

Analysis of Consumer Sentiments towards Online Shopping Using Context-Free Grammar and Deep Learning



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ABSTRACT

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natural language processing, sentiment analysis, TF-IDF, context-free grammar, deep learning

Consumer reviews represent customer sentiment. They provide valuable insights that businesses can use to improve product or service quality and meet customer needs. Therefore, this research presents an analysis of consumer sentiments towards online shopping using Context-Free Grammar and Deep Learning. It tested the effectiveness of classifying consumer sentiments from 3,600 product or service reviews. The dataset included three types of sentiment categories: Positive, Negative, and Neutral. Context-Free Grammar (CFG) was used to assign term functions as sentiment indicators, and Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) was used for feature selection. A threshold value was then assigned to each term that represented the sentiment categories. The dataset was divided into 15-fold cross-validation to test the effectiveness of the model before Deep Learning algorithm was used to classify the sentiments. Deep Learning algorithms have the capability to learn complex relationships between terms, allowing for precise sentiment classification. The evaluation showed that using CFG and TF-IDF for term weighting improved the selection of keyword features, leading to significantly more precise sentiment classification. The average Precision, Recall, and F-measure were higher than exclusively using TF-IDF. Moreover, the determination of an appropriate threshold value reduced data complexity without affecting the accuracy of sentiment classification.

1. INTRODUCTION

The advancement of information technology plays a significant role in our daily lives. It increasingly impacts our daily routines, particularly through the application of artificial intelligence and deep learning to aid in analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making. Examples include a social media content filtering, product recommendations, and the analysis of consumer behavior in online shopping. Currently, online shopping, in particular, has continued to grow exponentially and continuously [1]. This trend has been accelerated by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the strict government measures to control the spread of Covid-19, which have made it impossible to engage in in-store shopping.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has led consumers to increasingly rely on online shopping due to concerns about infection [2]. Even though the outbreak has been declining, consumers' positive attitude and preference for online shopping continue to persist and are expected to increase even further in the future. In comparison, in-store shopping has decreased proportionally to one-third to half of online shopping instances [3]. Nevertheless, it does not necessarily mean that all products available on online shopping platforms will be popular and produce massive sales. In fact, a key factor motivating consumer purchasing decisions are product or service reviews from other consumers who had purchasing

experiences [4-6] since most consumers often learn from reviews before deciding to purchase a product [7]. Such reviews can be found directly on any online shopping platforms or from other online social networks. The opinions can vary, including positive, negative, and neutral [8, 9] which directly impact the product or service of the business mentioned in the review. If the customer's opinion goes in a positive direction, it can result in increasing product sales. However, if negative opinions are provided, even just a little, they can negatively impact the sale figures [10].

Consequently, businesses have become highly aware and given value to the customers' sentiments towards their products or services due to the fact that they can also utilize such information for the purpose of analyzing consumer opinions towards their products or services, known as Sentiment Analysis. Therefore, they can plan and develop their strategies to present their products or services [11, 12] in a way that meets the customer's needs to ensure customer retention.

In the light of the phenomena mentioned above, this research reports an analysis of consumer sentiments towards online shopping using Deep Learning in categorizing the polarity of sentiments into 3 categories: Positive, Negative, and Neutral through Syntactic Analysis, which relies on the Context-Free Grammar (CFG) method is used to assign features to terms in a sentence and to select significant

keywords based on their weight using the Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) method. TF-IDF is a popular approach in text classification that considers the frequency of terms appearing in the text, indicating sentiment. This process occurs before the sentiments are classified using a Deep Learning technique. Eventually, the performance of the model was evaluated of which the results can shed light on an analysis of customer sentiments towards products or services leading to improvement of the quality of products or services, and improvement of competitiveness in the market [13-15]. Furthermore, the data can be used to design products or develop other services to satisfy future consumers' desires.

2. METHOD

2.1 Steps for model development

This research employed Deep Learning to analyze consumer sentiments towards online shopping. It involves seven steps, including: 1) Data Collection, 2) Data Preprocessing, 3) Feature Selection, 4) Vector Space Model, 5) Cross-validation, 6) Classification, and 7) Performance Evaluation.

2.2 Data collection

The data were totally 3,600 consumer opinions in Thai collected from www.shopee.co.th and www.lazada.co.th, the two most popular online shopping platforms in Thailand.

