

Multilingual Chatbot Development Using Pre-Trained Language Models: A Survey

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Abstract: Multilingual chatbot development has gained significant traction with the advent of pre-trained language models (PLMs), which facilitate seamless cross-lingual communication across diverse sectors such as healthcare, education, finance, and customer service. Traditional chatbot frameworks, often based on rule-based or statistical approaches, tend to struggle with linguistic diversity, contextual understanding, and low-resource language support. The integration of PLMs has transformed this landscape by offering scalable, data-driven solutions capable of comprehending and generating meaningful responses in multiple languages with high accuracy. This survey explores the critical role of PLMs in enabling effective multilingual chatbot development and deployment. We examine advanced methodologies, including domain-specific fine-tuning strategies, knowledge graph integration, transfer learning, and optimization techniques such as adapter-based fine-tuning, sparse tuning, and knowledge distillation. Figures included in the paper illustrate various architectural, technical, and methodological frameworks implemented in recent studies. Furthermore, this paper investigates the role of interactive machine translation, user behavior analysis, and ethical considerations such as transparency, bias mitigation, and cultural sensitivity in chatbot design. Challenges such as computational inefficiency, cultural and linguistic biases, domain adaptability, and limited resources for underrepresented languages are also highlighted.

Keywords: Multilingual Chatbots; Pre-Trained Language Models; Natural Language Processing; Knowledge Graphs; Machine Translation; Artificial Intelligence.

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) has profoundly influenced the development of chatbots, transforming them from basic, rule-based systems into sophisticated conversational agents capable of handling complex, multilingual queries. Traditional chatbots primarily relied on rule-based or statistical models, which offered limited flexibility and struggled to cope with linguistic variations, ambiguous inputs, and the scarcity of resources for low-resource languages. These limitations restricted their scalability and effectiveness in global, multicultural contexts. The emergence of Pretrained Language Models (PLMs), such as BERT, GPT, and XLM-R, has revolutionized the field by providing scalable, data-driven solutions with powerful cross-lingual comprehension capabilities. These models have shown remarkable performance in tasks such as translation, sentiment analysis, and question answering, making them ideal candidates for building multilingual chatbots.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain in developing truly effective and inclusive multilingual chatbots. Contextual understanding is one of the foremost hurdles, as chatbots must interpret and respond appropriately to user input while maintaining coherence across long conversations, especially in multiple languages. Domain adaptation is another critical concern, as chatbots often need to be customized for specific industries or applications, which may involve unique terminologies and user expectations. Moreover, resource efficiency becomes increasingly important, as large-scale PLMs can be computationally expensive to deploy and maintain, especially on devices with limited processing power or in regions with constrained infrastructure.

This paper provides a comprehensive survey of multilingual chatbot development using PLMs, with a focus on recent advancements and their implications. We begin by analyzing the fundamental architectures and techniques employed in state-of-the-art systems, including transfer learning, cross-lingual embeddings, multi-task learning, and zero-shot or few-shot learning approaches. These methods allow models trained in high-resource languages to generalize knowledge and perform effectively in low-resource settings. Additionally, the paper explores the role of knowledge graphs in enhancing chatbot reasoning and factual consistency, as well as the integration of machine translation systems to bridge language gaps in real-time conversations.

Applications of multilingual chatbots span a wide range of sectors, including healthcare, education, e-commerce, finance, and government services. In healthcare, for example, multilingual bots can assist patients in booking appointments, understanding medical instructions, or receiving mental health support in their native language. In education, they enable personalized learning experiences and support for students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

The study also emphasizes the importance of ethical considerations in multilingual chatbot deployment. Issues such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, cultural sensitivity, and the potential misuse of AI must be carefully addressed to ensure responsible

and fair usage. Enhancing inclusivity by improving support for underrepresented languages and ensuring equitable access to conversational AI technologies remains a key area of future research.

