small Models, BIG Impact: Efficient Corpus and Graph-Based Adaptation of Small Multilingual Language Models for Low-Resource Languages

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Abstract

Low-resource languages (LRLs) face significant challenges in natural language processing (NLP) due to limited data. While current state-of-the-art large language models (LLMs) still struggle with LRLs, smaller multilingual models (mLMs) such as mBERT and XLM-R offer greater promise due to a better fit of their capacity to low training data sizes. This study systematically investigates parameter-efficient adapter-based methods for adapting mLMs to LRLs, evaluating three architectures: Sequential Bottleneck, Invertible Bottleneck, and Low-Rank Adaptation. Using unstructured text from GlotCC and structured knowledge from ConceptNet, we show that small adaptation datasets (e.g., up to 1 GB of free-text or a few MB of knowledge graph data) yield gains in intrinsic (masked language modeling) and extrinsic tasks (topic classification, sentiment analysis, and named entity recognition). We find that Sequential Bottleneck adapters excel in language modeling, while Invertible Bottleneck adapters slightly outperform other methods on downstream tasks due to better embedding alignment and larger parameter counts. Adapter-based methods match or outperform full fine-tuning while using far fewer parameters, and smaller mLMs prove more effective for LRLs than massive LLMs like LLaMA-3, GPT-4, and DeepSeek-R1-based distilled models. While adaptation improves performance, pre-training data size remains the dominant factor, especially for languages with extensive pre-training coverage. The code for our experiments is available at https://github.com/d-gurgurov/Knowledge-Driven-Adaptation-LLMs.

1 Introduction

The need for effective natural language processing (NLP) tools for low-resource languages (LRLs) is pressing, as these languages lack sufficient data to train robust models (Joshi et al., 2020; Bird, 2022; Huang et al., 2023). While **massive state-of-the-art (SoTA) large language models (LLMs)** such as GPT-4 (OpenAI et al., 2024), LLaMA-2 (Touvron et al., 2023), Gemini (Team et al., 2023), BLOOM (Le Scao et al., 2023), and the DeepSeek model family (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025) have demonstrated strong generalization capabilities across diverse tasks (Srivastava et al., 2022; Smith et al., 2022; Bang et al., 2023), they struggle to generalize effectively to LRLs (Cahyawijaya et al., 2023; Robinson et al., 2023; Hasan et al., 2024; Adelani et al., 2024a). **Smaller multilingual language models (mLMs)** like mBERT (Devlin et al., 2019) and XLM-R (Conneau et al., 2020) often show greater promise for LRLs (Hu et al., 2020; Asai et al., 2023; Adelani et al., 2024b).

This work investigates parameter-efficient adaptation techniques (Houlsby et al., 2019) as an alternative to full fine-tuning, or continued pre-training, for adapting small mLMs to LRLs. We compare these approaches with the zero- and few-shot prompting and adapter-based adaptation of LLMs. Following Pfeiffer et al. (2020), Parović et al. (2023), and Gurgurov et al. (2024a), we integrate unstructured textual data and structured knowledge from knowledge graphs (KGs), exploring their complementary benefits. KGs, which encode cross-lingual semantic relationships, have been shown to be effective for various NLP tasks (Peters et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2021), yet remain underexplored for LRLs. On the other hand, unstructured text provides rich contextual information and is widely used for adaptation (Neubig and Hu, 2018; Han and Eisenstein, 2019).

Our contributions are threefold:

- First, we show that **limited adaptation data yields significant gains**—up to 1 GB of free text or a few MB of KG data. We eval-

uate three adapter architectures: Sequential Bottleneck, Invertible Bottleneck, and Low-Rank Adaptation (Houlsby et al., 2019; Pfeiffer et al., 2020; Hou et al., 2022). Sequential Bottleneck excels in language modeling, while Invertible Bottleneck outperforms others on downstream tasks, likely due to differing parameterization. Adapter-based approaches match or outperform full fine-tuning while using fewer trainable parameters.

- Second, **we highlight the effectiveness of smaller mLMs, such as XLM-R, for LRLs, outperforming both few-shot prompting and adaptation of massive SoTA LLMs** such as GPT-3.5 (Ouyang et al., 2022b), LLaMA- 3 (Grattafiori et al., 2024), and DeepSeek-R1-based distilled models (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025) on the tested tasks. This is in line with prior work suggesting that smaller models better align cross-lingual representations under constrained capacity (Wu et al., 2019; Dufter and Schütze, 2020; Yong et al., 2023) and shows that small LMs are often better suited for LRLs.

- Finally, analyzing 30 LRLs, we **show a direct relationship between pre-training and adaptation data size and performance**, with adaptation data providing diminishing returns for languages with larger pre-training data coverage. We also observe a moderate correlation between language modeling and downstream task performance, suggesting pseudo-perplexity as a useful proxy for evaluating adaptation quality.

2 Related Work

To improve multilingual models for LRLs without monolingual pre-training, researchers have explored full fine-tuning, adapter-based approaches, and other auxiliary methods.

2.1 Full Fine-Tuning Adaptation

Full fine-tuning has been widely used to enhance LRL performance. Neubig and Hu (2018) utilized similar-language post-training to reduce overfitting. Domain-adaptive fine-tuning (Han and Eisenstein, 2019) improved contextualized models like mBERT on specific domains (e.g. Middle English). Further, language-specific fine-tuning on monolingual corpora (Gururangan et al., 2020; Chau et al., 2020) and adaptation with transliterated data (Muller et al., 2021) boosted performance on diverse tasks, such as dependency parsing and tagging. Ebrahimi and Kann (2021) showed that fine-tuning on Bible corpora improved tagging and named entity recognition in languages unseen during pre-training.

2.2 Adapter-Based Adaptation

Adapters are parameter-efficient small modules that are inserted into model layers, avoiding catastrophic forgetting (French, 1999), reducing computational costs (Houlsby et al., 2019; Strubell et al., 2019), and requiring fewer training examples (Faisal and Anastasopoulos, 2022). Frameworks like MAD-X (Pfeiffer et al., 2020) introduced language and task adapters, improving named entity recognition. Extensions such as UDapter (Üstün et al., 2020) and MAD-G (Ansell et al., 2021) leveraged typological features for improved zero-shot inference. Hierarchical adapters based on language phylogeny (Faisal and Anastasopoulos, 2022), methods addressing resource imbalances with language combination (Lee et al., 2022a; Parović et al., 2022), and exposing task adapters to target languages during training to address training-inference mismatches (Parović et al., 2023) have further advanced adapter effectiveness. Recent work (Pfeiffer et al., 2022; Yong et al., 2023) emphasized the efficiency of adapter-based tuning over continued pre-training for LRLs, with performance tied to data quantity.

2.3 Knowledge Graph Integration

KGs improve the quality of static word embeddings (Faruqui et al., 2014; Speer et al., 2017; Gurgurov et al., 2024b) and, more recently, LMs by leveraging structured semantic relationships, predominantly for high-resoure languages (Miller, 1995; Navigli and Ponzetto, 2012; Speer et al., 2017). Approaches like KnowBERT (Peters et al., 2019) and ERNIE (Zhang et al., 2019) improve LMs through entity linkers and attention. LIBERT (Lauscher et al., 2020b) incorporates semantic constraints for better task performance. CN-ADAPT (Lauscher et al., 2020a) and K-Adapter (Wang et al., 2021) use bottleneck adapters (Houlsby et al., 2019) to inject structured knowledge into models, improving commonsense reasoning and relational tasks.

3 Methodology

This section describes our approaches to adapting mLMs for LRLs and the data resources used.

3.1 Model Adaptation

We adapt mBERT (Devlin et al., 2019) and XLM-R-base (Conneau et al., 2020) using three adapter architectures: Sequential Bottleneck (`Seq_bn`; Houlsby et al. (2019); Pfeiffer et al. (2020)), Sequential Bottleneck with Invertible Layers (`Seq_bn_inv`; Pfeiffer et al. (2020)), and Low-Rank Adaptation (`LoRA`; Hou et al. (2022)). Additionally, we adapt LLaMA-3-8B (Grattafiori et al., 2024), but exclusively with `Seq_bn_inv` adapters (due to computational constraints). Language adapters are pre-trained with a masked language modeling (MLM) objective (Devlin et al., 2019) for mBERT and XLM-R on structured data (ConceptNet; Speer et al. (2017)) and unstructured data (GlotCC; Kargaran et al. (2024)).[1] Further, we pre-train language adapters for LLaMA-3 with a causal language modeling (CLM) objective (Radford, 2018), only with unstructured data, leaving the exploration of graph knowledge injection into large-scale LMs for future work.

Task-specific adapters are trained on target language data using the `Seq_bn` architecture. These adapters are stacked on "frozen" LMs and language adapters, following prior work (Pfeiffer et al., 2020; Lee et al., 2022a; Parović et al., 2023). We also experiment with adapter fusion (Pfeiffer et al., 2021a), combining language adapters trained on different data types.

3.2 Data Sources

Structured Data. ConceptNet (Speer et al., 2017), a multilingual knowledge graph, provides common-sense knowledge across 304 languages. We preprocess the data by converting ConceptNet triples into natural language sentences, similar to Lauscher et al. (2020a) and Gurgurov et al. (2024a), using predefined predicates (Appendix A), and split it into train and validation sets.

Unstructured Data. GlotCC-V1 (Kargaran et al., 2024) is a large-scale multilingual corpus derived from CommonCrawl (Wenzek et al., 2020). It emphasizes LRLs, providing high-quality text in 1,000 languages. To simulate a low-resource environment for all languages, we limit each language to 1 GB (if it exceeds this limit), clean the data, and split it into training and validation sets.

[1]Full fine-tuning is performed only on the GlotCC data for mBERT and XLM-R due to ConceptNet's limited size.

4 Experimental Setup

This section details the experimental setup, including language selection, evaluation tasks, and adapter training procedures.

4.1 Languages

We selected 30 LRLs identified by Joshi et al. (2020) as low-resource—representing a diverse set that includes *Thai, Romanian, Bulgarian, Danish, Greek, Hebrew, Slovak, Slovenian, Latvian, Indonesian, Georgian, Bengali, Azerbaijani, Urdu, Macedonian, Telugu, Nepali, Marathi, Swahili, Welsh, Uzbek, Javanese, Sundanese, Sinhala, Amharic, Kurdish, Uyghur, Maltese, Tibetan, and Yoruba*—to evaluate adapter performance across underrepresented linguistic contexts. Table 5 (Appendix B) summarizes language-specific details.

4.2 Language Adapter Training

Language adapters were trained on mBERT and XLM-R for all languages using MLM with GlotCC and ConceptNet data. We evaluated `Seq_bn`, `Seq_bn_inv`, and `LoRA`, with the default hyperparameters (Appendix F). For LLaMA-3-8B, only GlotCC data was used with the `Seq_bn_inv` architecture and CLM objective for a subset of 5 languages due to computational constraints. Training consisted of up to 100,000 steps for GlotCC and 25,000 steps for ConceptNet, with a batch size of 16 and learning rate of 1e-4.

4.3 Task-Specific Training

Adapters were evaluated on four tasks. For *Masked Language Modeling* (MLM), we used the FLORES-200 devtest set (Team et al., 2022), comprising 1012 parallel sentences, and measured pseudo-perplexity (Salazar et al., 2019) as a proxy for linguistic acceptability. *Topic Classification* (TC) employed the 7-class SIB-200 dataset (Adelani et al., 2024a), training task adapters on predefined splits (701 train, 99 validation, 204 test examples) and fixed hyperparameters (Appendix F), with F1 scores computed on the test set (Sokolova et al., 2006). For *Sentiment Analysis* (SA), binary-class datasets from multiple sources (Table 6 in Appendix C) were used to train task adapters with similar hyperparameters, evaluating performance

Model	Configuration	TC (↑)		NER (↑)		SA (↑)		MLM (↓)	
		Seen	Unseen	Seen	Unseen	Seen	Unseen	Seen	Unseen
mBERT	Baseline	77.67	28.72	83.82	42.54	82.18	71.03	25.17	**124.67**
	+ LoRA (Glot)	78.74	36.65	84.2	44.51	82.75	73.27	10.44	7434.61
	+ Seq_bn (Glot)	79.28	41.42	84.46	45.04	82.99	73.3	**8.95**	12218.65
	+ Seq_bn_inv (Glot)	**79.35**	**42.4**	84.36	**45.64**	**83.64**	**73.91**	14.31	27170.23
	+ LoRA (ConceptNet)	77.87	24.88	84.38	41.32	82.59	70.79	37.37	126.44
	+ Seq_bn (ConceptNet)	78.39	25.87	84.35	41.2	81.9	70.48	41.22	139.25
	+ Seq_bn_inv (ConceptNet)	78.42	24.18	**84.7**	41.48	81.58	71.54	55.95	157.49
	+ Seq_bn (Glot+ConceptNet)	–	–	84.36	44.21	–	–	–	–
	+ Seq_bn_inv (Glot+ConceptNet)	–	–	84.36	44.93	–	–	–	–
	Full Fine-tune	81.73	43.65	–	–	84.07	73.97	9.25	81492.4
XLM-R	Baseline	81.14	34.52	77.33	54.45	87.45	60.72	15.65	203.96
	+ LoRA (Glot)	82.31	40.94	77.52	52.01	87.98	62.02	6.83	**97.99**
	+ Seq_bn (Glot)	83.63	49.72	78.57	54.4	**88.2**	**65.94**	**6.53**	122.08
	+ Seq_bn_inv (Glot)	**84.06**	**51.43**	78.17	55.64	**88.2**	65.88	10.56	713.65
	+ LoRA (ConceptNet)	80.71	29.08	78.38	52.71	87.48	60.00	20.29	902.31
	+ Seq_bn (ConceptNet)	80.82	33.19	77.64	49.39	87.09	58.64	20.01	482.22
	+ Seq_bn_inv (ConceptNet)	80.64	33.59	78.62	51.04	87.28	59.52	22.81	569.48
	+ Seq_bn (Glot+ConceptNet)	–	–	**80.83**	**61.83**	–	–	–	–
	+ Seq_bn_inv (Glot+ConceptNet)	–	–	80.68	60.31	–	–	–	–
	Full Fine-tune	85.61	57.3	–	–	88.56	68.19	10.57	206.68

Table 1: Results for mBERT and XLM-R across 4 tasks: Topic Classification (TC), Named Entity Recognition (NER), Sentiment Analysis (SA), Masked Language Modeling (MLM). All numbers are the averages for the 30 studied LRLs and provided separately for the languages included ("seen") and languages not included ("unseen") in the pre-training data of a model. The baselines are the models with a single task adapter for downstream tasks, or without adapters for MLM. The full results for each task are in the Appendix.

via F1 scores. Finally, *Named Entity Recognition* (NER) used the WikiANN dataset (Pan et al., 2017), with data distributions detailed in Table 7 (Appendix D), and was evaluated with the "seqeval" F1 score (Nakayama, 2018). The (Seq_bn) task adapter was trained with the default hyperparameters (Appendix F).

