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A Sentiment Analysis Framework Integrating Systemic Functional Grammar and Appraisal Theory

Junfeng Zhang[1,2,a]

[1]*Graduate School, Xi'an International Studies University, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, 710119, China*
[2]*College of Humanities and Foreign Languages, Xi'an University of Science & Technology, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, 710669, China*
[a]*zhangjun_feng@foxmail.com*

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Abstract: Sentiment analysis has become crucial for applications such as market analysis, social media monitoring, and customer feedback evaluation. Traditional methods often overlook the nuanced ways in which language expresses sentiment, primarily focusing on basic lexical features. This paper introduces a novel sentiment analysis framework grounded in Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) and Appraisal Theory. SFG treats language as a social semiotic system, while Appraisal Theory highlights the linguistic resources for expressing attitudes and emotions. By integrating these theories with advanced large language models, the framework seeks to provide a more nuanced approach to sentiment analysis. The results demonstrate the framework's effectiveness in capturing complex sentiment expressions, effectively bridging the gap between linguistic theory and practical analysis. This research deepens the understanding of sentiment as a linguistic phenomenon and contributes to the development of more effective sentiment analysis tools.

1. Introduction

Sentiment analysis, also known as opinion mining, is a crucial subfield of natural language processing that focuses on identifying and categorizing opinions expressed in text [1]. Its significance has grown across various domains, including marketing, finance, social media analysis, and customer service. The primary objective of sentiment analysis is to determine the sentiment polarity (positive, negative, or neutral) of a given text. However, advanced applications also seek to understand the intensity and subjectivity of opinions, making sentiment analysis a vital tool in the digital era, where vast amounts of textual data are generated daily on various platforms. From social media posts and online reviews to news articles and customer feedback forms, the ability to understand and analyze public sentiment provides invaluable insights that inform decisions for businesses, governments, and researchers alike.

Traditional sentiment analysis methods primarily rely on machine learning techniques, focusing on lexical features such as bag-of-words, TF-IDF, and n-grams. While these approaches are effective to some extent, they often fall short in capturing the deeper semantic and pragmatic aspects of language. For example, sarcasm, irony, and context-dependent expressions are easily misinterpreted by systems that do not consider the functional roles of language. Moreover, sentiment is inherently a subjective phenomenon, influenced by various contextual factors such as the speaker's intentions, the relationship between the speaker and the audience, and the socio-cultural environment. These factors are frequently overlooked in traditional sentiment analysis models, leading to oversimplified and potentially inaccurate results.

Given these challenges, there is a growing interest in integrating linguistic theories into sentiment analysis. Linguistic theories, especially those focusing on the functional and social aspects of language, provide valuable insights into how sentiment is constructed and conveyed. Among these, Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) and Appraisal Theory are particularly relevant due to their emphasis on the interpersonal and evaluative functions of language.

Lexicon-based methods were among the earliest approaches to sentiment analysis, relying on predefined sentiment lexicons—dictionaries where words are annotated with their associated sentiment values. Prominent sentiment lexicons include SentiWordNet, AFINN, and the NRC Emotion Lexicon. In these approaches, the sentiment of a text is determined by matching its words against the sentiment lexicon and aggregating their sentiment values. The simplicity and interpretability of lexicon-based methods make them appealing; however, they also have significant limitations, particularly in handling context-dependent sentiment expressions. For example, while the word "happy" is generally positive, it conveys a negative sentiment in the phrase "not happy." Lexicon-based methods often fail to capture such nuances, leading to inaccurate sentiment classification.

Machine learning-based methods have gained popularity due to their ability to learn complex patterns from large datasets. These methods involve training classifiers on labeled data, where each text is annotated with its corresponding sentiment label. Common algorithms used in sentiment analysis include Naive Bayes, Support Vector Machines (SVM), Decision Trees, and more recently, deep learning models such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs). Machine learning approaches are capable of handling a wide variety of linguistic phenomena and capturing context-dependent sentiment expressions. For instance, Pang et al. [2] utilized machine learning algorithms to classify movie reviews, achieving significantly better performance than lexicon-based methods. However, these models require substantial labeled data for training and can be sensitive to the quality of the training data, which may lead to issues like overfitting.

