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2 **PAPER TYPE (ARTICLE/REVIEW/EDITORIAL, etc.)**

3 **LLMs for Low-Resource Languages: Pretraining, Adaptation**

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9 **ABSTRACT:** This systematic review explores the recent progress (2020-2025) in the pretraining and adaptation of
10 Large Language Models (LLMs) to Low-Resource Languages (LRLs). It combines major innovations on data-driven
11 augmentation, parameter-efficient fine-tuning (e.g., LoRA, adapters, instruction tuning), and morphologically rich
12 and underrepresented language script-sensitive tokenization. The results highlight the accumulating effectiveness of
13 the culturally aware standards like IrokoBench and BLEnD, and show that the approaches to the lightweight
14 adaptation eliminate many computational costs however maintain the language accuracy. Recent models like TACO
15 and language-specific ones like UrduLLaMA and BengaliBERT can provide examples of how inclusive multilingual
16 models can be scaled. Even though significant improvements have been made, endemic differences in quality of data,
17 geographical coverage and reproducibility limit a fair deployment of LLM. The review focuses on the ethic in AI
18 practice, the development of corpora through communities, and interdisciplinary research collaboration among
19 computational linguist, social scientist, and digital humanists. The task of generating a diversified dataset,
20 typology-conscious modeling strategies, and open-source multilingual benchmarks should be prioritised in future
21 research as one of the possible solutions to the existing digital language gap worldwide.

22 **KEYWORDS:** Large Language Models (LLMs); Low-Resource Languages (LRLs); Parameter-Efficient Fi-
23 ne-Tuning (PEFT); Tokenization; Cross-Lingual Transfer; Multilingual Benchmarks

24

25 **1 Introduction**

26 The rise of Large Language Models (LLMs) in recent years has made them the core component of
27 Natural Language Processing (NLP), with state-of-the-art performance on a wide variety of applications
28 such as machine translation, question answering, and content summarization [1-3]. Such models as GPT-3,
29 PaLM, and LLaMA-2 are endowed with terabytes of data that are sourced at internet scale, and this data is
30 dominated by English and other well-resource languages [4]. These models show impressive results,
31 however in the case of low-resource languages (LRLs) they do not work sufficiently and are characterized
32 by a lack of large-scale digitized corpora, linguistic tools, and computational support [5].



33 Billions of people across the world speak low-resource languages and ensure that they are at the heart
34 of cultural identity, education, and civic engagement [1]. However, the digital divide between the well- and
35 badly-resourced languages is increasing to the extent that LLM development becomes more and more
36 centralized in rich environments [6]. More recent efforts to ameliorate LRL representation have been the
37 Glot500, BLOOM or SIB-200, with practical adaptation still under challenge. The body lacks a coherent
38 appraisal of the procedures that are under development and testing to assist these languages [7]. The
39 infrastructural asymmetries and data inequality have been conceptually traced continuously throughout
40 the contexts of low resources, explaining the barriers to policy and capacity to implement inclusive
41 development of LLM [8]. To democratise avenues of accessing the capabilities of the English dominant
42 models, approaches that utilise the capabilities of linguistically diverse prompts have been suggested [9].

43 Moreover, this review article that attempts to address this gap by reviewing the existing (recent)
44 literature on pretraining and adaptation of LLMs with low-resource languages in a systematic way [10]. It
45 introduces a combination of approaches such as further pretraining, generate synthetic data, parameter
46 efficient fine-tuning (PEFT), token writer, ground instruction tuning [11]. This is aimed at putting into
47 relief their advantages, drawbacks as well as their applicability in various LRL instances. Additionally,
48 recent critical reviews place methodological issues, as well as intrinsic limitations, in the context of
49 current research of LLM, especially in terms of evaluation and reproducibility [12]. In such a way, this
50 review added a value in the form of a comprehensive and up-to-date synthesis (2020-2025) of scalable and
51 reproducible and typology-aware methods that are specifically customized to be used in low-resource
52 language environments, through application to LLMs [13].

53 The main mobility of this review is to implement exponential data gains in data Strategies, Training
54 Pipelines, and Parameter-Efficient Fine-Tuning (PEFT) through a unified Low-Resource Language
55 LRL-based paradigm [14]. By focusing on the multilingual assessment and including the LRLs belonging
56 to various linguistic groups Bantu, Dravidian, or Austroasiatic [15, 16], it stresses the typological
57 inclusivity. Another crucial dimension is practical adaptation, which offers the guidelines toward adopting
58 cost-efficient methods, such as Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA), and instruction tuning, in the environment
59 where finances or infrastructure are limited [17]. Moreover, the analysis includes an ethical and
60 representational approach penetrating the concerns of cultural equity, representation, and bias of large
61 language models (LLM) when applied to LRLs [18]. The interconnected, multilingual and multi-modular,
62 and dialectal issues of failure to adapt the low-resource languages (LRLs) are requiring integrated
63 approaches to the methodology in order to realize strong adaptation [19].

64 However, there are a number of issues that restrict the advancement in this area. Corpora imbalance is
65 a serious problem with most large language models (LLMs) being trained on very skewed data towards
66 English and other high resource languages [20]. Inefficiencies caused by tokenizers make the issue more
67 critical especially the morphologically rich or non-Latin scripts, which are sometimes underrepresented
68 [21]. The reproducibility and accessibility is also a problem because not all the LLMs and low-resource
69 language (LRL) benchmarks are open-access and documented [22]. There are cultural misfit and ethical
70 problems as well since LLMs often do not understand cultures delicately or create culturally insensitive

71 products to LRLs [23]. Restricted computing capabilities are an added hurdle particularly to those
72 researchers in areas where LRLs are widely used [24]. Finally, inadequate assessment systems among
73 LRLs do not allow tracking progress consistently [25].

74 The main aim of this study is to review and categorise the recent advancements (2020-2025) in the
75 field of LLM pretraining and adaptation to LRLs in particular [26]. One of them is to determine the
76 effectiveness of data-driven methods, including synthetic data generation, manually curated multilingual
77 data pipelines and transfer learning with typologically similar but high-resource languages [27]. Due to the
78 comparison of these approaches to the different linguistic families, the review emphasizes their advantages,
79 drawbacks, and scalability.

80 One more fundamental goal is to assess the parameter-efficient fine-tuning architectures such as
81 Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA), adapter layers, and instruction tuning, to adapt LLMs to LRLs [28]. The
82 approaches are especially useful in the case of computationally limited settings, and the article has reviewed
83 the tendency of the methods to lower training expenses without worsening or improving the performance of
84 multilingual models [29]. The research also deals with the issues of tokenizer and subword modeling
85 concerning low-resource and morphologically rich languages [30]. Present tokenizers, which frequently are
86 trained using Latin-script or English based corpora, but not account for LRLs. The approaches surveyed in
87 this review include script sensitivity functions tokenizers, adaptive subword segmentation algorithms that
88 attempt to represent a wider variety of orthographic systems [31]. Lastly, it suggests the possible avenues
89 that researchers and developers working in low-budget environments can engage in or use LLMs in their
90 languages [32].

91 The intended audience of this review is a wide-ranging group including NLP researchers active in the
92 field of the multilingual and low-resource language systems, developers interested in the approaches to
93 deploying the LLMs to under-representative languages, and the group of policymakers and financiers who
94 want to focus on the future of the equitable and inclusive development of AI [2]. It is also relevant to
95 linguists and digital humanists who deal with language preservation and the documentation of the
96 endangered languages [33]. Additionally, the review is applicable to Global South developers who need
97 low-compute solutions to implement LLM products in their native ecosystem [34].

98 **2 Methodology**

99 The methodology of this review was examined and synthesised in a systematic manner, the recent
100 developments about the adaptation of Large Language Models (LLMs) to low-resource languages (LRLs)
101 [35]. The field of the review is deliberately narrowed to the academic literature of 2020-2025, so that the
102 analysis could be rather recent and topical in the needed manner [36]. This temporal restriction enables
103 the review to pay special attention to recently advanced strategies and methodologies that appeared in the
104 setting of the dynamic innovation of LLM research [37, 38]. Integrated LLM playgrounds that facilitate
105 rapid prototyping and controlled fine-tuning have been proposed as pragmatic environments for
106 multilingual experimentation [39].

The main aim is to provide important research questions that are fundamental in having some understanding of the state of LLM adaptation in LRLs [40, 10, 11]. Such questions comprise: What pretraining or adaptation techniques are currently employed for LRLs? How effective are these methods across diverse linguistic typologies, scripts, and corpus sizes? And what practical and ethical challenges arise when implementing these strategies in real-world LRL contexts? [17]. The literature review is designed to answer these questions and consists of a combination of both bibliographic databases (including Google Scholar, ACL Anthology and arXiv repositories) as well as some more recent benchmark documentation (Flores, MasakhaNER, and Taxi1500) [41]. These resources are strong bases to identify and discuss researches making contributions to the field.

Moreover, analyses of multi-epoch and two-stage multilingual training strategies indicate notable gains in low-resource settings when training schedules are carefully controlled. Analyses of multi-epoch and two-stage multilingual training strategies indicate notable gains in low-resource settings when training schedules are carefully controlled [42]. Self-supervised prompting has been shown to accelerate cross-lingual transfer without large labeled datasets [43, 44]. Code-switching curriculum learning frameworks show promise in sequencing multilingual exposure for improved transfer [45].

Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of data sources utilized by the surveyed studies, highlighting the relative contributions of various data types to the final corpus. Synthetic data proves to be the most common, followed by parallel corpora, which suggests the increased use of artificially data generating datasets to reduce the issue of data scarcity in low-resource languages (LRLs) [27]. Monolingual data and knowledge-graph-based data also represent quite important shares, and data gathered by the means of web crawling and other tools occupy relatively insignificant positions in the collection [46].

