Research Paper

# Few-shot Fine-tuning of BERT Multilingual for Hindi Word Sense Disambiguation

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Abstract: Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD) is a fundamental task in Natural Language Processing (NLP), addressing the challenge of identifying correct word meanings in context. This task is particularly complex for morphologically rich and resource-limited languages like Hindi, which exhibit significant lexical ambiguity compounded by limited availability of annotated corpora. To address these challenges, we propose a supervised approach combining the multilingual BERT model (mBERT) with Hindi WordNet as a structured lexical resource. Using few-shot learning, we fine-tune mBERT on a dataset constructed from Hindi WordNet to disambiguate contextually ambiguous words across four parts of speech (POS): nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Experiments on standard Hindi WSD benchmarks demonstrate that our method significantly outperforms traditional rule-based and embeddingbased approaches, achieving 96.48% accuracy—an approximate 3% improvement over the strongest baseline. These results validate the effectiveness of integrating contextualized embeddings from pre-trained language models with structured lexical databases, highlighting the promise of hybrid techniques for advancing WSD in low-resource languages and providing a framework applicable to other morphologically complex languages with similar resource constraints.

**Keywords:** Word Sense Disambiguation, Hindi Natural Language Processing, Multilingual BERT, Hindi WordNet, Low-Resource Languages, Few-Shot Learning, Contextualized Embeddings

# Introduction

Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD) is a core task in Natural Language Processing (NLP) that involves determining the correct meaning of a word based on its context. Accurate WSD is essential for enhancing the performance of various NLP applications such as machine translation, sentiment analysis, and information retrieval. In machine translation, WSD helps ensure semantic consistency by selecting the most contextually appropriate word meanings. In sentiment analysis, it enables accurate interpretation of ambiguous words, thereby improving sentiment

classification (Navigli, 2009).

WSD is particularly challenging in morphologically rich, resource-scarce languages like Hindi due to extensive inflectional variation and complex syntax; the limited availability of sense-annotated datasets further restricts robust modeling (Gujjar et al., 2023).

Spoken by over 600 million people, Hindi ranks as the third most spoken language globally and plays a critical role in India's linguistic and cultural diversity (Eberhard et al., 2021). With the rising digitization of Hindi content, the demand for advanced NLP tools to support tasks such as translation, sentiment analysis,



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and information retrieval has become increasingly urgent. Within this context, WSD is essential step toward resolving semantic ambiguity in Hindi texts. The challenges are compounded by homonymy and polysemy, and by multiple script representations, standard Devanagari and widely used Romanized (Latin-script) Hindi, which introduce non-standard necessitate normalization/backspellings and transliteration before downstream modeling (Bali et al., 2014; Roark et al., 2020; Parikh et al., 2021; Gujjar et al., 2023). Hindi's syntactic intricacy and contextsensitive semantics further underscore the need for advanced disambiguation techniques.

BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers) has emerged as a powerful pre-trained language model, capable of capturing deep contextual relationships through its bidirectional attention mechanism (Devlin et al., 2019). Its multilingual variant BERT Multilingual (mBERT) is trained on 104 languages using a unified vocabulary and parameter space, enabling effective cross-lingual transfer and making it suitable for low-resource languages (Pires et al., 2019). mBERT provides rich contextual embeddings that significantly advantage WSD tasks, especially in scenarios with limited annotated resources.

Despite notable progress in WSD for high-resource languages, Hindi remains underexplored: rule-based approaches struggle with structural variability, and data-driven models are constrained by the limitation of sense-annotated corpora. (Hadiwinoto et al., 2019; Gujjar et al., 2023; Sharma et al., 2019). Transformer-based models like BERT have achieved strong results in WSD for other languages, their application to Hindi remains limited. The absence of standardized datasets and comparative studies involving multilingual or Hindi specific transformer models further highlights this gap.

In this paper we present a novel approach to Hindi WSD by using the mBERT model to address semantic ambiguity. Our method focuses on disambiguating context-dependent word meanings across four parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. The approach involves preprocessing and fine-tuning mBERT with Hindi WordNet-based dataset. By using BERT's contextual learning capabilities this research aims to enhance the performance of Hindi WSD, ultimately contributing to improved machine translation, sentiment analysis, and information retrieval. This work addresses a critical gap in computational linguistics and supports the broader

development of NLP tools for underrepresented languages.

## **Literature Review**

This section reviews significant contributions to Hindi Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD) with a particular focus on approaches using the Hindi WordNet dataset.

One of the earliest methods was introduced by Sinha et al. (2004), who implemented an overlap-based technique in which the sense with the intersection between the context and related words was selected. Their custom 'Build Context' module enabled noun disambiguation with reported accuracies ranging from 40% to 70%. The method's dependence on lexical overlap limited its scalability and generalizability.

Mishra & Siddiqui (2012) proposed a hybrid WSD model based on the Yarowsky algorithm, combining unsupervised clustering with manual annotation. By using Hindi WordNet resources and Roget's Thesaurus, the approach reduced the dependency on large annotated corpora. The need for manual intervention restricted its automation and scalability.

Sarika & Sharma (2016) developed a supervised WSD method using cosine similarity by vectorizing both the sense definitions and input context. Their model achieved a precision of 78.99% for nouns, though its evaluation was constrained to a small dataset comprising 90 ambiguous words. In a similar line of work, Sharma & Joshi (2019) used the Lesk algorithm with Hindi WordNet, reaching an accuracy of 71.40%. This approach also suffered from limitations due to its dependency on lexical overlap.

With the advent of distributed word representations, Kumari & Lobiyal (2019) explored the use of Word2Vec (CBOW and Skip-Gram) to compute cosine similarity between context and sense vectors. Despite adopting modern embedding techniques, their approach achieved only 52% accuracy, likely due to challenges in capturing semantic nuances in a low-resource language like Hindi.

Tripathi et al. (2021) enhanced the traditional Lesk algorithm by using glosses, hypernyms, hyponyms, and synonyms to improve the semantic scoring mechanism. Although this enriched semantic representation the method remained fundamentally rule-based, thereby limiting its adaptability.

More recently Jha et al. (2023) introduced a graphbased unsupervised model that exploited the structural connectivity of Hindi WordNet. This approach showed promise in disambiguating open-class words by using network-based representations. The dependency on heuristic scoring and graph construction may restrict its adaptability across different contexts and domains.

# BERT Multilingual: Background

BERT Multilingual (mBERT) is an extension of the original BERT architecture (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers) developed by Devlin et al. (2019). Designed to support 104 languages, mBERT is a versatile model multilingual and low-resource language processing. It is built on the Transformer architecture introduced by Vaswani et al. (2017), which uses self-attention mechanisms to capture bidirectional context in contrast to traditional unidirectional models.

