We show that cross-lingual models (English as the source) can achieve 80–90% of the relative effectiveness of training SOTA monolingual models for Arabic and Spanish respectively.

Our multilingual Arabic and Spanish models notably beat the best SemEval2018 results.

We compare models trained on target and source languages and cultures, which can lead to the best results for both Arabic and Spanish.

Cross-lingual models can aid the need to annotate language specific data, and show the transferability of emotions across languages and cultures.

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Cross-lingual models can outperform cross-lingual models.

Mono-lingual model outperforming cross-lingual
• Cross-lingual model can miss an important word
• Both models identified critical words, but weighted them differently.
• The models can have different cultural interpretation for same word

Cross-lingual model outperforming mono-lingual
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• The models produced tags that were different, but with matching sentiment
• The models based their decisions on different words

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