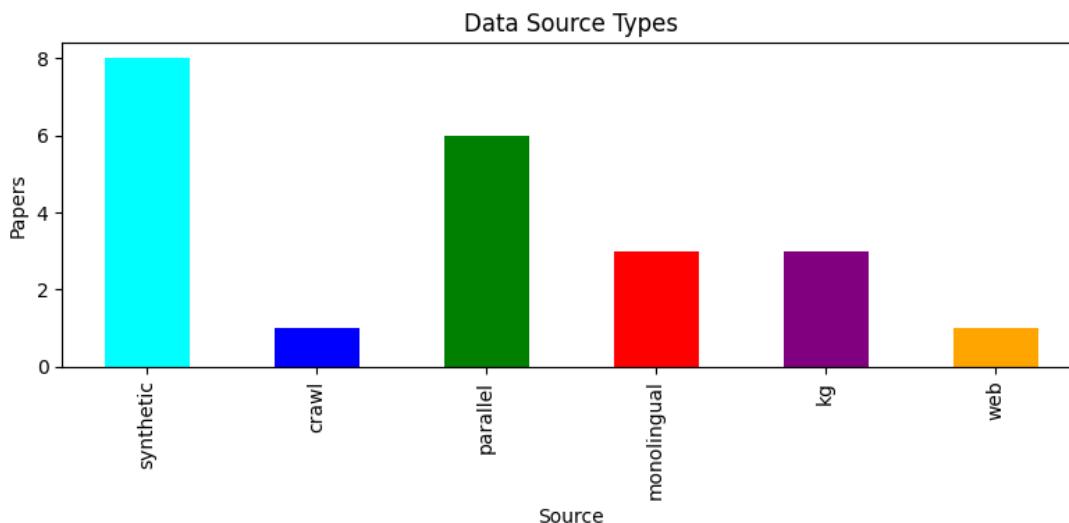


Figure 1: Types of Data Sources Used by Surveyed Studies

The entire review was given importance to reproducibility and accessibility and greater ranks were assigned to the studies that were freely published and well documented [23]. The discussed focus aims to meet a crucial gap in the field, where the presence of many popular large-language models (LLMs) in

addition to LRL benchmarks can only be accessed via in-person communication, impeding the development and activity [24]. In addition to that, the review makes use of culturally sensitive assessment structures, so that the analysis of the deployment of LLM can be sensitive to contextual cultural and linguistic peculiarities in different cultural and linguistic settings [33]. Within the scope of identifying, adopting, and developing such structures, the review provides a methodologically sound and holistic study on the adaptation of the LLM to LRLs [47, 26].

2.1 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

To ensure the quality, relevance, and focus of the studies included in this review, a set of well-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria was applied during the selection process. The inclusion criteria were designed to capture studies that contribute meaningfully to the understanding and advancement of Large Language Models (LLMs) for low-resource languages (LRLs).

Inclusion Criteria

- Only studies published or preprinted between 2020 and 2025 were included to reflect the most recent and relevant advancements.
- Articles must be available through peer-reviewed venues (e.g., ACL, EMNLP) or reputable preprint platforms such as arXiv to ensure academic rigor and credibility.
- Studies must directly focus on the training, adaptation, or evaluation of LLMs specifically for low-resource languages—addressing key challenges like data scarcity, linguistic diversity, and compute constraints.
- Selected works must present either a quantitative or qualitative empirical evaluation of methods, offering measurable insights or novel strategies applicable to LRLs.

Exclusion Criteria

- Studies centered exclusively on high-resource languages (e.g., English, Mandarin) were excluded due to lack of relevance to LRL-specific challenges.
- Papers that mention LRLs however do not propose concrete methods or experiments were excluded for not offering actionable or replicable findings.
- Non-English articles were generally excluded unless a reliable translation or English-language summary was available, to maintain consistency and accessibility for a broad scholarly audience.

These inclusion and exclusion criteria eliminate several possible approaches of the review to make up a thorough yet focused study of the emerging methodology and strategies to develop LLMs in low-resource language environments. This level of systematization does not only increase the reliability

164 of the results but also gives a clear guideline to the further research and the actual implementation of the
 165 findings in this field [10].

166 **2.2 Data Collection and Review Process**

167 The research was conducted sequentially throughout the process of data collection and review to
 168 incorporate high quality but relevant literature which is able to address the purposes of the study. This
 169 initial search strategy was to query major academic search engines, such as Google Scholar and ACL
 170 Anthology and arXiv using special terms i.e. low-resource language modeling, multilingual LLMs,
 171 continued pretraining, LoRA adaptation and synthetic corpora to LRLs. The identified keywords formed
 172 an attempt at including as many studies of the various avenues of Large Language Models (LLMs) in
 173 low-resource language (LRL) as possible. The search retrieved 812 articles in the first search and
 174 indicated how much interest and research was conducted regarding the field [7].

175 In order to simplify the study selection process, the study selection was done according to PRISMA
 176 to be transparent and reproducible. Figure 2 below demonstrates that identification of relevant studies into
 177 the programming started by exhaustive searches on databases and grey literature. The initial search
 178 identified the total number of 812 records. The review finally comprised 140 studies after the process of
 179 removing duplicates and irrelevant studies. The PRISMA flowchart gives a comprehensive report of such
 180 selection process.

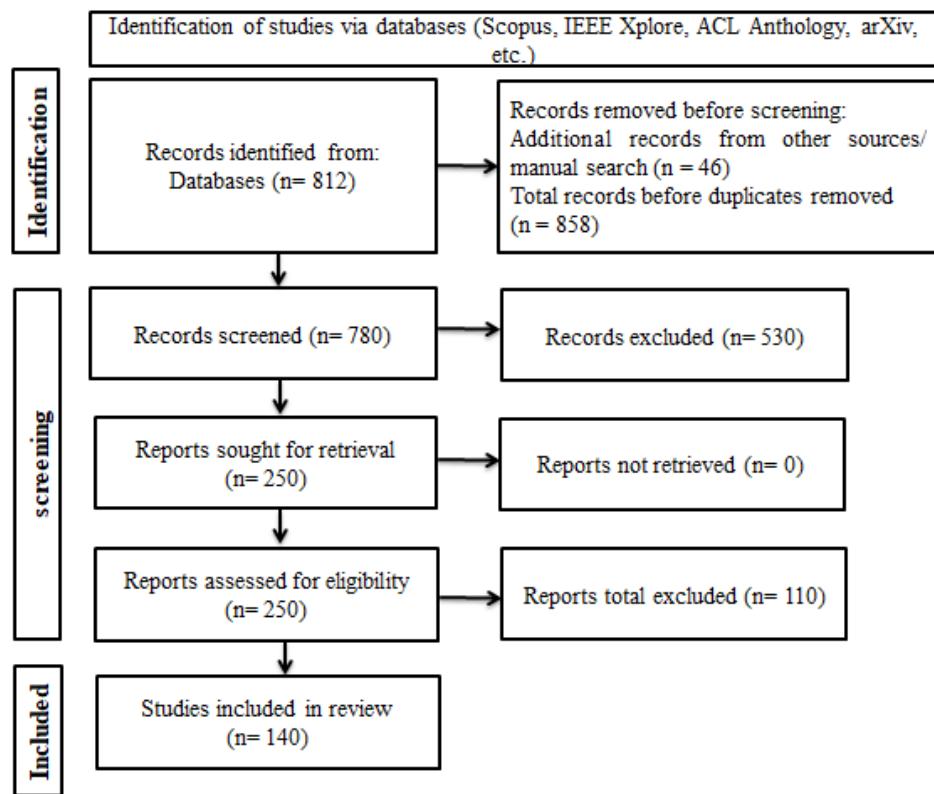


Figure 2: PRISMA Flowchart

This general data was logically categorised into the most significant thematic groups, with the introduction of a set of benchmarks to assess the performance of LLDMs, the development of fine-tuning with minimal parameters (PEFT) methods, including Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA), and adaptation to different cultures [11]. The PRISMA flowchart offers a comprehensive description of the careful selection process, so that the review would report the latest and most significant developments in the field of the LLM adaptation into LRLs [7]. By utilising this deep data, the review integrates scalable, reusatable and typology sensitive methodologies that are specifically designed to fit low-resource language context and to undergo significant scalability gaps concerning data sparsity, linguistic heterogeneity, and computational inefficiency [31]. Such a method would both increase the accuracy of the results as well as it will create a solid platform to inform future studies on the subject and practical applications on the same in the future [23].

2.3 Literature Synthesis Framework

In order to cope with the difficulties and opportunities provided by applying large-scale models (LLM) to the low-resource languages (LRLs), the review takes a systematic approach that generalises recent developments, classifies methods, and assesses them in terms of their effectiveness. The methodology is organized and centered around four critical dimensions that being data strategies, model adaptation strategies, linguistic dimensions, and ethical dimensions, and thus covered in addressing the special needs of LRLs.

The basis of the performance of LLM was quality and variety of training data, and data scarcity was a major problem of LRLs. In order to reduce these shortcomings, this review examined a number of data-supported methods. Methods like synthetic data generation based on bilingual words lexicon [48] and using high resource languages in greater transfer [27] are discussed in terms of scalability and applicability. Additionally, the possibility of unified frameworks such as UnifiedCrawl [15] and Latxa [49] was examined in the light of aggregating and processing multilingual data in an efficient manner. The cross-lingual transfer through typologically related languages as well was reconsidered with Zhang et al. and Feng et al. studies pointing to the possibility of using related languages to enhance the work of LRL [5, 50]. The training of pre-trained LLMs into LRLs requires new methodologies that strike a balance between the cost and increase of performance [51].

Moreover, the reviewed articles explored parameter-efficient fine-tuning (PEFT) methods in the form of Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA) [28], adapter layers [22], and instruction tuning [52], and each of them targets to minimize the cost of training models and not necessarily affect or diminish the ability of the models. Such strategies as continuous pre-training [37] and domain-adaptive learning [53, 54] were evaluated based on their efficiency in developing the ability of the LLM to improve when applied to LRLs. Besides, the studies by Toukmaji and Flanigan indicate that customized prompts have the power to induce in-context learning in LRLs without heavily relying on fine-tuning, which can be used as a low-cost solution in the context with resource limitations [34].

