

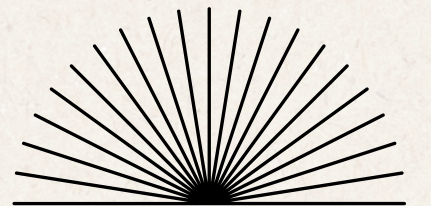
ASPECT-BASED SENTIMENT ANALYSIS FOR SINHALA ONLINE REVIEWS

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Agenda

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02	Research Problem
03	Research Objective
04	Literature Survey
05	Proposed Method

GREAT SERVICES
FIVE STARS
I AM HAPPY
EXCELLENT
HIGH QUALITY



INTRODUCTION

Background

- The rapid growth of digital ecosystems and e-commerce platforms has transformed how consumers share opinions and make purchasing decisions [1].
- Online marketplaces host millions of user-generated reviews, which have become a critical source of information for both consumers and businesses.
- To effectively analyze this large volume of textual data, organizations increasingly rely on automated Natural Language Processing techniques.
- These developments have also increased the importance of sentiment analysis in understanding customer feedback at scale [2, 3].

[1] N. de Silva, "Survey on publicly available Sinhala natural language processing tools and research," arXiv preprint arXiv:1906.02358, 2019. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1906.02358>

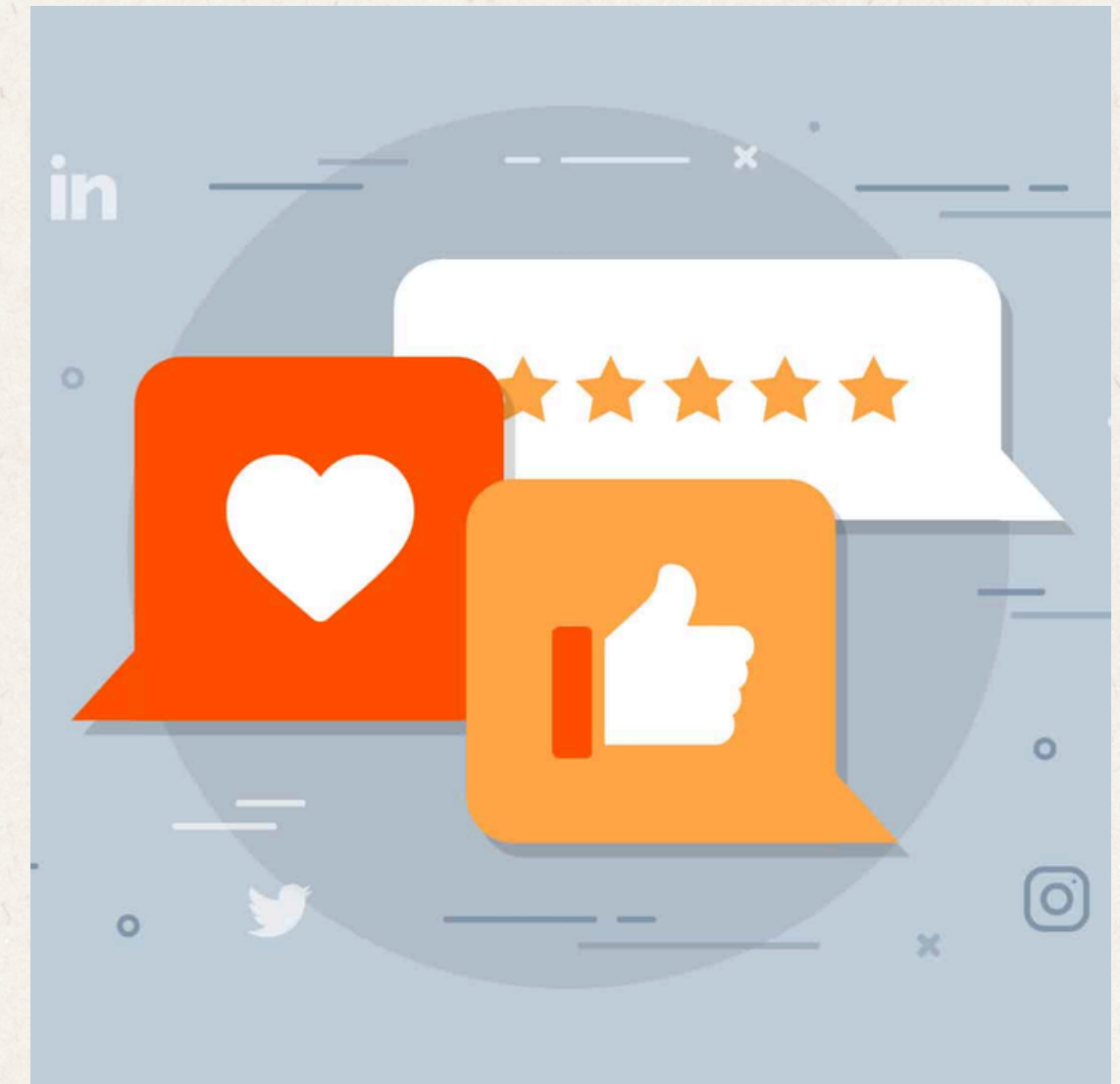
[2] K. P. 2025 Shyam Viththalani, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis advancements and applications in code-mixed text and gujarati language processing," in International Journal of Engineering Trends and Technology, vol. 73, 2025.

