# Headline Token-based Discriminative Learning for Subheading Generation in News Article

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#### Abstract

The news subheading summarizes an article's contents in several sentences to support the headline limited to solely conveying the main contents. So, it is necessary to generate compelling news subheadings in consideration of the structural characteristics of the news. In this paper, we propose a subheading generation model using topical headline information. We introduce a discriminative learning method that utilizes the prediction result of masked headline tokens. Experiments show that the proposed model is effective and outperforms the comparative models on three news datasets written in two languages. We also show that our model performs robustly on a small dataset and various masking ratios. Qualitative analysis and human evaluations also show that the overall quality of generated subheadings improved over the comparative models.

### 1 Introduction

The news headline summarizes the article to grab the attention and interest of the readers (Dor, 2003; Ifantidou, 2009; Ecker et al., 2014). However, the headline is written in a brief form of short sentences with topic-related phrases (Yamada et al., 2021), making it hard for users to grasp the entire content of the news article from the headline alone. To tackle this problem, some news vendors provide a subheading, usually located right below the headline, to convey its main content within several sentences. This component can provide a core and informative summary of a news article that cannot be conveyed by the headline alone. Mainly, subheadings are written by professional news writers with concise content that corresponds to the main body of the news.

Recently, Hasan et al. (2021) released XLSum, a multilingual news summary dataset, referring to subheading as a summary of the article. Therefore, generating subheadings can be considered an abstractive summarization problem that needs to cap-

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ture the topical knowledge from the body of the article. The main approach is to add auxiliary signals to make the model aware of topical knowledge. Dou et al. (2021) and Aralikatte et al. (2021) add an external guidance signal by lexical similarity between input text and summary. Yamada et al. (2021) extracts the context word sequences from the reference to reflect some important phrases from the article. Although these external auxiliary sources provide diverse topical signals, they are cost-intensive to heuristically manipulate and have limitations in guiding the overall topical information of the article. Other approaches incorporate contrastive learning into sequence-to-sequence (seq2seq) model, allowing the model to learn topical representation of the input text (Lee et al., 2021; Liu et al., 2021; Wu et al., 2020). They explicitly constructs positive or negative inputs to introduce contrastive loss as an augmentation of MLE training.

In this work, we propose a novel framework for generating compelling news subheadings by discriminating whether each token in the reconstructed headline is the same as the token in the original headline. Unlike previous approaches that use heuristically extracted topical information or positive and negative pairs, we utilize *headline* that fundamentally implies the topic of the entire article. We make full use of this indispensable object as a guide signal through token-based discriminative learning. We conducted comparative experiments on three datasets written in English or Korean to evaluate the performance of our model and verified our model through additional qualitative analysis with human evaluations.

### 2 Datasets

We used one English news summarization dataset and two Korean news summarization datasets.



Figure 1: Framework of the proposed model. The lower part of the figure represents subheading generation, and the upper part of the figure represents token-based discriminative learning. Prediction results of discriminator encourage encoder to focus on the topical information.

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### 2.1 XLSum

XLSum (Hasan et al., 2021) is a highly abstract multilingual news summarization dataset containing online articles crawled from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). They regard a bold paragraph containing one or two sentences at the beginning of each article as a summary, a subheading. We use the English and Korean versions with train set, valid set, and test set pairs of {306522, 11535, 11535} and {4407, 550, 550}, respectively.

#### 2.2 YonhapNews

However, the size of the training dataset in XLSum's Korean version is insufficient for fine-tuning. We construct a dataset from YonhapNews, one of the most reliable news outlets in South Korea, to evaluate the performance of the model with a sizable Korean dataset. In YonhapNews, the subheading is located right below the headline to condense the body in abstractly, like the BBC. Train set, valid set, and test sets in YonhapNews are {208750, 26094, 26094} and will be released for academic use.<sup>1</sup>

# As shown in Figure 1, our proposed model consists

**Proposed Method** 

of subheading generation (bottom) and token-based discriminative learning (top) parts. The loss occurring in each part is defined as  $L_{gen}$  and  $L_{dis}$ , and the model is trained by minimizing the following loss:

$$L = L_{qen} + \lambda \cdot L_{dis},\tag{1}$$

where  $\lambda$  is a weighted hyperparameter for the two losses.

