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# How About Time?

## Probing a Multilingual Language Model for Temporal Relations

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### Abstract

This paper presents a comprehensive set of probing experiments using a multilingual language model, XLM-R, for temporal relation classification between events in four languages. Results show an advantage of contextualized embeddings over static ones and a detrimental role of sentence level embeddings. While obtaining competitive results against state-of-the-art systems, our probes indicate a lack of suitable encoded information to properly address this task.

### 1 Introduction

Time is a pervasive element of human life with no counterpart in any other cognitive domains (Bonomi and Zucchi, 2001). Such pervasiveness is mirrored in natural languages through sets of devices that allows speakers to refer to time, to reason about time and things that unfold in time. Reasoning about time is one of the central components of common sense knowledge (Pianesi and Varzi, 1996; Boyd, 2010; Geva et al., 2021) and its modeling has been at the core of many early approaches in Computational Linguistics and Artificial Intelligence (Schank and Abelson, 1975; McDermott, 1982; Allen, 1984; Passonneau, 1988; Moens and Steedman, 1988). More recently, specific Natural Language Understanding (NLU) tasks related to time have been developed, ranging from the identification of temporal expressions (Mani et al., 2001; Mazur and Dale, 2010), to measuring the duration of events (Pan et al., 2006b,a; Zhou et al., 2019), and the ability to order them chronologically (Mani et al., 2003; UzZaman and Allen, 2010; Ning et al., 2018; Wen et al., 2021). More complex tasks have challenged models to extract storylines (Chambers and Jurafsky, 2008; Minard et al., 2015; Caselli and Inel, 2018), understand narratives (Mostafazadeh et al., 2017, 2020; Lal et al., 2021), and answer temporally related questions (Llorens et al., 2015; Ning et al., 2020).

Recent work has focused on recasting temporal relation classification as a Natural Language Inference (NLI) task where fine-tuned pre-trained language models (PTLMs) have achieved good results (Vashishtha et al., 2020).

Embedding representations, both static and contextual, have shown to play a key role to improve systems’ results on different time-related benchmarks, especially for the classification of temporal relations between pairs of events (Mirza and Tonelli, 2016; Cheng et al., 2020). When it comes to contextualized embeddings the probing of such models for temporal knowledge has not been properly investigated yet. If we embrace the vision of PTLMs as large repositories of linguistic knowledge (Derby et al., 2021; Mosbach et al., 2020; Mischi et al., 2020), it is a natural question to probe these models for their knowledge about events and time. We present an extensive study on temporal relation probing of PTLMs using five temporally annotated corpora in four languages (i.e., English, French, Spanish, and Italian). Although the selected languages all belong to Indo-European family, they present differences for the tense-mood-aspect (TMA) system while showing similarities at the lexico-pragmatic level. Our probing tasks focus on *temporal ordering of pairs of events (E-E)*, either in the same sentence or in different ones.

**Our contributions** Our work has three contributions: (i) it is the first work to probe a multilingual PTLM, XLM-R base, for temporal knowledge between event pairs; (ii) we study the impact of multilingual contextualized representations against monolingual counterparts based on static word embeddings; (iii) we compare zero-shot PTLM against fine-tuned models for temporal reasoning to investigate whether the models have acquired real temporal knowledge. Code and data are available.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>[https://github.com/irenedini/tlink\\_probing](https://github.com/irenedini/tlink_probing)

## 2 Data Overview

We have selected five corpora annotated with language specific adaptations of ISO-TimeML (Pustejovsky et al., 2010). ISO-TimeML is, at the same time, an annotation meta-model for marking events, temporal expressions, and relations between them, and a full-fledged annotation language. ISO-TimeML has 13 values used to classify temporal relations, based on Allen’s interval temporal logic (Allen, 1983) where each value expresses how an event chronologically relates to another event or a temporal expression. In the following paragraphs we present a short overview of the five corpora we have used. For our experiments, we have extracted all temporal relations between event pairs, either occurring in the same sentence or in difference sentences. Table 1 presents a summary of the temporal relations between events for each corpus.

**EN-TimeBank** The English TimeBank (Pustejovsky et al., 2003) is a corpus of 183 documents manually annotated following the TimeML annotation guidelines (Sauri et al., 2006). The whole corpus has gone through a curation phase for the SemEval 2013 TempEval-3 task (UzZaman et al., 2013), where an extra test set of 20 documents has been annotated with the same guidelines. In our experiments, we follow the TempEval-3 split for training and test distributions, excluding the automatically annotated data (i.e., silver data distribution). EN-TimeBank uses the full 13 temporal values from ISO-TimeML to classify event-event relations.