4.4 Baselines

For MLM, mBERT and XLM-R were evaluated without adapters; LLaMA-3 was not evaluated on this task due to its autoregressive nature. For TC, SA, and NER, baselines used a single Seq_bn task adapter, isolating the impact of language adapters and enabling direct comparisons with language adapter-enhanced models.

5 Results: Small mLMs

This section summarizes the outcomes of the mLM adaptation experiments. Tables 1 and 3 report the average results across 30 selected LRLs.

5.1 Masked Language Modeling

Glot-based adapters substantially improved pseudo-perplexity (Tables 10 and 11 Appendices G and H), particularly for mBERT. The Seq_bn adapter achieved the largest reduction, averaging a 65% improvement, followed by LoRA and Seq_bn_inv. For XLM-R, Seq_bn also excelled overall, while LoRA performed better for higher resourced languages. In contrast, ConceptNet-based adapters did not enhance MLM performance, likely due to the dataset's limited size and structured nature, but showed utility in downstream tasks (Section 5.2).

Full fine-tuning on GlotCC generally outperformed language adapters for mBERT (Table 10), while adapters applied to XLM-R often surpassed full fine-tuning (Table 11). Compared to larger models, Glot-based XLM-R adapters outperformed Glot500-m (Imani et al., 2023), despite the latter's larger vocabulary and more extensive training data. The performance of Glot500-m likely reflects its sampling strategy, which heavily prioritizes LRLs. Additionally, XLM-R-large without language adapters (Conneau et al., 2020) slightly surpassed XLM-R-base with adapters (Appendix J).

5.2 Downstream Tasks

We further fine-tuned task adapters stacked on language adapters and mLMs. The detailed results

are in Tables 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 (Appendices L, M, O, P, R, and S).[2]

5.2.1 Topic Classification

ConceptNet-based adapters showed marginal average improvements over the baseline. For mBERT, `Seq_bn_inv` primarily improved F1 scores for languages included in pre-training, but gains were inconsistent for others. Glot-based adapters demonstrated more substantial improvements, particularly for languages with less pre-training data. `Seq_bn_inv` achieved the best performance across both models, with mBERT showing an average 2-point F1 improvement for seen languages and 14 points for unseen ones, while XLM-R exhibited an average boost of 3 points for pre-trained languages and 17 points for excluded ones. Full fine-tuning provided better average results for both mBERT—4 points for seen and 15 points for unseen languages, and XLM-R—4 points and 23 points, respectively-with adapters being slightly behind. Additional experiments with `Seq_bn_inv` on LLaMA-3 showed an average 28-point improvement over single-task adapter setups.

5.2.2 Named Entity Recognition

For mBERT, ConceptNet adapters provided modest average improvements mostly for seen languages, with `Seq_bn_inv` achieving the highest gains of 1 F1 point on average. Glot-based adapters offered slightly lower gains for seen languages (0.5 points) but larger improvements for unseen ones, with `Seq_bn_inv` delivering an average gain of 3 points. XLM-R exhibited similar trends: ConceptNet adapters improved average scores by 1 point (`Seq_bn_inv`) for seen languages but showed decreases for unseen ones, while Glot-based adapters reached a 0.5-point improvement (`Seq_bn_inv`) for seen languages and 1 point for unseen ones. Meanwhile, LLaMA-3 with `Seq_bn_inv` failed to outperform its baseline.

Due to NER benefiting the most from ConceptNet adapters, we also experimented with the combination of ConceptNet and Glot adapters (`Seq_bn` and `Seq_bn_inv`) with adapter fusion (Pfeiffer et al., 2021a). This provided the greatest benefits for XLM-R, boosting F1 scores by up to 3 points for seen languages and 7 points for unseen ones, outperforming both individual adapters and the baselines. For mBERT, however, fusion did not produce additional improvements.

[2]Below, we report the average scores across languages for each configuration. Notably, numerous individual languages show improvements under each configuration.

Model	#Params (B)	TC (↑)	NER (↑)
mBERT+`Seq_bn_inv`	**0.177**	**71.92**	**85.28**
XLM-R+`Seq_bn_inv`	**0.279**	**80.79**	**85.42**
DeepSeek-R1-D-Llama	8	20.5	-
DeepSeek-R1-D-Qwen	14	41.88	-
DeepSeek-R1-D-Qwen	32	68.54	-
DeepSeek-R1-D-Llama	70	70.72	-
LLaMA-3	8	65.8	-
LLaMA-3.1	8	65.62	-
Gemma	7	60.21	-
Gemma-2	9	44.27	-
Qwen-1.5	7	40.41	-
Qwen2	7	56.82	-
GPT-3.5-turbo-0301	-	-	70.65
GPT-3.5-turbo-0613	-	45.02	-
GPT-4-0613	-	45.82	-
LLaMA-2	7	18.24	-
BLOOM	7	13.02	31.35
BLOOMz	7	17.51	20.92
mT0	13	-	17.48
Occiglot-eu5	7	28.56	
XGLM	7.5	29.98	-
Yayi	7	16.88	-
LLaMAX2 Alpaca	7	23.13	-
Mala-500-v2	10	5.74	-

Table 2: Average F1 scores on overlapping LRLs for LLMs and our Glot adapter-based mLMs on TC and NER. Prompting results are 3-shot, based on Ji et al. (2024) for TC and Asai et al. (2023) for NER. For NER, we report averages across eight overlapping languages, while the GPT-3.5 average is based on only two. TC results for GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 are zero-shot, as reported by Adelani et al. (2024a). DeepSeek results are zero-shot and were obtained in our evaluation. Per-language results are in Appendix U.

5.2.3 Sentiment Analysis

For mBERT, ConceptNet adapters showed limited average gains, with only `LoRA` surpassing the baseline for seen languages, with a 0.25-point improvement. Glot adapters consistently performed better across all architectures, with `Seq_bn_inv` achieving the highest F1 scores, with a 1.5-point improvement for seen and a 3-point gain for unseen languages. For XLM-R, ConceptNet adapters exhibited no average improvements, while Glot adapters consistently enhanced performance. `Seq_bn` and `Seq_bn_inv` achieved gains of up to 1 point for seen and 5 points for unseen languages. Full fine-tuning yielded similar results with a 2-point and 3-point boosts for mBERT, and 1-point and 8-point improvements respectively, for seen and unseen language groups.

Model	TC (↑)	SA (↑)	NER (↑)
mBERT+Seq_bn_inv	**71.92**	**73.68**	**59.32**
XLM-R+Seq_bn_inv	**80.79**	**83.35**	**69.26**
LLaMA-3 Baseline	31.93	58.83	45.18
LLaMA-3+Seq_bn_inv	60.26	68.68	45.12

Table 3: Average F1 scores over 5 selected LRLs for language adapter-tuned LLaMa-3-8B, mBERT, and XLM-R. Additionally, we present results for LLaMA3 with a single Seq_bn task adapter, similar to our baselines. Per-language results are in Appendix U.

Finally, Seq_bn_inv on LLaMA-3 resulted in a 10-point average improvement over its baseline.

6 Results: Small mLMs vs. SoTA LLMs

Compared to the zero-shot prompting of proprietary LLMs like GPT-3.5-Turbo (Ouyang et al., 2022a) and GPT-4 (OpenAI et al., 2024) on the SIB-200 TC task (Adelani et al., 2024a), our adapter-based models demonstrated superior performance across the 30 LRLs studied, as shown in Table 2. Further, our approach outperformed 3-shot results from LLaMA2-7B (Touvron et al., 2023), BLOOM-7B (Le Scao et al., 2023), instruction-tuned BLOOMZ-7B (Ji et al., 2024), XGLM (Lin et al., 2022), Occiglot-7B-eu5 (Barth et al., 2024), Yayi (Luo et al., 2023), LLaMaX2-7B-Alpaca (Lu et al., 2024), MaLA-500 (Lin et al., 2024), and recent models like LLaMA3-8B, LLaMA3.1-8B (Grattafiori et al., 2024), Gemma-7B, Gemma-2-9B (Team et al., 2024), Qwen-1.5-7B, and Qwen-2 (Yang et al., 2024). Additionally, our adapter-based approaches surpassed results reported by Asai et al. (2023) on the WikiAnn NER task for a subset of 8 overlapping LRLs. Their evaluation included zero- and few-shot prompting with GPT-3.5-Turbo, BLOOM-7B, and instruction-tuned BLOOMZ-7B and mT0-13B (Muennighoff et al., 2023). Distilled DeepSeek-R1 models (8B, 14B, 32B, and 70B) (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025) failed to surpass smaller mLMs on TC.[3] Finally, Table 3 shows that although Seq_bn_inv language-adapter based LLaMA-3-8B improved performance over prompting and its single-task adapter baseline, it was still less effective than smaller mLMs like XLM-R for TC tasks.

[3]Results are zero-shot, with generated token output limited to 100.

7 General Findings and Discussion

This section highlights key insights gained from our experiments. We analyze performance trends of adapter-based and full fine-tuning approaches for small mLMs, compare their efficacy to LLMs, explore the relationship between language modeling and downstream task performance, and examine the impact of pre- and post-training data sizes on downstream task outcomes.

7.1 Performance Trends

For MLM, the Seq_bn adapter consistently achieved the best performance, likely due to its moderate parameter count (Table 9 Appendix F) aligning with the limited adaptation data. This partially confirms Mundra et al. (2024)'s findings that simple bottleneck adapters outperform other types, including Seq_bn_inv and LoRA. Conversely, LoRA, with even fewer parameters, excelled in languages with larger pre-training data in XLM-R, which may reflect that these languages require fewer parameters given their extensive pre-training coverage, considering the limited adaptation data (see Appendix I). Moreover, Pfeiffer et al. (2021a) noted that high-capacity adapters are less effective for XLM-R compared to mBERT.

For downstream tasks, Seq_bn_inv slightly outperformed other adapter configurations, with Seq_bn showing very similar performance in most cases, confirming findings by Pfeiffer et al. (2020) that invertible layers enhance adaptation by facilitating input and output embedding alignment. The advantage of Seq_bn_inv may also be attributable to its larger number of trainable parameters, which may benefit the task fine-tuning process. Yong et al. (2023) also report the superiority of using invertible layers for a subset of tested languages on the XNLI task (Conneau et al., 2018). Adapter fusion improved NER performance for XLM-R, likely due to the increased count of trainable parameters (compared to individual language adapters), as observed by Lee et al. (2022a). For mBERT, this improvement was not evident: Individual adapters likely provided sufficient capacity.

Adapter-based approaches outperformed full fine-tuning for XLM-R and matched mBERT's performance on MLM, while performing comparably on SA and slightly worse on TC, all with significantly fewer trainable parameters. This indicates that up to 1 GB

of adaptation data suffices for effective adapter training[4], but might be insufficient for fine-tuning larger models like XLM-R.

MLM performance (Tables 10 and 11 Appendices G and H) **was higher for languages supported by the model's vocabulary.** For unsupported languages in mBERT, such as Sinhala and Amharic, pseudo-perplexity was artificially low pre-adaptation due to overconfidence in predicting the `UNK` token. After adaptation, pseudo-perplexity scores increased, reflecting consistent predictions of non-language-specific tokens (e.g., punctuation). Languages with partial script support, such as Uyghur and Tibetan, showed minimal improvements. XLM-R's broader script coverage mitigated some issues but still struggled with Tibetan. This highlights the need for vocabulary extension when working with unseen languages (Zhang et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2020; Pfeiffer et al., 2021b).