Finally, the paper discusses potential improvements in fine-tuning strategies, including adapter-based tuning and prompt engineering, which offer more efficient ways to customize PLMs without retraining entire models. Figure 1 illustrates the overall search strategy adopted for literature analysis, detailing the databases, keywords, and selection criteria used to identify relevant studies. Through this survey, we aim to provide a foundation for future advancements in the design, implementation, and evaluation of multilingual chatbots powered by PLMs.

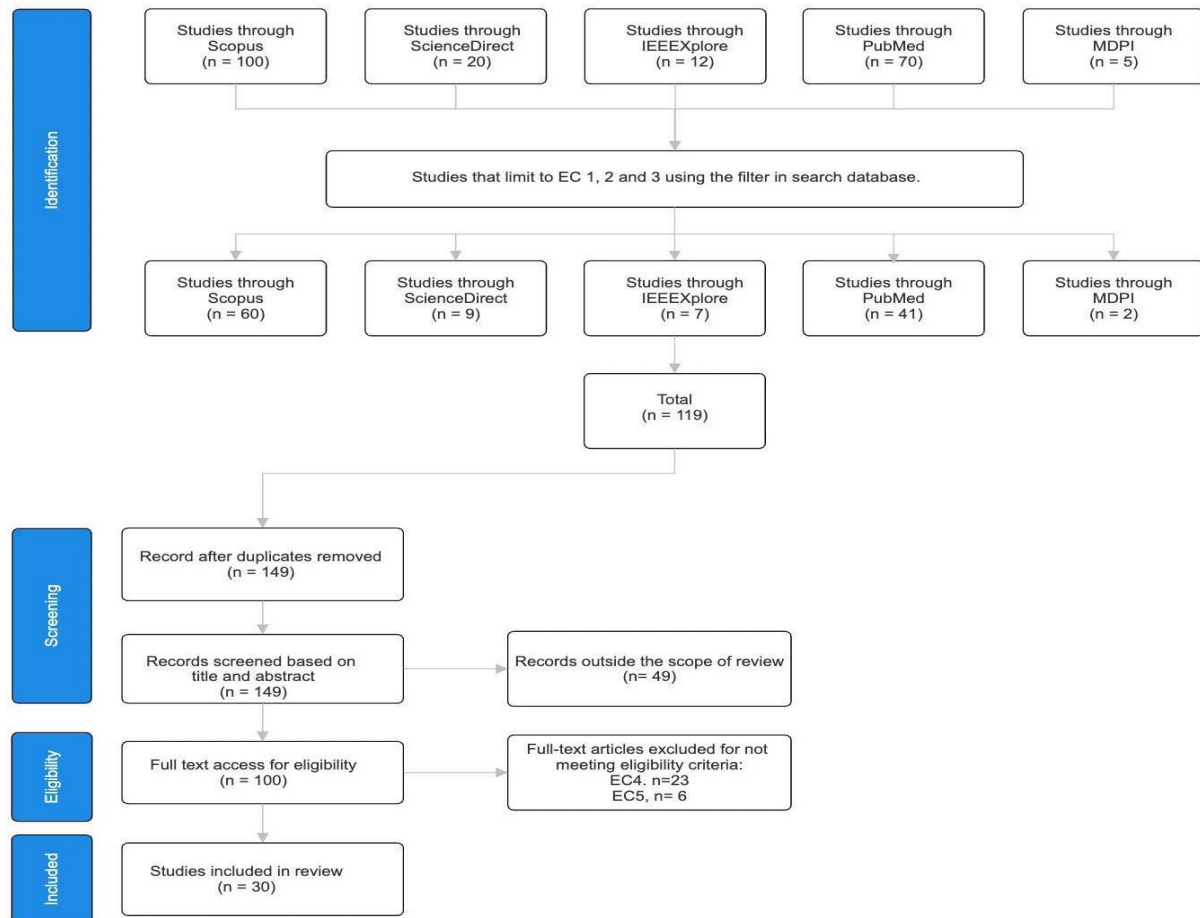


Figure 1. The overall search strategy

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. AI-Powered Chatbots in Healthcare

