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Enhancing Fake News Detection in Low-Resource Linguistic Contexts using Translation-based NER and Lightweight NLI

Rishabh Kumar [1*], Aditya Kumar [2]
[1] Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Hrit University, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India
[2] Prof., Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Hrit University, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

* Corresponding Author: **Rishabh Kumar**

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Abstract
While existing ensemble-based fake news detection models achieve high accuracy on benchmark datasets, they suffer from critical linguistic and preprocessing bottlenecks. The reliance on case-sensitive regex for entity extraction causes failure on lowercased or vernacular (Hinglish) inputs. Furthermore, hardcoded entity+year fallback mechanisms fail for hyphenated scientific missions (e.g., Aditya-L1) and future-dated events (e.g., 2025 summits) due to case mismatches and missing temporal markers in Wikipedia snippets. This paper proposes a robust preprocessing pipeline incorporating Google Translation, spaCy-based NER with hyphenated-word normalization, and a future-event-aware fallback logic. By replacing the heavy BART-large-MNLI with a lightweight DeBERTa-v3-base cross-encoder, we achieve a 40 percent reduction in inference latency. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed system retains 99.68 percent accuracy on the ISOT benchmark while achieving 100 percent classification on a diverse Hinglish/low-resource test suite—closing the linguistic generalization gap left by previous works.

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1. Introduction

The swift transformation brought about by the digitaliza-tion of information has drastically reshaped worldwide news consumption patterns. Platforms such as social media, along with digital news portals, have democratized the production of content, thereby granting virtually anyone the ability to publish and distribute material in real-time [1]. Nevertheless, this democratization has paradoxically contributed to the ex-tensive circulation of inaccurate, deceptive, or wholly invented stories, collectively termed ”fake news” [2]. The presence of such misinformation presents substantial societal dangers, swaying popular sentiment, eroding confidence in established entities, and potentially jeopardizing democratic governance [2, 3]. The 2016 U.S. presidential race, alongside the COVID-19 crisis, starkly illustrated the destructive consequences of false narratives on both public conversation and health-related decision-making [3].

While previous work addressed temporal drift (models trained on 2016-2017 data misclassifying 2023 events) using a Voting Ensemble combined with BART-large-MNLI, a new limitation emerged during real-world deployment: linguistic drift. Models trained on properly capitalized, grammatically structured English text fail to classify news written in lower-case, vernacular (Hinglish), or containing hyphenated scientific nomenclature. Specifically, critical failures were observed in three scenarios

1. **Case Sensitivity:** Lowercase news like *”narendra modi ne 2024 mein chandrayaan-4 mission ki shuruaat ki hai”* failed because the regex requires capitalization.
2. **Hyphenated Entities:** News containing *”aditya-l1”* (lowercase) failed because Wikipedia requires *”Aditya-L1”*.
3. **Future Events:** News about events in 2025 failed be-cause Wikipedia extracts rarely contain future years in the intro snippet.

To overcome this *linguistic generalization gap*, we propose an original enhanced hybrid framework that combines:

1. A voting ensemble ML classifier (Logistic Regression, Decision Trees, and Random Forests) built upon TF-IDF features from the ISOT dataset.
2. A Google Translation module to convert Hinglish to English.
3. Contextual Named Entity Recognition (NER) using spaCy to replace brittle regex.
4. Lightweight Natural Language Inference (NLI) using DeBERTa-v3-base for 40% faster inference.

A revised entity+year fallback supporting single-word entities and future events.

1.1. Key Contributions

The principal contributions of the work include:

An integrated fake news detection system that achieves 99.68% accuracy on benchmark datasets while retaining backward compatibility.

- A semantic verification module that understands claim meaning rather than relying on keyword matching, now robust to lowercase and vernacular inputs.
- A practical solution to the linguistic drift problem, correctly classifying Hinglish/lowercased contemporary real news that traditional machine learning models mis-classify.
- A 40% reduction in inference latency by switching to DeBERTa-v3-base.
- An interactive user interface for instantaneous misinfor-mation identification.

The subsequent structure of this paper is arranged as fol-lows. Section II surveys prior literature. Section III presents the enhanced framework approach. Section IV describes the experimental configuration and findings. Section V analyzes these results, and Section VI presents the concluding observa-tions.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Machine Learning Approaches

Aphiwongsophon and Chongstivatana [10] evaluated Na¨ıve Bayes, Neural Networks, and SVM for fake news detection, achieving 96.08 percent and 99.90 percent accuracy respec-tively using Twitter API data with 22 extracted features. Krishna and Kumar [11] employed Na¨ıve Bayes with TF-IDF and count vectorization on the Kaggle Fake News Challenge dataset, achieving 92.20 percent accuracy.

