

Deep Learning–Driven Sentiment and Depression Analysis from Social Media Text: A Comprehensive Multilingual and Theoretical Investigation

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ABSTRACT

The exponential growth of social media platforms has transformed user-generated textual data into a critical resource for understanding public opinion, emotional expression, and psychological well-being. Among the most significant and socially impactful applications of sentiment analysis is the automated detection of depressive tendencies and emotional distress expressed through online discourse. Over the past decade, computational approaches to sentiment and mental health analysis have evolved from lexicon-based and classical machine learning paradigms to sophisticated deep learning architectures capable of modeling contextual, sequential, and semantic complexities in natural language. This article presents a comprehensive, publication-ready research investigation into deep learning–based sentiment and depression analysis from social media text, with particular emphasis on recurrent and hybrid neural architectures applied to multilingual and low-resource language contexts. Grounded strictly in the provided scholarly references, the study synthesizes theoretical foundations, historical developments, methodological considerations, and critical debates surrounding sentiment analysis and depression detection using social media data.

The work is theoretically anchored in prior studies on Twitter-based sentiment mining, distant supervision, and noisy text classification, while foregrounding neural network innovations such as convolutional neural networks, long short-term memory networks, bidirectional recurrent models, attention mechanisms, and hybrid CNN–LSTM architectures. Special analytical attention is given to depression analysis in the Bangla language using LSTM-based recurrent neural networks, as demonstrated in prior empirical research, which serves as a cornerstone for discussing the challenges and opportunities associated with mental health analytics in morphologically rich and underrepresented languages (Uddin et al., 2019). By situating this work within a broader ecosystem of sentiment analysis research spanning Arabic dialects, code-switched text, and multilingual social media corpora, the article critically examines how linguistic diversity, data sparsity, and sociocultural context influence model design, performance, and interpretability.

Methodologically, the paper elaborates a text-based experimental framework that integrates data collection, preprocessing, representation learning, model training, and evaluation, while also acknowledging inherent limitations such as annotation subjectivity, platform bias, and ethical concerns related to mental health inference. The results section provides an interpretive synthesis of findings reported across the referenced literature, emphasizing trends in model accuracy, robustness, and generalizability rather than numerical tabulation. The discussion advances a deep theoretical interrogation of competing scholarly viewpoints, addressing debates over explainability versus performance, the validity of social media as a proxy for mental health assessment, and the risks of algorithmic bias and overgeneralization.

By offering an extensive, critical, and integrative analysis, this article contributes a unified scholarly narrative that connects sentiment analysis and depression detection research across methodological traditions and linguistic settings. It underscores the necessity of context-aware, ethically grounded, and theoretically informed deep learning approaches for future advances in computational mental health and sentiment analytics.

Keywords: Sentiment analysis; depression detection; social media mining; deep learning; LSTM networks; multilingual text analysis.

INTRODUCTION

The proliferation of social media platforms has fundamentally reshaped the landscape of human communication, enabling individuals to express

opinions, emotions, and personal experiences at unprecedented scale and frequency. Platforms such as Twitter have become particularly influential due to their public-by-default nature, brevity constraints, and real-

time conversational dynamics, making them fertile ground for computational sentiment analysis and opinion mining research (Pak & Paroubek, 2010). Early scholarly efforts in this domain recognized social media as both an opportunity and a challenge: an opportunity because of the vast availability of user-generated data, and a challenge because of linguistic informality, noise, and contextual ambiguity inherent in such text (Barbosa & Feng, 2010). These foundational observations have continued to shape the evolution of sentiment analysis methodologies, especially as researchers have sought to move beyond polarity classification toward more nuanced psychological and affective state detection.

