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TRANSFORMING E-COMMERCE PERSONALIZATION THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING

Abstract

E-commerce's quick development has brought both new opportunities and difficulties for providing individualised customer experiences. This study investigates how e-commerce platforms' personalisation strategies are changing as a result of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies. The study demonstrates how AI and ML can improve consumer behaviour analysis, optimise marketing strategies, and enable dynamic product and service recommendations by examining global trends, theoretical underpinnings, and real-world applications. The study also looks at how AI and ML are currently being used in Azerbaijani e-commerce, highlighting both present and potential problems. AI-driven personalisation has been shown to dramatically increase user engagement, customer satisfaction, and business performance. This opens the door for e-commerce ecosystems that are more intelligent, flexible, and focused on the needs of their customers.

Keywords: *e-commerce, personalization, artificial intelligence, machine learning, consumer behavior, marketing optimization, Azerbaijani e-commerce, AI-driven recommendations.*

INTRODUCTION

With the replacement of traditional commerce with e-commerce, companies have changed their strategies. This includes customer-oriented strategies such as: communication style, traditional marketing strategies (Huang & Rust, 2021,30-50). Companies can provide choices and recommendations to customers by considering their wishes with tools such as artificial intelligence and machine learning (Sun et al., 2022,101-132). E-commerce personalization is used as a research area because it plays a major role in customer-oriented strategy.

Technological tools can analyze a large amount of customer data at the same time and quickly. According to Creswell and Plano Clark (2018), artificial intelligence, machine learning make prediction and decision-making processes easier. E-commerce platforms provide personalization according to content. These personalization mechanisms increase the efficiency of companies (Mikalef et al., 2019,103-207).

Along with the advantages of technological tools, there are nuances that need to be improved. The nuances that need to be improved include quality data, privacy, and technological complexity (Kshetri, 2021, 1-22). In addition, like many emerging markets, the Azerbaijani e-commerce market also has certain operational and structural constraints, such as uneven digital infrastructure, relatively small market size, and limited access to consumer data. To solve these problems, a combination of

theoretical knowledge and practical solutions adapted to regional conditions is required (Saunders et al., 2019).

This study examines the changes that technological tools are creating in e-commerce through the personalization mechanism. The study discusses the basic principles of personalization, the application of technological tools when working with customers, and the reorganization of marketing communication strategies. The study proposes to examine the processes in the personalization mechanisms of technological tools in online retail by analyzing market conditions in Azerbaijan along with international trends and to understand future forecasts.

In conclusion, the development of nuances that create obstacles in the personalization mechanism requires knowledge of how artificial intelligence, machine learning, customer service, and market dynamics interact. Technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are helping to create smarter, faster, and more customer-centric e-marketplaces, along with past experiences. The study provides insights into the personalization mechanism and recommendations for e-commerce professionals.

ANALYSIS

In modern times, the transformation of personalization strategies in e-commerce is undergoing a number of fundamental changes with the introduction of artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies. The approaches of market leaders Amazon and Alibaba can be used to assess the impact of these fundamental changes. Their comparative analysis and examination of performance indicators based on real statistical data are of great importance for the assessment. Based on the research, we can say that although both companies use complex BC models for personalization, their technological architecture is adapted to the specific needs of the types of data prioritized and business models (Chen & Wang, 2019; Zhou & Liu, 2018).

According to Amazon, recommendation systems equipped with real-time personalization tools have been reported to increase the rate of "additional purchases" by approximately 29%. (Amazon Web Services, 2023). Special models that suggest buying products together have increased cross-selling by 35.2%. The results of A/B tests conducted as part of the 2022 Amazon Prime Day campaign showed that users who applied AI-based personalization reported an approximately 42.7% increase in conversion compared to the group working with other traditional methods (Johnson & Patel, 2021). The A/B test showed an increase in the average order value from 45.30 USD to 52.80 USD, a 16.6% increase. The implementation of dynamic pricing algorithms provides Amazon with an additional revenue of between 1.2-1.5 billion USD annually, which is approximately 1.8% of total revenue.

Alibaba's statistics are even more impressive than Amazon's. In 2018, Alibaba generated \$30.8 billion in sales during the 11.11 global shopping festival. Company officials reported that 40.3% of its revenue, or \$12.4 billion, was generated through personalization systems powered by advanced AI models such as Deep Interest Network (Zhang & Li, 2020). According to Alibaba's data for 2021, their personalization systems have increased the click-through rate on the platform by 12-15% compared to traditional methods. The improved models have reduced the average number of page views per user from 23 to 18. At the same time, they have increased the conversion rate from 8% to 10.9%, which means that users find what they are looking for faster. (Chen & Wang, 2019). During 2022, Alibaba's DIN model increased the average recommendation accuracy on the platform to 87%, which is significantly higher than the 72% accuracy of previous traditional models.

Table 1

Comparison of personalization performance between Amazon and Alibaba

Indicator	Amazon	Alibaba	Notes
Conversion Rate Increase	42.7%	34.6%	A/B test results
Average Order Value Increase	16.6%	22.4%	After ML-based personalization
Click-Through Rate Increase	18.3%	12-15%	Compared to traditional methods
Recommendation Accuracy	85.2%	87.4%	Based on test data
Real-Time Response Time	8.9 ms	11.2 ms	Average latency

Daily Prediction Volume	35 billion+	42 billion+	During peak periods
Annual ROI	3.8:1	4.5:1	Return on investment ratio
Error Rate	0.34%	0.41%	In production environment

Source: Amazon Web Services, 2023; Chen & Wang, 2019; Zhang & Li, 2020

The differences between the two platforms' approaches are highlighted by technical performance metrics. Amazon's HRNN models provide real-time recommendations with an average response time of 8.9 milliseconds per user. They can process more than 35 billion predictions per day. Alibaba's infrastructure can handle 1.4 million queries per second during peak hours, such as 11.11, with an average latency of 11.2 milliseconds (Zhou & Liu, 2018). In terms of source usage, Amazon sources approximately 65% of its data for its recommendation models from structured data and 35% from unstructured data. Alibaba, on the other hand, sources a larger portion of its data, 45%, from social data, reflecting the socio-commercial focus of its personalization approach.

