaMA-3 and GPT-40, with GPT-40 achieving an average score of 2.5, while LLaMA-3 scored 2.4. These results indicate that both models successfully

| Index | IMDb ID | Movie Title | Genres | Subtitle Count |
|-------|---------|--|---|----------------|
| 1 | 499448 | The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian | Action, Adventure, Family, Fantasy | 716 |
| 2 | 780521 | The Princess and the Frog | Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Fantasy, Musical, Romance | 968 |
| 3 | 796366 | Star Trek | Action, Adventure, Sci-Fi | 640 |
| 4 | 800369 | Thor | Action, Fantasy | 892 |
| 5 | 810900 | High School Musical 2 | Comedy, Drama, Family, Music, Musical, Romance | 1258 |
| 6 | 815178 | The Life Before Her Eyes | Drama, Fantasy, Mystery, Thriller | 410 |
| 7 | 864761 | The Duchess | Biography, Drama, History, Romance, Thriller | 880 |
| 8 | 892318 | Letters to Juliet | Adventure, Comedy, Drama, Romance | 427 |
| 9 | 989757 | Dear John | Drama, Romance, War | 820 |
| 10 | 4007502 | Frozen Fever | Animation, Short, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Fantasy, Musical | 66 |
| 11 | 413300 | Spider-Man 3 | Action, Adventure, Sci-Fi | 787 |
| 12 | 421206 | Gridiron Gang | Biography, Crime, Drama, Sport | 916 |
| 13 | 443489 | Dreamgirls | Drama, Music, Musical | 1349 |
| 14 | 461770 | Enchanted | Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Fantasy, Musical, Romance | 648 |

Table 9: List of Movies used in the Test dataset with IMDb ID, Title, Genres, and Subtitle Count.On average, each movie has a summary containing 601 words.

| Index | IMDB ID | Movie Title | Genres | Subtitle Count |
|-------|---------|--|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | 3634326 | Tomorrowland | Action, Adventure, Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi, Thriller | 236 |
| 2 | 3622592 | Paper Towns | Adventure, Comedy, Drama, Mystery, Romance | 1077 |
| 3 | 884328 | The Mist | Horror, Sci-Fi, Thriller | 770 |
| 4 | 475290 | Hail, Caesar! | Comedy, Drama, Mystery | 951 |
| 5 | 368933 | The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement | Comedy, Family, Romance | 981 |
| 6 | 988045 | Sherlock Holmes | Action, Adventure, Mystery | 933 |
| 7 | 2334873 | Blue Jasmine | Comedy, Drama, Romance | 622 |
| 8 | 1854564 | Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters | Adventure, Family, Fantasy | 992 |
| 9 | 213149 | Pearl Harbor | Action, Drama, Romance, War | 911 |
| 10 | 1924435 | Let's Be Cops | Action, Comedy, Crime | 1727 |
| 11 | 2379713 | Spectre | Action, Adventure, Thriller | 708 |
| 12 | 1905041 | Fast & Furious 6 | Action, Thriller | 935 |
| 13 | 1837703 | The Fifth Estate | Biography, Crime, Drama, Thriller | 940 |
| 14 | 2398241 | Smurfs: The Lost Village | Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Fantasy | 1070 |
| 15 | 1840309 | Divergent | Action, Adventure, Mystery, Sci-Fi | 783 |
| 16 | 2132285 | The Bling Ring | Biography, Crime, Drama | 401 |
| 17 | 404032 | The Exorcism of Emily Rose | Drama, Horror, Thriller | 872 |
| 18 | 330373 | Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire | Adventure, Family, Fantasy, Mystery | 917 |
| 19 | 4846340 | Hidden Figures | Biography, Drama, History | 1358 |
| 20 | 800039 | Forgetting Sarah Marshall | Comedy, Drama, Romance | 1723 |

Table 10: List of Movies used in the Train dataset with IMDb ID, Title, Genres, and Subtitle Count.On average, each movie has a summary containing 700 words.

conveyed the figurative meaning of idiomatic expressions but often relied on literal or descriptive translations rather than direct idiomatic equivalents in Spanish. These findings suggest that, while the models capture the essential sense of the idioms, there remains room for improvement in achieving more culturally nuanced and idiomatically faithful translations.