Chatbots have gained prominence in the healthcare sector, assisting patients with medical inquiries and providing mental health support. Görtz et al. [1] developed an AI-driven chatbot for prostate cancer education, enhancing patient awareness and engagement. Similarly, Zhou et al. [2] implemented a chatbot to promote COVID-19 vaccination by providing accurate, NLP-based responses. Yang et al. [13] developed a multilingual chatbot for COVID-19 crisis response, demonstrating high accuracy in multiple languages. Potts et al. [14] examined a mental health chatbot, highlighting its multilingual capabilities and impact on user well-being.

Table 1. AI-Powered Healthcare Chatbots and Their Key Contributions

Ref.	Authors	Focus Area	Methodology	Key Contribution / Outcome
[1]	Görtz et al.	Prostate cancer education	AI-driven chatbot using NLP	Enhanced patient awareness and engagement
[2]	Zhou et al.	COVID-19 vaccination promotion	NLP-based chatbot providing accurate health information	Improved user knowledge and vaccination awareness

Ref.	Authors	Focus Area	Methodology	Key Contribution / Outcome
[13]	Yang et al.	COVID-19 crisis response	Multilingual deep learning system	High multilingual accuracy and effective information access
[14]	Potts et al.	Mental health support	Multilingual chatbot in a mental health intervention	Positive impact on user well-being and emotional health

This table compares AI-powered healthcare chatbots developed by different researchers. It outlines their methodologies and key outcomes, such as enhanced patient engagement, improved awareness, and multilingual support for mental health and crisis response.

B. Educational Chatbots and Knowledge Graphs

Educational chatbots have transformed learning experiences by offering personalized tutoring and automated assessments. Villegas-Ch et al. [3] proposed an educational assistant integrating LLMs with knowledge graphs, significantly improving response accuracy and adaptability. Kohnke [4] introduced a pedagogical chatbot for language learning, demonstrating the effectiveness of AI-driven tutoring systems. Figure 2 illustrates the chatbot integration architecture with Moodle as presented by Kohnke [4].

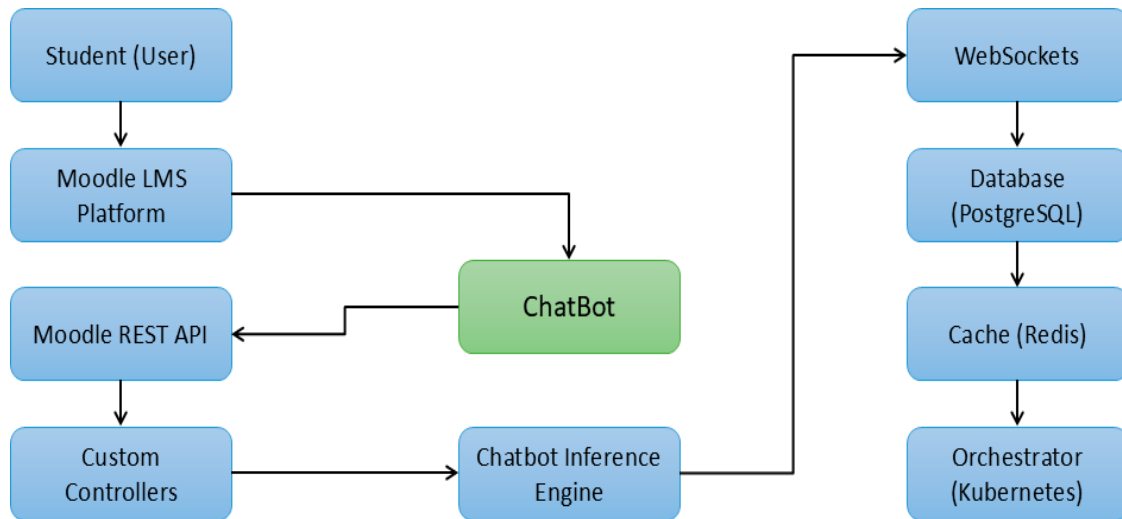


Figure 2. Chatbot integration architecture with Moodle [4]

