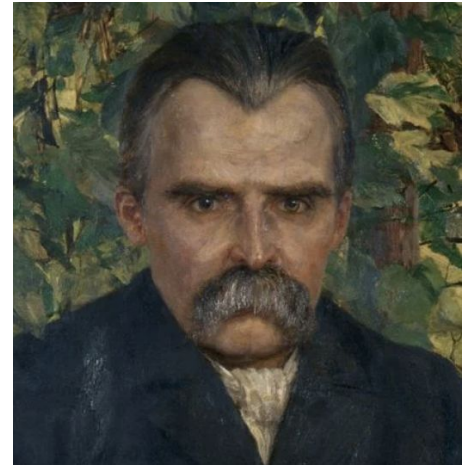


Existentialism and Nihilism

Tanner Zuleeg

What is nihilism and existentialism?

- Nihilism – The rejection of all religious and moral principles in the belief that life is meaningless
- Existentialism – Emphasizes the existence of the individual person as a free and responsible agent determining their own development through acts of the will



What can we learn about these subjects from a predictive model?

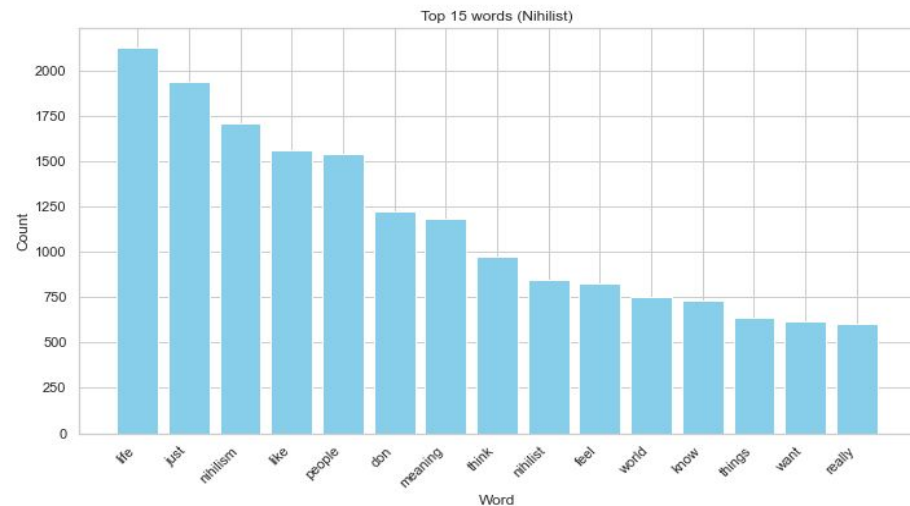
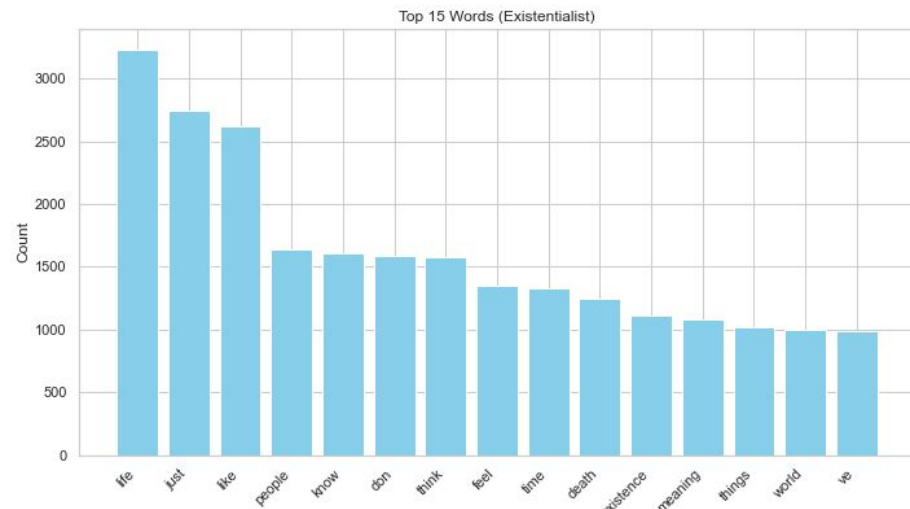
Using vectorizer methods, which linguistic features are similar across these two topics and which differentiate them?

