

# Investigating Massive Multilingual Pre-Trained Machine Translation Models for Clinical Domain via Transfer Learning

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## Abstract

Massively multilingual pre-trained language models (MMPLMs) are developed in recent years demonstrating superpowers and the pre-knowledge they acquire for downstream tasks. This work investigates whether MMPLMs can be applied to clinical domain machine translation (MT) towards entirely unseen languages via transfer learning. We carry out an experimental investigation using Meta-AI’s MMPLMs “wmt21-dense-24-wide-en-X and X-en (WMT21fb)” which were pre-trained on 7 language pairs and 14 translation directions including English to Czech, German, Hausa, Icelandic, Japanese, Russian, and Chinese, and the opposite direction. We fine-tune these MMPLMs towards English-Spanish language pair which did not exist at all in their original pre-trained corpora both implicitly and explicitly. We prepare carefully aligned clinical domain data for this fine-tuning, which is different from their original mixed domain knowledge. Our experimental result shows that the fine-tuning is very successful using just 250k well-aligned in-domain EN-ES segments for three sub-task translation testings: clinical cases, clinical terms, and ontology concepts. It achieves very close evaluation scores to another MMPLM NLLB from Meta-AI, which included Spanish as a high-resource setting in the pre-training. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work on using MMPLMs towards clinical domain transfer-learning NMT successfully for totally unseen languages during pre-training.

## 1 Introduction

Multilingual neural machine translation (MNMT) has its root from the beginning of NMT era (Dong et al., 2015; Firat et al., 2016) but only made its first milestone when Google’s end-to-end MNMT arrived (Johnson et al., 2017) where the artificial token was introduced

for the first time for translation task at the beginning of the input source sentence to indicate the specified target language, e.g. “2en” as translating into English. This model used a shared word-piece vocabulary and enabled multilingual NMT through a single encoder-decoder model training. Google’s MNMT also demonstrated the possibility of “zero-shot” translation as long as the languages to be translated from or to have been seen during the training stage, even though not explicitly. However, as the authors mentioned, Google’s MNMT only allows translating between languages that have been seen individually as “source and target languages during some point, not for entirely new ones” in their many-to-many model, which was tested using the WMT14 and WMT15 data (Johnson et al., 2017). This set an obstacle to translating freshly new languages that do not exist in their pre-training stage. Then using the later developed NMT structure Transformer and BERT (Devlin et al., 2019; Vaswani et al., 2017), Facebook AI extended the coverage of multilingual translation into 50, 100, and 200+ languages via mBERT-50 (Tang et al., 2020), M2M-100 (Fan et al., 2021), and NLLB (NLLB Team et al., 2022) models. However, these models never address the issue of translating entirely new languages that do not exist in their pre-training stage, which sets an obstacle for MT applications in serving an even broader community.

In this work, we move one step forward towards domain-specific transfer-learning (Zoph et al., 2016) for NMT via fine-tuning an entirely new language pair that does not exist in the deployed multilingual pre-trained language models (MPLMs). The MPLMs we used are from Facebook AI (Meta-AI)’s submission to the WMT21 news translation

task, i.e. “wmt21-dense-24-wide-en-X” and “wmt21-dense-24-wide-X-en” which were pre-trained for 7 languages Hausa (ha), Icelandic (is), Japanese (ja), Czech (cs), Russian (ru), Chinese (zh), German (de) to English (en), and backward (Tran et al., 2021). We use a well-prepared 250k pairs of English-Spanish (en-es) clinical domain corpus and demonstrate that not only it is possible to achieve successful transfer-learning on this explicit new language pair, i.e. the Spanish language is totally unseen among the languages in the MPLM, but also the domain knowledge transfer from general and mixed domain to the clinical domain is very successful. In comparison to the massively MPLM (MMPLM) NLLB which covers Spanish as a high-resource language at its pre-training stage, our transfer-learning model achieves very close evaluation scores in most sub-tasks (clinical cases and clinical terms translation) and even wins NLLB in ontology concept translation task by the metric COMET (Rei et al., 2020) using ClinSpEn2022 testing data at WMT22. This is a follow-up work reporting further findings based on our previous shared task participation (Han et al., 2022a) and pre-print (Han et al., 2022b).

