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Social Science 3A

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The Effects of Nature on Human Society

Introduction

With the development of human society, people are paying more attention to dealing with the relationship between natures. Among the broad nature topic, two subtopics are mostly addressed: animal hunting and environmental landscape protection. While certain blogs and news have already mentioned certain aspects of nature protection like environmental pollution and animal extinction, it is important to consider in what way do they continue to impact human society.

We need to understand more between human society and nature since nature will play a significant role in everyone's daily life. In the paper, the discussion forum Reddit's posts are used to collect the most recent topic discussed in nature and relevant comments to know how people's attitudes towards certain posts. For the research, three research questions are addressed.

1. whether people are active in talking about nature to society topic in daily life 2. what is the subtopic issue about nature and society that are most frequently talked about 3. the tone of feedback present between interactions of comments to posts like animal's endangerment/recovery or landscape's protection due to different cultural background and information.

Literature review

Nature and Human

The research on nature and human society has been always a continual discussion. Most of the efforts has been paid to understand people attitudes from the different region towards wild animal conservation in high biodiversity areas since it is of major importance for conservation efforts. A decline in wild animal resources will not only greatly affect local biodiversity and ecosystem services but also human lives (Naiyi,1). Stephan Kaplan starts his *The Restorative Environment* with the claim that “early human beings were a part of nature” (Davood,90) and we can confidently declare that the beginning of the history of the relation of humans and nature is completely matched to the beginning of human’s history on the Earth planet, in the words of Raymond Williams, “the idea of nature contains.... an extraordinary amount of human history” (Davood,90). However, It is difficult to understand everyone’s attitudes since the cultural and social environment has a stronger effect on attitudes than expected (Dalum,30). Especially the cultural transmission of beliefs and attitudes is strong, which could be explained by social norms and the tendency towards attitude uniformity in groups. This underlines also that most attitudes are indirectly formed, without direct experience with the attitude object – in this case, wildlife (Dalum,30). This may again explain why the attitudes of people living close to wildlife often are different from than attitudes of city residents. Indirect experiences probably caused the public attitudes to slowly drift towards a more positive view towards wildlife in western cultures and may have contributed to the growing support for conservation (Dalum,30).

Methods

Both Quantitative methods Qualitative method will be used to support. For example, quantitative analysis like secondary data analysis using descriptive statistics to analyze the upvote number and percentage, and the number of comments on subreddit. Qualitative analysis

like text analysis to include the topic, type, tone of the post, and relevant comment's theme on both Nature subreddit and Pics/Subreddit with separate number of members of 121K, typical online users around 30, number of members of 27.7M, typical online users around 20K. With more people online on the pic subreddit, it is more accurate to include the pic subreddit as well to have a better scope of public opinions about human society and nature.

For the study, the data are collected by excel, the type of data both includes categorical and descriptive. The coding strategies include the seven posts randomly selected and three levels of comments by ranking the top posts from all the time on the subreddit of Nature section and picture section to help explain people's reactions and attentions towards the relationship between nature and living animals since more number of posts and level of comments can mostly incorporate people attitudes and opinions towards certain posts and random selection methods can let us be more aware of the recent mainstream of topic concerned by the community. The reflections from animals' current situation display the current scenarios of nature itself.

First theme:

What is the percentage of upvotes and number of comments when people are active in talking about nature to society topic?

