airline review sentiment analysis

April 12, 2024

1 Airline Review Sentiment Analysis



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1.1 Overview

In this project, we aimed to enhance customer sentiment and loyalty for a popular airline by analyzing over 20,000 historical customer reviews. The primary challenge lay in identifying the most impactful factors on customer satisfaction from a broad dataset, leading to a focus on Natural Language Processing (NLP) to predict customer recommendations accurately.

The preparation phase involved train-test splits to prevent data leakage, punctuation removal, and conversion of reviews to lowercase to standardize the data. For Bag-of-Words models, we lemmatized reviews and created a TF-IDF matrix, selecting the 20,000 most relevant word vectors. Sequential models involved converting reviews into sequence vectors and using GloVe embeddings for an embedding matrix. This approach ensured our models could accurately interpret the nuanced language of customer reviews.

We tested a broad range of models, beginning with a dummy classifier and basic logistic regression for baseline comparisons. Our exploration included both Bag-of-Words and Sequential models, leveraging packages like Scikit-learn for logistic regression, MultinomialNB, GradientBoostingClassifier, RandomForestClassifier, and Keras for Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) with GloVe embeddings. The choice of models was guided by the need to accurately capture the sentiment expressed in textual reviews, with parameter tuning done using RandomizedSearchCV.

The final model is a Multi-Layer Perceptions model that achieved a 92% accuracy and 97% AUC on a previously unseen test set. We then used Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations (LIME) to uncover the strong influence of punctuality and kind customer service.

```
[1]: import os
     import warnings
     from collections import Counter
     import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
     import nltk
     import numpy as np
     import pandas as pd
     import seaborn as sns
     from lime.lime_text import LimeTextExplainer
     from nltk.corpus import stopwords, wordnet
     from nltk.stem import WordNetLemmatizer
     from nltk.tag import pos_tag
     from nltk.tokenize import RegexpTokenizer
     from sklearn.dummy import DummyClassifier
     from sklearn.ensemble import GradientBoostingClassifier, RandomForestClassifier
     from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer
     from sklearn.feature_selection import SelectKBest
     from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
     from sklearn.metrics import accuracy_score, roc_auc_score
     from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split, StratifiedKFold, __
      ⇔cross validate
     from sklearn.naive_bayes import MultinomialNB
     from sklearn.pipeline import Pipeline
     from sklearn.preprocessing import FunctionTransformer
     from tensorflow.data import AUTOTUNE as tf_AUTOTUNE, Dataset as tf_Dataset
     from tensorflow.keras.callbacks import EarlyStopping
     from tensorflow.keras.layers import Dense, Dropout, Embedding, Bidirectional,
      →GRU, TextVectorization
     from tensorflow.keras.models import Sequential
     from src import code
     nltk.download('stopwords', quiet=True)
     nltk.download('wordnet', quiet=True)
     nltk.download('averaged_perceptron_tagger', quiet=True)
     os.environ['TF_CPP_MIN_LOG_LEVEL'] = '3' # Suppress TensorFlow logging (1:
     →INFO, 2: WARNING, 3: ERROR)
     warnings.filterwarnings('ignore') # Suppress Python warnings
     tokenizer = RegexpTokenizer(r"([a-zA-Z]+(?:'[a-z]+)?)")
```

2024-04-10 23:37:23.842271: I tensorflow/core/platform/cpu_feature_guard.cc:193] This TensorFlow binary is optimized with oneAPI Deep Neural Network Library (oneDNN) to use the following CPU instructions in performance-critical operations: SSE4.1 SSE4.2 AVX AVX2 AVX512F AVX512_VNNI FMA

To enable them in other operations, rebuild TensorFlow with the appropriate compiler flags.

1.2 Business Problem

A popular airline company wants to increase customer sentiment and foster loyalty through improving customer service. Some difficulties include the many different areas the company could focus on, such as flight attendant training, food quality, seat comfort, as well as the challenge of manually reviewing survey data.