**IT-TimeBank** The Italian TimeBank (Caselli et al., 2011) has 254 documents, comparable in size and annotation to the EN-TimeBank. We have followed the official split into train and test from the EVALITA 2014 EVENTI task (Caselli et al., 2014). Similarly to EN-TimeBank, the 13 fine-grained temporal values have been used to classify temporal relations.

**FR-TimeBank** French TimeBank (Bittar et al., 2011) is a corpus of 107 documents in French annotated following an adaptation to French of TimeML. The corpus does not present an official split into train and test. To obviate to this, we have first extracted all temporally annotated event pairs and then created a train and test distribution following a 75-25 split. FR-TimeBank also uses the full 13

temporal values for classifying temporal relations

**EN-TB-Dense** The TimeBank-Dense corpus (Cassidy et al., 2014) contains only 36 documents from the training portion of the EN-TimeBank. EN-TB-Dense approximates a complete graph of all possible temporal relations over events and temporal expressions by labeling all pairs locally, i.e., same sentence and adjacent sentence pairs. EN-TB-Dense simplifies the set of possible temporal relation values by reducing it to five and introducing a new value, VAGUE, for all relations that do not carry a clear semantics.

**ES-TimeBank** The Spanish TimeBank (Sauri and Badia, 2012) contains 210 documents in Spanish. We have followed the official release into train and test splits. Similarly to the EN-TimeBank-Dense, the authors have simplified the set of possible temporal relations to five plus VAGUE. However, the overlap is limited only to BEFORE AFTER, with the other three being new.

## 3 Temporal Probing

Our probing task investigates the capabilities of PTLMs to encode information about events and their temporal ordering. To probe such information across multiple languages, we use XLM-R base (Conneau et al., 2020),<sup>2</sup> a large multilingual model that has achieved state-of-the-art results on many NLU tasks. Following previous work (Tenney et al., 2019; Jawahar et al., 2019; Vulić et al., 2020; de Vries et al., 2020, *inter alia*), we extract embedding representations from each layer and use them to train a linear SVM whose objective is to predict the value of a temporal relation between a given pair of events. By default, we feed the SVM with four concatenated embeddings: the embeddings of the sentence containing each event in the pair and those of each event. In case the event pair occurs in the same sentence, we duplicate the sentence representation. Sentences are represented by averaging the embeddings of the tokens excluding XLM-R base’s special tokens.

We compare the default settings with three variations: (i) we use only the embeddings of the events in the pair; (ii) we use the embeddings from two XLM-R base models previously fine-tuned with the EN-TimeBank and EN-TB-Dense

<sup>2</sup><https://huggingface.co/xlm-roberta-base>

| Temporal Relation | EN-TimeBank |      | IT-TimeBank |      | FR-TimeBank |      | EN-TB-Dense |      | ES-TimeBank |      |
|-------------------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
|                   | Train       | Test | Train       | Test | Train       | Test | Train       | Test | Train       | Test |
| BEFORE            | 180         | 83   | 167         | 38   | 107         | 32   | 884         | 378  | 834         | 62   |
| AFTER             | 184         | 90   | 79          | 15   | 36          | 10   | 729         | 275  | 499         | 47   |
| INCLUDES          | 67          | 15   | 47          | 19   | 2           | 3    | 207         | 57   | –           | –    |
| IS_INCLUDED       | 64          | 29   | 46          | 28   | 2           | 1    | 265         | 52   | –           | –    |
| DURING            | 4           | 0    | 0           | 0    | 125         | 30   | –           | –    | –           | –    |
| SIMULTANEOUS      | 132         | 45   | 131         | 46   | 26          | 9    | 72          | 22   | –           | –    |
| IMM_BEFORE        | 11          | 1    | 2           | 1    | 6           | 1    | –           | –    | –           | –    |
| IMM_AFTER         | 5           | 1    | 3           | 0    | 0           | 1    | –           | –    | –           | –    |
| BEGINS            | 11          | 0    | 0           | 0    | 15          | 5    | –           | –    | –           | –    |
| BEGUN_BY          | 11          | 0    | 1           | 0    | 5           | 1    | –           | –    | –           | –    |
| ENDS              | 4           | 1    | 0           | 1    | 3           | 2    | –           | –    | –           | –    |
| ENDED_BY          | 21          | 0    | 2           | 0    | 7           | 1    | –           | –    | –           | –    |
| IDENTITY          | 140         | 15   | 217         | 50   | 78          | 42   | –           | –    | –           | –    |
| OVERLAP           | –           | –    | –           | –    | –           | –    | –           | –    | 4,478       | 307  |
| BEFORE_OVERLAP    | –           | –    | –           | –    | –           | –    | –           | –    | 907         | 74   |
| OVERLAP_AFTER     | –           | –    | –           | –    | –           | –    | –           | –    | 336         | 26   |
| VAGUE             | –           | –    | –           | –    | –           | –    | 1,995       | 634  | 29          | 5    |