Post Locations	Upvotes	Percentage	Comments	Topic	Tone	Post theme	Lvl1 Up	Lvl1 Comment	Level 1 tone	Lvl2 Up	Lvl 2 comment	Level 2 tone	Lvl3 Up	Lvl3 Comment	Level 3 tone
https://www.reddit.com/r/nature/comments/maj3tb/local-wolf-pack-wiped-out-by-hunter-instagram/	1300	98%	244	Animal protection(Hunting)	Negative	Local wolf pack wiped out by hunter - Instagram* influencer* responsible for the slaughter of entire wolf packs	77	I hope she gets what's coming.	Negative	26	Local pack of influencers wiped out by wolves/GOV ID	Negative	8	COVID wolves? January great.	Positive
https://www.reddit.com/r/nature/comments/mawuqi/once-nearly-extinct-the-florida-panther-is-making-a-comeback	1100	100%	86	Animal protection(Recovery)	Positive	Once Nearly Extinct, The Florida Panther Is Making A Comeback	38	It's true! The Florida panthers actually did well this season!	Positive	12	Down 3-1 though against the reigning champs. Nearly extinct indeed	Negative	4	please dont make me sad :(Positive
https://www.reddit.com/r/nature/comments/1v1z8ba/judge-rules-against-trumps-attempt-to-kill-in/	667	99%	23	Landscape protection(National forest protection)	Negative	Judge Rules Against Trump's Attempt to Log in America's Largest National Forest	49	I'm not from the USA but you have some of the most amazingly beautiful national parks and forests. For anyone to suggest cutting that down is pure evil.	Negative	4	It's a damn shame.	Negative	2	We are talking about Trump here, what else could you expect. Such a sad, sad guy.	Negative
https://www.reddit.com/r/nature/comments/1bdu3k/michigan-poacher-who-killed-18-wolves-bald-eagles/	643	100%	53	Animal protection(Hunting)	Negative	Michigan poacher who killed 18 wolves, bald eagles loses hunting license for life	146	Punishment isn't nearly enough.	Negative	48	definitely it really undermines the seriousness of the crime to be slapped on the wrists.	Negative	27	They should be seizing all firearms used to commit the illegal acts, jail time, and restitution, similar to the laws in Alaska. They don't play when it comes to poaching.	Negative
https://www.reddit.com/r/nature/comments/1u8k7y/some-good-news-in-these-troubled-times-african-black-rhino-numbers-up-nearly-800-over-6-years-ago	620	100%	14	Animal protection(Hunting)	Positive	Some good news in these troubled times: African Black Rhino numbers up nearly 800 over 6 years ago.	7	This is good news in the current craziness.	Positive	2	Thank goodness	Positive	3	Quick! Somebody tell the criminally rich! There's profits to be made. Limited Time Special(only 800 made) /s	Positive, reactionary
https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/1jw8kq4/this-is-a-wildlife-bridge-in-the-netherlands-the-v/	2000	92%	168	Animal and wildlife protection(Wildlife Habitat protection)	Positive	This is a wildlife bridge in the Netherlands. They are designed to help animals cross busy highways in safety. They don't just protect wildlife from being hit by cars - they also connect fragmented habitats and help populations intermingle and breed.	103	in baff they have learnt that wolves now use this to their advantage, smart fuckers wait for the deer and then pounce. dinner comes to them its easy shit	Negative	67	In the Netherlands we have one wolf. But it's dead. These connected habitats are making it possible for them to migrate back into our country which is expected to happen over the next few years.	Positive	54	In the Netherlands we have one wolf. But it's dead.Lol so you have no wolf.	Negative
https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/1u1214/the-akashinga-a-zimbabwean-all-female-paramilitary-unit-charged-with-protecting-the-natural-world	2900	96%	111	Nature protection(Natural world)	Positive	The Akashinga, a Zimbabwean all-female paramilitary unit charged with protecting the natural world	68	This picture was a finalist for the National Geographic photo of the year in 2019. Further information about the Akashinga and their mission can be found here	Neutral	17	"The Brave Ones". This is a look I could get used to.	Positive	72	I think I spent \$20 to get that skin in cod me!	Positive, excited