## 2 Related Work

Regarding the early usage of special tokens in NMT, Sennrich et al. (2016) designed the token T from Latin Tu and V from Latin Vos for familiar and polite indicators attached to the source sentences towards English-to-German NMT. Yamagishi et al. (2016) designed tokens <all-active>, <all-passive>, <reference> and <predict> to control of voice of Japanese-to-English NMT; either they are active, passive, reference aware or prediction guided. Subsequently, Google’s MNMT system designed target language indicators, e.g. <2en> and <2jp> controlling the translation towards English and Japanese respectively (Johnson et al., 2017). Google’s MNMT also designed mixed target language translation control, e.g.  $(1-\alpha)<2ko> + \alpha<2jp>$  tells a mixed language translation into Korean and Japanese with a weighting mechanism. We take one step further to use an existing language controller token from a MPLM as a pseudo code to fine-tune an external language translation model, which

was entirely not seen during the pre-training stage.

Regarding transfer-learning applications for downstream NLP tasks other than MT, Muller et al. (2021) applied transfer learning from MPLMs towards unseen languages of different typologies on dependency parsing (DEP), named entity recognition (NER), and part-of-speech (POS) tagging. Ahuja et al. (2022) carried out zero-shot transfer learning for natural language inference (NLI) tasks such as question answering.

In this paper, we ask this research question (RQ): Can Massive Multilingual Pre-Trained Language Models Create a Knowledge Space Transferring to Entirely New Language (Pairs) and New (clinical) Domains for Machine Translation Task via Fine-Tuning?

## 3 Model Settings

To investigate into our RQ, we take Meta-AI’s MNMT submission to WMT21 shared task on news translation, i.e. the MMPLM “wmt21-dense-24-wide-en-X” and “wmt21-dense-24-wide-X-en” as our test-base, and we name them as WMT21fb models (Tran et al., 2021)<sup>1</sup>. They are conditional generation models from the same structure of massive M2M-100 (Fan et al., 2021) having a total number of 4.7 billion parameters which demand high computational cost for fine-tuning. WMT21fb models were trained on mixed domain data using “all available resources” they had, for instances, from historical WMT challenges, large-scale data mining, and their in-domain back-translation. Then these models were fine-tuned in news domain for 7 languages including Hausa, Icelandic, Japanese, Czech, Russian, Chinese, German from and to English.

The challenging language we choose is Spanish, which did not appear in the training stage of WMT21fb models. The fine-tuning corpus we use is extracted from MeSpEn (Villegas et al., 2018) clinical domain data, of which we managed to extract 250k pairs of English-Spanish segments after data cleaning. They are from IBECS-descriptions, IBECS-titles, MedlinePlus-health\_topics-titles, MedlinePlus-health\_topics-descriptions,

<sup>1</sup><https://github.com/facebookresearch/fairseq/tree/main/examples/wmt21>



Рис. 1: (Figure-) Difference of Google’s Multi-lingual NMT Bridge Models (left) and Our Transfer-Learning Model (right).

Pubmed-descriptions, Scielo-descriptions, and Scielo-titles.

To implement the fine-tuning, we use the `<2en>` token for translating from Spanish to English, and `<2ru>` (originally to Russian) pseudo token for translating towards English-to-Spanish (`en2es`)<sup>2</sup>. The difference between our transfer-learning NMT model and Google’s MNMT can be shown in Figure 1, right vs left. In Google’s MNMT model, it can only translate “new language pairs” that are not explicitly seen but implicitly seen, e.g. bridging language pairs (Ukrainian-to-English and English-to-Russian  $\Rightarrow$  Ukrainian-to-Russian), or language pairs that have been seen as source (Korean) and target (Portuguese) somewhere. In our transfer-learned NMT, Spanish was not among the trained languages at all.

In comparison, we deploy another MMPLM from Meta-AI, i.e. the “No-Language-Left-Behind (NLLB)” which was trained on 204 languages including Spanish as one of their high-resource ones (NLLB Team et al., 2022). NLLB full model is a massive size Transformer having 55 billion parameters and we use its distilled version NLLB-200-distilled<sup>3</sup>, which still has 1.3 billion parameters. Fine-tuning is carried out on NLLB using the same 250K ES-EN corpus.

### 3.1 Model Parameters in Detail

Some fine-tuning parameters for NLLB-200-distilled (NLLB Team et al., 2022) are listed

<sup>2</sup>using `<2es>` token will result into errors since Spanish was actually not used in the WMT21fb PLMs

<sup>3</sup><https://huggingface.co/facebook/nllb-200-distilled-1.3B>

below:

- batch size = 24
- gradient accumulation steps = 8
- weight decay = 0.01
- learning rate =  $2e-5$
- number of training epochs = 1
- encoder-decoder layers = 24+24
- Activation function (encoder/decoder) = ReLU

The Parameters for fine-tuning WMT21fb model are the same as for the NLLB-200, except for the batch size which is set as 2, which is because the model is too large and we got an OOM error if the batch size is set above 2. More details on M2M-100 for Conditional Generation structure (Fan et al., 2021) we used can be find in Figure 2.