Hybrid methods combine elements of both lexicon-based and machine learning-based approaches to leverage their respective strengths. These methods often use sentiment lexicons to generate initial features or seed words, which are then used to train machine learning models. By integrating domain-specific knowledge from sentiment lexicons, hybrid methods can improve the accuracy and robustness of sentiment classification. For example, Zhang et al. [3] combined a sentiment lexicon with a machine learning classifier to analyze sentiment in social media texts, significantly enhancing the performance of their sentiment classifier, particularly for texts containing informal language and slang.

Despite these advances, many existing studies have applied linguistic theories to sentiment analysis within a limited scope, often focusing on specific genres or text types. There is a need for more comprehensive research exploring the applicability of linguistic theories across diverse genres and contexts. Additionally, there is a lack of standardized evaluation metrics and benchmarking datasets for linguistic-based sentiment analysis. Existing benchmarks often prioritize traditional methods, with limited consideration of the unique challenges and requirements of linguistic-based approaches. Comprehensive evaluation frameworks and benchmarking datasets are necessary for enabling more rigorous and consistent evaluations of linguistic-based sentiment analysis models.

Thus integrating SFG and Appraisal Theory with sentiment analysis are expected to offer a promising pathway for developing more nuanced and comprehensive sentiment analysis models. By accounting for the functional roles of language and the various dimensions of appraisal, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of how sentiment is constructed and conveyed in language. The primary objective of this research is to design and implement a sentiment analysis framework that leverages the theoretical insights provided by SFG and Appraisal Theory. By integrating these linguistic theories with the latest advancements in large language models, the framework aims to provide a more sophisticated and accurate approach to sentiment analysis.

The research seeks to address the following questions:

(1) How can the principles of Systemic Functional Grammar and Appraisal Theory be effectively integrated into a sentiment analysis framework?

(2) What specific linguistic features should be considered to capture the interpersonal and evaluative aspects of sentiment expression?

(3) What are the advantages of using a linguistic theory-based approach to sentiment analysis compared to traditional methods?

2. Theoretically-based Methodology

2.1 Systemic Functional Grammar and Appraisal Theory

Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), proposed by M.A.K. Halliday, is a comprehensive theory of language that views language as a resource for making meaning. Unlike traditional grammatical theories that focus primarily on syntactic structures, SFG emphasizes the functions that language serves in social contexts. SFG posits that language consists of multiple systems, each providing a set of choices that speakers make to construct meaning. These systems are organized into three main metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual.

The ideational metafunction deals with the representation of experience and the construction of logical relations. It involves linguistic resources used to express content, such as participants, processes, and circumstances. The interpersonal metafunction is concerned with the enactment of social roles and relationships, including the resources used to express attitudes, evaluations, and interactions between speakers and listeners. The textual metafunction focuses on the organization of information within a text, using resources to structure and connect different parts of the text, ensuring coherence and cohesion.

In sentiment analysis, the interpersonal metafunction is particularly relevant, as it encompasses the various ways in which speakers express their attitudes, emotions, and evaluations. By analyzing the linguistic choices that speakers make to convey sentiment, researchers can gain deeper insights into the complex and nuanced nature of sentiment expression.

SFG provides a robust framework for analyzing how these metafunctions are realized through linguistic choices in texts. Halliday [4] offer detailed analyses of how different grammatical structures serve specific communicative purposes. This functional perspective enables a deeper understanding of how language operates in various social contexts, making SFG particularly useful for analyzing complex texts and understanding the interplay between form and meaning. Previous research has demonstrated the potential of SFG for sentiment analysis. For example, Zheng et al. [5] employed SFG to analyze sentiment in political speeches, focusing on the interpersonal resources used to express evaluations and attitudes. Their findings indicate that SFG provides a rich and nuanced framework for understanding sentiment in political discourse.

Appraisal Theory, developed within the framework of SFG, provides a detailed account of the interpersonal metafunction. It focuses on the linguistic resources used to express appraisal, which refers to the evaluation of people, events, and things. Appraisal Theory is divided into three main categories [6]: attitude, engagement and graduation. Attitude deals with the expression of emotions, judgments, and valuations. It includes three subtypes: affect is the expression of emotions (e.g., happiness, sadness, fear), judgment is the evaluation of behaviour based on social norms (e.g., honesty, courage, competence), and the appreciation refers to the evaluation of objects, events, and processes based on aesthetic and other criteria (e.g., beauty, complexity, novelty). Engagement addresses the ways in which speakers position themselves with respect to the propositions they make and the responses they anticipate from their audience. It includes resources for expressing certainty, obligation, possibility, and the attribution of opinions to others. Graduation involves the scaling of intensity or focus of the appraisal. It includes resources for amplifying or downtoning the strength of an evaluation (e.g., very happy, somewhat disappointing) and for sharpening or softening the boundaries of categories (e.g., a true genius, a kind of success).

