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## **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

# PDHS: Pattern-Based Deep Hate Speech Detection With Improved Tweet Representation

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**ABSTRACT** Automatic hate speech identification in unstructured Twitter is significantly more difficult to analyze, posing a significant challenge. Existing models heavily depend on feature engineering, which increases the time complexity of detecting hate speech. This work aims to classify and detect hate speech using a linguistic pattern-based approach as pre-trained transformer language models. As a result, a novel Pattern-based Deep Hate Speech (PDHS) detection model was proposed to detect the presence of hate speech using a cross-attention encoder with a dual-level attention mechanism. Instead of concatenating the features, our model computes dot product attention for better representation by reducing the irrelevant features. The first level of Attention is extracting aspect terms using predefined parts-of-speech tagging. The second level of Attention is extracting the sentiment polarity to form a pattern. Our proposed model trains the extracted patterns with term frequency, parts-of-speech tag, and Sentiment Scores. The experimental results on Twitter Dataset can learn effective features to enhance the performance with minimum training time and attained 88%F1Score.

**INDEX TERMS** Attention mechanism, transformer, BERT, sequence modeling, hate speech, natural language processing.

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Twitter is the most popular and largest online social platform to express opinions. Tweets are short messages of 140 to 280 characters, and the content of tweets is mostly written in informal language. Also, the contents are noisy and unstructured [1], making them more difficult to analyze. The significant advantage of a brief text is that it conveys only one Sentiment about a subject.

The presence of hate speech, offensive, and cyberbullying language on tweets has increased, leading to severe problems [2]. Analyzing and detecting such informal tweets becomes a significant challenge. Hate speech detection is described as a classification task in [3]. Natural Language Processing (NLP) technique is employed to classify the tweet. Understanding the polysemous in tweet contents is the most

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difficult part of NLP. Furthermore, the monosemy nature of tweet contents makes hate speech classification and detection more complicated.

Any NLP task requires deep pre-training to reduce the complexity and computation of processing [4]. Neural language models and BERT [5] based approaches have been an increasingly powerful and successful approach to solving various NLP tasks [6]. For efficient computation, a model should be trained on a lower-dimensional dataset with less computational time.

Deep learning methods employ multiple layers of nonlinear processing units to extract complex features that can be used to generate learning patterns and relationships beyond the sequence. The improvement of text representation methods, such as word and sentence encoders, has contributed significantly to the success of deep-learning approaches in NLP. Transformers with self-attention can be used to create rich representations.



**FIGURE 1.** Overview of Self Attention and Cross Attention. In Self Attention, the input vector is projected into three vectors (Q, K, V). In Cross Attention, the vectors Q and K are from one input source and V from the next input source.

### A. TRANSFORMER—ATTENTION

An attention [5] approach is constructed to capture significant driving factors of encoder inputs in an adaptable manner to overcome the gradient vanishing problem of RNN. Attention is also used to focus on key features. The term attention is a weight used to compute the significance of an input element in order to boost performance.

The transformer model is entirely based on attention mechanisms without Recurrent Networks to address the long-term dependency issue. Hence Transformers are preferable to RNNs because they enable parallel computing by taking the whole sequence as input. Also, Transformers does not require any labeled data. The most common practice of Transformer-based Attention is self-attention in the encoder part, where the input sequence pays Attention to itself, that is, the Query vector, Key vector, and Value vector obtained from the same source, called self-attention. Recently Query vector, Key vector, and Value vector obtained from different sources also in a different representation, called cross attention, is shown in Figure.1.

## B. PATTERN FEATURES

Hate speech is detected using a variety of linguistic features. Parts-of-speech (POS) tags and aspect-based features are most commonly used, determined by nouns and noun phrases [7], to resolve the problem of polysemy and monosemy. Thus, aspect-based sentiment polarity and POStags are used as additional features as learning feature representations to the pattern.

Multi-head Cross Attention [5] is a variant of Attention used as an encoder in our proposed model for parallel processing of sequential modeling and data reduction with minimum computations.