Table 1: Summary of the distribution of the temporal relations between pairs of events in all five corpora. For the EN-TB-Dense, the values for the training are obtained by merging together the training and the development sets.

corpora recasted in forms of Natural Language Inference pairs for temporal reasoning as described in Vashishtha et al. (2020); (iii) we use monolingual static word embeddings obtained with the word2vec skip-gram (w2v) model (Mikolov et al., 2013) (see Appendix A for details). Lastly, all probing variations are compared with a dummy classifier predicting the majority class in each corpus.

## 4 Results

Figure 1 summarizes the results for all corpora and settings. Details per corpus are in Appendix B.

Although all probing models outperform their respective baselines, our results further confirm that temporal relation classification is a challenging task. XLM-R embeddings consistently obtain the best results across all languages and granularities of the temporal relations, improving the performance of static embeddings. With the exclusion of EN-TB-Dense, the presence of sentence embeddings is detrimental, confirming previous findings (Miaschi and Dell’Orletta, 2020). Although temporal relations are a discourse phenomenon at the interface of the semantics and pragmatics dimensions, it appears that the event only embeddings from XLM-R already store sufficient semantic information to perform this task.

Regardless of the granularity of the temporal relations, it clearly emerges from all the plots that the best results for XLM-R are obtained between layers 6 and 8. Performances are consistently sub-optimal

for early layers, especially 1–4. For higher layers, i.e., 10–12, results are disappointing, with the exception for English whose best probe is at layer 11. Given the task and previous findings on the encoding of linguistic knowledge in PTLMs (Tenney et al., 2019; Jawahar et al., 2019), this is not fully expected. Ideally, if PTLMs tend to encode more semantic features in the top layers, performances for this task should not degrade on the top layers, as we see for Spanish, Italian, and French, or, at least, they should remain on a plateau.

A further finding concerns the role of fine-tuned models for temporal reasoning, namely XLM-R\_tbd and XLM-R\_tb. The models have been fine-tuned using the English corpora EN-TB-Dense and EN-TimeBank recasted for temporal reasoning. We expected the embeddings from these models to be more competitive than basic XLM-R, but this is not the case. In general, we observe a better performance for XLM-R\_tbd than XLM-R\_tb, in-line with the results reported by Vashishtha et al. (2020). The better results of XLM-R\_tbd hold also in cross-lingual settings, regardless of the granularity of the temporal values used in the specific corpus.

When comparing results across corpora, two dimensions are at play: the first is the granularity of the temporal values; the second is the number of training examples. A general pattern we observe is the following: the less temporal values are to be learned, the better the results of a trained model, provided that the annotated data are consis-