7.2 Small vs. Large LMs for LRLs

Our findings emphasize the effectiveness of adapting smaller encoder-only mLMs with adapters over relying on prompting or adapting LLMs for LRLs. The superior performance of smaller mLMs compared to large-scale models has been explored in prior research. Wu et al. (2019) observed that limited capacity forces models to align semantically similar representations across languages rather than creating language-specific subspaces. Dufter and Schütze (2020) further showed that overparameterizing mBERT degrades its cross-lingual transfer ability and hypothesized that smaller models produce better language-independent representations by reusing parameters across languages, while larger models tend to partition capacity, limiting shared multilingual representations, later supported by Yong et al. (2023). Similarly, Shliazhko et al. (2023) found no performance improvements in mGPT when scaling from 1.3B to 13B parameters for classification and factual probing tasks, with mBERT and XLM-R outperforming larger models. Moreover, Pecher et al. (2024) noted that larger models do not consistently outperform smaller ones in fine-tuning or prompting settings. These findings, together with our results, collectively argue for prioritizing smaller mLMs over large-scale, resource-intensive models (Strubell et al., 2019) to advance performance on LRLs more efficiently and effectively.

7.3 Correlation Between Language Modeling and Downstream Task Performance

To investigate the relationship between language modeling and downstream task performance, we performed correlation analyses using Pearson (Cohen et al., 2009) and Spearman (Spearman, 1961) metrics. Results in Table 14 (Appendix K) show a moderate correlation between pseudo-perplexity and downstream task performance for XLM-R, both pre- and post-adaptation (using Glot data), but a less pronounced correlation for mBERT. **Lower pseudo-perplexity generally indicated better downstream performance for XLM-R and, to a lesser extent, for mBERT, suggesting its utility as a rough proxy for downstream task capabilities, particularly for larger mLMs**. These findings contrast with prior studies (Liang et al., 2022; Yong et al., 2023), which reported an unclear relationship between perplexity and task performance.[5] Post-adaptation, the correlation between pseudo-perplexity and downstream performance strengthened, particularly for tasks with consistent data quality (Figure 3). We conjecture that the stronger correlations observed for XLM-R likely arise from its optimized multilingual architecture and its extensive pre-training corpus.

7.4 Impact of Pre- and Post-Training Data Size on MLM and Downstream Tasks

We analyzed the relationship between pre- and post-adaptation data size and model performance. Before adaptation, pseudo-perplexity and downstream task performance were correlated with pre-training data size (Figure 1 and Table 12 Appendix I), as also found by Wu and Dredze (2020), Ahuja et al. (2023) and Bagheri Nezhad and Agrawal (2024). **Post-adaptation improvements primarily depended on pre-training and, surprisingly less so, on adaptation data volumes, with the latter providing only a marginal improvement**.[6] LRLs exhibited larger gains, while higher-resource languages faced diminishing returns or even reduced performance. The latter

[4]This is in line with Bapna et al. (2019), He et al. (2021), and Liu et al. (2022), who report that adapter-based tuning often surpasses full fine-tuning.

[5]Unlike these studies, we evaluate pseudo-perplexity across a diverse set of languages rather than models. This partially aligns with Xia et al. (2022), who observed a correlation between perplexity and few-shot learning results.

[6]Similarly, Kunz and Holmström (2024) show limited overall impact of adaptation data and language adapters.

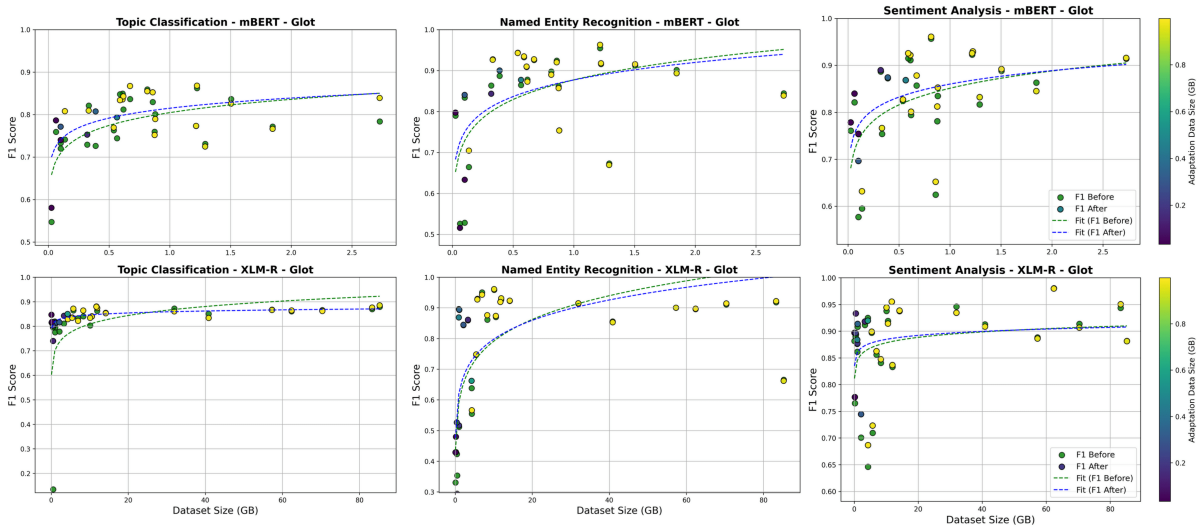

Figure 1: Correlation between the pre-training data sizes for mBERT and XLM-R and downstream task results for the pre-adaptation and post-adaptation results. The vertical bars indicate the amounts of adaptation data. The improvements in downstream performance for both models are primarily concentrated in languages with smaller pre-training data sizes, which are positioned on the left side of the plots (Section 7.4).

is likely due to the model encountering data already seen during pre-training (Lee et al., 2022b). Achieving further gains for well-represented languages may require increasing adaptation data and adapter capacity. A correlation analysis (Appendix I) demonstrates that adaptation data had a stronger impact on mBERT than XLM-R, likely because of its larger relative contribution as compared to pre-training data.

In downstream tasks, even small amounts of adaptation data (e.g., a few MB of graph-based data or a few hundred MB of free-text data) produced performance gains, consistent with Pfeiffer et al. (2020) and Yong et al. (2023). This was especially true for mBERT, where adaptation data constitutes a larger proportion relative to its overall training data. For XLM-R, adaptation data was more beneficial for LRLs, while its impact diminished for languages with pre-training data exceeding approximately 20 GB, as also observed by Adelani et al. (2024a). Diminishing returns suggest a threshold effect, where extensive pre-training coverage reduces the utility of adaptation data, indicating that larger adaptation datasets may be necessary for further gains. Figures 4, 5, and 6 demonstrate these trends, showing that underrepresented languages typically benefit more from even limited adaptation data, confirmed by correlation analyses (Appendices N, Q, and T).

The type of adaptation data influenced task-specific performance. ConceptNet-based adapters outperformed Glot-based adapters for NER in most languages, likely because ConceptNet contains straightforward NER information. This contrasts with the findings of Gurgurov et al. (2024a), who observed different trends when experimenting with a smaller subset of languages. Conversely, Glot-based adapters provided more consistent improvements across tasks, leveraging their larger adaptation data volumes (up to 1 GB for most languages). This emphasizes the important role of relative data size in determining the effectiveness of adaptation across tasks.

8 Conclusion

This study evaluated adapter-based adaptation of small mLMs to LRLs using structured and unstructured data, alongside continued pre-training and comparing them with SoTA LLMs. `Seq_bn` achieved the best results for MLM tasks, while `Seq_bn_inv` excelled in downstream tasks. Full fine-tuning offered limited advantages over adapters. Downstream performance was primarily influenced by pre-training data, with adaptation data providing incremental gains. Graph-based knowledge from ConceptNet, despite its small size, improved NER performance, while Glot data consistently delivered the largest gains across tasks. Our results generally suggest that smaller mLMs may be better suited for LRLs than LLMs, since mLMs efficiently align cross-lingual representations and generalize well under

data constraints.

Limitations

This study has three main limitations. First, adapters have specific hyperparameters that influence their behavior and capacity. Future work should systematically explore these hyperparameters and their effects on adapter performance. Second, the amount of adaptation data was limited to 1 GB per language due to computational constraints. Investigating the impact of larger datasets on model adaptation—e.g., utilizing the full GlotCC data without truncation—remains an open and promising direction. Increasing adapter capacity and adaptation data size and measuring adaptation effects as a function of both data volume and model capacity could provide valuable insights. Finally, some experiments were not conducted across all tasks due to resource constraints. For example, adapter fusion was applied only to named entity recognition, and full fine-tuning was only evaluated for small models on masked language modeling, topic classification, and sentiment analysis, but not on named entity recognition.

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Appendix

A ConceptNet Tripple Conversion Mapping

ConceptNet Relationship	Natural Language Predicate
Antonym	is the opposite of
DerivedFrom	is derived from
EtymologicallyDerivedFrom	is etymologically derived from
EtymologicallyRelatedTo	is etymologically related to
FormOf	is a form of
PartOf	is a part of
HasA	belongs to
UsedFor	is used for
AtLocation	is a typical location for
Causes	causes
CausesDesire	makes someone want
MadeOf	is made of
ReceivesAction	receives action of
HasSubevent	is a subevent of
HasFirstSubevent	is an event that begins with subevent
HasLastSubevent	is an event that concludes with subevent
HasPrerequisite	has prerequisite of
HasProperty	can be described as
MotivatedByGoal	is a step toward accomplishing the goal
ObstructedBy	is an obstacle in the way of
Desires	is a conscious entity that typically wants
CreatedBy	is a process or agent that creates
CapableOf	is capable of
HasContext	is a word used in the context of
IsA	is a type of
RelatedTo	is related to
SimilarTo	is similar to
Synonym	is a synonym of
SymbolOf	symbolically represents
DefinedAs	is a more explanatory version of
DistinctFrom	is distinct from
MannerOf	is a specific way to do
LocatedNear	is typically found near

Table 4: ConceptNet relationships and their natural language predicates. This mapping is used for converting the ConceptNet KG data into natural language text.

B Language Details

Language	ISO	Language Family	CN (Sent-s)	CN (MB)	Glot (Doc-s)	Glot (MB)	mBERT?	XLM-R?	mBERT Data Size (GB)	XLM-R Data Size (GB)
Thai	th	Kra-Dai	123,859	6.95	2,391,253	977.68	✓	✓	1.29	85.24
Romanian	ro	Indo-European	70,236	2.47	8,657,002	1002.36	✓	✓	1.22	83.29
Bulgarian	bg	Indo-European	162,181	8.02	5,192,702	1014.73	✓	✓	1.50	70.37
Danish	da	Indo-European	66,109	2.27	8,743,767	1006.91	✓	✓	0.81	62.39
Greek	el	Indo-European	89,016	4.17	4,789,519	980.94	✓	✓	1.85	57.30
Hebrew	he	Afro-Asiatic	41,444	1.62	5,287,428	991.82	✓	✓	2.73	40.87
Slovak	sk	Indo-European	22,460	0.81	9,294,165	1006.96	✓	✓	0.61	31.96
Slovenian	sl	Indo-European	85,882	2.98	9,301,902	1007.91	✓	✓	0.67	14.16
Latvian	lv	Indo-European	66,408	2.4	8,301,651	988.21	✓	✓	0.33	11.94
Indonesian	ms	Austronesian	175,246	6.21	8,024,827	1022.01	✓	✓	0.59	11.73
Georgian	ka	Kartvelian	35,331	1.89	3,463,631	1014.24	✓	✓	0.88	10.55
Bengali	bn	Indo-European	8,782	0.46	2,940,197	993.44	✓	✓	1.22	10.10
Azerbaijani	az	Turkic	15,149	0.57	6,179,152	1016.68	✓	✓	0.62	8.33
Urdu	ur	Indo-European	13,315	0.51	4,220,566	1009.42	✓	✓	0.54	6.97
Macedonian	mk	Indo-European	38,116	1.54	5,037,552	1005.62	✓	✓	0.86	5.76
Telugu	te	Dravidian	33,476	1.72	3,162,535	1005.55	✓	✓	0.88	5.46
Nepali	ne	Indo-European	4,456	0.21	2,569,572	1012.63	✓	✓	0.14	4.32
Marathi	mr	Indo-European	7,232	0.37	402,575	157.3	✓	✓	0.32	3.33
Swahili	sw	Niger-Congo	12,380	0.39	2,450,753	323.27	✓	✓	0.10	2.15
Welsh	cy	Indo-European	18,313	0.61	3,174,686	360.24	✓	✓	0.39	1.07
Uzbek	uz	Turkic	4,362	0.16	4,018,172	481.49	✓	✓	0.57	0.95
Javanese	jv	Austronesian	3,448	0.13	367,795	43.56	✓	✓	0.10	0.20
Sundanese	su	Austronesian	1,880	0.07	323,610	43.55	✓	✓	0.06	0.08
Sinhala	si	Indo-European	1,782	0.1	1,655,641	586.21	✗	✓	✗	4.27
Amharic	am	Afro-Asiatic	1,814	0.07	667,881	203.65	✗	✓	✗	1.00
Kurdish	ku	Indo-European	12,246	0.44	376,260	134.7	✗	✓	✗	0.52
Uyghur	ug	Turkic	1,715	0.06	976,010	233.61	✗	✓	✗	0.43
Maltese	mt	Afro-Asiatic	3,895	0.14	1,389,527	182.17	✗	✗	✗	✗
Tibetan	bo	Sino-Tibetan	4,768	0.21	288,847	165.31	✗	✗	✗	✗
Yoruba	yo	Niger-Congo	1,044	0.05	278,003	34.51	✓	✗	0.03	✗

Table 5: Number of ConceptNet triples and GlotCC documents as well as corresponding data sizes per language, sorted by Glot (Doc-s) in descending order. The last four columns indicate the inclusion of the respective language in mBERT and XLM-R pre-training data, alongside the corresponding data sizes in GB. The sizes are approximated based on the openly available CC100 and WikiPedia datasets.

