

# Sentiment Analysis on Social Networking: A Case Study of Chiang Mai Tourism

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## Abstract

With the rise of the social networking epoch, there has been a surge of user-generated content. Microblogging sites have millions of people sharing their thoughts daily because of their characteristic short and straightforward manner of expression. We propose an investigate a paradigm to the sentiment from a popular real-time microblogging service, Twitter, where users post real-time reactions and opinions on Chiang Mai tourism through retweets or hashtags Chiang Mai review.

In this paper, we expound on a hybrid approach using the accuracy of three machine learning algorithms (Support Vector Machines, Naïve Bayes, and K-Nearest Neighbor) in predicting the sentiments of the retweets or hashtags in Chiang Mai review were investigated. The results found that the support vector machine provided the best results, with a maximum accuracy of 97.50 % on both positive and negative comments.

Subsequently, the comments were gathered to provide customer insights and suggestions to help increase tourism in Chiangmai. The results of this study suggest that it can help entrepreneurs to develop service quality and marketing strategies for customers in their tourist destinations, tourist attractions, restaurants, and nightlife.

**KEYWORDS:** Sentiment analysis, Social networking, Twitter, Chiang Mai tourism

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The widely of social media is bringing an increase in user-generated content (UGC). In this context, sentiment analysis is making growth in marketing and finance. It is effective computing research and is widely recognized as a Natural Language Processing (NLP), which broadly analyses users' opinions, and reviews (Poria et al., 2017). The sentiment analysis aims to evaluate a textual item expressed in a positive or negative opinion in general terms or any given entity (Nakov et al., 2016). The sentiment classification is well-defined words and phrases with a definitive score. Indeed, research has developed algorithms and methods to automatically detect the underlying text (Sun et al., 2017). Many companies deploy it to make better decisions and understand customer behavior and thoughts about their company or products. While several studies have examined the reactions toward products or companies (Paolanti et al., 2017).

As tourists have become more experienced and digitally literate, they have gained access to information and increased power of choosing by utilizing ICT, especially in Thailand (Valdivia Pérez et al., 2009). As a result, the Internet, especially social media, has changed how

people travel. People often seek travel experiences online during which the undertaking of the travel and the post-travel phase, during which they often share their experiences and journeys online through social media, which may cause others to make decisions to travel (Flores-Ruiz et al., 2021). Accordingly, social media has become the most popular source of inspiration for travelers searching for leisure and entertainment opportunities and new tourist destinations, as the tourism industry is one of the highest-income industries in Thailand. Foreign travelers and Thai people also enjoy traveling to Chiang Mai, the most popular destination due to being a significant hub in the Northern part of Thailand (Tourism Authority of Thailand, 2022). According to the sustainable tourism development strategies, one of the main objectives is to minimize the negative social and ecological impacts, improving visitors' experience and quality of life (Gursoy et al., 2019). Despite the potential of sentiment analysis, exploiting the massive reviews and posts by tourism, this is limited since the studies are costly and time-consuming if the entrepreneurs collect the data manually. Therefore, comprehensive extraction will receive practical knowledge from sentiment analysis.

Social media platforms, especially Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and, Tiktok have overgrown in recent years, providing information for analyzing social trends and opinions. Social media platforms also benefit travelers who wish to understand the travel industry better. Twitter has over 368.4 million active users worldwide, while 11.4 million active users in Thailand in 2022, which is the second rank in Southeast Asia (Statista, 2022). Using specific hashtags on Twitter, it is possible to find tweets related to a particular topic and thereby analyze people's opinions on tourism in Chiang Mai, Thailand, as it has been mainly used in the area of tourism researchers utilize Twitter data (Mehraliyev et al., 2021). Moreover, The upsurge of social media, usage of digital devices, and the Internet of things embroils massive real-time data generation. Customer reviews are essential to other potential customers to understand customers' opinions and help them to make decisions.

However, It becomes challenging for businesses to obtain a comprehensive view of the datasets regarding customers' ideas or reviews. It requires proper analysis of customer reviews to enable potential users to have positive and negative opinions of products and services. Therefore it is highly desirable to produce an automatic analysis or summary of customer reviews that may impact gaining profits and achievement of enterprise on the worldwide market. Currently, sentiment analysis is a popular technique to understand the opinions and feelings of people based on text and a large amount of data [10]. As a result, many researchers try to use machine learning to perform sentiment and opinion mining. Therefore, this research aims to