## 4 Model Evaluations

### 4.1 Testing Corpus from Clinical Domain

We used the official testing corpus from ClinSpEn2022 shared task affiliated to Biomedical-MT at WMT22. ClinSpEn2022 aims at developing clinical domain machine translation on Spanish-English language pair<sup>4</sup>, which is hosted in CodaLab (Pavao et al., 2022)<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup><https://temu.bsc.es/clinspen/>

<sup>5</sup><https://codalab.lisn.upsaclay.fr/competitions/6696>

```

M2M100ForConditionalGeneration(
  (model): M2M100Model(
    (shared): Embedding(128009, 2048, padding_idx=1)
    (encoder): M2M100Encoder(
      (embed_tokens): Embedding(128009, 2048, padding_idx=1)
      (embed_positions): M2M100SinusoidalPositionalEmbedding()
      (layers): ModuleList(
        (0): M2M100EncoderLayer(
          (self_attn): M2M100Attention(
            (k_proj): Linear(in_features=2048, out_features=2048, bias=True)
            (v_proj): Linear(in_features=2048, out_features=2048, bias=True)
            (q_proj): Linear(in_features=2048, out_features=2048, bias=True)
            (out_proj): Linear(in_features=2048, out_features=2048, bias=True)
          )
          (self_attn_layer_norm): LayerNorm((2048,), eps=1e-05, elementwise_affine=True)
          (activation_fn): ReLU()
          (fc1): Linear(in_features=2048, out_features=16384, bias=True)
          (fc2): Linear(in_features=16384, out_features=2048, bias=True)
          (final_layer_norm): LayerNorm((2048,), eps=1e-05, elementwise_affine=True)
        )
        (1): M2M100EncoderLayer(

```

Рис. 2: (Figure:) M2M-100 Model Structure For Conditional Generation Encoder: Samples and Parameters

Task-I: Clinical Cases (CC) EN→ES						
MT fine-tuning	in.es?	SacreBLEU	METEOR	COMET	BLEU-HF	ROUGE-L-F1
Clinical-NLLB	Yes	37.74	0.6273	0.4081	0.3601	0.6193
Clinical-WMT21fb	No	34.30	0.5868	0.3448	0.3266	0.5927
Task-II: Clinical Terms (CT) EN←ES						
MT fine-tuning	in.es?	SacreBLEU	METEOR	COMET	BLEU-HF	ROUGE-L-F1
Clinical-NLLB	Yes	28.57	0.5873	1.0290	0.2844	0.6710
Clinical-WMT21fb	No	24.39	0.5840	0.8584	0.2431	0.6699
Task-III: Ontology Concept (OC) EN→ES						
MT fine-tuning	in.es?	SacreBLEU	METEOR	COMET	BLEU-HF	ROUGE-L-F1
Clinical-NLLB	Yes	41.63	0.6072	0.9180	0.3932	0.7477
Clinical-WMT21fb	No	40.71	0.5686	0.9908	0.3859	0.7199

Таблица 1: (Table:) Evaluation Scores using Five Official Metrics from ClinSpEn2022 Benchmark on Two Models. The column “in.es” means if the original pre-trained model included the Spanish language before fine-tuning/transfer-learning.

There are three sub-tasks: 1) Clinical Cases (CC): on 202 COVID-19 clinical case reports; 2) Clinical Terms (CT): using more than 19K parallel terms extracted from biomedical literature and electric health records (EHRs); 3) Ontology Concepts (OC): using more than 2K parallel concepts from biomedical ontology. The translation direction on these three sub-tasks are EN→ES, EN←ES, and EN→ES respectively.

## 4.2 Evaluation Metrics

The official evaluation metrics used by ClinSpEn2022 shared task are METEOR (Banerjee and Lavie, 2005), SacreBLEU (Post, 2018), COMET (Rei et al., 2020), BLEU-HF (HuggingFace) (Papineni et al., 2002), and ROUGE-L-F1 (Lin, 2004). Among these, METEOR is a metric using both precision and recall not only on word surface level but also introducing paraphrasing features. COMET was proposed recently by taking advantage of cross-lingual PLMs using knowledge from

both source and target languages. ROUGE was originally designed for text summarisation evaluation using n-gram co-occurrences, while ROUGE-L added the Longest Common Subsequence (LCS) feature from translation study.