C Sentiment Analysis Data Details

Language	ISO code	Source	#pos	#neg	#train	#val	#test
Sundanese	su	Winata et al., 2022	378	383	381	76	304
Amharic	am	Tesfa et al., 2024	487	526	709	152	152
Swahili	sw	Muhammad et al., 2023a; Muhammad et al., 2023b	908	319	738	185	304
Georgian	ka	Stefanovitch et al., 2022	765	765	1080	120	330
Nepali	ne	Singh et al., 2020	680	1019	1189	255	255
Uyghur	ug	Li et al., 2022	2450	353	1962	311	530
Latvian	lv	Sproģis and Rikters, 2020	1796	1380	2408	268	500
Slovak	sk	Pecar et al., 2019	4393	731	3560	522	1042
Sinhala	si	Ranathunga and Liyanage, 2021	2487	2516	3502	750	751
Slovenian	sl	Bučar et al., 2018	1665	3337	3501	750	751
Uzbek	uz	Kuriyozov et al., 2019	3042	1634	3273	701	702
Bulgarian	bg	Martínez-García et al., 2021	6652	1271	5412	838	1673
Yoruba	yo	Muhammad et al., 2023a; Muhammad et al., 2023b	6344	3296	5414	1327	2899
Urdu	ur	Maas et al., 2011; Khan et al., 2017; Khan and Nizami, 2020	5562	5417	7356	1812	1812
Macedonian	mk	Jovanoski et al., 2015	3041	5184	6557	729	939
Danish	da	Isbister et al., 2021	5000	5000	7000	1500	1500
Marathi	mr	Pingle et al., 2023	5000	5000	8000	1000	1000
Bengali	bn	Sazzed, 2020	8500	3307	8264	1771	1772
Hebrew	he	Amram et al., 2018	8497	3911	8932	993	2483
Romanian	ro	Tache et al., 2021	7500	7500	10800	1200	3000
Telugu	te	Marreddy et al., 2022a; Marreddy et al., 2022b	9488	6746	11386	1634	3214
Welsh	cy	Espinosa-Anke et al., 2021	12500	12500	17500	3750	3750
Azerbaijani	az	LocalDoc, 2024	14000	14000	19600	4200	4200
Tibetan	bo	Zhu et al., 2023	5006	5000	7004	1501	1501
Kurdish	ku	Badawi et al., 2024	4065	3922	6000	993	994
Greek	el	Kalamatianos et al., 2015; Tsakalidis et al., 2018	5773	1313	5936	383	767
Javanese	jv	Wongso et al., 2021	12500	12500	17500	5025	2475
Maltese	mt	Dingli and Sant, 2016; Cortis and Davis, 2019	271	580	595	85	171
Thai	th	Suriyawongkul et al., 2019;	4778	6822	8103	1153	2344
Malay	ms	Purwarianti and Crisdayanti, 2019	7319	4005	7926	1132	2266

Table 6: Sentiment analysis data details.

D Named Entity Recognition Data Details

Language	ISO code	#train	#val	#test
Bulgarian	bg	20000	10000	10000
Indonesian	ms	20000	1000	1000
Maltese	mt	100	100	100
Nepali	ne	100	100	100
Javanese	jv	100	100	100
Uyghur	ug	100	100	100
Tibetan	bo	100	100	100
Sinhala	si	100	100	100
Sundanese	su	100	100	100
Amharic	am	100	100	100
Swahili	sw	1000	1000	1000
Georgian	ka	10000	10000	10000
Latvian	lv	10000	10000	10000
Slovak	sk	20000	10000	10000
Slovenian	sl	15000	10000	10000
Uzbek	uz	1000	1000	1000
Yoruba	yo	100	100	100
Urdu	ur	20000	1000	1000
Macedonian	mk	10000	1000	1000
Danish	da	20000	10000	10000
Marathi	mr	5000	1000	1000
Bengali	bn	10000	1000	1000
Hebrew	he	20000	10000	10000
Romanian	ro	20000	10000	10000
Telugu	te	1000	1000	1000
Welsh	cy	10000	1000	1000
Azerbaijani	az	10000	1000	1000
Greek	el	20000	10000	10000
Kurdish	ku	100	100	100
Thai	th	20000	10000	10000

Table 7: Named entity recognition data details.

E Language Adapters Evaluation Losses

ISO	ConceptNet						Glot					
	mBERT			XLM-R			mBERT			XLM-R		
	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv
th	1.21	1.24	1.2	1.42	1.42	1.35	0.46	0.54	0.45	1.55	1.65	1.53
ro	1.41	1.46	1.34	1.43	1.43	1.33	1.37	1.52	1.34	1.27	1.3	1.26
bg	0.68	0.71	0.66	0.87	0.87	0.81	1.09	1.25	1.07	1.83	1.8	1.8
da	1.24	1.29	1.19	1.35	1.36	1.26	1.39	1.54	1.36	1.28	1.36	1.26
el	1.13	1.18	1.12	1.36	1.36	1.29	0.67	0.77	0.66	0.84	0.9	0.83
he	1.35	1.38	1.32	1.47	1.46	1.4	1.3	1.41	1.28	1.29	1.38	1.28
sk	1.22	1.28	1.16	1.39	1.39	1.28	1.09	1.19	1.06	1.16	1.19	1.14
sl	0.83	0.91	0.79	1.05	1.09	0.98	1.16	1.28	1.13	1.22	1.28	1.21
lv	1.32	1.4	1.25	1.47	1.51	1.37	1.11	1.29	1.07	1.28	1.37	1.25
ms	1.57	1.63	1.5	1.59	1.57	1.47	1.52	1.65	1.48	1.55	1.6	1.54
ka	1.15	1.19	1.14	1.38	1.35	1.3	0.79	0.91	0.77	1.12	1.18	1.11
bn	0.99	1.03	0.97	1.37	1.37	1.3	1.05	1.16	1.03	1.44	1.49	1.42
az	1.33	1.37	1.29	1.5	1.55	1.42	0.89	1.02	0.86	1.19	1.31	1.15
ur	1.43	1.48	1.4	1.62	1.61	1.51	1.15	1.31	1.12	1.38	1.44	1.36
mk	1.42	1.44	1.38	1.59	1.54	1.45	0.89	0.99	0.87	1.41	1.4	1.41
te	1.09	1.12	1.07	1.29	1.29	1.22	0.83	0.94	0.81	1.33	1.4	1.31
ne	1.26	1.31	1.21	1.53	1.52	1.42	0.77	0.9	0.75	1.38	1.45	1.35
mr	1.08	1.12	1.04	1.46	1.45	1.37	0.94	1.07	0.92	1.43	1.49	1.41
sw	1.54	1.63	1.51	1.64	1.73	1.56	0.94	1.13	0.9	1.13	1.22	1.1
cy	1.55	1.6	1.48	1.83	1.91	1.76	0.81	0.99	0.77	0.95	1.06	0.92
uz	1.22	1.3	1.18	1.55	1.62	1.45	0.85	1.01	0.82	1.06	1.17	1.03
jv	1.44	1.5	1.4	1.55	1.56	1.48	2.11	2.21	2.08	2.63	2.66	2.54
su	1.51	1.56	1.47	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.14	1.28	1.11	1.21	1.35	1.18
si	1.4	1.33	1.38	1.31	1.25	1.25	0.82	0.88	0.8	1.21	1.29	1.19
am	1.47	1.51	1.58	1.22	1.29	1.13	1.25	1.31	1.23	1.2	1.31	1.19
ku	1.64	1.73	1.61	1.91	2.04	1.86	0.93	1.05	0.9	0.76	1.02	0.71
ug	1.09	1.13	1.07	1.57	1.59	1.47	0.46	0.57	0.44	0.79	0.94	0.76
mt	1.41	1.44	1.39	1.53	1.68	1.5	0.84	1.08	0.8	0.93	1.2	0.87
bo	1.0	1.01	0.98	0.63	0.64	0.62	0.24	0.28	0.24	0.72	0.73	0.71
yo	1.12	1.27	1.1	1.77	1.79	1.76	0.87	1.04	0.84	0.83	1.03	0.78

Table 8: Evaluation losses for language adapters by model, architecture, and language.

Evaluation loss values were not predictive of MLM performance. Despite `Seq_bn_inv` achieving the lowest evaluation losses, it underperformed in MLM tasks, indicating that evaluation loss may be an unreliable training metric (suggested by Salazar et al. (2019)).

F Language Adapter Hyperparameters

Adapter Type	mBERT			XLM-R			LLaMA-3	
	Seq_bn	**Seq_bn_inv**	**LoRA**	**Seq_bn**	**Seq_bn_inv**	**LoRA**	**Seq_bn**	**Seq_bn_inv**
Trainable Params (No.)	894,528	1,190,592	294,912	894,528	1,190,592	294,912	67,248,128	75,642,880
Trainable Params (%)	0.505%	0.672%	0.166%	0.322%	0.429%	0.106%	0.896%	1.008%
Hyperparameters for LA	Batch Size: 16, Learning Rate: 1e-4, Seq_bn and Seq_bn_inv: Reduction Factor = 16, LoRA: $\alpha = 8$, $r = 8$						Batch Size: 1, Learning Rate: 1e-4	
Hyperparameters for TA	Batch Size: 32, Learning Rate: 1e-4, Seq_bn: Reduction Factor = 16, LoRA: $\alpha = 8$, $r = 8$						Batch Size for TC: 16; for SA and NER: 8, Learning Rate: 2e-5	

Table 9: Trainable parameters and hyperparameters for different adapter types in mBERT, XLM-R, and LLaMA-3. The rest of hyperparameters are as specified in the default adapter configurations in Adapterhub. LA - Langauge adapter, TA - Task adapter.

G Masked Language Modeling Pseudo-Perplexity - Part I

ISO	mBERT							
		ConceptNet			Glot			
	Base	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	FFT
he	18.36	19.71	18.29	19.85	**11.09**	12.31	12.51	8.78
el	4.69	6.17	5.55	6.92	**3.3**	3.54	3.49	2.71
bg	10.84	14.99	12.65	20.93	**5.4**	5.9	6.09	4.67
th	3.87	4.13	4.29	4.07	**2.94**	3.34	3.18	2.54
ro	11.49	13.47	12.67	22.39	**5.94**	6.59	8.67	6.75
bn	11.97	14.94	13.53	15.99	**9.11**	10.05	10.32	8.42
te	7.92	8.9	8.34	9.33	**6.09**	6.13	6.4	5.32
ka	6.52	6.3	6.0	6.54	**3.63**	4.06	3.91	2.6
mk	11.95	14.5	12.3	13.26	**5.83**	6.33	6.54	5.53
da	19.16	19.29	25.39	30.87	**11.13**	11.8	13.02	8.76
sl	13.57	18.09	14.32	26.86	**6.68**	7.26	8.58	4.91
az	12.47	15.2	13.48	24.26	**7.04**	7.89	7.9	5.83
sk	11.5	13.86	12.37	19.29	**5.98**	6.64	7.14	6.03
ms	36.26	53.66	50.17	128.6	**18.23**	20.01	22.71	16.95
uz	26.65	31.41	23.43	40.35	**5.84**	7.21	9.22	3.84
ur	22.59	23.02	21.74	26.4	**10.18**	12.0	12.89	7.16
cy	21.24	22.13	23.0	39.75	**6.08**	7.8	9.06	4.89
lv	14.14	18.31	16.21	33.14	**5.98**	7.13	7.48	4.58
mr	12.51	12.9	12.21	14.0	**5.84**	6.78	6.85	6.71
ne	12.72	14.19	13.08	15.36	**6.71**	7.21	8.68	4.88
jv	83.84	115.27	132.08	146.64	**19.4**	22.86	31.6	19.19
sw	42.53	57.57	52.21	79.5	**8.99**	12.48	16.09	7.19
su	102.16	177.27	183.04	227.87	**20.24**	23.2	34.29	34.93
yo	85.21	293.99	210.43	370.71	**23.14**	31.96	86.79	38.89
Avg.	25.17	41.22	37.37	55.95	**8.95**	10.44	14.31	9.25
mt†	531.59	432.99	456.64	457.43	**6.89**	9.87	15.02	5.95
ku†	**72.87**	119.29	101.13	149.74	1524.98	559.83	173.24	6381.75
ug†	112.63	96.52	86.31	121.15	**28.69**	67.26	75.53	313.64
si†	**16.29**	96.5	40.3	103.36	15640.68	8981.09	157397.73	443921.11
am†	**10.06**	31.41	26.93	23.47	56052.75	34924.59	4223.4	38289.93
bo†	**4.59**	58.78	47.33	89.81	57.94	65.03	1136.47	41.99
Avg.	**124.67**	139.25	126.44	157.49	12218.65	7434.61	27170.23	81492.4
Total	**45.07**	60.83	55.18	76.26	2450.89	1495.27	5445.49	16305.88

Table 10: Pseudo-perplexity scores comparison across different adapters for mBERT in ConceptNet and Glot. †Language not included in mBERT pre-training. FFT denotes full fine-tuning of a base model on the target-language Glot data. The underlined FFT scores indicate that FFT outperform the best performing adapter for a respective language.