[3] K. Aziz, N. Ahmed, H. J. Hadi, A. Yusufu, M. A. Alshara, Y. Javed, and D. Ji, "Enhanced urduaspectnet: leveraging biaffine attention for superior aspect-based sentiment analysis," Journal of King Saud University-Computer and Information Sciences, vol. 36, no. 9, p. 102221, 2024

Sentiment Analysis

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- Sentiment Analysis is a subfield of Natural Language Processing that focuses on identifying subjective opinions in text [1].
- It typically classifies sentiment into **positive, negative, or neutral** categories [2, 3].
- Traditional approaches operate at the document or sentence level and assume that each text unit expresses a single sentiment.
- However, such methods fail to capture mixed or nuanced opinions commonly found in real-world reviews



[1] N. de Silva, "Survey on publicly available Sinhala natural language processing tools and research," arXiv preprint arXiv:1906.02358, 2019. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1906.02358>

[2] K. P. 2025 Shyam Viththalani, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis advancements and applications in code-mixed text and gujarati language processing," in International Journal of Engineering Trends and Technology, vol. 73, 2025.

[3] K. Aziz, N. Ahmed, H. J. Hadi, A. Yusufu, M. A. Alshara, Y. Javed, and D. Ji, "Enhanced urduaspectnet: leveraging biaffine attention for superior aspect-based sentiment analysis," Journal of King Saud University-Computer and Information Sciences, vol. 36, no. 9, p. 102221, 2024

Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis (ABSA)

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- Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis extends traditional sentiment analysis by identifying specific aspects of a product or service and the sentiment associated with each aspect.
- Instead of assigning a single sentiment to an entire review, ABSA provides fine-grained aspect-level sentiment information [5].
- It involves tasks such as aspect extraction, opinion extraction, and aspect-sentiment classification.
- This detailed analysis enables more interpretable and actionable insights for business decision-making [7].



[5] X. Ding, J. Zhou, L. Dou, Q. Chen, Y. Wu, A. Chen, and L. He, "Boosting Large Language Models with Continual Learning for Aspect-based Sentiment Analysis," in Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2024, pp. 4367–4377, 2024.

[7] A. Chakraborty, "End-to-end aspect based sentiment analysis using graph attention network," in Proceedings of the 33rd ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management, pp. 3663–3668, 2024.

Research Gap in Sinhala ABSA

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- Despite significant progress in Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis for high-resource languages, research on Sinhala ABSA remains limited. [40]
- There is a lack of large-scale, publicly available annotated datasets for aspect-level sentiment analysis in Sinhala. [40]
- The low-resource nature of the Sinhala language, along with linguistic challenges such as free word order and code-switching, further complicates model development [8-11].
- As a result, existing sentiment analysis approaches are insufficient for capturing fine-grained opinions in Sinhala online reviews.



[8] N. Sultana, R. Sultana, R. I. Rasel, and M. M. Hoque, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis of bangla comments on entertainment domain," in 2022 25th International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCIT), pp. 953–958, IEEE, 2022.

[9] K. P. 2025 Shyam Viththalani, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis advancements and applications in code-mixed text and gujarati language processing," in International Journal of Engineering Trends and Technology, vol. 73, 2025.

[10] K. Aziz, N. Ahmed, H. J. Hadi, A. Yusufu, M. A. Alshara, Y. Javed, and D. Ji, "Enhanced urduaspectnet: leveraging biaffine attention for superior aspect-based sentiment analysis," Journal of King Saud University-Computer and Information Sciences, vol. 36, no. 9, p. 102221, 2024.

[11] F. Ma, X. Hu, A. Liu, Y. Yang, S. Li, P. S. Yu, and L. Wen, "AMR-based network for aspect-based sentiment analysis," in Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers) (A. Rogers, J. Boyd-Graber, and N. Okazaki, eds.), (Toronto, Canada), pp. 322–337, Association for Computational Linguistics, July 2023.

[40] A. Rizvi, N. Thamindu, A. Adhikari, W. Senevirathna, D. Kasthurirathna, and L. Abeywardhana, "Enhancing multilingual sentiment analysis with explainability for sinhala, english, and code-mixed content," arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.13545, 2025.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

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Research Problem

- Existing sentiment analysis studies in Sinhala mainly focus on document-level or sentence-level classification, which fails to capture sentiment toward individual aspects such as battery, camera, or delivery within a single review [1].
- Furthermore, there is a significant lack of publicly available Sinhala Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis datasets and supporting linguistic resources, which hinders the development of fine-grained sentiment models for this low-resource language. [40]
- This research addresses the challenge of performing effective aspect-based sentiment analysis on Sinhala online reviews under conditions of limited annotated data and linguistic resources.
- Addressing this problem is crucial for improving customer insight extraction, enabling better business intelligence for local e-commerce platforms, and advancing Sinhala Natural Language Processing research [2, 3].

[1] N. de Silva, "Survey on publicly available Sinhala natural language processing tools and research," arXiv preprint arXiv:1906.02358, 2019. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/1906.02358>

[2] K. P. 2025 Shyam Viththalani, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis advancements and applications in code-mixed text and gujarati language processing," in International Journal of Engineering Trends and Technology, vol. 73, 2025.

[3] K. Aziz, N. Ahmed, H. J. Hadi, A. Yusufu, M. A. Alshara, Y. Javed, and D. Ji, "Enhanced urduaspectnet: leveraging biaffine attention for superior aspect-based sentiment analysis," Journal of King Saud University-Computer and Information Sciences, vol. 36, no. 9, p. 102221, 2024

[40] A. Rizvi, N. Thamindu, A. Adhikari, W. Senevirathna, D. Kasthurirathna, and L. Abeywardhana, "Enhancing multilingual sentiment analysis with explainability for sinhala, english, and code-mixed content," arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.13545, 2025.