The airline has tasked me with analyzing over 20,000 historical reviews to help predict customer satisfaction and identify the most influential features responsible for customer satisfaction.

By creating a predictive model to analyze customer sentiment at scale, our project aims to provide the airline with the insights needed to make informed decisions, ultimately improving the customer experience, fostering loyalty, and enhancing the brand's competitive edge in the market.

Data Understanding

The original dataset was collected from from airlineequallity.com by Juhi Bhojani. You can find more details about their collection process at their GitHub. I found and downloaded the data directly from Kaggle in the form of a csv.

While originally including 20 columns, I decided to select just 3 of them to focus this project on Natual Language Processing. The Review_Title and Review columns will be combined to serve as the review texts and the target will be the Recommended column which consists of either "yes" or "no".

```
[2]: # Load the dataset, selecting only relevant columns
     df = pd.read_csv('data/Airline_review.csv')[['Review_Title', 'Review',_

¬'Recommended']]
     df.head()
```

```
[2]:
                                   Review_Title
```

0 "pretty decent airline" "Not a good airline" 1 "flight was fortunately short" 2 3 "I will never fly again with Adria" "it ruined our last days of holidays"

Review Recommended

```
0
     Moroni to Moheli. Turned out to be a pretty ...
                                                               yes
1
    Moroni to Anjouan. It is a very small airline...
                                                                no
2
     Anjouan to Dzaoudzi. A very small airline an...
                                                                no
3
     Please do a favor yourself and do not fly wi...
                                                                no
    Do not book a flight with this airline! My fr...
                                                                no
```

23,171 Reviews with no missing components.

[3]: df.info()

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 23171 entries, 0 to 23170
Data columns (total 3 columns):

memory usage: 543.2+ KB

Combining title and review to include any important information in the titles of reviews. Then I use a custom function to normalize the reviews.

```
[4]: df['reviews'] = df['Review_Title'] + ' ' + df['Review']

tokenizer = RegexpTokenizer(r"([a-zA-Z]+(?:'[a-z]+)?)")

df['clean_review'] = code.preprocess_texts(df['reviews'], tokenizer, use top_words= False, lemmatize= False)

df['clean_review'].head()
```

- [4]: 0 pretty decent airline moroni to moheli turned ...
 1 not a good airline moroni to anjouan it is a v...
 2 flight was fortunately short anjouan to dzaoud...
 - 2 flight was fortunately short anjouan to dzaoud...
 3 i will never fly again with adria please do a ...
 - 4 it ruined our last days of holidays do not boo...

Name: clean_review, dtype: object

Notice the imbalance target variable with almost 2/3 being "no" recommendations.

```
[5]: # Number and distribution of target
display(df['Recommended'].value_counts())
print('')
display(df['Recommended'].value_counts(normalize=True))
```

Recommended

no 15364 yes 7807

Name: count, dtype: int64

Recommended

no 0.66307 yes 0.33693

Name: proportion, dtype: float64

```
[6]: # Preparing the data for word and character analysis
    df['tokens'] = df['clean_review'].apply(lambda x : x.split())
    df['word_count'] = df['tokens'].apply(lambda x: len(x))
    df['char_count'] = df['clean_review'].apply(lambda x: len(x))

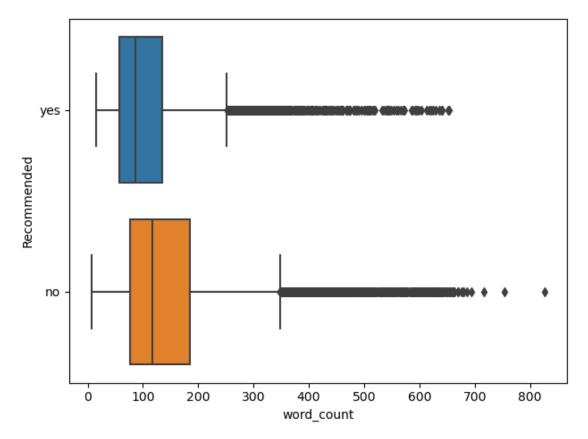
# Separating dataframes based on Recommendation
    yes_df = df.loc[df['Recommended']=='yes'].copy()
    no_df = df.loc[df['Recommended']=='no'].copy()
```

"No" reviews contain slighly more words than "Yes" reviews in general.