H Masked Language Modeling Pseudo-Perplexity - Part II

ISO	XLM-R							
		ConceptNet			Glot			
	Base	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	FFT
th	**7.83**	8.67	8.86	10.11	8.78	7.97	9.39	22.16
ro	2.97	3.76	3.79	4.51	3.42	**2.96**	3.25	6.18
bg	**3.61**	4.88	5.51	5.4	3.63	3.7	3.64	6.12
da	4.29	5.56	5.94	6.21	6.69	**4.21**	4.58	7.9
el	**2.56**	3.17	3.1	3.46	2.97	2.63	2.87	3.81
he	**5.74**	6.17	6.36	6.74	5.8	5.84	5.99	10.95
sk	3.93	4.85	4.67	5.36	4.56	**3.68**	4.08	4.62
sl	4.79	7.31	7.41	8.68	4.35	**4.01**	4.95	5.3
lv	4.14	5.96	6.32	9.34	5.09	**3.92**	4.7	4.87
ms	10.79	15.02	15.82	17.26	8.97	**8.8**	9.65	12.55
ka	**3.88**	4.41	4.47	4.48	3.99	3.94	4.76	4.97
bn	6.5	7.22	7.17	7.6	**5.95**	6.28	8.0	6.69
az	7.52	11.21	11.45	15.95	8.27	**7.58**	9.7	14.11
ur	10.17	12.13	12.82	12.23	**9.53**	9.54	11.12	12.32
mk	5.19	6.74	7.51	7.28	4.82	**4.78**	**4.78**	8.14
te	6.76	8.12	8.11	8.31	**6.41**	6.66	9.92	7.6
ne	12.76	16.87	17.74	16.91	11.86	**11.82**	22.42	16.64
si	7.04	7.97	8.22	8.26	**5.74**	6.37	11.44	6.74
mr	10.25	11.83	12.12	12.67	9.11	**8.9**	16.42	21.99
sw	15.68	26.99	27.39	36.78	**7.76**	9.61	11.24	9.18
cy	9.37	13.94	16.05	17.51	**5.08**	5.88	8.11	4.7
am	10.87	14.77	15.4	15.15	**7.32**	8.44	17.0	10.49
uz	8.4	14.77	16.81	20.66	**5.46**	6.21	9.14	5.92
ku	159.39	72.75	84.04	69.25	**2.95**	4.34	19.27	3.88
ug†	6.87	13.97	12.48	16.76	**4.99**	5.97	12.48	16.13
jv	33.81	96.45	89.36	116.95	**12.49**	15.06	27.14	26.25
su	57.32	134.71	128.95	152.14	**10.41**	15.22	29.1	25.16
Avg.	15.65	20.01	20.29	22.81	**6.53**	6.83	10.56	10.57
mt‡	395.18	283.77	335.23	275.56	**3.19**	5.0	12.01	3.36
bo‡	**9.45**	937.1	2036.45	1209.39	353.49	274.66	1972.96	597.55
yo‡	207.26	225.8	335.24	223.49	**9.57**	14.31	155.99	19.12
Avg.	203.96	482.22	902.31	569.48	122.08	**97.99**	713.65	206.68
Total	34.48	66.23	108.49	77.48	18.09	**15.94**	80.87	30.18

Table 11: Pseudo-perplexity scores comparison for XLM-R across different adapters in ConceptNet and Glot. ‡Language not included in XLM-R pre-training. FFT denotes full fine-tuning of a base model on the target-language Glot data. The underlined FFT scores indicate that FFT outperform the best performing adapter for a respective language.

I Correlation Between Pseudo-Perplexity Pre- and Post-training Data Sizes

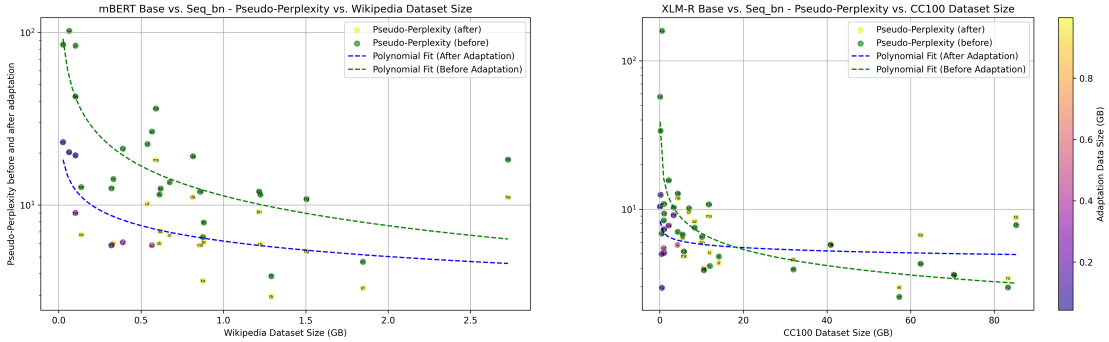

Figure 2: Correlation between the pre-training data sizes for mBERT and XLM-R and the pseudo-perplexities with the values fit in the log-space for the pre-adaptation and post-adaptation results.

	Model	Pearson (p-value)	Spearman (p-value)
Pre-adapt	mBERT	-0.37 (*0.07*)	-0.51 (*0.01*)
	XLM-R	-0.32 (*0.1*)	-0.39 (*0.04*)
Post-adapt	mBERT	-0.69 (*<0.001*)	-0.79 (*<0.001*)
	XLM-R	-0.27 (*0.16*)	-0.79 (*<0.001*)

Table 12: Pearson and Spearman Correlations for mBERT and XLM-R between pseudo-perplexity and amounts of pre-training and post-training data for the pre-adaptation and post-adaptation results. Post-adaptation results are based on the models with Seq_bn language adapters and denote the correlation between the sum of the pre-training and adaptation data sizes and pseudo-perplexity scores after the adaptation.

As illustrated in Figure 2, the improvements in pseudo-perplexity for both models are primarily concentrated in languages with smaller pre-training data sizes, which are positioned on the left side of the plots. These languages benefit the most from the adaptation process. Conversely, for languages with substantial representation in the pre-training data, the improvements are less pronounced or nonexistent. *This suggests that underrepresented languages in the pre-training data can achieve significant gains in pseudo-perplexity even with modest amounts of adaptation data and low-capacity adapters (smaller parameter counts). In contrast, further improvements for well-represented languages may require increasing the capacity of the adapters to better utilize their substantial pre-training representation.* The stagnation, or drops, in the performance on the languages with extensive pre-training data effects can also be attributed to the model seeing the same (duplicated) data that was seen during pre-training, which makes the "value" of data lower since the model sees the duplicates (Lee et al., 2022b).

J Comparison of XLM-R-base with Glot500 and XLM-R-large

ISO	XLM-R-base	Adapted XLM-R-base	XLM-R-large	Glot-500m
th	7.83	7.97	**4.92**	31.34
ro	2.97	2.96	**2.06**	13.29
bg	3.61	3.63	**2.53**	14.16
da	4.29	4.21	**2.78**	28.06
el	2.56	2.97	**1.87**	6.87
he	5.74	5.8	**3.19**	32.80
sk	3.93	3.68	**2.30**	26.36
sl	4.79	4.01	**2.60**	41.98
lv	4.14	3.92	**2.51**	14.55
ms	10.79	8.8	**6.71**	38.46
ka	3.88	3.94	**2.69**	10.77
bn	6.50	5.95	**3.99**	19.36
az	7.52	7.58	**4.40**	17.46
ur	10.17	9.53	**6.10**	25.60
mk	5.19	4.78	**3.23**	14.00
te	6.76	6.41	**4.31**	17.19
ne	12.76	11.82	**8.06**	23.19
mr	10.25	8.9	**5.77**	27.95
sw	15.68	**7.76**	8.90	44.82
cy	9.37	5.08	**4.35**	25.74
uz	8.40	5.46	**3.92**	15.33
jv	33.81	**12.49**	17.83	73.46
su	57.32	**10.41**	26.42	52.65
si	7.04	5.74	**4.50**	15.03
am	10.87	7.32	**6.73**	25.56
ku	159.39	**2.95**	126.40	23.35
ug	6.87	4.99	**3.80**	13.67
Avg.	15.65	**6.26**	10.11	25.66
mt	395.18	**3.19**	317.81	7.93
bo	9.45	274.66	**3.99**	26.74
yo	207.26	**9.57**	155.57	96.80
Avg.	203.96	95.81	159.12	**43.82**
Total	34.48	**15.22**	25.01	27.48

Table 13: Average pseudo-perplexity scores for 30 languages across three model configurations. For the adapted XLM-R-base, we pick the adapter with the best performance.

We additionally compare XLM-R adapted with Glot language adapters against two larger models: XLM-R-large (Conneau et al., 2020) and Glot500-m (Imani et al., 2023) (Table 13). Both models provide distinct points of comparison. XLM-R-large shares the same architecture as XLM-R-base but with a significantly larger size (550M parameters). XLM-R-large outperformed smaller models with adapters on MLM, suggesting that adapter effectiveness might be inherently constrained by the base model's capacity. In contrast, Glot500-m, while only slightly larger than XLM-R-base (395M parameters), introduces an extended vocabulary to support new scripts from a 600GB multilingual corpus and fine-tunes the weights of XLM-R-base. Its training employs a sampling strategy with an alpha of 0.3, prioritizing low-resource languages over high-resource ones. While this approach improves its performance on many low-resource languages, it results in suboptimal outcomes for well-represented languages.

This comparison is particularly relevant as it evaluates whether fine-tuning XLM-R-base with Glot-based language adapters can surpass the performance of these larger models. Furthermore, Glot500-m provides a unique benchmark, as it was trained on the same multilingual corpus used for our adapters, albeit without the computational constraints that limited our data size for adaptation.

K Correlation Between Pseudo-Perplexity and Downstream Tasks

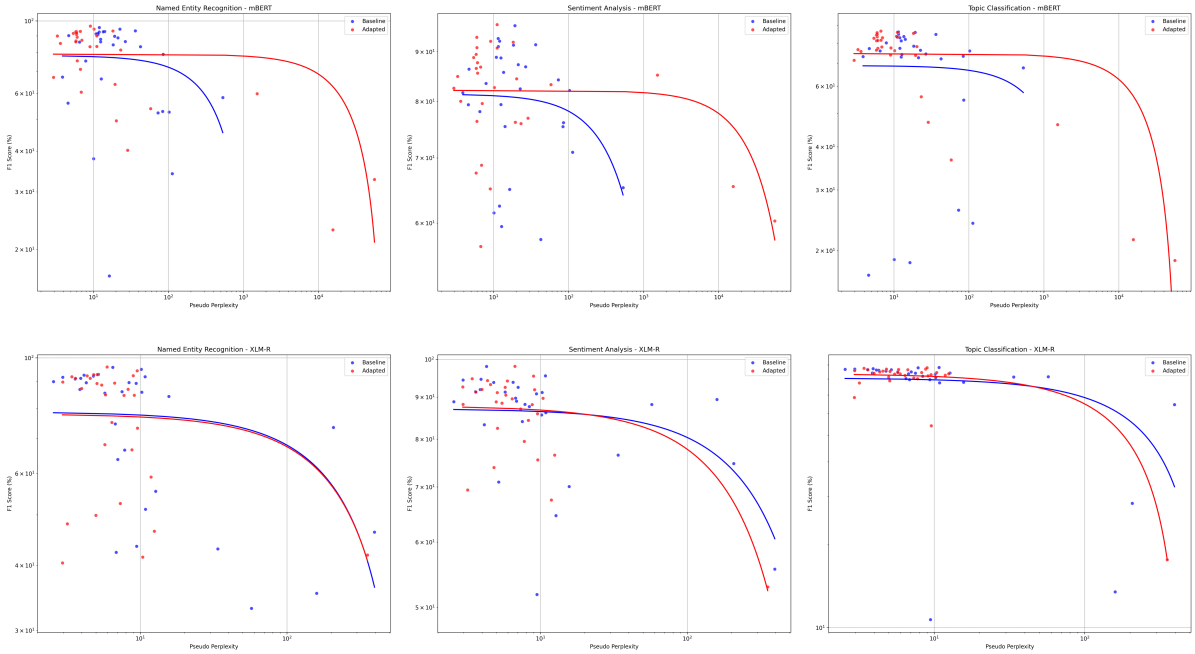

Figure 3: Correlation between the downstream performance for mBERT and XLM-R pre- and post-adaptation and the pseudo-perplexities.

Model	Task	Pre-Adapt		Post-Adapt	
		Pearson (p-value)	Spearman (p-value)	Pearson (p-value)	Spearman (p-value)
mBERT	TC	-0.09 (*0.62*)	-0.25 (*0.18*)	-0.66 (*<0.001*)	-0.42 (*0.02*)
	SA	-0.29 (*0.12*)	-0.15 (*0.42*)	-0.45 (*0.01*)	-0.23 (*0.23*)
	NER	-0.28 (*0.13*)	-0.22 (*0.24*)	-0.54 (*0.002*)	-0.49 (*0.006*)
XLM-R	TC	-0.48 (*0.007*)	-0.68 (*<0.001*)	-0.88 (*<0.001*)	-0.20 (*0.3*)
	SA	-0.47 (*0.009*)	-0.55 (*0.002*)	-0.64 (*<0.001*)	-0.38 (*0.04*)
	NER	-0.42 (*0.02*)	-0.62 (*<0.001*)	-0.35 (*0.06*)	-0.28 (*0.13*)

Table 14: Pearson and Spearman Correlations for mBERT and XLM-R (Pre-Adapt and Post-Adapt) between pseudo-perplexity and task performance. Post-Adapt is represented by the models adapted with the Seq_bn language adapters.