To achieve successful adaptation, it was important to speak about linguistic peculiarities of LRLs. Migration issues linked to scripts of morphological richness or non-Latin are addressed with adaptive tokenisation methods [30, 31], which include both script-sensitive tokenisers and dynamic sub-words segmentation algorithms. A study by Remy et al. highlights the essence of harmonization among vocabularies among languages to promote an excellent level of cross-linguistic understanding [55]. Additionally, these methods as VerbCraft [33] cost underline the need of models to support the complex grammar make-up of LRLs, thus guaranteeing linguistic inclusiveness and higher capacity. The cultural equity and representation in the development of LLM is one of the areas of the corner of this review. The debiasing and detoxification of multilingual LLMs [56] are mentioned and the need to create fair and inclusive language models emphasized. Research on the aspects of developing LLM to be culturally sensitive and prevent culturally insensitive results, such as the one conducted by Sundar et al. seeks to explain how a culturally aware application may be achieved [18]. Highlighted as a necessary element of a fair approach to the development of AI, especially in the context of low-resource settings, are open benchmarks and well-documented methods [22, 57].

In order to have a rigorous analytical framework, this review takes a holistic evaluation paradigm. As benchmarks, the performance of the LLM in various language groups (including Bantu, Dravidian, and Austroasiatic languages) is evaluated using BasqBBQ [58] and LEIA [21]. The review gives higher priorities to those methods that can be applied and reproducible to maintain their relevance in a resource-constrained setting [24]. The review can ensure high levels of typological inclusiveness and practicality by focusing on languages with a typological diversity to ensure that its results can be applied to a wide range of LRLs [15]. With elements of quantitative, qualitative and thematic analyses, this framework allows to shed light on a complete picture of the state of adaptation of Large Language Model (LLM) to low-resource languages (LRLs).

242 *Quantitative Aggregation of Performance Metrics*

243 Quantitative measures were aggregated where possible in numerical measures like BLEU scores,
244 perplexity, and F1 scores to allow comparisons between studies directly. The metrics are common in the
245 evaluation of language models and they give us a consistent measuring unit to measure up the
246 performance of models using various datasets and languages. As an example, BLEU was especially good
247 at evaluating machine translation tasks, whereas perplexity provided answers about fluency and
248 coherence of the resulting text [59]. Human translation feedback loops applied in interactive systems such
249 as ParroT improve alignment and translation quality [60]. The combination of these measurements
250 allowed us to conclude which approaches exhibit the best results on a regular basis in situations involving
251 LRL [1]. Figure 3 shows the most-used evaluation metrics across the surveyed literature.

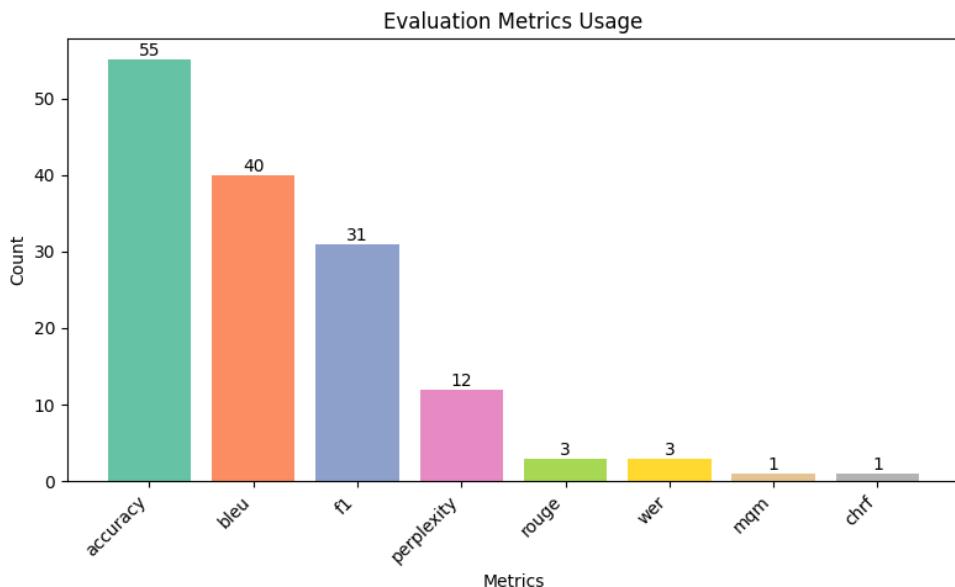


Figure 3: Most-used evaluation metrics across the surveyed literature.

Qualitative Assessment of Ethical Risks and Deployment Considerations

In addition technical performance, the question of applying LLMs in low-resource language environments raised much interest, ethical, and pragmatic review issues as well. Among the issues that were covered in the course of this qualitative assessment were the issues of cultural fairness, representation, and prejudice, when modeling was used to present adaptations to languages that have smaller digital presence and unusual sociolinguistics features [28, 36]. Other studies with regards to the importance of culturally conscious training information and refinement activities received special prominence whereas this factor is crucial in terms of the adoption of LLMs in an equitable and inclusive way [61]. The matters related to the constraints of the infrastructure, reproducibility, and access were also addressed, among them being how such matters can be mitigated in a practical context [14, 22].

By systematically reviewing these dimensions, this study aims to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date synthesis of scalable, reproducible, and typology-aware methods tailored for LRL environments.

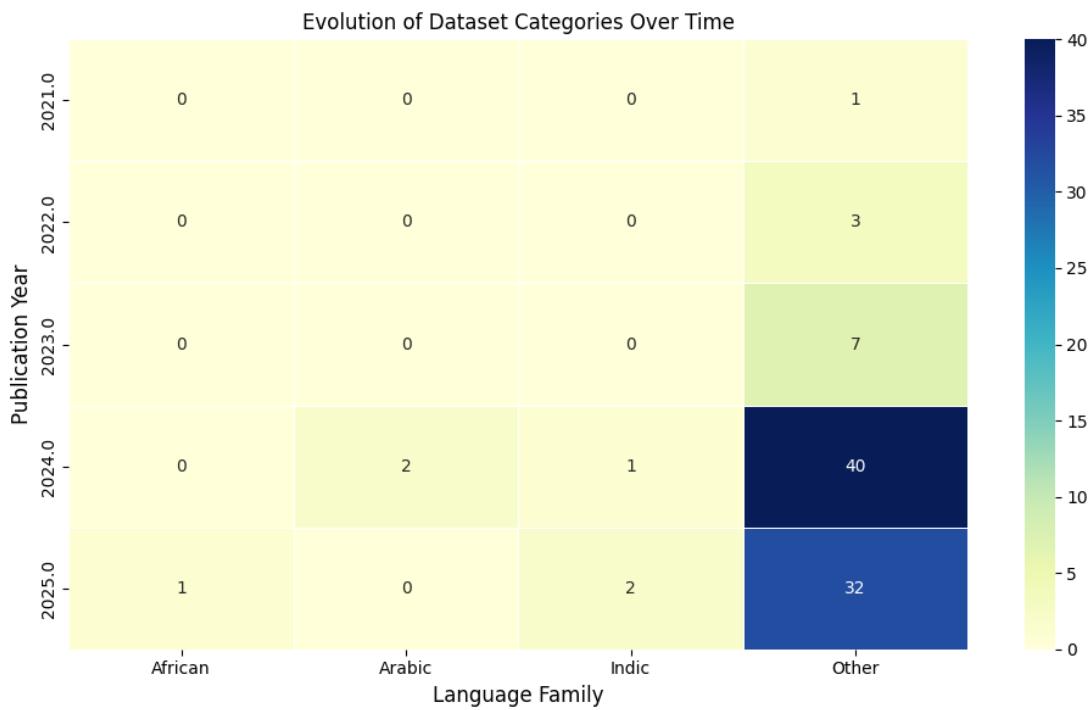
3 Findings

The results of the systematic review were based on the review of 140 works devoted to applying Large Language Models (LLMs) to low-resource languages (LRLs). The flowchart presented in figure 2 shows the high level of rigor used in identifying, screening, and selection of these studies as is reflected by PRISMA flowchart. The results were categorised into some of the major themes: the creation of benchmarks to analyze the performance of LLMs, implementation of parameter-efficient fine-tuning (PEFT) techniques such as LoRA, as well as the relevance of culturally minded adaptation strategies. Altogether, these themes emphasize the developments and obstacles in the advancement of the LLM properties of underrepresented languages.

276 **3.1 Key Themes in the Findings**

277 *Development of Benchmarks for LRLs*

278 A substantial part of the research on LLMs discussed attempts to explore new standards of assessing
 279 the effectiveness of low-resource language tasks. Adelani et al. can be taken as an example: they proposed
 280 using a culturally based assessment system, IrokoBench, designed specifically to challenge African
 281 languages [1]. In an analogous operation, Myung et al. created BLEnD, a multicultural benchmark, whose
 282 goal was to evaluate the success of the LLM in different linguistic and cultural settings [7]. These
 283 guidelines offer standardized metrics on the adjustment of LRL as well as an understanding of how to
 284 improve it. Additionally, benchmarks like BasqBBQ [58] and LEIA [21] provide critical insights into
 285 social biases and cross-lingual knowledge transfer in LRLs. Figure 4 illustrates the timeline of major
 286 dataset/benchmark releases relevant to LRL-LLM research (2020–2025).