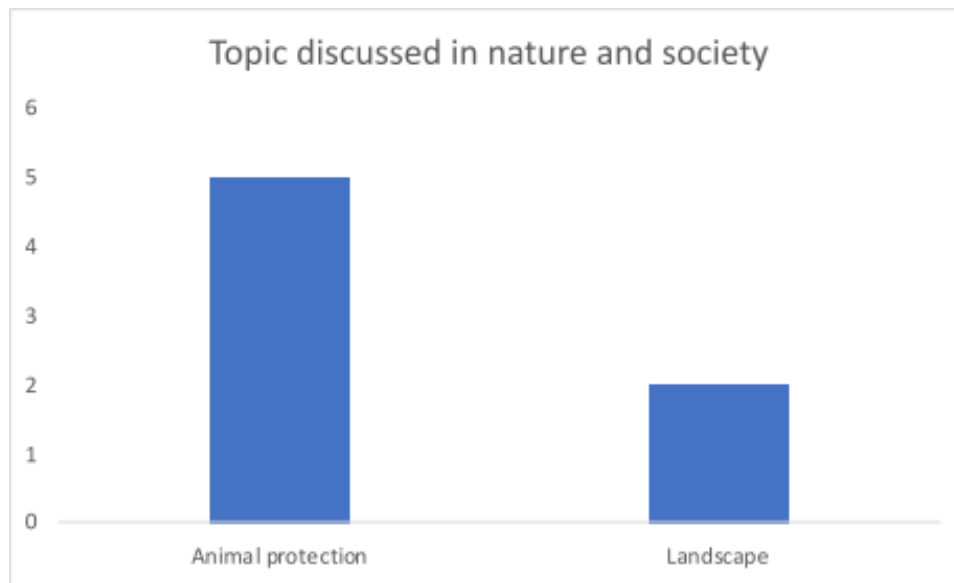
In Both Nature subreddit and Pics/Subreddit, the upvote number and percentages will be included to see the people's attitudes towards different topics and the number of comments in each post to see the attention paid on Reddit. In the Codebook, different posts and comments are analyzed from 11 columns to conclude. Under randomly selected seven posts of both nature and picture Reddit, two of those are nature related and five of them are animal and wildlife protection related. It is obvious that in the picture subreddit there are more upvotes number in both nature

and animal life to human society topic due to its more active online members and users. Each has the upvote percentages exceeding 95%, and the average posts have an upvote number of 1319 and percentages of 98%. Nearly every post follows a general trend that the upvote number of each level of comments presents a descending tendency and people boasts the theme by the author's post for the negative/positive attitudes towards animal endangerment and positive support for animal recovery/nature protection. Having a precise overlook of both upvoting trends and people's attitudes towards the three-level of representative comment, the audience can have an overview of the closer relationship between animal and nature impact in society.

Second theme:

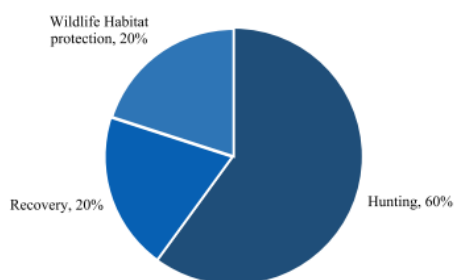
What subtopic issues about nature and society are most frequently addressed?

The data is presented categorically by using the topic by filtering the topic posts from all the time and therefore people's preference towards nature's topic can be better illustrated. Level one comment. In a broad Nature topic, from the seven posts selected both from subreddits of nature and subreddit of the picture, we usually pay attention to the outcome and impact on humans by the animal endangerment and landscape protection effect.



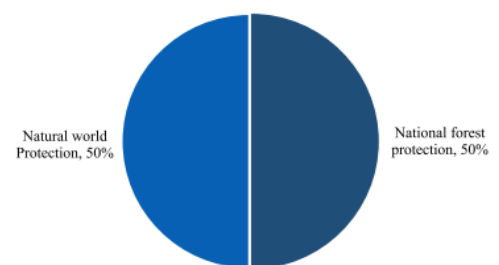
Bar charts are used because the topic section is categorical and these are an effective way to straightforwardly understand the trend of discussion. There are two main themes under nature topic: Animal protection and landscape. From the five posts collected on the subreddit, five posts are around animal/wildlife protection (71.43%).

Graph: Animal Category



Source: Reddit

Graph: Nature and landscape Category



Source: Reddit

With the additional help of the presentation of the pie chart, we can get a clear review of what is the most public concern in both categories. Under the animal category, nearly 60% are

