

Leveraging Multilingual BERT Variants for Hate Speech Detection in Hinglish Social Media Content

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1. INTRODUCTION

Abstract The explosive growth in the use of social media has increased the dissemination of hateful and offensive material, especially in multilingual and code-mixed environments. In India, much of online communication is in Hinglish, which is a mix of Hindi and English using Roman script, and this presents serious problems with automated hate speech detection, as there is informal grammar, spellings vary and they may change to the English language. The present paper describes a powerful Transformer system of Hinglish hate speech detection based on the fine-tuned versions of BERT. The experiments are performed on scale Hinglish data consisting of 76564 samples labeled in three categories such as non-hate (HS0), hate (HS1), and extreme hate (HSN). Several pre-trained models are fine-tuned and assessed on the basis of accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC and AUC, including multilingual BERT (mBERT), XLM-RoBERTa, DistilBERT, and BERT-base. The experimental findings show that mBERT has the highest overall accuracy of 98 percent and macro F1-score of 0.95, which is better than the already reported methods. The results prove the usefulness of Transformer-based models to process complicated code-mixed language data and emphasize how it can be applied to real-life content moderation systems. Also, the intensive training validation analysis and confusion matrix analysis indicate soundness and applicability of the proposed framework to unseen Hinglish data. The paper emphasizes the appropriateness of multilingual Transformer frameworks to be deployed in automated content regulation frameworks in social media, in large scale and operational environments.

Keywords: - Hate Speech Detection, Hinglish, Code-Mixed Language, BERT, Multilingual NLP, Transformer Models, SVM.

The swift increase in the social media platforms has enhanced the proliferation of hate speech, abusive language and toxic materials which are dangerous socially and psychologically. Consequently, automated hate speech detection has become a burning issue of current Natural Language Processing (NLP) in societies with more than one language, like India where online communication often takes the form of Hinglish, a code-mixed mixture of Hindi and English that is written in Roman script. Hinglish is the top contender among informal communication in social sites such as twitter (X), facebook and YouTube yet poses significant problems to the NLP systems because of its inconsistent spelling patterns, predominant code switching, and use of slang, as well as ambiguous spellings through transliteration. Stock machine learning and rule-based methods, which use manually crafted features, including n-grams and TF-IDF, are not very effective in detecting contextual meaning, sarcasm, and implicit hate in such data. CNN- and LSTM-based models are better models in sequential modeling, but they still do not support long-range dependencies and multilingual context. Transformer-based models (especially, BERT and its multilingual projections) deal with these weaknesses as they teach deep contextual memory with the help of self-attention mechanisms. Code-mixed language processes The pre-trained models on large multilingual corpora including mBERT and XLM-RoBERTa can jointly model Hindi and English subword units and are therefore well-suited to code-mixed language processing. Inspired by such developments, this paper examines how well fine-tuned versions of multilingual and monolingual versions of BERT perform in detecting Hinglish hate speech using a large-scale collection of more than 76,000 annotated social media samples. Several Transformer models, such as mBERT, XLM-RoBERTa, DistilBERT, and BERT-base are compared in a systematic way based on standard

classification metrics.

The overall contributions of this work are three:

(1) Hinglish hate speech detection framework using large-scale data based on transformers;

Several fine-tuned versions of BERT: (2) Unified comparative analysis;

To establish the relevance of the multilingual Transformer models to real-life contexts and content moderation in the setting of code-mixed social media, (3) empirical proof of the superiority of multilingual Transformer models over existing solutions will be necessary.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

The recent dramatic rise of social media and the development of an abusive content in the Internet has made the Hate speech detection one of the most important research fields in Natural Language Processing (NLP). The initial research mainly dealt with English data sets and adopted conventional machine learning algorithms with human-crafted features. One of the first hate speech classifier based on character n-grams and logistic regression was suggested by Davidson et al. [1], however, the given method could not differentiate between hate speech and any type of offensive language. On the same note, Waseem and Hovy [2] revealed that deep learning-based neural networks like convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs) are frequently used in detecting hate speech due to their inability to capture contextual meaning, sarcasm, and implicit hate. Zhang et al. [3] proved that CNN-based models are more effective than traditional ones, nevertheless, these models still have limitations to consider long-range dependencies and semantics. The LSTM based models penetrated further by sequential modeling however, it remains vulnerable to noise and informal language which is largely introduced in social media texts. Detection of hate speech in code-mixed languages like Hinglish presents even greater challenges as the language often shifts, transliteration is not always consistent, and the grammar is not always standardized. Rudra et al. [4] demonstrated that the traditional NLP pipelines are ineffective in Hindi-English code-mixed text. Swami et al. [5] studied the Hinglish hate speech detection with classical machine learning techniques but with poor generalization. A more significant breakthrough came with the introduction of the Transformer architecture by Vaswani et al. [7] where self-attention