1. To test the sentiment analysis model from social network comments
2. To compare Support Vector Machines (SVM) algorithms, Naïve Bayes algorithms, and K-Nearest Neighbor kNN algorithms in model testing to classify opinions in segmentation into learning datasets.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of the model and the acceptance value of the analysis of opinions on social networking sites about tourism as well. Accuracy, Prediction (Precision), Probability (Recall)

## 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

The upsurge of social media, usage of digital devices, and the Internet of things embroils massive real-time data generation. Customer reviews are essential to other potential customers to understand customers' opinions and help them to make decisions. However, It becomes challenging for businesses to obtain a comprehensive view of the datasets regarding customers' ideas or reviews. It requires proper analysis of customer reviews to enable potential users to have positive and negative opinions of products and services. Therefore it is highly desirable to produce an automatic analysis or summary of customer reviews that may impact gaining profits and achievement of enterprise on the worldwide market.

The current trends of technologies, especially computer science, management sciences, and the social sciences, have contributed to opinion and social media analysis. For the past few years, most research to date has found that online customer reviews has attracted attention from researchers of data mining and natural language processing that was used to track the relationship between words featured in the comments (Bagheri et al., 2013; Drus & Khalid, 2019; Puschmann & Powell, 2018). As a result, sentiment analysis was used to help companies know what customers think about their products and service, improving the quality according to customers' opinions (Chumwatana, 2015).

### 2.1 Social Media

Social media can be categorized into four types: Content communities (Youtube, Instagram), Social networking (Facebook, LinkedIn), Blogs (Reddit, Quora), and Micro-blogs (Twitter, Tumblr) (Ali et al., 2017). Due to the nature of social media, monitoring customers' comments has become a critical task. Although the companies seem to engage consumers through social media, many companies are not familiar with the data mining processes (Dai et al., 2013). In contrast, successful companies should have the ability to process all available information. Sentiment analysis refers to the machine learning techniques that use to evaluate and classify the opinions on a specific topic of interest (Rambocas & Pacheco, 2018). Kalia (2013) stated that the social media is used for advertisement. The companies used it for lunching the promotions, searching and recruiting the employess, and electronic commerce. Therefore, business tends to use more social media for getting into consumer insight, market intelligence and present an opportunity to learn about customer review and perceptions. Thus, sentiment analysis has received much attention from market research as a practical approach for analyzing social media content. The advantage of sentiment analysis is it collects and analyzes online comments in real-time. This analysis is especially significant to researchers as it can automatically extract high-quality data on emotional expressions.

### 2.2 Twitter Sentiment Analysis

The sentiment analysis found in the comments or tweets to provide useful indicators for many different purposes. Saif et al. (2012) stated that sentiment could be categorized into two groups, which is negative and positive words. According to (Drus & Khalid, 2019), implementing sentiment analysis can be used either Lexicon-based method, Machine learning method, or a mix of both methods. The Lexicon-based method is known as an unsupervised learning method

that does not require any training data as it depends on the dictionary. Most of the studies adapted Sentiwordnet and TF-IDF methods. Due to the complexity of languages, this approach is not designed to cover all aspect of language especially slang, sarcasm and negation. Moreover, there are some problems such as some words or sentence have different meaning based on the application (Akter & Aziz, 2016; Khan et al., 2016; Nasukawa & Yi, 2003).

Machine learning method is known as an supervise learning as it requires training data in order to be processed. The most used method is the SVM and Naïve Bayes model. Nevertheless, machine learning performs poorly on Facebook as it requires a huge amount of training sample. Furthermore, it is time consuming (Hasan et al., 2018; Kanade et al., 2020; Shobana & Murali, 2021). Interestingly, Dhaoui et al. (2017) found that both types perform very similar in terms of accuracy. In this research, the machine-learning-based approach is suitable for testing text data on Twitter as it has been widely used.

### 2.3 Machine Learning

It is a type of artificial intelligence and computer science, which focuses on using data and building algorithms that allow computers to learn from sample data or environments. To create prototypes or use algorithms to predict new data. The aim is to develop or improve the performance of the better system (Hasan et al., 2018)

2.3.1. Supervised learning is learning from the characteristics of sample data that have specified desired results or types and then used to predict other data that do not know the answer. In this regard, supervised learning can be applied to the estimation of data, classification of data and forecasting data (Depa, 2022).

2.3.2. Unsupervised learning is the creation of a model that fits with data without specifying the desired effect and it can be used for clustering (Depa, 2022). Nowadays, many researchers use the machine learning to perform the sentiment and opinion mining In this research, the supervised learning is suitable for testing text data on Twitter as it has been widely used (Ahmad et al., 2017; Ahuja et al., 2019; Hasan et al., 2018).

