Cross-lingual models and application for South African low resourced languages.

**INTRO**

Cross-lingual (CL) models have been in active research over the past few years for mitigating issues in resource-deprived languages. South African languages, amongst many others, have not witnessed such benefits. For this we aim to survey and critique available CL models, conduct experiments, and perform zero-shot news headlines classification.

**METHODS**

1. Surveyed CL models
2. Conducted experiments on two of the models
3. Evaluated models on classification task

**RESULTS**

Transfer performance between English and Sepedi, Sesotho, and Setswana on news headlines classification shows dissatisfactory results.

**DISCUSSION**

- It is challenging to train monolingual embeddings
- Due to the above difficulty, extracting useful embeddings is exacerbated.
- More work on CL models is necessary