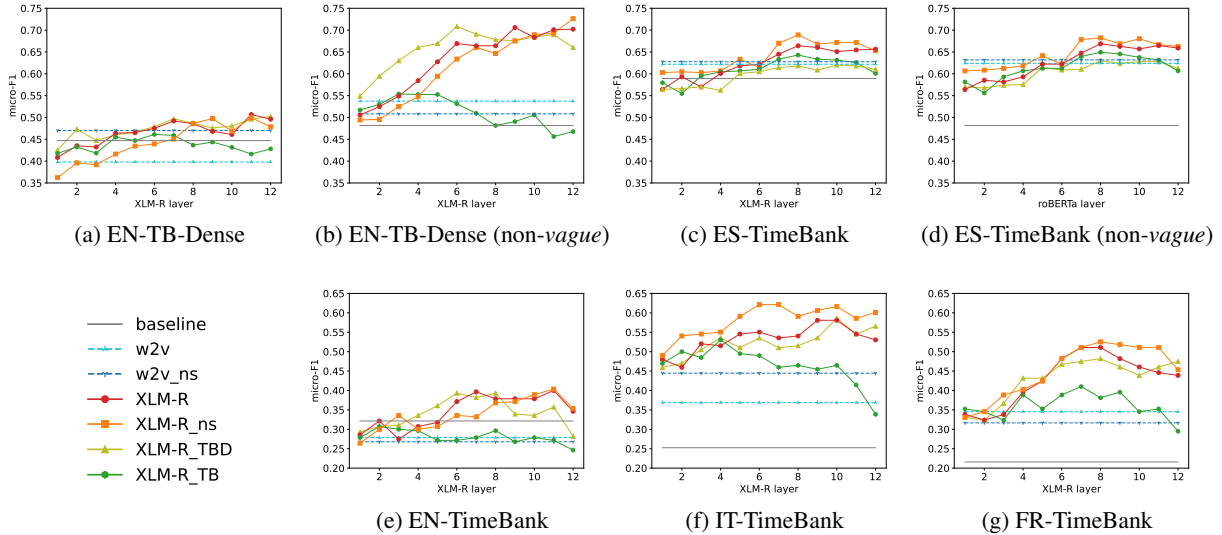


Figure 1: Overview of the probing results across all corpora. For each plot, the  $x$ -axis reports the layer id of XLM-R base, the  $y$ -axis reports the micro-F1. In the legend on the bottom left side, *ns* stands for “no sentence”; *tbd* and *tb* refer to the fine-tuned XLM-R base models for temporal reasoning: *tbd* stands for EN-TB-Dense, *tb* stands for EN-TimeBank.

tent. To better illustrate this, we focus our analysis on the EN-TB-Dense and ES-TimeBank first. Both corpora adopt coarse grained temporal values and have the largest number of annotated data. Nevertheless, the way the value *VAGUE* is used in the two corpora is not the same. In EN-TB-Dense, given the specific annotation framework, *VAGUE* is used both in case of an existing temporal relation with an unclear semantics but also for event pairs with no temporal relation. This is not the case in Spanish. Such a difference is mirrored in the results: as soon as we remove *VAGUE*, scores in the EN-TB-Dense improve while they remain the same in ES-TimeBank. When considering the corpora with fine-grained temporal values, we observe that the F1-score in EN-TimeBank is the lowest (in absolute terms), while results are much better for IT-TimeBank and FR-TimeBank. The differences in this case can only be due to a more consistent application of the annotation guidelines in Italian and French than in English. Support to this claim can be found in the fact that Italian and French have a lower number of sentences in training, 695 and 412 respectively, than English, namely 834. To gain insights, we have analyzed the overlapping events between Train and Test splits, i.e., how many times the same event appears in Train and Test, even if coupled with a different event and with a different temporal value. While FR-TimeBank has the largest overlap (58%), IT-TimeBank has the lowest

(29%) and EN-TimeBank is in the middle (35%). If it was just a matter of data, we would expect the EN-TimeBank to obtain better F1-scores than IT-TimeBank.

Comparison with state of the art is limited to EN-TB-Dense and IT-TimeBank. No previous work for this task is available FR-TimeBank and ES-TimeBank, and for EN-TimeBank we only have access to systems which classified temporal relations from raw text. Concerning the EN-TB-Dense, the best system, SECT (Cheng et al., 2020), adopts a multi-task learning approach using a GRU architecture. On the **E-E** classification it achieves an F1-score 0.650, gaining 0.098 points with respect to our best training layer. A more similar architecture, CATENA (Mirza and Tonelli, 2016) a linear SVM combining pre-trained word embeddings and additional features, obtains an F1-score of 0.519, only 0.012 points above us. As for Italian, the best system, FBK-HTL-time (Mirza and Minard, 2014), a feature-based linear SVM, achieves an F1-score of 0.688, beating our approach of 0.062 points.

**Statistical significance testing** We also performed statistical significance tests across all the probing systems using the McNemar’s test. We ran the significant tests using two different settings: first by considering the last embedding layer of the PTLMs and subsequently the embedding layer that gave the best results for each probing. Details can be found in Appendix C.

All probing experiments are consistently significant when compared to their respective baselines, with the exclusion of the EN-TimeBank corpus.

When focusing on the differences between the PTLM embeddings and the static ones, the results are more scattered, with different behaviors across each dataset. We observe significant differences in the majority of cases when sentence representations are excluded from the static embeddings. Two datasets, ES-TimeBank and IT-TimeBank, present peculiar behaviors when compared to the others. For the ES-TimeBank, probes with PTLM embeddings tend to be not statistically significant with respect to the static ones. The opposite trend, on the contrary, can be observed for the IT-TimeBank.