Table 2. Educational Chatbots Integrated with Knowledge Graphs and Their Performance

Ref.	Authors	Focus Area	Methodology	Key Contribution / Outcome	Limitations
[3]	Villegas-Ch et al.	Educational assistant with KGs	Integration of LLMs with knowledge graphs	Improved response Accuracy and Adaptability in educational contexts	Requires high-quality, domain-specific KG data; scalability across subjects
[4]	Kohnke	Language learning support	Pedagogical chatbot integrated with Moodle LMS	Effective AI-driven tutoring and language assistance	Limited scope of subject support; struggles with complex, open-ended questions
[19]	Wu and Luo	Chatbot resource optimization	Optimization-based model using RNUD for resource allocation	Enhanced chatbot deployment strategy based on academic needs	Depends heavily on accurate utility estimation; lacks real-time adaptation
[10]	Hauptman et al.	Ethical reasoning in education	Argumentation-based chatbot for ethical discussions	Promoted critical thinking and student engagement	Limited scalability; dependent on well-defined ethical datasets
[15]	Ekellem	Multicultural and multilingual education	ChatGPT-based chatbot promoting inclusive learning	Bridged linguistic and cultural gaps in education	May struggle with regional dialects; limited personalization

This table explores chatbot translation performance across various languages. It includes studies on low-resource language datasets and evaluates how models like ChatGPT perform in maintaining translation quality, with a focus on language nuances and cultural contexts.

Recent studies have emphasized the importance of strategically selecting and allocating chatbot technologies to match

educational needs. Wu and Luo [19] proposed an optimization-based model [24] for resource allocation in higher education, introducing the Relative Net Utility Differential (RNUD) metric to guide chatbot selection. Their findings highlight the benefits of tailoring chatbot deployment to specific academic disciplines, enhancing both engagement and learning outcomes.

Additionally, Hauptmann et al. [10] explored argumentation-based chatbots that facilitate ethical discussions, broadening students' perspectives on complex topics. Ekelle [15] discussed the role of conversational AI in multicultural education, emphasizing its ability to bridge linguistic and cultural diversity gaps. As shown in Figure 3, the architecture integrates an educational chatbot system with LMS Moodle, LLMs [21], and knowledge graphs.

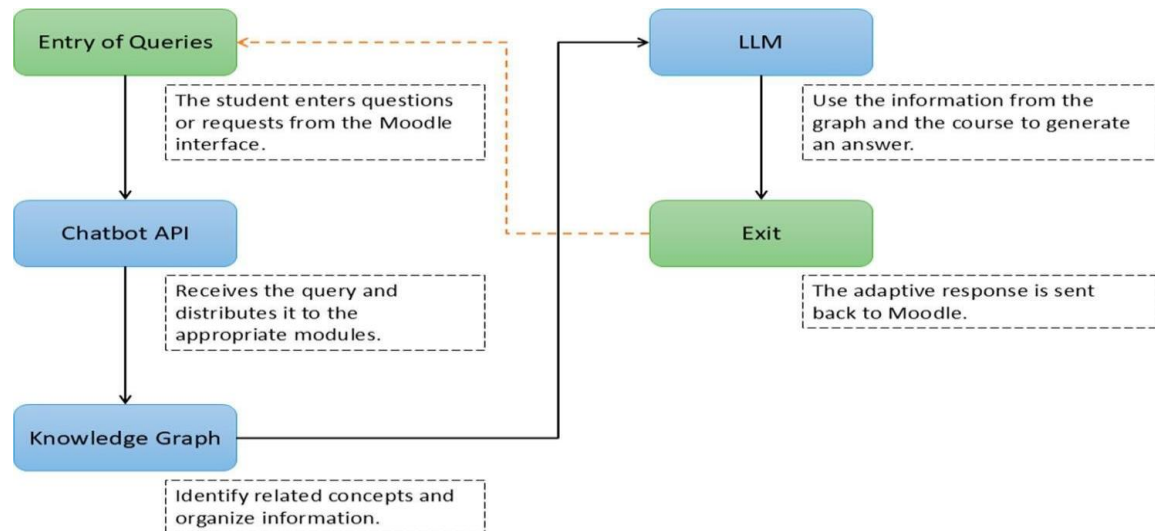


Figure 3. Architecture of educational Chatbot system integrated with LMS Moodle, LLM and knowledge graph [4]