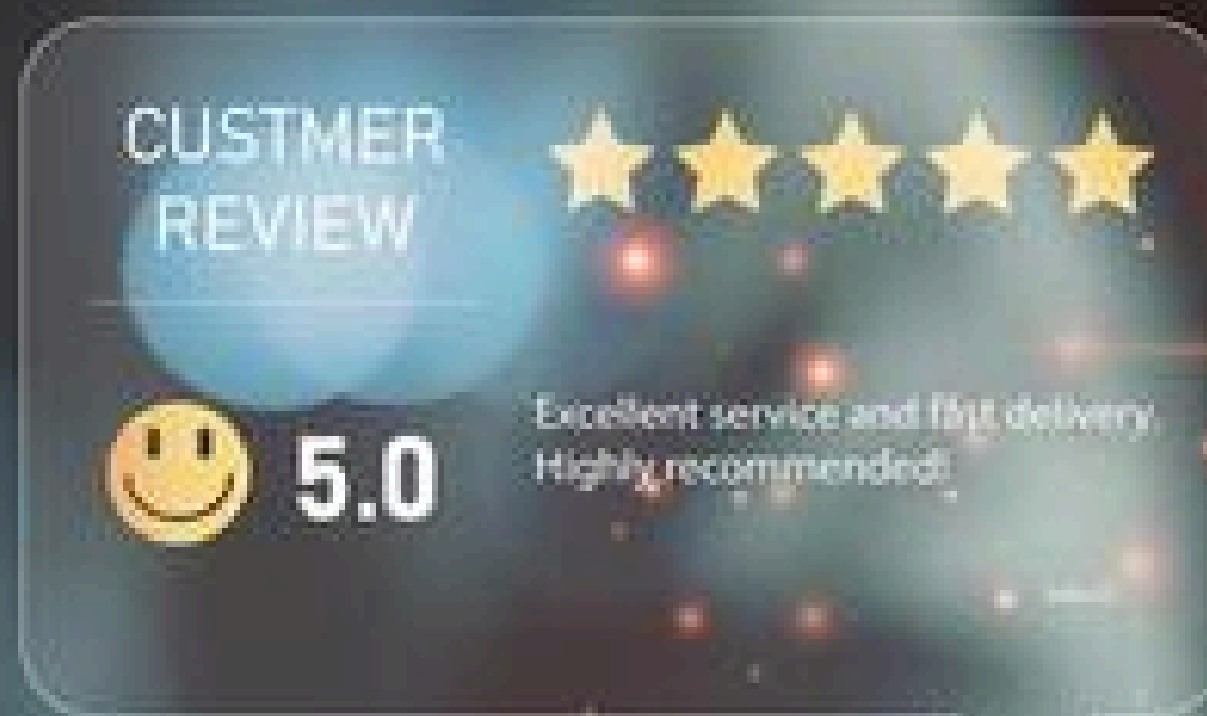
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES



Research Objectives

The primary objectives of this research are as follows:

1. Curate a Sinhala aspect-based sentiment analysis dataset by collecting and annotating online product reviews.
 2. Explore state-of-the-art approaches to improve aspect-level sentiment understanding by modeling syntactic and semantic relationships.
 3. Develop an ABSA model fine-tuned for Sinhala to perform aspect-level sentiment classification.
 4. Evaluate model performance using standard ABSA metrics.
-



LITERATURE SURVEY

Generative & Unified Frameworks for ABSA

- Traditional ABSA treats aspect extraction, opinion extraction, and sentiment classification as separate tasks, limiting their ability to capture semantic interdependencies between subtasks. [15]
- Recent approaches reformulate ABSA as unified sequence generation, enabling end-to-end modeling of aspects, opinions, and polarities within a single framework [10, 15].
- These generative frameworks primarily employ paraphrase-based generation, pointer-based sequence generation, or structured output generation to jointly model multiple sentiment elements. [10, 11, 15, 16, 17]
- Paraphrase-based methods generate natural language representations of sentiment structures, while pointer-based approaches predict token-level spans with sentiment labels, both reducing error propagation common in pipeline architectures [10, 11, 15, 16, 17]

[15] W. Zhang, Y. Deng, X. Li, Y. Yuan, L. Bing, and W. Lam, "Aspect sentiment quad prediction as paraphrase generation," arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.00796, 2021.

[10] W. Zhang, X. Li, Y. Deng, L. Bing, and W. Lam, "Towards generative aspect-based sentiment analysis." Association for Computational Linguistics, 2021

[11] H. Yan, J. Dai, T. Ji, X. Qiu, and Z. Zhang, "A unified generative framework for aspect-based sentiment analysis," in Proceedings of the 59th annual meeting of the association for computational linguistics and the 11th international joint conference on natural language processing (volume 1: long papers), 2021, pp. 2416–2429.

[16] C. Li, F. Gao, J. Bu, L. Xu, X. Chen, Y. Gu, Z. Shao, Q. Zheng, N. Zhang, Y. Wang et al., "Sentiprompt: Sentiment knowledge enhanced prompt-tuning for aspect-based sentiment analysis," arXiv preprint arXiv:2109.08306, 2021.

[17] J. J. Peper and L. Wang, "Generative aspect-based sentiment analysis with contrastive learning and expressive structure," arXiv preprint arXiv:2211.07743, 2022.

Generative & Unified Frameworks for ABSA (Cnt.)

- More structured generative approaches further extend this idea by producing schema-constrained outputs such as ordered quadruples or opinion trees, which capture both semantic and syntactic dependencies and improve interpretability [17, 18].
- Such structured representations also enable explicit modeling of hierarchical relationships between aspects and opinions, facilitating more accurate extraction of complex and implicit sentiment expressions [17,18].
- Overall, unified generative ABSA frameworks achieve higher extraction accuracy, better handling of implicit sentiments, and improved adaptability to low-resource settings, representing a shift from task-specific classifiers to integrated sentiment modeling architectures [10, 15, 16, 21].

[17] J. J. Peper and L. Wang, "Generative aspect-based sentiment analysis with contrastive learning and expressive structure," arXiv preprint arXiv:2211.07743, 2022.