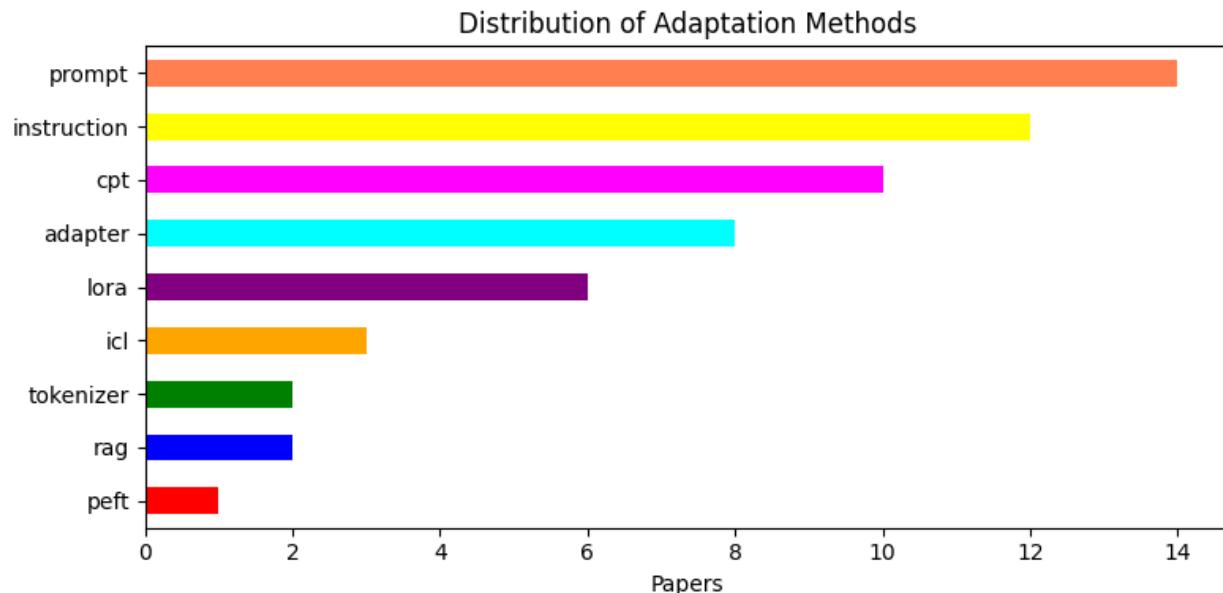
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288 **Figure 4:** Timeline of major dataset / benchmark releases relevant to LRL-LLM research (2020–2025)

289 *Application of Parameter-Efficient Fine-Tuning (PEFT) Methods*

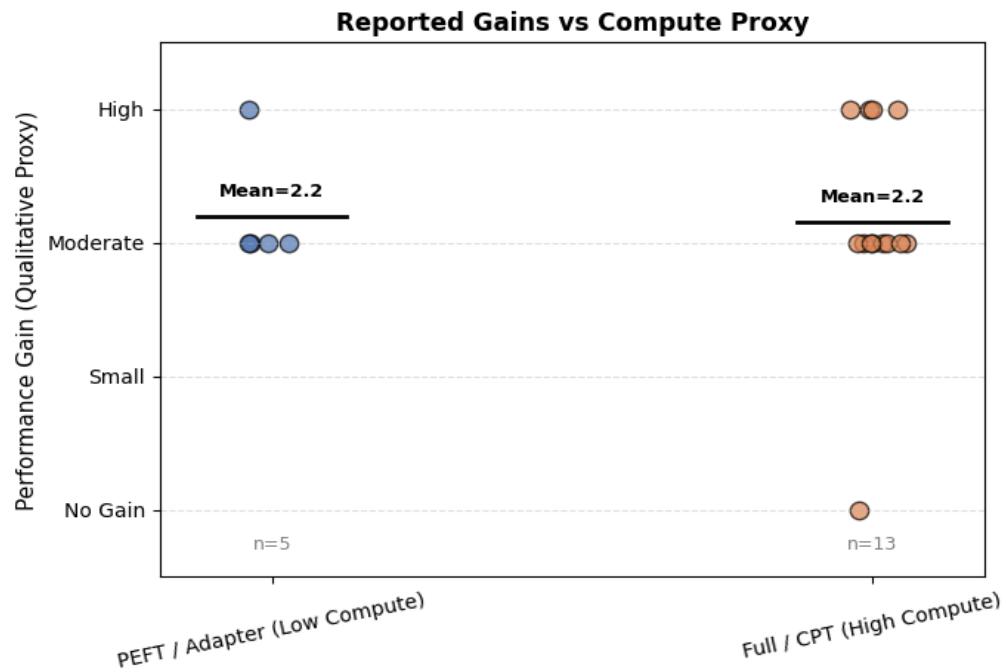
290 The other significant theme is the PEFT methods to fine-tune LLM on LRLs. Efficiency of the
 291 LoRA (Low-Rank Adaptation) was shown in the studies like Le et al. that proved helpful in enhancement
 292 of LLM classification in clinical NLP tasks with few data [10]. Khade et al. also discussed a possibility of
 293 using LoRA of multilingual South Asian LRLs, which is appropriate because of the low-compute
 294 adaption possibility [11]. These approaches have become efficient ways in fine-tuning LLMs under
 295 limited resources. Additionally, Khoboko et al. demonstrated the optimization of translation for
 296 low-resource languages through efficient fine-tuning with custom prompt engineering in large language

297 models [28]. These approaches have become efficient ways in fine-tuning LLMs under limited resources.
 298 Figure 5 shows the frequency of adaptation strategies reported across the surveyed studies. Similarly,
 299 reported performance gains vs. compute cost (proxy) for PEFT and full fine-tuning across studies showed
 300 in Figure 6.



301

302 **Figure 5:** Frequency of adaptation strategies reported across the surveyed studies.

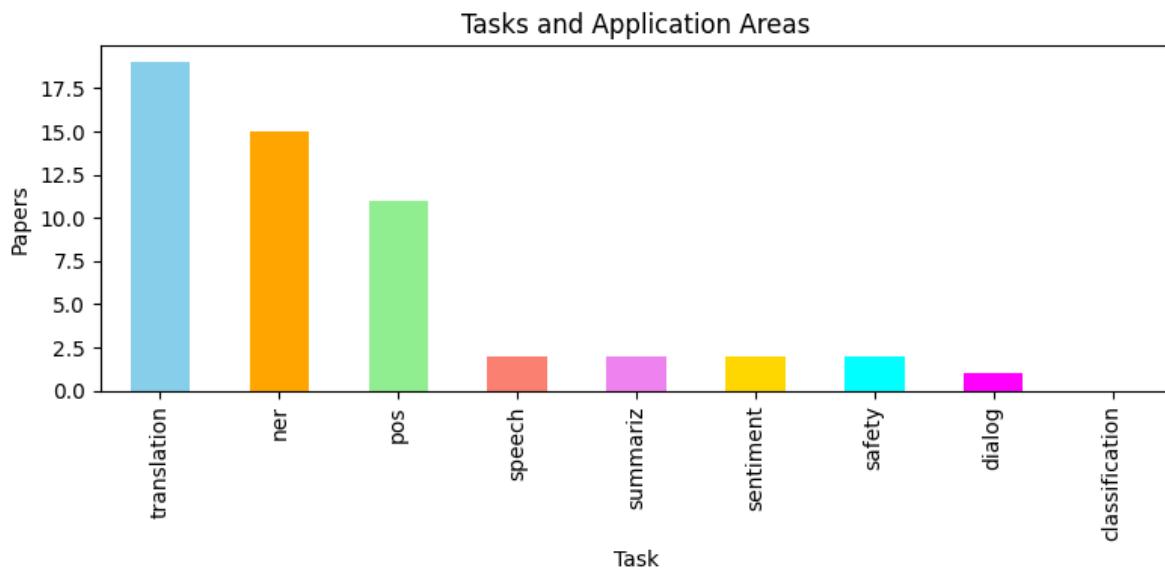


303

304 **Figure 6.** Performance gains vs. compute cost (proxy) for PEFT and full fine-tuning across studies

305 Additionally, Figure 7 displays the number of papers focused on specific tasks within the reviewed
 306 literature on LLM adaptation for low-resource languages. Translation is the most frequently addressed
 307 task (18 papers), followed by Named Entity Recognition (NER, 15 papers) and Part-of-Speech (POS)
 308 tagging (11 papers). Other tasks, such as speech, summarization, sentiment analysis, safety, dialogue, and
 309 classification, are less frequently studied. As an example, recent papers like Mao and Yu and Zhang et al.
 310 emphasize improvements in the translation of low-resource languages for better results, which are
 311 achieved with new methods, i.e. contrastive alignment instructions, books of code-augmented grammar,
 312 and so on [20, 62]. On the same note, such studies of named-entity recognition and part-of-speech
 313 tagging as considered by Subedi et al. and Shibu et al. were topical with respect to the fake news
 314 detection and linguistic pattern recognition applications [63, 64].

315 Additionally, Benkirane et al. and Shen et al. identified the existence of sentimental analysis and
 316 safety issues in their studies [65, 66]. These papers scrutinize cross-linguistic sentiment analysis and
 317 multilingual safety problems, individually. Purwarianti et al. investigate the concept of dialogue systems
 318 and summarization, with NusaDialogue framework solving the problem of dealing with languages that are
 319 underrepresented [61]. However, the given findings showed the range of different kinds of work that was
 320 done in the field of research on low resources languages, at the same time pointing at the areas that still
 321 need to be researched.



322

323 **Figure 7:** Tasks and Application Areas across surveyed studies

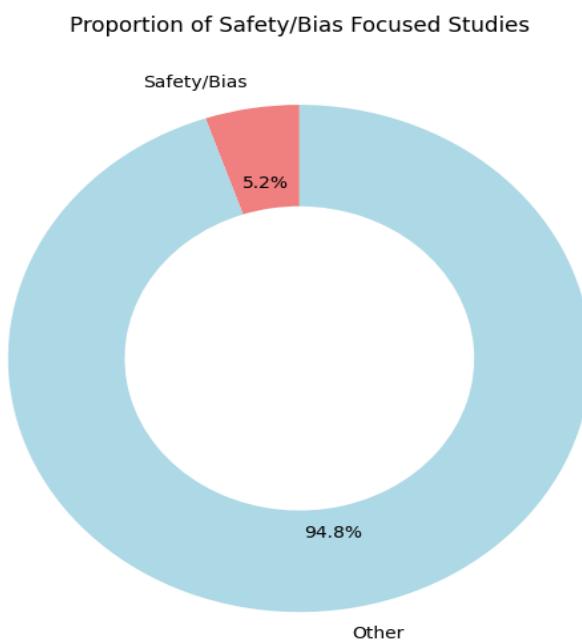
324 *Cultural Sensitivity in Adaptation Strategies*

325 Some studies highlighted the urgency of culturally-sensitive adaptation measures to solve
 326 such problems as prejudice and mismatch in LLM output. Specifically, the case studies in
 327 Moroccan Arabic dialectal adaptation that are proposed by Mekki et al., Atlas-Chat, and the
 328 culturally adapted fine-tuning approaches where the data trained on African LRLs were offered

329 [67, 68]. Such attempts indicate the necessity of language-sensitive context-sensitive and
 330 linguistically broad LLMs.