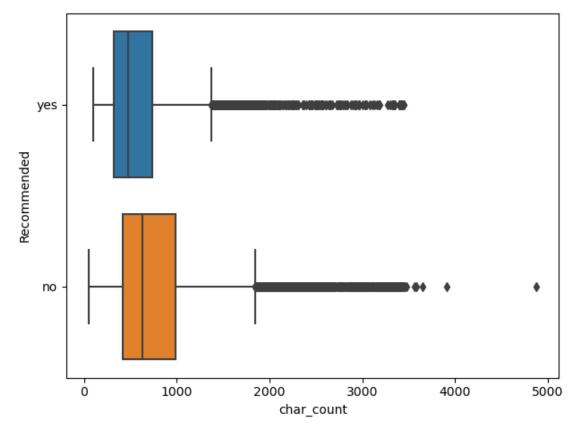
```
[7]: print("Average Number of Words per Review")
print('Yes Reviews: ',yes_df['word_count'].median())
print('No Reviews: ',no_df['word_count'].median())
```

Average Number of Words per Review

Yes Reviews: 86.0 No Reviews: 117.0



As expected, "No" reviews are also longer on average.



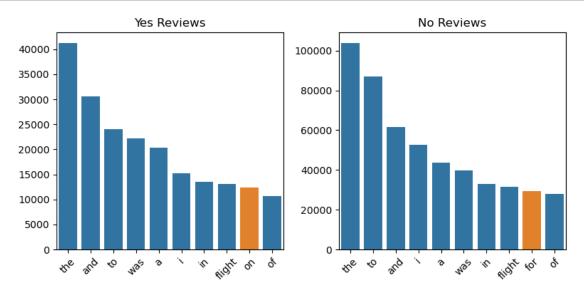
Now I want to see the most common words between Yes and No reviews.

```
[11]: # Combining tokens into two long lists
  yes_tokens = yes_df['tokens'].explode()
  no_tokens = no_df['tokens'].explode()

# Counting frequencies of words
  freq_yes = Counter(yes_tokens)
  freq_no = Counter(no_tokens)

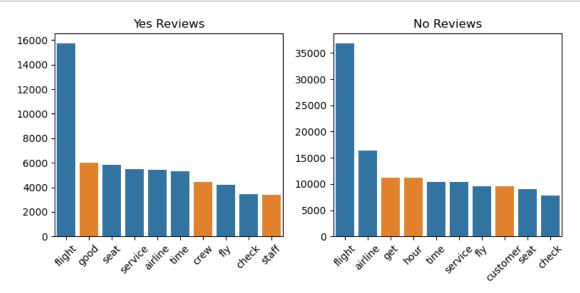
# Extracting top 10 most frequent word by category
  top_yes_words = freq_yes.most_common(10)
  top_no_words = freq_no.most_common(10)
```

[12]: code.most_common_words(top_yes_words, top_no_words)



Top 10 Most Frequent Words

Well this isn't very informative. Let's lemmatize and remove stop words.



Top 10 Most Frequent Words

Better, but they still share too many of the same words. Next I'll, subtract word frequencies between each other to find the most common distinct words in each set.

First, let's scale the no word frequencies counter as there are about double the number of No reviews as yes reviews. This will still preserve the distribution within each set.

