AI Driven Cross-Cultural Retail: Adapting Visual Content and Products to Regional Trends

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Abstract

In an increasingly globalized retail market, tailoring marketing campaigns and product offerings to culturally diverse audiences is essential for success. This paper presents an AI-driven framework that leverages social media insights and visual trend prediction to create geographically tailored retail strategies. By uniquely combining cross-cultural sentiment analysis, multimodal visual trend forecasting, and competitive data analysis, the framework enables real-time customization of marketing campaigns and informed future product design. The use of AI not only identifies emerging cultural trends but also automates their translation into actionable strategies for localized marketing visuals and product innovation. This approach empowers retailers to balance global branding with local relevance, driving deeper consumer engagement, stronger brand loyalty, and increased sales. Ultimately, this work illustrates the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in revolutionizing cross-cultural retail marketing and ensuring sustainable competitive advantage.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning in Retail, Social Media Analytics, Sentiment Analysis, Trend Prediction, Cross-Cultural Marketing.

I. INTRODUCTION

The globalization of retail markets has transformed the way businesses operate, unlocking opportunities to engage culturally diverse audiences worldwide. However, this globalization also presents significant challenges: understanding regional consumer behavior, addressing diverse cultural preferences, and dynamically tailoring marketing strategies and product designs. Traditional approaches to cross-cultural marketing often rely on static, one-size-fits-all methods, which fail to capture the nuanced and evolving nature of cultural trends. This disconnect can result in missed opportunities for engagement, loyalty, and growth.

Social media has emerged as a powerful tool to bridge this gap, offering an abundance of data on regional preferences, visual trends, and consumer sentiment. With its diverse and dynamic user base, social media platforms provide brands with unparalleled insights into cultural patterns and localized needs. However, despite its potential, current approaches to cross-cultural marketing and product innovation struggle to integrate these insights effectively. Many existing methods lack the ability to analyze visual content trends or adapt dynamically to real-time data, limiting their effectiveness in addressing regional consumer demands.

To address these challenges, this paper proposes an AI-driven framework that leverages social media insights and visual trend prediction to create geographically tailored retail strategies. By integrating advanced machine learning models for sentiment analysis, visual trend forecasting, and competitive data analysis, this framework enables businesses to dynamically localize their marketing campaigns and design products that resonate with

specific cultural contexts. The framework emphasizes the role of artificial intelligence in automating and optimizing these processes, making them scalable and adaptable for global markets.

The key contributions of this work include:

- A novel integration of AI for visual trend prediction and cultural analysis, offering a comprehensive understanding of regional preferences.
- Insights into dynamic localization, empowering retailers to balance global brand consistency with local relevance in both marketing and product design.

This paper demonstrates how artificial intelligence can revolutionize cross-cultural retail marketing, enabling businesses to foster deeper consumer engagement, enhance brand loyalty, and drive sustainable growth across diverse markets.

II. RELATED WORK

A. Cross-Cultural Retail Marketing

Cross-cultural retail marketing has traditionally focused on aligning retail formats and strategies with local cultural preferences. Department stores, for instance, have historically acted as intermediaries for cultural consumption, providing standardized retail environments that enable individual expression [1]. In traditional retail markets, such as those in Jordan, retail institutions hold deep cultural significance, serving as spaces for identity formation and societal organization [2]. Even amidst modernization, traditional retail formats, including family-run stores, persist due to their cultural and organizational relevance, as demonstrated in studies of East Malaysian retailing [3]. Additionally, adaptations in fashion retail strategies highlight the critical balance between incorporating traditional cultural elements and meeting modern consumer preferences [4].

B. AI in Retail and Marketing

Artificial intelligence (AI) has revolutionized retail by enabling advanced applications such as sentiment analysis and trend forecasting. For example, AI-powered sentiment analysis of consumer data, particularly from social media, provides real-time insights into preferences and emotional responses [5]. AI-driven visual trend forecasting has similarly become pivotal in the fashion industry, supporting mass customization while maintaining affordability and personalization [6]. These capabilities have enhanced decision-making in retail, yet their potential remains underutilized in bridging cultural customization and AI.

