

Urgency Memo 4

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What are promises?

Promises in political discourse relate to future oriented “calls to action” in relation to objects of policy.

- only future (not past or present) - no taking stock but this activity can be a continuation of a previous action (e.g. “we will keep on working towards”)
- “calls to action” are internally (e.g. “I will do”) and externally (e.g. “we need to take this seriously”) directed discourse aimed at describing, move, or inspiring future activity
- objects of policy refer to political problems constructed in discourse that demand dedicated policy attention - is this our subjects/topics?

Looking into promises allows us to rank political preferences related to future action.

```
sample_text <- read_csv("sample_text.csv")
```

```
## New names:
## Rows: 20 Columns: 4
## -- Column specification
## ----- Delimiter: "," chr
## (3): title, text, country dbl (1): ...1
## i Use 'spec()' to retrieve the full column specification for this data. i
## Specify the column types or set 'show_col_types = FALSE' to quiet this message.
## * ' -> '...1'
```

```
sentences <- annotate_text(sample_text$text, level = "sentences")
```

```
## successfully initialized (spaCy Version: 3.7.4, language model: en_core_web_sm)
## i Annotating sentences...Joining with 'by = join_by(doc_id, sentence_id)'
```

```
promises <- extract_promises(sentences)
subjects <- extract_subjects(promises)
related_terms <- extract_related_terms(promises$sentence, subjects)
urgency <- get_urgency(promises, related_terms)
```

```
## i Coding urgency components...
```

```
head(urgency$sentence, n = 10)
```

```
## [1] "In the upcoming new year , we will unswervingly uphold \n the great banner of socialism with C
## [2] "From \n reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act , to the Electoral Count \n Reform Act ,
## [3] "We must pursue peace without fear , hope without despair , \n and security without apology . \n
## [4] "In accordance with the \n strategic plans made at the 20th CPC National Congress , we must \n
## [5] "That 's what we 're also building - Pride . \n https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches
## [6] "In China , over 74 million people rely on \n basic living allowances ; each year , more than 1
## [7] "https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/02/07/remarks-of-president-joe-
## [8] "For example , too many of you lay in bed at night staring at the ceiling , \n wondering what w
```

```
## [9] "The extensive \n and profound schools of thought they established covered many important ideas
## [10] "We must also promote transformation and \n upgrading of industries , promote coordinated urban
```

Outstanding issues:

- promise merging - maybe we can focus on sentence connectors for this (i.e. senetnecs that begin with these could be merged with previous sentences)?

```
sentence_connectors <- read_excel("sentence_connectors.xlsx")
head(sentence_connectors, n = 20)
```

```
## # A tibble: 20 x 3
##   Connector      'Connector Type'      Source
##   <chr>          <chr>          <chr>
## 1 Therefore      Cause and effect https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 2 As a result    Cause and effect https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 3 Consequently   Cause and effect https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 4 As a consequence Cause and effect https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 5 Hence          Cause and effect https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 6 Thus           Cause and effect https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 7 Conclusively   Cause and effect https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 8 In conclusion   Cause and effect https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 9 Inevitably     Cause and effect https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 10 Likewise       Comparison      https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 11 Similarly      Comparison      https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 12 In the same way Comparison      https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 13 However        Contrast in expectation https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 14 Nevertheless   Contrast in expectation https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 15 Yet            Contrast in expectation https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 16 Still          Contrast in expectation https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 17 On the contrary Contrast in expectation https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 18 Unfortunately   Contrast in expectation https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 19 Originally      Contrast in expectation https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
## 20 Surprisingly    Contrast in expectation https://diegoramirezinfante.files.w~
```

- normalization - bias towards longer sentences still an issue...