[18] X. Bao, Z. Wang, X. Jiang, R. Xiao, and S. Li, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis with opinion tree generation." in IJCAI, vol. 2022, 2022, pp. 4044–4050.

[10] W. Zhang, X. Li, Y. Deng, L. Bing, and W. Lam, "Towards generative aspect-based sentiment analysis." Association for Computational Linguistics, 2021

[15] W. Zhang, Y. Deng, X. Li, Y. Yuan, L. Bing, and W. Lam, "Aspect sentiment quad prediction as paraphrase generation," arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.00796, 2021.

[16] C. Li, F. Gao, J. Bu, L. Xu, X. Chen, Y. Gu, Z. Shao, Q. Zheng, N. Zhang, Y. Wang et al., "Sentiprompt: Sentiment knowledge enhanced prompt-tuning for aspect-based sentiment analysis," arXiv preprint arXiv:2109.08306, 2021.

[21] H. Wan, Y. Yang, J. Du, Y. Liu, K. Qi, and J. Z. Pan, "Target-aspect-sentiment joint detection for aspect-based sentiment analysis," in Proceedings of the AAAI conference on artificial intelligence, vol. 34, no. 05, 2020, pp. 9122–9129.

Graph-Based Approaches & Dependency Parsing

- Graph-based models explicitly encode syntactic relationships through dependency trees, capturing long-range dependencies and complex structures that sequential models miss [8, 24, 25]
- Early studies demonstrated that integrating dependency graphs with neural architectures significantly improves aspect-sentiment linking performance [8].
- Subsequent advances combined contextual embeddings from BERT with graph convolutional networks to jointly model syntactic structure and contextual semantics, leading to more robust aspect-level representations [8, 24].
- Enhanced graph mechanisms introduced aspect-specific gating, word importance weighting, and syntax-guided regularization to focus on sentiment-relevant words [24].
- Syntax-aware Graph Neural Networks effectively align linguistic structure with contextual representations for robust ABSA [8, 24, 25]

[8] Z. Xiao, J. Wu, Q. Chen, and C. Deng, “Bert4gcn: Using bert intermediate layers to augment gcn for aspect-based sentiment classification,” arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.00171, 2021. 28

[24] A. P. B. Veyseh, N. Nouri, F. Dernoncourt, Q. H. Tran, D. Dou, and T. H. Nguyen, “Improving aspect-based sentiment analysis with gated graph convolutional networks and syntax-based regulation,” in Findings of the association for computational linguistics: EMNLP 2020, 2020, pp. 4543–4548.

[25] R. Li, H. Chen, F. Feng, Z. Ma, X. Wang, and E. Hovy, “Dual graph convolutional networks for aspect-based sentiment analysis,” in Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (Volume 1: Long Papers), 2021, pp. 6319–6329.

Graph-Based Approaches & Dependency Parsing (Cnt.)

- Dual-graph architectures jointly model syntactic and semantic relationships, outperforming single approaches in complex and informal text [25]
- Abstract Meaning Representation-based semantic graphs capture meaning-level relations less sensitive to surface syntax variations [26]
- Graph-based ABSA has also been adapted to specialized domains such as legal opinion analysis, with entity-centric dependencies and long structured sentences [27].
- Rule-based and hybrid graph systems exploit dependency parsing to produce interpretable and domain-aligned sentiment predictions, highlighting the continued relevance of linguistic structure [28].

[25] R. Li, H. Chen, F. Feng, Z. Ma, X. Wang, and E. Hovy, "Dual graph convolutional networks for aspect-based sentiment analysis," in Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (Volume 1: Long Papers), 2021, pp. 6319–6329. Systems Applications. Springer, 2021, pp. 125–137.

[26] F. Ma, X. Hu, A. Liu, Y. Yang, S. Li, P. S. Yu, and L. Wen, "AMR-based network for aspect-based sentiment analysis," in Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers), A. Rogers, J. Boyd-Graber, and N. Okazaki, Eds. Toronto, Canada: Association for Computational Linguistics, Jul. 2023, pp. 322–337. [Online]. Available: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.acl-long.19/>

[27] I. Rajapaksha, C. R. Mudalige, D. Karunaratna, N. de Silva, A. S. Perera, and G. Rathnayaka, "Sigmalaw pbsa-a deep learning model for aspect-based sentiment analysis for the legal domain," in International Conference on Database and Expert Systems Applications. Springer, 2021, pp. 125–137.

[28] I. Rajapaksha, C. R. Mudalige, D. Karunaratna, N. de Silva, G. Rathnayaka, and A. S. Perera, "Rule-based approach for party-based sentiment analysis in legal opinion texts," in 2020 20th International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer). IEEE, 2020, pp. 284–285.

Instruction Tuning & Prompt-Based ABSA

- Instruction tuning and prompt-based learning enable a single model to perform multiple ABSA tasks by following natural language instructions instead of using task-specific architectures [16].
- These approaches unify aspect extraction, opinion extraction, sentiment classification, and triplet/quadruple generation, reducing complexity and improving zero-shot and few-shot performance[16].
- Prompt-based methods use either manual templates or learnable soft prompts, with learnable prompts providing more stable and effective sentiment representations [16].
- Instruction-tuned models trained on diverse task instructions can generalize across different ABSA subtasks and domains without extensive retraining [29].
- Frameworks such as InstructABSA and its hybrid extensions demonstrate strong performance, cross-domain adaptability, and suitability for low-resource languages like Sinhala [29, 30].

[16] C. Li, F. Gao, J. Bu, L. Xu, X. Chen, Y. Gu, Z. Shao, Q. Zheng, N. Zhang, Y. Wang et al., “Sentiprompt: Sentiment knowledge enhanced prompt-tuning for aspect-based sentiment analysis,” arXiv preprint arXiv:2109.08306, 2021.