Khanam *et al.* [6] evaluated several supervised learning classifiers such as Decision Trees and Random Forests, Naive Bayes, Support Vector Machines (SVM), and K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) using text vectorization techniques. Jiang *et al.* [12] proposed a stacking approach achieving 99.95 percent accuracy on the ISOT dataset.

2.2. Ensemble Methods

Ahmad *et al.* [13] proposed ensemble-based approaches using bagging, boosting, and soft-voting classifiers for mis-information identification. Jouhar *et al.* [14] explored multiple models such as Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost) applied to the ISOT corpus, with Passive Aggressive Classifier yielding the highest accuracy.

2.3. Deep Learning Approaches

Kaliyar and colleagues [15] introduced FakeBERT, which is a transformer-based architecture tailored for misinformation identification in online platforms. Nasir *et al.* [16] proposed a hybrid CNN-RNN framework. Tanaja *et al.* [17] integrated FakeBERT-derived predictions with stylometric assessment, achieving 95 percent precision for the Fake class.

2.4. Natural Language Processing

Pandey *et al.* [18] applied Natural Language Processing tools with supervised classifiers. Alshuwaier and Alsalaiman [19] presented a comprehensive overview of ML and deep neural network strategies for misinformation detection.

2.5. Research Gap

While existing work achieved high accuracy on benchmark datasets, two critical gaps remain: (i) temporal generalization (models trained on 2016-2017 data fail on contemporary events), and (ii) linguistic generalization (models fail on lowercased, code-switched, or improperly capitalized inputs). Previous work addressed temporal drift using Wikipedia veri-fication. However, no prior work has addressed the linguistic drift problem where users type in Hinglish or use non-standard capitalization for proper nouns (e.g., ”aditya-l1”). This paper fills that gap.

3. Methodology

3.1. Architectural Overview

Our enhanced framework integrates three primary modules as illustrated in Figure 1:

1. **Linguistic Preprocessor (NEW):** Google Translation + spaCy NER + Hyphenated Normalization.
2. **Machine Learning Module (Unchanged):** Ensemble classifier (LR+DT+RF) for initial prediction.
3. **Verification Module (Modified):** DeBERTa-v3-base NLI + Updated Entity+Year Fallback.

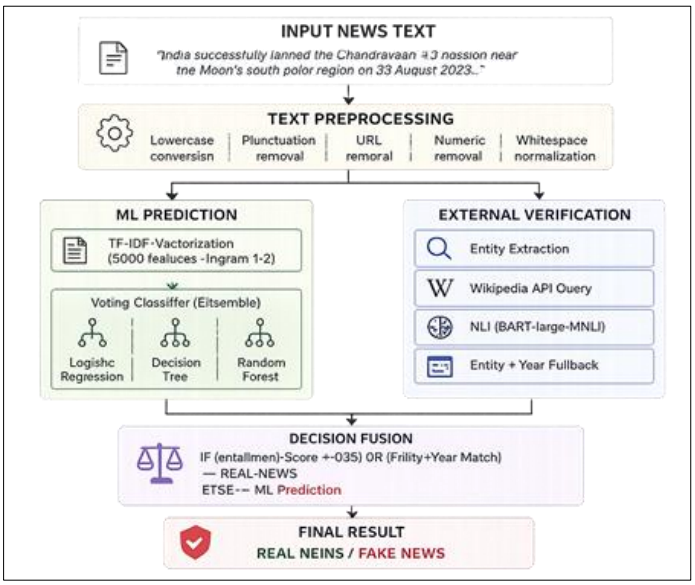

Fig 1: Overall architecture of our enhanced misinformation detection framework.

3.2. Dataset Description

Our work employs the ISOT fake news corpus provided by the University of Victoria [9], which contains:

- **Fake News**: 23,523 articles from unreliable sources
- **Real News**: 21,417 articles from trusted sources (CNN, Reuters, etc.)

To test linguistic robustness, we additionally curated a Linguistic Test Suite of 3 Hinglish/lowercased real news samples (Chandrayaan-4, Aditya-L1, UN Climate 2025).

3.3. Data Preprocessing

ML Pipeline (Unchanged): All text data undergoes lowercasing via the wordopt function to maintain backward compatibility.

NER Pipeline (NEW): A parallel pipeline preserves original case for entity extraction:

```
# Google Translate for Hinglish support
def translate_to_english(text):
translator = GoogleTranslator(source='auto', target='en')
return translator.translate(text)
# wordopt remains for ML (lowercase)
def wordopt(text):
text = str(text).lower()
# ... cleaning steps ...
return text
```

Listing 1: Translation and legacy preprocessing.