Finally, across all the PTLM probes, a clear tendency that emerges is that significant differences can be observed only when using XML-R<sub>tb</sub> embeddings, while only in few cases the significant difference can be observed when using the XML-R<sub>tbd</sub> embeddings.

## 5 Conclusion

This paper investigates the knowledge encoded in a large multilingual PTLM, XLM-R base, for temporal relation classification between pairs of events in four languages and five corpora with varying granularities of temporal values. Our results point out that temporal relation classification between events is very challenging and the linguistic knowledge in XLM-R is limited to properly address it. While contextual embeddings are more “powerful” than static ones, current fine-tuned models for temporal reasoning (Vashishtha et al., 2020) are not helpful as one would expect. Our probes indicate that adding more information, i.e., sentence representations, to lexical entities is detrimental, meaning that “global” semantic information is already encoded at the lexical level. Finally, our models are competitive with state-of-the-art systems, indicating that improvements are due either to specific architectures or extra features capturing additional knowledge not available in the contextual embeddings.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.cineca.it/en>

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## A Monolingual Static Embeddings

All monolingual static word embeddings have been taken from this repository: <https://vectors.nlpl.eu/repository/>. We have used the versions from the 2017 CoNLL shared task.

## B Probes Models: Detailed Results

The following Tables presents detail results for each corpus from our experiments. We have highlighted in green the best results for each corpus across all models. For each probe model, we have highlighted in bold the best results. Scores correspond to micro-F1.

| Model     | Layer score |       |       |       |       |              |       |       |       |       |              |              | Score |
|-----------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------------|-------|
|           | 1           | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6            | 7     | 8     | 9     | 10    | 11           | 12           |       |
| XLM-R     | 0.409       | 0.435 | 0.432 | 0.464 | 0.465 | 0.475        | 0.492 | 0.486 | 0.468 | 0.461 | <b>0.507</b> | 0.496        | –     |
| XLM-R_NS  | 0.362       | 0.396 | 0.392 | 0.416 | 0.434 | 0.439        | 0.451 | 0.486 | 0.498 | 0.469 | <b>0.500</b> | 0.479        | –     |
| XLM-R_TBD | 0.425       | 0.473 | 0.448 | 0.46  | 0.467 | 0.479        | 0.497 | 0.487 | 0.476 | 0.481 | 0.496        | <b>0.502</b> | –     |
| XLM-R_TB  | 0.418       | 0.432 | 0.418 | 0.455 | 0.447 | <b>0.461</b> | 0.459 | 0.437 | 0.444 | 0.432 | 0.416        | 0.428        | –     |
| W2V       |             |       |       |       |       |              |       |       |       |       |              |              | 0.398 |
| W2V_NS    |             |       |       |       |       |              |       |       |       |       |              |              | 0.470 |
| BASELINE  |             |       |       |       |       |              |       |       |       |       |              |              | 0.447 |

Table B.1: Results on EN-TB-Dense

| Model     | Layer score |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |       |              |       |       | Score |
|-----------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | 1           | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8            | 9     | 10           | 11    | 12    |       |
| XLM-R     | 0.564       | 0.593 | 0.57  | 0.601 | 0.618 | 0.622 | 0.645 | <b>0.664</b> | 0.66  | 0.651        | 0.655 | 0.656 | –     |
| XLM-R_NS  | 0.603       | 0.605 | 0.603 | 0.607 | 0.633 | 0.614 | 0.670 | <b>0.689</b> | 0.668 | 0.672        | 0.672 | 0.653 | –     |
| XLM-R_TBD | 0.564       | 0.566 | 0.570 | 0.562 | 0.601 | 0.605 | 0.614 | 0.618        | 0.608 | <b>0.620</b> | 0.618 | 0.610 | –     |
| XLM-R_TB  | 0.580       | 0.555 | 0.595 | 0.605 | 0.607 | 0.610 | 0.633 | <b>0.643</b> | 0.633 | 0.631        | 0.626 | 0.601 | –     |
| W2V       |             |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |       |              |       |       | 0.622 |
| W2V_NS    |             |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |       |              |       |       | 0.628 |
| BASELINE  |             |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |       |              |       |       | 0.589 |