Sentiment analysis, broadly defined as the computational study of opinions, emotions, and attitudes expressed in text, has its intellectual roots in early work on semantic orientation and unsupervised opinion classification (Turney, 2002). Subsequent research expanded this scope through supervised machine learning approaches that leveraged labeled datasets derived from reviews, forums, and eventually social media streams (Go et al., 2009). Twitter, in particular, emerged as a dominant corpus for sentiment analysis due to its accessibility via application programming interfaces and its cultural centrality in public discourse (Parikh & Movassate, 2009). However, the brevity and informality of tweets, coupled with the prevalence of sarcasm, slang, emojis, and code-switching, quickly exposed the limitations of traditional bag-of-words and lexicon-based models (Agarwal et al., 2011).

As sentiment analysis matured, researchers increasingly recognized its potential applications beyond marketing and political opinion mining, extending into domains such as public health and mental well-being (Bifet & Frank, 2010). Among these applications, the detection of depression and other mental health conditions from social media text has attracted growing scholarly attention. Depression, as a global public health concern, manifests not only through clinical symptoms but also through linguistic patterns that can be computationally modeled, such as expressions of hopelessness, negative affect, and social withdrawal. The conceptual shift from sentiment polarity to mental health inference represents a significant epistemological expansion of the field, raising both methodological possibilities and ethical questions (Zad et al., 2021).

The emergence of deep learning has profoundly influenced this trajectory. Neural architectures such as convolutional neural networks and recurrent neural networks have demonstrated superior capacity to capture contextual dependencies and semantic nuances in text compared to classical machine learning classifiers (Yang, 2018). Long short-term memory networks, in particular, address the vanishing gradient problem associated with traditional recurrent models, enabling the learning of long-range dependencies critical for understanding emotional narratives over sequences of

words or posts. This capability has proven especially relevant for depression analysis, where meaning often unfolds across clauses and sentences rather than isolated tokens.

Within this evolving research landscape, studies focusing on non-English and low-resource languages occupy a crucial yet underexplored position. Much of the early sentiment analysis literature concentrated on English-language corpora, implicitly assuming linguistic universality of affective expression. However, subsequent research has highlighted the limitations of this assumption, demonstrating that linguistic structure, cultural norms, and sociopolitical context significantly influence sentiment expression and interpretation (Gamallo & Garcia, 2014). The need for language-specific models and datasets becomes even more pronounced in the context of mental health analysis, where subtle linguistic cues may carry culturally contingent meanings.

A seminal contribution in this regard is the study of depression analysis from social media data in the Bangla language using an LSTM recurrent neural network technique, which empirically demonstrated the feasibility and effectiveness of deep learning approaches in a morphologically rich, low-resource language context (Uddin et al., 2019). This work not only extended sentiment analysis methodologies into mental health detection but also challenged the dominance of English-centric research paradigms by foregrounding Bangla social media text as a valid and valuable object of study. The methodological choices and findings of this research continue to inform subsequent debates on multilingual sentiment analysis and depression detection.

Parallel to this, a growing body of literature has explored sentiment analysis across diverse linguistic settings, including Arabic dialects, code-switched English–Kannada text, and multilingual Twitter corpora (Alahmary et al., 2019; Chundi et al., 2020). These studies collectively underscore the importance of adapting deep learning architectures to accommodate linguistic diversity, whether through customized embeddings, hybrid models, or attention mechanisms. They also reveal persistent challenges related to data annotation, imbalance, and generalizability, which are amplified in mental health-oriented applications.

Despite these advances, significant gaps remain in the theoretical integration of sentiment analysis and depression detection research. Much of the existing literature adopts an empirical focus, emphasizing accuracy improvements and model comparisons without sufficiently interrogating the conceptual assumptions underlying the use of social media data as proxies for psychological states. Moreover, the ethical implications of automated depression detection, including privacy concerns and the risk of misclassification, are often treated as peripheral considerations rather than central analytical dimensions (Britzolakis et al., 2020). Addressing these gaps requires a comprehensive, theoretically grounded

synthesis that situates methodological innovations within broader scholarly and societal contexts.

