Student Number; 190867379

Project title – frequency analysis of “terrorist” across various newspapers when reporting on minority ethnic perpetrators of terrorist attacks.

This project will investigate how frequent the noun “terrorist” appears across various newspapers when reporting on minority ethnic perpetrators of terrorist attacks. As in most mainstream media publications, there is usually a difference in how Caucasian perpetrators are portrayed (usually sympathetically) and how an ethnic minority perpetrator is portrayed (usually negatively). This project aims to investigate this bias by looking at newspaper outlets and seeing how often the word “terrorist” is used when speaking on ethnic minority perpetrators of terrorist attacks.

The data and text resources I will need can be accessed via Nexis. Nexis is a database of newspapers and other documents and I can access virtually any newspaper online. The way it works is that I can search up news stories by entering key words into the search bar. Then there a bunch of filters to help narrow down my search such as publication date, news agency and so on.

In terms of the functions to be used, since we are testing to see how many times a word appears, I will be using the counting characters function. Firstly, I will have to create a file to contain my text. I will use the string function to contain the text. Next I will have to remove any data that is not necessary to my project such as page numbers, author names, publication dates and times, images, captions. I can do this by slicing method. Then I decide that the word “terrorist” is the character and use the count function to count how many times that characters appears in the text. Finally, the return function will return the number of occurrences of the character in the text. If the character doesn’t exist, the return function will return 0.

Ill mostly be using Idle to test this project. To ensure that my software tests properly I will run it multiple times to ensure it is only counting the word “terrorist” and not anything else. Additionally testing it with text having no mention of the word “terrorist” to see what the function returns back