#### 3.1 Subheading Generation

We use BART (Lewis et al., 2020) as our seq2seq model, where the encoder takes a body B as an input, generates an input representation of the body, and passes it to the decoder, which outputs the subheading  $\hat{S}$ . The loss of subheading generation is as follows:

$$L_{gen} = -\sum_{i=1}^{M} \log(p(s_i | s_{1:i-1}, B; \theta)), \quad (2)$$

where a body  $B = (b_1, b_2, ..., b_N)$  and its subheading  $S = (s_1, s_2, ..., s_M)$  consists of N token vectors  $b_i$  and M token vectors  $s_j$ , respectively, and the seq2seq model is optimized to learn the  $\theta$  parameters to minimize the negative log-likelihood.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>https://github.com/Lainshower/Subheading-Gen

Dataset	Model	Size	Rouge-1	Rouge-2	Rouge-L	BERTScore
XLSum-ENG	BART	139M	36.52	15.33	30.49	77.68
	MT5	582M	37.81	14.59	28.30	74.48
	T5	220M	37.87	15.97	29.09	75.96
	Pegasus	571M	39.57	16.63	32.45	77.93
	T5 w/multi	247M	35.37	14.71	29.84	75.74
	Ours	282M	39.84	18.07	33.77	78.96
	BART	124M	25.23	15.91	23.37	74.60
XLSum-KOR	MT5	582M	29.16	14.03	25.40	69.94
	T5	247M	13.99	4.10	13.48	67.92
	T5 w/multi	247M	17.55	7.03	16.60	71.58
	Ours	269M	27.41	17.56	25.48	75.58
YonhapNews	BART	124M	21.41	11.00	19.21	72.19
	MT5	582M	25.24	11.28	21.13	70.70
	T5	247M	20.10	8.70	17.96	71.67
	T5 w/multi	247M	22.21	9.91	19.91	71.21
	Ours	269M	24.15	13.21	21.93	73.08

Table 1: Subheading generation performance for each dataset. Size represents the number of parameters in each model. Our model outperforms the comparative models except for Rouge-1 score for XLSum-KOR and YonhapNews.

#### 3.2 Token-based Discriminative Learning

Inspiring by Chuang et al. (2022), we inject topical knowledge of the article by discriminating whether tokens in the reconstructed headline are the same as the original. As described in Appendix A, head-line has high lexical similarity with subheading compared to other objects in the article. Therefore, headline reconstruction helps model to aware of topical information which is inherent in the head-line. The loss of token-based discriminative learning is as follows:

$$L_{dis} = \sum_{i=1}^{L} \left( - \mathbb{I}(h'_{i} = h_{i}) \log D(H'|B, H) - \mathbb{I}(h'_{i} \neq h_{i}) \log \left(1 - D(H'|B, H)\right) \right),$$
(3)

where a headline  $H = (h_1, h_2, ..., h_L)$  consist of L tokens and the reconstructed headline H' is  $H' = G(H_{masked})$  where G is the generator and a masked headline  $H_{masked}$  is obtained with random mask  $M = [m_1, m_2, ..., m_L], m_t \in [0, 1],$  $H_{masked} = H \cdot M$ . Using the compressed body representation of the encoder, the discriminator  ${\cal D}$ predicts whether the tokens in the reconstructed headline H' are the same as the original headline *H*. As shown in Figure 1, the generator predicts the masked headline into "how improving adult's diet can aid condition". Using the encoded body representation and partially mispredicted headline, the model trains the incorrectly predicted "adult", and "condition" and the correctly predicted rest of the tokens, respectively. Back-propagated gradients of the discriminator D cause the encoder to include the topical information of the article in the body representation by classifying whether the tokens

in the reconstructed headline H' come from the original headline or not.

Model	Generated Subheading					
BART	The UK's oil and gas industry generated nega-					
	tive tax receipts in 2015-16, according to HM					
	Revenue and Customs (HMRC).					
MT5	Have led to a fall in tax receipts from UK oil					
	and gas production, according to HM Revenue					
	and Customs (HRMC)					
	revenues have fallen to their lowest level					
Т5	since records began in the 1960s, according					
15	to new figures from HM Revenue and Customs					
	(HMRC)					
	tax receipts from oil and gas production in the					
Pegasus	UK have fallen to their lowest level, according					
	to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)					
	Revenues from the <u>North Sea</u> oil					
Ours	and gas industry have fallen to					
	their lowest level since records began, ac-					
	cording to HM Revenue and Customs					
	(HMRČ).					

Table 2: Example of generated subheading for each model. The original headline is "<u>North Sea</u> receipts hit <u>record low</u>" and the reference subheading is "The UK government has incurred a loss from North Sea oil and gas production for the first time since records began nearly 50 years ago". The body of the article can be found in the XLSum-ENG test set with the corresponding id='uk-scotland-scotland-business-36388621'.