[29]. Scaria, H. Gupta, S. Goyal, S. Sawant, S. Mishra, and C. Baral, “Instructabsa: Instruction learning for aspect based sentiment analysis,” in Proceedings of the 2024 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (Volume 2: Short Papers), 2024, pp. 720–736.

[30] D. Jayakody, A. Malkith, K. Isuranda, V. Thenuwara, N. de Silva, S. R. Ponnampereuma, G. Sandamali, and K. Sudheera, “Instruct-deberta: A hybrid approach for aspect-based sentiment analysis on textual reviews,” arXiv preprint arXiv:2408.13202, 2024

ABSA for Low-Resource Languages - Overview

Key Challenges in Low-Resource ABSA

- Critical shortage of annotated corpora and limited availability of linguistic tools for processing [31, 34]
- Morphological complexity and richness that complicates tokenization and feature extraction [31, 34, 36]
- Code-mixing between native scripts and English, along with romanized script variations [13, 36]
- Domain-specific vocabulary gaps that make general models less effective[33, 35]
- Inconsistent orthography in user-generated content from social media and reviews [13, 33]

Common Solutions Across Languages:

- Creation of high-quality datasets through rigorous native speaker annotation processes [9, 31, 34, 35]
- Deployment of multilingual transformer models such as XLM-R, IndicBERT, and mBERT [9, 13, 36]
- Hybrid modeling approaches combining sentiment lexicons with deep learning architectures [13, 35]
- Data augmentation using techniques like T5-based paraphrasing and back-translation [9, 37]

[13] K. P. 2025 Shyam Viththalani, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis advancements and applications in code-mixed text and gujarati language processing," in International Journal of Engineering Trends and Technology, vol. 73, 2025.

[31] Y. R. Regatte, R. R. R. Gangula, and R. Mamidi, "Dataset creation and evaluation of aspect based sentiment analysis in telugu, a low resource language," in Proceedings of the Twelfth Language Resources and Evaluation Conference, 2020, pp. 5017–5024.

[33] N. Sultana, R. Sultana, R. I. Rasel, and M. M. Hoque, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis of bangla comments on entertainment domain," in 2022 25th International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICIT). IEEE, 2022, pp. 953–958.

[34] S. G. Matlatipov, J. Rajabov, E. Kuriyozov, and M. Aripov, "Uzabsa: Aspectbased sentiment analysis for the uzbek language," in Proceedings of the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Under-resourced Languages@ LREC-COLING 2024, 2024, pp. 394–403.

[35] Q.-L. Tran, P. T. D. Le, and T.-H. Do, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis for vietnamese reviews about beauty product on e-commerce websites," in Proceedings of the 36th Pacific Asia conference on language, information and computation, 2022, pp. 767–776. [36]

M. R. Ashraf, Y. Jana, Q. Umer, M. A. Jaffar, S. Chung, and W. Y. Ramay, "Bert-based sentiment analysis for low-resourced languages: A case study of urdu language," IEEE Access, vol. 11, pp. 110 245–110 259, 2023.

[9] L. Dewangan, Z. A. Sayeed, and C. Maurya, "Benchmark creation for aspectbased sentiment analysis in low-resource odia language and evaluation through fine-tuning of multilingual models," in Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics, 2025, pp. 5863–5869

[36] M. R. Ashraf, Y. Jana, Q. Umer, M. A. Jaffar, S. Chung, and W. Y. Ramay, "Bert-based sentiment analysis for low-resourced languages: A case study of urdu language," IEEE Access, vol. 11, pp. 110 245–110 259, 2023.

[37] Z. Wang, Q. Xie, and R. Xia, "A simple yet effective framework for few-shot aspect-based sentiment analysis," in Proceedings of the 46th international ACM SIGIR conference on research and development in information retrieval, 2023, pp. 1765–1770.

Notable Recent Low-Resource ABSA Implementations

Language	Dataset Size	Key Features & Achievements
Telugu [31]	5,027 reviews	Movie domain with six categories, LSTM baselines established
Odia [9]	5,780 reviews, 9,400+ aspects	Seven product/service domains with T5 augmentation and XLM-R fine-tuning
Uzbek [34]	3,500+ reviews, 6,100+ sentences	Multi-task approach using KNN methodology
Vietnamese [35]	16,227 reviews	E-commerce beauty products using BiGRU+Conv1D
Urdu [36]	84,743 reviews	USA-BERT model with script normalization
Bangla[33]	4,012 comments	Entertainment domain (YouTube). Machine-learning classifiers like SVC, Random Forest or Linear Regression were used

[9] L. Dewangan, Z. A. Sayeed, and C. Maurya, “Benchmark creation for aspectbased sentiment analysis in low-resource odia language and evaluation through fine-tuning of multilingual models,” in Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics, 2025, pp. 5863–5869

[31] Y. R. Regatte, R. R. R. Gangula, and R. Mamidi, “Dataset creation and evaluation of aspect based sentiment analysis in telugu, a low resource language,” in Proceedings of the Twelfth Language Resources and Evaluation Conference, 2020, pp. 5017–5024.

[33] N. Sultana, R. Sultana, R. I. Rasel, and M. M. Hoque, “Aspect-based sentiment analysis of bangla comments on entertainment domain,” in 2022 25th International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCIT). IEEE, 2022, pp. 953–958.

[34] S. G. Matlatipov, J. Rajabov, E. Kuriyozov, and M. Aripov, “Uzabsa: Aspectbased sentiment analysis for the uzbek language,” in Proceedings of the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Special Interest Group on Under-resourced Languages@ LREC-COLING 2024, 2024, pp. 394–403.

