

FIGNews Bias Annotation

Bias Annotation Guidelines By NLPColab

Team: NLPColab

Collaboration:

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Subtask 1: Bias Annotation

Objective:

The Bias Annotation Subtask seeks to detect any bias in texts that may originate from people who are supporting various parties involved in the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Task Description:

Each text excerpt must have one of seven labels applied by annotators, depending on the perceived bias: unbiased, anti-Palestine, anti-Israel, biased either against other parties, against Israelis and Palestinians equally, or unbiased, unclear, or not applicable. All the labels have been described here below with examples.

Categories:

- Unbiased
- Biased against Palestine
- Biased against Israel
- Biased against both Palestine and Israel
- Biased against others
- Unclear
- Not Applicable

Detailed Category Guidelines:

- **Unbiased:**

In **sociology**, unbiased research or analysis is essential for producing accurate and reliable findings about social phenomena. Sociologists strive to minimise bias in their studies to ensure that their conclusions are based on empirical evidence rather than personal beliefs or preferences.

In **media studies**, unbiased reporting or journalism involves presenting information objectively without allowing personal biases or external influences to sway the narrative. Media outlets that uphold unbiased reporting aim to provide audiences with a balanced view of events, allowing them to form their own opinions based on factual information.

In the **dictionary**, the term "unbiased" is defined as not being influenced by personal feelings, prejudices, or considerations. It denotes an objective and impartial stance when evaluating information or making judgments.

Overall, whether in sociology, media studies, or everyday language usage, being unbiased is considered a fundamental principle for ensuring accuracy, fairness, and integrity in the communication and analysis of information.

These should be the facts, news or simple sentences.

Example 1:

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has come into effect. Now the release of Israeli hostages is awaited in Gaza. Palestinians will also be released in exchange for Israeli hostages.

Example 2:

JUST IN: A truce between Israel and Hamas in Gaza is extended by two days, Qatar confirms.

- **Biased**

In **sociology**, bias against someone can manifest in various forms, including unequal access to resources, opportunities, or representation within social structures. It contributes to inequality and marginalisation within society.

In **media studies**, bias against someone may be evident in the way news stories are reported or portrayed, with certain groups being depicted negatively or unfairly compared to others. Biased reporting can perpetuate stereotypes and reinforce existing power dynamics.

In the **dictionary**, being "biased against someone" is defined as holding a prejudiced or unfair opinion or attitude towards a particular individual or group,

resulting in unjust treatment or discrimination based on personal preferences or prejudices.

Overall it refers to having a prejudiced or unfair attitude or treatment towards a particular individual or group based on personal beliefs, stereotypes, or discriminatory factors. It involves showing partiality or discrimination against someone due to their characteristics such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or other attributes.

- **Biased against Palestine:**

Highly negative language is used against Hamas, also evoking sympathetic emotions for Israelis.

Example 1:

The **brave** female fighters of the Armored Corps of the IDF entered history on October 7, as they eliminated dozens of **Hamas terrorists**.

Example 2:

#Urgent | Biden: Hamas **terrorists** have caused the greatest amount of pain and suffering to women and girls, and we must condemn the **sexual violence** they commit #Gaza_War

- **Biased against Israel:**

Only the perspective of Palestine is discussed, and highly negative language is used against Israel, also evoking sympathetic emotions for Palestinians.

Example 1:

The **IDF raided** Gaza's largest hospital overnight, in what they are calling a targeted operation against Hamas. This comes after the Pentagon announced they have information supporting Israel's claims that Hamas operates around Al Shifa Hospital. ABC News Chief National Correspondent Matt Gutman reports.

Example 2:

Israeli gunboats **violate** the **truce** and **bomb** the coast of Khan Yunis

- **Biased against both Palestine and Israel:**

A post in which negative language is used against both Palestine and Israel.

Example 1:

The security escalation continues in #Gaza and #Israel, as the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) carried out the **largest attack on Israel** in years, calling it the “Al-Aqsa Flood,” while Israeli warplanes carried out **bombing** of the Gaza Strip. Details ↘

Example 2:

Airstrike.. bombing.. **tomorrow Hamas**.. now **Israel's turn!** #Israel
#HamasTerrorists #IsraelPalestineWar

- **Biased against others:**

Posts or the words showing negative emotions or criticism portrayed for other countries or individuals involved in this matter of Israel-Palestine war or conflict.

Example 1:

Iranian President Raisi meets Putin, **accuses US of genocide** in Gaza #Russia
#Putin #Iran | #USA

Example 2:

France, Germany, England, Austria, the entire EU, the USA... are responsible for the bombing of a hospital in Gaza by the Israeli army!! These are the countries that gave a licence to massacre #Netanyahu, a war criminal in front of humanity. THE ISRAELI ADMINISTRATION EXPRESSES ITS EXTREME HATE TO THE EYES OF THE WORLD! The inaction of the Arab Nations says a lot about their notorious incapacity to find solutions for a Brotherly people... All the condemnations of Western nations only add to decades of hypocrisy and contempt for all the oppressed peoples of the planet...

- **Unclear:**

Incomplete or half information, undirected criticism.

Example 1:

“They also gave them a little more to eat just before their release so that they would come out of captivity in better shape.”

Example 2:

Amidst the efforts and hopes for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, the story of a player who wanted to be with his team, but is caught in the middle of the bombing.

- **Not Applicable:**

Posts which are not related to the Israel-Palestine war.

Example 1:

Hapoel is waiting for you, Hersh ❤️

Example 2:

Al Kass Channel Council A tour of Souq Waqif observes great public enthusiasm. #Come_Asia | #AsiaCup2023 #Qatar2023 | #AsianCup2023 #Asian_Cup_Cup_Channels #See_the_Cup

Process Outline:

Using an SPSS annotation tool that adhered to the standards, annotators followed the protocols to find Cohen Kappa for IAA for Bias. Annotators are intentionally given expectations regarding accuracy, consistency, and quality control processes in order to maintain the integrity of their annotations. There are also explicit instructions on how to handle scenarios with hazy borders and when to look for more illustrative data, all this is done through whatsapp communication, multiple meetings held with the whole team to discuss the guidelines, and collective feedback. In this instance, biased visualisation techniques are taken into consideration together with the fairness of the data related to the war and ethical management of the data.

A timely schedule allows for the update of guidelines with new information and hints found after implementation. Sessions held throughout the process, helped annotators to discuss the ambiguity they were facing, and that was solved through multiple feedbacks from all the annotators and reviewing the guidelines provided and team discussions.