We will use the nihilist and existentialist subreddits



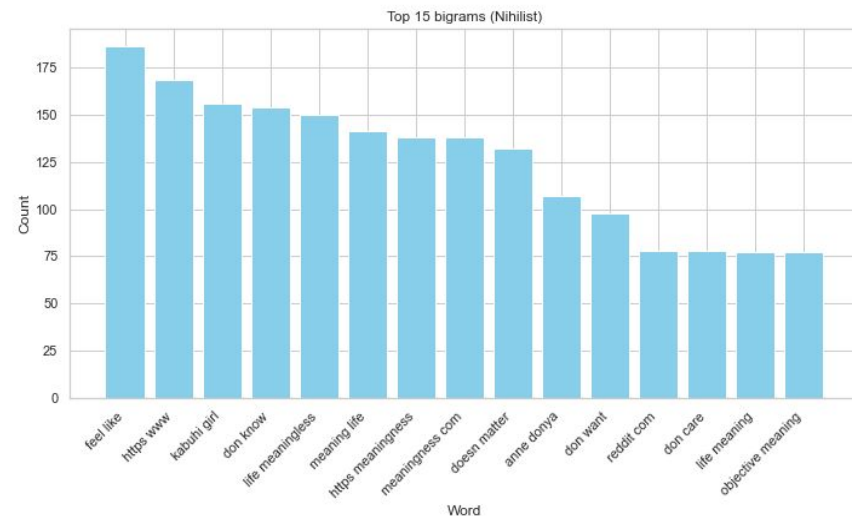
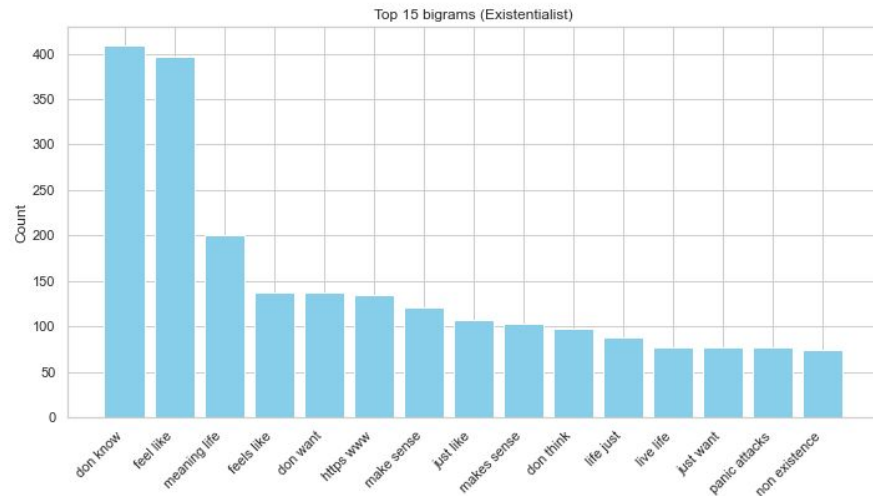
Word occurrence analysis

- Most highest occurent words are in common
- Existentialism (top) has ‘time’, ‘death’ and ‘existence’
- Nihilism (bottom) has ‘nihilism’



Bigram occurrence analysis

- Most are common between the two again
- Existentialism (top) has ‘live life’, ‘panic attacks’ and ‘non existence’
- Nihilism (below) has ‘don(‘t) care’, ‘doesn(‘t) matter’ and ‘objective meaning’
- ‘kabuhi girl’ and ‘anne donya’...?



Nihilist community



Posted by u/[deleted] 3 years ago



0



A little play I wrote that deals with Nihilism-in a pro wrestling setting. See how you like.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

ANNE E. DONYA

KABUHI GIRL

RING ANNOUNCER



Comment removed by moderator · 3 yr. ago



Comment removed by moderator · 3 yr. ago



Comment removed by moderator · 3 yr. ago



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-Tired-of-This- · 3 yr. ago

This is terrible..



