Davis Busteed – LING 360 – HW#3

**Text sources:**

Formal text: Google’s Terms of Service.

Informal text: Legal advice discussions from Reddit.

**The output of my script:**

Normalized Counts per 100 Words

FORMAL\_SUBJ\_PRONOUN 07.50

FORMAL\_CONTRACTIONS 00.77

FORMAL\_MODAL\_VERBS 02.88

INFORMAL\_SUBJ\_PRONOUN 10.88

INFORMAL\_CONTRACTIONS 02.44

INFORMAL\_MODAL\_VERBS 00.75

**Interpretation:**

As expected, there are some interesting differences in the number of subject pronouns, contractions, and modal verbs found within formal and informal texts. There are more subject pronouns in informal text than in the formal one, mostly because my informal text source was a written like a story, where the writer used many personal pronouns as the subject. Even though the formal text had fewer subject pronouns, there was still a large amount. I found that because it is a service agreement, there are many statements that being with “you.”

Not surprisingly, the formal text had less contractions compared to the informal one. Instead of words like “haven’t,” the formal text tended to have the contraction written out, or had the sentence reworded completely. The informal text had a much higher number of contractions, and even had one that was written without an apostrophe.

Opposite to the number of contractions, the formal text had a lot of modal verbs than the informal text. Once again, I think this is because it is a service agreement, it outlines what users are able to do, so they used a lot of words like “can” and “may.” The informal text had about 1 modal verb for every 100 words, which seems fitting for the context.

**Accuracy measurements:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Precision | Recall |
| Formal Subject Pronouns | 75.4% | 100% |
| Formal Contractions | 100% | 100% |
| Formal Modal Verbs | 100% | 100% |
| Informal Subject Pronouns | 87.9% | 98.1% |
| Informal Contractions | 100% | 92.9% |
| Informal Modal Verbs | 100% | 57.1% |