The reporting of BLEU metric scores has certain uncertainty, which is caused by some parameter settings when using BLEU metric including number of references, length penalty computation on multi-references, maximum n-gram, and smoothing applied to 0-count n-grams. To address these issues, SacreBLEU added some constrains while using BLEU metric. These include the applying of its own metric-internal pre-processing for detokenised system outputs, the avoiding of user handling reference set via automatically downloading from WMT, and the export of a summary on settings used.

### 4.3 Evaluation Scores

We present the MT evaluation scores using five official metrics from ClinSpEn2022 shared task on the three sub-tasks in Table 1, for translating clinical cases, clinical terms, and clinical concepts. The two fine-tuned models are clinic-NLLB which is achieved by domain fine-tuning and clinic-WMT21fb which is a domain fine-tuning plus transfer-learning model to a new language space.

On Task 1 and 2, Clinical-WMT21fb has very comparable evaluation scores to clinical-NLLB, even though it only used 250k pairs es-en sentences for fine tuning without seeing any en-es or Spanish language at all during pre-training. In contrast, clinical-NLLB used a large amount of Spanish data for its pre-training phase. On Task 3, the evaluation scores of these two models are even closer on BLEU and SacreBLEU, especially the clinical-WMT21fb wining COMET metric over clinical-NLLB (0.9908 vs 0.9180).

This experimental result shows that with a carefully prepared certain amount of fine-tuning data, e.g. 250k pair of sentences, the MMPLMs are capable to create a semantic knowledge space transferring to an entirely new (external) language pair for NMT task in a new domain, i.e. clinical domain. This answers our RQ set up in the beginning of this investigation.

### 4.4 Human Evaluation

We looked into three sub-task translation outputs from the model clinical-WMT21fb. It shows that for the EN←ES translation task, i.e. the sub-task 2 clinical term translation, the output file is totally file with only English tokens. On the other two sub-tasks, i.e. the clinical cases and ontology concept translation, which have the translation direction EN→ES, there are some Russian tokens in the output, not only Spanish tokens. However, the Russian tokens in the Spanish sentences are not nonsense, instead proper translations of entities and words. The entire test set of these two sub-tasks is very large around 300K sentences/segments, and there are only 12K lines of them (4%) have Russian tokens. So we have fine-tuned the model in EN-RU direction on EN-SP data, and it translates well into Spanish! But if there isn't a suitable Spanish token in the generation model, it takes a Russian token.

We also looked into the translation outputs from clinic-NLLB model for error analysis using two native Spanish speakers, one of them having a PhD degree in biomedical NLP field and the other having a Master degree in translation studies. The error analysis shows that some of the translation errors come from very literal translation, and others come from gender related mistakes. This suggests that the massively pre-trained MLM is still not there to capture the differences of linguistic features among pre-trained languages.

## 5 Discussion

### 5.1 On Automatic Metrics

We had more thoughts on the automatic evaluation settings and outputs, especially on the COMET metric in comparison to others.

Firstly, the closeness of most automatic metric scores does not necessarily mean that the translation outputs are very good. Most metrics only measure the linguistic proximity of outputs to the "gold standard of reference".

Secondly, COMET is a reference-less metric taking advantage of cross-lingual PLMs using knowledge from both source and target languages. This has pros and cons: a) it might be able to capture the semantic relatedness without seeing the same language tokens, even



in the same sequence/sentence; b) also due to this, it is not able to distinguish foreign language tokens in the translation output, which normally shall receive a penalty in evaluation scores. This also inspires another research topic, i.e. shall we really punish the foreign or mixed-language tokens in the translation output in all evaluation conditions, or it shall depend on the situation of the output applications? This has an echo to Google’s zero-shot MNMT model (Johnson et al., 2017) when the mixed language tokens are used for translation model, e.g.  $(1-\alpha)\langle 2KO \rangle + \alpha\langle 2JP \rangle$  resulting in mixed tokens of Korean and Japanese in the output translation but they are semantically correct tokens.

In a situation when users want only the Spanish translation output, 4% of Russian tokens in the Spanish translation should surely receive a penalty in the quality evaluation setting. The COMET metric will fail this mission, and professional human evaluation is always much needed for trustworthiness. However, in a situation to measure the models’ cross-lingual capability on semantic preservation for direct output, or as input into other ML models, is it better to generate NULL or meaningless tokens or random translations in the target language, or to choose semantically correct foreign tokens when the model does not know how to predict the exact correct target tokens? This inspires us to think again about the evaluation setting on different tasks.

