

On the Evaluation of Semantic Phenomena in Neural Machine Translation Using Natural Language Inference



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How to evaluate semantics in NMT models?

Method:

- 1. Pre-train NMT models:
 - 1. English -> {Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, German}
- 2. Extract sentence representations from pre-trained NMT encoders
- 3. Use recast NLI datasets that target specific semantic phenomena

Feature Extraction Decoder **NLI Classifier Hypothesis** Entailed? Encoder Not-entailed?

Recasting: convert semantic annotations into labeled NLI

Paraphrastic Inference:

Premise: Iran possesses five research reactors Hypothesis: Iran <u>has</u> five research reactors

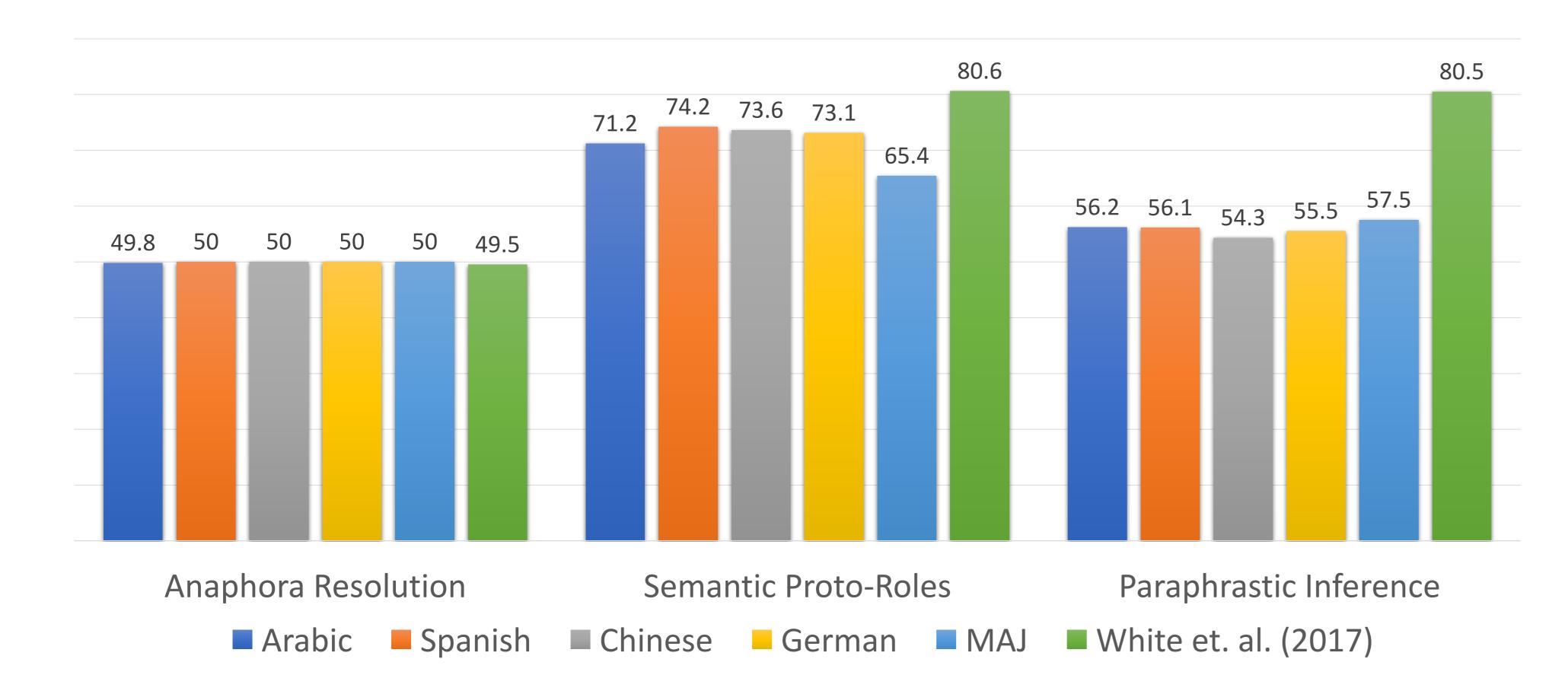
Anaphora Resolution:

Premise: Sara adopted Jill, she wanted a child Hypothesis: Sara adopted Jill, Jill wanted a child not-entailed