C. Social Media Analytics

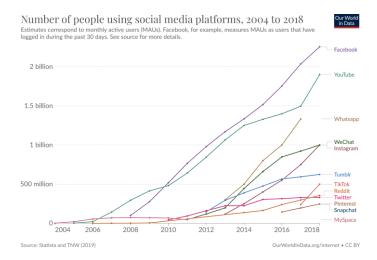


Fig. 1. Growth in Monthly Active Users (MAUs) Across Social Media Platforms (2004–2018) [12]

Social media analytics plays a critical role in uncovering regional trends and consumer behaviors. Social Media Platforms serve as vast repositories of consumer sentiment, enabling businesses to extract actionable insights for retail strategies. For instance, time-series sentiment analysis has been effectively employed to predict fluctuations in consumer preferences, providing retailers with dynamic, data-driven decision-making tools [7]. Moreover, the scalability of social media analytics has been demonstrated across industries, making it a versatile approach for various market contexts [8].

D. Visual Trend Analysis

Visual trend analysis is increasingly recognized as an essential tool for understanding consumer engagement and predicting design trends. Research into the cultural customization of visual elements, such as digitized traditional designs, illustrates how localized aesthetics resonate strongly with specific demographics [9]. Sentiment analysis of images and videos is also gaining traction in marketing, offering insights into emotional responses to visual content and informing strategies for enhanced consumer engagement [10].

E. Gap Analysis

Despite significant advancements in both cultural adaptation and AI applications in retail, a notable gap exists in the integration of these domains into a unified framework. Current research tends to focus either on cultural customization or on AI-driven insights, without addressing their convergence. For instance, while AI has proven effective in sentiment analysis and predictive analytics, its role in visual trend forecasting for culturally diverse markets remains underexplored [11]. The proposed framework aims to bridge this gap by combining AI-powered sentiment analysis with visual trend prediction, offering actionable strategies for geographically tailored marketing campaigns and product designs.

III. A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR TAILORED MARKETING AND PRODUCT INNOVATION

A. Framework Overview

In the era of globalized retail, businesses face the dual challenge of maintaining a consistent global identity while adapting to diverse cultural preferences in local markets. The proposed framework addresses these challenges by leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to dynamically analyze social media data and deliver actionable insights for marketing and product innovation. The framework is designed to collect, process, and analyze multimodal data, including text, images, and metadata, to uncover regional trends, cultural nuances, and competitive strategies.

The framework is modular and comprises five key components: data collection and aggregation, cross-cultural sentiment analysis, visual trend prediction, competitive analysis, and localized marketing and product innovation. These components work in synergy, with each layer enriching the next, creating a robust pipeline for delivering insights tailored to specific regions and cultural contexts.

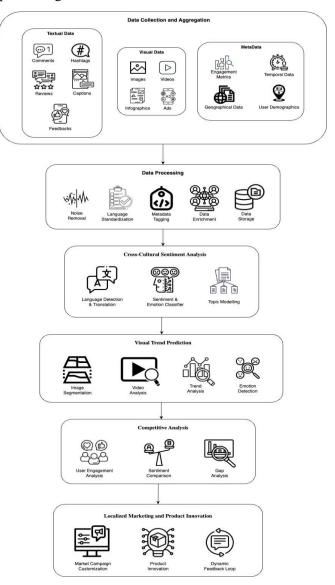


Fig. 2. A Comprehensive Framework for Tailored Marketing and Product Innovation

B. Key Components

1. Data Collection and Aggregation

The first step in the framework is comprehensive data collection and aggregation from diverse social media platforms. This component ensures that the input data covers a wide spectrum of regional, cultural, and contextual information to support meaningful analysis.

Social Media Platforms

- Global Platforms: These are widely used social media platforms with a significant user base spanning multiple countries and regions. They serve as hubs for diverse content types, including text-based posts, visual media (images and videos), and interactive features like live streams. These platforms typically emphasize broad connectivity, content sharing, and cross-cultural engagement, making them ideal for analyzing global consumer trends.
- Regional Platforms: These platforms cater primarily to users within specific countries or cultural contexts, reflecting localized preferences and regional nuances. They often integrate features aligned with local communication styles, such as messaging services, multimedia sharing, and culturally tailored user interfaces. Their focused user base provides valuable insights into regional behaviors, trends, and cultural preferences.