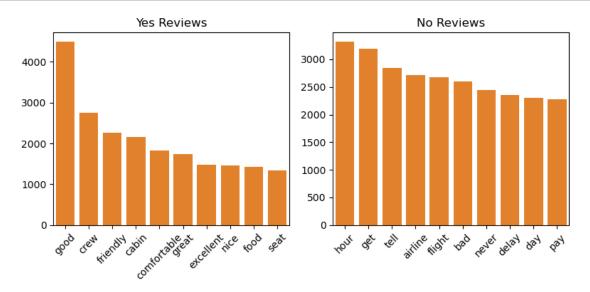
```
distinct_yes = freq_yes_stopped - freq_no_scaled
distinct_no = freq_no_scaled - freq_yes_stopped

top_distinct_yes = distinct_yes.most_common(10)
top_distinct_no = distinct_no.most_common(10)
```

Top "Yes" words are are generally positive connotations, with "good" occurring almost twice as often as any other word.

While the top "No" words have to do with time, noticing "hour", "never", "delay", "day". They are also pretty equally distributed.

[16]: code.most_common_words(top_distinct_yes, top_distinct_no)



Top 10 Most Frequent Words

1.4 Data Preparation

Preparation began by creating train-test splits to prevent data leakage. I then cleaned the data by removing punctuation and converting all reviews to lowercase. From there, data prep diverged based on the type of model being used.

Bag-of-Words models: - Lemmatized the reviews - Created a data processing pipeline which includes: - Converting reviews to a TF-IDF maxtrix - Selecting the 20,000 most relevant word vectors

Sequantial models: - Converted reviews into sequence vectors - Created an embedding matrix using pre-trained GloVe embeddings.

```
[17]: # Combine 'Review_Title' and 'Review' for a unified text feature

X = df['Review_Title'] + ' ' + df['Review']
```

```
# Converting target column to binary
y = df['Recommended'].map({'yes': 1, 'no': 0})

# Split the dataset into training and test sets
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(
    X, y,
    test_size=0.1, # Reserve 10% of the data for testing
    stratify=y, # Ensure the training and test sets have similar distributions_
    of responses
    random_state=42 # Seed for reproducibility
)
```

1.4.1 Bag of Words Prep

In model testing, lemmatizing text without removing stop words consistently yielded higher accuracy scores.

```
[18]: # Cleaning and lemmatizing training and testing sets.
      X_train_bow = code.preprocess_texts(X_train, tokenizer, stop_words=None,_
       →lemmatize=True)
      X_test_bow = code.preprocess_texts(X_test, tokenizer, stop_words=None,_
       →lemmatize=True)
      # Initialize a TF-IDF Vectorizer for transforming text data into numerical data
      tf_idf = TfidfVectorizer(
         decode_error='replace',
         strip_accents='unicode',
         stop words=None,
                                   # Not removing stop words
         ngram_range=(1, 2),
                                   # Using unigrams and bigrams
         \max df=0.95,
                                    # Ignoring terms with a document frequency
       ⇔higher than 95%
                                     # Ignoring terms with a document frequency lower |
         min df=2
       ⇔than 2
      # Selecting the 20,000 Best features
      k_best = SelectKBest(k=20000)
      # Creating a pipeline for data preprocessing
      bow_pipe = Pipeline([
          ("tf_idf", tf_idf),
          ('feature_selection', k_best)
     ])
      # Transform the training and test sets using the Bag of Words pipeline
      X_train_bow_transformed = bow_pipe.fit_transform(X_train_bow, y_train)
```

```
X_test_bow_transformed = bow_pipe.transform(X_test_bow)
```

For the MLP model, preprocessing included creating a validation dataset and converting the pipeline output to a TensorFlow Dataset for improved processing speed.

1.4.2 Sequential Model Prep

To preserve the integrity of sequential text information, I opted against removing stop words and lemmatization. A sequence length of 200 was selected, accounting for over 80% of reviews falling below this threshold, a decision validated during model testing. As with the MLP model, the final steps included creating a validation set for model fitting and converting datasets to TensorFlow Datasets for efficiency.

```
[20]: # Preprocess text data for sequence models
      X_train_seq = code.preprocess_texts(X_train, tokenizer)
      X_test_seq = code.preprocess_texts(X_test, tokenizer)
      # Initialize TextVectorization for converting text to sequences of integers
      text_vectorization = TextVectorization(
          standardize=None, # Not needed as already cleaned in previous step.
          max_tokens=20000, # Maximum vocab size
          output_mode='int',
          output_sequence_length=200 # Fixed length of output sequences
      )
      # Making a validation dataset to use when fitting RNN and GloVe models.
      X_train_seq_split, X_val_seq_split, y_train_seq_split, y_val_seq_split =
       ⇔train_test_split(
          X_train_seq, y_train,
          test_size=0.1,
          stratify=y_train,
```