The architecture of mBERT consists of 12 transformer encoder layers, each with a hidden size of 768 and 12 self-attention heads, total approximately 110 million parameters. A shared Word-Piece tokenizer with a vocabulary of 110,000 tokens is used across all supported languages, enabling the model to learn language-agnostic representations that generalize across different linguistic families.

Pre-training is performed on a multilingual Wikipedia corpus covering all 104 supported languages ensuring broad linguistic diversity (Wu & Dredze, 2020). The model is trained using two core objectives:

Masked Language Modeling (MLM): Random tokens in the input are masked and the model learns to predict them using the surrounding bidirectional context.

Next Sentence Prediction (NSP): The model is trained to determine whether a given sentence pair appears sequentially in the original text, improving intersentential comprehension (Clark et al., 2020).

These objectives equip mBERT with the capability to handle complex NLP tasks including text classification, question answering, named entity recognition, and WSD.

Despite its robust multilingual capabilities mBERT has limitations. Its shared parameter space across multiple languages can restrict the model's ability to capture fine-grained linguistic features specific to morphologically rich and low-resource languages such as Hindi, Turkish, and Finnish (Pires et al., 2019; Conneau et al., 2020). The pre-training data is skewed toward high-resource languages which may result in performance disparities across the language spectrum.

remains a foundational model in multilingual NLP, widely used in benchmark suites such as XGLUE and XTREME (Liang et al., 2020).

Fig. 1 presents the mBERT architecture. On the left the 12-layer encoder stack is shown where each successive layer improves contextual embeddings. On the right the multi-head self-attention mechanism is shown wherein multiple attention heads work in parallel to capture different syntactic and semantic dependencies. These outputs are then concatenated and linearly transformed, generating rich, context-aware embeddings, a critical asset for high-precision task for Hindi Word Sense Disambiguation.

Linear

Concat

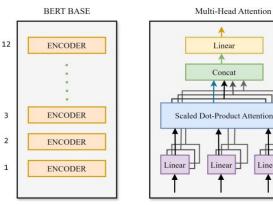


Fig. 1: Architecture of the BERT Multilingual (mBERT) Model and Multi-Head Self-Attention Mechanism

#### Few-Shot Fine-Tuning

Few-shot fine-tuning is performed by adapting the pretrained mBERT model to the Hindi WSD task using a limited number of labeled examples. During training only the first two and last two transformer layers are updated while the remaining layers are kept frozen to knowledge preserve pre-trained and overfitting. Target words are explicitly highlighted in the input using special markers (<tgt>...</tgt>) to focus the model's attention. A small batch size, a low learning rate of 2e-5, and dynamic learning rate scheduling are used for stable optimization. To address class imbalance random oversampling is applied thereby enhancing few-shot generalization.

# Few-Shot Learning Parameters

- Support Set: The support set consists of labeled sentences where the target word is explicitly marked with special tokens providing minimal but focused context for learning.
- 2. N-way Classification: The model performs N-way multi-class classification where N represents the number of unique word senses present after applying oversampling to the dataset.

- 3. K-shot Learning: In this study, explicit K-shot episodes are not manually constructed. Random oversampling is used to balance the distribution of training instances across classes. By ensuring that each class is represented with an approximately equal number of examples, the approach effectively simulates a few-shot learning environment. This strategy provides the model with more uniform exposure to all sense categories, thereby reducing bias toward majority classes and enhancing its generalization ability in low-resource languages.
- 4. Model Adaptation Strategy: Only the first two and the last two layers of the mBERT model are finetuned, while the intermediate layers remain frozen. This selective fine-tuning strategy enables the model to adapt effectively to the task without overfitting.
- 5. Input Encoding: The input sequence is limited to a maximum of 20 tokens to maintain focus on the target word and reduce the risk of overfitting associated with longer sequences.
- Batch Size and Optimization: A small batch size of 16 is used. Optimization is performed using the Adam and RMSprop optimizers with a learning rate of 2e-5, providing stable convergence even with limited training data.
- 7. Training: Training is conducted over 5, 10, 50, and 100 epochs and model is saved based on improvements in validation accuracy to select the best-performing model.
- Evaluation Metrics: The model's performance is evaluated using accuracy, precision, recall, and F1score to provide a comprehensive understanding of overall prediction quality.

#### **Materials and Methods**

We implemented a few-shot fine-tuning approach using the BERT Multilingual (mBERT) model for Hindi Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD), following the architecture proposed by Devlin et al. (2019). Our framework consists of a pre-trained mBERT encoder paired with a classification layer. The encoder extracts contextual features of polysemous words from input sentences which are then passed to the classifier for sense prediction. The overall methodology includes four key stages: dataset preparation, model architecture, training strategy, and evaluation. Fig. 2 and Algorithm 1 present the complete workflow for training and evaluating the Hindi WSD model. We begin with the Hindi WordNet dataset and apply a structured preprocessing pipeline. This includes context tokenization, stopword removal, and class balancing using the RandomOverSampler

(Lemaître et al., 2017) technique to address label imbalance. The processed data is divided into training, validation, and testing subsets. In the next stage each sentence is tokenized using the BERT tokenizer followed by label mapping and data loading into model-compatible formats. During fine-tuning we adopt a selective training strategy: the intermediate transformer layers are frozen to reduce computational cost while the first two and last two encoder layers along with the task-specific output layer are updated. This approach ensures a balance between computational efficiency and contextual adaptability. Training is conducted through batch-wise optimization and backpropagation, using cross-entropy loss and the Adam and RMSprop optimizers. Method performance is evaluated using standard classification metrics: accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.

## Dataset Preparation

The input dataset comprises sentences  $S = [w_1, w_2, ..., w_n]$ , where  $w_{target}$  is the word requiring sense disambiguation. To highlight the target word within the sentence, special markers  $\langle tgt \rangle$  are introduced.

1. Input Sentence Transformation:

Given a sentence S, the modified sentence S' is:

$$S' = [w_1, ..., , w_t, , ..., w_n]$$

where  $w_i$  wi is a word in the sentence.

#### 2. Tokenization:

The sentence S' is tokenized using the BERT tokenizer. For a sequence length L, the tokenizer outputs:

a. Token IDs  $x \in Z^L$ :

$$x = Tokenizer.encode(S')$$

b. Attention Mask  $m \in \{0, 1\}^L$ :  $m_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if token i is valid} \\ 0, & \text{if token i is padding} \end{cases}$ 

c. Label Encoding  $y \in \{0, 1, ..., N - 1\}$ , where N is the total number of sense classes.

