

Abstract

The education crisis in Indonesia has prompted the government to implement the Merdeka Curriculum as a strategy to improve the quality of learning. However, public response to its implementation remains divided, particularly on social media. This study analyzes public sentiment toward the Merdeka Curriculum using 10,066 tweets from the X platform collected over one year (October 2023–October 2024). The data was analyzed using Support Vector Machine (SVM) and Random Forest (RF) algorithms through manual labeling, text preprocessing, feature extraction with TF-IDF, and the addition of synthetic data to the minority class using the SMOTE method. The model was evaluated in three stages of hyperparameter tuning. The results show that the SVM model performed best with an accuracy of 72.42% and a macro F1-score of 69.67%, compared to RF with an accuracy of 68.49% and a macro F1-score of 66.25%. Neutral and negative sentiments were more dominant, while positive sentiments were relatively low. The addition of synthetic data improved the model's ability to recognize the minority class. This study provides empirical insights into public perceptions of education policies while demonstrating the potential of social media sentiment analysis as a tool for real-time policy evaluation.

Keywords: *Merdeka Curriculum, Random Forest, Sentiment Analysis, Social Media, Support Vector Machine, X*