Analysis of British Airways Reviews – Case Study (The Forage, Data Science)

Introduction

This case study focuses on analyzing customer reviews of **British Airways**, conducted as part of a data science project on **The Forage** platform. The objective was to perform **web scraping** from the **Skytrax** review website, clean and analyze the text data using various **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** methods, and interpret the results.

The key goals of this analysis were:

- Extract reviews related to British Airways,
- Analyze the sentiment of the reviews (positive/negative),
- Visualize the most common words using a WordCloud,
- Eliminate common words without emotional significance (stopwords) for more accurate analysis.

The outcome is a comprehensive study of customer sentiments regarding British Airways and the most frequently expressed opinions.

Analysis Process

1. Web Scraping Reviews Using BeautifulSoup

The first step was to collect review data from **Skytrax** using the **BeautifulSoup** library, which allows extracting text content from HTML pages.

The reviews were scraped from the following page:

Skytrax – British Airways Reviews

This process involved:

- Identifying the HTML structure of the website,
- Extracting text reviews and their metadata (e.g., date, rating, verification status).
- Saving the data into a CSV file for further analysis.

2. Data Cleaning

Once the data was collected, it had to be **cleaned**. This process involved removing unnecessary elements from the text, such as:

- "✓ Trip Verified |"
- "X"
- "✓ Verified Review |"
- Other special characters and excessive spaces

These elements had no relevance for sentiment analysis and only added noise to the data. After cleaning, the data was ready for further analysis.

3. Sentiment Analysis of Reviews

To determine whether reviews were **positive**, **neutral**, **or negative**, we used the **TextBlob** library.

Each review was converted into a **sentiment score**, where:

- Values > 0 indicate a positive review (the higher, the more positive),
- Value = 0 means a neutral review,
- Values < 0 indicate a negative review (the lower, the more negative).

Based on this analysis, we found that:

Percentage of positive reviews: 69.25%
Percentage of negative reviews: 30.24%

A sentiment distribution graph was created to visualize the split between positive and negative reviews.

Key Advantages of Sentiment Analysis

- 1. **Brand Reputation Monitoring** Tracks public perception on social media, reviews, and news, helping companies detect and respond to crises early.
- 2. **Market Research & Competitor Analysis** Identifies customer sentiment towards competitors, industry trends, and product positioning opportunities.
- 3. **Customer Experience Improvement** Helps businesses understand pain points, improve service quality, and personalize marketing strategies.
- 4. **Social Media & Political Insights** Analyzes public opinion on policies, elections, and social issues, detecting misinformation and trends.
- 5. **Automated Large-Scale Data Processing** Saves time and resources by quickly categorizing text as positive, negative, or neutral.
- 6. **Financial Market Predictions** Tracks investor sentiment and stock market trends based on news and social media analysis.
- 7. **Workplace & Employee Sentiment** Analyzes internal feedback to improve company culture and prevent high turnover.

4. WordCloud - Visualization of the Most Common Words

Another part of the analysis was creating a **WordCloud** – a graphical representation of **the most frequently used words in reviews**.

To ensure that results were not skewed by **common words without emotional significance** (e.g., *the, in, and, to*), we applied a **stopwords filter**. Stopwords included common **functional words, conjunctions, pronouns, numbers, and general terms** that have no emotional impact.

After removing these words, the WordCloud revealed frequently discussed topics such as "British Airways," "business," "service," "return," "seat," "economy," helping identify key themes in customer feedback.

Advantages of WordCloud: Why Use It?

- Quick and Intuitive Highlights frequently occurring words in a text.
- **Easy to Interpret** Visually appealing and simple to understand.
- Great for Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) Helps analyze text before deeper processing.
- Aids Text Preprocessing Identifies stopwords, misspellings, and redundant words
- **Supports Sentiment and Topic Analysis** Shows key themes in reviews, social media, etc.

Conclusion

The analysis of British Airways reviews provided valuable insights into how customers perceive the airline. Key findings include:

- Most reviews were positive (69.25%), but a significant portion (30.24%) were negative.
- The most frequently discussed topics included business class, economy class, and customer service.
- The WordCloud method highlighted key words in the reviews, while stopwords helped remove less relevant expressions.
- Sentiment analysis confirmed that British Airways generally receives positive feedback, but there is still room for improvement.

This study offers a deeper understanding of customer perception of British Airways and can be valuable for further improving the customer experience.