L Topic Classification Results - Part I

ISO	mBERT							
		ConceptNet			Glot			
	Base	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	FFT
he	79.79	**83.99**	82.87	82.11	83.26	83.43	83.91	83.24
el	**79.47**	77.95	79.14	78.12	76.65	77.92	76.64	84.81
bg	**84.39**	83.71	84.17	83.38	82.64	82.87	82.58	85.88
th	74.18	**74.66**	73.9	74.42	71.34	74.47	72.47	76.44
ro	86.95	87.86	86.45	**88.37**	85.8	86.63	86.8	89.06
bn	76.18	77.65	74.52	76.69	77.51	**78.09**	77.34	77.3
te	80.03	**82.35**	80.04	81.13	77.32	81.2	78.95	79.33
ka	76.28	73.26	74.26	74.07	75.68	**78.23**	75.19	79.82
mk	83.44	84.48	84.34	83.79	84.53	84.92	**85.25**	84.96
da	87.06	86.85	86.63	**87.72**	86.03	86.48	85.5	85.8
sl	83.6	85.07	83.75	86.22	86.71	85.39	**86.73**	86.43
az	81.09	83.72	82.53	83.38	82.93	82.55	**84.29**	82.01
sk	84.37	83.49	83.98	**85.4**	84.79	84.43	83.57	84.52
ms	84.31	84.65	84.1	82.94	**85.4**	84.59	83.39	84.38
uz	76.57	73.89	73.71	75.76	**81.32**	74.44	79.35	85.35
ur	76.7	73.7	74.85	74.76	76.06	75.26	**76.94**	78.18
cy	72.37	72.23	71.6	73.49	**81.47**	77.16	80.75	85.53
lv	82.28	**83.63**	82.42	82.45	83.48	82.56	80.94	85.02
mr	73.21	**77.29**	76.22	76.61	76.37	75.73	75.28	78.84
ne	73.72	77.55	74.62	76.02	**81.59**	75.21	80.8	79.11
jv	72.4	73.32	**75.12**	73.11	73.71	74.09	74.02	75.89
sw	69.17	70.53	69.89	70.21	73.93	69.05	**77.15**	85.89
su	76.15	77.42	77.62	77.0	78.21	**79.2**	78.63	79.97
yo	54.18	52.11	52.08	54.89	55.93	55.93	**58.05**	63.66
Avg.	77.67	78.39	77.87	78.42	79.28	78.74	**79.35**	81.73
mt†	69.86	69.83	69.85	68.79	78.0	78.09	**79.8**	83.32
ku†	28.76	23.78	15.71	19.93	46.41	40.22	**46.85**	52.82
ug†	23.4	22.21	20.9	22.17	47.18	31.68	**48.91**	56.26
si†	17.45	14.3	14.88	14.95	**21.53**	21.25	20.4	19.08
am†	17.75	14.01	18.47	12.94	18.74	**20.3**	18.07	16.88
bo†	12.59	11.08	9.48	6.33	36.67	28.36	**39.17**	33.53
Avg.	28.72	25.87	24.88	24.18	41.42	36.65	**42.2**	43.65
Total avg.	67.88	67.89	67.27	67.57	71.71	70.32	**71.92**	74.11

Table 15: F1 scores comparison across different adapters for mBERT in ConceptNet and Glot for topic classification. All results are averaged over 3 independent runs with different random seeds.

M Topic Classification Results - Part II

ISO	XLM-R							
		ConceptNet			Glot			
	Base	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	FFT
th	87.93	87.19	87.22	85.99	86.97	86.8	**88.5**	84.21
ro	86.94	87.0	86.85	**88.02**	87.47	86.95	87.6	88.03
bg	86.55	86.0	**87.81**	86.41	86.46	86.33	86.19	87.53
da	86.04	84.94	83.7	84.26	86.47	84.88	**86.41**	87.06
el	**86.74**	85.59	85.64	84.32	85.77	85.28	86.6	88.1
he	85.02	84.9	83.8	84.79	**86.62**	84.19	83.36	84.67
sk	**87.18**	85.53	84.81	85.2	85.46	86.52	86.03	85.59
sl	85.47	86.24	**86.95**	86.28	84.94	86.67	85.28	88.12
lv	86.25	87.83	86.93	**88.97**	85.22	86.38	87.41	87.52
ms	**88.12**	87.11	85.82	85.81	87.94	85.21	87.94	89.49
ka	84.08	**85.37**	83.79	83.18	83.92	85.0	83.95	82.27
bn	80.29	81.11	80.85	82.09	**83.56**	82.59	83.38	84.95
az	84.05	85.86	84.24	85.07	84.43	85.16	**86.39**	86.08
ur	**83.25**	81.04	80.29	82.35	82.97	81.98	82.17	83.97
mk	86.45	86.41	86.99	85.45	86.94	85.97	**87.15**	88.15
te	83.58	**83.64**	84.26	83.13	82.43	84.13	83.43	85.65
ne	84.14	83.98	83.92	83.77	82.65	**84.71**	82.85	84.2
si	84.92	84.54	84.86	82.23	84.49	83.37	**84.99**	84.53
mr	81.03	82.84	81.34	80.08	82.2	79.54	**84.23**	84.21
sw	77.83	75.58	76.23	77.97	80.23	78.73	**81.57**	85.95
cy	79.54	78.44	80.1	78.99	78.83	79.15	**81.37**	85.17
am	77.5	78.4	77.93	77.91	80.67	77.52	**81.51**	84.22
uz	81.93	78.73	78.43	76.97	**83.35**	81.13	80.68	86.37
ku	13.49	14.09	15.76	17.28	68.57	46.29	**73.97**	81.72
ug	79.56	79.11	78.67	78.86	81.29	**82.23**	80.14	84.95
jv	81.35	79.32	82.23	81.43	**83.59**	81.84	81.74	81.2
su	81.5	81.25	79.65	80.42	84.51	83.86	**84.66**	84.49
Avg.	81.14	80.82	80.71	80.64	83.63	82.31	**84.06**	85.61
mt‡	64.56	63.62	61.43	64.43	77.39	69.74	**77.92**	84.35
bo‡	10.69	9.89	9.73	11.74	17.65	**17.85**	16.93	20.41
yo‡	28.29	26.06	16.07	24.6	54.13	35.24	**59.44**	67.13
Avg.	34.52	33.19	29.08	33.59	49.72	40.94	**51.43**	57.3
Total avg.	76.48	76.05	75.54	75.93	80.24	78.17	**80.79**	82.77

Table 16: F1 scores comparison across different adapters for XLM-R in ConceptNet and Glot for topic classification. All results are averaged over 3 independent runs with different random seeds.

N Correlation Between Topic Classification and Pre- and Post-training Data

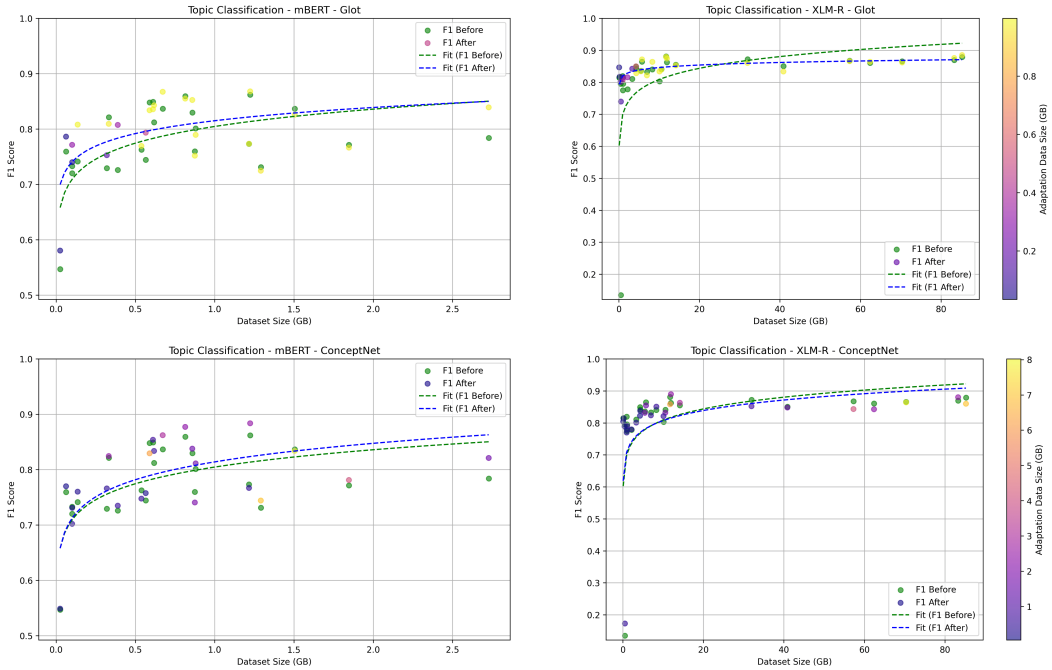

Figure 4: Correlation between the downstream performance for mBERT and XLM-R and the pre-training data and adaptation data.

Model	Task	Pre-Adapt		Post-Adapt (Glot)		Post-Adapt (CN)	
		P (p-value)	S (p-value)	P (p-value)	S (p-value)	P (p-value)	S (p-value)
mBERT	TC	0.35 (*0.1*)	0.53 (*0.008*)	0.45 (*0.03*)	0.32 (*0.13*)	0.38 (*0.06*)	0.55 (*0.006*)
XLM-R	TC	0.28 (*0.16*)	0.82 (*<0.005*)	0.55 (*0.002*)	0.75 (*<0.005*)	0.28 (*0.15*)	0.83 (*<0.005*)

Table 17: Pearson and Spearman Correlations for mBERT and XLM-R (Pre-Adapt and Post-Adapt) between task performance and data amounts. Post-Adapt is represented by the models adapted with the Seq_bn_inv language adapters and denote the correlation between the sum of the pre-training and adaptation data sizes and downstream task performance scores after the adaptation.

O Named Entity Recognition Results - Part I

ISO	mBERT								
		ConceptNet			Glot			Fusion	
	Base	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	Seq_bn_inv
he	84.46	84.1	84.24	84.59	83.57	84.22	83.89	**84.84**	84.53
el	90.16	90.11	90.45	90.27	89.9	**90.5**	89.35	90.3	90.0
bg	91.25	91.64	91.64	91.48	91.64	91.59	91.56	**91.78**	91.76
th	67.34	65.65	66.79	66.68	67.22	**67.8**	66.95	67.36	67.57
ro	91.61	91.88	91.85	91.89	91.74	91.65	91.79	91.69	**92.17**
bn	95.46	96.07	95.82	**96.49**	96.42	96.03	96.3	95.86	96.1
te	75.41	76.17	76.94	75.29	75.51	74.69	75.37	76.53	**77.02**
ka	**86.17**	86.07	86.11	86.05	85.32	85.89	85.71	86.05	86.07
mk	92.43	92.09	92.3	92.2	**92.62**	92.2	92.02	91.61	91.98
da	89.76	90.08	**90.33**	89.74	90.02	89.72	88.99	89.41	89.48
sl	92.61	92.85	92.82	92.78	**92.93**	92.62	92.77	92.71	92.56
az	87.81	87.54	87.8	**88.23**	87.27	87.3	87.3	86.46	87.22
sk	90.87	90.88	90.89	90.96	90.83	**91.3**	90.99	**91.04**	90.84
ms	93.26	93.0	92.98	92.95	93.16	**93.93**	93.47	92.65	92.59
uz	86.48	86.69	86.58	86.33	86.87	86.46	87.73	87.5	**88.45**
ur	94.37	94.2	93.93	94.23	94.4	94.26	94.29	94.25	**94.85**
cy	88.72	89.34	89.35	89.05	89.18	89.36	**90.02**	88.95	88.71
lv	92.78	92.82	93.25	93.16	92.7	92.94	92.64	**93.34**	92.66
mr	**86.34**	86.19	85.97	86.29	86.32	86.07	84.35	86.24	86.22
ne	66.45	61.96	61.75	64.56	**71.12**	69.37	70.46	70.18	66.89
jv	52.87	62.83	61.76	**65.3**	63.97	58.73	63.34	57.21	58.67
sw	83.41	83.44	83.99	83.54	83.4	83.79	**84.07**	81.68	81.96
su	52.62	55.88	53.72	57.53	49.48	50.79	51.6	57.12	**57.74**
yo	79.0	83.02	**83.87**	83.1	81.48	79.58	79.74	79.81	78.54
Avg.	83.82	84.35	84.38	**84.7**	84.46	84.2	84.36	84.36	84.36
mt†	58.3	49.01	51.58	50.46	60.55	61.41	**64.93**	60.32	62.93
ku†	52.34	60.41	**59.92**	59.39	59.9	52.93	51.51	52.33	52.4
ug†	34.1	35.33	33.07	34.56	40.2	36.24	37.62	42.93	**44.05**
si†	16.59	13.41	14.06	13.94	22.97	14.58	19.94	20.7	**24.24**
am†	37.88	33.02	33.7	35.23	32.72	46.46	**46.49**	36.94	32.45
bo†	**56.04**	56.02	55.57	55.29	53.92	55.45	53.38	52.03	53.53
Avg.	42.54	41.2	41.32	41.48	45.04	44.51	**45.64**	44.21	44.93
Total avg.	75.56	75.72	75.77	76.05	76.58	76.26	**76.62**	76.33	76.47

Table 18: F1 scores comparison for mBERT in ConceptNet and Glot for named entity recognition. All results are averaged over 3 independent runs with different random seeds.