#### Model Architecture

The proposed Hindi WSD method includes two core components: a BERT encoder, which generates contextualized token representations and a classification head, which maps these representations to predefined word sense categories.

#### BERT Encoder

The encoder utilizes the mBERT model to capture deep contextual relationships in the input sequence. Each input token is represented by the sum of three embeddings:

$$E_i = E_{T,i} + E_{P,i} + E_{S,i}$$

where  $E_T$ ,  $E_P$ , and  $E_S$  denote token, position and segment embeddings. These embeddings are passed through L transformer layers. Each layer consists of:

1. Multi-Head Self-Attention:

$$Attention(Q, K, V) = softmax \left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)V$$

with

$$Q = H^{(l)}W_Q, \quad K = H^{(l)}W_K, \quad V = H^{(l)}W_V$$

where  $H^{(l)}$  is the output of the  $l^{th}$  layer,  $W_Q$ ,  $W_K$  and  $W_V$  are projection matrices, and  $d_k = H/h$  is the dimensionality of each attention head for h heads and hidden size H.

2. Feed-Forward Network (FFN):

$$FFN(x) = ReLU(xW_1 + b_1)W_2 + b_2$$

The contextualized output representation of the special [CLS] token from the final layer denoted as  $h_{[CLS]} \in \mathbb{R}^H$  is used for classification.

## Classification Head

The classification layer maps [CLS] to a vector of logits over N word sense classes:

$$z = Wh_{[CLS]} + b$$

where  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times H}$  and  $b \in \mathbb{R}^{N}$  are the trainable parameters. The class probabilities  $\hat{p}$  are computed via softmax:

$$\widehat{p_i} = \frac{\exp(z_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^{N} \exp(z_j)}, \quad i = 1, ..., N$$

The predicted class  $\hat{y}$  is obtained as:

$$\hat{y} = \arg \max_{i} \widehat{p_i}$$

## Training Procedure

The model is fine-tuned using the cross-entropy loss, which is well-suited for multi-class classification tasks such as WSD. The loss function is defined as:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{B} \sum_{i=1}^{B} \sum_{j=1}^{N} y_{i,j} \log(\widehat{p_{i,j}})$$

where  $y_{i,j}$  is the true one-hot label,  $\hat{p}_{i,j}$  is the predicted probability and B is the batch size.

During training the middle layers of mBERT are frozen to reduce computational overhead while the first two and last two encoder layers along with the output classification layer are updated. This strategy ensures a balance between efficiency and contextual adaptability.

#### **Evaluation Metrics**

To evaluate the model's performance on Hindi WSD, we use the following standard classification metrics:

1. Accuracy: Represents the ratio of correctly predicted labels to the total number of predictions. It offers a general overview of the model's correctness across all classes.

$$Accuracy = \frac{Correct\ Predictions}{Total\ Samples}$$

2. Precision: Measures the proportion of correctly predicted instances among all instances predicted as belonging to a particular class. This metric is crucial for understanding the model's ability to minimize false positives.

Precision = 
$$\frac{\sum_{c=1}^{N} w_c \cdot TP_c}{\sum_{c=1}^{N} (TP_c + FP_c)}$$

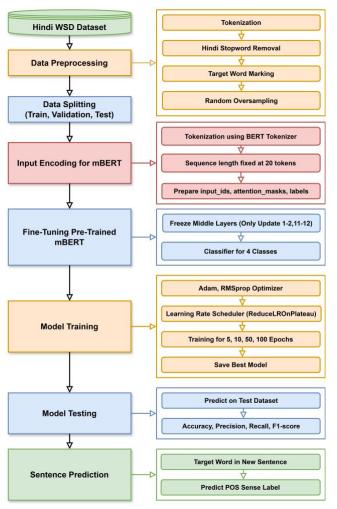
 Recall: Indicates the proportion of actual instances of a class that are correctly identified by the model. It reflects the model's ability to capture all relevant instances, particularly important in imbalanced datasets.

$$Recall = \frac{\sum_{c=1}^{N} w_c \cdot TP_c}{\sum_{c=1}^{N} (TP_c + FN_c)}$$

4. F1-Score: The harmonic mean of precision and recall, providing a single score that balances both metrics. It is especially useful when there is an uneven distribution of classes or when both false positives and false negatives are important.

$$F1\text{-Score} = 2 \cdot \frac{Precision \cdot Recall}{Precision + Recall}$$

where  $TP_c$ ,  $FP_c$ , and  $FN_c$  are the true positives, false positives and false negatives for class c and  $w_c$  is the weight for class c.



**Fig. 2:** End-to-End Pipeline for Fine-Tuning the mBERT Model for Hindi Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD)

# **Experimental Setup and Results**

This section outlines the experimental setup and presents empirical results to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed approach. Comprehensive experimentation and analysis are conducted to validate the model's performance in Hindi Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD).

# Dataset

A well-structured dataset is essential for addressing the challenges of Word Sense Disambiguation. For this research we use the Hindi WordNet developed by IIT Bombay (https://www.cflt.iitb.ac.in/wordnet/webhwn/) which provides as a rich lexical knowledge base for the Hindi language (Bhattacharyya, 2006). Modeled after the English WordNet the Hindi WordNet focuses on open-class categories nouns, verbs, adjectives, and

adverbs. Each entry in the dataset includes three components:

- 1. Word: the target ambiguous word requiring disambiguation.
- 2. Context: a sentence or example representing the usage of the word.
- 3. Label: the predicted sense of the word derived from the Hindi WordNet.

