

# Sentiment Annotation Scheme

## SIMPLE SENTIMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Ask this question on every text:

**What kind of language is the speaker using?**

answer could be any of these 5 listed below:

1.the speaker is using positive language, for example, expressions of support, admiration, positive attitude, forgiveness, fostering, success, positive emotional state  
**(positive)**

2.the speaker is using negative language, for example, expressions of criticism, judgment, negative attitude, questioning validity/competence, failure, negative emotion  
**(negative)**

3.the speaker is using expressions of sarcasm, ridicule, or mockery  
**(sarcasm)**

(note: we would finally annotate it with either positive/negative/neutral. Most probably all mockeries are going to be in the “negative” category. However, in some cases, sarcasms are made to make the ambience lighter by being funny, in that case it may be a positive sentiment. If you’re confused to annotate such sentences into any of the positive/negative, you can just mark it as sarcasm to make your life easier.)

4.the speaker is using positive language in part and negative language in part  
**(mixed)**

5.the speaker is neither using positive language nor using negative language  
**(neutral)**

This annotation scheme is taken from the work - Mohammad, Saif. "A Practical Guide to Sentiment Annotation: Challenges and Solutions." *WASSA@ NAACL-HLT*. 2016.

## Discussion (Few Hints)

Notes:

- A good response to this question is one that most people will agree with. For example, even if you think that

sometimes the language can be considered negative, if you think most people will consider the language to be positive, then select the positive language option.

- Agreeing or disagreeing with the speaker's views should not have a bearing on your response. You are to assess the language being used (not the views). For example, given the tweet, 'Evolution makes no sense', the correct answer is 'the speaker is using negative language' since the speaker's words are criticizing or judging negatively something (in this case the theory of evolution). Note that the answer is not contingent on whether you believe in evolution or not.