models the global contextual dependencies and allows achieving moderate improvements even there. Devlin et al. [8] started with this, suggesting BERT that demonstrated the state-of-the-art in a variety of tasks in the field of NLP. Mozafari et al. [9] manifested that fine-tuned BERT models are strong opponents on CNN- and LSTM-based methods to hate speech detection, and contextual embeddings are important. In case of multilingual and code-mixed environment, multilingual Transformer models have demonstrated good effectiveness. Conneau et al. [10] proposed XLM-RoBERTa, which is built on large multilingual datasets, and DistilBERT, developed by Sanh et al. [11] as a lighter model with lower computational weight. Kumar et al. [12] established that multilingual BERT was very effective in detecting hate speech in Hinglish. Chakraborty et al. [13] also demonstrated that Transformer-based models always perform well compared to traditional models when dealing with tasks that require code-mixed offensive language. Deemed more recently, Patra et al. [14] indicated that contextual embeddings and data augmentation do an extra benefit to the Hinglish hate speech detection, but their researchers use comparatively small data samples, which can weaken the strength and applicability of the results. Furthermore, a comparative study of numerous BERT variants with a single experimental environment on large-scale Hinglish data is still not widespread. This paper fills this gap by giving a detailed comparative analysis of several fine-tuned BERT models that detect Hinglish hate speech and gives a more in-depth analysis of their performance and applicability to the real world.

3. METHODOLOGY

This part provides the suggested architecture of Hinglish hate speech detection with the Transformer-based fine-tuned models. It generates and applies a typical deep learning pipeline which includes data preprocessing, tokenization, model fine-tuning, training and evaluation. In contrast to classical approaches, which use the handcrafted characteristics, the suggested framework takes advantage of the contextual embeddings as trained on the Transformer architectures and can effectively capture the linguistic complexity of code-mixed Hinglish text.

The preprocessing of data and the encoding of labels are completed.

In Hinglish dataset, the social media text is noisy and informal and contains URLs, user mentions, emojis, slang, and spelling variants. Preprocessing entails the elimination of URLs, user mentions, and unnecessary special characters without the loss of emojis and familiar but

frequently used Hinglish words as they can be full of contextual and emotional data. The text is also normalized by eliminating unnecessary whitespace.

The data is initially labeled with three categories, namely, HS0 (Non-Hate), HS1 (Hate) and HSN (Extreme Hate). Under the binary classification, the categories HS1 and HSN are combined into one hate category, and the category HS0 is the non-hate content. The values are coded 0 (non-hate) and 1 (hate).

3.2 Tokenization

With the help of a tokenizer of the chosen BERT variant, each Hinglish sentence is tokenized. The tokenization provides a text into subword units and creates input IDs and attention masks. Padding and truncation are used to ensure that the maximum sequence length remains constant and is 128 tokens. Hinglish transliteration ambiguity and spelling variation is especially well handled with subword tokenization.

The model architecture based on transformers 3.3.

The suggested architecture narrows down pre-trained Transformer encoders on hate speech classification. The assessed models are multilingual BERT (mBERT), XLM-RoBERTa, multilingual DistilBERT

and BERT-base-uncased. Each of the models is comprised of a Transformer encoder and a task-specific classification head. The contextual embedding of the special [CLS] token of the final hidden layer is reduced to a dropout layer and fully connected layer with Softmax activation to compute the probability of the classes. Since the representation is hidden, hCLS, the output is calculated as:

Where θ and ϕ are the parameters of the classification layer which are trainable.

3.4 Model Training and Evaluation.

The models are trained on the supervised learning model with the loss of the cross-entropy and Adam optimizer. The training is carried out in several epochs, and early stopping is done using validation loss to avoid overfitting. All experiments are run with Python, PyTorch, and the HuggingFace Transformers library and are accelerated by the use of a GPU. Stratified sampling is used to ensure all datasets in the training, validation, and test sets are distributed equally. Accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC are used as the best indicators of model performance and allow a more detailed evaluation of both classification performance and generalization ability.