331 One of the most striking is the TACO framework suggested by Upadhayay and Behzadan
 332 that can achieve the relevant cross-lingual reasoning in LRLs by means of the translation-aided
 333 chain-of-thought procedures [69]. Additionally, Kazi et al. presented UrduLLaMA, the first
 334 spell-correcting morphologically rich language foundation model pipeline [70], and such
 335 fine-tuned solutions could be applied to combinations of domains too small to interest the model
 336 designers [71-73].

337 Questions of ethics have not been excluded in the recent studies either. The harm of bias and
 338 representational damage in the process of adapting LLMs to LRLs development, insisting on the
 339 change of responsible AI [74]. Besides, Furthermore, Shen et al. introduce methodologies for
 340 detecting safety challenges in multilingual contexts, emphasizing the need for equitable access to
 341 LLMs [66]. Zhong et al. introduce a socio-technical access model that can support access to
 342 LLMs to conduct humanities research in the Global South [75]. Figure 8 illustrates the
 343 proportion of studies within our review that explicitly address ethical considerations such as bias,
 344 toxicity, safety, or hallucination. A small but significant minority (5.2%) of the reviewed papers
 345 focus on these critical issues, highlighting an emerging, though still underdeveloped, area of
 346 research in LLM adaptation for low-resource languages.



347

348 **Figure 8:** Proportion of safety/bias focused studies

349 *Theoretical Contributions to LLM Adaptation for LRLs*

350 The theoretical Contribution is an outline of the theoretical progress in the Large Language Models
 351 (LLMs) adaptation to the Low-Resource Languages (LRLs). It shows an extensive picture of the
 352 advances, techniques, and models brought forth by the new research, as well as the advancement and
 353 difficulties in this highly developing segment. Table 1 is a particular 20 study and gives us information in
 354 detail concerning the content of where the study is conducted and published and, the theoretical
 355 contribution that the study makes in the area of LLMs in relation to LRLs.

356 **Table 1:** Theoretical Contribution Summary for 20 studies

No.	Year	Study Country	Publication Country	Author(s) & Year	Theoretical Contribution
1	2024	Nigeria, Africa (Multi-country)	USA (arXiv)	Adelani et al. [1]	Proposes a new benchmark (IrokoBench) for evaluating LLMs on African languages; introduces culturally grounded evaluation framework.
2	2024	Latvia	USA (ACL)	Dargis et al. [4]	Provides evidence of open-source LLM performance in morphologically complex LRLs via real-world exams.
3	2025	Canada	USA (arXiv)	Le et al. [10]	Shows how LoRA improves LLM classification in clinical NLP with limited data—contribution to PEFT strategies.
4	2024	China	Netherlands (Elsevier)	Hu et al. [13]	Develops “Language Fusion via Adapters” theory for LRL speech recognition integration.
5	2024	Multinational	USA (arXiv)	Myung et al. [7]	Introduces BLEnD as a multicultural benchmark, contributing a new evaluation paradigm for LLMs across cultures.
6	2024	India	USA (arXiv)	Verma et al. [76]	Develops MILU benchmark; expands understanding of multitask learning for Indic LRLs.
7	2024	Morocco	USA (arXiv)	Shang et al. [14]	Presents Atlas-Chat as a case of dialectal adaptation; proposes culturally sensitive LLM adaptation strategies.
8	2024	Multinational (Africa)	USA (arXiv)	Alhanai et al. [2]	Suggests a culturally adjusted fine-tuning method and benchmarking protocol for African LRLs.
9	2022	Bangladesh	USA (arXiv)	Bhattacharjee et al. [77]	Introduces BanglaBERT; theoretical base for language-specific transformer adaptation.

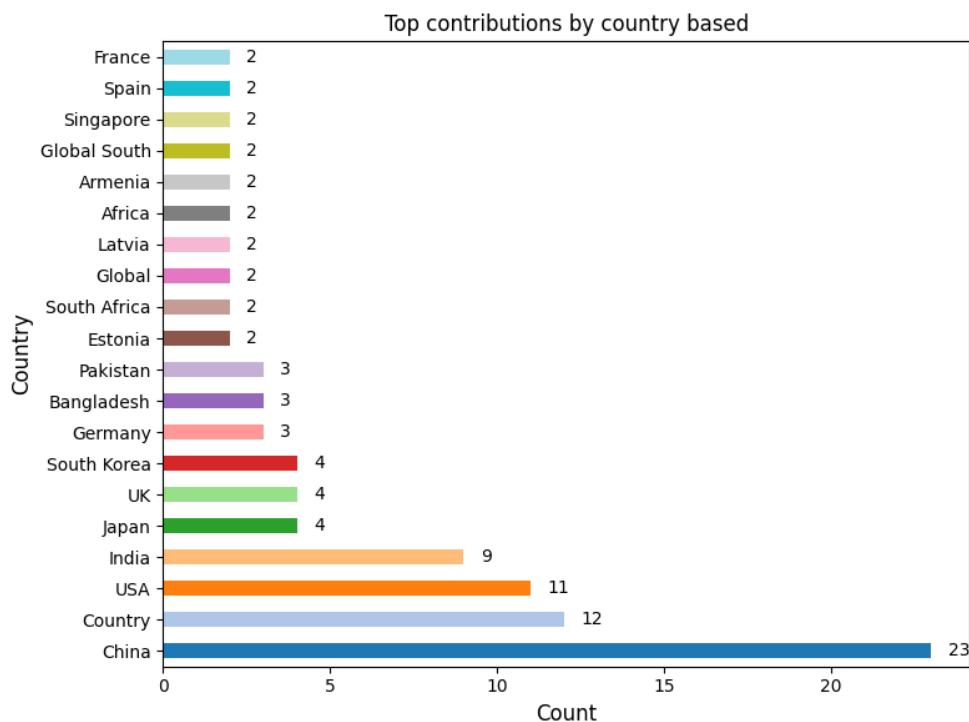
10	2023	Multinational	USA (arXiv)	Imani et al. [78]	Proposes Glot500 multilingual corpus; advances scalable pretraining theory across 500 languages.
11	2024	Global	USA (arXiv)	Lin et al. [79]	Develops Mala-500 and explores massively multilingual adaptation; contributes to scaling LLM adaptation theory.
12	2023	Global	USA (arXiv)	Upadhayay and Behzadan [69]	Proposes TACO: Chain-of-thought + translation framework for cross-lingual reasoning.
13	2025	Pakistan	USA (arXiv)	Fiaz et al. [80]	Proposes UrduLLaMA—fine-tuned foundation model pipeline for a morphologically rich LRL.
14	2024	India	USA (ACL Anthology)	Khade et al. [11]	Studies LoRA PEFT for multilingual South Asian LRLs; highlights low-compute adaptation theory.
15	2023	Global	India	Kalluri [36]	Proposes a conceptual framework for LLM adaptation ethics in LRLs.
16	2025	Kazakhstan	Switzerland (MDPI)	Kadyrbek et al. [81]	Suggests small-scale LLMs with Direct Preference Optimization for resource-constrained LRLs.
17	2024	Pakistan	USA (arXiv)	Tahir et al. [82]	Benchmarks LLMs in Urdu NLP; expands PEFT + multilingual tuning theoretical base.
18	2025	Kenya	USA (arXiv)	Ngugi [83]	Introduces targeted lexical injection into early layers of LLMs to improve alignment in LRLs.
19	2021	Mongolia	Germany (SpringerOpen)	Byambadorj et al. [84]	Applies cross-lingual transfer theory to low-resource TTS systems.
20	2024	Global South	USA (arXiv)	Zhong et al. [75]	Theorizes challenges of LLMs in humanities; proposes socio-technical access model for LRLs.

357

358 The geographical distribution of theoretical contributions to LLM adaptation for low-resource
 359 languages (LRLs) reveals significant insights into the research landscape. Additionally, Figure 9 displays
 360 the number of papers contributed by different countries or regions in the reviewed literature on LLM
 361 adaptation for low-resource languages. China leads with 23 contributions, followed by the USA (11),

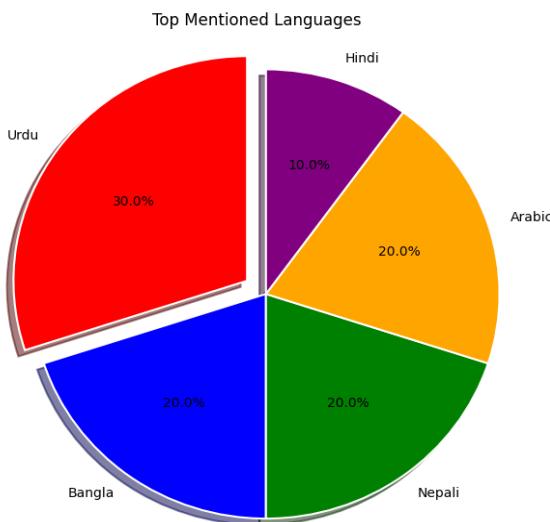
362 India (9), Japan, UK, and South Korea (each with 4). Other countries, including Germany, Bangladesh,
 363 and Pakistan, also show significant contributions.