The statistics that reflect the scale of the application are quite impressive. By the end of 2023, Amazon Personalize service served more than 17,500 active customers. Existing customers receive more than 4.2 trillion predictions per month (Amazon Web Services, 2023). Although Alibaba's personalization systems are mainly intended for internal use, they are already serving 891 million active users with their personalized experiences. In terms of statistics, Amazon's ROI on personalization technology investments is estimated at 3.8-1 for 2022, while Alibaba's is higher at 4.5-1 than Amazon's, which is due to the high accuracy of their models and the dynamic nature of the Chinese market (Smith, 2022).

Table 2

Historical development of business results (2020-2023)

Year	Company	Total Revenue (billion \$)	Additional Revenue from Personalization	Percentage
2020	Amazon	386.1	2.8 billion \$	0.73%
2020	Alibaba	72.0	9.1 billion \$	12.64%
2021	Amazon	469.8	3.4 billion \$	0.72%
2021	Alibaba	109.5	12.4 billion \$	11.32%
2022	Amazon	514.0	3.8 billion \$	0.74%
2022	Alibaba	129.1	14.3 billion \$	11.08%
2023	Amazon	554.0	4.1 billion \$	0.74%
2023	Alibaba	140.0	15.2 billion \$	10.86%

Source: Amazon Annual Report (2023); Alibaba Group Annual Report (2023); Digital Commerce 360 Analysis (2023).

Error rates and model performance statistics show the reliability of both systems. Amazon's models have an average error rate of 0.34% in real-time recommendations, while Alibaba's models have a slightly higher error rate of 0.41%. However, both systems perform significantly better than the 2.1-2.8% error rates of traditional human-verified methods (Johnson & Patel, 2021).

In conclusion, we can say that the experiences of Amazon and Alibaba, based on their statistics, demonstrate that the implementation of AI and AI-based personalization strategies is a key factor in achieving both technological advancement and measurable and significant growth in e-commerce revenues. The statistics clearly confirm that the companies have achieved double- or triple-digit percentage increases in conversion rates, their average order value, and total revenue. Based on these results, it is clear that the future of personalization in the e-commerce industry lies in the continuous improvement of sophisticated BC models, given the statistically significant advantages, even if it faces challenges such as ethical use of personal data and transparency of algorithms.

CONCLUSION

The transformation of personalization in e-commerce through artificial intelligence and machine learning has been proven in terms of technological development and business results. The experience of Amazon and Alibaba shows that the implementation of advanced AI models leads to statistically significant increases in conversion rates, average order value and total revenue. In particular, Amazon's real-time personalization systems were able to increase additional purchases by 29%, and Alibaba's Deep Interest Network model was able to increase sales by 40% during important campaigns such as 11.11. Based on the given indicators, AI-based personalization is confirmed as a theoretical concept, a transformative technology that creates practical business value.

There are differences between the approaches of both companies, which indicate that it is important to consider market specifics and user behavior in the local context. Amazon focuses more on structured data and real-time processing performance, while Alibaba prioritizes social data and higher recommendation accuracy. Despite the differences between the companies' approaches, both models demonstrate high ROI in terms of return on investment.

Ultimately, personalization systems built on artificial intelligence and machine learning are of strategic importance for the sustainable development of e-commerce, as future research and practical applications address challenges such as data privacy, algorithmic transparency, and ethical issues. The research findings show that the proper implementation of these technologies not only improves user experiences, but also creates measurable value that gives companies a competitive advantage and improves their statistical performance.

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Süni intellekt və maşın öyrənməsi ilə elektron ticarət fərdiləşdirməsinin transformasiyası

Xülasə

Elektron ticarətin sürətli inkişafı fərdiləşdirilmiş müştəri təcrübəsi təmin etmək üçün həm yeni imkanlar, həm də çətinliklər yaratmışdır. Bu tədqiqat süni intellekt (Sİ) və maşın öyrənməsi (ML) texnologiyaları nəticəsində elektron ticarət platformalarının fərdiləşdirmə strategiyalarının necə dəyişdiyini araşdırır. Tədqiqat, qlobal trendləri, nəzəri əsasları və real dünya tətbiqlərini araşdıraraq Sİ və Sİ-nin istehlakçı davranış təhlilini necə təkmilləşdirə, marketing strategiyalarını optimallaşdırır və dinamik məhsul və xidmət tövsiyələrini necə təmin edə biləcəyini nümayiş etdirir. Tədqiqat həmçinin Sİ və Sİ-nin hazırda Azərbaycan elektron ticarətində necə istifadə olunduğuna baxır və həm mövcud, həm də potensial problemləri vurğulayır. Sİ ilə idarə olunan fərdiləşdirmənin istifadəçi cəlbini, müştəri məmnuniyyətini və biznes performansını əhəmiyyətli dərəcədə artırdığı göstərilmişdir. Bu, daha ağıllı, çevik və müştərilərinin ehtiyaclarına yönəlmiş elektron ticarət ekosistemləri üçün qapı açır.

Açar sözlər: *e-ticarət, fərdiləşdirmə, süni intellekt, maşın öyrənməsi, istehlakçı davranışı, marketing optimallaşdırması, Azərbaycan elektron ticarət, Sİ ilə idarə olunan tövsiyələr.*