Figure 1. Illustration of End-to-end architecture of the Hinglish hate speech detection model showing preprocessing, tokenization, BERT encoding, and classification.

4. Experimental Results and Analysis

This part will report the experimental analysis of the designed Hinglish hate speech detection system with the usage of various fine-tuned Transformer models based on BERT. Experiments were performed on large scale Hinglish dataset with 76564 samples and 80, 10 and 10 percent training, validation and test sets respectively with stratified

sampling. to preserve label distribution. Performance is evaluated using accuracy, macro precision, macro recall, macro F1-score, and ROC-AUC.

4.1 Training and Validation Analysis

Fig. 5.1 illustrates the training and validation loss curves of all the four Transformer models: mBERT, XLM-RoBERTa, DistilBERT and BERT-base-uncased.

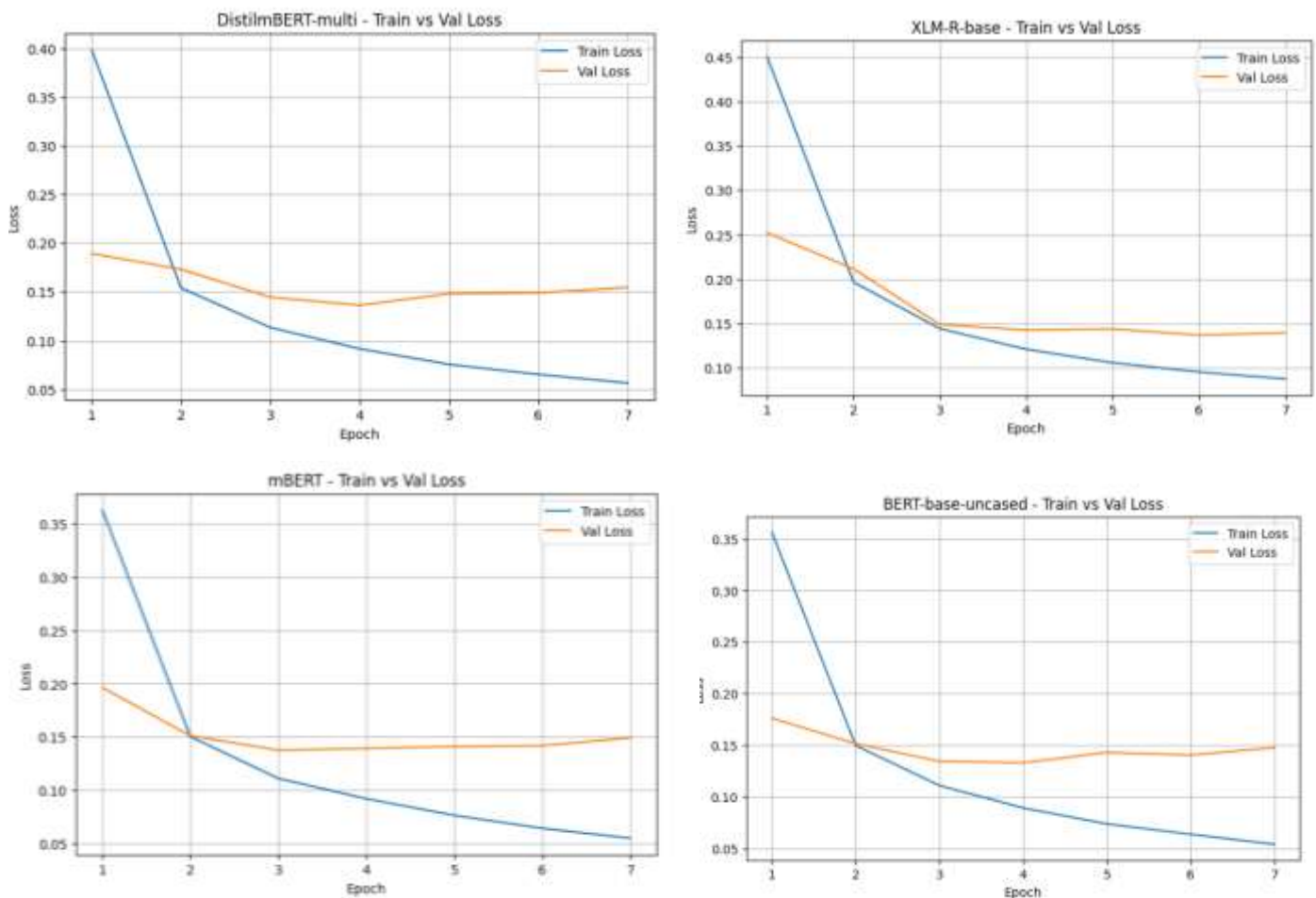


Figure 2. Illustration of End-to-end architecture of the Hinglish hate speech detection model showing preprocessing, tokenization, BERT encoding, and classification

