

Most popular fanfiction genres around the world

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1. Introduction



Fanfiction is a form of **user-generated** content where fans reinterpret or expand upon fictional universes, offering unique insights into narrative preferences and **cultural storytelling**. While fanfiction has global appeal, most studies have focused on English-language works, leaving **non-English fanfiction** underexplored. This study addresses this gap by analyzing fanfiction datasets in **English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Russian**.

Fanfiction-specific **genres**, such as Angst and Fluff, and their emotional tones offer a unique opportunity to examine **audience engagement** across cultures. By studying **cross-linguistic fanfiction**, this research explores **genre preferences, sentiment distribution, and thematic patterns** across different languages and cultural contexts.

Kudos

2. Research Questions

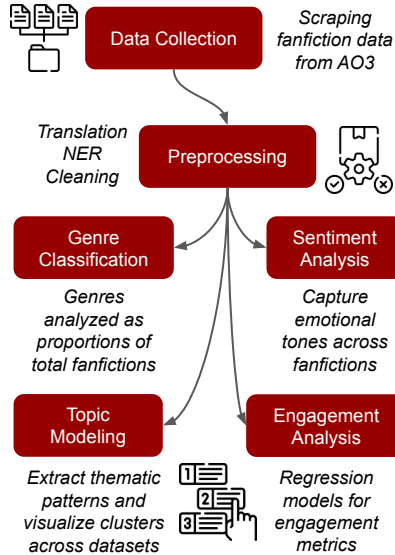
How do genre preferences influence the popularity of fanfiction across different languages?

Dataset

English (4997), Mandarin (4305), Russian (3899), Spanish (3866)
Scraped on AO3 from Harry Potter, Marvel and Good Omens.



3. Methodology



5. Conclusion

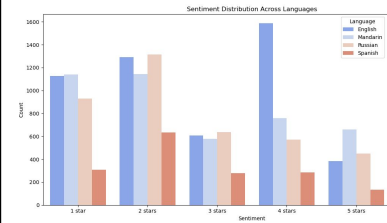
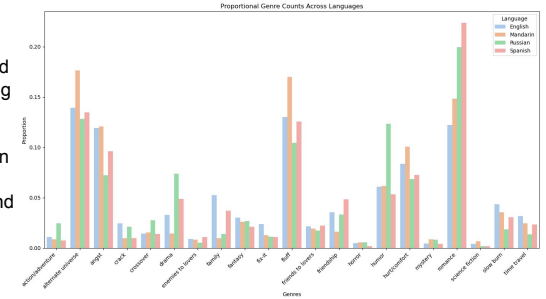
Romance, Fluff, and Alternate Universe are consistently popular genres, but plot-driven genres like Time Travel show the highest engagement across languages.

English fanfiction leans positive, while Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish exhibit more neutral-to-bittersweet tones.

Time Travel and relational categories (e.g., M/M, F/M) are strong predictors of engagement, particularly in non-English datasets.

4. Results

English: Emotional and relational themes strong
Mandarin: Emotional genres
Russian: High focus on Drama and Humor
Spanish: Emotional and relational themes



Top Genre for Engagement: Time Travel consistently attracts the highest engagement across languages.
Notable Patterns: Spanish datasets show strong engagement for Action/Adventure and Fantasy, while Mandarin features high engagement for Family and Mystery. Popular genres like Romance and Fluff have broad but diluted engagement.

Topic Extraction

English:	("fate, delicate, savior"); ("interns, badges, labs")
Mandarin:	("life, marriage, child"); ("shop, coffee, coffee shop")
Russian:	("students, education, summer"); ("kisses, soft, wake")
Spanish:	("rights, omegaverse, base"); ("family, boyfriend, born")

Regression Analysis

Predictor	Regression Coefficients Tabel			
	English	Mandarin	Russian	Spanish
Time Travel	+0.12 ★★★	+0.15 ★★	+0.18 ★★★	+0.22 ★★★
AU	+0.10 ★★★	+0.12 ★★★	+0.14 ★★★	+0.19 ★★★
Fluff	+0.08 ★★	-0.05	-0.10 ★	+0.07 ★
Humor	+0.11 ★★	+0.06 ★	+0.16 ★★★	+0.10 ★★
M/M Relation	+0.08 ★★	+0.20 ★★★	+0.14 ★★★	+0.18 ★★★
Romance	+0.09 ★★	-0.10 ★	+0.06 ★	+0.11 ★★

Legend: ★★★ (p < 0.01), ★★ (p < 0.05), ★ (p < 0.1)