Data Types Collected

- **Textual Data:** Comments, reviews, hashtags, captions, and customer feedback.
- Visual Data: Images, videos, infographics, and advertisements shared on social media.
- Metadata:
- Engagement metrics (likes, shares, comments, retweets).
- O Temporal data (timestamps, trending periods).
- O Geographical data (location tags, regional context).
- User demographics (age, gender, region).

Processing Pipeline

- **Data Preprocessing:** Noise removal, language standardization, and metadata tagging.
- **Data Enrichment:** Combining metadata with user-generated content to provide context (e.g., linking a product review with its region and engagement metrics).
- Storage: Organized into a centralized, scalable repository for downstream processing.

Example

Data from global platform hashtags like #EcoFriendlyFashion in Europe is tagged with metadata (region, engagement, demographics) and prepared for further analysis.

2. Cross-Cultural Sentiment Analysis

Understanding consumer sentiment across regions is critical for tailoring campaigns and product offerings.

This component uses advanced natural language processing (NLP) models to decode regional sentiments, emotional tones, and cultural preferences.

Steps in Sentiment Analysis

• Language Detection and Translation:

- Detect the language of text data and apply machine translation for multilingual content.
- Example: Translating French reviews into English for further analysis.

• Sentiment Classification:

Using NLP models like BERT or RoBERTa to classify sentiments as positive, negative, or neutral.

Emotion Analysis:

Extracting emotional responses such as joy, anger, fear, or excitement to identify deeper consumer feelings.

• Topic Modeling:

o Applying LDA (Latent Dirichlet Allocation) to discover key topics discussed in consumergenerated content.

Outputs

- Sentiment heatmaps showing regional consumer attitudes.
- Emotion-specific insights (e.g., customers in Region A associate excitement with sustainable products, while those in Region B associate reliability).

Example

A sportswear brand finds that customers in Latin America express excitement about vibrant, colorful designs, while European consumers prefer neutral tones and sustainability narratives.

3. Visual Trend Prediction

Visual content is at the heart of consumer engagement on social media. This component identifies trending visual elements—colors, patterns, designs, and formats—using computer vision and deep learning models.

Key Analysis Techniques

- **Image Segmentation:** Detect and classify objects, colors, and textures within images (e.g., floral patterns, pastel tones, minimalist designs).
- **Video Analysis:** Analyze video content to identify dynamic visual trends, such as transitions, animations, or video themes.
- **Temporal Trend Analysis:** Use historical visual data to identify patterns and predict future design preferences.
- **Emotion Detection from Visuals:** Analyze facial expressions or contextual clues in images to determine emotional appeal.

Outputs

- A database of trending visual elements categorized by region, season, or demographic.
- Predictive models that recommend visually appealing design elements for campaigns.

Example

A beauty brand discovers that glitter-based makeup tutorials are trending on social media in North America and launches a product line featuring glittery eyeshadows with marketing visuals inspired by these trends.

4. Competitive Analysis

Competitive analysis allows retailers to assess the strategies of similar brands in specific markets, leveraging insights from consumer interactions with competitors.

Steps in Competitive Analysis

- Data Collection: Monitoring competitor campaigns, hashtags, and product reviews on social media.
- Engagement Analysis: Identifying which posts, visuals, and strategies drive the highest engagement.
- **Sentiment Comparison:** Gauging public perception of competing brands versus the retailer's own brand.
- Gap Analysis: Pinpointing gaps in competitors' offerings to inform unique value propositions.

Outputs

- A comparative matrix highlighting competitor strengths and weaknesses.
- Insights into which visual or messaging strategies resonate with regional consumers.

Example

A footwear retailer observes that a competitor's campaign emphasizing traditional craftsmanship performs well in South Asia. The retailer incorporates similar themes but highlights eco-friendly materials as a differentiator.

5. Localized Marketing and Product Innovation

This component synthesizes insights from the preceding stages to recommend tailored marketing strategies and region-specific product designs.