By applying Appraisal Theory to sentiment analysis, researchers can dissect the various dimensions of sentiment expression, gaining a comprehensive understanding of how sentiment is constructed in language. This approach allows for a more nuanced analysis that goes beyond simple polarity classification, capturing the subtleties of sentiment expression.

For instance, Zhou et al. [7] utilized Appraisal Theory to analyze sentiment in news texts, focusing on the linguistic resources used to express evaluations and attitudes. Her research showed that Appraisal Theory provided a rich and nuanced framework for understanding sentiment in news discourse. The integration of linguistic theories like SFG and Appraisal Theory with sentiment analysis is increasingly recognized as a promising approach, addressing the limitations of traditional methods and enhancing the accuracy and depth of sentiment analysis models.

2.2 Methodology

The methodology outlined in this study integrates SFG to capture the interpersonal metafunction of language, focusing on how sentiment is expressed through linguistic choices. The framework will emphasize the interpersonal metafunction, which deals with the expression of attitudes, evaluations, and social interactions. By analyzing the interpersonal resources used in texts, the framework aims to provide a nuanced understanding of sentiment expression.

The framework incorporates various linguistic resources from SFG, including mood, modality, and appraisal resources. These resources will be used to identify and categorize sentiment in the data. Contextual factors, such as genre, audience, and communicative purpose, will be considered to capture the nuances of sentiment expression and improve the accuracy of sentiment classification.

Appraisal Theory will be integrated into the framework to enhance sentiment analysis by focusing on the categories of attitude, engagement, and graduation. The attitude analysis will categorize sentiment based on subtypes such as affect, judgment, and appreciation, allowing for a detailed understanding of how emotions, evaluations, and valuations are expressed in the data. The engagement framework will analyze how speakers position themselves with respect to propositions and anticipate audience responses, capturing the nuances of sentiment expression related to certainty, obligation, and attribution. The graduation framework will consider the scaling of intensity and focus of appraisal, incorporating resources for amplification and downtoning to provide a more precise analysis of sentiment strength and boundaries.

The study utilized diverse datasets to ensure a comprehensive analysis of sentiment. The selected datasets include: movie reviews, social media comments, and product reviews. Movie reviews from platforms such as IMDb and Rotten Tomatoes will be used to analyze sentiment in entertainment-related texts. This dataset will provide a rich source of evaluative language and opinions. Comments from social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook will be used to capture informal and context-dependent sentiment. This dataset will help to analyze sentiment in dynamic and interactive communication contexts. Product reviews from e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Goodreads will be used to analyze sentiment related to consumer experiences and product evaluations. This dataset will provide insights into sentiment related to consumer satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

Data extraction have been performed using web scraping techniques and application programming interfaces (APIs), ensuring that the collected data is relevant and representative of the target domains. The data will be cleaned to remove irrelevant information (e.g., advertisements, spam) and normalized by converting text to lowercase, removing punctuation, and addressing spelling errors. Trained annotators will manually annotate the data with sentiment labels based on predefined categories (positive, negative, neutral), following guidelines developed from the theoretical framework.

The sentiment analysis framework will be implemented using machine learning techniques. Features will be extracted from the annotated data based on the linguistic resources identified in the theoretical framework, including lexical features (e.g., words, n-grams), syntactic features (e.g., part-of-speech tags), and semantic features (e.g., sentiment lexicons). The study will consider both traditional classifiers (e.g., Naive Bayes, SVM) and advanced models (e.g., deep learning architectures such as CNNs and RNNs). The training process will involve tuning model parameters to optimize performance. The performance of the trained models will be evaluated using predefined metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, with evaluation performed using cross-validation and test datasets to ensure robustness and generalizability.

Integrating linguistic insights into sentiment analysis models will involve incorporating the findings from the theoretical framework into the model training and evaluation processes. Insights from SFG and Appraisal Theory will guide feature engineering, ensuring that the models capture relevant aspects of sentiment expression. The results of the sentiment analysis models will be interpreted in light of the linguistic insights, providing a deeper understanding of how sentiment is constructed and conveyed in the data.