[35] Q.-L. Tran, P. T. D. Le, and T.-H. Do, “Aspect-based sentiment analysis for vietnamese reviews about beauty product on e-commerce websites,” in Proceedings of the 36th Pacific Asia conference on language, information and computation, 2022, pp. 767–776.

[36] M. R. Ashraf, Y. Jana, Q. Umer, M. A. Jaffar, S. Chung, and W. Y. Ramay, “Bert-based sentiment analysis for low-resourced languages: A case study of urdu language,” IEEE Access, vol. 11, pp. 110 245–110 259, 2023.

Implications for Sinhala ABSA

Similar Linguistic and Resource Challenges:

- Morphological complexity requiring specialized tokenization approaches (parallels with Telugu and Odia) [9,31]
- Script variation where users alternate between native Sinhala and romanized Singlish (similar to Urdu and Gujarati) [13,36]
- Extensive code-mixing with English in social media and informal contexts [33]
- Limited availability of high-quality annotated resources and NLP tools [9, 36]

Proven Methodologies Applicable to Sinhala

Preprocessing [13]:

- Language detection for code-switched segments
- Transliteration between native script and romanized forms
- Normalization for informal user-generated content

Modeling Approaches:

- Unsupervised: LISA model for settings without annotated datasets [32]
- Lightweight: KNN-based methods for establishing initial baselines [34]
- Advanced: Multilingual transformers like IndicBERT and XLM-R [9]
- Hybrid: Lexicon-transformer systems combining dictionaries with BERT [13]

[9] L. Dewangan, Z. A. Sayeed, and C. Maurya, "Benchmark creation for aspectbased sentiment analysis in low-resource odia language and evaluation through fine-tuning of multilingual models," in Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics, 2025, pp. 5863–5869

[13] K. P. 2025 Shyam Viththalani, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis advancements and applications in code-mixed text and gujarati language processing," in International Journal of Engineering Trends and Technology, vol. 73, 2025.

[31] Y. R. Regatte, R. R. R. Gangula, and R. Mamidi, "Dataset creation and evaluation of aspect based sentiment analysis in telugu, a low resource language," in Proceedings of the Twelfth Language Resources and Evaluation Conference, 2020, pp. 5017–5024.

[32] Lisa: language-independent method for aspect-based sentiment analysis," IEEE Access, vol. 8, pp. 31 034–31 044, 2020.

[33] N. Sultana, R. Sultana, R. I. Rasel, and M. M. Hoque, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis of bangla comments on entertainment domain," in 2022 25th International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICIT). IEEE, 2022, pp. 953–958.

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[35] Q.-L. Tran, P. T. D. Le, and T.-H. Do, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis for vietnamese reviews about beauty product on e-commerce websites," in Proceedings of the 36th Pacific Asia conference on language, information and computation, 2022, pp. 767–776.

[36] M. R. Ashraf, Y. Jana, Q. Umer, M. A. Jaffar, S. Chung, and W. Y. Ramay, "Bert-based sentiment analysis for low-resourced languages: A case study of urdu language," IEEE Access, vol. 11, pp. 110 245–110 259, 2023.[32] M. Shams, N. Khoshavi, and A. Baraani-Dastjerdi, "

Synthetic Data Generation for ABSA

The Core Challenge:

- Training ABSA models requires large annotated datasets, which low-resource languages like Sinhala lack [38]
- Traditional data collection is time-consuming, expensive, and requires linguistic expertise

LLM-Based Synthetic Generation [38]:

- Large Language Models generate synthetic training samples with minimal seed data (as few as 25 examples)
- Creates aspect-rich sentences across diverse sentiment classes and linguistic structures
- Improves both ATE and APC performance in low-resource settings
- Provides scalable, language-agnostic pipeline

Augmentation Strategies [9]:

- Ensemble augmentation: back-translation + T5-based paraphrasing
- Semantic similarity filtering using Universal Sentence Encoder for quality control
- Successfully enhanced XLM-R and IndicBERT performance for morphologically rich languages

[38] N. C. Hellwig, J. Fehle, and C. Wolff, “Exploring large language models for the generation of synthetic training samples for aspect-based sentiment analysis in low resource settings,” *Expert Systems with Applications*, vol. 261, p. 125514, 2025.

[9] L. Dewangan, Z. A. Sayeed, and C. Maurya, “Benchmark creation for aspect based sentiment analysis in low-resource odia language and evaluation through fine-tuning of multilingual models,” in *Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics*, 2025, pp. 5863–5869.

Multilingual and Sinhala / Code-Mixed Studies

Sinhala Banking Domain Study [39, 40]:

Dataset & Domain:

- 15,000 banking reviews: 5,000 Sinhala and code-mixed samples [40]
- Covers loans, online banking, transactions, and customer service aspects [39]

Technical Approach:

- Domain-specific vocabulary construction using embedding-based keyword identification [39]
- Hybrid modeling: XLM-RoBERTa combined with Sinhala sentiment lexicons [40]
- Preprocessing pipeline: transliteration and normalization for non-standard orthography [40]
- Explainability using SHAP and LIME for interpretability [40]

Results:

- Hybrid Sinhala model achieved >88% accuracy [40]
- Outperformed classical models and zero-shot GPT baselines [40]

Key Insight: Domain lexicon development is essential for handling Sinhala code-mixing [39]

[39] F. Rizvi, T. Navojith, A. Adhikari, W. Senevirathna, D. Kasthurirathna, and L. Abeywardhana, “Keyword extraction, and aspect classification in sinhala, english, and code-mixed content,” arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.10679, 2025.

[40] A. Rizvi, N. Thamindu, A. Adhikari, W. Senevirathna, D. Kasthurirathna, and L. Abeywardhana, “Enhancing multilingual sentiment analysis with explainability for sinhala, english, and code-mixed content,” arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.13545, 2025.