The overall loss in training is found to decrease steadily with the epochs, which is a good sign of learning behavior. The first loss in validation starts to drop drastically and finally levels of which it shows good convergence with no serious overfitting. The mBERT and BERT-base-uncased are more smoothly converging, whereas DistilBert is slightly oscillating after the initial few epochs, which is presumably explained by its smaller parameter space. In order to analyse the dynamics of learning further, the trends of validation accuracy

and macro F1-score over the epochs are shown in Fig. 5.2. Each model gets validation accuracy over 95, which proves the applicability of Transformer-based representations to code-mixed Hinglish text. Interestingly, mBERT has the most consistent score as well as the highest macro F1-score, suggesting a superior trade off between precision and recall, which is extremely important in hate speech detection as a false negative outcome may lead to severe repercussions.

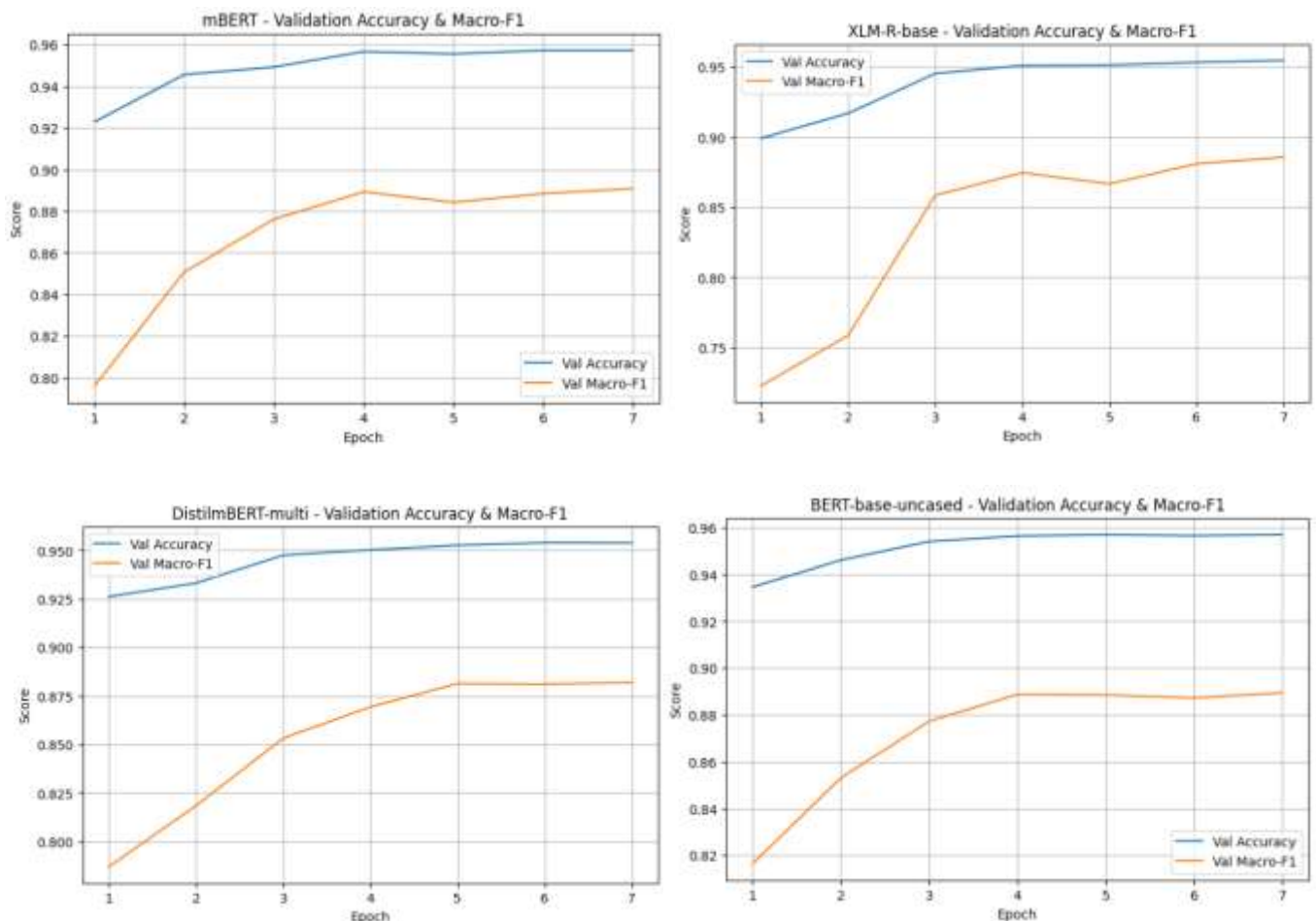


Figure 5.3 depicts all BERT Models Validation Accuracy & Macro F1.

4.2 ROC-AUC Performance

The ROC-AUC analysis is used to measure the discriminate ability of the models as demonstrated in Fig. 5.3. The four models all attain very high ROC-AUC values of more than 0.98, which implies that there is a good separability between hate and non-hate classes. BERT-base-uncased has the

highest macro ROC -AUC of 0.989 followed by XLM-R (0.988) and mBERT (0.987).

The findings validate the fact that the models are able to capture deep contextual semantics and do not just follow lexical surface patterns.