P Named Entity Recognition Results - Part II

ISO	XLM-R								
		ConceptNet			Glot			Fusion	
	Base	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	Seq_bn_inv
th	66.55	66.4	**66.85**	66.76	66.63	65.29	66.2	65.89	66.82
ro	91.78	91.79	91.78	91.92	92.0	91.87	**92.18**	92.02	92.05
bg	91.09	91.22	91.36	**91.48**	91.34	91.4	91.43	90.91	91.43
da	89.58	89.57	89.54	89.45	89.44	89.85	89.72	89.85	**89.89**
el	90.03	90.32	89.88	90.14	89.89	90.02	90.02	90.18	**90.5**
he	85.56	85.48	85.45	84.99	84.92	**85.69**	85.28	85.35	85.4
sk	91.36	91.19	91.21	91.26	91.32	91.45	**91.49**	91.4	91.24
sl	92.28	**92.58**	92.16	92.41	92.36	92.05	92.33	92.21	92.12
lv	92.64	92.73	92.65	92.95	92.84	92.88	**93.1**	92.99	92.93
ms	92.0	92.36	91.65	92.28	92.4	92.06	91.9	**92.67**	91.82
ka	86.96	86.77	86.88	**87.73**	87.31	87.66	87.37	86.59	87.33
bn	95.87	95.66	95.9	96.06	96.07	96.13	96.09	95.57	**96.23**
az	86.13	85.34	86.47	86.53	87.03	86.63	**87.59**	86.23	86.38
ur	95.02	94.57	**95.04**	94.86	94.43	94.89	94.27	94.4	94.56
mk	92.97	92.47	**93.26**	92.28	92.83	92.68	92.72	92.32	92.46
te	74.67	73.64	**76.07**	74.27	75.18	74.38	74.82	72.92	73.91
ne	55.47	53.0	60.02	60.0	59.08	54.99	56.61	**67.84**	67.34
si	63.85	58.43	63.83	57.43	68.15	60.34	66.2	71.94	**73.66**
mr	85.92	85.86	85.5	85.77	84.75	85.25	**86.1**	85.8	85.52
sw	84.34	83.31	84.37	84.26	**84.72**	84.4	84.47	84.56	83.5
cy	89.33	88.9	88.88	88.97	89.3	**89.72**	89.41	89.4	89.36
am	51.22	49.9	49.29	48.18	52.57	47.17	51.67	**55.0**	52.55
uz	89.64	88.66	87.51	87.89	88.64	**89.97**	86.86	89.05	87.64
ku	35.34	39.53	42.99	43.83	40.41	31.43	29.4	**58.02**	56.93
ug	42.36	52.63	50.67	51.98	49.88	50.5	52.63	53.12	**58.5**
jv	42.99	45.64	44.7	50.87	46.51	44.7	47.96	**63.53**	58.81
su	33.07	38.4	42.26	48.32	41.47	39.76	42.89	**52.53**	49.61
Avg.	77.33	77.64	78.38	78.62	78.57	77.52	78.17	**80.83**	80.68
mt‡	46.31	32.69	40.11	32.13	48.03	41.54	53.57	**64.31**	57.57
bo‡	43.51	44.29	44.55	46.41	41.86	39.64	38.27	**48.15**	47.55
yo‡	73.54	71.2	73.46	74.59	73.3	74.87	75.09	73.04	**75.8**
Avg.	54.45	49.39	52.71	51.04	54.4	52.01	55.64	**61.83**	60.31
Total avg.	75.05	74.82	75.81	75.87	76.16	74.97	75.92	**78.93**	78.65

Table 19: F1 scores for XLM-R across ConceptNet and Glot for named entity recognition. All results are averaged over 3 independent runs with different random seeds.

Q Correlation Between Named Entity Recognition and Pre- and Post-training data

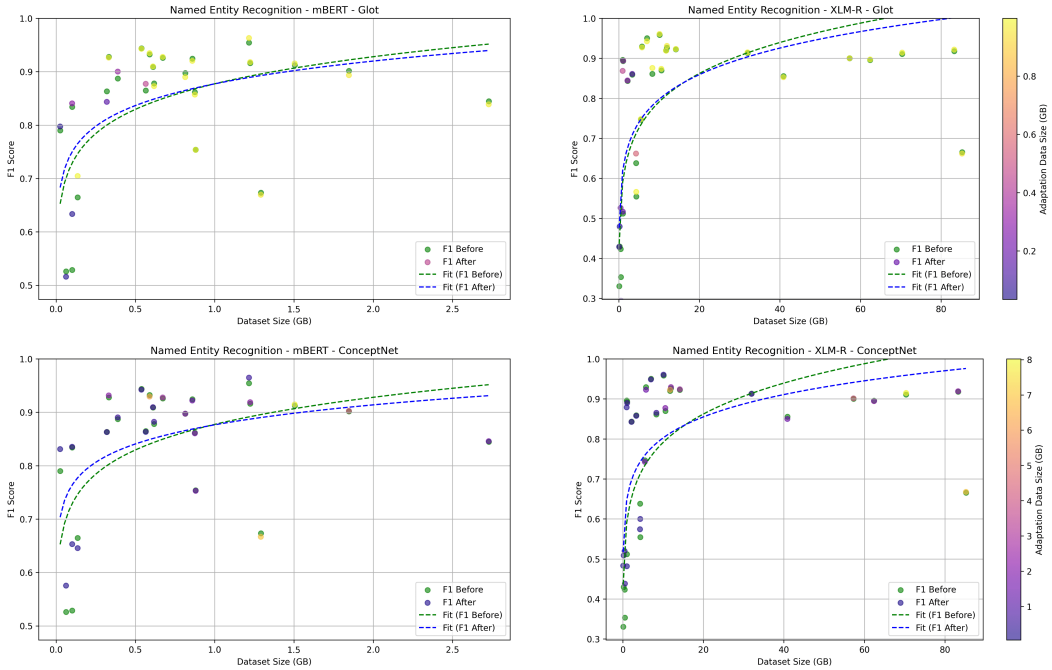

Figure 5: Correlation between the downstream performance for mBERT and XLM-R and the pre-training data and adaptation data.

Model	Task	Pre-Adapt		Post-Adapt (Glot)		Post-Adapt (CN)	
		P (p-value)	S (p-value)	P (p-value)	S (p-value)	P (p-value)	S (p-value)
mBERT	NER	0.32 (*0.1*)	0.32 (*0.1*)	0.42 (*0.04*)	0.29 (*0.2*)	0.20 (*0.3*)	0.44 (*0.03*)
XLM-R	NER	0.31 (*0.1*)	0.58 (*0.002*)	0.31 (*0.1*)	0.61 (*<0.005*)	0.32 (*0.1*)	0.60 (*<0.005*)

Table 20: Pearson and Spearman Correlations for mBERT and XLM-R (Pre-Adapt and Post-Adapt) between task performance and data amounts. Post-Adapt is represented by the models adapted with the Seq_bn_inv language adapters and denote the correlation between the sum of the pre-training and adaptation data sizes and downstream task performance scores after the adaptation.

R Sentiment Analysis Results - Part I

ISO	mBERT							
		ConceptNet			Glot			
	Base	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	FFT
he	91.42	91.55	90.44	90.81	90.79	90.87	**91.58**	90.6
el	**86.35**	86.27	86.05	86.22	84.88	84.95	84.52	86.38
bg	88.82	89.41	89.17	**89.54**	88.76	88.65	89.2	89.99
th	81.68	81.97	81.92	82.45	82.57	82.0	**83.23**	83.19
ro	92.87	92.67	92.62	92.64	93.13	**92.98**	92.96	93.7
bn	92.28	92.16	92.6	91.88	92.26	92.56	**92.57**	92.48
te	83.49	83.29	84.17	85.01	**85.55**	84.45	85.26	88.41
ka	78.12	78.1	76.68	76.05	80.03	80.23	**81.24**	86.97
mk	62.47	**69.01**	66.4	62.07	67.54	65.06	65.21	68.98
da	95.71	95.33	95.77	95.33	95.95	**96.15**	96.09	96.84
sl	85.71	86.46	86.28	85.81	86.79	86.4	**87.83**	88.66
az	79.42	79.59	79.72	80.03	79.62	**80.15**	80.13	81.44
sk	91.11	88.86	89.9	89.73	90.87	91.16	**92.18**	91.08
ms	91.5	92.03	91.87	91.99	92.06	91.7	**92.57**	93.83
uz	86.84	85.67	86.76	85.85	86.52	86.36	**86.85**	88.33
ur	82.43	81.89	82.01	82.13	82.69	82.66	**82.72**	83.81
cy	87.28	86.99	87.82	86.15	87.71	**87.76**	87.42	88.53
lv	75.41	75.66	73.99	74.71	76.32	75.41	**76.65**	79.24
mr	88.7	88.76	89.0	88.67	**89.43**	89.13	88.97	90.43
ne	59.51	51.46	**67.17**	55.31	56.77	59.35	63.19	63.47
jv	75.38	74.24	74.75	73.94	**76.16**	75.7	75.43	75.44
sw	57.71	54.25	57.24	52.9	65.05	62.21	**69.64**	54.6
su	82.13	84.25	84.62	83.33	84.42	**84.75**	83.99	84.06
yo	76.1	75.66	75.24	75.35	75.93	75.43	**77.85**	77.32
Avg.	82.18	81.9	82.59	81.58	82.99	82.75	**83.64**	84.07
mt†	65.24	65.68	62.82	66.88	68.79	**73.87**	65.34	74.11
ku†	84.2	82.82	83.97	83.37	85.14	84.46	**86.14**	85.55
ug†	70.94	68.35	72.67	72.19	76.91	71.35	**80.4**	76.63
si†	64.97	64.89	65.01	64.67	65.42	**66.02**	65.62	66.26
am†	61.45	62.02	60.87	61.45	60.3	61.62	**63.81**	59.48
bo†	79.4	79.12	79.38	80.67	**83.27**	82.33	82.14	81.77
Avg.	71.03	70.48	70.79	71.54	73.3	73.27	**73.91**	73.97
Total avg.	79.95	79.61	80.23	79.57	81.05	80.86	**81.69**	82.05

Table 21: F1 scores comparison across different adapters for mBERT in ConceptNet and Glot for sentiment analysis. All results are averaged over 3 independent runs with different random seeds.

S Sentiment Analysis Results - Part II

ISO	XLM-R							
		ConceptNet			Glot			
	Base	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	Seq_bn	LoRA	Seq_bn_inv	FFT
th	88.18	88.26	88.43	**88.46**	88.11	88.31	88.13	86.39
ro	94.37	94.84	95.03	**95.04**	94.74	94.67	95.03	94.55
bg	91.36	90.66	**91.43**	91.41	91.26	90.93	90.65	90.79
da	98.04	97.84	**98.13**	98.02	98.09	98.04	97.98	97.82
el	88.82	88.92	**88.98**	88.73	88.19	88.25	88.61	88.75
he	91.26	89.66	**91.81**	91.25	90.48	90.27	90.85	90.2
sk	**94.6**	93.86	93.87	93.43	93.22	93.72	93.44	94.03
sl	93.75	93.46	**94.32**	92.68	94.23	93.57	93.86	92.73
lv	83.3	**83.78**	83.36	83.83	82.47	83.12	83.65	82.97
ms	95.51	95.27	**95.66**	95.57	95.44	95.29	95.53	95.26
ka	**91.92**	91.51	90.8	91.21	**91.92**	91.11	91.41	93.33
bn	93.78	94.14	94.3	**94.46**	94.13	94.1	94.43	94.41
az	84.05	84.05	84.05	83.98	84.32	84.2	**84.74**	85.19
ur	85.6	85.99	85.67	85.85	85.89	**86.7**	86.25	87.27
mk	70.96	69.22	67.05	69.45	**73.9**	70.74	72.31	71.68
te	89.72	89.15	89.59	89.22	89.56	89.72	**89.9**	90.92
ne	64.6	**69.37**	64.06	63.02	67.49	68.38	68.65	65.46
si	92.49	92.59	92.18	**93.21**	92.49	91.78	91.96	92.85
mr	91.17	91.8	91.9	91.8	91.87	**92.36**	91.8	92.43
sw	70.08	65.37	77.11	75.3	**79.52**	77.24	74.45	83.84
cy	90.83	91.01	90.57	90.65	91.12	90.88	**91.36**	91.01
am	86.15	83.77	84.2	82.88	87.04	**87.9**	87.7	87.49
uz	87.63	88.24	88.37	88.13	**88.47**	87.98	88.39	90.08
ku	89.39	89.73	89.08	89.78	92.57	89.09	**93.31**	95.31
ug	88.97	88.88	89.91	87.64	88.81	**90.01**	89.65	91.72
jv	76.51	77.34	77.01	77.14	76.51	76.79	**77.65**	75.53
su	88.15	82.66	85.17	84.41	89.69	**90.34**	89.69	89.03
Avg.	87.45	87.09	87.48	87.28	**88.2**	87.98	**88.2**	88.56
mt‡	55.63	55.19	55.32	54.13	**69.4**	63.15	69.31	70.38
bo‡	51.81	47.33	51.07	49.34	**52.92**	50.9	50.69	55.19
yo‡	74.73	73.4	73.6	75.09	75.5	72.0	**77.65**	78.99
Avg.	60.72	58.64	60.00	59.52	**65.94**	62.02	65.88	68.19
Total avg.	84.78	84.24	84.73	84.50	**85.98**	85.38	85.97	86.52

Table 22: F1 scores comparison across different adapters for XLM-R in ConceptNet and Glot for sentiment analysis. All results are averaged over 3 independent runs with different random seeds.