2.3 Data preprocessing

Data preparation refers to the step of preparing data for processing which included the following steps: Tokenization, Context-Free Grammar (CFG), Stop Word, and Word Stemming.

(1) Tokenization is the process of breaking down large texts into individual words or phrases [16, 17], using spaces to define the boundaries between morphemes [18]. It is a crucial step in Natural Language Processing performed before further processing. In this research, the Longest Word Pattern Matching Technique was employed as it uses a combination of word cutting and dictionary-based word segmentation which promotes accurate boundary definition.

(2) Functional Specification is a process in which the function of each term in a sentence is identified using Context-Free Grammar (CFG) in conjunction with a Lexicon-Based Process to assign roles to terms in the Thai language. This approach involves analyzing the sentence structure without considering the meaning [19], but aims to identify the parts of speech of each term i.e., nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs, etc. through a Top-Down Parsing Approach which begins with analyzing the sentence string, then the nouns and verb phrases till the term string within the sentence.

S = NP + VP
 ร้าน + VP
 ร้าน + V + Adv + N + Adv
 ร้าน + บริการ + Adv + N + Adv
 ร้าน + บริการ + ดี + N + Adv
 ร้าน + บริการ + ดี + ลูกค้า + Adv
 ร้าน + บริการ + ดี + ลูกค้า + ฟังพอใจ

As shown in Figure 1, an example of Thai language top-down parsing. The Thai language classifies words into seven categories as follows: 1) nouns, 2) pronouns, 3) verbs, 4) adjectives, 5) adverbs, 6) conjunctions, and 7) prepositions. Unlike other languages, the Thai language does not have specific adjectives to modify nouns. Instead, it relies on adverbs to extend the meanings of nouns, pronouns, and verbs.

(3) Stop Words involves the process of filtering the commonly used words out of a document, for example, exclamation words, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, including special characters and symbols when the removal doesn't affect the overall message enough to lose meaning [20] [21]. This is because these stop words do not contribute to the document characteristics or represent the document.

(4) Stemming refers to the process of replacing morphological variants of a root word [22]. This process reduces redundancy and improves the accuracy of feature selection. In Thai, stemming is more challenging than in English because Thai lacks prefixes and suffixes. In this research, a lexicon was employed to compare a root word and select words with similar meanings.

2.4 Feature selection

Feature Selection, a process generally used in Machine Learning, occurs after the preprocessing step [23] targeting at reducing the dimensionality of data and decreasing processing time through the selection of effective and significant features for data classification [24, 25]. In this research, feature selection of terms was performed using the TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency) method, an effective matrix to reduce the dimensionality of data and select the best features.

2.5 Term frequency-inverse document frequency

Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) is a statistical technique used to determine the feature of keywords in a body of text [26]. The calculation involves multiplying two statistical values: the Term Frequency (TF), the frequency of an occurrence in the text, and the Inverse Document Frequency (IDF) [27, 28], measuring the feature of the term across all texts [29, 30]. TF-IDF can be calculated using the following equations.

$$TF - IDF = TF_{i,j} \times \log \left(\frac{N}{DF_i} \right) \quad (1)$$

where,

$TF_{i,j}$ is the frequency of term i appearing in text j

N is the frequency of term i appearing in text j

DF_i is the number of term i appearing in all document

2.6 Vector space model

$$VSM = \begin{bmatrix} w_{1,1} & w_{1,2} & w_{1,3} & w_{1,n} \\ w_{2,1} & w_{2,2} & w_{2,3} & w_{2,n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ w_{9,1} & w_{9,2} & w_{9,3} & w_{9,n} \\ w_{i,1} & w_{i,2} & w_{i,3} & w_{i,j} \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 1. An example of Thai language top-down parsing

Figure 2. Vector space model

The Vector Space Model is a linear mathematical model that converts texts into numbers [31]. This process transforms unstructured data into the structured set using the weights of terms as a feature of the text. The data is then represented in the form of a matrix [32], as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 shows the vector space model in a matrix with i rows and j columns, where W is the weight of term i in text j .

2.7 Cross-Validation

Cross-Validation is a technique used to evaluate the performance of a model by dividing the data into multiple parts. In this research, 15-fold cross-validation was employed. The method involves dividing the data into 15 equal parts. The model is then trained using data from parts 2-15, while the data from part 1 is used to test the performance of the model [33]. Eventually, this process is repeated until all the divided parts have been used for testing [34].