Deep Learning Foundations and Architectures

1. Context Denoising Model [2]

- **Problem:** Contextual noise and irrelevant information in user-generated text mislead sentiment detection
- **Solution:** Diffusion-based denoising mechanism with syntactically-informed noise injection
- **Approach:** Uses dependency parsing to target irrelevant words, applied on BERT and LLaMA
- **Results:** Superior performance on LAP14 and REST14-REST16 benchmarks
- **Sinhala Relevance:** Handles colloquial expressions, free word order, and irrelevant information

2. Contextual Syntax-Aware Extraction (CSAE) Model [3]

- **Problem:** Modern embeddings struggle with multi-word aspect detection (e.g., "quality of food")
- **Solution:** Integrates POS tags, dependency embeddings, and syntactic relative distance metrics
- **Mechanism:** Self-attention emphasizes syntactically significant context for boundary detection
- **Results:** Significant improvements on SemEval-2014 restaurant and laptop datasets
- **Sinhala Relevance:** Critical for handling flexible word order, compound expressions, and rich morphology

[2] Y. Tian, C. Liu, Y. Song, F. Xia, and Y. Zhang, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis with context denoising," in Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: NAACL 2024, 2024, pp. 3083–3095.

[3] M. H. Phan and P. O. Ogunbona, "Modelling context and syntactical features for aspect-based sentiment analysis," in Proceedings of the 58th annual meeting of the association for computational linguistics, 2020, pp. 3211–3220.

Deep Learning Foundations and Architectures (Cnt.)

3. Aspect-to-Scope Multi-View Contrastive Learning (A2SMvCL) [41]

- **Problem:** Multi-aspect interference where sentiment words for one aspect incorrectly influence another
- **Innovation:** Defines "aspect-specific scope" as precise sentiment-relevant regions per aspect
- **Architecture:** Dual graph views (semantic attention-based + syntactic dependency-based)
- **Mechanism:** Intra-view and inter-view contrastive learning with self-gating fusion
- **Results:** Consistently outperforms existing methods across six benchmark datasets
- **Sinhala Relevance:** Handles sentiment encoded implicitly across syntactically dispersed elements

[41] H. Chai, Z. Yao, S. Tang, Y. Wang, L. Nie, B. Fang, and Q. Liao, "Aspect-to-scope oriented multi-view contrastive learning for aspect-based sentiment analysis," in Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2023, 2023, pp. 10 902–10 913.

Deep Learning Foundations and Architectures (Cnt.)

4. Contrastive Learning Framework [43]

- **Supervised Variant:** Uses sentiment labels to bring same-polarity samples closer in embedding space
- **Unsupervised Variant:** Generates positive samples via back-translation and synonym replacement
- **Results:** More compact sentiment clusters and improved polarity separation on REST14, LAP14, Twitter
- **Sinhala Relevance:** Improves robustness in noisy, small-scale datasets with domain augmentation

5. Frequency-Based Domain Lexicon Framework [44]

- Lightweight, interpretable approach using contextual frequency and opinion-aspect pairs
- Language-agnostic foundation complementing deep learning architectures

[43] L. Xu and W. Wang, "Improving aspect-based sentiment analysis with contrastive learning," Natural Language Processing Journal, vol. 3, p. 100009, 2023.

[44] T. M. Zayet, M. A. Ismail, and K. D. Varathan, "Aspect extraction in domain Lexicon generation: A new frequency-based approach," IEEE Access, 2024.

Hybrid and Multi-Component Architectures

Why Hybrid Architectures?

- Overcome limitations of purely supervised or transformer-only approaches [40]
- Integrate linguistic knowledge, statistical reasoning, and model interpretability [45]
- Particularly effective for low-resource languages with limited annotated data [32, 40]

Key Hybrid Architecture Examples:

1. Explainable Sinhala-English Banking System [40]

- **Components:** XLM-R + BERT-base + Sinhala financial lexicons + SHAP/LIME visualization
- **Capabilities:** Handles code-mixed text, corrects Sinhala-specific linguistic errors, provides interpretable outputs
- **Result:** Demonstrates how symbolic resources combined with transformers improve under-resourced contexts

[32] M. Shams, N. Khoshavi, and A. Baraani-Dastjerdi, "Lisa: language-independent method for aspect-based sentiment analysis," IEEE Access, vol. 8, pp. 31 034–31 044, 2020.

[40] A. Rizvi, N. Thamindu, A. Adhikari, W. Senevirathna, D. Kasthurirathna, and L. Abeywardhana, "Enhancing multilingual sentiment analysis with explainability for sinhala, english, and code-mixed content," arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.13545, 2025.

[45] A. Maroof, S. Wasi, S. I. Jami, and M. S. Siddiqui, "Aspect based sentiment analysis for service industry," IEEE Access, 2024.

Hybrid and Multi-Component Architectures (Cnt.)

2. Sinhala Keyword Extraction & Aspect Classification [39]

- **Pipeline:** Embedding-based keyword extraction → vocabulary expansion → transliteration → aspect mapping
- **Key Insight:** Domain-specific preprocessing and component integration enhance accuracy

3. LISA Unsupervised Model [32]

- **Components:** Lexicon translation + co-occurrence statistics + EM-based topic modeling
- **Advantage:** Minimal supervised data requirements with language flexibility