## 5.2 MT System Output Examples

We present the MT system output examples from both clinical-WMT21fb and clinical-NLLB-200 for three tasks in Figure 3, 4, and 5. In these figures, the green colour is for the “preferred translations” while the orange colour is for “both sounds good”. The annotations were firstly marked by one of the two human evaluators we have, and then verified by the second native Spanish speaker.

From these sampled MT outputs, the model clinical-WMT21fb sometimes outperforms clinical-NLLB-200, and vice versa. For instance, in the concept translation (Figure 5), the English concept “Abnormality of body height” (ont\_1) is better translated by transfer-learned model into “Anomalía de la altura corporal” than “Anomalías de la talla corporal” by

clinical-NLLB, since “altura” means “height” while “talla” actually means “size” which is not accurate. We will carry out a systematic human evaluation in a larger sample size.

Regarding rare Russian tokens from the language-transferred model, in Task-1, “Вскоре” from clinical-WMT21fb in line\_n 4 means “soon”, even though it is a Russian token, i.e. non-Spanish token. In Task-3, “Тип” in “Тип autosómico dominante” means “type of” from ont\_11 which is a meaningful Russian token.

## 6 Conclusion and Future Work

We investigated if real transfer-learning NMT is possible using massive multilingual pre-trained LMs (MMPLMs) to translate external languages that are unseen at all in the training phase. We used Meta-AI’s mixed domain multilingual PLMs (WMT21fb) as our test base, 250K well-prepared EN-ES clinical data as fine-tuning corpus, and  $\langle 2ru \rangle$  as pseudo-code for new language (out-of-en) fine-tuning. We tested the fine-tuned model on ClinSpEn2022 clinical domain shared task data, and the results show that this fine-tuning is successful, which achieves very comparable scores to Meta-AI’s MMPLM NLLB model, which had Spanish in the training phase as a high-resource setting. We think this demonstrates that the Hyper-Transformer model from WMT21fb does build a language-independent “semantic space” that allows one to understand a different language and correctly construct a totally different language model when fine-tuned on the language which was absent and different from the languages it was trained upon. This finding can be very useful for future clinical knowledge transformation, e.g. from existing high-resource languages to low-resource languages, such that clinicians from low-resource language speakers can also benefit from AI-supported decision-making. The well-trained clinical models based on properly translated resources can also potentially support patients’ self-diagnoses and self-care in originally scarce resource settings.

There are many future works that can be carried out based on the findings from this work. Firstly, we plan to carry out an extensive human-expert-based evaluation, e.g. using HOPE metric (Gladkoff and Han, 2022), looking into the differences between