Table B.2: Results on ES-TimeBank

| Model     | Layer score |              |       |       |       |       |       |              |       |       |              |       | Score |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|
|           | 1           | 2            | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8            | 9     | 10    | 11           | 12    |       |
| XLM-R     | 0.286       | 0.321        | 0.275 | 0.307 | 0.318 | 0.371 | 0.396 | 0.379        | 0.379 | 0.379 | <b>0.400</b> | 0.346 | –     |
| XLM-R_NS  | 0.264       | 0.300        | 0.336 | 0.300 | 0.307 | 0.336 | 0.332 | 0.368        | 0.371 | 0.389 | <b>0.404</b> | 0.354 | –     |
| XLM-R_TBD | 0.293       | 0.307        | 0.311 | 0.336 | 0.361 | 0.393 | 0.382 | <b>0.393</b> | 0.339 | 0.336 | 0.357        | 0.282 | –     |
| XLM-R_TB  | 0.279       | <b>0.307</b> | 0.300 | 0.296 | 0.271 | 0.271 | 0.279 | 0.296        | 0.268 | 0.279 | 0.271        | 0.246 | –     |
| W2V       |             |              |       |       |       |       |       |              |       |       |              |       | 0.279 |
| W2V_NS    |             |              |       |       |       |       |       |              |       |       |              |       | 0.268 |
| BASELINE  |             |              |       |       |       |       |       |              |       |       |              |       | 0.321 |

Table B.3: Results on EN-TimeBank

| Model     | Layer score |       |       |       |              |              |              |       |              |              |       |              | Score |
|-----------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
|           | 1           | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5            | 6            | 7            | 8     | 9            | 10           | 11    | 12           |       |
| XLM-R     | 0.480       | 0.460 | 0.520 | 0.515 | 0.545        | 0.551        | 0.535        | 0.540 | <b>0.581</b> | <b>0.581</b> | 0.545 | 0.530        | –     |
| XLM-R_NS  | 0.490       | 0.540 | 0.545 | 0.551 | 0.591        | <b>0.621</b> | <b>0.621</b> | 0.591 | 0.606        | 0.616        | 0.586 | 0.601        | –     |
| XLM-R_TBD | 0.460       | 0.470 | 0.505 | 0.535 | 0.510        | 0.535        | 0.510        | 0.515 | 0.535        | 0.586        | 0.545 | <b>0.566</b> | –     |
| XLM-R_TB  | 0.470       | 0.500 | 0.485 | 0.530 | <b>0.495</b> | 0.490        | 0.460        | 0.465 | 0.455        | 0.465        | 0.414 | 0.338        | –     |
| W2V       |             |       |       |       |              |              |              |       |              |              |       |              | 0.369 |
| W2V_NS    |             |       |       |       |              |              |              |       |              |              |       |              | 0.444 |
| BASELINE  |             |       |       |       |              |              |              |       |              |              |       |              | 0.253 |

Table B.4: Results on IT-TimeBank

| Model     | Layer score |       |       |       |       |       |              |              |       |       |       |       | Score |
|-----------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|           | 1           | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7            | 8            | 9     | 10    | 11    | 12    |       |
| XLM-R     | 0.338       | 0.324 | 0.338 | 0.396 | 0.424 | 0.482 | <b>0.511</b> | <b>0.511</b> | 0.482 | 0.460 | 0.446 | 0.439 | –     |
| XLM-R_NS  | 0.331       | 0.345 | 0.388 | 0.403 | 0.424 | 0.482 | 0.511        | <b>0.525</b> | 0.518 | 0.511 | 0.511 | 0.453 | –     |
| XLM-R_TBD | 0.331       | 0.324 | 0.367 | 0.432 | 0.432 | 0.468 | 0.475        | <b>0.482</b> | 0.460 | 0.439 | 0.460 | 0.475 | –     |
| XLM-R_TB  | 0.353       | 0.345 | 0.324 | 0.388 | 0.353 | 0.388 | <b>0.410</b> | 0.381        | 0.396 | 0.345 | 0.353 | 0.295 | –     |
| W2V       |             |       |       |       |       |       |              |              |       |       |       |       | 0.345 |
| W2V_NS    |             |       |       |       |       |       |              |              |       |       |       |       | 0.317 |
| BASELINE  |             |       |       |       |       |       |              |              |       |       |       |       | 0.216 |

Table B.5: Results on FR-TimeBank

## C Statistical Testing

The Tables from C.1 to C.10 illustrate the results of the McNemar’s tests for each language and each probing model (including the baseline based on the most frequent class). The values in all the Tables correspond to  $p$ -values. The threshold of the  $\alpha$  value for significance has been set to  $< 0.05$ .