Localized Marketing Visuals

- Customizing campaigns with culturally relevant visuals, language, and design elements.
- Dynamically updating visuals based on emerging trends or seasonal preferences.

Product Innovation

- Incorporating cultural trends into product features, such as traditional patterns or region-specific functionality.
- Designing limited-edition product lines for festivals or cultural events.

Dynamic Feedback Loop

• Continuously monitoring campaign performance to refine and improverecommendations.

Example

A tech gadget retailer introduces limited-edition colors inspired by regional festivals and designs social media campaigns using localized hashtags and culturally aligned visuals.

C. Framework Benefits

- **Scalability:** Easily adaptable to multiple regions and markets.
- Cultural Relevance: Aligns retail strategies with nuanced cultural preferences.
- **Dynamic Insights:** Real-time adaptability to emerging trends.
- Enhanced ROI: Drives higher engagement and loyalty through personalized marketing.

This detailed framework lays the foundation for creating culturally resonant marketing strategies and product innovations that cater to the diverse needs of global consumers.

IV. PROPOSED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The proposed evaluation methodology is designed to assess the effectiveness of the AI-driven framework in generating actionable insights for geographically tailored marketing campaigns and product innovation. While this paper focuses on proposing the framework rather than implementing it, the following metrics, validation methods, and success criteria provide a blueprint for evaluating its potential impact.

A. Evaluation Metrics

To measure the framework's effectiveness, the following key metrics are proposed:

1. Engagement Rates

Assess the performance of localized marketing campaigns based on user engagement metrics, such as:

- **Likes, Shares, Comments:** Indicating audience interaction and approval of the campaign.
- Click-Through Rates (CTR): Measuring the effectiveness of calls-to-action (e.g., links to product pages).
- Conversion Rates: Tracking purchases or other desired actions resulting from campaigns.

2. Adoption of Region-Specific Product Designs

Evaluate the predicted success of localized product designs by analyzing:

- Market Share Growth: Indicating increased consumer interest in newly introduced products.
- Sales Performance: Comparing sales data for region-specific product lines against global or generic offerings.
- Consumer Feedback: Using sentiment analysis on reviews and comments to assess product reception.

3. Sentiment Alignment with Cultural Preferences

Measure how well marketing campaigns align with regional consumer sentiment by analyzing:

- Sentiment Scores: Positive, negative, and neutral responses to campaign content.
- Emotional Resonance: Identifying specific emotions (e.g., excitement, trust) elicited by campaigns.
- Cultural Relevance: Evaluating feedback to ensure campaigns reflect local values and traditions.

4. Visual Trends' Influence on Consumer Behavior

Assess the impact of visual elements predicted by the framework on consumer engagement:

- A/B Testing Results: Comparing consumer responses to campaigns with and without recommended visual elements.
- Engagement Metrics by Visual Feature: Analyzing whether specific visual features (e.g., colors, patterns) correlate with higher interaction rates.

B. Methodology for Validation

While the proposed framework is not being implemented in this work, its validation can be conceptualized through hypothetical scenarios, simulated data, and historical analysis. The following methods outline how the framework could be evaluated in practice:

1. Hypothetical Scenarios

- O Create simulated social media campaigns based on the framework's predictions for specific regions.
- O Compare engagement metrics and sentiment scores against control campaigns using generic content.

2. Simulated Data

- O Generate synthetic datasets representing social media activity for various regions, including:
- Text (user reviews, captions, hashtags).
- Visual content (images, videos with metadata).
- Engagement metrics (likes, shares, comments).
- Use the framework to analyze the data and validate whether the predictions align with expected trends.

3. Historical Data Analysis

O Apply the framework retrospectively to historical social media datasets.

- Compare its predictions (e.g., sentiment trends, visual trends) with actualoutcomes, such as:
- Success of past campaigns.
- Popularity of previously launched regional product designs.

4. Scenario-Based Evaluation

- Test the framework on diverse regional scenarios, such as:
- Festivals or cultural events (e.g., Lunar New Year, Diwali).
- Seasonal product launches (e.g., summer or winter collections).
- Regional crises (e.g., economic shifts) to assess adaptability.