# Algorithm 1: Hindi WSD Using mBERT

```
ı: Input: Dataset D_{\text{train}}, D_{\text{eval}}, D_{\text{test}}, pre-trained multilingual BERT, hyperparam-
   eters: lr, batch\_size, num\_epochs
 2: Output: Trained Model, Accuracy Metrics
   procedure Dataset Preprocessing(D, model_name)
       Initialize tokenizer using BERT from model name
       for all data points in D do
          Extract word and context
          Replace target word with <tgt> markers
          Tokenize sentence with padding/truncation
          Convert labels to integers
          Store tokenized inputs and labels
10:
11:
       end for
12:
       Compute unique label indices and count
13: end procedure
14: \ \mathbf{procedure} \ \mathbf{Training}(model, train\_loader, optimizer, criterion, device)
       Set model to train mode
       for all batches in train loader do
16:
          Load input_ids, attention_mask, and labels to device
17:
          Perform forward pass
18:
19:
          Compute loss
20:
          Backpropagate and update parameters
          Track loss and accuracy
21:
       end for
22:
23: end procedure
24: procedure EVALUATION(model, eval\_loader, criterion, device)
       Set model to evaluation mode
       for all batches in eval loader do
26:
          Load inputs and labels
27:
          Perform forward pass without gradient
28:
          Compute loss and predictions
29:
          Track evaluation metrics
30:
31:
       end for
32: end procedure
33: procedure Run Training(num_epochs, model, scheduler, train_loader, eval_loader)
34.
       for epoch = 1 to num\_epochs do
          Train model and evaluate on validation data
36:
          Update learning rate using scheduler
          Save model if validation accuracy improves
37:
38:
          Print epoch statistics
      end for
40: end procedure
41: procedure Test Model(test_loader, model)
       Set model to evaluation mode
       Predict and evaluate metrics: accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score
       Output classification metrics
45: end procedure
46: procedure Prediction(sentence, model, word, tokenizer)
       Preprocess sentence: Mark target word
       Tokenize and encode sentence
       Perform forward pass and predict label
50:
       Map predicted label to word sense
       Return prediction
52: end procedure
53: Main Steps:
54: Preprocess datasets D<sub>train</sub>, D<sub>eval</sub>, D<sub>test</sub>
55: Initialize model, optimizer, loss function, and scheduler
56: Train and evaluate model over num epochs
57: Test model on D_{\mathrm{test}} and evaluate metrics
58: Predict word sense for new sentences using trained model
```

Before resampling the dataset shows significant class imbalance as shown in Table 1 and Fig. 3. Nouns dominate with 30352 instances while adverbs are severely underrepresented with only 571 samples. This imbalance poses a challenge for model generalization, especially for minority classes.

To minimize this, we apply RandomOverSampler (Lemaître et al., 2017) resampling technique that synthetically balances the dataset by duplicating minority class samples. This ensures that the model receives sufficient training examples across all parts of speech, promoting equitable learning and reducing bias toward majority classes.

Table 1: Class Distribution in the Imbalanced Hindi WSD Dataset

POS	Label	Number of Samples
Noun	0	30352
Adjective	1	6579
Verb	2	3894
Adverb	3	571

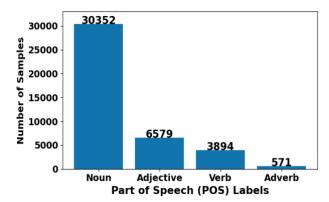


Fig. 3: Part-of-Speech (POS) Distribution in the Imbalanced Hindi WSD Dataset

#### Dataset Preprocessing and Oversampling

Dataset preprocessing is an important step in preparing data for machine learning tasks. It transforms raw, unstructured data into a clean, structured, and analyzable format, thereby improving both data quality and model performance. In this research key preprocessing steps include tokenization, stopword removal, and class balancing to address the issue of skewed class distributions.

Fig. 4 outlines the initial stages of the preprocessing pipeline. The process begins with loading the Hindi

WordNet dataset followed by context tokenization and the removal of non-informative stopwords. To resolve class imbalance oversampling techniques are applied, resulting in a more balanced and representative dataset that is suitable for robust model training. A step-by-step description of this process is provided in Algorithm (2), covering context processing, stopword filtering, feature-label separation, and the application of the RandomOverSampler (Lemaître et al., 2017) technique.

#### Load Hindi WordNet Dataset

The preprocessing pipeline begins by importing the Hindi WordNet dataset into a structured format. The data is loaded into a Pandas DataFrame, a flexible tabular structure that facilitates efficient data manipulation, transformation and exploration throughout the preprocessing stages.

## Tokenization

Tokenization involves breaking down the context sentences into smaller units called tokens which can be words, subwords. This transformation converts raw text into a structured form suitable for downstream NLP tasks. Tokenization also works as a foundational step for additional processing tasks such as stopword removal and feature extraction, enabling the model to predict and learn from linguistic patterns more effectively.

## Stopword Removal

To further improve the tokenized text, stopwords commonly occurring words with small semantic value are removed. We use the stopwordsiso library to obtain a Hindi specific stopword list as detailed in Table (2). Eliminating these non-essential words reduces data dimensionality and noise, allowing the model to focus on more informative linguistic features. This enhances the overall efficiency and accuracy of the learning process, particularly for the Hindi WSD task.

#### Oversampling to Handle Imbalance

Due to the significant class imbalance in the original dataset particularly the underrepresentation of certain parts of speech (POS) such as adverbs, we apply RandomOverSampler (Lemaître et al., 2017) to balance the distribution of samples across all classes. This technique duplicates samples from minority classes to ensure equitable representation, which is essential for fair and unbiased training. The result is a balanced dataset that supports improved generalization and consistent model performance across all word categories.

Table 2: List of Hindi Stopwords Used in the Hindi WSD Task

Table 2:	: List o	of Hindi	Stopwo	rds Use	d in the H	indi WS	SD Task
अंदर	अत	अदि	अप	अपना	अपनि	अपनी	अपने
अभि	अभी	आदि	आप	इंहिं	इंहें	इंहों	इतयादि
इत्यादि	इन	इनका	इन्हीं	इन्हें	इन्हों	इस	इसका
इसकि	इसकी	इसके	इसमें	इसि	इसी	इसे	उंहिं
उंहें	उंहों	उन	उनका	उनकि	उनकी	उनके	उनको
उन्हीं	उन्हें	उन्हों	उस	उसके	उसि	उसी	उसे
एक	एवं	एस	एसे	ऐसे	ओर	और	कइ
कई	कर	करता	करते	करना	करने	करें	कहते
कहा	का	काफि	काफ़ी	कि	किंहें	किंहों	कितना
किन्हें	किन्हों	किया	किर	किस	किसि	किसी	किसे
की	कुछ	कुल	के	को	कोइ	कोई	कोन
कोनसा	कौन	कौनसा	गया	घर	जब	जहाँ	जहां
जा	जिंहें	जिंहों	जितना	जिधर	जिन	जिन्हें	जिन्हों
जिस	जिसे	जीधर	जेसा	जेसे	जैसा	जैसे	जो
तक	तब	तरह	तिंहें	तिंहों	तिन	तिन्हें	तिन्हों
तिस	तिसे	तो	था	थि	थी	थे	दबारा
दवारा	दिया	दुसरा	दुसरे	दूसरे	दो	द्वारा	न
नहिं	नहीं	ना	निचे	निहायत	नीचे	ने	पर
पहले	पुरा	पूरा	पे	फिर	बनि	बनी	बहि
बही	बहुत	बाद	बाला	बिलकुल	भि	भितर	भी
भीतर	मगर	मानो	मे	में	यदि	यह	यहाँ
यहां	यहि	यही	या	यिह	ये	रवासा	रहा
रहे	ऱ्वासा	रखें	लिए	लिये	लेकिन	व	वगेरह
वरग	वर्ग	वह	वहाँ	वहां	वहिं	वहीं	वाले
वुह	वे	वग़ैरह	संग	सकता	सकते	सबसे	सभि
सभी	साथ	साबुत	साभ	सारा	से	सो	हि
ही	हुअ	हुआ	हुइ	हुई	हुए	हे	हें
है	हैं	हो	होता	होति	होती	होते	होना
होने							



