Abstract

Silence is an indispensable aspect of dialogue. The following thesis examines the silence in dialogue from a variety of perspectives. First, I provide a background on the historical development of theories of dialogue and the place of silence within them. Second, I conduct a study of the capacity of one of the most prominent contemporary language models, called the GPT-3, to model silence in dialogue. I fine-tune the model on a dataset based on movie subtitle data. I evaluate its performance on its capacity to infer the length of silence between subtitle pairs. The experiment proposes a method of fine-tuning the language model via silence encoded as character strings. The results show that GPT-3 fine-tuning can indeed improve the model's performance by inferring silence gaps between subtitle turns.

Keywords: dialogue, silence, GPT-3, fine-tuning, language models

I declare that I have written my diploma thesis independently and that I have properly cited all the sources and literature used, and that the work has not been used in the context of another university study or to obtain another or the same degree.