#### **4** Experiments

#### 4.1 Experimental Setting

We use pretrained models BART and ELEC-TRA (Clark et al., 2020). Unlike [CLS] representation of BERT (Devlin et al., 2019), BART doesn't have a special input representation token. As such, we use an average pooler to compress the output of the encoder and freeze the generator to keep generating noise headline for tokenbased discriminative learning. Optimal parameters were obtained in the search spaces with learning rate  $\{1e-5, 2e-5, 3e-5, 4e-5\}$ , masking ratio  $\{0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5\}$ , and lambda  $\{0.1, 0.01\}$ .

#### 4.2 Comparative Models

BART, T5 (Raffel et al., 2020), and MT5, (Xue et al., 2021) were used as comparative models in all datasets. Also, Pegasus (Zhang et al., 2020) for English were used as comparative models. For a fair comparison, we use the concatenated body with a headline in the input of the comparative models.

### 4.3 Experimental Results

Table 1 shows the results of subheading generation performance for each dataset. Model performance was evaluated using Rouge (Lin, 2004) and BERTScore (Zhang et al., 2019). In XLSum-ENG, our model outperforms all comparative models. In particular, our model performs better than MT5 or Pegasus, which have more than double the model size. In other words, token-based discriminative learning can improve generation performance more efficiently than simple concatenation. Our model outperforms the comparative models in all other metrics except the Rouge-1 score for the Korean language datasets. MT5 records the highest Rouge-1 score on both Korean datasets. However, because Korean is decomposed into many sub-words due to its morphological richness, it is not suitable to evaluate performance with Rouge-1 score alone. In particular, in terms of BERTScore, our model scored 5.64% and 2.32% higher than MT5 in XLSum-KOR and YonhapNews, respectively. This indicates that our model can generate semantically relevant subheadings. Moreover, good performance on small datasets (i.e., XLSum-KOR) demonstrate the robustness of our model.

Table 2 shows an example of the generated subheadings for each model. We can see that our model utilizes "*North Sea*" and "*record low*" from the headline to better condense topical information in the article. Additional qualitative results are described in Appendix C.

	XLSum-ENG	XLSum-KOR	YonhapNews
BART	2.53 (0.64)	2.00 (0.38)	3.53 (0.92)
MT5	2.71 (0.61)	2.07 (0.59)	2.60 (0.51)
T5	2.64 (0.74)	2.20 (0.41)	2.73 (0.46)
Pegasus	3.64 (0.50)	-	-
Ours	4.21 (0.70)	3.67 (0.49)	3.40 (0.74)

Table 3: The average score of human evaluation for XLSum-ENG, XLSum-KOR, and YonhapNews. Numbers in parentheses indicate the standard deviations.

#### 4.4 Human Evaluations

We conduct human evaluations to verify whether the subheadings of the proposed method are more topically relevant than the baselines. Three samples were randomly selected from each test dataset, and subheadings generated along with their corresponding headlines and body were shown to the workers and evaluated on a five-point Likert scale. Table 3 shows that our model generates topic-relevant subheadings better than the baselines on two datasets, and is particularly robust on a small dataset (i.e., XLSum-KOR). In the case of YonhapNews, BART showed the hightest score, but the independent ttest showed that the average difference between Ours and BART was insignificant (p>0.663).

#### 4.5 Comparison with Multi-task Learning

To verify whether our model effectively learns topical information from the headlines, we conduct additional experiments with a multi-task learning. Different prefixes were used to know the model what the current training task is. One task maps news body text to subheading, and the other maps news body text to headline. We experiment with T5 because it has less discrepancy with our pretraining objectives. T5 w/multi rows in Table 1 show the multi-task learning results, demonstrating that our method is more effective in learning headline information.

#### 4.6 Ablation Studies

We perform ablation studies in terms of masking ratio to analyze the effectiveness of token-based discriminative learning. Figure 2 shows the results of the Rouge-2 score and BERTScore according to the masking ratio for each dataset. We also plot the performance of the T5 with similar parameter sizes to ours. Our model outperforms T5 in all masking ratio ranges. This indicates that our model is not significantly sensitive to masking ratio. In particular, the large performance difference of XLSum-KOR demonstrates the robustness of our model on the small dataset. The original headline is completely incorrectly reconstructed if the masking ratio exceeds 0.4, limiting ability of the model to learn crucial topical information from the headline considering the token length of the headline. However, for small masking ratios such as 0.1, the generator can completely reconstruct the original headline, but it is limited in maximizing the benefits of token-based discriminative learning. Headline to-



Figure 2: Rouge-2 score and BERTScore according to masking ratio for (a) XLSum-ENG, (b) XLSum-KOR, and (c) YonhapNews. The performance of the T5 in two Korean datasets is plotted with a 'x' marker. The masking ratio between 0.2 and 0.3 shows the best performance in all datasets.

ken length distribution is described in Appendix B. Therefore, it is recommended to set the masking ratio between 0.2 and 0.3 in order to utilize the token-based discriminative learning for subheading generation entirely.