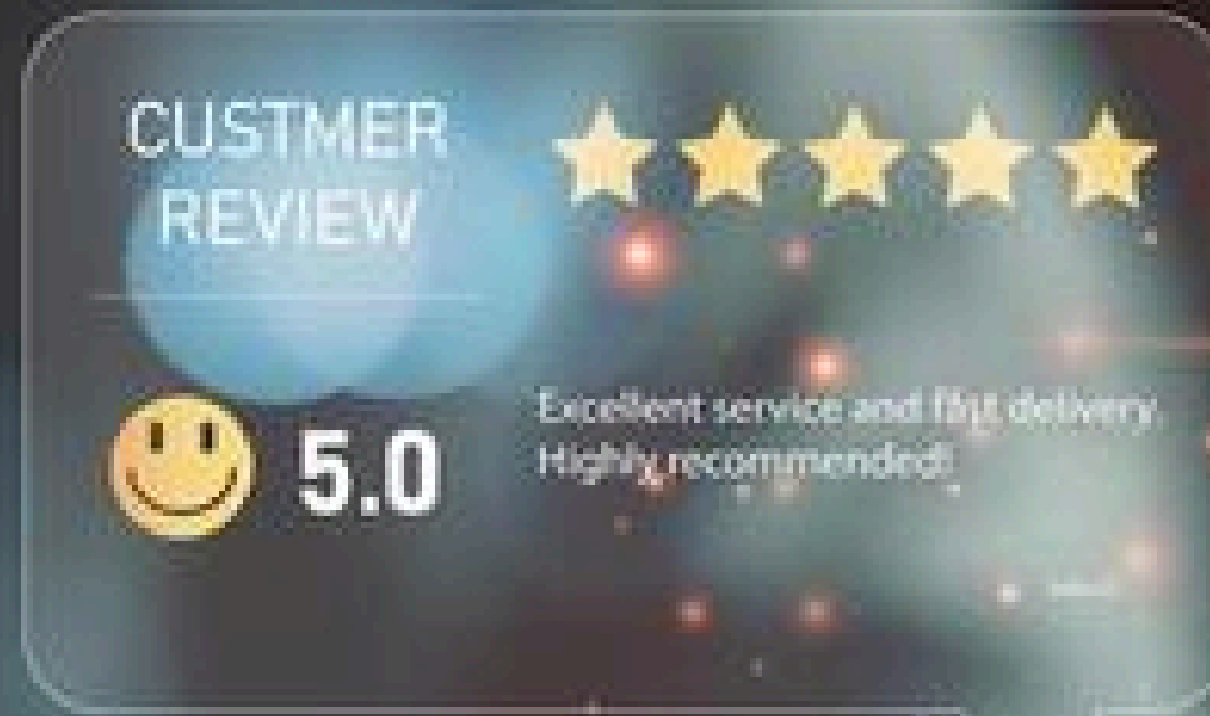
4. Service Industry Two-Stage Pipeline [45]

- **Approach:** Linguistic rules (POS, dependency parsing, lexicons) + ML/DL models (SVM, LSTM, BERT)
- **Strength:** Captures implicit aspects, multi-word expressions, and contextual sentiment shifts

[39] F. Rizvi, T. Navojith, A. Adhikari, W. Senevirathna, D. Kasthurirathna, and L. Abeywardhana, "Keyword extraction, and aspect classification in sinhala, english, and code-mixed content," arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.10679, 2025.

[32] M. Shams, N. Khoshavi, and A. Baraani-Dastjerdi, "Lisa: language-independent method for aspect-based sentiment analysis," IEEE Access, vol. 8, pp. 31 034–31 044, 2020.

[45] A. Maroof, S. Wasi, S. I. Jami, and M. S. Siddiqui, "Aspect based sentiment analysis for service industry," IEEE Access, 2024.



PROPOSED METHOD

Dataset Creation and Augmentation

Data Collection:

- Sources: Daraz.lk and Sinhala social media platforms
- Diverse product categories: electronics, household, fashion, personal care
- Ethical web scraping of publicly accessible content only

Data Preprocessing Pipeline:

- Remove HTML tags, URLs, duplicates, and full English reviews
- Transliterate Romanized Sinhala (Singlish) to proper Sinhala script
- Normalize Unicode characters and correct spelling variations
- Handle code-mixed text: retain sentiment-bearing English words
- Sinhala-compatible tokenization and sentence segmentation

Data Augmentation [33, 43]:

- Back-translation via English/Tamil
- Synonym replacement using embeddings
- Transformer-based paraphrasing

[33] N. Sultana, R. Sultana, R. I. Rasel, and M. M. Hoque, "Aspect-based sentiment analysis of bangla comments on entertainment domain," in 2022 25th International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCIT). IEEE, 2022, pp. 953–958

[43] L. Xu and W. Wang, "Improving aspect-based sentiment analysis with contrastive learning," Natural Language Processing Journal, vol. 3, p. 100009, 2023.

Dataset Creation and Augmentation

Annotation Strategy[15]:

- Aspect Terms: The word or phrase representing the aspect, as it appears in the text
- Aspect Categories: Higher-level groupings (Product Quality, Service)
- Opinion Term : Words or phrases that expresses the sentiment towards a particular aspect
- Sentiment Polarity: Positive, negative, or neutral per aspect
- Multiple native speakers



Negative



Neutral



Positive

Model Development and Evaluation

Multi-Task Problem Formulation:

- **Task 1:** Aspect Extraction
- **Task 2:** Sentiment Classification (polarity per aspect)

Modeling Approaches:

1. **Transformer-Based Models** : mBERT, XLM-RoBERTa, IndicBERT fine-tuned on Sinhala dataset
2. **Joint/Multi-Task Learning** : Shared encoder with task-specific output layers
3. **Graph-Based Approaches** : GCNs/GATs on dependency-parsed syntactic graphs

Evaluation:

- **Metrics:** Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-score
- **Comparisons:** Models, architectures, with/without augmentation
- **Error Analysis:** Implicit aspects, sarcasm, negation, code-mixing

Dataset Paper

SalAngaBhava: A Sinhala Market Dataset for Aspect-based Sentiment Analysis

- **Conference:** MERCon 2026, University of Moratuwa

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Thank you