2.8 Deep Learning

Deep Learning is a machine learning technique that mimics how human neurons work by stacking neural networks into Multi-Layers [35, 36]. Deep Learning is commonly used to address various problems in different areas such as Sentiment Analysis, Speech Recognition, and Image Classification, etc. This technique consists of three layers: Input Layer, Hidden Layer, and Output Layer [37].

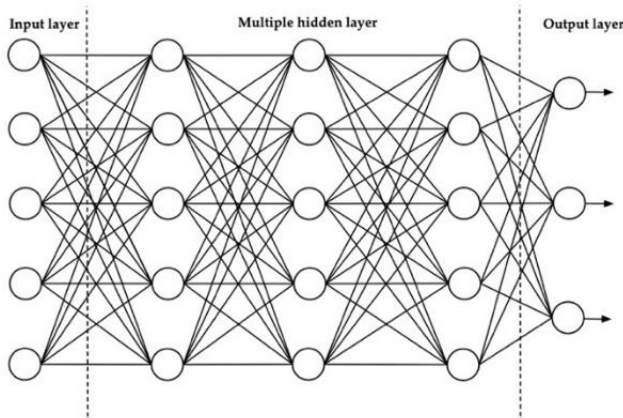


Figure 3. Deep Learning network architecture

As shown in Figure 3, the architecture of a Deep Learning network consists of 3 different layers. Each layer consists of nodes which represent neurons, corresponding to synapses and connected by edge as a network imitating the way the human brain functions. Each layer performs the following tasks: 1) the Input Layer receives data, 2) the Hidden Layer is situated between the Input and Output Layers and performs processing, and 3) the Output Layer combines the results obtained from the Hidden Layer [37].

2.9 Performance evaluation

To evaluate the performance of the model, the following metrics were applied in this research: 1) Precision, 2) Recall, and 3) F-Measure Model. These metrics can be calculated through the following equations:

$$Precision = \frac{True\ Positive}{True\ Positive + False\ Positive} \quad (2)$$

$$Recall = \frac{True\ Positive}{True\ Positive + False\ Negative} \quad (3)$$

$$F - measure = \frac{2 \times Precision \times Recall}{Precision + Recall} \quad (4)$$

In which True Positive is the number of texts predicted correctly as Class C, False Positive is the number of texts predicted incorrectly as Class C, and False Negative is the number of texts predicted incorrectly as not Class C [34].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, a Deep Learning model was created to classify customers' sentiments towards online shopping in which Context-Free Grammar (CFG) is applied to assign functions to terms in a sentence, together with an application of Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) to select term features. A minimum threshold value was assigned to terms that represented clear sentiment categories. The dataset was then divided into 15-folds through cross-validation before Deep Learning algorithms were used to evaluate the performance of the model by calculating the Precision, Recall, and F-Measure. The results of the model performance evaluation are as follows:

Table 1. Results of performance evaluation of the model analyzing consumer sentiments towards online shopping using Context-Free Grammar and Deep Learning

Sentence (n)	Class	Performance of Model					
		P	TF-IDF R	F	P	CFG & TF-IDF R	F
1,200	Positive	89.00	80.00	84.00	94.00	81.00	87.00
	Negative	91.00	81.00	86.00	94.00	93.00	93.00
	Neutral	70.00	92.00	79.00	77.00	93.00	84.00
2,400	Positive	93.00	82.00	87.00	96.00	88.00	92.00
	Negative	93.00	91.00	92.00	96.00	96.00	96.00
	Neutral	82.00	96.00	88.00	86.00	96.00	91.00
3,600	Positive	95.00	88.00	92.00	96.00	96.00	96.00
	Negative	88.00	97.00	92.00	97.00	96.00	97.00
	Neutral	96.00	93.00	95.00	96.00	96.00	96.00

Table 2. Comparison of the Precision of the model analyzing consumer sentiments towards online shopping using Context-Free Grammar and Deep Learning