Fig. 4: Preprocessing Pipeline for the Hindi WordNet Dataset and Handling Class Imbalance

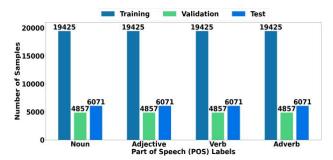
**Algorithm 2:** Data Preprocessing and Class Imbalance Handling for Hindi WSD

```
1: Input: Dataset D with columns context and label.
 2: Output: Preprocessed and Balanced Dataset D_{res}.
    procedure PreprocessAndResample(D)
        Load the Dataset:
         D \leftarrow \text{read\_csv}(\text{"HindiWordNetDataset.csv"})
 5:
         Tokenize Context:
 6:
         for each row i in D do
 7:
             D[i, \text{context}] \leftarrow \text{word\_tokenize}(D[i, \text{context}])
 8:
         end for
 9:
         Remove Stopwords:
10:
11:
         S \leftarrow \text{load\_stopwords("hi")}
        for each row i in D do
12:
             D[i, \text{context}] \leftarrow \{w \mid w \in D[i, \text{context}] \land w \notin S\}
13:
14:
         Separate Features and Labels:
15:
         X \leftarrow D[\text{columns} \neq \text{label}]
16:
        y \leftarrow D[label]
17:
        Handle Class Imbalance using Oversampling:
18:
        ROS \leftarrow RandomOverSampler(random\_state = 42)
19:
         X_{\text{res}}, y_{\text{res}} \leftarrow \text{ROS.fit\_resample}(X, y)
20:
        Recombine Features and Labels:
21:
         D_{\text{res}} \leftarrow \text{concat}(X_{\text{res}}, y_{\text{res}})
22:
        Return: D_{res}
23:
24: end procedure
```

To ensure a robust and unbiased evaluation of the proposed Hindi WSD method the dataset is divided into training, validation, and test sets using stratified random sampling based on class labels. This technique preserves the original distribution of word senses across all subsets, thereby minimizing the risk of performance skew due to class imbalance. The test set remains entirely unseen during both training and validation phases, ensuring that the model's evaluation is conducted on genuinely novel data. This strict separation helps prevent data leakage and provides a reliable measure of the model's ability to generalize to unseen instances. Performance is evaluated using standard classification metrics accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score calculated on the test set. These metrics collectively offer a comprehensive view of the model's effectiveness across both majority and minority classes. While stratified sampling significantly improves class distribution consistency, the potential overlap of semantically similar contexts between subsets may still introduce minor evaluation biases. This splitting strategy remains a widely accepted best practice for fair and consistent model evaluation in low-resource NLP tasks.

Table 3: Class Distribution in the Balanced Hindi WSD Dataset

POS	Label	Training Set	Validation Set	Test Set
Noun	0	19425	4857	6071
Adjective	1	19425	4857	6071
Verb	2	19425	4857	6071
Adverb	3	19425	4857	6071



**Fig. 5:** POS-wise Distribution of Samples in the Balanced Hindi WSD Dataset Across Training, Validation, and Test Splits

To ensure fair evaluation and effective model training the dataset is meticulously balanced across all classes, providing equal representation for each Partof-Speech (POS) category. The class labels are encoded as follows: Noun (0), Adjective (1), Verb (2), and Adverb (3). After applying oversampling techniques, the training set consists of 19425 samples per class, the validation set contains 4857 samples per class, and the test set includes 6071 samples per class. This uniform distribution is summarized in Table (3), which outlines the dataset statistics following the balancing process. Figure (5) provides a visual representation of the consistent class distribution across all data splits. By ensuring equal exposure to each POS category this balanced partitioning reduces bias toward any single class and supports more robust and reliable performance evaluation of the Hindi WSD model.

# **Experimental Settings**

In this research the mBERT model is used for finetuning on the Hindi Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD) task. The model architecture comprises 12 transformer encoder layers, each containing 12 selfattention heads and a hidden size of 768. To prevent overfitting during training, a dropout rate of 0.1 is applied within the classifier layer. The model is trained with a maximum sequence length of 20, a batch size of 16, and an initial learning rate of 2e-5. To evaluate the performance under varying conditions, experiments are conducted over 5, 10, 50, and 100 epochs using two different optimization algorithms Adam and RMSprop. A learning rate scheduler specifically ReduceLROnPlateau is used to dynamically adjust the learning rate in response to changes in validation loss thereby enhancing training stability and convergence. The classification task is structured around four output classes corresponding to

the part-of-speech based sense categories defined in the WSD dataset. All method development and training processes are implemented using the PyTorch framework. Experiments are executed on an NVIDIA Tesla P100 GPU with 16 GB of RAM, providing the computational efficiency necessary for high-performance training. Table 4 summarizes the complete set of hyperparameters and configurations used during fine-tuning.

**Table 4:** Experimental Setup for Hindi WSD Using the mBERT Model

Component	Hyperparameter Setting
Pre-trained Model	bert-base-multilingual-cased
Tokenizer Settings	max_length = 20, padding = max_length, truncation = True, add special tokens = True
Model Fine-tuning Strategy	Freeze all layers except first 2 and last 2
Batch Size	16
Optimizers	Adam, RMSprop
Learning Rate	2e-5
Loss Function	CrossEntropyLoss
Learning Rate Scheduler	ReduceLROnPlateau (mode = min, factor = 0.1, patience = 2)
Number of Epochs	5, 10, 50, 100
Dataset Splitting	Stratified split (random_state = 42)

## **Results and Discussion**

The proposed approach is evaluated using the Hindi WordNet dataset and benchmarked against several existing methods for Hindi WSD. As presented in Table (5), the fine-tuned BERT Multilingual model demonstrates superior performance across all major evaluation metrics including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. The method achieves an accuracy 96.48%, substantially outperforming prior knowledge-based, supervised, semi-supervised, and unsupervised approaches. This notable improvement underscores the model's capability to capture finegrained contextual information and disambiguate word senses effectively, even in a morphologically rich and resource limited language like Hindi. The results reaffirm the effectiveness of transformer-based architectures particularly those using contextual embeddings from pre-trained multilingual models in advancing WSD tasks for low-resource languages.