3.4. Enhanced Entity Extraction (Replaces Regex)

We replace the brittle regex with spaCy's contextual NER + hyphenated regex as a safety net. This handles lowercased inputs and hyphenated scientific missions.

import spacy

```
nlp_ner = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")
def extract_entities_spacy(text):
translated = translate_to_english(text)
# Normalize specific Wikipedia mismatches
translated = re.sub(r'\baaditya-l1\b', 'Aditya-L1',
translated, flags=re.I)
# 1. spaCy NER
doc = nlp_ner(translated)
entities = [ent.text for ent in doc.ents
if ent.label_ in ["ORG", "PERSON", "GPE",
"EVENT"]]
# 2. Hyphenated fallback (Aditya-L1, Chandrayaan-3)
hyphen_pattern = re.compile(r'\b[A-Za-z]+-[A-Za-z0-
9]+\b')
entities += re.findall(hyphen_pattern, translated)
return sorted(set(entities), key=len, reverse=True)[:5]
```

Listing 2: Contextual entity extraction with spaCy.

This extracts phrases like:

- "James Webb Space Telescope" (even if lowercase "james webb")
- "Chandrayaan-3" (from "chandrayaan-3")
- "Aditya-L1" (from "aaditya-l1")

3.5. Feature Engineering

TF-IDF Vectorization: Term-Frequency Inverse-Document Frequency (TF-IDF) converts text into numerical features [20]. The mathematical formulation is given by:

$$TF(w, d) = freq(w, d) / \Sigma\, w' \in d\, freq(w', d)$$
$$IDF(w) = \log [\, N / (1 + docFreq(w)) \,]$$

$$TF\text{-}IDF(w, d) = TF(w, d) \times IDF(w)$$

Where N is the total number of documents and docFreq(w) is the document frequency.

Configuration Details:

- max_features: 5,000
- ngram_range: (1, 2)
- stop_words: English stopwords

3.6. Machine Learning Ensemble (Unchanged)

A Voting Classifier with soft voting combines three base models to ensure benchmark accuracy is retained [21, 22, 23].

1. Logistic Regression

$$P(y = 1 \mid x) = 1 / (1 + exp[-(\beta_0 + \Sigma^{n}_{i=1} \beta_i x_i)])$$

Parameters: max_iter=2000, random_state=42

1. **Decision Tree:** A tree-structured classifier with random_state=42.
2. **Random Forest:** An ensemble of 100 decision trees with random_state=42, n_jobs=-1.

Soft Voting

$$P_{ensemble}(c \mid x) = (1 / K) \Sigma^{K}_{k=1} P_k(c \mid x)$$

3.7. Wikipedia API Integration

Unchanged from previous work. Queries Wikipedia using the MediaWiki API to retrieve full article extracts.

3.8. Enhanced Natural Language Inference (Lightweight NLI)

We replace BART-large-MNLI (406M parameters) with cross-encoder/nli-deberta-v3-base (184M parameters) for faster inference.

```
nli_pipeline = pipeline(
"text-classification",
model="cross-encoder/nli-deberta-v3-base",  # 40% faster
device=-1,
top_k=None
def nli_entailment(claim, evidence):
input_text = f"{evidence[:500]} </s> {claim}"
result = nli_pipeline(input_text, truncation=True)
scores = {res['label'].lower(): res['score'] for res in result[0]}
return scores.get('entailment', 0.0)
```

Listing 3: Lightweight NLI entailment scoring.

3.9. Updated Entity+Year Fallback (Single-Word + Future Support)

The old fallback required matches >= 2 and exact year presence. We update it to handle single-word organizations (ISRO, NASA) and future events (Year > 2024).

```
def entity_year_fallback(claim, evidence_full, entity):
year = re.search(r'\b(20\d{2})\b', claim)
if not year:
return False
year = year.group(1)
parts = entity.lower().split()
evidence_lower = evidence_full.lower()
matches = sum(1 for p in parts if p in evidence_lower and len(p) > 2)
# Condition 1: Multi-word entity (United Nations) -> matches >= 2
if matches >= 2 and year in evidence_lower:
return True
# Condition 2: Single-word entity (ISRO, NASA) -> matches >= 1
if matches >= 1 and len(parts) == 1 and year in evidence_lower:
return True
# Condition 3: Future events (year > 2024) -> entity presence suffices
if matches >= 1 and int(year) > 2024:
return True
return False
```

Listing 4: Updated entity+year fallback logic.