As a result, this work proposes a novel hate speech detection as a ternary classification task to reduce the complexity and computation of NLP processing by reducing the dataset dimension. [8] inference from the stacked regression model, two-level attentions are implemented as a stacked model. The novelty of the proposed approach is to use dual-level cross attention on POS tagging and aspect-based sentiment polarity as the pattern-based on deep hate speech detection (PDHS). The proposed transformer-based cross-attention detection model would classify each tweet based on POS tagging features and sentiment polarity scores.

The main contributions of this work are as follows

- Pre-processing and improved tweet representation
- Extract only adverbs, adjectives, verbs, and nouns using POS tagging linguistic features.
- Dual-level CrossAttention is applied with different feature embedding combinations as improved pattern representation.

This study is organized as follows: Section 2 discusses the related works, followed by the proposed PDHS methodology in section 3. Section 4 describes the dataset, results, and analysis of experiments, and the conclusion is presented in section 5.

## **II. RELATED WORKS**

Cyberbullying, hate speech, and inflammatory languages are examples of abuse, and various studies have been conducted to recognize and identify such languages. Detection of cyberbullying is subject to sentiment analysis. This is a predictive modeling task in which the model is trained to predict the polarity of textual data or expressions such as positive, neutral, and negative.

Three main sentiment categorization approaches are lexical-based, machine learning-based, and hybrid. The lexicon-based approach is powerful but requires an enriched linguistic dictionary. Furthermore, tweets are user-generated and may contain misspellings, typographical errors, and grammatical mistakes, making them unsuitable for expanding data. Also, this approach relies heavily on hand-crafted features, which are expensive to develop. The second approach is the machine learning approach. This approach depends on pre-labeled data. In general, this method is more accurate than the lexicon-based method. However, it requires labeled data, which is not always readily available.

The hybrid approach integrates machine learning and the lexicons approach. The hybrid approach allows for a better comprehension of sentiment analysis, which leads to better categorization. Combining lexicon-based and machine



#### **TABLE 1.** Different feature representation and algorithms with F1 score on twitter data.

learning methods showed significantly better results [18] but noisier on large data. Hence, the hybrid model is designed with deep neural networks for growing data. The different feature representations and algorithms are summarized in Table.1.

In this research, a deep neural network is proposed to extract features. CNN's provide automatic feature extraction, which is the primary advantage. Lee *et al.* [19] proposed a deep CNN model to extract aspects and transfer applied learning. However, it requires more number of layers for feature extraction. Instead of applying additional layers, it is preferable to use fewer engineering features to reduce computation risks. RNN is another popular deep learning algorithm used in sequence modeling. One of the main problems of RNN is the vanishing gradient problem.

To overcome this problem, memory-based RNNs such as LSTM GRU are preferred. These two networks can learn long-range dependencies between the input sequences. Here, the tweets serve as inputs are sequences of words.

Rudkowski *et al.* [20] showed the effectiveness of embedding words into mood analysis. Martini *et al.* [21] suggest a method for detecting ironic proposals on Twitter using an attention-based LSTM. Tadesse *et al.* [22] used a joint LSTM-CNN model to detect suicidal thoughts online. Basiotis [23] presents a collected model to track ironic tweets in sensitive RNNs at word and character levels.

Fortune *et al.* [24] suggested a summary of how the automatic detection of hate language in the text had made significant progress in NLP. Karamy *et al.* [25] suggested a systematic basis for text analysis of Twitter. Silva *et al.* [26] recommend a combination of word sets and linguistic features

for filtering fairy news. One issue that arises while utilizing NLP is the polysomy issue. One of the methods to overcome this problem is by applying POS. Hence POS tagging and Aspect based feature is applied. Resignia *et al.* [27] proposed an improved model by combining POS, Lexicon, and wordto vector (W2V). But in our model, the dot product between POS tag and W2V is computed to extract task-related words.

Hate speech in social media networks is detectable but not recognizable based on user characteristics [31], such as gender. [28] proposed a deep CNN model to extract aspects and transfer applied learning. Sharma *et al.* [29] proposed W2V and CNN-based feature extraction methods on short text movie review corpus. García-Pablos *et al.* [30] presented W2VLDA to perform aspect and sentiment classification. Chen [31] proposes sentence level using BiLSTM-CRF and CNN-based sentiment analysis.