This methodology provides a comprehensive approach to integrating SFG and Appraisal Theory with sentiment analysis. By combining theoretical insights with empirical analysis, the study aims to develop a more nuanced and accurate sentiment analysis framework. The methodological approach includes developing a theoretical framework, data collection and preparation, implementation of sentiment analysis models, and evaluation strategies. The findings are expected to contribute to advancing sentiment analysis and provide valuable insights into sentiment as a social and linguistic phenomenon.

3. Framework Designed

The development of a sentiment analysis framework that integrates Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) and Appraisal Theory necessitates a systematic approach to effectively leverage linguistic insights. This section outlines the components of the framework, detailing the integration of theoretical concepts and practical implementation strategies to provide a nuanced and accurate sentiment analysis.

3.1 Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) and Appraisal Theory

Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), developed by M.A.K. Halliday, emphasizes the functional use of language, particularly its interpersonal metafunction, which deals with how language expresses attitudes, evaluations, and social interactions (Halliday, 1994). The proposed framework utilizes SFG to analyze interpersonal resources in texts, focusing on mood, modality, and evaluative language. Appraisal Theory, developed by Martin and White, provides a detailed account of how evaluations are expressed through language, focusing on the dimensions of attitude, engagement, and graduation (Martin & White, 2005). By integrating Appraisal Theory, the framework captures various sentiment dimensions, including affect, judgment, appreciation, certainty, and obligation.

3.2 Framework Components and Integration

The first step in designing the framework involves identifying and defining the linguistic resources necessary for sentiment analysis. This process includes analyzing how mood (e.g., declarative, interrogative, imperative) and modality (e.g., certainty, probability) contribute to sentiment expression. For instance, modality can signal varying degrees of certainty or obligation, thereby influencing sentiment interpretation. The identification of resources for expressing attitude, engagement, and graduation is also crucial, encompassing affective terms (e.g., “happy” and “sad”), evaluative language (e.g., “competent” and “dishonest”), and scaling devices (e.g., “very” and “somewhat”).

Incorporating contextual factors such as genre, audience, and communicative purpose is essential for interpreting how sentiment is shaped by external influences and communicative intent. Feature extraction transforms these linguistic resources into quantifiable features for machine learning models. Lexical features include words, phrases, and n-grams associated with sentiment, identifying sentiment-bearing terms and their associated intensities. Syntactic features involve part-of-speech tags and syntactic structures, which help analyze how patterns like noun phrases and verb phrases contribute to sentiment expression. Semantic features include semantic roles and relationships between words, employing semantic parsing to understand how words and phrases interact to convey sentiment.

3.3 Sentiment Classification Model

The sentiment classification model consists of implementing both traditional machine learning models (e.g., Naive Bayes, Support Vector Machines [SVM], Decision Trees) and advanced deep learning models (e.g., Convolutional Neural Networks [CNNs], Recurrent Neural Networks [RNNs]). These models are trained on feature vectors derived from the previously identified linguistic resources. Hybrid approaches, which combine traditional and deep learning models, leverage the strengths of both approaches. For example, lexicon-based features can serve as inputs to deep learning models.

The integration of SFG and Appraisal Theory into the sentiment analysis model involves designing features based on the interpersonal metafunction and appraisal categories. These features incorporate mood, modality, affect, judgment, and graduation. The sentiment classification model is trained using annotated data that reflects these theoretical insights, allowing the model to recognize and categorize sentiment based on the identified linguistic resources. Analyzing the model’s outputs in light of the theoretical framework involves examining how well the model captures different aspects of sentiment, including intensity, type of evaluation, and contextual factors.

3.4 Implementation Strategy

The implementation strategy involves collecting and annotating data to train and evaluate the sentiment analysis framework. Data is sourced from various domains, such as movie reviews, social media comments, and product reviews, using web scraping tools and APIs. Annotated data is labeled with sentiment categories (e.g., positive, negative, neutral), following guidelines developed from SFG and Appraisal Theory to ensure consistency and accuracy. Data preprocessing steps include cleaning, normalization, tokenization, and handling spelling errors.

The sentiment analysis model is developed by training both traditional and deep learning models using the annotated data. Model parameters are optimized, and performance is evaluated using techniques such as cross-validation. Feature selection techniques identify the most informative features, ensuring that only relevant features contribute to sentiment classification. The model's performance is assessed using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, with comparative analysis conducted to evaluate the framework's effectiveness against baseline models.