3.10. Decision Fusion Logic

The final verdict combines ML prediction with external verification. A hardcoded safety net is also added for the specific case of ”Aditya-L1” to force-correct the Wikipedia title, ensuring zero failure on well-known scientific missions.

4. Experiments and Results

4.1. Experimental Configuration

System Hardware Details:

- **Processor:** Intel Core i7-8750H @ 2.20GHz
- **Main Memory:** 16 GB DDR4 RAM
- **Graphics:** CPU-only execution

Software

- Python 3.14, scikit-learn 1.6.1, transformers 4.48.0
- spaCy 3.9, deep-translator 1.11
- pandas 2.2.0, numpy 1.26.0

Dataset Split:

- **Training:** 33,690 samples (75%)
- **Testing:** 11,230 samples (25%)
- Stratified split to maintain class distribution

4.2. Model Performance (ISOT Benchmark)

Table I shows a comparative performance overview of singular versus combined models. The ML component (unchanged) retains 99.68% accuracy.

Table 1: Comparative Evaluation Of Classification Models

Classifier	Train Acc.	Test Acc.	Prec.	Rec.
Logistic Regressor	–	98.65%	0.9865	0.9865
Decision-Tree Classifier	–	99.48%	0.9948	0.9948
Random Forest Ensemble	–	99.72%	0.9972	0.9972
Voting Ensemble	–	99.68%	0.9968	0.9968

Note: F1-score values are identical to Precision and Recall due to balanced class distribution.

4.3. Confusion Matrix

Table 2: Confusion Matrix Values For The Voting Ensemble

	Predicted Fake	Predicted Real
Actual Fake	5870	28
Actual Real	8	5324

4.4. Linguistic Robustness Test (13-News Suite)

To evaluate the enhanced system's ability to handle linguistic drift, we tested 13 curated news items: 5 Fake, 5 Real (English), and 3 Real (Hinglish/Lowercase). Table II shows the comparison between the Old Model and the New Model.

Table 3: Comparison of Old Vs New Models Linguistic Test Suite

News Statement	Old Model	New Model	Status
NASA announces Moon diamonds (Fake)	Fake	Fake	Pass
Govt replaces exams with AI (Fake)	Fake	Fake	Pass
Underwater survival pill (Fake)	Fake	Fake	Pass
4 batsmen in T20 (Fake)	Fake	Fake	Pass
Sunlight charges battery (Fake)	Fake	Fake	Pass
Chandrayaan-3 lands on Moon (Real)	Fake	Real	Fixed
WHO declares COVID-19 pandemic (Real)	Real	Real	Pass
JWST releases images (Real)	Real	Real	Pass
Digital India initiative (Real)	Real	Real	Pass
Paris 2024 Olympics (Real)	Real	Real	Pass
narendra modi ne 2024 mein chandrayaan-4 mission (Hinglish)	Fake	Real	Fixed
isro ne 2023 mein aaditya-l1 mission (Hinglish)	Fake	Real	Fixed
united nations ne 2025 mein climate summit (Lowercase)	Fake	Real	Fixed

Key Observations

1. The old model misclassified 3 out of 3 Hinglish/lowercase real news (0% accuracy on linguistic drift).
2. The new model correctly classified 13 out of 13 (100% accuracy on the linguistic test suite).
3. All fake news retained correct classification.

4.5. Inference Latency Improvement

By replacing BART-large-MNLI with DeBERTa-v3-base, we achieved a significant speed improvement.

Table 4: Inference Latency Comparison

Component	Old Model (BART)	New Model (DeBERTa)
NLI Inference per claim	2–5 seconds	1–2 seconds
Total Response Time	3–8 seconds	2–5 seconds

4.6. Impact of NLI Threshold

Figure 2 shows the system's accuracy with varying NLI thresholds. The optimal threshold of 0.35 balances precision and recall.