### C.1 PTLMs last layer

The Tables from C.1 to C.5 report the  $p$ -value scores for each language when using the last layer of each PTLM.

| Model     | XLM-R | XLM-R_NS | XLM-R_TBD | XLM-R_TB | W2V     | W2V_NS  | BASELINE |
|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| XLM-R     | –     | 0.235    | 0.734     | < 0.001  | < 0.001 | 0.147   | 0.007    |
| XLM-R_NS  |       | –        | 0.171     | 0.006    | < 0.001 | 0.652   | 0.085    |
| XLM-R_TBD |       |          | –         | < 0.001  | < 0.001 | 0.055   | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TB  |       |          |           | –        | 0.057   | 0.002   | 0.033    |
| W2V       |       |          |           |          | –       | < 0.001 | 0.002    |
| W2V_NS    |       |          |           |          |         | –       | 0.069    |
| BASELINE  |       |          |           |          |         |         | –        |

Table C.1: Significance EN-TB-Dense - last layer.

| Model     | XLM-R | XLM-R_NS | XLM-R_TBD | XLM-R_TB | w2v   | w2v_NS | BASELINE |
|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| XLM-R     | –     | 0.911    | 0.037     | 0.014    | 0.136 | 0.203  | 0.003    |
| XLM-R_NS  |       | –        | 0.053     | 0.024    | 0.181 | 0.271  | 0.006    |
| XLM-R_TBD |       |          | –         | 0.740    | 0.664 | 0.498  | 0.410    |
| XLM-R_TB  |       |          |           | –        | 0.242 | 0.065  | 0.031    |
| w2v       |       |          |           |          | –     | 0.736  | 0.057    |
| w2v_NS    |       |          |           |          |       | –      | 0.006    |
| BASELINE  |       |          |           |          |       |        | –        |

Table C.2: Significance ES-TimeBank - last layer.

| Model     | XLM-R | XLM-R_NS | XLM-R_TBD | XLM-R_TB | w2v   | w2v_NS | BASELINE |
|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| XLM-R     | –     | 0.888    | 0.038     | 0.004    | 0.053 | 0.028  | 0.555    |
| XLM-R_NS  |       | –        | 0.022     | 0.002    | 0.040 | 0.022  | 0.444    |
| XLM-R_TBD |       |          | –         | 0.358    | 1.000 | 0.760  | 0.343    |
| XLM-R_TB  |       |          |           | –        | 0.386 | 0.624  | 0.033    |
| w2v       |       |          |           |          | –     | 0.780  | 0.290    |
| w2v_NS    |       |          |           |          |       | –      | 0.184    |
| BASELINE  |       |          |           |          |       |        | –        |

Table C.3: Significance EN-TimeBank - last layer.

| Model     | XLM-R | XLM-R_NS | XLM-R_TBD | XLM-R_TB | w2v     | w2v_NS  | BASELINE |
|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| XLM-R     | –     | 0.029    | 0.435     | < 0.001  | 0.024   | 0.556   | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_NS  |       | –        | 0.419     | < 0.001  | < 0.001 | 0.024   | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TBD |       |          | –         | < 0.001  | 0.001   | 0.171   | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TB  |       |          |           | –        | 0.047   | < 0.001 | 0.009    |
| w2v       |       |          |           |          | –       | 0.065   | < 0.001  |
| w2v_NS    |       |          |           |          |         | –       | < 0.001  |
| BASELINE  |       |          |           |          |         |         | –        |

Table C.4: Significance IT-TimeBank - last layer.

| Model     | XLM-R | XLM-R_NS | XLM-R_TBD | XLM-R_TB | w2v   | w2v_NS | BASELINE |
|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| XLM-R     | –     | 0.832    | 0.359     | 0.003    | 0.099 | 0.019  | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_NS  |       | –        | 0.728     | 0.001    | 0.060 | 0.011  | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TBD |       |          | –         | < 0.001  | 0.007 | 0.728  | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TB  |       |          |           | –        | 0.222 | 0.766  | 0.080    |
| w2v       |       |          |           |          | –     | 0.327  | 0.005    |
| w2v_NS    |       |          |           |          |       | –      | 0.038    |
| BASELINE  |       |          |           |          |       |        | –        |

Table C.5: Significance FR-TimeBank - last layer.