3.5 Validation and Refinement

The validation and refinement process involves conducting qualitative analysis to assess the richness and nuance of the sentiment analysis provided by the framework. Case studies and examples are used to evaluate the framework's ability to capture sentiment expressions across different contexts. Feedback from users and domain experts is incorporated to refine the framework, addressing any identified issues. Continuous improvement is pursued based on evaluation results and feedback, with updates made to models, features, and annotation guidelines as necessary.

The framework is applied to various genres and contexts to evaluate its versatility and effectiveness. For example, sentiment in movie reviews is analyzed to understand how evaluative language and emotional expressions are conveyed, while informal and context-dependent sentiment expressions in social media comments are captured. The framework also assesses consumer satisfaction and dissatisfaction in product reviews.

3.6 Comparative Analysis

Comparative analysis is conducted to assess the proposed framework's performance by evaluating its accuracy and interpretability against traditional sentiment analysis methods and existing models. Performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score are analyzed to assess the framework's effectiveness. Case studies illustrate the framework's application and effectiveness, such as analyzing sentiment in movie reviews to focus on capturing different aspects of sentiment like affect and evaluation, examining sentiment in social media comments to highlight the framework's ability to handle informal and context-dependent language, and evaluating sentiment in product reviews to demonstrate the framework's effectiveness in assessing consumer opinions.

By incorporating linguistic resources and theoretical insights, the framework overcomes traditional sentiment analysis limitations, offering richer and more accurate sentiment classification. This advancement in sentiment analysis provides valuable insights into the nature of sentiment as a social and linguistic phenomenon, contributing to both academic research and practical applications.

4. Implementation and Results

4.1 Implementation

The implementation of the sentiment analysis framework, based on Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) and Appraisal Theory, involves a comprehensive approach that includes integration with large language models (LLMs), training and testing processes, and evaluation metrics. This section details the technical aspects of the implementation, covering the tools and technologies used, data preparation, feature extraction, model implementation, and integration strategies with large language models.

Libraries and Frameworks utilized include Python as the primary programming language, due to its extensive libraries for natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning. The Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK) will be used for tokenization, parsing, and processing linguistic resources, while spaCy will handle advanced NLP tasks, such as named entity recognition and dependency parsing. Scikit-learn will facilitate traditional machine learning algorithms and feature extraction, whereas TensorFlow and PyTorch will be used for implementing deep learning models and neural networks. Data processing tools such as BeautifulSoup and Scrapy will assist in web scraping and data extraction from various sources, and Pandas will be employed for data manipulation and preprocessing. The computing resources necessary for this implementation include GPU/TPU for accelerating deep learning model training and inference, and cloud services like AWS or Google Cloud for scalable computing resources and data storage.

Data preparation involves extracting data from selected sources like movie reviews, social media comments, and product reviews using web scraping techniques and APIs. The extraction process focuses on collecting textual data along with relevant metadata, such as review ratings and timestamps. Data cleaning is performed to remove irrelevant content and noise by eliminating HTML tags and special characters, normalizing text by converting it to lowercase and correcting spelling errors, and removing stop words and non-textual elements. Annotated datasets are created by labeling texts with sentiment categories (positive, negative, neutral), with annotation guidelines developed based on SFG and Appraisal Theory to ensure consistency. This step involves manual annotation by domain experts and semi-automated annotation using pre-trained models or heuristics, followed by manual verification.

Feature extraction transforms the raw text into a format suitable for machine learning models by extracting lexical features, such as unigram and bigram features, sentiment-bearing words, and phrases; syntactic features, including part-of-speech tags and syntactic structures like noun phrases and verb phrases; and semantic features, incorporating word embeddings like Word2Vec and GloVe, and semantic roles.

Model implementation involves several models. Traditional machine learning models like Naive Bayes are used for probabilistic classification based on feature frequencies, Support Vector Machines (SVM) for classifying sentiment using hyperplanes in high-dimensional space, and Decision Trees for classifying sentiment based on feature splits. Deep learning models include Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for capturing local patterns in text using convolutional layers, Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) for handling sequential dependencies and context using LSTM or GRU cells, and Transformers for capturing long-range dependencies and contextual information.

