Heidelberg University
Institute of Computer Science

Project Proposal for the lecture
Data Science for Text Analytics

Hate, Discrimination & Racism in German Rap - A Text Analytics Approach

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1 Motivation

'I leave no whore daughter unfucked, everyone wants my dick - even lesbians get turned around!' - Excerpts from song lines by German rappers such as Bausa [8] provide material for discussion in German society and pose the question of how far artistic freedom can go in music and where insurmountable boundaries are crossed. Whether homophobia [8], misogyny [8] or antisemitism [6], in the public perception German rap seems to be one thing above all: Harsh and unfair. The popularity and sales figures of German rappers, on the other hand, justify their song texts and actings: at the end of October 2022, there were a total of ten titles in the top 20 singles charts in Germany that can be assigned to the genre of German rap [3]. And in 2021, rapper Capital Bra was the most successful German musician in terms of the number of different number 1 hits [2].

Contrary to the general negative impression, there are many attempts by artists who oppose against the negative image of rap in Germany with their lyrics and actions [9]. Some artists use their songs also used to specifically address socio-critical issues - such as the 'Black Lives Matter' movement, police violence or the integration of refugees [5].

In this project we would like to investigate the controversial debate around German Rap in an analytical manner. For this purpose, the song lyrics of various successful rappers of the genre of German rap will be analyzed on the basis of methods of textual data science. The following questions will be focused:

RQ1. **Do song lyrics of German rap in general possess a negative sentiment?**

RQ2. **Does hate, discrimination & racism exist in German rap song lyrics?**

RQ3. **How prevalent is hate, discrimination & racism in German rap song lyrics?**

Detailed ideas to answer these questions including the data pipeline which we want to use are described in section 3. Before that, the project will first be put into the context of existing literature in section 2.

2 Research Topic Summary

Various journalistic and social science works in the past have dealt with the role of German rap in society.

TODO: Search for some other research projects!

[4], [1], [10]

In addition to socio-technical analyses, there is one data-driven approache to analyze the song lyrics of various German rappers. In 2016, Bayerischer Rundfunk's cultural magazine Puls [7] examined the political correctness of various song lyrics by German rappers using a very similar methodology to the one we will use in this paper. Puls selected the five most commercially successful albums by German rappers in each year for the period 2006 to 2016 and downloaded the song lyrics via Genius. These song lyrics were examined for specific discriminatory word groups - with a particular focus on homophobic, racist, misogynistic, and ableist terms.

Puls observed that the use of discriminatory language increased over the first part of the sample period and decreased towards the end. Misogynistic and homophobic remarks played a particularly significant role. Discrimination against the disabled was also a permanent feature of the song lyrics studied, while racism was rather less prevalent. The author of the study also emphasizes the lower significance of the study due to the limitation to five albums per year.

What we do differently: - More albums / song lyrics - Use of pretrained/self-trained (optional) machine learning frameworks for sentiment analysis, hate speech detection –> we want to pay attention to whether particularly fair lyrics are also present - Advanced analysis of terms using Elastic Search

what we want to achieve: - get a broader image of the rap culture - get a good understanding of analysing song lyrics

3 Project Description

TODO: Describe what we want to do.

References

[1] Michael Ahlers. 'kollegah the boss': A case study of persona, types of capital, and virtuosity in german gangsta rap. *Popular Music*, 38(3):457–480, 2019.

[2] Bayerischer Rundfunk. Respekt: Deutschrap – erfolgreich gegen diskriminierung?, Oct 2019.

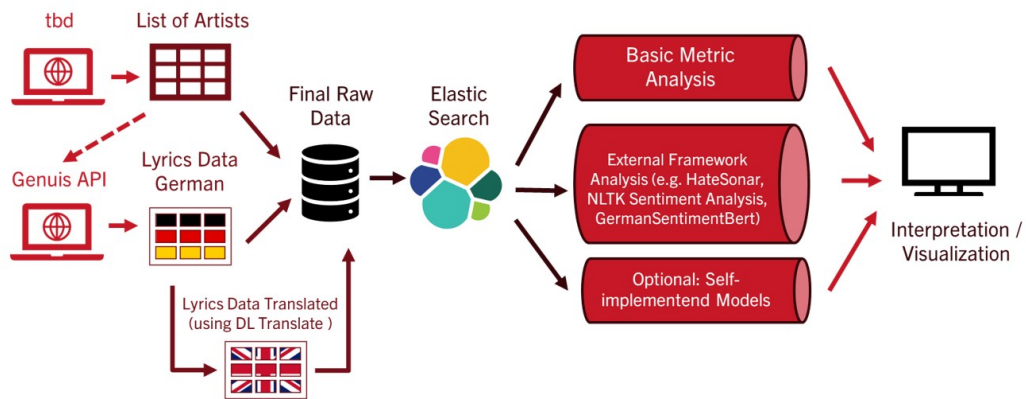[3] MTV Germany. Offizielle single top 100 – musik charts, Oct 2022.

Figure 1: Text analytics pipeline

[4] Melanie Heinisch. *Schlampe, Hure oder Heilige. Das Frauenbild im Deutschrap.* GRIN Verlag, 2018.

[5] ME-Redaktion. 5 deutschrap-songs Ã¼ber alltagsrassismus, die wir kennen sollten, Feb 2021.

[6] Ben Salomo and Ludwig Greven. 'in der rap-szene existiert ein judenfeindliches grundrauschen', Nov 2021.

[7] Matthias Scherer. Diskriminierende texte: So politisch korrekt ist deutschrap, Sep 2016.

[8] Friedrich Steffes-lay. Bausa sorgt auf 'vossi bop' fÃ¼r einen der ekligsten deutschrap-momente des jahres, Jul 2019.

[9] Tooka Tajali-Awal. Feminismus im deutschrap - paradox und vielfältig, Dec 2021.

[10] Martin Wiegel. *Deutscher Rap – Eine Kunstform als Manifestation von Gewalt?* Tectum Wissenschaftsverlag, 2011.