364 Furthermore, in South Asia, the focus is on adapting LLMs for languages like Urdu, Hindi, Bangla,
 365 and Nepali, which are among the most frequently mentioned in the literature. Figure 10 illustrates the
 366 proportion of papers focusing on specific low-resource languages. Urdu is the most frequently mentioned
 367 language (30%), followed by Arabic, Bangla, and Nepali (each 20%), and Hindi (10%). This reflects the
 368 strong regional emphasis on South Asian languages in LLM adaptation research. However, this
 369 distribution also underscores the global interest in addressing the challenges of LLM adaptation for LRLs,
 370 with particular emphasis on culturally and linguistically diverse regions [85].



371

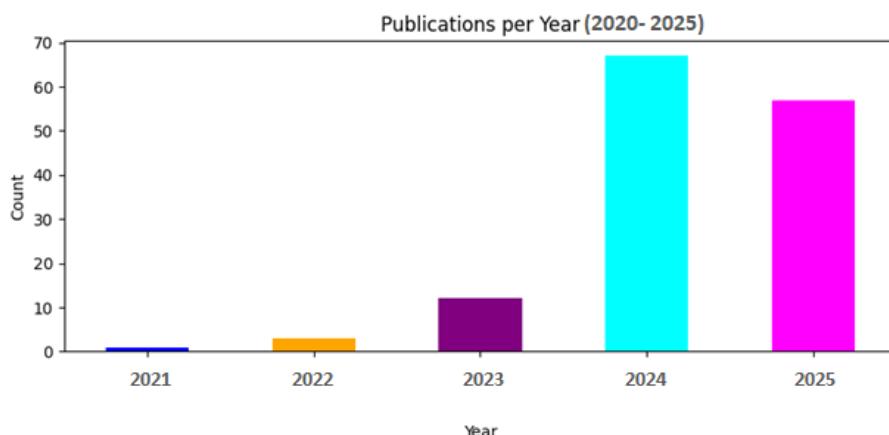
372 **Figure 9:** Top Contributions by Country



373

374 **Figure 10.** Top Mentioned Languages

375 Moreover, the analysis of publication trends reveals significant growth in research on LLM
 376 adaptation for low-resource languages (LRLs) over the past five years. As illustrated in Figure 11, the
 377 number of publications increased steadily from 2020 to 2025, peaking at several papers in 2024. However,
 378 there was a slight decline in 2025. This trend underscores the increasing importance of LRL-specific
 379 research while also suggesting potential fluctuations in scholarly focus.



380

381 **Figure 11:** Annual number of publications on LLMs for low-resource languages (2020–2025)

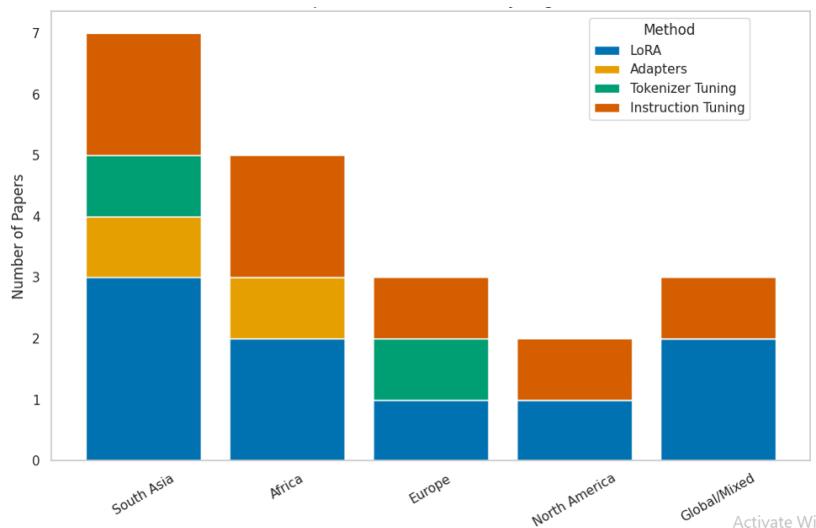
382 The overview of the adaptation techniques available to tune Large Language Models (LLMs) on
 383 low-resource languages (LRLs) in various regions. Table 2 summarises the allocations of four primary
 384 adaptation techniques, LoRA, Adapter layers, Tokenizer Tuning and Instruction Tuning, across five areas,
 385 namely South Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, and Global/Mixed. In, South Asia ranks first with
 386 maximum adaptation count, including the usage of LoRA three times, Adapter layers once, Tokenizer

387 Tuning once, and Instruction Tuning two times, amounting to a sum of seven. Africa is next with five
 388 adaptations, but fewer cases are observed in Europe, North America, and Global/Mixed due to differences
 389 in the levels of attention to the topic and allocation of resources in these territories [1, 11].

390 **Table 2:** Adaptation Methods by Region based on top 20 studies

Region	LoRA	Adapter	Tokenizer Tuning	Instruction Tuning	Total
South Asia	3	1	1	2	7
Africa	2	1	0	2	5
Europe	1	0	1	1	3
North America	1	0	0	1	2
Global/Mixed	2	0	0	1	3

391
 392 To supplement the Table 2, Figure 12 provides the same information in a visual manner with the
 393 focus on regional differences in the usage of adaptation techniques. The visual representation allows to
 394 spot the patterns, e.g., the popularity of LoRA as one of the preferred approaches in various regions, the
 395 lack of the use of the Adapter layer and Tokenizer Tuning there. Collectively, the table and the figure
 396 serve as a reminder of the diversity in the regions concerning the methods in dealing with LRL challenges
 397 and the necessity to adjust the measures of adaptation with the linguistic and computational requirements
 398 of the given district [86]. This discussion can be considered as informative regarding the activities to
 399 improve LLM performance in the use of underrepresented languages all over the world [7, 10]. Figure 13
 400 compares two metrics for four major low-resource languages: Breadth (number of papers) and Depth
 401 (average text length in the "Items / Scale" field).



402

403 **Figure 12:** Adaptation Techniques by Region

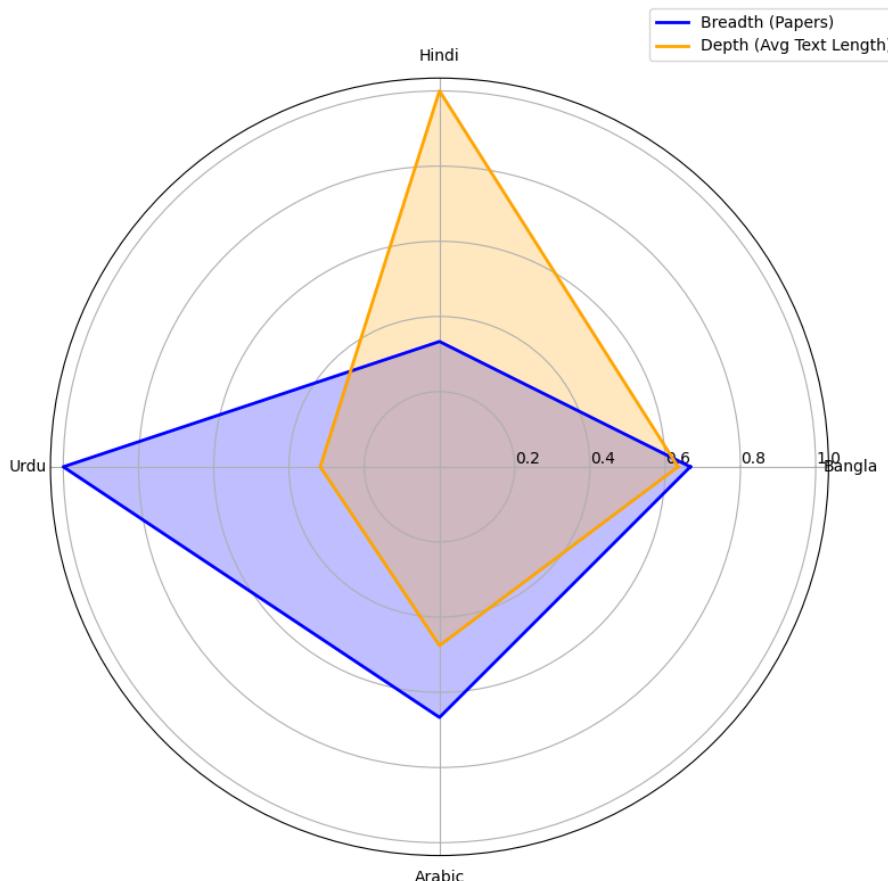
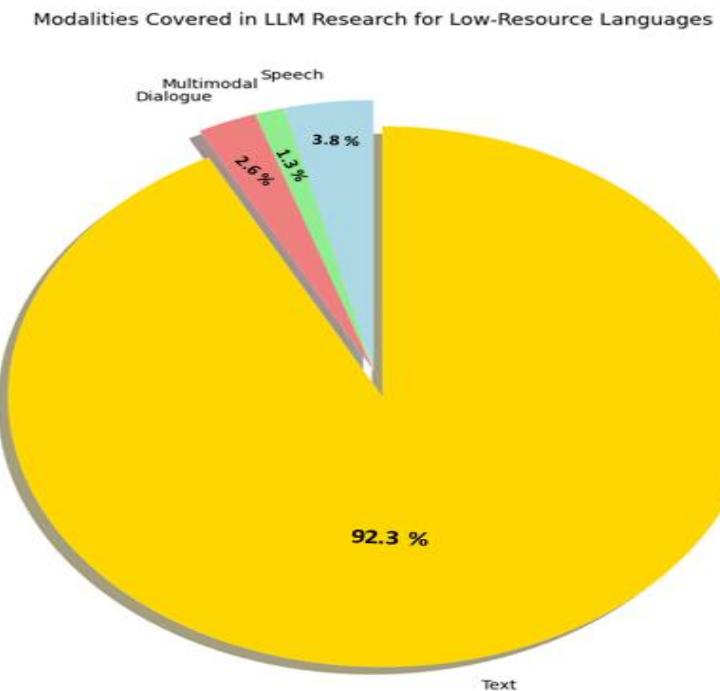


Figure 13: Breadth (study count) vs. depth (avg. dataset size) across language families

Figure 13 reveals that while Urdu is the most widely studied language (highest breadth), Hindi is associated with the most detailed or complex resources (highest depth). This highlights a potential gap: languages like Urdu may be researched more often, but the resources used might be less comprehensive compared to those for Hindi.