The present article responds to this need by offering an extensive, critical investigation of deep learning-based sentiment and depression analysis from social media text, grounded strictly in the provided references. By integrating historical context, theoretical elaboration, methodological rationale, and critical debate, the study aims to advance a more holistic understanding of how neural models can be responsibly and effectively applied to sentiment and mental health analytics. In doing so, it foregrounds the contributions of LSTM-based depression analysis in Bangla as a pivotal case study while situating it within a diverse and evolving research ecosystem (Uddin et al., 2019).

METHODOLOGY

The methodological foundations of deep learning-based sentiment and depression analysis from social media text are deeply intertwined with the evolution of natural language processing techniques and the practical constraints of working with user-generated data. Unlike controlled textual corpora, social media data is characterized by brevity, informality, noise, and rapid topical drift, necessitating robust and adaptable analytical frameworks (Pak & Paroubek, 2010). Methodological design in this domain therefore extends beyond model selection to encompass data sourcing, preprocessing, representation learning, evaluation strategies, and ethical considerations, all of which shape the validity and interpretability of research outcomes.

At the data acquisition stage, social media platforms such as Twitter have historically served as primary sources due to their open access policies and rich metadata. Researchers have employed streaming and search-based application programming interfaces to collect large-scale textual datasets aligned with specific keywords, hashtags, or user profiles relevant to sentiment or mental health analysis (Bifet & Frank, 2010). In depression-focused studies, data collection strategies often involve identifying users who self-report depressive symptoms or diagnoses, as well as curating control groups, thereby introducing complex questions of representativeness and consent (Uddin et al., 2019). These challenges are further compounded in non-English contexts, where language-specific filtering and annotation resources may be limited.

Preprocessing constitutes a critical methodological phase, particularly given the noisy nature of social media text. Common preprocessing steps include tokenization, normalization, stop-word removal, and handling of emojis, hashtags, and URLs. However, the appropriateness of these steps varies across languages and tasks. For example, in Bangla language analysis, morphological richness and script-specific characteristics require customized tokenization and normalization strategies to preserve semantic integrity

(Uddin et al., 2019). Overly aggressive preprocessing risks discarding affective cues essential for depression detection, while insufficient cleaning may introduce noise that degrades model performance.

Representation learning lies at the core of deep learning-based sentiment analysis methodologies. Traditional approaches relied on sparse vector representations such as term frequency-inverse document frequency, which, while interpretable, fail to capture semantic relationships and contextual dependencies (Turney, 2002). The advent of distributed word representations, such as Word2Vec, enabled more nuanced modeling of lexical semantics and facilitated the integration of neural architectures (Jang et al., 2020). In many sentiment analysis studies, these embeddings serve as the input layer for convolutional or recurrent networks, providing a foundation for hierarchical feature extraction.

Convolutional neural networks have been widely adopted for sentiment analysis due to their ability to capture local n-gram features and compositional patterns in text (Yang, 2018). However, CNNs alone may struggle to model long-range dependencies, particularly in tasks involving emotional narratives or mental health signals that unfold over extended sequences. Recurrent neural networks, and LSTM variants in particular, address this limitation by maintaining memory states that encode sequential context, making them especially suitable for depression analysis (Uddin et al., 2019). Hybrid architectures that combine CNNs and LSTMs seek to leverage the complementary strengths of both approaches, capturing both local and global textual features (Hossain et al., 2020).

Model training and optimization involve additional methodological considerations, including class imbalance, overfitting, and hyperparameter selection. Depression-related datasets often exhibit significant imbalance, with fewer positive instances relative to neutral or non-depressive content, necessitating careful sampling or weighting strategies (Rahat et al., 2020). Evaluation metrics must also be chosen judiciously; while accuracy is commonly reported, it may obscure model deficiencies in minority class detection, which is particularly consequential in mental health applications (Ramasamy et al., 2021).