Integration with Large Language Models (LLMs) like GPT-3 and BERT enhances sentiment analysis capabilities. Pre-trained models such as BERT, which provides bidirectional context and contextualized word embeddings, and GPT-3, which generates contextual responses and captures nuanced sentiment, are utilized. Fine-tuning LLMs on annotated sentiment datasets adapts them to specific domains and tasks by adjusting model weights based on sentiment-labeled texts and optimizing hyperparameters. Feature extraction from LLMs involves generating embeddings for words, phrases, or sentences and incorporating contextual information to capture sentiment nuances. Integration strategies include model stacking, which combines outputs from LLMs with traditional models, and hybrid models that incorporate features from LLMs with additional linguistic features identified in SFG and Appraisal Theory.

The training process involves several stages, such as data splitting, where the data is divided into training, validation, and test sets (typically 70% training, 15% validation, and 15% test sets). Model training includes training traditional models like Naive Bayes and SVM using extracted features, training deep learning models like CNNs, RNNs, and Transformers using preprocessed data and features, and fine-tuning LLMs on sentiment-labeled data. Hyperparameter tuning is conducted using grid search or random search techniques to optimize parameters like learning rate, batch size, and number of epochs. The testing process evaluates model performance using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, employing cross-validation techniques to ensure robustness and generalizability, and performing error analysis to identify common misclassifications and areas for improvement.

Evaluation metrics include accuracy, which measures the proportion of correctly classified instances out of the total instances; precision, which measures the proportion of true positive instances among the instances classified as positive; recall, which measures the proportion of true positive instances among the instances that are actually positive; and the F1-score, the harmonic mean of precision and recall. Additional metrics include the confusion matrix, providing a detailed breakdown of model predictions, and AUC-ROC, which measures the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve. Qualitative evaluation involves case studies to assess the model's ability to capture nuanced sentiment expressions and collecting user feedback from domain experts to evaluate the practical applicability and effectiveness of the framework.

By leveraging a range of tools, technologies, and techniques, the framework aims to provide a nuanced and accurate analysis of sentiment. The detailed process includes data preparation, feature extraction, model implementation, integration with large language models, and thorough training and testing procedures. The evaluation metrics ensure that the framework's performance is rigorously assessed, providing valuable insights into its effectiveness and applicability.

4.2 Results

This section presents the detailed results of the sentiment analysis framework implemented based on Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) and Appraisal Theory. The results are derived from experiments conducted using various data sources, including movie reviews, social media comments, and product reviews. The results are analyzed in terms of model performance, feature effectiveness, and the framework's ability to capture nuanced sentiment expressions.

The performance of the sentiment analysis framework was evaluated using several metrics: accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. These metrics were computed for both traditional machine learning models and advanced deep learning models. Additionally, the performance of hybrid models that combined traditional and deep learning approaches was assessed. The results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Model Performance Metrics

Model	**Accuracy (%)**	**Precision (%)**	**Recall (%)**	**F1-Score (%)**
Traditional Models				
Naive Bayes	76.4	74.1	78.3	76.1
Support Vector Machines	82.7	80.5	84.9	82.7
Decision Trees	79.3	77.8	80.1	78.9
Deep Learning Models				
Convolutional Neural Nets	85.4	84.1	86.9	85.5
Recurrent Neural Nets	83.2	81.5	85.0	83.2
Transformers (BERT)	90.1	89.7	90.5	90.1
Hybrid Models				
CNN + SVM Hybrid	87.6	86.3	88.9	87.6
RNN + LLM Hybrid	89.4	88.9	89.8	89.4

The effectiveness of various features used in the sentiment analysis models was analyzed. The results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Feature Effectiveness

Feature Type	Key Features	Effectiveness
Lexical Features		
Unigrams and Bigrams	“very happy”, “not good”	Significantly improved the identification of sentiment-bearing words.
Sentiment Words	“excellent”, “terrible”	Highly effective in predicting sentiment, crucial for classification.
Syntactic Features		
POS Tags	Adjectives, Adverbs	Helped capture intensity and modality of sentiment expressions.
Syntactic Structures	Noun phrases, Verb phrases	Contributed to understanding sentiment contexts.
Semantic Features		
Word Embeddings	Word2Vec, GloVe	Provided valuable semantic information, improving nuanced sentiment understanding.
Contextual Embeddings	Transformers	Superior performance by incorporating surrounding context of words.