In our work, a good learning model to classify the emotions of the tweets will be developed. Hence, the proposed model works on deep neural lexicon-based approaches with different features as a pre-trained feature compared with machine learning approaches and techniques for deep neural networks.

## A. RESEARCH GAP

Some research gaps are identified from the above study on detecting hate speech on Twitter.

- Tweets are of word sequences; neither Feed-forward nor CNN are recommended. RNN is a chain-like structure used to represent tweets.
- No parallel processing and more computation are required for RNN, with the random initialization requiring more layers.



**FIGURE 2.** Overal flow diagram of the proposed model.

• Proper initialization and good representation as input improve the performance.

To improve performance, the bottlenecks addressed in our proposed work are enabling parallel processing for input sequences and proper initialization for good representation as input.

- BERT, a transformer-based context-dependent representation language model, is used as an encoder instead of Word2Vec, a context-independent embedding technique to enable parallel processing.
- Linguistic-based features such as POS and sentiment polarity are incorporated with the training model to improve the features representation.

Hence, we propose a novel lexicon-based approach with different pre-trained features framed as the pattern by dual-level dot product cross attention for improved tweet representation and better computation performance of our model.

#### **III. PROPOSED PDHS DETECTION MODEL**

The major aim of the proposed PDHS detection model is to classify each tweet into one of three classes based on POS tagging features and sentiment polarity scores using a cross-attention mechanism. The three classes are Hate-Speech: abusive or threatening speech against a particular group. Offensive: causing someone to feel resentful, upset, or annoyed and Neutral.

The novelty of the proposed model employs a dual-level cross-attention pattern as features such as POS tagging, Sentiment Score, and Word embedding in order to improve the representation of tweets. Instead of concatenating the word Embedding with the POS feature, the dot product is computed to extract only adjectives, adverbs, verbs, and nouns. Extracting task-related words from tweet sentences reduces data sparsity.

The overall flow diagram of the proposed model is shown in Figure. 2. The proposed model consists of an input layer, a PDHS transformer block with eight encoders, and a classifier layer. Transformers are typically encoder-decoder structures, but the decoder layer is removed in this case, increasing the encoder to 8 layers. A single encoder block contains multi-attention heads. Cross attention replaces self-attention, which means that the input vectors Q(TWi), K(TWi), and V(TWi-1) to the encoder are not taken from a single word. Q(TWi) and K(TWi) represent word embedding and pos tagging, respectively, and V(TWi-1) represents the sentiment score of the previous word.

The proposed PDHS-Predefined Pattern Transformer model has a number of encoders. Instead of concatenating both features of each tweet word, it computes dot product attention between its corresponding word Embedding and its POS embedding. Then extracted tags of nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives are fed to the next level of dot attention with sentiment scores. To check the negation, consider the predecessor of that particular tweet word. Each encoder contains a multi-head cross attention layer, normalization layer, feed-forward layer and finally, the output classifier layer.

#### A. INPUT LAYER

The input tweet sequence is preprocessed and tokenized. Then compute word embeddings and position embeddings for each token to maintain the sequential input order.

#### 1) TOKENIZATION AND WORD EMBEDDING

Word embedding is a fundamental task that involves expressing each word as a set of numeric feature vectors. Figure. 3 illustrates tokenization as well as word embedding [32] or word IDs.The initial step is to vectorize all of the training data's tweets as a numeric vector and then vectorize each word to its corresponding POS vector [27].

## 2) POSITIONAL EMBEDDING

Positional embeddings are there to give a transformer knowledge about the position of the input vector shown in Figure.4. They are added to corresponding input vectors. Position embeddings (PE as depicted in Figure.4) are calculated using Eqn.1 and 2.

$$
P(k, 2i) = \sin\left(\frac{k}{n^{2i/d}}\right) \tag{1}
$$



**FIGURE 3.** Tokenization and word embedding.



**FIGURE 4.** Positional encoding.

$$
P(k, 2i + 1) = cos\left(\frac{k}{n^{2i/d}}\right)
$$
 (2)

where k denotes the position of a term in the sequence,  $0 \le$  $k < L/2$ . d is the dimension or size of the output embedding. The scalar value n is usually set to 10000 as default. The position function  $P(k, i)$  is used to map a position k in the input sequence, and i is the mapping column indices  $0 \le i \le$ d/2. The value sin and cos are used to normalize the vector between  $-1$  and 1.