T Correlation Between Sentiment Analysis and Pre- and Post-training data

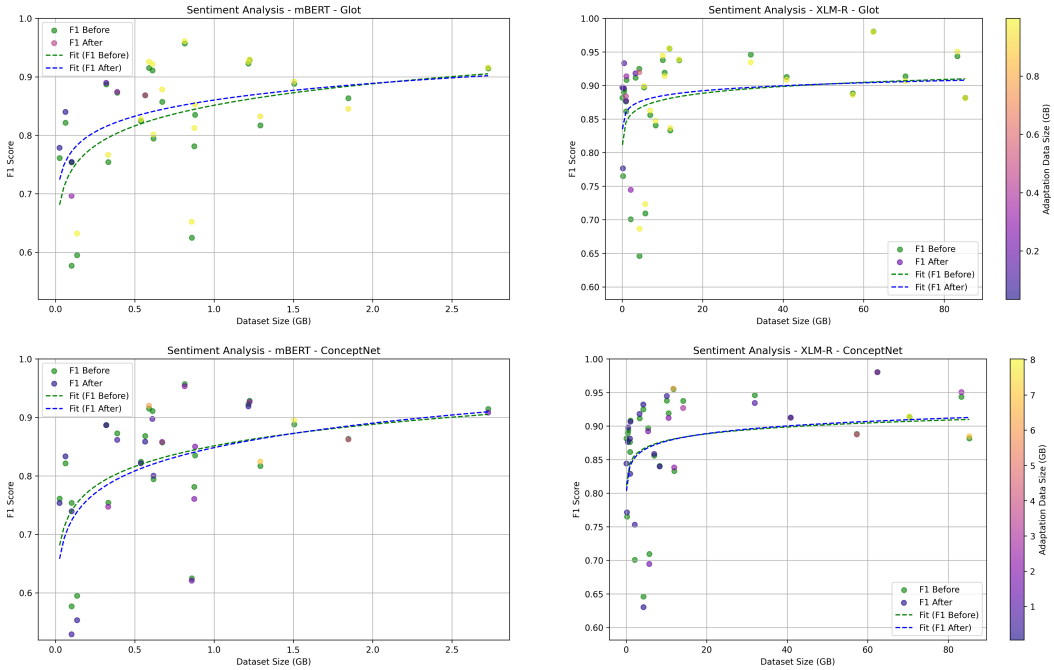

Figure 6: Correlation between the downstream performance for mBERT and XLM-R and the pre-training data and adaptation data.

Model	Task	Pre-Adapt		Post-Adapt (Glot)		Post-Adapt (CN)	
		P (p-value)	S (p-value)	P (p-value)	S (p-value)	P (p-value)	S (p-value)
mBERT	SA	0.45 (*0.03*)	0.50 (*0.01*)	0.38 (*0.07*)	0.41 (*0.05*)	0.39 (*0.06*)	0.52 (*0.009*)
XLM-R	SA	0.36 (*0.07*)	0.47 (*0.01*)	0.32 (*0.1*)	0.33 (*0.1*)	0.38 (*0.05*)	0.52 (*0.005*)

Table 23: Pearson and Spearman Correlations for mBERT and XLM-R (Pre-Adapt and Post-Adapt) between task performance and data amounts. Post-Adapt is represented by the models adapted with the Seq_bn_inv language adapters and denote the correlation between the sum of the pre-training and adaptation data sizes and downstream task performance scores after the adaptation.

U Results for Large-Scale Models for TC and NER

	GPT-3.5-turbo-0613	GPT-4-0613	LLaMAX2-7B-Alpaca	Llama-2-7b-chat-hf	Meta-Llama-3-8B	Meta-Llama-3.1-8B	Qwen1.5-7B	Qwen2-7B	bloom-7b1	bloomz-7b1	gemma-2-9b	gemma-7b	mala-500-10b-v1	mala-500-10b-v2	occiglot-7b-eu5	xglm-7.5B	yayi-7b-llama2
am	24.14	38.74	7.64	5.41	38.03	40.43	13.57	23.68	7.32	8.27	41.19	43.02	5.71	9.03	6.85	7.86	3.59
az	52.17	44.27	30.81	20.54	73.78	71.97	51.86	65.86	10.08	16.68	57.95	68.79	5.71	5.71	31.37	26.56	17.55
bn	54.29	50.55	23.79	9.35	65.89	63.43	42.62	66.08	10.75	20.93	51.22	66.91	5.71	5.69	22.42	28.25	12.99
bo	2.90	1.94	3.69	4.63	40.80	48.83	10.15	12.41	6.44	10.56	12.12	20.23	5.71	3.63	11.65	7.06	6.61
bg	54.80	58.33	31.47	29.92	64.95	63.53	55.15	77.06	20.17	16.58	51.85	63.26	5.71	5.23	44.70	41.81	24.77
ku	38.74	38.10	19.71	7.67	68.26	65.47	21.71	33.20	10.26	8.63	33.49	44.59	5.71	6.86	14.07	9.31	7.81
cy	43.08	42.47	26.76	18.08	68.75	68.69	37.47	49.93	10.45	18.09	50.38	56.87	5.71	5.71	26.21	17.57	19.37
da	52.71	52.17	33.17	34.03	73.03	73.73	57.73	75.95	17.85	21.90	45.05	71.14	5.71	5.39	49.20	56.88	32.02
el	54.29	60.27	21.84	21.69	70.22	73.70	46.99	63.73	11.97	11.90	39.08	67.20	5.71	5.71	31.48	55.80	20.84
he	56.84	51.09	24.39	17.55	69.01	69.80	46.93	70.07	10.87	8.53	44.35	64.03	5.71	4.76	22.82	10.66	9.51
jv	21.05	21.05	28.49	21.31	66.73	69.39	49.99	50.76	17.90	25.19	59.48	57.33	5.71	2.20	34.05	44.85	19.65
ka	47.19	43.68	18.37	15.25	68.58	63.50	32.76	52.02	3.50	14.76	58.73	69.17	5.71	8.13	25.17	9.35	13.24
lv	54.29	53.76	31.62	23.85	69.79	70.63	55.05	67.69	12.70	17.38	45.97	69.24	8.21	3.13	34.20	23.25	23.91
mr	52.71	51.09	19.90	14.04	64.84	63.07	39.41	56.66	26.78	29.62	27.30	56.58	5.71	5.83	19.63	23.24	9.59
mk	52.71	60.75	28.98	26.75	66.66	68.33	55.99	75.87	12.91	16.69	55.62	64.88	3.97	3.49	40.23	40.43	22.65
mt	44.27	50.55	29.18	23.07	63.25	67.22	44.26	56.10	11.45	20.18	43.93	62.54	5.71	5.71	34.33	28.45	24.09
ne	55.83	52.71	21.49	18.42	62.32	62.69	42.96	54.99	10.12	19.45	15.71	62.31	5.62	4.07	25.79	31.47	18.61
ro	51.64	54.80	34.88	31.49	70.19	72.20	56.43	74.64	20.10	20.76	52.51	69.08	5.71	5.71	47.32	43.15	30.92
si	23.38	62.63	8.66	4.81	60.25	57.45	12.49	29.29	5.98	9.38	46.12	65.92	6.60	2.20	10.82	5.48	5.71
sk	52.17	52.71	28.65	29.75	70.57	72.77	55.40	74.63	20.27	17.58	35.52	68.94	5.71	8.49	43.66	39.12	27.70
sl	53.76	47.76	33.60	31.05	75.67	70.18	55.53	63.56	11.10	17.18	48.42	67.87	9.22	3.30	40.19	30.21	28.09
su	26.38	20.26	28.22	23.89	63.50	67.46	46.31	58.94	17.55	21.68	60.68	65.78	5.71	7.69	32.18	44.52	21.59
sw	55.83	46.62	28.24	14.01	68.95	68.37	40.51	51.05	12.91	22.41	48.61	58.78	5.71	6.70	29.03	45.91	11.88
te	57.84	50.00	5.92	5.78	64.72	62.36	27.29	55.69	16.89	20.13	47.24	68.93	5.71	5.17	12.91	49.59	4.73
th	53.24	49.45	16.94	20.88	77.50	75.40	46.57	67.38	6.25	16.62	45.24	58.64	5.71	7.82	35.27	50.01	21.98
ug	44.27	46.04	6.53	6.90	66.23	62.22	12.37	54.64	9.29	11.72	33.74	45.77	7.54	3.66	16.20	7.76	7.13
ur	53.24	65.79	22.87	15.07	67.80	67.53	39.13	61.90	23.50	23.33	29.04	56.48	5.71	6.61	29.62	41.90	12.23
uz	44.87	34.82	29.50	13.49	69.53	68.35	33.53	54.55	10.05	13.89	56.50	65.44	5.71	11.34	26.86	15.93	10.11
yo	22.61	16.22	18.17	11.26	50.05	46.74	25.36	30.44	14.08	21.90	35.16	37.11	8.75	7.65	18.71	16.97	10.23
ms	49.45	55.83	30.46	27.35	74.10	73.28	56.74	76.05	11.13	23.31	55.96	69.52	5.71	5.71	40.15	46.19	27.33
Total avg.	45.02	45.82	23.13	18.24	65.80	65.62	40.41	56.83	13.02	17.51	44.27	60.21	6.04	5.74	28.57	29.98	16.88

Table 24: F1 Scores for All Large-Scale Models on TC. The results are based on 3-shot prompting, as reported by Ji et al. (2024). GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 results are zero-shot, obtained from Adelani et al. (2024a).

	Bloom	Bloomz	mT0	GPT-3.5-turbo-0301
th	1.0	0.2	1.4	-
el	19.7	13.0	12.8	69.3
ur	71.7	47.3	47.1	-
te	5.3	3.8	3.3	-
sw	58.8	26.8	24.3	-
bg	29.6	19.7	14.7	72.0
mr	27.9	20.4	12.3	-
bn	36.8	36.2	23.9	-
Total avg.	31.35	20.92	17.48	70.65

Table 25: Three-shot NER results across eight overlapping languages from BUFFET (Asai et al., 2023). The scores for GPT-3.5 are only provided for two languages.

	Qwen 1.5B	Qwen 7B	Llama 8B	Qwen 14B	Llama 70B
am	7.03	13.99	9.18	31.76	43.41
az	9.60	18.48	12.27	53.05	73.19
be	6.59	31.51	20.25	68.20	78.17
bo	2.38	8.17	9.67	18.92	62.63
bg	7.93	26.47	24.31	46.81	78.65
ku	6.77	18.48	20.10	17.98	77.52
cy	8.93	18.49	20.32	26.68	61.55
da	13.04	25.62	17.90	41.18	78.29
el	3.91	10.26	16.41	58.39	77.90
he	5.50	23.03	20.77	46.25	76.66
jv	10.51	19.45	19.53	28.04	66.43
ka	4.35	20.46	24.99	45.74	77.60
lv	11.14	14.29	17.60	44.14	74.09
mr	6.17	22.67	22.31	49.54	68.77
mk	4.91	24.16	22.44	44.38	77.66
mt	11.76	18.01	18.24	49.23	66.83
ne	4.70	23.59	26.36	55.34	69.25
ro	9.50	21.93	24.67	57.25	77.72
si	12.47	14.28	14.96	29.43	70.69
sk	6.66	15.61	21.37	45.38	75.80
sl	13.34	22.71	18.89	43.22	65.42
su	9.44	22.41	21.98	34.95	65.53
sw	10.38	11.15	15.45	18.60	67.94
te	9.19	17.90	27.21	38.99	75.35
th	8.49	40.22	20.80	73.49	74.23
ug	7.02	17.72	19.67	28.83	71.21
ur	3.71	27.47	24.23	47.75	80.07
uz	11.76	21.45	17.02	38.32	70.58
yo	6.70	13.49	15.20	18.57	45.55
ms	10.58	21.73	27.82	56.00	73.02
Total avg.	8.15	20.17	19.73	41.88	70.72

Table 26: F1 Scores for DeepSeek-R1 distilled models of various sizes for TC. The results are based on zero-shot prompting and were obtained in our evaluation.

Language	**TC**		**NER**		**SA**	
	LLaMA-3 (Baseline)	**LLaMA-3 +Seq_bn_inv**	**LLaMA-3 (Baseline)**	**LLaMA-3 +Seq_bn_inv**	**LLaMA-3 (Baseline)**	**LLaMA-3 +Seq_bn_inv**
cy	33.64	72.50	76.36	77.03	58.36	88.43
si	16.67	39.11	30.84	30.08	80.42	83.8
sw	29.05	60.21	67.08	67.33	45.47	51.22
ug	19.37	52.32	26.88	28.23	52.12	63.89
mt	60.93	77.14	24.72	22.94	57.77	56.06
Total avg.	31.93	60.26	45.18	45.12	58.83	68.68

Table 27: Comparison of F1 Scores for LLaMA-3 Baseline (fine-tuned with a task adapter) and LLaMA-3+`Seq_bn_inv` on TC, NER, and SA. All results are averaged over 3 independent runs with different random seeds.