Table 5: Comparison of Accuracy Between the Proposed mBERT Approach and Existing Hindi WSD Methods

Hindi WSD Methods	Approach	Accuracy (%)
WSD Algorithm (Sinha et al., 2004)	Knowledge-Based	40-70
Yarowsky Algorithm (Mishra & Siddiqui, 2012)	Semi-Supervised	61.70
Cosine Similarity (Sarika & Sharma, 2016)	Supervised Method	78.99
Lesk Algorithm (Sharma & Joshi, 2019)	Knowledge-Based	71.40
CBOW and Skip-Gram Techniques (Kumari & Lobiyal, 2019)	Knowledge-Based	52
Lesk Algorithm (Tripathi et al., 2021)	Supervised Method	32
Graph-Based Algorithm (Jha et al., 2023)	Unsupervised Method	63.39
Hindi WSD with IndicBERT	Supervised Method	93.45
Proposed: Hindi WSD with BERT Multilingual	Supervised Method	96.48

To evaluate the fine-tuning effectiveness of the mBERT model we conducted experiments using two widely adopted optimizers Adam and RMSprop. The model is trained across four training durations 5, 10, 50, and 100 epochs under identical conditions to ensure a fair comparison. Both optimizers achieved similar precision at 50 epochs (96.54% for RMSprop and 96.61% for Adam), Adam consistently outperformed RMSprop across all evaluation metrics including accuracy, recall, and F1-score.

Adam demonstrated a consistent performance improvement with increasing epochs, underscoring its capacity for sustained learning and convergence. In contrast RMSprop exhibited early performance saturation with minimal gains beyond 10 epochs thereby limiting its suitability for longer training cycles. The 50th epoch is identified as the optimal training point for Adam, achieving the best overall performance in terms of predictive accuracy and class-wise Comprehensive metric comparisons are presented in Table (7) (Accuracy and F1 Score) and Table (8) (Precision and Recall). A visual comparison across all evaluation metrics is provided in Figure (6), which includes subfigures for (a) Accuracy, (b) F1 Score, (c) Precision, and (d) Recall.

The training and validation loss trends presented in Figure (7), indicate stable convergence behavior. The training loss shows a sharp decline during the early epochs, while the validation loss plateaus around epoch

10, suggesting effective learning with minimal signs of overfitting. Similarly, Figure (8) demonstrates a rapid increase in training accuracy, reaching near-perfect levels by epoch 10, while validation accuracy stabilizes above 96%, reflecting strong generalization capability.

The model's best overall performance is summarized in Table (9), where it achieved 96.48% accuracy, 96.61% precision, 96.48% recall, and a 96.42% F1 score. These outcomes confirm the model's robust and balanced effectiveness in resolving word sense ambiguity in Hindi. Visual confirmation of these metrics is provided in Figure (9), reinforcing the model's reliability across evaluation criteria.

In optimizer analysis we also performed a comparative evaluation of Transformer-based models applied to Hindi WSD. Table (6) presents a performance comparison between the IndicBERT and mBERT models, measured using Accuracy, F1 Score, Precision, Recall, and average training time per epoch. The mBERT model clearly outperforms IndicBERT in all categories, achieving 96.48% accuracy, 96.42% F1 Score, 96.41% precision, and 96.35% recall. In comparison, IndicBERT achieves lower scores of 93.45% accuracy, 93.32% F1 Score, 93.48% precision, and 93.45% recall. mBERT also exhibits superior training efficiency, requiring only 4.2 minutes per epoch, compared to 8.5 minutes for IndicBERT. These results highlight mBERT as not only a more accurate but also a more computationally efficient model for the Hindi WSD task.

Table 6: Comparison Against Other Transformer-Based Models

	Accuracy	F1 Score	Precision	Recall	Training Time Per Epoch (minutes)
IndicBERT	93.45	93.32	93.48	93.45	8.5
<b>BERT Multilingual</b>	96.48	96.42	96.41	96.35	4.2

Table 7: Accuracy and F1 Score of the mBERT Model for Hindi WSD

Traini		

	Ad	am	RMS	prop
Epochs	Accuracy (%)	F1 Score (%)	Accuracy (%)	F1 Score (%)
;	95.28	95.19	94.77	94.65
10	96.28	96.22	96.40	96.34
50	96.48	96.42	96.41	96.35
100	96.47	96.41	96.35	96.29

Table 8: Precision and Recall of the mBERT Model for Hindi WSD

## **Training Algorithm**

	Adai	m	RMSp	rop
Epochs	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)
;	95.44	95.28	94.99	94.77
10	96.36	96.28	96.47	96.40
50	96.61	96.48	96.54	96.41
100	96.60	96.47	96.47	96.35

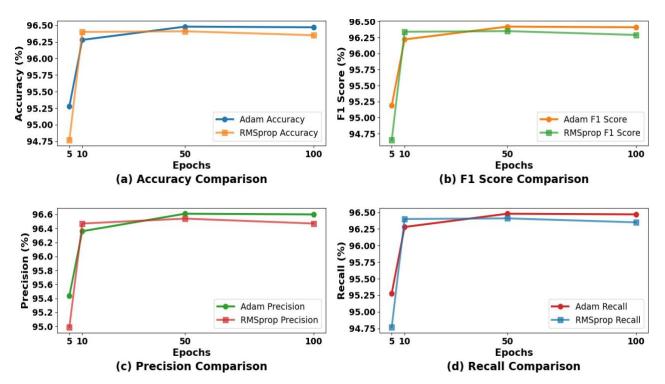
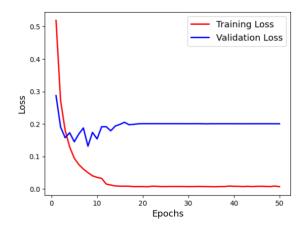


Fig. 6: Comparative Performance of the mBERT Model Across Accuracy, F1 Score, Precision, and Recall



**Fig. 7:** Training and Validation Loss Comparison for the mBERT Model Across Epochs

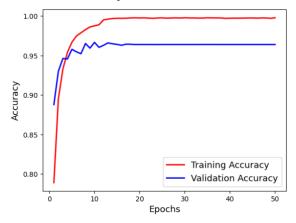


Fig. 8: Training and Validation Accuracy Comparison for the mBERT Model Across Epoch

**Table 9:** Best Performance Metrics of the mBERT Model for Hindi WSD

<b>Evaluation Metric</b>	Score (%)	
Accuracy	96.48	
Precision	96.61	
Recall	96.48	
F1 Score	96.42	

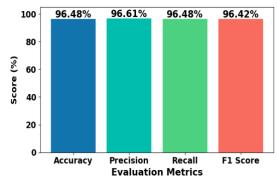


Fig. 9: Best Performance Metrics of the mBERT Model for

#### Hindi WSD

To further evaluate the effectiveness of the mBERT model for Hindi a series of ambiguous input words are evaluated across different contextual sentences using a balanced dataset. The results summarized in Table (10), demonstrate the model's strong ability to correctly identify part-of-speech (POS) categories based on contextual information.