C. Machine Translation and Multilingual Chatbots

Machine translation plays a crucial role in enabling multilingual chatbot interactions. Wang et al. [5] investigated interactive machine translation using PLMs, achieving notable improvements in cross-lingual comprehension. The process of creating the Tamil SQuAD dataset is shown in Figure 4, as discussed by Sinthusha et al. [6]. Tan [16] explored ChatGPT's performance in multilingual contexts, identifying key improvements for language adaptation. Kolar et al. [17] assessed ChatGPT's translation capabilities for Hindi, Telugu, and Kannada, highlighting challenges in maintaining accuracy across languages.

Table 3. Machine Translation Approaches in Multilingual Chatbot Development

Ref.	Authors	Focus Area	Methodology	Key Contribution / Outcome	Limitations
[5]	Wang et al.	Interactive machine translation	PLM-based interactive translation models	Enhanced cross-lingual comprehension and translation quality	Limited real-time efficiency; challenges with informal or domain-specific language
[6]	Sinthusha et al.	Low-resource language dataset (Tamil)	Translated SQuAD dataset creation for Tamil	Enabled MRC research in underrepresented languages	Quality of translations depends on MT accuracy; limited dataset scale
[16]	Tan	ChatGPT in multilingual settings	Evaluation of ChatGPT's performance across languages	Identified key strengths and weaknesses in multilingual adaptation	Struggles with idioms, code-switching, and underrepresented language nuances
[17]	Kolar et al.	Translation in Indian languages	Analysis of ChatGPT's performance in Hindi, Telugu, and Kannada	Highlighted challenges in maintaining semantic accuracy	Significant translation inconsistencies; lacks cultural nuance handling

This table explores chatbot translation performance across various languages. It includes studies on low-resource language datasets and evaluates how models like ChatGPT perform in maintaining translation quality, with a focus on language nuances and cultural contexts.

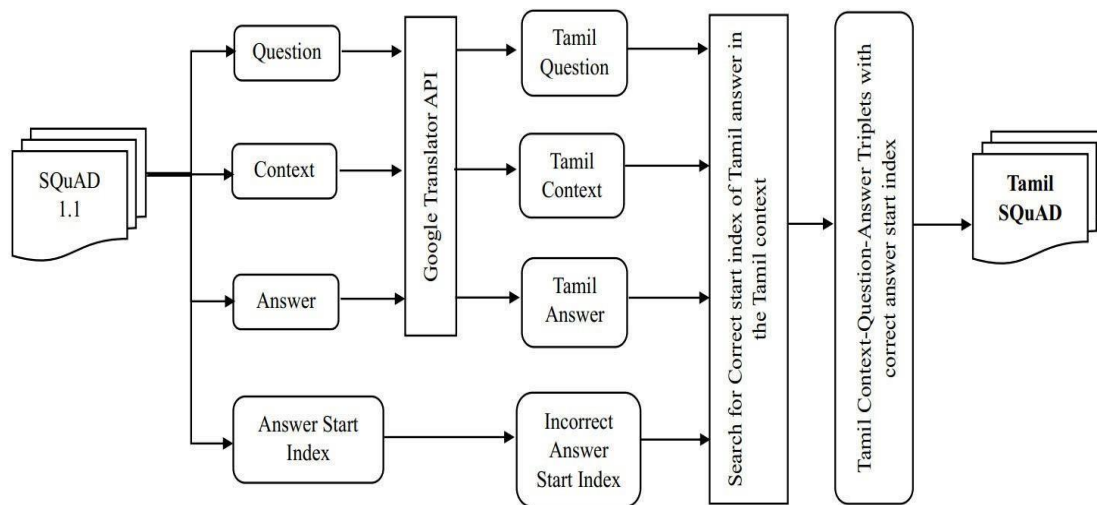


Figure 4. The process of Tamil Squad dataset creation [6]