#### Support Vector Machine (SVM)

Support Vector Machine (SVM) is an algorithm used to analyze data and classify data based on the principle of coefficient of equations to create a line to distinguish data groups that are entered into the training process for the system to learn. with an emphasis on distinguishing groups of data (Bowornlertsutee & Paireekreng, 2022; Vateekul & Koomsubha, 2016)

#### Naïve Bayes

Naïve Bayes algorithm is a probabilistic machine-learning algorithm, which has a simple algorithm for classifying data by learning the problems to create new data classification conditions (Lewis, 1998). Naïve Bayes's principle is based on the principle of probability. It assumes that the amount of attention depends on the probability distribution (Bowornlertsutee & Paireekreng, 2022). It is a technique for solving the problems with predictable outcomes. By analyzing the relationship between the variables to create a probability condition for each relationship suitable for the case of a large number of sample sets and the attributes of the samples are not independent of each other.



Table 1: The example of the comments

N0	#Review Chiang Mai	Date
1	รีวิวห้องพักร้างลอง เชียงใหม่ถ่ายแบบวิวสวยเพราะไปเลท เราเลือกไปวันเสาร์เพราะเขามีบรรยากาศเรื่องควงควากับเปิดสารคดีในคอม(นอนดูแบบเต็มตาสุดๆ) เข้าฟรีจอร์จนแล้วมีรถกอล์ฟมารับไม่ต้องเดินให้เหนื่อย ใครอินเรื่องควงควางๆควงไปและเด็กขณะนั้นเดือนไว้ก่อน #รีวิวเชียงใหม่	30/10/2565
2	แจกพิกัด 4 จุดถ่ายรูปยอดนิยมในเชียงใหม่ มุมไหนก็สวย มุมไหนก็ปัง ลานเนินนุ่น - Nimman Hill/จุดชมวิวดาดฟ้าเมญา - One Nimman - จิวเหล็กเสื่อผ้าของแบรนด์ VALINEE ใส่ถ่ายที่ไหนก็สวยแมทซ์ บิงตุลา สามารถส่งสินค้าผ่าน DM หรือ Shopee ก็ได้เน้อ	30/10/2565
317	อยากโหลดโปรตีน บิงอย่างสายเกาหลีมาค่าาา  ลำโพงะ หัวละ 329.- ไม่รวมน้ำ เครื่องเคียงดี ไข่ตุ๋นเค็ลค หมูจะสไลด์ บางต่างจากร้านแม่ลำลำ แต่สไม่แพ้กันเลขจ้า มาक्रमือโทรจองเน้อ เช็คเงื่อนไขกับบอร์ในเพจร้านเน้อจ้า #รีวิวเชียงใหม่	30/10/2565

### 3.2 Data processing

This step classified the labeled data into two main categories (positive and negative), as the text information on social media is not natural language. Therefore, this process must be converted into a format that the computer language can learn. As a result, the text processing process has steps shown in Figure 3.

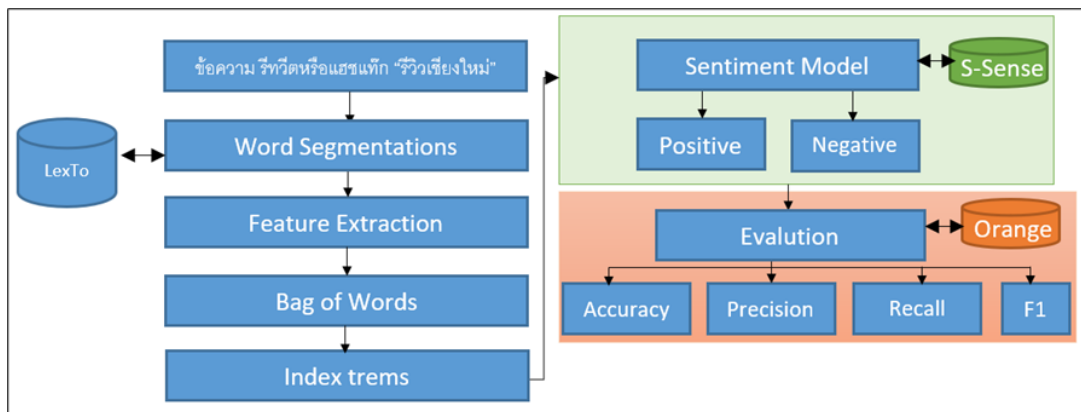


Figure 3: Data processing.