Several examples present the model's contextual sensitivity and classification accuracy. The word 'अजात' is accurately classified as an adjective in 'लावारिस अजात होते हैं' and as a noun in 'यहाँ अजातों को आश्रय मिलता है'. Similarly, 'रूढ़' is labeled as an adjective in 'इस शब्द का रूढ़ अर्थ क्या है' and as a noun in 'पंकज शब्द कमल के लिए रूढ़ हो गया है'. The model also correctly disambiguates 'मनमानी', recognizing it as a noun in 'तुम्हारी मनमानी यहाँ नहीं चलेगी' and as an adjective in 'एक बड़े अधिकारी ने अपने विभाग में कुछ मनमानी नियुक्तियाँ कर दी'. The word 'अन्य' is consistently identified as an adjective in contexts such as 'बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या की समस्या के साथ अन्य समस्याएँ भी खड़ी हो गई हैं'.

The model effectively differentiates meanings of 'खाना', tagging it as a noun in 'उसने शतरंज के मोहरे को अगले खाने में रखा' and as a verb in examples like 'शेर मांस खा रहा है', 'दीमक लकड़ी को खा जाती है', and 'बचपन में मैंने बहुत गाली-मार खाई है'. Similarly, 'अनारि' is classified correctly as an adjective in 'उस पर अनारी साड़ी बहुत सुन्दर लग रही है' and as a noun in 'माँ ने दुकान से एक किलो अनारी मँगाई है'. The word 'ग्रामीण' is appropriately labeled as an adjective in 'ग्रामीण जन शहरी निवासियों की अपेक्षा कम शिक्षित होते हैं' and as a noun in 'ग्रामीणों ने संतों का बहुत स्वागत किया'.

Words such as 'नासमझ', 'अंघ', and 'प्रवीण' are also accurately disambiguated based on context. The model correctly assigns 'बुद्धिमान' as a noun in 'बुद्धिमानों की संगति में रहते- रहते तुम भी बुद्धिमान हो जाओगे' and as an adjective in 'बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति व्यर्थ की बहस में नहीं पड़ते हैं'. The word 'पक्का' is consistently predicted as an adjective in examples involving both literal and metaphorical certainty. Similarly, 'अत्यंत' is correctly identified as an adverb across various contexts, reflecting the model's ability to handle nuanced grammatical usage.

While the model performs robustly across most examples, a notable exception occurs with the word 'उदान'. Although it is correctly tagged as an adjective in 'उन्हें उदान स्वर ही मुनाई पड़ता है', it is misclassified in 'पंडितजी उदान से वेद पढ़ रहे हैं', where it arguably uses as an adverb. This isolated misclassification highlights a potential area for further refinement in capturing subtle semantic shifts.

These results underscore the model's strong contextual understanding and its effectiveness in accurately disambiguating word senses in Hindi. The use of a balanced dataset further supports its consistent performance, reinforcing the model's reliability for linguistically complex tasks such as Hindi WSD.

Table 10: Test Results of Hindi WSD Using the mBERT Model

Word	Sentence	<b>Predicted Label</b>	Predicted POS
अजात	लावारिस अजात होते हैं	1	Adjective
अजात	यहाँ अजातों को आश्रय मिलता है	0	Noun
<b>ृ</b> चि	इस समय का रुचि अंध वया है	1	Adjective
हिच	पंचम वेद वेदम् के लिए रुचि हो गया है	0	Noun
ननमानी	तुम्हारी मनमानी यहाँ नहीं चलेगी	0	Noun
ननमानी	एक बड़े अधिकारी ने अपने विभाग में कुछ मनमानी नियुक्तियाँ कर दी	1	Adjective
अन्य	बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या की समस्या के साथ अन्य समस्याएँ भी खड़ी हो गई हैं	1	Adjective
<u>बोजना</u>	उसने शेरों के मोहरे को आगे खोजने में रखा	0	Noun
<u>बो</u> ना	शेर मानव बन खो गया है	2	Verb
बोना	उसकी यादों को खो जाती है	2	Verb
बोना	बचपन में मैंने बहुत गलती-गुस्ताखी खोई है	2	Verb
अन्य	अन्य कारणों से बहुत दुख उठाना पड़ा है	1	Adjective
अमरीकी	मेरी मुँह दुकान से एक मिला अमरीकी माल है	0	Noun
अमरीकी	अमरीकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप विनाशकारी निर्णयों की सूची में शरीक हैं	1	Adjective
प्रामीण	ग्रामीणों ने सस्ती व बेहतर सुविधाओं की मांग की	0	Noun
प्रामीण	ग्रामीण संतों का बहुत सत्कार करते हैं	1	Adjective
अमर	यह अमर वृक्ष है	1	Adjective
अमर	अजय अमर की जीवनी को सुन रहा है	0	Noun
अमर	हिंदी की कविता अमर है	1	Adjective
प्रतीक	प्रतीक ने प्रतीक किया	0	Noun
प्रतीक	प्रतीकात्मक अनुप्राण ने तेल में महकी की परखकर उसकी आँख पर निशाना लगाया	1	Adjective
बुद्धिमान	बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति अपनी बुद्धि का उपयोग करता है	0	Noun
बुद्धिमान	बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति की सलाह से हमें बड़ी मदद मिली	1	Adjective
बुद्धिमान	बुद्धिमान की बात सही साबित हुई	1	Adjective
प्रकार	वह विभिन्न प्रकार के व्यवसाय करता है	1	Adjective
प्रकार	इस प्रकार से ही हिंदी को बहुत अधिक मान्यता मिलती है	3	adverb
प्रकार	उसने उसी प्रकार से प्रतिक्रिया दी	3	adverb
<b>उदार</b>	उनका स्वभाव बड़ा ही उदार है	1	Adjective
उदार	पंडितों ने उदार से वेद पढ़ रहे हैं	1	Adjective

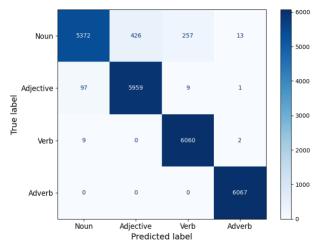
# Error Analysis

To comprehensively evaluate the limitations of the fine-tuned mBERT model for Hindi Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD) both quantitative and qualitative analyses are conducted. The confusion matrix shown in Figure (10), offers a detailed view of the model's classification behavior across the four principal grammatical categories: Noun, Adjective, Verb, and Adverb. Complementing this quantitative perspective, a case-level analysis are performed to examine the model's handling of contextually ambiguous words, particularly those exhibiting overlapping syntactic or semantic roles.