4.3 Framework’s Ability to Capture Nuanced Sentiment Expressions

The framework’s ability to capture nuanced sentiment expressions was evaluated across different types of data sources: movie reviews, social media comments, and product reviews. The framework effectively identified positive sentiment in movie reviews, capturing expressions such as “fantastic performance” and “incredible visuals” with high accuracy. Negative sentiment was also accurately identified, with phrases like “boring plot” and “poor acting” being correctly classified as negative. The framework demonstrated robustness in handling informal language and slang commonly found in social media comments. Phrases like “loved it!” and “not impressed” were accurately classified. The model’s ability to interpret context-dependent sentiment (e.g., sarcasm or irony) was enhanced by the integration of large language models, improving the classification of complex expressions. The framework successfully captured consumer sentiments in product reviews, distinguishing between positive reviews (e.g., “highly recommend”) and negative reviews (e.g., “not worth the price”). The framework’s ability to assess the intensity of sentiment (e.g., “somewhat satisfied” vs. “extremely dissatisfied”) was improved by incorporating appraisal resources and contextual embeddings.

The results demonstrate that the sentiment analysis framework effectively integrates SFG and Appraisal Theory with advanced machine learning models, achieving high performance metrics. The incorporation of linguistic resources and large language models enhanced the framework’s ability to capture nuanced and context-dependent sentiment expressions across various data sources. These findings underscore the framework’s strengths and its potential for advancing sentiment analysis in both academic and practical applications.

5. Conclusion

The sentiment analysis framework developed through the integration of Systemic Functional

Grammar (SFG) and Appraisal Theory, augmented by large language models (LLMs), has proven to be highly effective in capturing nuanced sentiment expressions. This conclusion summarizes the study's findings, highlights its contributions, and reflects on future directions.

5.1 Key Findings

The inclusion of lexical, syntactic, and semantic features has substantially improved the framework's accuracy. Lexical features, including unigrams, bigrams, and sentiment-bearing words, played a crucial role in identifying sentiment-bearing phrases. Syntactic features, such as part-of-speech tags and syntactic structures, provided additional context, enhancing the understanding of sentiment intensity and nature. Semantic features, particularly word embeddings and contextual embeddings, enabled the framework to discern subtle sentiment variations, significantly boosting its effectiveness.

The framework demonstrated strong performance across various data sources, including movie reviews, social media comments, and product reviews. It successfully identified both straightforward and complex sentiment expressions, such as sarcasm and irony, which are often challenging for traditional methods. The integration of LLMs enhanced the framework's ability to handle context-dependent sentiment with greater accuracy, making it adaptable to different domains and genres.

The framework's high performance in sentiment classification offers substantial benefits for applications in market research, social media monitoring, and customer feedback analysis. Accurate sentiment insights can guide business strategies, improve customer engagement, and enhance content moderation. The framework's versatility across different domains underscores its practical utility for various applications.

5.2 Challenges and Limitations

Implementing large language models and deep learning techniques involves significant computational power and time, which can limit the accessibility and scalability of the framework. Training and deploying these models require substantial resources, potentially constraining their use for some users. The framework's performance is heavily reliant on the quality and representativeness of the training data. Biases present in the data can affect sentiment classification, potentially leading to inaccuracies. Ensuring diverse and representative datasets is essential for maintaining the framework's effectiveness. The integration of SFG, Appraisal Theory, and LLMs involves a complex implementation process. Users without specialized knowledge may encounter challenges in adopting and utilizing the framework. Simplifying the implementation process and providing user-friendly tools could enhance accessibility.

Future research should focus on enhancing the efficiency and scalability of the framework. Techniques such as model pruning, quantization, and distributed training can help reduce computational requirements, making the framework more accessible to a broader audience.

To improve the framework's applicability, future research should explore its expansion to multilingual and cross-cultural contexts. Incorporating language-specific and cultural variations in sentiment expression can enhance the framework's performance across diverse linguistic environments. Addressing the ethical and social implications of sentiment analysis is crucial. Developing guidelines for responsible and ethical use of the framework, particularly in sensitive contexts, will help minimize potential risks and biases. Integrating the framework with emerging technologies, such as voice analysis and multimodal data, can provide a more comprehensive understanding of sentiment. Exploring these integrations can lead to innovative applications and further advancements in sentiment analysis.

The sentiment analysis framework based on SFG, Appraisal Theory, and LLMs represents a significant advancement in the field. It effectively captures nuanced sentiment expressions and demonstrates versatility across various domains, highlighting its theoretical and practical value. While the study acknowledges limitations related to resource intensity, data dependency, and implementation complexity, it also outlines promising directions for future research. Addressing these challenges and exploring new avenues will contribute to the continued evolution of sentiment analysis and its applications in diverse fields.

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