Analyzing Hungarian Parliamentary Debates with ManifestoBERTa

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Abstract

In our group project we propose to analyze a newly acquired dataset of Hungarian parliamentary debates using the ManifestoBERTa model. We aim to classify and examine political discourse, focusing on how different parties address different salient issues. Using this approach, we hope to gain insights about party strategies, issue salience, and patterns throughout time.

1 Possible Topic/RQ Ideas

- Compare political discourse across different parties and time periods (Party Agendas)
  - Classify statements in parliamentary debates and analyze the distribution of topics (e.g., economy, health, migration, education) across different parties
  - This can also be done in a time series or interrupted time series approach (before/after specific events)
- Sentiment/Ideological analysis
  - Combining sentiment analysis with BERT classification to compare and see if statements classified under specific categories (e.g. migration, welfare, economy) have positive/negative sentiment
- Issue Salience over time / Valence Issue (e.g. Corruption)
- Party/Intra-party positioning and policy shifts
  - construct a multidimensional scaling plot or similar visualization of party positions over time, to see policy and ideological shifts within/between parties

2 Data

Hungarian Parliamentary Debates (2014-2023) Data source

3 Useful Links

- Info on ManifestoBERTa
- Manifesto Project Coding Scheme