The idiom "time will tell" conveys the idea that the outcome of a situation will become clear only after some time has passed. As shown in Table 14, both GPT-40 and LLaMA-3 translated this phrase as "Solo el tiempo lo dirá" across all prompts. This translation is a well-established equivalent in Spanish, accurately preserving both the figurative meaning and natural phrasing of the original expression.

However, for "I'm completely out of counte-

nance" as shown in Table 15, GPT40 produced the expected idiomatic translation "Estoy completamente desconcertado" closely matching the reference and preserving the intended meaning. In contrast, LLaMA-3 generated varied outputs, such as "Estoy completamente fuera de lugar" (out of place) and "Estoy completamente fuera de mí" (beside myself). While these translations convey a related emotional state, they alter the nuance and do not fully retain the idiomatic meaning, highlighting inconsistencies in LLaMA-3's handling of idioms.

Colloquialisms In the Table 16 compares how GPT-40 and LLaMA-3 handle slang phrase in translation, using the phrase "pop the question" a casual way of saying "propose marriage." GPT-40 translates it as "hacer la gran pregunta," which re-

| ID | En→Es | | | $En \rightarrow De$ | | | $En{ ightarrow}Fr$ | | | En→Fi | | |
|-----------------|--------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------------|
| | GPT-40 | GPT-3.5 | LLaMA-3 | GPT-40 | GPT-3.5 | LLaMA-3 | GPT-40 | GPT-3.5 | LLaMA-3 | GPT-4o | GPT-3.5 | LLaMA-3 |
| simple | 59.28 | 54.07 | 56.25 | 53.87 | 47.21 | 51.47 | 52.92 | 49.58 | 49.58 | 45.15 | 45.15 | 45.73 |
| movie domain | 59.88 | 59.07 | 56.63 | 54.34 | 53.39 | 51.40 | 52.85 | 50.02 | 50.02 | 50.93 | 50.93 | 46.82 |
| +N=2 | 60.07 | 50.93 | 56.86 | 54.70 | 53.08 | 51.34 | 53.09 | 51.98 | 50.37 | 53.20 | 50.39 | 46.47 |
| + N = 3 | 60.16 | 59.20 | 56.92 | 54.71 | 53.51 | 51.44 | 53.21 | 52.14 | 50.32 | 53.21 | 50.78 | 46.62 |
| + N = 4 | 60.21 | 59.31 | 56.93 | 54.63 | 53.54 | 51.53 | 53.16 | 52.23 | 50.39 | 53.40 | 50.97 | <u>46.64</u> |
| + N = 5 | 60.11 | 59.28 | 56.88 | 54.79 | 53.47 | 51.49 | 53.23 | 52.19 | 50.43 | 53.29 | 50.90 | 46.53 |
| + title | 60.13 | 59.28 | 56.72 | 54.77 | 53.60 | 51.63 | 53.22 | 50.24 | 50.24 | 50.97 | 50.97 | 46.86 |
| + summary | 60.15 | 60.33 | 55.50 | 54.66 | 53.37 | 50.78 | 53.15 | 49.90 | 49.90 | 50.86 | 50.86 | 46.77 |
| + genre | 60.04 | 59.13 | 56.58 | 54.53 | 53.43 | 51.08 | 52.94 | 50.07 | 50.07 | 50.83 | 50.83 | 46.75 |
| all | 60.24 | 58.58 | 55.71 | 54.65 | 53.38 | 50.95 | 53.11 | 49.73 | 49.73 | 50.86 | 50.86 | 46.72 |
| title + $N = 4$ | 60.23 | 59.39 | 57.01 | 54.91 | 53.71 | 51.62 | 53.41 | 52.36 | 50.48 | 53.48 | 51.09 | 46.62 |

Table 11: chrf++ for prompts including meta-information and previous context for GPT-3.5, GPT-40, and LLaMA-3 models. The rows labeled N=2 to N=5 show the results of using previous context lines in the prompt. The highest scores for meta-information are in bold, while the highest scores for context are underlined. Cells highlighted in red indicate the overall highest scores across both meta-information and context.