#### 3) PDHS CROSS ATTENTION LAYER

As a first-level attention mechanism, words with the POS tag as a verb, adjective, or adverb are extracted as sentiment words and dot products with the corresponding word Embedding. As a result, the sparsity of word features is reduced by using dot product attention representation.

$$
Multihead(Q_i, K_i, V_{i-1}) = concat(hd_1, hd_2...hd_n)
$$
 (3)

$$
hd_i = Attention(Q_i, K_i, V_{i-1})
$$
 (4)

$$
Attention(Q_i, K_i, V_{i-1}) = FA.SA
$$
\n(5)

$$
FA = softmax(Q_i *, K_i)
$$
 (6)

$$
SA = sigmoid[FA*V_{i-1}] \tag{7}
$$

where  $Q_i$  *and*  $K_i$  are the query vector (word embedding) and key vector (POS embedding) of i<sup>th</sup> word.  $V_{i-1}$  is the value vector (sentiment score) of previous word of i. FA and SA

are first and second-level Attention, respectively. *hd<sup>i</sup>* is the attention head score of the i<sup>th</sup> word

Now cross dot product is computed between extracted words and the predecessor of that corresponding word, this time with a sentiment score of the corresponding words and predecessor of that word. A sentiment score is assigned to each extracted word [33]. If the word has a positive sentiment score, then look at the predecessor word's sentiment score for negation. If so, the negative sentiment score count increases by one; else, the positive score count increases by one. Similarly, look at the predecessor word sentiment score for negation for negative words. If so, the positive sentiment score count increases by one; else, the negative sentiment score count increases by one. The Final Score is calculated by adding the tweet's summation scores for each extracted word. Based on this Score, each tweet is categorized as either negative (hateful), positive (Offensive), or neutral (neither).

The individual attention scores are fed into the normalization layer and then the feed-forward layer, where the inputs are again fed to the next encoder. The final encoder is the output embedding.

## 4) CLASSIFIER LAYER

The output embedding is then fed into the softmax classifier layer, determining whether the target label is hate speech, offensive speech, or neither.



**FIGURE 5.** The architecture of the proposed dual-level cross attention for predefined patterns.

Our proposed model incorporates POS tagging and Sentiment Score as Feature Engineering. In contrast to the existing model, which concatenates POS features with word embedding, the novelty of our proposed model computes dot product attention as first-level Attention to extract specific POS tags. Then, as illustrated in Figure 5, these extracted POS features are then dotted product with sentiment scores of that word and previous word to create second-level Attention.

To improve the performance, we must identify the optimal combination of features as patterns. The proposed algorithm generates patterns from sentiment words and predecessors of sentiment words, as described in Algorithm 1. Adjectives, adverbs and verbs are extracted using POS tags, and the extracted T<sub>word</sub> check for negation, and the count increase or decreases by one depending on the conditions:

if the  $T_{word}$  sentiment Score is negative, then look at the predecessor word

- if it is also negative, then the  $T_{word}$  increase by one else Tword decrease by one.
- Repeat the above step as if the

Tword sentimentscoreispositive, then look at the predecessor word

If it is also positive, the Tword increases by one; else

Tword decreases by one.

Finally, the Tweet Score is computed by

 $T_{tScore} = T_{tScore} + T_{word}.$ 

Every word in the sequence gets an integer sequence as a one-hot vector and a corresponding POS tag, dot products to form the word Embedding. It is then passed to the next level of Attention with a Sentiment score.

POS tagging is important to identify nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc. This will be used to avoid ambiguity or polysomy problems. Sentiment score captures the sentiment word from the tweets as 'positive', 'negative', and 'neither. Semantic features concentrate on the meanings of words in a sentence. Hate is mostly an emotional word, expressing a negative emotion. As a result, we feel that relying on the tweet's emotional polarity is a significant signal of whether or not the tweet is potentially hateful.

So with the support of these POS and Sentiment scores in our proposed PDHS model, extract the limited tags: nouns as aspect terms and verbs, adjectives, and adverbs as sentiment words.