The confusion matrix reveals that the model achieves high overall accuracy; however, certain misclassification patterns are noteworthy. Within the noun category, a considerable number of instances are misclassified as adjectives (426 cases) or verbs (257 cases). This indicates the model's difficulty in resolving nominalized forms and differentiating constructs that share similar morphological features, a common characteristic in Hindi. 97 adjectives are incorrectly labeled as nouns an error likely attributable to the flexible word order in Hindi and Many adjectives can use as nouns in certain syntactic contexts. In contrast, the model exhibits strong performance in distinguishing verbs and adverbs. Only 11 verb

instances are misclassified, typically as nouns, indicating relatively minor confusion. The adverb category shows no misclassifications, suggesting that adverbs possess more distinct lexical boundaries and contextual clarity, making them easier for the model to identify accurately within sentence structures.

These findings highlight that the mBERT model performs robustly overall, challenges remain in differentiating between closely related grammatical forms particularly nouns and adjectives due to the inherent linguistic ambiguity and morphological richness of the Hindi language. Addressing these issues may require integrating additional syntactic features or using POS specific training enhancements in future work.



**Fig. 10:** Confusion Matrix Showing the Performance of the mBERT Model on Hindi WSD

To better understand the sources of misclassification, a qualitative review is conducted on nine representative error cases involving contextually ambiguous words, tokens that can belong to multiple POS depending on their usage. These examples are presented in Table (11) and highlight scenarios where the model's interpretation deviates from the correct grammatical categorization due to overlapping syntactic or semantic roles.

Several of the misclassified instances involve words that have both nominal and adjectival use. The words 'जरा', 'बेहतर', and 'सुदर्शन' can used as either as nouns or adjectives, depending on sentence structure and contextual information. In these cases, the model often defaults to the more frequent or statistically dominant meaning, leading to incorrect predictions. Similarly, the word 'फेंकना' typically a verb can be used nominally in certain correct contexts. However, the model tends to favor its more common verbal usage, resulting in classification errors.

Additional challenges arise with words such as 'तेलुगु' and 'तुकी', which may use as adjectives (describing language or origin) or as nouns (referring to ethnic groups or languages themselves). The model's confusion in these cases reflects the semantic duality and context-dependent nature of such words, which complicate disambiguation.

These examples collectively underscore the limitations of even advanced transformer-based models when dealing with linguistic polysemy and morphologically flexible languages like Hindi. Future improvements may involve incorporating syntactic information, contextual embeddings from surrounding sentences, or using external linguistic knowledge bases to enhance disambiguation accuracy in such cases.

Table 11: Misclassifications of Ambiguous Words

Sentence	Target Word	True Label	Predicted Label
मुझे जरा विश्वास	जरा	Noun	Adjective
पता कहाँ रमेश चार सौ रुपए फेंक दिए	फेंकना	Noun	Verb
चौकीदार छात्रावास बंद मुख्य द्वार खोला	बंद	Noun	Adjective
लगातार बेआराम काम रहता	बेआराम	Noun	Verb
पंडालों सुदर्शन प्रतिमाएँ भव्य थीं	सुदर्शन	Noun	Adjective
मैं शर्तिया कहता हूँ जल्द ठीक जाएँगे	शर्तिया	Adjective	Noun
कल सुबह आइएगा उत्तर बेहतर	बेहतर	Adjective	Noun
तुम तेलुगु लोगों संस्था सदस्य क्यों बने	तेलुगु	Adjective	Verb
तुर्की टोपी तुम्हें कहाँ मिली	तुर्की	Adjective	Noun

# Conclusion

presents a Hindi Word Sense This paper Disambiguation (WSD) approach that effectively integrates the lexical richness of Hindi WordNet with the contextual strengths of a fine-tuned BERT Multilingual (mBERT) model. A novel contribution of our work lies in the POS-based dataset balancing strategy, which ensures a more representative distribution across four key POS verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs enhancing both learning stability and disambiguation accuracy. To balance performance and efficiency, we used a selective fine-tuning approach, updating only the first two and last two transformer layers while freezing the rest. We experimented with both Adam and RMSprop optimizers to evaluate training dynamics comprehensively. Our model achieves a 96.48% accuracy, representing a 3% improvement over prior methods, making it one of the most effective approaches reported for Hindi WSD to

date. To better understand which elements of our training pipeline contributed most significantly to performance, we conducted an ablation study, examining the impact of POS-based balancing, optimizer choice, and layer freezing on final accuracy. The results show that POSbased balancing and selective layer fine-tuning are key drivers of improvement, validating our design choices. We ensured the originality of our methodology and presentation by carefully rephrasing background material particularly regarding BERT's architecture and pretraining objectives and referencing all foundational sources. There are several promising directions for future research. One involves domain adaptation, tailoring the model to context-sensitive applications such as healthcare, legal texts, and social media, where word senses can diverge from general usage. Another avenue is addressing code-mixed Hindi-English language. increasingly common in digital discourse, incorporating multilingual embeddings or joint learning frameworks. Advanced fine-tuning methods, including adapter layers, LoRA, or prompt tuning, could further boost performance while minimizing computational costs. Expanding the dataset to include regional dialects, colloquialisms, and user-generated content will enhance the model's generalization capabilities, ultimately contributing to the development of robust NLP tools for underrepresented languages like Hindi.

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## **Author's Contributions**

Shailendra Kumar Patel: Conceptualization, Data curation, Methodology, Software, Investigation, Formal analysis, Visualization, Writing - Original Draft Preparation, and Writing - Review & Editing.

Rakesh Kumar: Supervision, Project administration, and Writing - Review & Editing.

**Anuj Kumar Sirohi:** Conceptualization, Formal analysis, and Writing - Review & Editing.

# **Ethics**

This article is written adhering to all the ethical standards that are necessary.

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