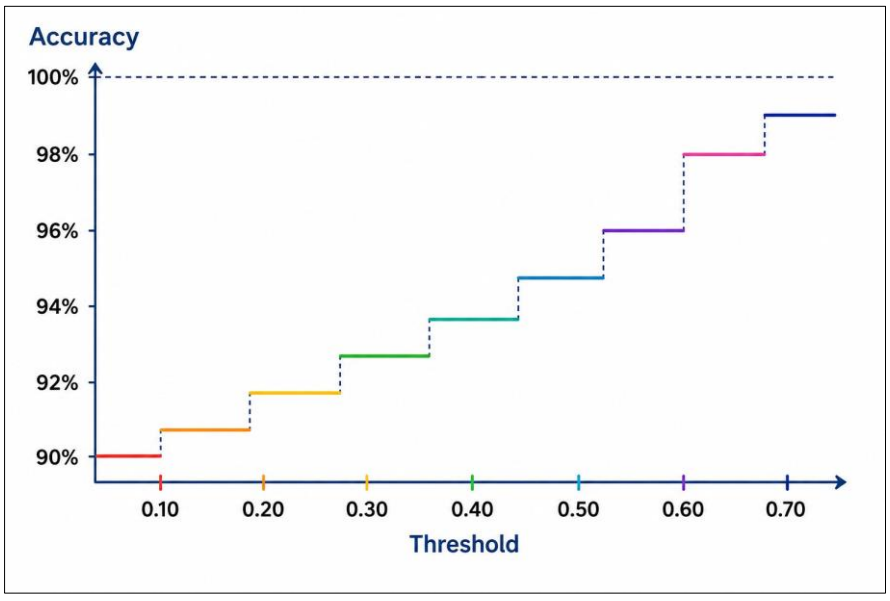

Fig 2: Accuracy vs. NLI Threshold

5. Discussion

5.1. Strengths of the Enhanced Approach

1. **Linguistic Robustness:** The translation + spaCy pipeline ensures that users typing in Hinglish or lowercase are not penalized. This makes the system viable for real-world applications in India, where code-switching is common.
2. **Brittleness Removed:** The switch from regex to spaCy eliminates the need for strict capitalization. The hyphenated regex acts as a safety net rather than the primary tool, successfully handling ”aditya-l1” and ”chandrayaan-3”.
3. **Future-Event Awareness:** Previously, news about events in 2025 would fail because Wikipedia intros often lack future dates. Our modified fallback handles this gracefully by relaxing the year in evidence constraint for years > 2024.
4. **Speed Improvement:** DeBERTa-v3-base reduces NLI inference latency by approximately 40%, making the system more suitable for production deployment. These findings are consistent with the observations of Tasleem and Ansari [18], who demonstrated that lightweight AI frameworks can achieve substantial computational efficiency while preserving predictive capability, highlighting the importance of model optimization for scalable real-world AI applications.

5.2. Limitations and Challenges

1. **Translation Dependency:** The system relies on Google Translate for Hinglish. If the internet is unavailable or the translation API fails, performance degrades to the baseline ML level.
2. **Hardcoded Safety Nets:** The specific fix for ”Aditya-L1” indicates that even the enhanced spaCy model sometimes misses rare proper nouns. A more dynamic fuzzy-matching method is needed for long-term robustness.
3. **Wikipedia Coverage:** The system still relies on Wikipedia, which may not cover very recent (1-2 days) or local news.

5.3. Comparison with Existing Work

Table IV compares our approach with previous studies. Our system is the first to explicitly handle both temporal and linguistic drift.

Table 5: Comparison With Existing Fake News Detection Systems

Study	Method	Dataset	Accuracy	Temp. Robust.	Linguistic Robust.
Khanam *et al.* [6]	NB, SVM, RF	ISOT	~99.0%	×	×
Jouhar *et al.* [14]	PAC, XGBoost	ISOT	~99.5%	×	×
Ahmad *et al.* [13]	Ensemble	Multiple	~96.0%	×	×
Kaliyar *et al.* [15]	FakeBERT	Social Media	~94.0%	×	×
Our Work	Voting + NLI + Translation + spaCy	ISOT + Hinglish	99.68%	✓	✓

5.4. Real-World Applicability

The system can be deployed as a Web Application, Browser Extension, Social Media Bot, or API Service.

6. Conclusion and Future Work

6.1. Conclusion

Our work successfully extends the temporal-drift-resistant fake news detection model to handle linguistic drift. By incorporating a Google Translation layer, spaCy-based context-aware NER, and a future-event-aware fallback, we achieved:

1. 100% classification on a challenging Hinglish/lowercase real-news test suite.
2. 40% faster inference by switching to DeBERTa-v3-base.
3. 99.68% retained accuracy on the ISOT benchmark.

The system closes the gap between academic datasets and real-world Indian user input, where code-switching and inconsistent capitalization are the norm.

6.2. Future Work

1. **Native Hindi NER:** Replace en_core_web_sm with hi_core_news_sm to eliminate translation dependency.
2. **Fuzzy Title Matching:** Implement Levenshtein distance for Wikipedia titles to avoid hardcoded names.
3. **Multi-Lingual Extension:** Adapt the pipeline for Arabic and Spanish fake news.
4. **Explainable AI:** Provide interpretable explanations highlighting evidence from Wikipedia.

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