## C.2 PTLMs best layer

The tables from C.6 to C.10 report the  $p$ -value scores for each language when using the best layer of each PTLM.

| Model          | XLM-R | XLM-R_NS | XLM-R_TBD | XLM-R_TB | w2v     | w2v_NS  | BASELINE |
|----------------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| XLM-R (11)     | –     | 0.639    | 0.830     | 0.005    | < 0.001 | 0.036   | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_NS (11)  |       | –        | 0.901     | 0.017    | < 0.001 | 0.081   | 0.003    |
| XLM-R_TBD (12) |       |          | –         | 0.013    | < 0.001 | 0.055   | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TB (6)   |       |          |           | –        | < 0.001 | 0.608   | 0.430    |
| w2v            |       |          |           |          | –       | < 0.001 | 0.002    |
| w2v_NS         |       |          |           |          |         | –       | 0.069    |
| BASELINE       |       |          |           |          |         |         | –        |

Table C.6: Significance EN-TB-Dense - best layer.

| Model         | XLM-R | XLM-R_NS | XLM-R_TBD | XLM-R_TB | w2v   | w2v_NS | BASELINE |
|---------------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| XLM-R (8)     | –     | 0.198    | 0.037     | 0.152    | 0.067 | 0.124  | 0.002    |
| XLM-R_NS (8)  |       | –        | < 0.001   | 0.005    | 0.001 | 0.004  | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TBD (8) |       |          | –         | 0.597    | 0.935 | 0.740  | 0.251    |
| XLM-R_TB (10) |       |          |           | –        | 0.640 | 0.897  | 0.003    |
| w2v           |       |          |           |          | –     | 0.736  | 0.057    |
| w2v_NS        |       |          |           |          |       | –      | 0.006    |
| BASELINE      |       |          |           |          |       |        | –        |

Table C.7: Significance ES-TimeBank - best layer.

| Model         | XLM-R | XLM-R_NS | XLM-R_TBD | XLM-R_TB | w2v     | w2v_NS  | BASELINE |
|---------------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| XLM-R (11)    | –     | 1.000    | 0.043     | 0.002    | < 0.001 | < 0.001 | 0.045    |
| XLM-R_NS (11) |       | –        | 0.066     | 0.003    | < 0.001 | < 0.001 | 0.035    |
| XLM-R_TBD (9) |       |          | –         | 0.241    | 0.097   | 0.052   | 0.691    |
| XLM-R_TB (8)  |       |          |           | –        | 0.668   | 0.470   | 0.520    |
| w2v           |       |          |           |          | –       | 0.780   | 0.290    |
| w2v_NS        |       |          |           |          |         | –       | 0.184    |
| BASELINE      |       |          |           |          |         |         | –        |

Table C.8: Significance EN-TimeBank - best layer.

| Model          | XLM-R | XLM-R_NS | XLM-R_TBD | XLM-R_TB | w2v     | w2v_NS | BASELINE |
|----------------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|----------|
| XLM-R (10)     | –     | 0.256    | 1.000     | 0.212    | < 0.001 | 0.072  | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_NS (7)   |       | –        | 0.382     | 0.015    | < 0.001 | 0.003  | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TBD (10) |       |          | –         | 0.177    | < 0.001 | 0.036  | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TB (4)   |       |          |           | –        | 0.013   | 0.532  | < 0.001  |
| w2v            |       |          |           |          | –       | 0.065  | < 0.001  |
| w2v_NS         |       |          |           |          |         | –      | < 0.001  |
| BASELINE       |       |          |           |          |         |        | –        |

Table C.9: Significance IT-TimeBank - best layer.

| Model         | XLM-R | XLM-R_NS | XLM-R_TBD | XLM-R_TB | W2V     | W2V_NS  | BASELINE |
|---------------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| XLM-R (8)     | -     | 0.804    | 0.503     | < 0.001  | < 0.001 | < 0.001 | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_NS (8)  |       | -        | 0.286     | 0.003    | < 0.001 | < 0.001 | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TBD (8) |       |          | -         | 0.015    | 0.009   | 0.002   | < 0.001  |
| XLM-R_TB (7)  |       |          |           | -        | 0.608   | 0.164   | < 0.001  |
| W2V           |       |          |           |          | -       | 0.327   | 0.005    |
| W2V_NS        |       |          |           |          |         | -       | 0.038    |
| BASELINE      |       |          |           |          |         |         | -        |

Table C.10: Significance FR-TimeBank - best layer.