| ID | $En{ ightarrow}Es$ | | En | $En{\rightarrow}De$ | | $En{ ightarrow}Fr$ | | $En{ ightarrow}Fi$ | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|--|
| | BLEU | COMET | BLEU | COMET | BLEU | COMET | BLEU | COMET | |
| M2M | 21.7 | 0.7902 | 18 | 0.7502 | 17.4 | 0.7906 | 11.8 | 0.7906 | |
| simple | 31.36 | 0.8175 | 23.57 | 0.7862 | 24.65 | 0.7444 | 14.35 | 0.8186 | |
| movie domain | 31.96 | 0.8344 | 24.24 | 0.8028 | 25.11 | 0.7861 | 15.39 | 0.8238 | |
| + N = 2 | 32.05 | 0.8366 | 24.17 | 0.8009 | 24.70 | 0.7796 | 15.09 | 0.8307 | |
| + N = 3 | 32.10 | 0.8368 | 24.24 | 0.8013 | 24.59 | 0.7783 | 15.12 | 0.8207 | |
| + N = 4 | 32.11 | 0.8369 | 24.37 | 0.8013 | 24.60 | 0.7793 | 15.17 | 0.8208 | |
| + N = 5 | 32.06 | 0.8365 | 24.26 | 0.8011 | 24.61 | 0.7792 | 15.07 | 0.8201 | |
| + title | 32.15 | 0.8413 | 24.42 | 0.8117 | 25.33 | 0.7946 | 15.59 | 0.8084 | |
| + summary | 32.04 | 0.8136 | 24.37 | 0.7607 | 25.14 | 0.7660 | 15.50 | 0.8031 | |
| + genre | 31.94 | 0.8163 | 24.15 | 0.6644 | 25.07 | 0.7669 | 15.38 | 0.8063 | |
| + all | 32.05 | 0.8144 | 24.41 | 0.7829 | 25.12 | 0.7650 | 15.44 | 0.8028 | |
| title $+ N = 4$ | 32.08 | 0.8376 | 24.34 | 0.8107 | 26.02 | 0.7902 | 15.02 | 0.8309 | |

Table 12: COMET and BLEU scores for zero-shot prompts including meta-information and previous context for GPT-3.5, GPT-40, and LLaMA-3 models. The rows labeled N=2 to N=5 show the results of using previous context lines in the prompt. The highest scores for meta-information are in bold, while the highest scores for context are underlined. Cells highlighted in red indicate the overall highest scores across both meta-information and context with new additional data.

tains the expressive and conversational tone, while LLaMA-3 translates it as "hacer la pregunta" a more neutral version that loses some of the original informal style.

Table 17 examines how both models translate colloquial speech in "That'll go down better with white folks". "White folks" is a colloquial and informal way of referring to white people, commonly used in conversational English, particularly in American English, and often carries a regional, cultural, or social nuance, depending on the context. While "los blancos" aligns more closely with the informal tone of the original phrase, "la gente

```
{The following is taken from the subtitles of the movie {title}. Translate it from English to [tgt] English: [en_sentence] [tgt]: [tgt_sentence] }x K

The following is taken from the subtitles of the movie {title}. Translate it from English to [tgt] English: [en_sentence] [tgt]:
```

Table 13: Prompts used in K-shot learning. The substrings within are repeated K times.K= 0, 3, 5

| English: Spanish: | Only time will tell Solo El tiempo lo dirá |
|----------------------|---|
| <u>Spail15ii.</u> | |
| | GPT-40 |
| all the prompts | Solo el tiempo lo dirá |
| | LLaMA-3 |
| all the prompts | Solo el tiempo lo dirá |

Table 14: Example of a translation from English to Spanish, including an idiomatic expression, generated by GPT-40 and LLaMA-3.

blanca" softens the expression, making it sound more neutral and potentially more appropriate in formal contexts. These examples show how GPT40 tends to preserve slang and informal expressions more naturally, while LLaMA-3 often produces a more literal or neutral translation, sometimes softening colloquial terms.

Table 18 shows that although both models correctly translated "wee bit" as "un peu", but misinterpreted "dodgy", which in this case referred to a machine being worn out or rusty (rouillée) rather than suspicious. GPT-40 translated it as "douteuse" (doubtful), while LLaMA-3 rendered it as "louche"

| English: Spanish: | I'm completely out of countenance Estoy absolutamente desconcertado |
|--|--|
| | GPT-4o |
| all the prompts | Estoy completamente desconcertado |
| | LLaMA-3 |
| simple | Estoy completamente fuera de lugar |
| movie domain title summary genre all | Estoy completamente fuera de mí |

Table 15: Example of a translation from English to Spanish, including an idiomatic expression, generated by GPT-40 and LLaMA-3.

| English | Oh, so you want to pop the question tonight, huh? |
|---------|---|
| Spanish | oh, Así que esta noche quiere pedirle la mano, ¿eh? |
| | GPT-40 |
| title | Oh, ¿así que quieres hacer la gran pregunta esta noche, eh? |
| | LLaMA-3 |
| title | iAh, así que quieres hacer la pregunta esta noche, eh? |
| | |

Table 16: Example of a translation from English to Spanish, including slang, generated by GPT-40 and LLaMA-3.

