**NLP Sentiment Analysis of Covid-19 situation in Singapore and Hong Kong**

The coronavirus, or COVID-19, continues to make headlines every day, since the World Health Organization China Country Office received a series of pneumonia cases of unknown cause in late December 2019. While the outbreak develops globally, the Singapore and Hong Kong exhibit different level of concerns about the situation. Hence, a sentiment analysis of both countries is performed.

* As of 19 August 2020, 12pm, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has preliminarily confirmed an additional 93 cases of COVID-19 infection in Singapore, the vast majority of whom are Work Permit holders currently under quarantine.
* As of 6 August 2020, Hong Kong reported 95 new COVID-19 cases, of which 91 were locally transmitted, as authorities tried to contain a resurgence of the coronavirus in the city over the past month.

In this paper, we performed a study of 15 randomly selected news articles to understand the sentiment of the countries over the 2 week period of 19 August 2020 to 2 September 2020. We applied the Vader Sentiment Analysis and TextBlob Sentiment Analysis for the study.

**Sentiment Analysis for Singapore**

The overall sentiment of the 8 news articles is Neutral with Vader showing a high neutral score and TextBlob Polarity hovers around 0.

\*Across the 2 week period, the sentiment stays relatively neutral.

**Sentiment Analysis for Hong Kong**

The sentiment of the 5 out of 7 news articles is Neutral analysed by both Vader and TextBlob. However, the 2 sentiment analysers provided different analysis of 2 news articles reported on 1 September 2020 (‘A11’) and 31 August 2020 (‘A12’).

A deep dive of A11 shows that this article is likely an outlier of the dataset.

Whilst, the deep dive of A12 shows that the results of both analysers are not wrong. The differences in the sentiment analysis is likely due to the difference in the algorithms.

\*Across the 2 week period, the sentiment stays relatively neutral as well.

**Conclusion**

Both countries face similar concerns, but to different extents, on people, social, financials, jobs. Government of both countries are playing an active role in managing the crisis. The sentiment is relatively stable across the 2 week period.

Note :

\* Mean scores applied for articles that fell on same date, namely,

* 2 SG articles on 19 Aug
* 2 HK articles on 31 Aug
* 3 HK articles on 2 Sep