C. Success Criteria

The framework's success can be assessed based on the following benchmarks:

1. Campaign Effectiveness

- Localized campaigns achieve higher engagement rates compared to generic global campaigns.
- Campaigns elicit positive sentiment and resonate with cultural preferences in target regions.

2. Product Innovation Accuracy

Regional product designs predicted by the framework outperform generic designs in terms of sales, consumer acceptance, and feedback.

3. Predictive Accuracy

- The framework's predictions for visual trends and sentiment alignment closely match actual consumer behavior.
- The system successfully identifies emerging trends before they gain mainstreampopularity.

4. Scalability and Adaptability

- The framework demonstrates its ability to handle diverse regions, platforms, and data formats.
- $_{\mbox{\scriptsize 0}}$ It adapts to changing trends and evolving cultural preferences without significant reconfiguration.

Thus the proposed evaluation methodology provides a robust blueprint for assessing the framework's effectiveness in delivering actionable insights for geographically tailored marketing campaigns and product innovation. By focusing on engagement metrics, sentiment alignment, and visual trends, the framework's potential impact can be validated through simulated scenarios and historical data analysis. Success is defined by the framework's ability to align retail strategies with cultural preferences, predict emerging trends, and drive superior outcomes for localized campaigns and product designs. This methodology ensures that the framework meets the dynamic needs of global retailers in a culturally diverse marketplace.

V. CONCEPTUAL CASE STUDIES FOR CULTURALLY TAILORED RETAILSTRATEGIES

To illustrate the potential impact and applicability of the proposed AI-driven framework, this section presents two hypothetical case studies: a localized festival campaign and a

region-specific product innovation initiative. These examples are conceptual in nature and demonstrate how the framework could address real-world retail challenges by leveraging AI-driven insights.

A. Case Study 1: Localized Festival CampaignContext

A global fashion retailer aims to launch a campaign tailored to a regional festival, such as a cultural celebration or traditional holiday. The goal is to create culturally resonant promotional content that connects with local consumers while maintaining the brand's global identity.

Application of the Framework

1. Data Collection and Sentiment Analysis

- Data is collected from publicly available online conversations, reviews, and engagement metrics to understand consumer sentiment and cultural associations related to the festival.
- Sentiment analysis reveals themes such as joy, prosperity, and family bonding, which dominate consumer emotions during such celebrations.

2. Visual Trend Prediction

- The framework identifies popular visual elements, including vibrant colors, traditional motifs, and festive imagery such as patterns, lights, or symbolic decorations.
- Analysis of past successful campaigns reveals that incorporating traditional attire and culturally significant elements drives higher engagement.

3. Localized Campaign Creation

- Using these insights, the retailer designs ads featuring culturally appropriate visuals, such as traditional clothing, festive colors, and motifs that align with thecelebration's themes.
- Relevant hashtags and keywords associated with the festival are incorporated into promotional content to enhance engagement and visibility.

Expected Outcome

- Higher engagement rates (e.g., likes, shares, and comments) from culturally aligned content.
- Positive consumer sentiment toward the campaign, fostering a strong emotional connection with the target audience.
- Increased sales during the festive season due to personalized marketing strategies.

B. Case Study 2: Regional Product InnovationContext

A sportswear company seeks to launch a product line tailored to a specific geographic region. The objective is to address local consumer preferences and stand out in a competitive market.

Application of the Framework:

1. Competitor Insights and Cultural Analysis

- Publicly available data on consumer interactions with competing brands is analyzed to uncover preferences in the region.
- Findings indicate that consumers in the region prioritize lightweight, breathable fabrics suitable for the local climate.
- Sentiment analysis highlights that vibrant colors and nature-inspired patterns resonate strongly with the demographic.

2. Visual Trend Prediction

- The framework detects a rising trend in athletic wear incorporating bright colors and tropical-inspired designs.
- The aesthetic preferences of the audience are analyzed, identifying recurring themes and motifs that can be applied to product designs.

3. Product Design and Marketing

- O A product line is developed featuring lightweight, moisture-wicking materials and vibrant, regionally inspired designs.
- Marketing campaigns highlight the comfort and style of the product line, using visuals aligned with regional preferences to maximize consumer engagement.