doc_n	line_n	Transfer-learning: clinical-WMT21fb:en2es
doc_15976	0	Hombre de 58 años de edad, de raza caucásica, con diagnóstico de EP predominante en temblor a los 44 años de edad.
doc_15976	1	Agonistas dopaminérgicos y tratamiento con levodopa permitieron un buen control sintomático.
doc_15976	2	A los 48 años de edad fue diagnosticado VIH en una prueba rutinaria.
doc_15976	3	Seis años después, aunque permaneció asintomático, el recuento de CD4 alcanzó 209 células/μl y se inició TARGA.
doc_15976	4	Bcscope, después, aparecieron síntomas gastrointestinales severos (náuseas, vómitos y diarrea) y discinesias a dosis pico, que se atribuyeron a las interacciones farmacocinéticas entre levodopa y TARGA.
doc_15976	5	Inicialmente, la levodopa se redujo a costa de un control subóptimo de la EP, pero posteriormente el tratamiento antirretroviral ha de suspenderse debido a discinesias intolerables.
doc_15976	6	Tras 3 años de buen control sintomático de la EP y infección por VIH asintomática, el paciente comenzó a sufrir fuertes fluctuaciones motrices con distonía de mañana y discinesias de dosis máxima.
doc_15976	7	En el momento de considerarse STN-DBS, estaba en tratamiento con levodopa de liberación inmediata y controlada y ropinirol, totalizando una dosis diaria de levodopa equivalente de 1.250 mg.
doc_15976	8	PD estuvo en estadio 3 de Hoehn-Yahr durante la medicación, y la puntuación UPDRS-III fue 78 sin medicación y 18 tras la ingesta de levodopa.
doc_n	line_n	Fine-tuning: clinical-NLLB:en2es
doc_15976	0	Un hombre de 58 años de edad, de raza caucásica, fue diagnosticado de EP predominante en temblor a los 44 años.
doc_15976	1	Los agonistas de dopamina y el tratamiento con levodopa permitieron un buen control sintomático.
doc_15976	2	A los 48 años, fue diagnosticado de VIH en una prueba de rutina.
doc_15976	3	Seis años después, aunque permaneció asintomático, el recuento de CD4 había alcanzado 209 células/μl, y se inició la TARGA.
doc_15976	4	Poco después, se presentaron síntomas gastrointestinales graves (náuseas, vómitos y diarrea) y discinesias de dosis máxima, atribuidas a interacciones farmacocinéticas entre levodopa y TARGA.
doc_15976	5	Inicialmente, la levodopa se redujo a costa de un control subóptimo de la EP, pero posteriormente se tuvo que suspender la TARHA por las discinesias intolerables.
doc_15976	6	Tras 3 años de buen control sintomático de la EP y infección asintomática por el VIH, la paciente comenzó a sufrir de fluctuaciones motoras severas con distonía matinal y discinesias de dosis máxima.
doc_15976	7	Para el momento de la consideración de STN-DBS, estaba en levodopa y ropinirol de liberación inmediata y controlada, con una dosis equivalente diaria de 1.250 mg.
doc_15976	8	La EP se encontraba en estadio 3 de Hoehn-Yahr mientras estaba en tratamiento, y la puntuación UPDRS-III fue de 78 fuera de tratamiento y de 18 tras el consumo de levodopa.
doc_n	line_n	text:src:English
doc_15976	0	A 58-year-old Caucasian man was diagnosed with tremor-predominant PD at the age of 44 years.
doc_15976	1	Dopamine agonists and levodopa therapy allowed a good symptomatic control.
doc_15976	2	By the age of 48 years, he was diagnosed with HIV on a routine testing.
doc_15976	3	Six years later, although he remained asymptomatic, the CD4 count had reached 209 cells/μl, and HAART was started.
doc_15976	4	Soon after, severe gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea) and peak-dose dyskinesias emerged, which were attributed to pharmacokinetic interactions between levodopa and HAART.
doc_15976	5	Initially, levodopa was reduced at the cost of suboptimal control of PD, but afterwards HAART had to be discontinued because of intolerable dyskinesias.
doc_15976	6	After 3 years of good symptomatic PD control and asymptomatic HIV infection, the patient began to suffer from severe motor fluctuations with morning off dystonia and peak-dose dyskinesias.
doc_15976	7	By the time STN-DBS was considered, he was on immediate and controlled-release levodopa and ropinirole, totaling a daily levodopa equivalent dose of 1,250 mg.
doc_15976	8	PD was in Hoehn-Yahr stage 3 while on medication, and the UPDRS-III score was 78 off medication and 18 after supratherapeutic levodopa intake.

Fig. 3: (Figure:) Task-1 Cases/Sentences EN-ES Translation Examples: clinic-WMT21fb vs clinic-NLLB