The variety of methods established in the current review highlights the challenge of the adaptation of LLMs to LRLs. Despite the latest advancement, like Mala-500 [79], Language Fusion via Adapters [13], there exist still problems with making multilingual adaptation scalable and maintain ethical fairness. In particular, Bhattacharjee et al. emphasise the necessity of transformer adaptation to a global language [77], whereas Chen et al. and Byambadorj et al. implement the concept of cross-lingual transfer theory on text-to-speech systems with low resources [84, 87]. Figure 14 shows the modalities studied in the literature (text, speech, multimodal, dialogue).



417

418 **Figure 14:** Modalities studied in the literature (text, speech, multimodal, dialogue)

419 There also exists regional imbalance in areas of research focus. Africa [2], South Asian [11] and
 420 Pakistani [80] studies underline the importance of contextual solutions, whereas the global projects such
 421 as Glot500 in this area [79] focus on bridging the gap between communities with different languages.

422 This review highlights theoretical and practical developments that surrounding the adaptation of
 423 LLMs to suit the application of LRLs lie in the value of benchmarks, efficient or cost-effective adaptation,
 424 and ethical concerns. Important advances entail the creation of culturally-based frameworks [1], creative
 425 fine-tuning strategies [7], as well as cross-lingual inference systems [88, 89]. In spite of them, there are
 426 still pending issues such as scalability, resource, and ethical risks that should be addressed in research in
 427 the future [36, 75]. With the filling of these gaps, the researchers will be capable of providing an even
 428 greater accessibility and influence of LLMs in linguistically underrepresented contexts.

429 **4 Discussion**430 ***4.1 Data-Centric Adaptation and Pre-training Strategies***

431 Recent studies lead to a unified point of view that data quality and the linguistic coverage were the
 432 beginning factors of the performance of a large-language-model in a low-resource condition.
 433 Low-resource language adaptation needed domain-specific and curated data pipelines that rely on
 434 in-house and synthetic data (e.g., small datasets that have been curated). In contrast to high-resource
 435 models, which rely on large and widely heterogeneous internet-scale corpora [1, 10, 40]. Continued
 436 pretraining [41, 47] and domain-adaptive data mixing [90, 91] had shown to be effective when it comes to
 437 maintaining linguistic coherence and improving the transfer learning of similar high-resource languages.

Syntactic generalization was also facilitated by typologically aligned multilingual pretraining (aligning Hindi and Urdu, or Swahili and Bantu variables), and catastrophic forgetting was also reduced further comparative analyses of multilingual and language-specific corpora are necessary [17, 92–94]. An example of an engineering direction of teaching LLM in new languages is Sambalingo, which targets teaching new languages by adding specific alignment and a set of successive data [95]. Already existing works on efficient adaptation techniques outline modular plans to adapt pre-trained models to new languages that have not been observed in comparable compute models on limited compute budgets [96].

Compensating corpus scarcity by means of synthetic corpus generators, with the assistance of the back-translation, paraphrasing, and lexicon driven data generation, constitutes a key compensatory aspect [48, 97]. However, synthetic augmentation alleviates the problem of data sparsity, but often causes distributional artifacts, which can affect downstream tasks, e.g. named-entity recognition or sentiment analysis [63; 98, 99]. Retrieval-augmented prompting improves translation performance by grounding generated outputs in retrieved bilingual exemplars [100, 101]. It has been shown that a combination of synthetic and monolingual authentic data should be used instead of the application of either type alone and provide better results [102, 103]. In addition, graph-based techniques of corpus enrichment also improve over random sampling since they yield better propagation of semantic consistency across multilingual embeddings [22, 104].

Despite these developments, the level of data imbalance is high. Seed-free synthetic data pipelines for instruction tuning demonstrated in Thai offer scalable augmentation without heavy annotation costs [105]. According to a number of studies, even such a large multilingual corpus as Glot500, SIB-200, or MasakhaNER is disproportionately represented by major African and Indo-European languages, and many regional languages are underrepresented [68, 106]. A summary of the most evident data strategies found in the reviewed literature, Table 3 indicates that cross-lingual knowledge transfer and synthetic corpus generation are increasingly used as the most generalizable methods of increasing the coverage of low-resource languages.

Table 3: Summary of Data-Centric Pretraining and Adaptation Strategies Across Reviewed Studies (2020–2025)

Approach / Strategy	Representative Studies	Data Type & Source	Key Contributions / Outcomes	Observed Limitations
Continued Pretraining on Multilingual Corpora	Adelani et al. [1], Li et al. [90], and Gurgurov et al. [41]	Web-scale parallel aligned corpora	Improved cross-lingual transfer, reduced catastrophic forgetting	High compute demand; limited minority coverage
Synthetic Data Generation (Back-Translation, Paraphrasing)	Yong et al. [48], Zhu et al. [98], Subedi et al. [63]	Machine-generated sentences and translated pairs	Mitigates data sparsity; enhances NER and QA performance	Risk of noise and semantic drift

Cross-Lingual Knowledge Transfer	Wang et al. [92]; Cahyawijaya et al. [17]	HRL → LRL transfer using multilingual encoders	Boosts typological generalization	Transfer from dominant languages
Graph-Based Corpus Expansion	Lavrinovics et al. [104], Gurgurov et al. [22]	Semantic graph-linked documents	Maintains coherence across scripts	Complex preprocessing pipeline
Community-Curated LRL Corpora	Adelani et al. [68], Skadiña et al. [106]	Locally sourced parallel texts	Enhances representational equity	Small-scale; uneven domain coverage

465

466 **4.2 Parameter-Efficient Fine-Tuning (PEFT) and Adaptation Techniques**

467 One of the biggest advances to Parameter-efficient fine-tuning (PEFT) is an attempt to generalize
 468 huge models to diminutive resources through limited computational limits. Low-rank adaptation (LoRA),
 469 adapters, prefix tuning, and instruction tuning represent some of the methods that allow the practical use
 470 of specialization and do not require retraining the entire parameter set [13, 107, 108]. Such LoRA-based
 471 improvements, including those, have shown significant performance improvement in multilingual tasks
 472 with significantly lower GPU usage, by a factor of up to 80% with almost baseline performance [35, 28].

473 However, comparative data show that the efficiency of any PEFT methodology relies on the
 474 language typology and the size of the corpus to a great extent. Language adapters provide modular
 475 intervention points that permit fine-grained cross-lingual control and efficient reuse [109, 110].
 476 Additionally, Lightweight adaptation schemes are shown to be effective in typologically divergent
 477 languages and empirical studies illustrating LLaMA adaptation to Persian support the used method
 478 accordingly [111]. Morphologically complex languages, such as Basque, Tamil, and Turkish, are
 479 researched and demonstrate that stable propagation of gradient is reached by adapter layers in contrast to
 480 prefix tuning because of morphological modularity [49, 112]. Turkish-focused adaptation work
 481 exemplifies practical strategies for benchmarking and low-resource model customization [113]. On the
 482 other hand, instruction tuning provides the best zero-shot generalization in low resource languages that
 483 are not seen [34, 114, 115]. Even in these advantages, most authors highlight that there are no
 484 standardized measures to determine PEFT efficiency when operating in low-resource languages [38, 68].

485 Other innovations, such as model merging [116] and the active forgetting mechanisms [117] where
 486 cross-lingual parameters selectively are kept in the active removing stage of fine-tuning to avoid over
 487 impression, are not excluded. Graph-based adaptation [41] and cross-lingual adapter fusion [57] are the
 488 further extensions of these paradigms, which form a multilingual match based on intermediate
 489 representations. Empirical results also show that LoRA still can be applied to single-language adaptation,
 490 and higher in multi-language scenarios implanting adaptors and instruction tuning outperform [118, 107].

491 **Table 4:** Performance Trade-Offs Across Parameter-Efficient Fine-Tuning (PEFT) Techniques

Technique	Key References	Parameter Efficiency	Performance Trend		Strengths	Limitations
			95–98%	of full fine-tuning accuracy		
LoRA	Hu et al. [13], Miyano and Arase [35]	~0.5–2% additional params	95–98% of full fine-tuning accuracy	Minimal compute cost; fast deployment	May underperform on highly inflected LRLs	
Adapters	/ Etxaniz et al. [49], Schlenker et al. [57]	3–5% additional params	Stable across morphologically rich languages	Modular and reusable	Larger memory footprint than LoRA	
Adapter Fusion						
Prefix Prompt Tuning	/ Singh et al. [108], Toukmaji and Flanigan, [34]	0.1–1%	Strong zero-shot transfer	Minimal training time	Sensitive to initialization	
Instruction Tuning	Kuulmets et al. [115]; Zhao et al. [107]	Variable	Highest generalization across unseen LRLs	Task flexibility; cultural adaptability	Requires curated instruction data	
Model Merging	Aggarwal et al. [117], Tao et al. [116]	—	Preserves multilingual alignment	Prevents overfitting	Implementation complexity	
Active Forgetting						

492

493 **4.3 Tokenization, Script Diversity, and Typological Representation**

494 A major portion of the research made in the area of adapting large-language models to actually
 495 sensible languages is dedicated to tokenization, which is still a bottleneck in working with
 496 morphologically or non-Latin written languages. The vast majority of tokenizers (based on BPE or
 497 SentencePiece architectures) break words in agglutinative and tonally speaking languages, which destroys
 498 the semantic integrity [4, 55]. Recent papers suggest script-sensitive tokenizers and adaptive sub-word
 499 vocabularies that are willing to maintain linguistic integrity in the Bantu, Dravidian, and Turkic families
 500 [21, 119]. Encoders that are based on transliteration at the byte-level and reversibility [30, 120] are more
 501 effective in the determinism of typological subtleties than tokenizers.