#### B. PROPOSED MODEL TRAINING

Word-embedding with positional encoding is used as an embedding layer in our model, which helps to improve deep learning performance. The machine-learning and deep-learning model generates a multiclass output that differentiates between different types of hate speech, offensive speech, and neither. To start, our model requires 12 to 16 GB of GPU memory and trained with 6 to10 epochs, the learning rate of 0.01 to 0.5, Adam optimizer.

Hyperparameters used in our proposed model to determine the data dimension depend on:

**L**- Number of Transformer encoder blocks.

**H** - Hidden size - the size of *Q, K* and *V* vectors.

**A**- Number of multi-attention heads.

Our proposed model employs eight encoder blocks, a hidden size of 215, and twelve multi-attention heads. Tweets are about 140 to 280; hence the hidden size of Embedding is varied from 150 to 200.





#### C. EVALUATION METRICS

The final step of the text classification and detection task is evaluation, which is used to estimate the performance of our proposed model. Standard metrics derived from a confusion matrix, such as precision, recall, and F measures, are used to evaluate our proposed tweet classification model. The measures of precision, recall, and F1Score is shown in equation [\(8\)](#page-6-0) to [\(11\)](#page-6-0). True positives (TPs) are predictions that an actual positive will be positive. True negatives (TNs) are predictions that an actual negative will be negative. False positives ( FPs) are misinterpreting a true positive as a negative. False negatives (FNs) are the misinterpretations of a true negative as a positive.

<span id="page-6-0"></span>
$$
Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}
$$
 (8)

$$
Precision = \frac{11}{TP + FP}
$$
(9)

$$
Recall = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}
$$
(10)

$$
F1Score = 2 * \frac{Precision * Recall}{Precision + Recall}
$$
 (11)

#### **IV. EXPERIMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION** A. DATASET

We collect the publicly available data of 2484 tweets manually classified as 'Hateful,' 'Offensive', and 'Neither'.

#### **TABLE 2.** Preprocessing steps.





**FIGURE 6.** Tweet preprocessing.

Also, split 80% as training and 20% as testing sets. Linkhttps://www.kaggle.com/datasets?search=labeled\_data.csv

#### B. PREPROCESSING

Tweets are highly unstructured. So some preprocesses are applied to form well-structured data for further analysis. [33] and [1] proposed the preprocessing techniques for Twitter data before sentiment analysis. Table.2 details the procedures involved in preprocessing. The preprocessing steps in this hate speech detection are case conversion, removal of stopwords, URL, punctuation symbols, special characters, and replacement of date, time and hashtag. Finally, stripping of white space and tokenization. Tweets and preprocessed tweets are given in Figure.6.

**TABLE 3.** Comparison of classification machine learning algorithms.

<b>Algorithm</b>	<b>Testing</b>					Training				
	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score	Prediction Time	Accuracy:	<b>Precision:</b>	Recall	F1 Score	Training Time
Bagging Classifier	0.929585	0.966584	0.92483	0.945246	0.219115	0.989009	0.996851	0.986403	0.9916	29.851784
SGD Classifier	0.928021	0.96124	0.927891	0.944271	0.00301	0.983383	0.992049	0.982607	0.987306	0.122096
Logistic Regression	0.926344	0.964089	0.922279	0.942721	$\mathbf{0}$	0.978726	0.990241	0.977282	0.983719	1.125309
DecisionTree Classifier	0.923662	0.953728	0.928912	0.941156	0.044081	0.998845	0.999943	0.9983	0.999121	3.842501
Linear SVC	0.916732	0.946599	0.92551	0.935936	0.002543	0.997019	0.998298	0.997167	0.997733	0.410218
RandomForest Classifier	0.91662	0.948619	0.923129	0.935701	2.75743	0.998845	0.99949	0.998754	0.999122	40.718343
AdaBoost Classifier	0.907567	0.972508	0.884354	0.926338	0.254679	0.90965	0.971744	0.888448	0.928231	1.271948
Multinomial NB	0.893372	0.901663	0.940306	0.920579	0.057981	0.94456	0.956763	0.959039	0.9579	0.036372
KNeighbors Classifier	0.857606	0.895161	0.887245	0.891186	34.074224	0.897727	0.927596	0.915982	0.921753	0.004012



#### **FIGURE 7.** Feature extraction using our proposed PDHS model.

#### C. FEATURE EXTRACTION RESULTS

First, generate the POS tag for all words in tweets; Tword with POS tag nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs are extracted from Tweet. Then, compute dot attention with sentiment scores. Figure.7 shows the proposed model's POS tag extraction and sentiment score. The result of the first Attention again dots product with sentiment scores of previous words to classify the tweets.

