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INTRODUCTION

For our annotated project, we are aiming to build a classifier that can analyze the level of compassion news articles in the U.S. have towards U.S. immigrants. Determining the level of “compassion” an article has towards a group of people is a subjective process and can depend on a variety of different elements such as level of empathy and altruism. The purpose of this annotation process is to measure the levels of compassion within a text and annotate them such that a model can learn from it. Articles from news sources will be utilized for this task. For a given article, an annotator should score the below metrics from a 4 point Likert scale. Scores will then be averaged across all three segments to produce a float variable label.

ANNOTATION OUTLINES

1. How often does the article recognize the suffering that immigrants are facing?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Often (3)
- Always (4)

Guidelines for metric 1

This metric largely deals with how immigrant struggles are portrayed in the text (i.e. sentiment towards their problems along with how they are framed).

Identifying Aspect Terms:

- These describe single or multi word statements that express certain characteristics about a certain entity. For example, “I have a message for the bully in chief”, the aspect term is “bully”. In the sentence, “They’re dangerous and they abuse welfare”, the aspect terms are “dangerous” and “abuse”. In particular, the entities that are being referred to in this latter statement are the immigrants.

Polarity of Aspect Terms:

- Aspect Terms should be assigned polarity values that depends on what the sentiment the reader feels based off the words
 - Positive
 - Negative
 - Conflict (positive or negative)
 - Neutral
- For example, in the sentence “That bully Trump is making life hell for everyone. Undocumented immigrants are just trying to make an honest living”, the aspect term “Trump”, has a negative polarity while “immigrants” have a positive polarity as the text depicts that immigrants are struggling.

- While annotating the corpus, we noticed that articles that showed positive polarity towards immigrants and negative polarity towards the government tended to show the highest levels of compassion towards immigrants.

2. Does the reader feel moved by the person suffering and emotionally connect with their distress?

- Not moved (1)
- Rarely moved (2)
- Moved (3)
- Very moved (4)

Guidelines for metric 2

This metric deals largely with the use of framing in the text.

Framing:

- Entman (1993) states that “to frame is to select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way to promote problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation for the item described.” These may take on the form of phrases such as “the war on terror”, “the war on drugs”, or have more subtle forms such as using the term “illegal”.
- In the sentence, “[ICE] were ambushing people who were undocumented”, the subject ICE is framed negatively here through the use of the word “ambushing”, and thus evokes a sense among the reader that what immigrants are going through is unjust.

Use of direct quotes:

- The use of direct quotes an article chooses to use often depicts the level of support, empathy, and compassion that the author has for immigrants. For example in the sentence, “It’s sad to see people get deported, we only want them to respect us”, readers would feel moved by the fact that immigrants are being treated unfairly.
- Compassion towards immigrants is not only felt through empathetic language, but also through extreme opposing sentiment towards them. For example, someone may feel compassion for an individual if they are unjustly targeted by an institution or person with authority as a violent criminal. John Kelly, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, said Monday that ICE was conducting ““routine, targeted arrests”” against ““convicted criminal aliens and gang members”” as well as other immigration-law violators.” This extreme language used by law enforcement to further stereotype immigrants can move readers to feel empathetic towards the oppressed individuals.

3. Does the reader feel motivated to help alleviate that suffering?

- Not motivated (1)

- Slightly motivated (2)
- Motivated (3)
- Very motivated (4)

Guidelines for metric 3

This metric deals largely with the use of supportive and empathetic language in the text that may motivate and inspire readers.

Call to action

- Call to action statements coming from reputable leaders can motivate readers that change is realistic and can be carried out through the support of these political/legal figures and grassroots activists. For example, Christine Neumann-Ortiz, executive director for immigrant rights group Voces de la Frontera calls for a protection of immigrants constitutional rights: "Immigrant and refugee communities, and those that stand with them, are not going to be pushed into the shadows. We're not going to let our constitutional rights to be stripped away from all of us, nor allow discriminatory laws to be legalized".
- Call to action terms and statements are used to motivate readers to help and join the cause. Reference to joining a cause, supporting a movement, or protesting are linked to motivating the reader to help alleviate that suffering. For example, "We will fight you in the streets, we will fight you in the courts, we will fight you in our workplace, we will fight you on legislative floors, we will fight you in our churches, we will fight you in our neighborhoods, we will fight you in our union halls. You better be ready for a fight because we are protecting our sanctuary city and our immigrant communities by any means necessary". In this sentence, support for immigrants is clear and the urgency to act to help them to "save our city" is illustrated by the author.

Anecdotal stories

- Quoting direct experiences from immigrants who are facing a violation of their human rights evokes a feeling to readers that change is needed. "We're looking for freedom. We're looking for a better life for our families," said Arias, a 39-year-old foundry worker. The fact that people facing these human rights violations are taking a stand and seeking support from others can motivate readers to uplift immigrants and be a voice for them.

Multiple Perspectives

- Articles that offer both perspectives should not be considered to be very supportive or very empathetic. For example, if an article quotes the deportation of an undocumented immigrant as "To me, this is an injustice", but later offers a conflicting viewpoint of the deportation as ""I think it would be unfair to all the other legal immigrants who qualify and go through the process, if she were allowed to stay, just because she has been here a long time."