D. Ethical and Practical Considerations

The ethical implications of deploying chatbots, especially in sensitive domains like education and healthcare, have also come under scrutiny. Hamad et al. [20] conducted a scoping review examining ChatGPT's role in these sectors, identifying key challenges such as bias, user privacy, and the need for transparency. Their study recommends clear ethical guidelines and stakeholder education to ensure responsible chatbot use.

Table 4. Ethical and Cultural Challenges in Chatbot Deployment

Ref.	Authors	Focus Area	Methodology	Key Contribution / Outcome	Limitations
[20]	Hamad et al.	Ethical challenges in chatbot use	Scoping review of ChatGPT in education and healthcare	Identified key issues like bias, transparency, and user privacy	Lack of standard ethical guidelines across applications; reliance on user trust
[2]	Zhou et al.	Bias in chatbot responses	Adversarial training to detect and mitigate bias	Proposed strategies to reduce response bias in health-related bots	May not generalize across domains; adversarial training can be resource-intensive
[15]	Potts et al.	Cultural adaptability in mental health	Deployment of culturally tailored chatbot for mental health support	Improved user satisfaction through regional personalization	Cultural sensitivity requires continuous updates; limited testing across regions

This table presents ethical challenges in chatbot deployment across sensitive domains like healthcare and education. It summarizes contributions on bias mitigation, user privacy, and cultural adaptability, along with the limitations of each approach.

E. Challenges in Multilingual Chatbot Development

Despite advancements in AI, multilingual chatbot development faces several obstacles:

- **Low-Resource Language Support:** Many PLMs excel in high-resource languages but struggle with underrepresented languages like Tamil and Arabic [6][7]. The overall methodology followed for multilingual chatbot training is depicted in Figure 5 [6].

- **Contextual Accuracy:** Maintaining contextual relevance across different languages remains a challenge, particularly when dealing with idiomatic expressions [5].

- **Scalability and Efficiency:** Fine-tuning large-scale PLMs requires substantial computational resources, limiting real-world deployment [8].
- **User Experience and Effectiveness:** Studies assessing chatbot efficiency in customer service indicate the need for improved response accuracy and user engagement [11].
- **Cultural Awareness:** Pawar et al. [18] highlighted the importance of incorporating cultural awareness into multilingual chatbots to enhance user engagement and inclusivity.