- Collecting the text from retweets or hashtags by "Review Chiang Mai" from Twitter.
- According to Thai, words are long sentences. In this research, we use a program for word segmentation of Thai words called the LexTo program, developed by the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC).
- Feature Extraction by tokenizing the words and filtering the length of words between 2 to 25 characters. At this stage, the Orange Data mining program was used.
- Bag of Words is the process used to describe a group of words without grammatical concern. In this process, we used the Orange Data mining program to create Indexing in order to evaluate the Term Weighting in single-word form.
- Sentiment Model, The S-Sense program was used to analyze opinions in three classification algorithms: Support Vector Machines (SVM), Naïve Bayes, and K-Nearest Neighbor for comparison.





Table 3: Negative emotion

Topics	Text	Sentiment	Score	Rank
Tourist destinations	แนะนำเส้นทางแตรครบจนจรชานสุดโหดที่ขมหลังห้วยตึงเฒ่า บันทะลุไปได้ถึงศาลากาแฟทางเมริม ขาโหดต้องไปโดน รมัคระวังอันตราขกันให้มาก #รีวิวเชียงใหม่	Negative	99.08	1
Tourist destinations	มาเชียงใหม่ครั้งนี้คิดหวังอะ ถนน-ไฟทางแย่มาก นิมนมามืดมากมืดแบบไม่ม่่าเชื่อว่าเป็นสถานที่ท่องเที่ยวสวยไฟ้อยลงมาจากจนถึงระดับคนเดิน ถนนพังหลายเส้นมาก ประดูท่าเพิ่มแต่ขยะและที่สำคัญเมืองมิดมาก ไม่เหมือนเมื่อก่อน #รีวิวเชียงใหม่	Negative	98.46	2
Tourist destinations	ที่พักในตัวเมืองเชียงใหม่ ราคาหลักร้อย สวย Maple Hotel Chiangmai เปิดตัวได้ไม่นาน มีที่จอดรถ ที่พักน่ารักคะ อยู่ใกล้ที่เที่ยวยะยะมาก เดินทางสะดวกมากคือ #รีวิวเชียงใหม่	Negative	96.97	3
Food	โดนพนักงานสุกี่ซ้างเผือกบุลี่เรื่องอ้วน เขาเอาแก้อีเหล็กมาเส้วพูดได้หน้าว่าแก้อีจะหักที่ตัวใหญ่ แทนที่จะพูดว่าขอเปลี่ยนแก้อีนะตัวนี้มันไม่แข็งแรง ตอนเนี่ยดูอึ้งไทยตัวเองอยู่เลย ว่าอ้วนมันคิดมากขนาดนั้นเลยหรอวะ #รีวิวเชียงใหม่	Negative	96	4
Service Quality	รีวิวสนามบินเชียงใหม่ คนเยอะมาก ที่ขบวินดีเลย์พิชข มีประกาศว่า เพราะออกค้นทางข้ากว่ากำหนด เลยมถึงนี้ข้่า เพื่อมีประโยชน์กับคนที่กำลังเดินทาง ขณะนี้ #รีวิวเชียงใหม่	Negative	94.12	5

Table 4: The model evaluations and model performance

Sentiment	Algorithm	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F-measure
Positive	SVM	97.50	98.70	97.90	98.30
	Naïve Bayes	96.60	97.90	97.50	97.70
	kNN	95.20	95.60	98.00	96.80
Negative	SVM	97.50	93.50	91.70	89.40
	Naïve Bayes	97.10	88.10	86.70	87.40
	kNN	96.20	87.30	72.50	81.70

### Positive (Positive emotion)

Support Vector Machines (SVM), the accuracy score was 97.50%, the prediction value (Precision) was 98.70%, the probability (Recall) was 97.90%, and the F-measure was 98.30%.

Naïve Bayes, the accuracy score was 96.60%, the prediction value (Precision) was 97.90%, the probability (Recall) was 97.50%, and the F-measure was 97.70%.

K-Nearest Neighbor (kNN), accuracy score was 95.20%, the prediction value (Precision) was 95.60%, the probability (Recall) was 98.00%, and F-measure 96.80%.