Lastly, I set up the GloVe pretrained embedding layer by loading the file and including only vectors from the training set's vocabulary.

```
[21]: # Retrieve the vocabulary from the text vectorization layer
      vocabulary = text_vectorization.get_vocabulary()
      vocab_size = len(vocabulary) # Determine the size of the vocabulary
      # Initialize a dictionary to store GloVe embeddings
      glove_embeddings = {}
      # Read the GloVe embeddings file and creating glove_embeddings dictionary with_
       →word vectors
      with open('data/glove.6B.300d.txt', 'r', encoding='utf-8') as file:
          for line in file:
              values = line.split()
              word = values[0] # Extract the word
              vector = np.asarray(values[1:], dtype='float32')
              glove_embeddings[word] = vector
      # Initialize the embedding matrix with zeros
      embedding_matrix = np.zeros((vocab_size, 300)) # 300 dimensions for GloVe_
       \rightarrowvectors
      # Populate the embedding matrix with vectors from GloVe, matching our
       ⇔vocabulary words
      for i, word in enumerate(vocabulary):
          embedding_vector = glove_embeddings.get(word)
          if embedding_vector is not None:
              embedding_matrix[i] = embedding_vector
```

1.5 Data Modeling

Modeling began by using a dummy classifier and a basic logistic regression model as a baseline to compare to later. I then tested a number of models, gridsearching for optimal parameters.

Modeling Overview:

Baseline Models - Dummy Classifier - Logistic Regression (Basic)

 $Bag\text{-}of\text{-}Words\ Models\ -\ Logistic\ Regression\ -\ Multinomial NB\ -\ Gradient Boosting Classifier\ -\ Random Forest Classifier\ -\ Multi-Layer\ Perceptrons\ (MLP)$

Sequential Models - Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) - RNN with GloVe Pretrained Embedding Layer

1.5.1 Baseline Models

Given the target class imbalance, I chose to include a dummy model in addition to a simple model to compare future models against.

```
[22]: # Instantiating the baseline models
dummy_model = DummyClassifier(strategy='uniform', random_state=42)
baseline_model = LogisticRegression(max_iter=1000)

# Fitting the models on the training data
dummy_model.fit(X_train_bow_transformed, y_train)
baseline_model.fit(X_train_bow_transformed, y_train)

# Loading previously saved cross-validation scores
pd.read_pickle('data/saved_models/model_scores_df.pkl').iloc[:2, :]
```

```
[22]: Model Accuracy AUC
0 Dummy 0.499832 0.50000
1 Baseline 0.905481 0.96144
```

1.5.2 Bag of Words Models

```
max_features='sqrt', max_depth=None, bootstrap=True
      )
      pd.read_pickle('data/saved_models/model_scores_df.pkl').iloc[2:6, :]
[23]:
                                Model Accuracy
                                                       AUC
                  Logistic_Regression 0.916031 0.967635
      2
      3
                        MultinomialNB 0.887738 0.948371
      4 Gradient_Boosting_Classifier 0.902220 0.958531
             Random_Forest_Classifier 0.886971 0.949088
[24]: # Define a list of callbacks for the training process
      CALLBACKS = \Gamma
          EarlyStopping(
              monitor='val_loss', # Monitor the validation loss
              min_delta=0.001, # Minimum change to qualify as an improvement
              patience=5, # Number of epochs with no improvement after which
       → training will be stopped
              restore_best_weights=True, # Restore model weights from the epoch with_
       → the best value of the monitored quantity
              verbose=0 # Do not output verbose messages
      # Defining a Multilayer Perceptron (MLP) model for binary classification
      mlp_model = Sequential([
          Dense(128, activation='relu', input_shape=(20000,)), # input_shape to match_
       \hookrightarrowSelectKBest
          Dropout(0.8),
          Dense(1, activation='sigmoid')
      ])
      # Compiling the model
      mlp_model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='binary_crossentropy',__
       →metrics=['accuracy', 'AUC'])
      \# Fitting the model on the training dataset while validating on a separate \sqcup
       \hookrightarrow dataset
      mlp_model.fit(mlp_train_ds, validation_data=mlp_val_ds, epochs=100, verbose=0,_u
       ⇔callbacks=CALLBACKS)
      pd.read_pickle('data/saved_models/model_scores_df.pkl').iloc[6:7, :]
[24]: Model Accuracy
                              AUC
```