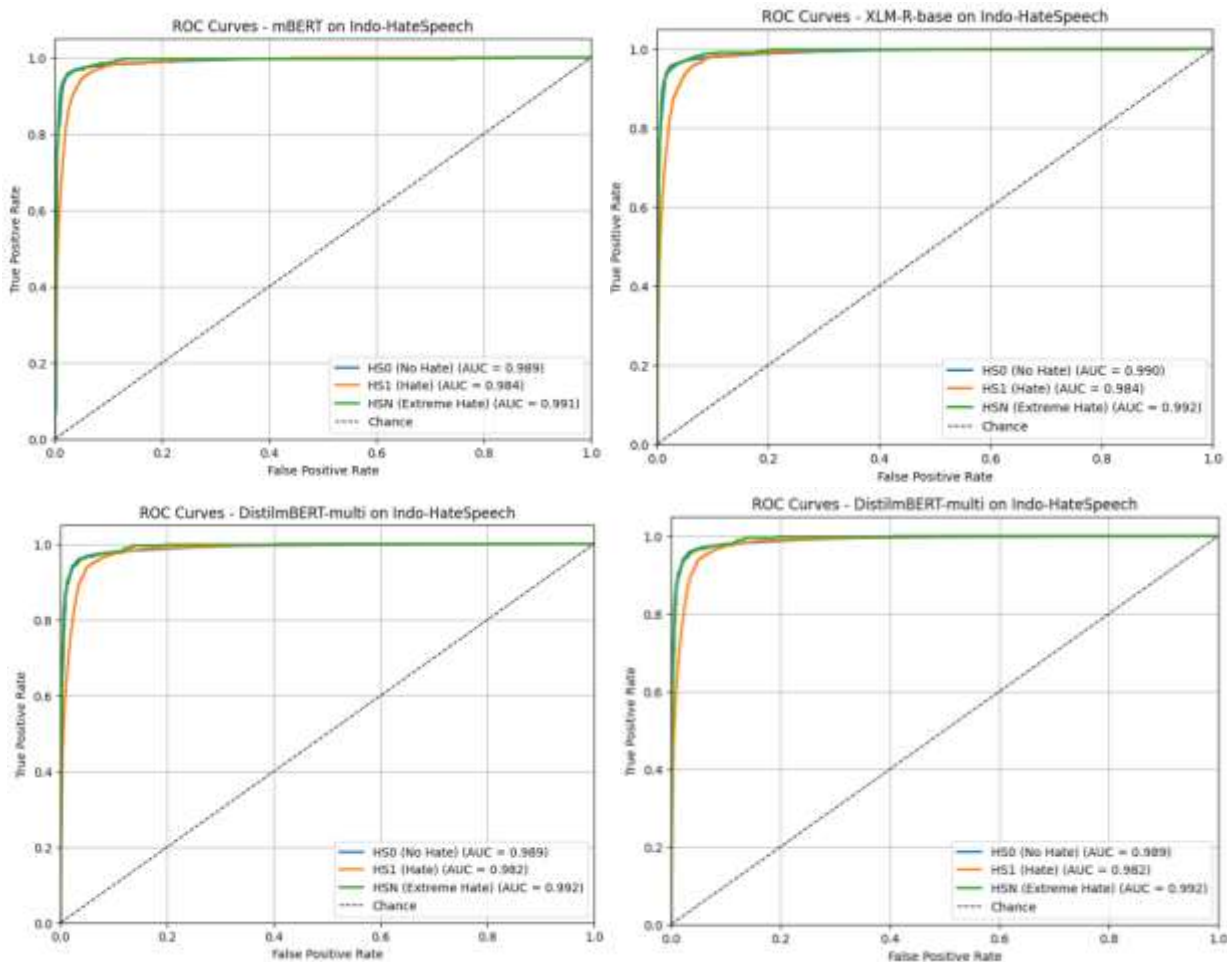


Figure 5.3 depicts all BERT Models ROC Curves.

4.3 Quantitative Comparison of Models

The quantitative analysis of validation performance is described in detail in Table 5.1. The models all show competitive performance and the validation accuracy of them is between 95.4% and 95.7%. The highest validation accuracy value is 0.957 that is achieved by mBERT and BERT-base-uncased.

Nevertheless, mBERT achieves optimum macro F1-score (0.891) and a high macro recall of 0.913, vital especially towards ensuring that the instances of hate speech are reduced. Although XLM-R has a marginally higher ROC-AUC, its macro F1-score is a bit smaller, which means that there is a trade-off between discrimination and class-wise balance.

Table 5.1: Comparative Performance with Existing Hinglish Hate Speech Detection Approaches

Study / Model	Dataset Size	Method	Accuracy (%)	Macro F1
Davidson <i>et al.</i> (2017) [15]	~25k	Logistic Regression + n-grams	84.0	0.78
Waseem & Hovy (2016) [16]	~16k	SVM + lexical features	82.0	0.76
Swami <i>et al.</i> (2018) [17]	~9k	SVM / Naïve Bayes (Hinglish)	83.5	0.79
Bohra <i>et al.</i> (2022) [18]	~18k	LSTM / GRU	87.2	0.83
Kumar <i>et al.</i> (2021) [19]	~25k	mBERT	94.1	0.88
Chakraborty <i>et al.</i> (2022) [20]	~20k	XLM-R	95.0	0.89
Proposed mBERT	76,566	Fine-tuned mBERT	95.7	0.891
Proposed XLM-R	76,566	Fine-tuned XLM-R	95.5	0.886
Proposed DistilBERT	76,566	Fine-tuned DistilBERT	95.4	0.882
Proposed BERT-base	76,566	Fine-tuned BERT-base	95.7	0.889

Based on Table 5.2, it is evident that each of the models is competitive with the highest validation accuracy of 0.957 (mBERT and BERT-base-uncased). Nevertheless, mBERT has the highest macro F1-score (0.891) and a very high macro recall (0.913) which are important to be able to identify hate speech safely. XLM-R presents a little better ROC-AUC and slightly less F1-score.