502 The current evaluation shows that in-context learning may be used to provide teaching in the
 503 languages that are highly under-resourced and require little parameter fine-tuning [121]. Moreover,
 504 pivot-based feature conversion procedures offer quite promising zero-resource translation routes and
 505 convert representations by converting them into an intermediate rich-resource language [122]. Few-shot
 506 in-context learning can be enhanced through alignment, and it leads to better cross-lingual generalization
 507 of multilingual large language models [123]. Bringing together code-switching curriculum with

embedding-transfer strategy also alleviates domain-specific adaptation of multilingual large language model [31].

Comparative research also proves that the embedding realignment of multilinguals i.e. through language adapters or through the span of transliterators improves semantic overlap of distant scripts [25, 50]. However, there is also an opinion that tokenization has to be co-trained with pretraining goals, since mistakes on a subword scale may only be magnified during fine-tuning [56, 108]. Table 5 provides a summary of tokenization designs that have been put forward in significant literature, which points to the relevance of morphology-aware and phoneme-receptive modeling to script-diverse languages.

Table 5: Comparative analysis of tokenization and subword modeling strategies for morphologically rich languages.

Tokenization Framework Core Studies	Supported Scripts	Linguistic Benefit	Drawbacks
BPE (Baseline) Dargis et al. [4]	Latin, Cyrillic	Widely adopted, efficient	Breaks agglutinative morphemes
SentencePiece / UnigramLM Remy et al. [55], Feng et al. [50]	Multiscript	Balanced vocabulary control	Weak for tonal systems
Byte-Level Encoding Lyu et al. [120]	Any UTF-8	Script-agnostic; reversible	Longer sequences; compute cost
Script-Sensitive Tokenizers Yamada & Ri [21], Zhuang et al. [30]	Bantu, Dravidian, Indic	Maintains morphological integrity	Requires linguistic annotation
Transliteration-Based Models Wu et al. [25], Neplenbroek et al. [56]	Non-Latin → Latin	Enables cross-script sharing	Possible phoneme loss

518 **4.4 Evaluation, Reproducibility, and Benchmark Disparities**

519 Another issue that has remained constant in the history of low-resource language-oriented
 520 large-language-model development is the lack of standardized evaluation and reproducibility procedures.
 521 Most of the works use not cross-task-comparable metrics such as BLEU, F1, perplexity, or accuracy
 522 [124, 125]. The discrepancies in the benchmark are specific in the case of African and indigenous
 523 languages, where the quality of the annotation differs significantly as well as the granularity of a corpus
 524 [68, 58]. Included in an encouraging direction towards multilingual reproducibility is the introduction of
 525 evaluation suites, a subset of which includes BUFFET [126], MEXA [127], and LEIA [21], which,
 526 however, are less comprehensive than is desired. Methods that enable on-the-fly instruction of unseen
 527 languages demonstrate rapid bootstrapping abilities for LLMs in low-resource settings [128].

528 Research highlights that cross-lingual alignment because XSim or CrossEval scores have a better
 529 comparability than measures based on monolingual metrics of tasks especially in low-resource languages
 530 that are typologically in proximity to each other [27, 129]. The Irish-based adaptation effort underlines
 531 viability of LLMs in ultra-scarce data environments [130]. Extremely low-resource Finno-Ugric

adaptations validate generalization limits [131]. However, the unavailability of open repositories and missing documentation still hamper reproducibility [1, 7]. Others suggest culturally-based testbeds like BasqBBQ and NusaDialogue as unbiased and fair evaluators [58, 61].

Table 6: Comparative summary of evaluation metrics and benchmark availability for LRL studies.

Benchmark / Dataset	Key Sources	Metrics Used	Coverage & Languages	Reproducibility Issues
FLORES-200 / Taxi1500	Adelani et al. [1], Nag et al. [47]	BLEU, ChrF	200 languages / 1500 pairs	Limited low-resource test sets
MasakhaNER / BLEnD	Myung et al. [7], Adelani et al. [68]	F1, Accuracy	17 African languages	Annotation inconsistency
LEIA / BUFFET / MEXA	Asai et al. [126], Kargaran et al. [127]	Factuality, Faithfulness	50+ multilingual models	Partial openness
BasqBBQ / NusaDialogue	Saralegi and Zulaika [58], Purwarianti et al. [61]	Bias, Fairness Scores	Basque, Indonesian	Limited benchmarking tools
CrossEval / XSim	Lee et al. [27], Wen-Yi and Mimno, [129]	Alignment Score	Multilingual Typologies	Absent standardized pipeline

Along with technical optimization, it is increasingly being understood that culture and ethical reflexivity has to be interwoven into large-language-model adaptation to low-resource languages. Many researches warn that English-based corpora pose the risk of continuing linguistic hegemony and representational bias especially in sociocultural sensitive contexts [74, 2]. The ethnographically informed frameworks [36, 83] promote the data governance based on community, and the evaluation of participatory frameworks. As an example, the local cooperation, as in NileChat [67] and ELEVATE-ID [132], can result in the creation of linguistically and culturally believable artificial-intelligence applications.

Another area that overlaps with cultural adaptation is infrastructural accessibility. Recent empirical results (African, South Asian, Southeast Asian) have described that low-compute LoRA-based adaptation becomes democratic using instruction tuning to expose low-funded institutions to model deployment [63, 68, 133]. Additionally, investigations of value alignment show that moral and cultural dimensions do not transfer uniformly across languages, underscoring the need for locale-aware evaluation [134]. Moral issues of prejudice, misinformation spreading, and hallucination [104, 66] are still acute, and frameworks of multilingual hallucination-detection have been demanded [65]. Multilingual multi-channel models have demonstrated improved hate-speech detection across languages, illustrating important social benefits [135-138]. Table 7 provides a cross-comparison of the models of ethical adaption and the rising emphasis of both fairness audits and representational balance in low-resource-language projects today.

556 **Table 7:** Overview of ethical and fairness-focused adaptation frameworks across multilingual LLMs

Framework / Initiative	Main References	Ethical Dimension	Implementation Mechanism	Outcome / Relevance
IrokoBench / Atlas-Chat	Kalluri [36], Zhong et al. [75]	Cultural representation & bias audit	Community-sourced evaluation	Improves inclusivity in African contexts
NileChat / ELEVATE-ID	Mekki et al. [67], Gusmita et al. [132]	Participatory data governance	Local co-creation of datasets	Enhances authenticity & trust
AI Ethics Guidelines	Ngugi [83]	Global policy framework	Standardized ethical compliance	Encourages equitable AI adoption
BLEnD Fairness Protocol	Adelani et al. [68]	Bias detection & fairness metrics	Embedded during fine-tuning	Promotes balanced representation
Low-Compute Democratic Adaptation	Mahfuz et al. [133], Subedi et al. [63]	Accessibility & inclusion	LoRA + instruction tuning in low-resource setups	Democratizes LLM deployment

557

558 **4.6 Findings and Theoretical Implications Synthesis**

559 Integrating the findings in all the domains considered, there are three major patterns. To begin with,
 560 the data-driven augmentation is here to stay: systematic empirical experiments always indicate that
 561 synthetic and cross-lingual pipelines synthesize outperform the downstream task performance in cases
 562 where typologically aligned corpora are used [139, 140]. Second, equitable adaptation has now become
 563 popularized as parameter-efficient fine-tuning because it can be deployed at scalable cost without being
 564 prohibitively expensive [13, 35]. Third, the discipline is becoming decolonial and community-focused,
 565 where linguistic justice and digital inclusion are termed as a part of technical design [2, 74].

566 In addition, these findings confirm that (RQ1) pretraining and adaptation for LRLs are most
 567 successful when combining multilingual alignment with corpus curation; (RQ2) PEFT methods balance
 568 efficiency and performance under limited compute environments; and (RQ3) equitable LLM adaptation
 569 necessitates culturally sensitive and reproducible evaluation frameworks. Together, these insights
 570 establish a multi-level roadmap for advancing typology-aware, ethically grounded, and resource-efficient
 571 LLM adaptation strategies in the coming decade.

572 **5 Conclusion**

573 The present systematic review represents an integrated overview of the current developments in the
 574 adaptation of Large Language Models (LLM) to Low-Resource Languages (LRLs) that are dedicated to
 575 data-centric pretraining, parameter-efficient fine-tuning, tokenization and ethical issues. Results of

augmentation in 2020-2025 indicate data augmentation, multilingual transfer, and typology trained pretraining are greatly beneficial in covering language, whereas parameter-efficient techniques include LoRA, adapters, and instruction tuning are especially able to produce significant performance improvements with limited computational budgets. The current drawbacks of tokenization, differences in script models, and inappropriate evaluation metrics emphasize caution on having a standardized multilingual benchmark and pipeline research probability. Moreover, the frameworks of ethical and cultural fairness supported by the participatory data governance are essential to the establishment of inclusiveness and linguistic justice in AI-development. All these findings together substantiate the fact that equitable implementation of LLM implies that there should be dual commitment to technical scalability and sociocultural contextualization. Future studies need to pursue hybrid pipelines of adaptation which combine synthetic corpus generation, cross-lingual continual learning and parameter-efficient fine-tuning to the wider scope of typologically different LRLs. Increased focus on multilingual benchmarks based on open-source and addressed by the local community in the curation of its diverse data will encourage transparency and inclusiveness. Besides, within the scope of interdisciplinary cooperation, computational linguists, ethicists, and local stakeholders should collaborate to guarantee cultural fairness and sustainable AI ecosystems. Possibly the most crucial step towards expanding the global large language model development gap and ensuring really equitable outcomes in large language model development will be the advancement of reproducible evaluation schemes and democratized access to multilingual resources.

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