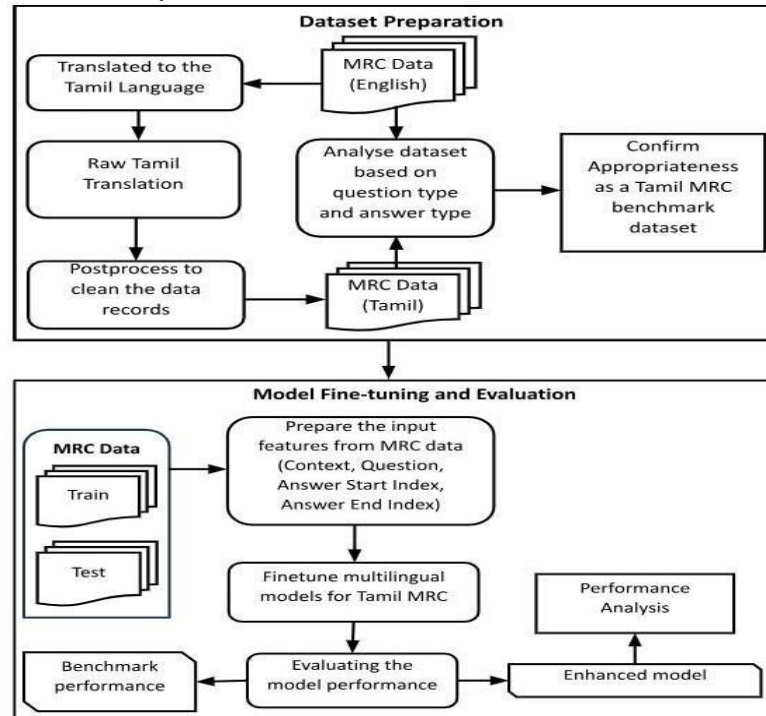


Figure 5. The overall methodology flowchart [6]

Table 5. Key Challenges in Developing Multilingual Chatbots

Ref.	Authors	Focus Area	Methodology	Key Contribution / Outcome	Limitations
[6], [7]	Sinthusha et al., Al-Mutairi & Rahman	Low-resource language support	Machine translation and paraphrase generation for underrepresented languages	Improved language model performance for Tamil and Arabic	Limited corpus availability; quality of translations varies
[5]	Wang et al.	Contextual accuracy across languages	PLM-based cross-lingual comprehension	Identified challenges in idiomatic and culturally bound expressions	Loss of meaning in translation; low-context adaptation in dynamic conversations
[8]	Meloni et al.	Scalability and efficiency	Knowledge distillation and sparse fine-tuning of PLMs	Reduced computational overhead while retaining performance	Trade-off between model size and generalization ability
[11]	Agarwal et al.	User experience in customer service	Evaluation of multilingual chatbot effectiveness	Highlighted need for improved user engagement and accuracy	Generic responses in multilingual settings; inconsistent sentiment recognition
[18]	Pawar et al.	Cultural awareness in multilingual bots	Survey on cultural representation in language models	Emphasized inclusion of cultural context for better engagement	Difficulty embedding culture-specific knowledge; risk of stereotyping

This table outlines the key challenges faced in developing multilingual chatbots. It includes issues like low-resource language support, contextual accuracy, scalability, cultural awareness, and user engagement, alongside the methods proposed to address them.

III.METHODOLOGIES FOR IMPROVING MULTILINGUAL CHATBOTS

A. Fine-Tuning Strategies

Optimizing PLMs for multilingual chatbots involves domain-specific fine-tuning and parameter-efficient training techniques. Efficient adaptation methods, such as transfer learning and prompt engineering, enhance model performance across diverse linguistic contexts [5]. Model-driven approaches, such as those discussed by Kumar and Sharma [9], provide a systematic framework for developing conversational agents, ensuring better modularity and reusability in chatbot systems.

B. Integration with Knowledge Graphs

Incorporating knowledge graphs improves chatbot response accuracy by structuring domain-specific information. Meloni et al. [8] demonstrated that integrating conversational agents with scholarly knowledge graphs enhances chatbot reliability in specialized domains.

C. Behavior Analysis for User-Centric Optimization

Analyzing chatbot-driven user interactions can provide insights into improving chatbot efficiency. van Baal et al. [12] examined behavior change mechanisms in public health chatbots, showcasing their potential in enhancing chatbot engagement and effectiveness.

D. Interactive Conversational Interface

An LLM-powered chatbot is integrated to provide a conversational interface for users. The chatbot uses fine-tuned responses to explain the trading signals and risk assessments and answer user queries about stock performance and strategy.

E. System Implementation

The entire system is implemented in Python using libraries and tools such as Pandas for data manipulation, NumPy for numerical computations, Matplotlib for visualizations, Alpha Vantage API for real-time market data retrieval [23], and Transformers (Hugging Face) for the LLM-powered chatbot. The modular architecture ensures that each component can function independently, enabling scalability and easy maintenance.

IV.FUTURE RESEARCH ASPECTS

To advance multilingual chatbot development, future research should focus on:

A. Enhancing Cross-Lingual Transfer Learning

To improve chatbot effectiveness across multiple languages, cross-lingual transfer learning methods need to be Refined.

