

Ex 3: Tweet Analysis

Arghya Roy
2021115008

Analysis:

Tennis is one of the major sports in the world and Australian Open, being the first Grand Slam of the year, holds significant importance and is one tennis fans across the globe are very excited for. Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic were obvious favourites and everyone was waiting eagerly to see them both battle it out to the top. Instead, what fans got was utter chaos. A situation that caught the entire world by shock. It turned out Djokovic wasn't vaccinated but the tournament required mandatory inoculation. People took multiple sides on this debacle. Some felt it was very irresponsible of Djokovic, while some felt the Australian Government and the relevant authorities were the guilty party here. And then there were others who felt that what Djokovic did was incorrect but the way the situation was handled was also embarrassing. I scraped appropriate hashtags like [#novaxdjokovic](#) , [#westandwithnovak](#) , [#novakdjokovic](#) , [#djocovid](#) , [#nolegohome](#) and some others. Then I performed the Bag of Words exercise on the tweets I obtained to observe the varying opinions on all sides of this issue.

We can see that many are mocking him for his horrible decision by calling him things like "djocovid", "novaxdjocovid", "novaxdjokovic", etc. another interesting thing is how the names of tournaments like "Indian Wells", "Roland Garros", etc are popping up. This shows how tennis fans are thus looking ahead and they know that even the tournaments coming ahead could see similar situations arising. For example, the US Open and the Roland Garros' current protocols do include a necessary double vaccination status for players and attendees. So, if Djokovic remains unvaccinated and the guidelines for these tournaments don't change, a similar unrest is bound to happen again. The word "angry" pops up quite often and this is natural considering the fact that according to official reports, Djokovic disclosed that he had contracted covid in the last week of December and social media posts give clear evidence that in spite of having tested positive for covid, he was clearly mixing with

people and was even seen talking to young tennis players in an event with not even a mask on. However, I cannot completely count out the possibility that the word “angry” was also used by his fans to blame the Australian authorities. Talking about his fans, I must mention that this analysis also suggests great support for Djokovic from his hardcore fans and fellow Serbians because of highly frequent keywords like “westandwithnovak”, “letnovakplay” and “freenovak”. High frequency of words like “nolefam” and “webelieveinnovak” show how widely loved Djokovic is despite these dark patches in his personality. The word “ban” also pops up often because unless special permission is given due to his magnanimous status, according to federal laws, Djokovic is currently banned in Australia for three years and so, he is set to miss the Australian Opens for 2023 and 2024 as well.

Lastly, I would like to talk about the word “Serbia” appearing pretty frequently. Being a Serbian, someone like Djokovic could feel naturally under fire by the West because of Serbia’s history, as Serbia is often looked at as a genocide enabling nation by many till date. And it is a fact that often, celebrities are judged based on their nationality. A very convenient example would be that of Daniil Medvedev, who eventually was the runner up in the Australian Open. Despite not having been a part of any such negative act, he was booed during many of his matches simply because he is from Russia. This is why the fact that Djokovic got so much support from his compatriots in spite of doing something morally wrong did make some sense to me.

So, by scraping tweets based on appropriate hashtags and performing the bag of words exercise on it, I was able to come to a general overview of *twitteratis*’ opinion on the situation.

[Note: Some of the relevant files are attached. The rest couldn’t be attached due to Teams limit. However, a folder containing all the files has been linked below.]

All relevant files(code, outputs, etc) can be found here:

https://iiitaphyd-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/arghya_roy_research_iiit_ac_in/EkLDha-hGbBLpL_K-xLUpEMBmxQdCZafu7u534zkL-4GIw?e=ZAiwnh