#### **V. RESULT AND OBSERVATION**

The proposed model is evaluated against hand-crafted features using TF-IDF and W2V neural word Embedding. The proposed pattern-based PDHS features are more suitable for keyword identification and perform better. The result of

#### **TABLE 4.** Accuracy and training loss for DNN models.



different machine learning algorithms on test and train data is shown in Table.3.

Logistic regression [28] is mainly used for binomial classification, and the resultant confusion matrix is well-explained; it limits the size of the data set.CNN with only word2vec showed a moderate result. Support Vector Machine (SVM) is inefficient with large data. The scale of datasets has a big impact [34], and it is particularly relevant in the case of Twitter, which is constantly growing in data. Deep learning methods show their true potential.

Hence, deep learning methods are highly suggested. CNN only with word2vec (without any additional features) have comparably fewer true positive values. RNN with word2vec with POS tag and sentiment scores showed better results than CNN. The proposed PDHS model, with a predefined pattern feature, has a better accuracy value, as shown in Table.4.

### A. COMPARATIVELY ANALYSIS OF PATTERN

The proposed [34] pattern-related features based on POS tagging have an F1 score of 70%. However, in our model, the sentiment score is included in addition to POS tagging and has an F1 score of 88%. The Contrast-based classifier pattern [35] is created by combining relational statements with Random Forest (RF) classifier. But RF and ensemble BFS-RF [37] classifier requires high training time. Hence in our model, we employ a softmax classifier to categorize the



#### **FIGURE 8.** Comparison of classification machine algorithms.





tweets as hate speech, offensive or not. Figure.8 depicts a graph comparing classification on several machine learning algorithms.

## B. COMPARATIVELY ANALYSIS OF BERT CLASSIFIER

Self-attention is used in BERT [5], but our model incorporates cross attention with additional features as a pattern. The





first dot product attention reduces data size by extracting only Noun, Verb, Adjective, and Adverb POS tagging words. Cross dot product with extracted POS tag terms with its corresponding previous term is the second level of Attention. This allows it to identify the keywords easily.

For parallel processing, multi-head Attention is used. Positional encoding is used to solve the Sequence order problem. As a result, our proposed PDHS dual-level crossattention model was used to process the entire tweet embedding along with position encoding. Softmax classifiers are also used for multiclass categorization. Figure.9 shows normalized confusion matrices for ternary classifier models based on the different feature TF-IDF scores, sentiment scores, word2vec and our proposed PDHS model.

As shown in Table.4, there is no significant difference in the accuracy when using Lstm, GRU, or BiLstm, the most popular RNNs. So Transformer is preferred for better accuracy with minimum training loss. Also, the proposed PDHS model, with a Predefined pattern feature, has a better accuracy value. Table.5 shows the comparison of results for different combinations of features. Hate speech detection with our proposed model has improved the F1 Score while maintaining comparable Precision and Recall values.





**FIGURE 9.** Concatenation of TF-IDF scores, Sentiment Scores, Word2Vec, and Doc2Vec.

Table.6 compares the proposed PDHS model's training time and accuracy with all other models. The GRU and CNN models took less time to train per epoch, but the model requires more epochs to obtain maximal performance. So, our proposed model outperforms the other models.

#### **VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK**

The most challenging task of automated hate speech detection on Twitter was addressed in this paper by a novel Pattern-based Hate Speech detection model with improved representation. In our proposed model, First level dot attention extracts the words related to corresponding POS tags by avoiding the preprocessing step such as stop words removal and stemming. Second level attention with sentiment score as additional input to improve the performance training. Thus, the experimental results on the Twitter data set outperformed supervised machine learning algorithms in terms F1-Scores by 88% and with the minimum training time.

In the future, we will improve the proposed model for unstructured social media datasets by incorporating multi-modality features like images and emojis.

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