

CSAT Verbatims Analysis (FR)

CamemBERT Pipeline for Sentiment Classification

1. Context and Goal

Free provided anonymized French CSAT verbatims. The objective is to extract actionable insight from free text via sentiment classification. A hybrid setup (few-shot LLM prompting plus local components) was initially considered; however, no API key was issued for `deepseek/deepseek-r1-distill-llama-8b:fp8`, and the hosted Hugging Face endpoint requires authentication. To ensure timely delivery, reproducibility, and on-prem feasibility, a **fully local** approach was adopted: **CamemBERT** fine-tuned for sentiment.

2. Data and Method Implemented

Data.

SQLite export with verbatims (*commentaire*) and CSAT scores (1–5). CSAT is used to derive supervision signals for sentiment.

Model choice.

CamemBERT was selected for its strong FR performance, local/offline execution (no external API), and suitability for sentence-level fine-tuning within the available GPU budget.

Labeling from CSAT (supervision).

CSAT 1–5 is mapped to three classes:

$$1-2 \rightarrow \textit{Negative}, \quad 3 \rightarrow \textit{Neutral}, \quad 4-5 \rightarrow \textit{Positive}.$$

To handle score/text mismatches, a 4-class variant was also explored by splitting Positive into *Positive* and *Mixed-Positive* (high score with mixed/negative phrasing).

Preprocessing.

Preserve French accents and punctuation; drop empty/placeholder rows, duplicates, and ultra-short texts (≤ 3 tokens). Heavy normalization is avoided to keep CamemBERT tokenization effective.

Balancing & training.

Class imbalance is addressed via (i) class-weighted loss and (ii) mild oversampling of minority classes. Fine-tuning uses AdamW, linear warmup/decay, and early stopping on validation macro-F1. All runs execute locally and are reproducible.

Why not LLM zero-shot in production.

Zero-/few-shot trials (XLM-R/BART) and DeepSeek on HF were assessed. Without company API/tokens, hosted LLMs were not viable; early trials also produced excessive “Other” or noisy assignments. CamemBERT fine-tuning was therefore preferred for reliability and delivery.

3. Results (3 classes vs. 4 classes)

Validation compares the 3-class model (Negative/Neutral/Positive) with a 4-class variant that adds *Mixed-Positive* to capture high-score comments with mixed/negative phrasing.

Table 1: CamemBERT — 3 classes

Class	Precision	Recall	F1-score
Negative	0.88	0.79	0.84
Neutral	0.80	0.93	0.86
Positive	0.90	0.85	0.87
Macro Avg	0.86	0.86	0.86
Accuracy		85.6%	

Table 2: CamemBERT — 4 classes (adds Mixed-Positive)

Class	Precision	Recall	F1-score
Negative	0.64	0.67	0.65
Neutral	0.46	0.44	0.45
Positive	0.85	0.86	0.85
Mixed-Positive	0.79	0.76	0.77
Macro Avg	0.68	0.68	0.68
Accuracy		68.3%	

The 3-class model is reliable (macro-F1 0.86). Adding *Mixed-Positive* improves interpretability of score/text mismatches but increases task difficulty, reducing accuracy to 68.3%; *Neutral* remains the most challenging class, while *Positive* is stable. With additional *Mixed-Positive* examples and light augmentation, the 4-class gap is expected to narrow.

4. Evaluated Approaches

Zero-shot topic classification (XLM-R / BART MNLI).

Multilingual NLI zero-shot models (joeddav/xlm-roberta-large-xnli, facebook/bart-large-mnli) were tested to tag business categories (Billing, Network, Support, ...). Observed issues: (i) a high share of “Other” (~75%), (ii) unstable label thresholds across batches, and (iii) inconsistent handling of telecom-specific French terms (e.g., *RIO*, *portabilité*, *eSIM*) and very short comments, leading to noisy, inconsistent labels.

Few-/N-shot prompting.

Adding 2–6 French examples per class helped a few edge cases but outputs remained sensitive to prompt wording and noisy. At scale it was inefficient without a small labeled set to calibrate per-class thresholds, so quality stayed below target.

Hosted DeepSeek (HF).

deepseek/deepseek-r1-distill-llama-8b:fp8 on Hugging Face requires authentication; no company end-point/API was available in the project window. To keep the workflow reproducible and fully local, the pipeline prioritized CamemBERT fine-tuning for sentiment with a lightweight, interpretable keyword layer for categories.

5. Limitations and Mitigations

Score/Text mismatch.

High CSAT with mixed or negative wording creates ambiguity. A 4th class (*Mixed-Positive*) was introduced to separate “resolved-but-complaint” cases from clean positives, improving downstream interpretability.

Imbalance.

Positive comments dominate, biasing the classifier toward the majority class. Mitigation used (i) class-weighted loss and (ii) mild oversampling of minority classes, which improved recall for Neutral/Negative without materially hurting Positive.

6. Next Steps and Conclusion

A fully local CamemBERT pipeline delivers reliable 3-class sentiment (with an optional “Mixed-Positive” 4th class). To harden it for production:

- **Score/Text mismatch:** keep the *Mixed-Positive* option; relabel a small set (100–300) to correct conflicts; add simple “issue resolved” patterns; display CSAT and model outputs side-by-side in dashboards.
- **Imbalance:** retain class-weighted loss and targeted sampling; add Neutral/Negative examples; optionally test focal loss; track per-class F1 over time.
- **Categories:** evolve from keywords to a small supervised multi-label classifier (6–8 topics); later, with API access, augment via few-shot LLM and structured JSON outputs.

With these actions, the system is deployment-ready for sentiment and can be cleanly extended to robust topic classification.