(suspicious), highlighting the challenge of accurately translating slang and colloquial expressions related to mechanical conditions without explicit clarification.

D Models Sensitivity to Prompts

Across the board, GPT-40 consistently outperformed GPT-3.5 and LLaMA-3.

Several key issues were observed. In many cases, models such as GPT-40 and LLaMA-3 copied source phrases or parts of the prompt template itself with the target translation as in Table 19.

LLaMA-3, while generally lagging behind the other models, shows a decline in performance when dealing with prompts that include extensive meta-information, such as summaries. When summaries are included in the prompts, the model sometimes struggles to produce a coherent translation when some words are not in the provided in summary. Example is given in the Table 22. When analyz-

| English: | That'll go down better with white folks. |
|----------|--|
| | TOTKS. |
| Spanish: | A los blancos les va a gustar más. |
| | GPT-4o |
| title | Eso caerá mejor con los blancos |
| | LLaMA-3 |
| title | Eso caerá mejor con la gente blanca |

Table 17: Example of a translation from English to Spanish, including slang, generated by GPT-40 and LLaMA-3.

| English: French: | Well, she's a wee bit dodgy Eh bien, elle est un peu rouillée | | |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| GPT-4o | | | |
| title | Eh bien, elle est un peu douteuse | | |
| LLaMA-3 | | | |
| title | Eh bien, elle est un peu louche | | |

Table 18: Example of a translation from English to French, including an idiom and slang, generated by GPT-40 and LLaMA-3.

ing the output, LLaMA-3 often provides additional information, such as explanations, unless system instructions are explicitly given to provide only the translation, as seen in Table 21. Although these explanations may not be necessary for the translation task, they indicate that the model is attempting to convey an understanding of the context, such as recognizing the informal nature of subtitles, which are often presented in colloquial language.

E License

In our study, we utilized the OpenSubtitles dataset, which was available under the GNU General Public License v3.0 (GPLv3). Wikipedia summaries were used in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 (CC BY-SA 3.0) license, with proper attribution and shared derivative works. IMDb data was accessed for noncommercial research purposes, following IMDb's Terms of Use with appropriate attribution.

The following is taken from the subtitles of the movie "Thor". Translate it from English to Spanish

English: Thank you for your cooperation.

Spanish:

Answer

In Spanish, "Thank you for your cooperation." translates to: "Gracias por su cooperación."

Table 19: LLM's response copied source phrases or parts of the prompt template.

English: What is the formula for the volume of a sphere?

[German]:

Answer

German: Die Formel für das Volumen einer Kugel lautet:

[V = $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$]

Dabei ist V das Volumen und r der Radius der Kugel.

Table 20: GPT-4o's tendency to output answers to questions instead of providing a direct translation when the source sentence is a in Question format when using the *simple*.

The following is taken from the subtitles of the movie Spider-Man 3.Translate it from English to German.

English: Just had bad luck

[German]:

Answer

German: Hatte einfach Pech gehabt.

(Note: "Pech" is a colloquialism in German that roughly translates to "bad luck" or "misfortune", and is often used in informal settings.

The following is taken from the subtitles of a movie. Translate it from English to Spanish. English: That's got some zang to it!
[Spanish]:

Answer

iEso tiene un poco de salsa!.

"Zang" is a colloquialism used to describe something with a lot of flavor or energy, so I translated it to "un poco de salsa", which means "a little bit of flavor" or "some zest"

Table 21: Examples of translation outputs generated by LLaMA-3 for English to German and English to Spanish translations. The examples highlight the model's ability to understand colloquial expressions.

Here is a summary of a movie: summary. The following is taken from the subtitles of that movie. Translate it from English to Finnish. English: The dog just spoke to me!"
[Finnish]:

Answer

There is no mention of a dog speaking to anyone in the provided movie summary. If you meant to provide a different quote from the movie, please feel free to share it, and I'll be happy to help you translate it into Finnish.

Table 22: Example where LLaMA-3 fails to provide a translation in a prompt containing a summary.