term_n	Transfer-learning: clinical-WMT21fb:es2en	Fine-tuning: clinical-NLLB-200:es2en	Source: Spanish
term_1	infantile paralysis	infantile paralysis	parálisis infantil
term_2	convulsive seizures	seizures	crisis convulsivas
term_5	deletion in chromosome 5 in the q15-q22 region	chromosome 5 deletion in the q15-q22 region	delección en el cromosoma 5 en la región q15-q22
term_6	Familial adenomatous polyposis	familial adenomatous polyposis	poliposis adenomatosa familiar
term_9	Chromosomopathy	chromosomal disease	cromosomopatía
term_12	arterial hypertension	hypertension	hipertensión arterial
term_15	pT2bN0Mo clear cell renal adenocarcinoma	Renal clear cell adenocarcinoma pT2bN0Mo	adenocarcinoma renal de células claras pT2bN0Mo
term_17	hepatic lesions	liver lesions	lesiones hepáticas
term_18	Hepatic metastases	liver metastases	metástasis hepáticas
term_19	Metastatic renal cancer	metastatic renal cancer	cáncer renal metastásico
term_22	Deep vein thrombosis	deep vein thrombosis	trombosis venosa profunda
term_23	Asterixis	asterixis	asterixis
term_24	Aortic atheromatosis	aortic atheromatous disease	ateromatosis aórtica
term_29	hypothyroidism grade 2	grade 2 hypothyroidism	hipotiroidismo grado 2
term_30	Grade 3 hypertension	grade 3 hypertension	hipertensión arterial grado 3
term_31	Grade 3 diarrhea with secondary hypomagnesemia	grade 3 diarrhea with secondary hypomagnesemia	diarrea grado 3 con hipomagnesemia secundaria
term_32	Thrombocytopenia	thrombopenia	trombopenia
term_33	gastrointestinal toxicity	digestive toxicity	toxicidad digestiva
term_35	Recurrent respiratory tract infection	recurrent infectious respiratory	respiratoria infecciosa recurrente
term_36	Pulmonary nodule located in the upper lobe	pulmonary nodule located in the upper lobe	nódulo pulmonar localizado en el lóbulo superior
term_37	Loculated cystic lesion in LSD	Cystic lesion loculated in LSD	lesión quística loculada en LSD
term_38	Multicystic lesion	Multi-cystic lesion	lesión multiquística
term_43	MCVAP type I of LSD	LSD type I MCVAP	MCVAP tipo I del LSD
term_0	mild mental retardation	mild mental retardation	retraso mental leve
term_3	urinary tract infections	urinary tract infections	infecciones del tracto urinario
term_4	ITU) of repetition	ITU) of repetition	ITU) de repetición
term_7	deletion of this gene	deletion of this gene	delección de dicho gen
term_8	deletion in chromosome 5	deletion in chromosome 5	delección en el cromosoma 5
term_10	drug allergies	drug allergies	alergias medicamentosas
term_11	smoker	smoker	fumador
term_13	dyslipidemia	dyslipidemia	dislipemia
term_14	atrial fibrillation	atrial fibrillation	fibrilación auricular
term_16	macroscopic hematuria	macroscopic hematuria	hematuria macroscópica
term_20	hypothyroidism	hypothyroidism	hipotiroidismo
term_21	dehydration	dehydration	deshidratación
term_25	Cardiomegaly	Cardiomegaly	Cardiomegalia
term_26	anemia	anemia	anemia
term_27	hyponatremia secondary to diarrhea	hyponatremia secondary to diarrhea	hiponatremia secundaria al cuadro diarreico
term_28	sepsis	sepsis	sepsis
term_34	smoker	smoker	fumadora
term_39	cyst	cyst	quiste
term_40	microcytic anemia	microcytic anemia	anemia microcítica
term_41	ectopic pregnancy	ectopic pregnancy	embarazo ectópico
term_42	adenopathies	adenopathies	adenopatías

Fig. 4: (Figure:) Task-2 Clinical Term ES-EN Translation Examples: clinic-WMT21fb vs clinic-NLLB

the outputs of these two MMPLMs, such as on translating multi-word expressions in the clinical domain (Bhatia et al., 2023; Han, 2022). We also designed corresponding measurements on the evaluation of uncertainty and inter-rater reliability (IRR) levels (Gladkoff et al.,

2022, 2023). Secondly, we think it is valuable to integrate more high-performance automatic metrics into the comparison such as hLEPOR (Han et al., 2021). Finally, we will try more external languages from different typologies in future work.

