



SCHOOL OF COMPUTATION,
INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY —
INFORMATICS

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH

Bachelor's Thesis in Informatics in Informatics

**From Hashtags to Ballot Boxes: A Close
Look at the 2023 Turkish Election**

Efe Sener



SCHOOL OF COMPUTATION,
INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY —
INFORMATICS

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH

Bachelor's Thesis in Informatics in Informatics

**From Hashtags to Ballot Boxes: A Close
Look at the 2023 Turkish Election**

**Von Hashtags zu Wahlentscheidungen: Ein
umfassender Blick auf die Türkischen
Wahlen 2023**

Author:	Efe Sener
Supervisor:	Prof. Dr. Georg Groh
Advisor:	Carolin Schuster
Submission Date:	15.03.2023

I confirm that this bachelor's thesis in informatics is my own work and I have documented all sources and material used.

Munich, 15.03.2023

Efe Sener

Acknowledgments

Abstract

Contents

Acknowledgments	iii
Abstract	iv
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Research Questions	1
2 Research Questions	3
3 Related Work	4
3.1 Section	4
4 Experiments	5
4.1 Section	5
5 Results	6
5.1 Section	6
6 Discussion	7
6.1 Section	7
7 Conclusion	8
7.1 Section	8
7.1.1 Subsection	8
Abbreviations	10
List of Figures	11
List of Tables	12
Bibliography	13

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

To understand the complex political landscape and the May 2023 elections in Turkey, it is crucial to understand the historical context of the country.

After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the Turkish Republic was declared in 1923. Some attempts were made, but the first multi-party elections were held in 1946. Until 1945, the Republican People's Party (CHP) was the only party in the parliament, and until 1950 it was the ruling party. The CHP was founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, also the founder of the Turkish Republic.

With a multi-party system in a young republic, political power was now open to various groups. Different and new ideologies arose and started to organize politically (Rabasa & Larrabee, 2008). The military saw their role as the protector of the republic and Atatürk's ideologies and overthrew the governments in 1960, 1971, and 1980. The 1980 military coup, which introduced a new constitution, was after a period of political fragmentation and civil instability in the 1970s.

Changes in the political structure, the constitution, and civil liberties, major economic crises in 1994 and 2001 (Ardan, 2023) contributed to Islamic political groups' political influence and strength, to the emergence of new political players and parties like the Justice and Development Party (AKP) (Rabasa & Larrabee, 2008).

1.2 Research Questions

This chapter introduces the research questions guiding this thesis, which are based on qualitative methods to analyze the Twitter discourse surrounding the May 2023 elections in Turkey.

The research questions are divided into two parts. The first part will cover the main research objective of this thesis, which is the analysis of the topic modeling results. The first question is as follows: "What were the most prevalent topics in Turkish Twitter discussions during the May 2023 elections?". This question is necessary to understand the main topics of the May 2023 elections discussed in social media.

The next question is "How do real-life events during the election period correlate

with shifts in discussion topics on Twitter, and in what ways do these shifts mirror political movements?”. This question focuses on the reflection of real-life events and political movements in Twitter discussions.

The third question is about parties and their election agendas: “How do the Twitter discussions about the ruling party and the opposition during the election lead-up reflect and compare to their respective election agendas and public statements?”. This question is essential to understand the reflection of the election agendas of the parties and the differences between them on Twitter.

With these questions in mind, the second part of the research questions covers the comparison of the results of the topic modeling with other research, where a similar approach was used for different countries. The main question is as follows: “How do the key themes, content, and engagement levels in the Turkish Twitter discourse surrounding the May 2023 elections compare with those observed in the past elections in other countries?”.

2 Research Questions

3 Related Work

3.1 Section

4 Experiments

4.1 Section

Citation test (Lamport, 1994).

5 Results

5.1 Section

Citation test (Lamport, 1994).

6 Discussion

6.1 Section

Citation test (Lamport, 1994).

7 Conclusion

7.1 Section

Citation test (Lamport, 1994).

Acronyms must be added in `main.tex` and are referenced using macros. The first occurrence is automatically replaced with the long version of the acronym, while all subsequent usages use the abbreviation.

E.g. `\ac{TUM}`, `\ac{TUM}` \Rightarrow Technical University of Munich (TUM), TUM

For more details, see the documentation of the acronym package¹.

7.1.1 Subsection

See Table 7.1, Figure 7.1, Figure 7.2, Figure 7.3.

Table 7.1: An example for a simple table.

A	B	C	D
1	2	1	2
2	3	2	3

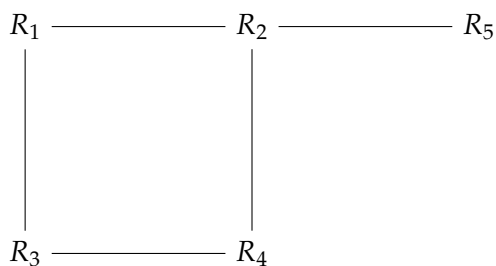


Figure 7.1: An example for a simple drawing.

¹<https://ctan.org/pkg/acronym>

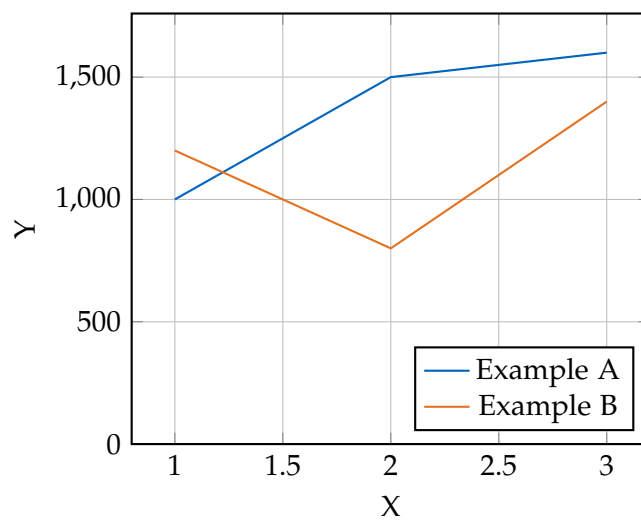


Figure 7.2: An example for a simple plot.

```
SELECT * FROM tbl WHERE tbl.str = "str"
```

Figure 7.3: An example for a source code listing.

Abbreviations

TUM Technical University of Munich

CHP Republican People's Party

AKP Justice and Development Party

List of Figures

7.1	Example drawing	8
7.2	Example plot	9
7.3	Example listing	9

List of Tables

7.1	Example table	8
-----	-------------------------	---

Bibliography

- Ardan, M. (2023). 1994 Financial Crisis in Turkey. In B. Açıkgöz (Ed.), *Black Swan: Economic Crises, Volume II* (pp. 95–126). Springer Nature. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-2318-2_7
- Lamport, L. (1994). *Latex : A documentation preparation system user's guide and reference manual*. Addison-Wesley Professional.
- Rabasa, A., & Larrabee, F. S. (2008). *The Rise of Political Islam in Turkey* (1st ed.). RAND Corporation.