6 MLP 0.917915 0.969525

1.5.3 Sequential Models

```
[25]: # Defining a RNN model
      rnn_model = Sequential([
          # input dim to match max tokens
          # input_length to match sequence_length
          Embedding(input_dim=20000, output_dim=32, input_length=200),
          # Bidirectional GRU to capture context in both directions
          Bidirectional(GRU(16)),
          Dense(8, activation='relu'),
          Dense(1, activation='sigmoid')
      ])
      # Compiling the model
      rnn_model.compile(optimizer='adam',
                        loss='binary_crossentropy',
                        metrics=['accuracy', 'AUC'])
      # Commenting out below to save run time.
      # rnn_model.fit(seq_train_ds,
                      validation_data=seq_val_ds,
      #
                      batch_size=256,
      #
                      epochs=100,
      #
                      verbose=0.
      #
                      callbacks=CALLBACKS,
                      shuffle=True)
      pd.read_pickle('data/saved_models/model_scores_df.pkl').iloc[7:8, :]
[25]: Model Accuracy
          RNN 0.890759 0.951667
[26]: # Defining a model leveraging pre-trained GloVe embeddings
      glv_model = Sequential([
          # Embedding layer with pre-trained GloVe weights, set to non-trainable to \Box
       ⇔retain pre-trained knowledge
          # input_dim to match vocab_size derived from text_vectorization layer
          Embedding(input_dim=vocab_size, output_dim=300, input_length=200,__
       →weights=[embedding_matrix], trainable=False),
          Bidirectional(GRU(32)),
          Dropout(0.4),
          Dense(16, activation='relu'),
          Dropout(0.4),
          Dense(1, activation='sigmoid')
      ])
      # Compiling the model
      glv_model.compile(optimizer='adam',
```

```
loss='binary_crossentropy',
                  metrics=['accuracy', 'AUC'])
# Commenting out below to save run time.
 glv_model.fit(seq_train_ds,
                validation_data=seq_val_ds,
#
                batch size=256,
#
                 epochs=100,
#
                 verbose=0,
#
                 callbacks=CALLBACKS,
#
                 shuffle=True)
pd.read_pickle('data/saved_models/model_scores_df.pkl').iloc[8:, :]
```

```
[26]: Model Accuracy AUC
8 GloVe 0.909557 0.96396
```

After model iteration and parameter searching, the MLP model scored the best with an accuracy of 91.79% and AUC of 96.95% on validation data. This was closely followed by the Logistic Regression and GloVe models.

1.6 Evaluation

Our final model was evaluated on a previously unseen test dataset to assess its performance in classifying reviews as either "Yes" or "No". The model demonstrated an accuracy of 92%, which represents a modest improvement over our baseline model's accuracy of 90.8%. This performance is substantially superior to that of the dummy model, which had an accuracy of only 50%.