Beyond technical considerations, methodological rigor in this field requires explicit acknowledgment of ethical and epistemological limitations. The inference of psychological states from publicly available text raises concerns about privacy, consent, and potential misuse, underscoring the need for responsible research design (Britzolakis et al., 2020). Moreover, the interpretability of deep learning models remains a contested issue, as high predictive performance does not necessarily translate into transparent or clinically actionable insights (Zad et al., 2021). These methodological tensions frame the interpretive lens through which results must be understood.

RESULTS

The results of deep learning-based sentiment and depression analysis research, as reported across the referenced literature, collectively demonstrate the transformative impact of neural architectures on the accuracy and robustness of text classification tasks. Rather than presenting numerical outcomes in isolation, a descriptive and interpretive synthesis reveals consistent patterns and divergences that illuminate both the strengths and limitations of current approaches. Across multiple studies, deep learning models have been shown to outperform traditional machine learning classifiers in handling the complexity of social media text, particularly when sequential and contextual information is central to the task (Goularas & Kamis, 2019).

In the domain of depression analysis, LSTM-based models exhibit a notable capacity to capture temporal and contextual cues associated with depressive expression. Research focusing on Bangla social media text demonstrated that recurrent neural networks can effectively model linguistic patterns indicative of depression, despite challenges related to data sparsity and language-specific preprocessing (Uddin et al., 2019). These findings are significant not only for their empirical implications but also for their theoretical affirmation of the universality of certain affective markers, even as they are linguistically instantiated in diverse ways.

Hybrid models combining convolutional and recurrent layers have consistently yielded improved sentiment classification performance across languages and domains. Studies on restaurant reviews, Twitter sentiment, and document-level analysis report that CNN-LSTM and CNN-BiLSTM architectures benefit from their ability to integrate local feature extraction with long-range dependency modeling (Rhanoui et al., 2019; Hossain et al., 2020). In the context of depression detection, this hybridization enables models to attend simultaneously to salient phrases and overarching emotional trajectories, a capability that aligns with psychological theories of affective expression.

Comparative analyses between deep learning and classical machine learning approaches further underscore these trends. Support vector machines, naïve Bayes classifiers, and decision trees remain competitive in certain constrained settings, particularly when training data is limited or highly structured (Bayhaqy et al., 2018). However, their reliance on manual feature engineering and limited contextual awareness constrains their scalability and adaptability to the nuanced demands of mental health analysis (Syahputra et al., 2020). Deep learning models, by contrast, demonstrate greater resilience to noise and linguistic variability, albeit at the cost of increased computational complexity and reduced interpretability.

Results from multilingual and code-switched sentiment analysis studies reveal additional layers of complexity.

Research on English-Kannada code-switched text highlights the challenges of mixed-language inputs, where deep learning models must reconcile divergent syntactic and semantic norms within a single utterance (Chundi et al., 2020). Nevertheless, neural architectures augmented with appropriate embeddings and attention mechanisms show promising performance, suggesting that similar strategies may be extended to depression analysis in multilingual social media contexts.

Collectively, these results indicate a clear methodological trajectory toward deep learning-centric approaches for sentiment and depression analysis, while also exposing persistent challenges related to data quality, ethical constraints, and cross-cultural validity. The interpretive significance of these findings becomes more fully apparent when situated within broader theoretical and scholarly debates.

DISCUSSION

The discussion of deep learning-based sentiment and depression analysis from social media text necessitates a multifaceted theoretical engagement that extends beyond performance metrics to interrogate foundational assumptions, methodological trade-offs, and societal implications. At the heart of this discourse lies the question of what it means to infer emotional and psychological states from textual traces produced in digitally mediated environments. While the empirical successes of neural models are undeniable, their interpretive validity and ethical grounding remain subjects of ongoing scholarly debate (Zad et al., 2021).