Sentence (n)	Class	Performance of Model	
		TF-IDF Precision	CFG & TF-IDF Precision
1,200	Positive	89.00	94.00
	Negative	91.00	94.00
	Neutral	70.00	77.00
	Average	83.33	88.33
2,400	Positive	93.00	96.00
	Negative	93.00	96.00
	Neutral	82.00	86.00
	Average	89.33	92.67
3,600	Positive	95.00	96.00
	Negative	88.00	97.00
	Neutral	96.00	96.00
	Average	93.00	96.33

Table 3. The Recall of the model analyzing consumer sentiments towards online shopping using Context-Free Grammar and Deep Learning

Sentence (n)	Class	Performance of Model	
		TF-IDF Recall	CFG & TF-IDF Recall
1,200	Positive	80.00	81.00
	Negative	81.00	93.00
	Neutral	92.00	93.00
	Average	84.33	89.00
2,400	Positive	82.00	88.00
	Negative	91.00	96.00
	Neutral	96.00	96.00
	Average	89.67	93.33
3,600	Positive	88.00	96.00
	Negative	97.00	96.00
	Neutral	93.00	96.00
	Average	92.67	96.00

Table 4. The F-Measure of the model analyzing consumer sentiments towards online shopping using Context-Free Grammar and Deep Learning

Sentence (n)	Class	Performance of Model	
		TF-IDF F-Measure	CFG & TF-IDF F-Measure
1,200	Positive	84.00	87.00
	Negative	86.00	93.00
	Neutral	79.00	84.00
	Average	83.00	88.00
2,400	Positive	87.00	92.00
	Negative	92.00	96.00
	Neutral	88.00	91.00
	Average	89.00	93.00
3,600	Positive	92.00	96.00
	Negative	92.00	97.00
	Neutral	95.00	96.00
	Average	93.00	96.33

Table 1 shows the results of a performance evaluation of a model that analyzes consumer sentiments toward online shopping using Context-Free Grammar and Deep Learning. The evaluation compares the efficiency of the model in analyzing the polarity of consumer sentiment by using Context-Free Grammar (CFG) with TF-IDF weighting compared to using TF-IDF weighting alone. The evaluation includes Precision (P), Recall (R), and F-measure (F).

Table 2 shows the results of the performance evaluation of the model using Context-Free Grammar (CFG) together with the calculation of the weight of terms using TF-IDF to select

term features in a text with 1,200, 2,400, and 3,600 text samples revealed that the average Precision was 88.33%, 92.67%, and 96.33%, respectively. Furthermore, when considering the overall Precision, it was found to be higher than simply using TF-IDF to select term features alone. This means that using CFG together with the TF-IDF results in a better accuracy in identifying sentiments in text than exclusively using TF-IDF.

Table 3 shows the results from the evaluation of the model using Context-Free Grammar (CFG) combined with TF-IDF in selecting term features with 1,200, 2,400, and 3,600 text

samples showed that the average Recall were 89.00%, 93.33%, and 96.00%, respectively. When considering the overall Recall value, it was found to be higher than just using the TF-IDF. This means that using CFG in conjunction with TF-IDF promotes accurate classification of sentiments, with a higher number of correctly classified texts than using just TF-IDF weighting alone.

Table 4 shows the results of the performance evaluation of the model using Context-Free Grammar (CFG) combined with applying TF-IDF in assigning term features with the following numbers of test samples: 1,200, 2,400, and 3,600, showed that the average F-Measure was 88.00%, 93.00%, and 96.33%, respectively. Moreover, overall, the F-Measure was found to be higher than exclusively using the TF-IDF method for feature selection. This means that using CFG with TF-IDF weighting allows more accurate classification of sentiment compared to the use of only the TF-IDF method.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a model used for analyzing the sentiments of online shoppers. The model categorizes sentiment polarities into three categories: Positive, Negative, and Neutral. It uses the technique of Context-Free Grammar (CFG) to assign functions of terms in a sentence and term weighting through the Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) method to determine threshold values for keywords that represent clear sentiment categories. The data is then divided into 15-fold cross-validation before a Deep Learning algorithm is used to evaluate the model performance. The results showed that sentiment classification accuracy depends on Context-Free Grammar (CFG) accurately assigning term roles in the sentence, resulting in increased accuracy in the selection of keywords representing the text. Therefore, when the assignment of term roles is precise, it improves the accuracy of sentiment classification. Additionally, it was found that selecting good features can also reduce the size of the data without affecting the performance of sentiment classification, thereby reducing processing time.

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