Expected Outcome

- Strong interest in the new product line, as evidenced by positive consumer engagement and pre-launch excitement.
- Increased sales and consumer loyalty driven by the alignment of product features with regional needs and preferences.
- Enhanced brand visibility in the target region, establishing the company as a culturally aware leader in sportswear.

Thus these case studies demonstrate the potential of the proposed framework to create culturally resonant campaigns and region-specific product designs. By leveraging AI-powered sentiment analysis, visual trend prediction, and competitor insights, businesses can address the diverse needs of global markets. These examples highlight the framework's ability to generate personalized and impactful retail strategies that foster consumer engagement and drive growth.

VI. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

While the proposed AI-driven framework offers significant potential for tailoring retail strategies to diverse cultural contexts, several challenges and limitations must be acknowledged. These considerations are essential for understanding the practical implications of implementing such a framework and guiding future refinements.

A. Data Accessibility and Privacy

One of the primary challenges lies in acquiring and using social media data while ensuring ethical and responsible handling of sensitive information. Access to detailed and granular data can often be restricted due to concerns about user privacy and data security. Moreover, obtaining large-scale data from various sources may require adherence to different policies and platform-specific constraints, which can limit the comprehensiveness of data collection.

Even when data is accessible, the need to anonymize and aggregate it for responsible use adds complexity to the process. Ensuring data integrity and maintaining trust with consumers are critical to avoiding ethical pitfalls while enabling meaningful analysis.

B. Cultural Nuance and Bias

Capturing the subtle nuances of diverse cultural contexts presents a significant challenge for AI models. Language, symbolism, and regional customs can vary widely, making it difficult for AI systems to consistently interpret and align with cultural subtleties. For instance:

- A word, phrase, or image that carries a positive meaning in one culture may convey something entirely different in another.
- Machine translation tools may fail to preserve idiomatic expressions or culturally specific meanings, leading to misinterpretation.

Bias in training data further compounds this issue. If datasets used to train AI models are not representative of diverse regions and demographics, the insights generated may inadvertently favor certain groups while neglecting others. Mitigating such biases is critical to producing fair, inclusive, and culturally relevant outputs.

C. Model Generalization

Ensuring that the framework can generalize effectively across diverse markets and industries is another significant challenge. AI models trained on data from specific regions or contexts may not perform well when applied to new markets or cultural settings. For example:

- A sentiment analysis model trained on reviews in one language may require significant adjustments to handle data in a different language or cultural context.
- Visual trend prediction models may need extensive customization to detect and interpret regional aesthetic preferences accurately.

Balancing the specificity required for localized strategies with the scalability needed for broader applications is complex. Overfitting models to particular markets can limit their adaptability, while overly generalized models may fail to capture localized nuances effectively. Continuous retraining and fine-tuning using region-

specific data are necessary to address this limitation, but these processes can be resource-intensive.

Thus these challenges underscore the importance of developing AI systems that are both flexible and ethical in their design and deployment. Addressing these limitations will require a focus on data governance, advanced techniques for bias mitigation, and strategies to ensure adaptability across diverse cultural contexts. Recognizing and tackling these challenges proactively will enhance the framework's robustness and ensure its applicability in dynamic, real-world retail environments.

VII. CONCLUSION

The proposed framework demonstrates how AI-driven insights can revolutionize cross-cultural retail marketing by integrating sentiment analysis, visual trend prediction, and competitor insights. It addresses the complexities of tailoring campaigns and product designs to diverse cultural contexts, enabling businesses to balance global brand consistency with regional relevance. By leveraging social media data, the framework provides actionable insights that empower retailers to create personalized strategies, predict emerging trends, and innovate products based on local preferences.

This research highlights the critical role of AI in decoding cultural nuances and aligning marketing efforts with consumer behavior. The framework's modular design ensures scalability and adaptability, making it a valuable tool not only for the retail sector but also for industries such as healthcare, education, and entertainment.

As the framework evolves, opportunities for real-time trend analysis, granular audience segmentation, and broader applications across industries offer promising avenues for future research. This study underscores the transformative potential of AI in fostering deeper consumer engagement, enhancing brand loyalty, and driving sustainable growth in an increasingly interconnected world.

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