### 5 Conclusions

In this paper, we propose a novel model for generating a subheading for news article. Along with token-based discriminative learning, our model can effectively utilize topical information from a headline that is essential in articles and does not require additional manipulated information. Experiments on three datasets written in two different languages show the effectiveness of the proposed model. Also, qualitative results and human evaluation show that the overall quality of generated subheadings is improved compared to comparative models. We expect that our model will be extended in future research to an abstractive summarization task that include both a headline and a body text, such as legal texts or papers.

### Limitations

Our study outperformed all comparative models in generating subheadings through token-based discriminative learning. However, the experiments mainly used limited languages such as English and Korean due to a lack of large-scale multilingual training data and the need for significant GPU resources. We, therefore, encourage further investigations to expand the versatility of the proposed model by utilizing large-scale multilingual language datasets to verify expandable applications in various morphological characteristics.

### **Ethics Statement**

As YonhapNews is one of the most reliable media outlets in South Korea, articles from YonhapNews are published through a rigorous verification process and will be deleted or revised if they contain any form of bias. However, the period of data collected is three years, and there may be past article content that has not been modified by new facts, so we cannot guarantee that all articles in YonhapNews dataset are completely unbiased. Nevertheless, this dataset has sufficient potential to develop into various studies and thus is released for academic uses.

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# A Similarity between Subheading and Headline



Figure A.1: Cosine similarity between the TF-IDF values of subheading-headline (0 index in X-axis) and between the TF-IDF values of the subheading-body sentences (1 to N indexes in X-axis) of the news article. Each figure (a), (b), and (c) represents for dataset XLSum-ENG, XLSum-KOR, and YonhapNews, respectively.



# **B** Length of Headline

Figure B.1: Distribution of the token length in the headline of (a) XLSum-ENG, (b) XLSum-KOR, and (c) YonhapNews.

# C Qualitative Results

Model	Generated Subheading
BART	신종 코로나바이러스 감염증(코로나19) 백신 구매 계약을 맺은 영국 정부가 존슨 총리에게 코백스를 통해 배시은 기보한 것은 초그해다. (The Britich government, which signed a contract to purchase a
	new coronavirus infection (COVID-19) vaccine, urged Prime Minister Johnson to donate the vaccine
	through COVAX.)
MT5	단체들이 신종 코로나바이러스 감염증(코로나19) 백신을 구매한 후에도 잉여 물량의 대부분을 공
	유할 것이라고 촉구했다. (Organizations urged that they will share most of the surplus even after
	purchasing a new coronavirus infection (COVID-19) vaccine.)
T5	신종 코로나바이러스 감염증(코로나19) 백신을 사용할 수 있다고 밝혔다. (It was announced that a
	new coronavirus infection (COVID-19) vaccine can be used.)
Ours	영국이 신종 코로나바이러스 감염증(코로나19) 백신의 잉여 물량을 저개발국에 기부하겠다고 밝혔
	다. (The UK has announced that it will donate remaining of COVID-19 vaccine to underdeveloped
	countries.)

Table C.1: Example of generated subheading for each model in XLSum-KOR. The original headline is " $\exists z l l q$  $\exists d l: d z l q d s d z l q z$ 

Model	Generated Subheading
BART	11억원 기부군부대도 방역에 힘 보탰다 (Donating 11 billion won The military unit also helped
	with quarantine)
MT5	잇단 후원경북도교육청, 장병 130여명 투입해 방역 지원 (Continuous sponsorship Gyeongbuk
	Provincial Office of Education dispatched 130 soldiers to provide quarantine support)
T5	각계서 성금·성금 잇따라 (a series of donations from all walks of life)
	착한 임대인 운동 확산제201특공여단, 경산역 · 버스터미널 방역 지원 (Spreading the Good Renters
Ours	Movement The 201st Special Forces Brigade, provide quarantine support to Gyeongsan Station and
	Bus Terminal)