ont_n	Transfer-learning: clinical-WMT21fb (en2es)	Fine-tuning: clinical-NLLB (en2es)	Source:English
ont_0	Todos	Todos	All
ont_1	Anomalía de la altura corporal	Anomalías de la talla corporal	Abnormality of body height
ont_2	Displasia renal multiquística	Displasia renal multicística	Multicystic kidney dysplasia
ont_3	Displasia renal multiquística	Riñón displásico multicístico	Multicystic dysplastic kidney
ont_4	Riñón multiquístico	Riñones multicísticos	Multicystic kidneys
ont_5	Displasia renal multiquística	Displasia renal multicística	Multicystic renal dysplasia
ont_6	Modo de herencia	Modos de herencia	Mode of inheritance
ont_7	Herencia	Herencia	Inheritance
ont_8	Herencia autosómica dominante	Herencia autosómica dominante	Autosomal dominant inheritance
ont_9	autosómica dominante	Autosomal dominante	Autosomal dominant
ont_10	Forma autosómica dominante	Forma autosómica dominante	Autosomal dominant form
ont_11	Tipo autosómico dominante	Tipo autosómico dominante	Autosomal dominant type
ont_12	Herencia autosómica recesiva	Herencia autosómica recesiva	Autosomal recessive inheritance
ont_13	autosómica recesiva	Autosomal recesivo	Autosomal recessive
ont_14	Forma autosómica recesiva	Forma autosómica recesiva	Autosomal recessive form
ont_15	Predisposición autosómica recesiva	Predisposición autosómica recesiva	Autosomal recessive predisposition
ont_16	Morfología anormal de los genitales internos femeninos	Morfología anormal de los genitales internos femeninos	Abnormal morphology of female internal genitalia
ont_17	Anomalía de los genitales internos femeninos	Anomalías de los genitales internos femeninos	Abnormality of female internal genitalia
ont_18	Anomalía funcional de la vejiga	Anomalías funcionales de la vejiga	Functional abnormality of the bladder
ont_19	Mal función vesical	Función vesical deficiente	Poor bladder function
ont_20	Infecciones urinarias de repetición	Infecciones urinarias recurrentes	Recurrent urinary tract infections
ont_21	Infecciones del tracto urinario frecuentes	Infecciones frecuentes del tracto urinario	Frequent urinary tract infections
ont_22	ITU recidivante	ITU recurrentes	Recurrent UTIs
ont_23	Infecciones vesicales de repetición	Infecciones vesiculares repetidas	Repeated bladder infections
ont_24	Infecciones urinarias de repetición	Infecciones urinarias repetidas	Repeated urinary tract infections
ont_25	Infecciones del tracto urinario	Infecciones del tracto urinario	Urinary tract infections
ont_26	Infecciones del tracto urinario, recurrentes	Infecciones del tracto urinario, recurrentes	Urinary tract infections, recurrent
ont_27	vejiga neurogénica	Vejícula neurogénica	Neurogenic bladder
ont_28	Falta de control vesical por lesión del sistema nervioso	Falta de control vesical por lesión del sistema nervioso	Lack of bladder control due to nervous system injury
ont_29	Urgencia urinaria	Urgencia urinaria	Urinary urgency
ont_30	vejiga hiperactiva	Vejícula hiperactiva	Overactive bladder
ont_31	Síndrome de vejiga hiperactiva	Síndrome de vejiga hiperactiva	Overactive bladder syndrome
ont_32	Síndrome de frecuencia de urgencia	Síndrome de frecuencia de urgencia	Urgency frequency syndrome
ont_33	Hipoplasia del útero	Hipoplasia del útero	Hypoplasia of the uterus
ont_34	Útero hipoplásico	Útero hipoplásico	Hypoplastic uterus
ont_35	Útero rudimentario	Útero rudimentario	Rudimentary uterus
ont_36	Útero pequeño	Útero pequeño	Small uterus
ont_37	Útero subdesarrollado	Útero subdesarrollado	Underdeveloped uterus
ont_38	Anomalía vesical	Anomalía vesical	Abnormality of the bladder
ont_39	Divertículo vesical	Divertículo vesical	Bladder diverticulum
ont_40	Divertículos vesicales	Divertículos vesiculares	Bladder diverticula
ont_41	Retención urinaria	Retención urinaria	Urinary retention
ont_42	Aumento del volumen residual de orina post-vacío	Aumento del volumen de orina residual post-vacío	Increased post-void residual urine volume
ont_43	La nicturia	Nocturia	Nocturia

Fig. 5: (Figure:) Task-3 Concept EN-ES Translation Examples: clinic-WMT21fb vs clinic-NLLB

## Limitations

1) On PLM Capability for Transferring to New Language, in this work, we used Meta-AI’s WMT21 multilingual pre-trained language models as our test-base for the knowledge transfer into an external language fine-tuning and translation. This new-language ability is much dependent on the MPLMs we used, such as WMT21fb (Tran et al., 2021) as a huge size model, a conditional generation from Meta-AI’s massive M2M-100 model (Fan et al., 2021). If we try to fine-tune a bilingual model on an external language that the PLM did not see, it will not be that good because for smaller-sized models such fine-tuning would be too much of a change, and the model will lose generalisation which leads to problems. For huge multilingual PLM models, the 250K of fine-tuning data is a small set of numbers, and that’s why the model does not lose generalisation and captures new data well without losing linguistic knowledge of other languages that it was trained on.

2) On the Impact of Language Families, the MMPLM WMT21fb we deployed has

both alphabetic languages and CJK (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) character languages, as well as Slavic language (Russian). This might make it easier to transfer to a new language, e.g. alphabetic language. However, in situations when the MPLMs did not include any of the language scripts that belong to the language family of the target one, it can be much harder for it to transfer to the new target language. This needs further investigation. One possible extension of this work is using the dynamic vocabulary method proposed by Lakew et al. (2018).

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