1

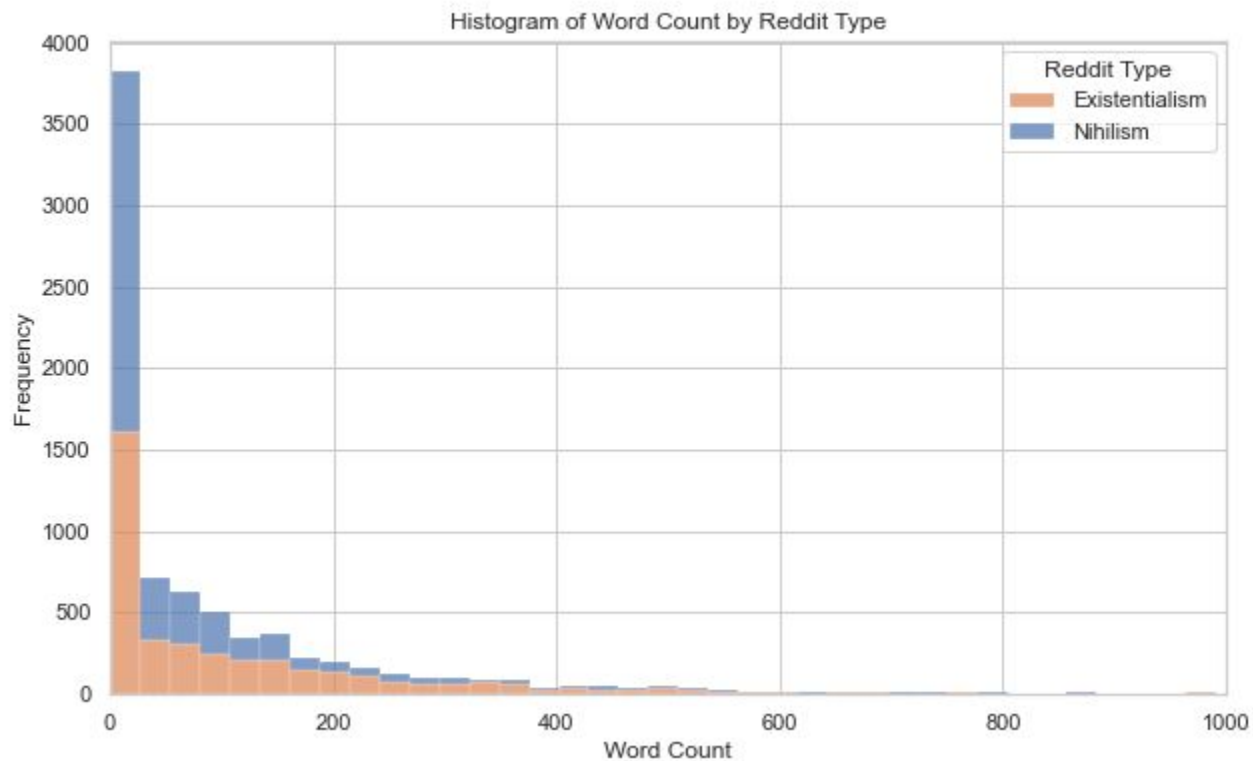


Reply

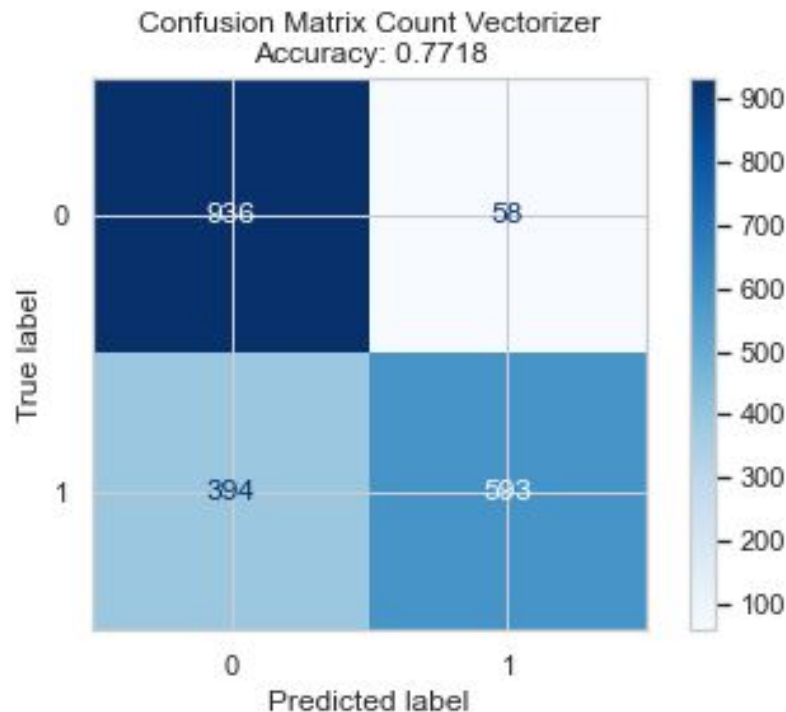
Share



Word count analysis

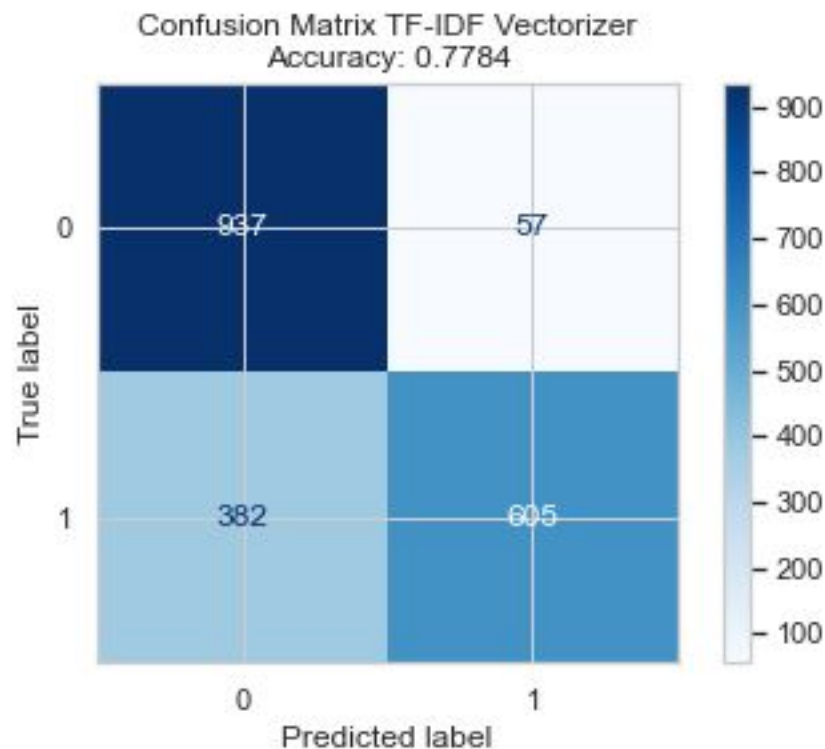


Count vectorizer and log regressor classifier



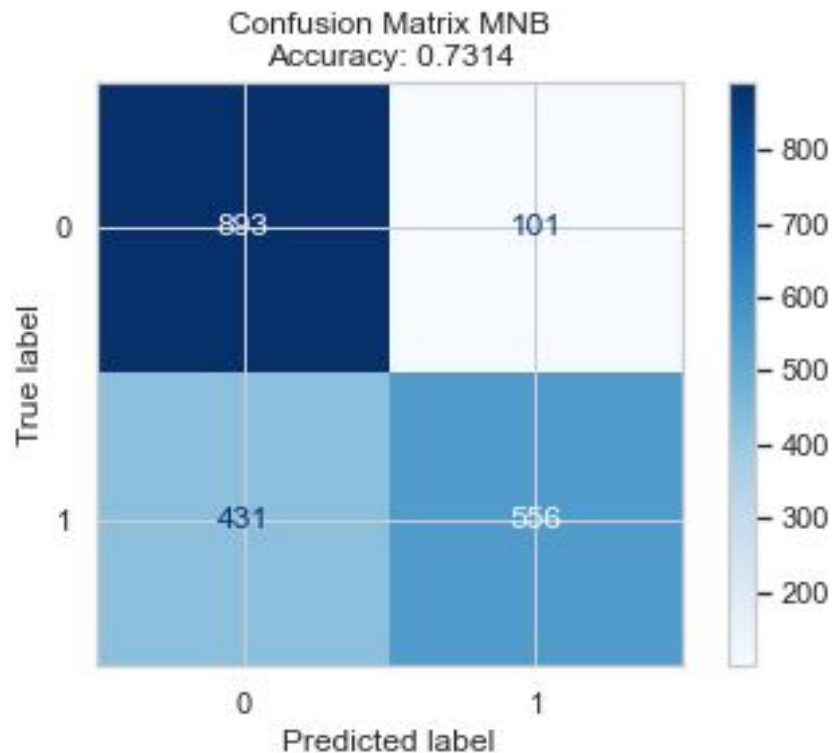
	Feature	Coefficient
4387	nihilist	-2.511796
2158	existentialism	2.432151
4373	nihilism	-2.391037
2151	existential	1.855653
4393	nihilists	-1.812911
2161	existentialist	1.705587
4392	nihilistic	-1.675366
1163	camus	1.123289
5545	sartre	1.100492
7000	to see	1.006619
1660	depression	-1.004199
6413	the more	0.823003
1154	called	-0.821431
1596	de	0.820829
4109	memories	0.809679

TF-IDF vectorizer with log regressor classifier



	Feature	Coefficient
2158	existentialism	122374.285111
4387	nihilist	-120958.235668
4373	nihilism	-120761.849736
4393	nihilists	-81645.251891
2151	existential	81522.436680
2161	existentialist	68104.655087
4392	nihilistic	-63832.460486
5545	sartre	45926.551594
1163	camus	41178.123474
2160	existentialism is	39278.061317
4380	nihilism is	-34385.300461
1228	care	-33446.228811
7876	you are	-33383.766665
1660	depression	-32216.560384
2298	feels	31677.363707

TF-IDF vectorizer with multinomial naive Bayes classifier



Adding predictors to TF-IDF vectorizer

- Added sentiment score
 - Average for nihilism was 0.027
 - Average for existentialism was 0.048
- Added word count
- Model performance was 67%

Conclusions

- Despite similarities in these topics, we managed a 78% accuracy
- Existentialism can be distinguished by noticing words such as
 - dime, death, existence, panic attacks, live life
- Nihilism can be distinguished by noticing words such as
 - don't care, doesn't matter, objective meaning
- The linguistic characteristics are a much stronger predictors than other predictors

Thank you