### Negative (Negative emotion)

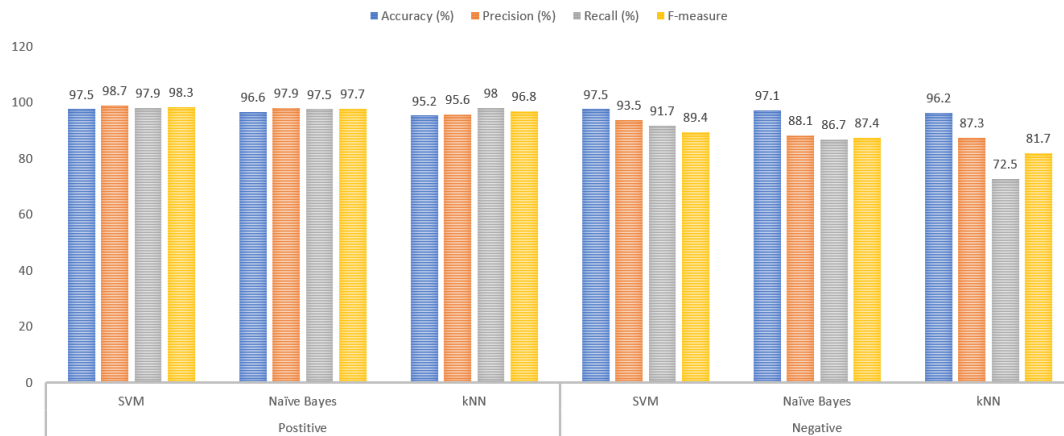
Support Vector Machines (SVM), the accuracy score was 97.50%, the prediction value (Precision) was 93.50%, the probability (Recall) was 91.70%, and the F-measure was 89.40%.

Naïve Bayes, the accuracy score was 97.10%, the prediction value (Precision) was 88.10%, the probability (Recall) was 86.70%, and the F-measure was 87.40%.

K-Nearest Neighbor (kNN), the accuracy score was 96.20%, the prediction value (Precision) was 87.30%, the probability (Recall) was 72.50% and F-measure 81.70%.

The Figure 4 show that when we considered the accuracy (Accuracy), prediction (Precision), probability (Recall), and F-measure in the simulation of all three algorithms, it was found that Support Vector Machines (SVM) classified provided the best results, with a maximum accuracy on both positive and negative emotions. Therefore, the SVM algorithm is an appropriate





**Figure 4:** Comparison between 3 algorithms

algorithm that can effectively analyze Chiang Mai tourism opinions.

## 5 CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

This research presents a method for analyzing Thai tourism opinions in Chiang Mai from social media users on Twitter in the form of retweets or hashtags, the so-called "Review Chiang Mai." Based on Thai language tweets related to Chiang Mai tourism. Using feature extraction and a Thai Lexeme Tokenization and Normalization Tool (LexTo) developed by the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC). Moreover, word segmentations from the dictionary compared Longest Matching and Lexitron were combined. These techniques are in line with the study of (Saensuk et al., 2020; Tesmuang & Chirawichitchai, 2020). Therefore, the LexTo program is suitable for extracting Thai text from comments from social media users. Similar to the S-sense program, it was used to analyze sentiments on social media in terms of the natural language processing techniques to analyze emotions from the text, as it has been widely used in other pieces of research. Haruechaiyasak et al. (2013) and Haruechaiyasak et al. (2018) used the S-sense program to analyze emotions and feelings from the text, and two sentiment levels were identified, positive and negative.

Three classification algorithms, Support Vector Machines (SVM), Naïve Bayes, and K-Nearest Neighbor, were used to test the classification model. It can be seen that the models can analyze two levels of emotional feelings and which support vector machine achieved the highest accuracy on all datasets. The result of this analysis was also in line with the studies of Ahmad et al. (2017) and Sontayasara et al.(2021) based on the optimistic view of the use of SVM classification in Sentiment analysis. Our research aligned with that of Kuhamanee et al. (2017) and (Leelawat et al., 2022), who found that among Support Vector Machines (SVM), Naïve Bayes, and K-Nearest Neighbor (kNN). However, for the number of analyzed terms unigrams can even provide higher accuracy than bigrams. The top 10 words implied that Twitter users have positive sentiments toward food, tourist destinations, and service quality in Chiang Mai, but negativesentiments toward the tourist destinations. It is likely that these negative impressions have greatly affected the tourism industry as (Leelawat et al., 2022) suggested.

## 6 LIMITATION AND SUGGESTION

The limitation of this study is that the S-Sense program analyzed only two levels of feeling: positive and negative, which may cause biased opinions. However, there will be some neutral opinions. Therefore, the analysis of three levels of feeling will make the model more accurate. The model should be performed to make predictions more efficiently by incorporating other algorithms into the data preparation process, such as sarcasm and Named-entity tagging to feature extraction, which includes emotional: positive, negative, and neutral, to perform a better model.

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*Proceeding of the 7<sup>th</sup> TICC International Conference 2023  
Toward Sustainable Development Goals: Transformation and Beyond  
February 4-5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Chiang Mai, Thailand*

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