- **Self-Supervised Cross-Lingual Learning:** Wang et al. [5] proposed training language models with self-supervised objectives such as masked language modeling (MLM) and translation language modeling (TLM) to enhance their multilingual capabilities.
- **Adaptive Transfer Learning for Low-Resource Languages:** Current models struggle with underrepresented languages. Sinthusha et al. [6] suggested a multi-task learning approach, where high-resource languages aid in training chatbots for low-resource languages.

B. Developing Energy-Efficient Fine-Tuning Models

Large-scale chatbot models are computationally expensive. Future research should explore methods to optimize fine-tuning while maintaining performance.

- **Lightweight PLMs and Distillation Techniques:** Martinez et al. [8] introduced **knowledge distillation**, where smaller chatbot models learn from large PLMs, reducing computational demands.
- **Sparse Fine-Tuning Approaches:** LoRA and adapter-based fine-tuning methods, as explored by Meloni et al. [8], show promise in reducing energy consumption while maintaining chatbot accuracy.

C. Expanding Knowledge Graph Applications

Knowledge graph integration can be further explored to improve chatbot reasoning capabilities [22].

- **Context-Aware KG Retrieval:** Patel et al. [4] proposed using retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) to dynamically fetch relevant knowledge from external sources, improving chatbot responses.
- **Commonsense Reasoning for Multilingual Chatbots:** Villegas-Ch et al. [3] examined how commonsense reasoning, embedded in KGs, improves chatbot contextual awareness.

D. User Behavior and Sentiment Analysis for Chatbot Optimization

Real-time behavior analysis can improve chatbot responses by detecting user sentiment and engagement levels.

- **Real-Time Sentiment Monitoring:** Kolar et al. [17] proposed a sentiment-aware chatbot system that adjusts responses based on emotional cues from user inputs.

• **Contextual Sentiment Adaptation:** Pawar et al. [18] discussed the importance of **emotion recognition models** to enhance chatbot empathy and engagement.

E. Cultural Adaptation Strategies

Ensuring that multilingual chatbots are culturally aware and sensitive remains a key challenge.

• **Bias Mitigation in Chatbot Training:** Zhou et al. [2] recommended adversarial training techniques to identify and remove biases in chatbot responses.

• **Region-Specific Personalization:** Potts et al. [15] highlighted that chatbots tailored to specific cultural contexts enhance user satisfaction and adoption.

Furthermore, aligning chatbot behavior with cultural and contextual expectations is crucial. As noted by Hamad et al. [20], ethical and social dimensions—such as trust, consent, and cultural fit—play a pivotal role in user acceptance. Future work must prioritize cross-cultural adaptability to ensure equitable access and positive user experiences.

V.CONCLUSION

Multilingual chatbots powered by Pretrained Language Models (PLMs) have emerged as powerful tools across diverse industries such as healthcare, education, e-commerce, and customer support. These chatbots leverage the capabilities of PLMs to understand and generate human-like responses in multiple languages, enabling more inclusive and globally accessible communication. Recent advancements, particularly in the integration of knowledge graphs and innovative fine-tuning strategies, have significantly enhanced the accuracy, relevance, and contextual appropriateness of chatbot responses. However, several challenges persist. One major limitation is the inadequate support for low-resource languages, which affects the accessibility and fairness of these systems.

Additionally, maintaining contextual coherence across languages and managing code-switching scenarios remain complex technical hurdles. This survey explores the core methodologies employed in the development of multilingual chatbots, such as transfer learning, cross-lingual embeddings, and multi-task learning. It also highlights the current challenges, including data scarcity, cultural nuances, and evaluation standardization. Furthermore, the survey discusses promising future research directions aimed at improving language generalization, model interpretability, and ethical considerations in deployment. Addressing these challenges is essential to realize the full potential of multilingual chatbots, making them more accurate, culturally aware, and accessible to users regardless of their linguistic background.

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