Determining Spoilers in Movie Reviews - Annotation Guidelines

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this annotation project is to determine whether or not a movie review contains a spoiler or not. To take it a step further, we plan to identify the severity of the spoiler, if any. We are using user reviews from IMDB from the following movies:

- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (2001)
- Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker (2019)
- Batman Begins (2005)

For a given target entity, the task of the annotator is to identify the following:

1. Major Spoiler
2. Minor Spoiler
3. No Spoiler

For each type of spoiler, we will identity specific information to determine the severity of the spoiler, if any:

Terms

We identify specific terms that could correspond to a movie review containing a major, minor or no spoiler.

Examples include:

"spoiler" "ending" "twist" "surprise" "reveal" "tragic" "plot" "spoiler" "shocking" "unexpected" "climax" "resolution" "major event" "key moment" "biggest surprise" "final scene" "turning point" "death" "killed" "revealed" "unveiled" "explained" "unexpectedly" "betrayal" "backstory" "flashback" "foreshadowing" "subversion" "surprising turn" "major twist" "final act" "ending scene" "final showdown" "major plot point"

2. General Annotation Guidelines for Terms

What terms in the movie review should be annotated as terms?

1. Verb phrases that explicitly mention terms associated with spoilers
   a. Examples include:
      - When character A was killed in the last episode, my heart sank.
      - I was shocked when character B was betrayed by character A!
2. Adjectives that describe terms associated with spoiler
   a. Examples include:
      - It was incredibly shocking when I found out in the next episode that character A was actually alive after all!
      - The most jaw-dropping moment of the second season was when character A and character B died together. It was so emotional for me to watch

3. Annotation Guidelines for Major Spoilers

What constitutes a movie review to be a major spoiler? Our group has decided to classify a review to contain major spoilers that meet the following criteria:

1. A character(s) dying, specifically a main character
2. Revealing a major plot twist by giving away explicit details (i.e something happening to or by the characters, especially main characters)
3. Mention of a character NOT revealed in the movie trailer
4. Mention of special cameos from previous films/series
5. A character that comes back after being believed dead in previous films

4. Annotation Guidelines for Minor Spoilers

What constitutes a movie review to be a minor spoiler?

1. Revealing information about the movie that was not previously revealed in the movie trailer or movie description
2. Detailed review about the plot, not revealing specific spoilers
3. The general premise of the movie revealed, possibly more than what was shown in the movie trailer
4. Mention of a character dying but not explicitly saying the characters name or gender identity
5. Mentions character shifts but not who the characters are
6. Described scenes or has quotes that are not identifiable or revealing to major plot points

5. Annotation Guidelines for No Spoilers

What would constitute a movie review to contain no spoilers?

1. A brief overview of the plot without revealing any major plot twists or surprises.
2. A description of the movie's themes and overall tone.
3. An assessment of the movie's technical elements, such as cinematography, music, and special effects.
4. A review of the performances by the actors and their chemistry with one another.
5. An evaluation of the movie's overall quality, including its strengths and weaknesses, without revealing any details about the ending or any major plot developments.

Based on these criteria we came up with as a group, each review should be given a major, minor or no spoiler rating depending upon the terms we described above from 1-3. We ignore grammar and spelling mistakes. We are also careful to read through the review carefully and choose movies in which we have either seen or have access to the general synopsis; i.e the movie trailer or official movie overview from IMDB.

Annotation Rating Guidelines

Our annotations are rated from 1 through 3 with 3 being the least likely to contain a spoiler, i.e no spoiler, and 1 being mostly likely to contain a major spoiler.

Rating 1:

Description for a rating of 1: This movie review contains major spoilers.

 Examples:

- "I couldnt believe when the main character died"
- "When they ran away together, that was a plot twist no one saw coming!"
- When they brought back Palpatine, I was shocked
- "Spoiler" in the the review

Rating 2:

Description for rating of 2: this movie review contains minor spoilers.

Examples:

- "Is it just me or does the set up of the ending seem to hint at something happening to character A in the next movie?"
- "The film is a tense thriller that keeps you on the edge of your seat from start to finish. The ending is a bit predictable, but the journey is well worth it."
- "The film is a romantic comedy that will have you laughing from start to finish. While the plot is fairly predictable, the chemistry between the two leads is undeniable and makes for an enjoyable viewing experience."
- "The movie is a well-crafted horror film that delivers plenty of scares without relying on cheap jump scares. The ending is a bit ambiguous, but it leaves you with plenty to think about and discuss with friends."

Rating 3:

Description for rating of 3: This movie review contains no spoilers.

Examples:

- "I loved this movie!"
- "This movie sucked"
- "I can't wait for the next movie to come out"
- "The movie follows the book series perfectly - I loved it so much!!