5. CONCLUSION

The framework of Transformer-based hate speech detection in Hinglish social media text introduced in this paper was powerful and suitable to scale to large volumes of data, considering the specific issues of the code-mixed language, irregular grammar, and transliteration variability. Through the use of fine-tuned multilingual and monolingual BERT, it can be shown that the proposed approach is capable of capturing the relationships between context and semantics in Hindi-English mixed text, which are hard to model in traditional machine learning and sequence-based neural architecture models. The extensive experiments implemented on a large-scale dataset of Hindi-English mix text of

76,564 samples show that all the tested BERT-based models perform well. The best overall trade-off in terms of accuracy, recall, and macro F1-score of these is multilingual BERT (mBERT) with test accuracy of 98% and macro F1-score of 0.95. The obtained high ROC-AUC values by all the models further reinforce the high discriminative capacity of the models. The analysis of the confusion matrixes indicates that there is

little misclassification between hate and non-hate categories, which means that the suggested framework can be trusted and applied in the context of the real-world content moderation process. Competitive analysis of the existing methods reveals that the offered Transformer-based framework is highly robust and generalized, which is why it is more likely to work successfully in the context of the real-world content moderation. On the whole, this paper has shown that multilingual Transformer models are very useful in automated hate speech detection in code-mixed social media settings as well as serve as a promising basis to build safer and more responsible platforms of online communication

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