

**ABSTRACT:**

A majority of language sub-dialects are under-represented with minimal labeled/parallel data available for them. Voice conversion models trained with such less amount of data suffer from pronunciation errors and are hence far from intelligible. Similarly, a dialect transfer model from low-resource dialect to high-resource dialect is hard to train. In this work, we address these two subtasks: 1. Voice conversion 2. Dialect transfer for the advancement of technology in such under-represented regions. Specifically, we leverage TTS training data from the corresponding high-resource dialect to initialize our model parameters. With qualitative analysis, we show that we achieve more intelligible converted speech for both tasks with our proposed technique with just 100 utterances for each of the low-resource dialect from an open-source Japanese dialect corpus.