One of the central theoretical contributions of LSTM-based depression analysis research is its demonstration that sequential modeling of language captures affective dynamics that static representations cannot. Depression, as a psychological construct, is characterized by persistent patterns of negative affect, cognitive distortion, and emotional regulation difficulties, which are often expressed through recurring linguistic motifs rather than isolated sentiments. The ability of LSTM networks to maintain and update memory states aligns conceptually with these psychological dimensions, lending theoretical plausibility to their application in mental health analytics (Uddin et al., 2019). However, this alignment also raises questions about the extent to which computational representations can meaningfully approximate lived psychological experience.

Comparative scholarly perspectives reveal divergent views on the role of context in sentiment and depression analysis. Some researchers argue that local textual features, such as sentiment-laden keywords and emojis, suffice for accurate classification, particularly in large-scale datasets (Davidov & Rappoport, 2010). Others contend that broader discourse context and user-level aggregation are essential for reliable mental health inference, as isolated posts may reflect transient moods rather than enduring conditions (Britzolakis et al., 2020).

Deep learning architectures that integrate sequential and hierarchical modeling partially address this tension, yet they do not fully resolve the epistemological challenge of distinguishing between momentary expression and chronic state.

The multilingual dimension further complicates these debates. Studies on Arabic dialects, Bangla, and code-switched text underscore that sentiment and depression markers are culturally and linguistically mediated, challenging the universality of models trained on English data (Alahmary et al., 2019; Uddin et al., 2019). While deep learning offers tools for language adaptation through embeddings and transfer learning, the risk of cultural misinterpretation persists, particularly when models are deployed without domain-specific validation. This concern is especially salient in mental health contexts, where misclassification may have profound personal and social consequences.

Ethical considerations occupy an increasingly prominent place in scholarly discussions of sentiment and depression analysis. The use of publicly available social media data does not inherently confer ethical legitimacy, particularly when research outputs may be used for surveillance, profiling, or stigmatization (Britzolakis et al., 2020). Scholars have called for greater transparency, consent mechanisms, and interdisciplinary collaboration with mental health professionals to ensure that computational models serve supportive rather than punitive or exploitative ends. The opacity of deep learning models further complicates these efforts, as explainability remains an open research challenge.

From a methodological standpoint, the discussion reveals an ongoing tension between performance optimization and interpretability. Attention mechanisms and residual learning have been proposed as partial solutions, offering insights into which textual elements influence model predictions (Thin et al., 2019). However, such techniques provide only approximations of interpretability, and their explanatory power may be insufficient for clinical or policy-oriented applications. This limitation invites future research that integrates symbolic reasoning, causal inference, or hybrid human-machine interpretive frameworks.

The discussion also highlights avenues for future research, including longitudinal analysis of user behavior, integration of multimodal data, and cross-platform comparative studies. Longitudinal modeling, in particular, holds promise for distinguishing between episodic sentiment fluctuations and sustained depressive patterns, thereby enhancing both theoretical understanding and practical utility (Chowdhury et al., 2020). Nevertheless, such approaches intensify ethical and technical challenges related to data privacy, storage, and consent.

CONCLUSION

In synthesizing the extensive body of research on deep

learning-based sentiment and depression analysis from social media text, this article has advanced a comprehensive, theoretically grounded perspective that bridges methodological innovation and critical reflection. Anchored in the foundational contribution of LSTM-based depression analysis in the Bangla language, the study has demonstrated how neural architectures enable nuanced modeling of affective and psychological expression across diverse linguistic contexts (Uddin et al., 2019). At the same time, it has underscored that technical sophistication alone cannot resolve the epistemological and ethical complexities inherent in inferring mental health states from digital discourse.

The evolution from lexicon-based methods to hybrid deep learning models reflects broader shifts in natural language processing and data science, yet it also calls for renewed attention to interpretability, cultural sensitivity, and responsible deployment. As sentiment analysis continues to expand into mental health applications, scholars and practitioners must balance the pursuit of predictive accuracy with commitments to transparency, inclusivity, and ethical integrity. Future research that integrates interdisciplinary perspectives and participatory design principles will be essential for realizing the full potential of computational sentiment and depression analysis as tools for social good.

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