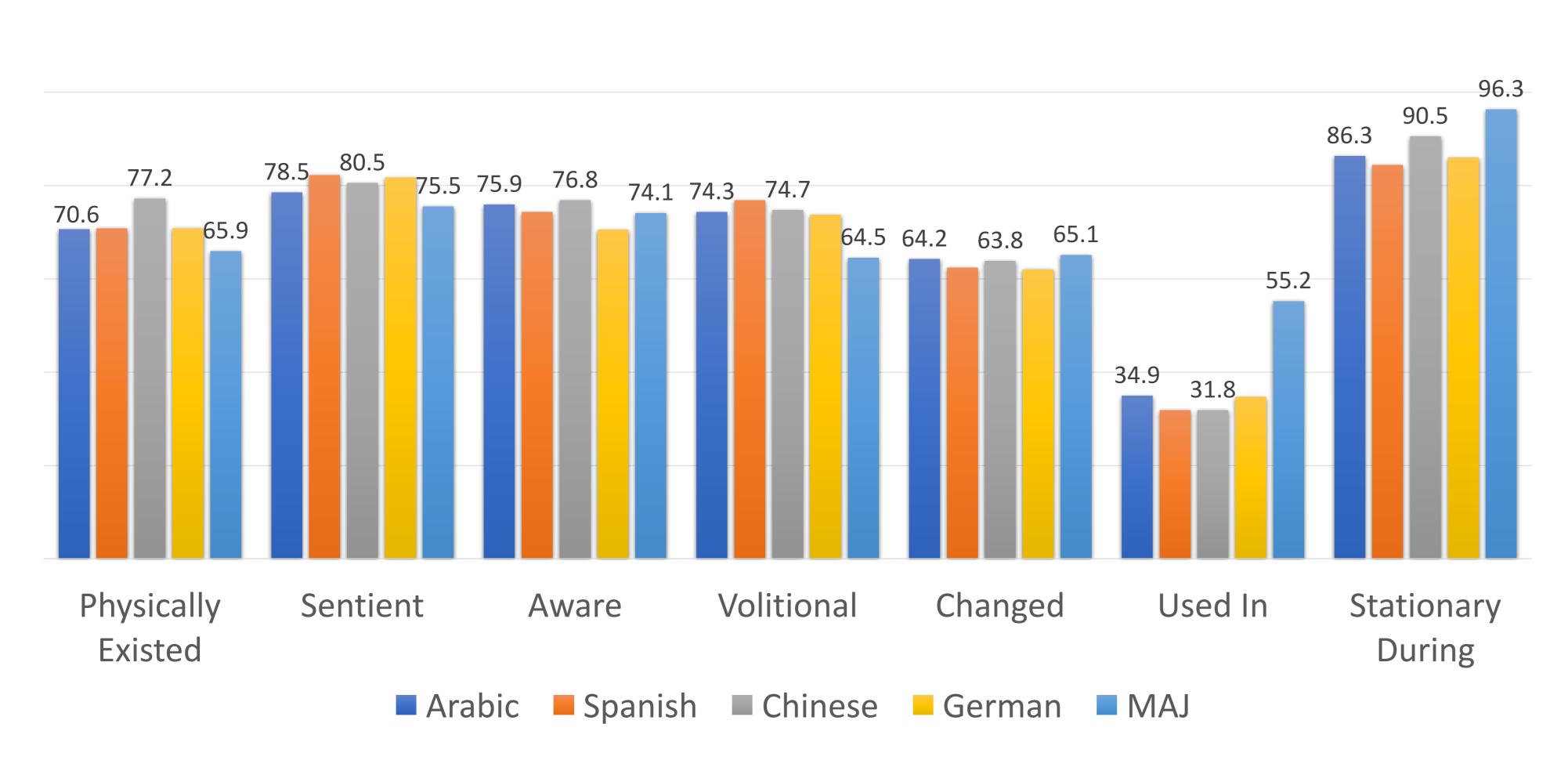
Semantic Proto-Roles:

Premise: Berry rejoins WPP Group **Hypothesis:** Berry was <u>sentient</u> entailed

NLI Accuracies across Semantic Phenomena



NLI Accuracies across Semantic Proto-Roles



- Captures SPR better than Anaphora Resolution or Paraphrastic Inference
- Performs better on Proto-Agent roles compared to Proto-Patient roles

Motivating Semantic Phenomena & Translation

Paraphrastic Inference

Map unknown words to paraphrases

Anaphora Resolution

EN: "The parent fed the child since she was hungry"

"the child" as **la niña** and not **el niño**

Semantic Proto-Roles

proto-roles may be expressed differently in different languages

Conclusion

- 1. NMT encoders may not capture these semantic phenomena
- 2. NMT train data may not require these types of reasoning
- 3. Test for more semantic phenomena in NMT by recasting more datasets
- 4. Evaluation method may be used to test encoders trained for other NLP tasks

Paper

Code/Data