This increase in accuracy, while seemingly small, is critical in the context of our project's objectives. It underscores the effectiveness of the chosen model and techniques in capturing the nuances of the data that were not as effectively addressed by the baseline model. Additionally, the comparison with the dummy model, which makes predictions based on no information about the data, highlights the value added by our modeling approach.

```
Test Accuracy Test AUC

Dummy Model 0.499569 0.500000

Baseline Model 0.908110 0.963018

Final Model 0.919327 0.967637
```

1.6.1 Model Interpretation

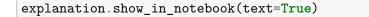
Now I will use LIME to see which words were the most influential for recommendations

```
[28]: # Set up LIME Explainer
explainer = LimeTextExplainer(class_names=['No', 'Yes'])
```

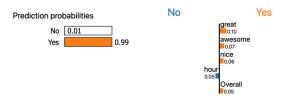
Looking at a couple of reviews, here are some words associated with their type of recommendation.

Yes Reviews: - nice - early - professional - friendly

No Reviews: - hours - delayed - understaffed



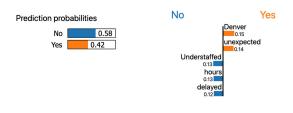
<IPython.core.display.HTML object>



Text with highlighted words

"great for a 1 hour flight" Seoul to Jeju. It was awesome. The check in area in Gimpo was busy as usual but crew were very nice and friendly. Seats were comfortable. There were separate entertainment screens but we could only use it on international flights. The flight was on schedule. Overall it was great for a 1 hour flight!

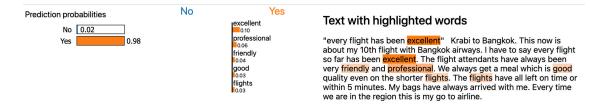
<IPython.core.display.HTML object>



Text with highlighted words

"Catastrophic experience" Catastrophic experience with United July 8, our early morning flight to Denver delayed 2 hours due to unexpected security issue with plane. Plane was at the airport overnight not clear why United didn't check it until after everyone boarded. Understaffed: Missed our connecting flight DEN to PHL, then was rebooked to flight 8 hrs later, which was also delayed four more hours. Plane was a tirport but no crew to fly it! One problem after another, don't fly this airline!! Very unprepared for summer trave!!

<IPython.core.display.HTML object>



1.7 Conclusions

1.7.1 Recommendations

I recommend that the airline adopts our final model for classifying customer reviews. This tool can enable the continuous monitoring of customer feedback through a live tally of "Yes" and "No"

reviews across any desired timeframe, providing valuable insights for enhancing service quality and customer satisfaction.

Our analysis unequivocally shows that punctuality significantly impacts customer satisfaction. Therefore, I suggest the marketing department leverages this finding by orchestrating a campaign that underscores our airline's commitment to timeliness. A possible campaign message could be: "Choose the airline with the fewest delays—because we value your time." Such a strategy not only highlights our strengths but also positions us favorably against competitors with higher instances of delays.

Furthermore, I strongly advise placing a renewed focus on the customer service department, particularly in terms of training and preparedness. It's essential that all staff members are fully informed about the range of accommodations and solutions available to support passengers during challenging situations.

1.7.2 Limitations

One of the primary limitations of this project was the decision to exclude certain features from the original dataset in our model development phase. Notably, variables such as Overall_Rating, Route, and Seat_Comfort, among others, were not considered. The exclusion of these features, while simplifying the initial model, may have restricted our ability to capture the full spectrum of factors influencing customer recommendations.

1.7.3 Next Steps

To improve the predictive model and provide deeper insights for the marketing department, I plan to integrate additional features from the initial dataset. I am particularly interested in analyzing specific ratings such as Seat Comfort, Cabin Staff Service, Food & Beverages, Ground Service, and Value for Money. Additionally, I aim to explore potential correlations between departure/arrival locations and flight duration to ascertain their impact on customer satisfaction.

Incorporating these elements will allow for a more sophisticated analysis of customer feedback, potentially revealing hidden patterns and insights. Such discoveries are expected to guide targeted improvements in the airline's services. This comprehensive approach will also deepen our understanding of the primary factors influencing customer satisfaction and recommendation behaviors, enabling the formulation of more accurately targeted strategic interventions.