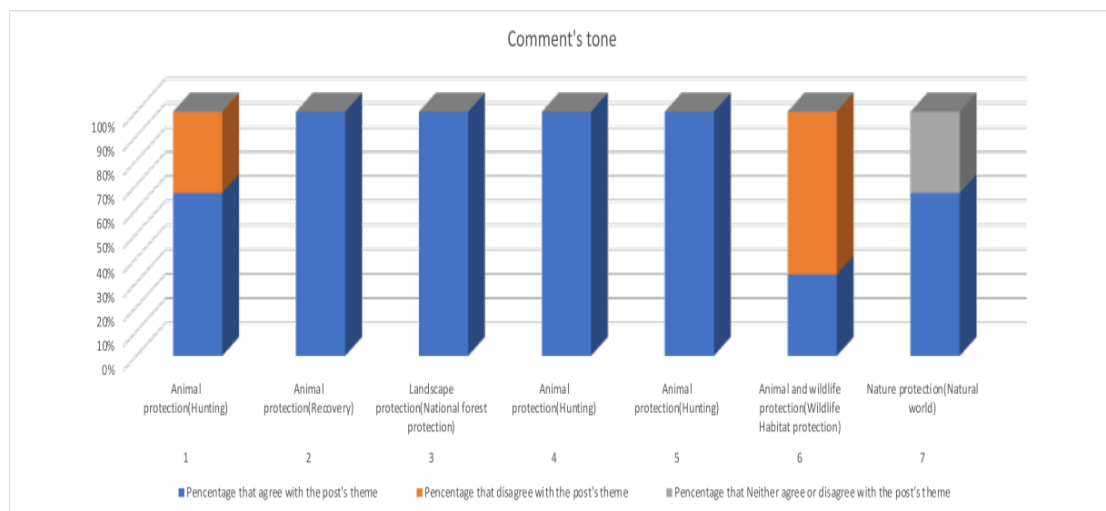
talking about animal hunting, 20% for recovery. Under the Landscape category, half of the attention is put on national forest protection and the remaining is for Natural world Protection.

With the help of both bar charts and pie charts, people's support and response rates for posts and topics are analyzed. Through the analysis, the audience can intuitively see the content of the data and understand the distributions of each component.

Third theme: Areas of Focus on comment's tone

What tone is usually present in these interactions of comments to posts like animal's endangerment/recovery or landscape protection?

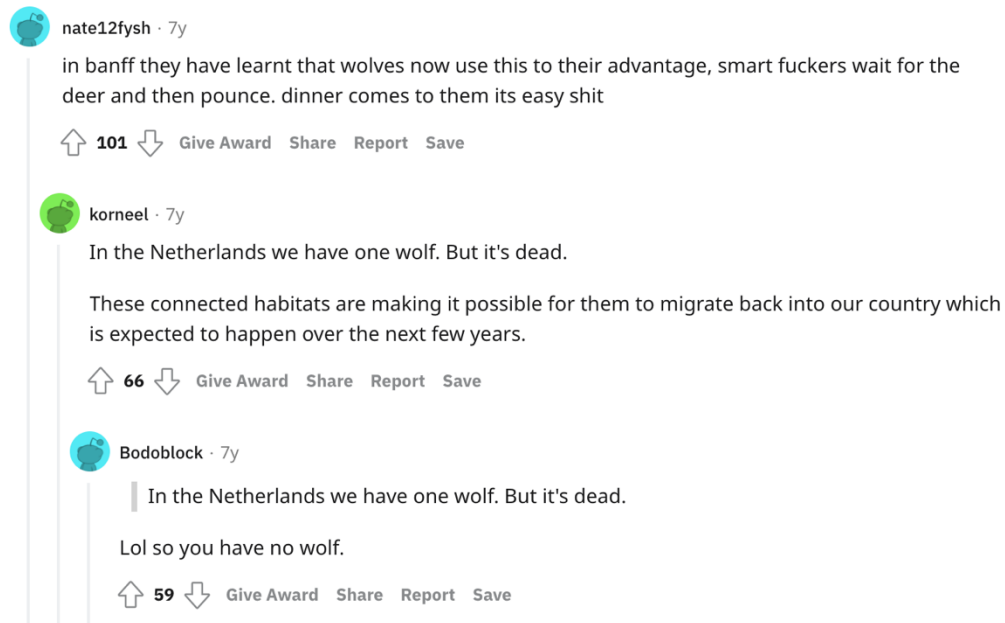
In the Coding, the tone from the comment includes when people display negative/positive/mixed attitudes when there is a report of animal hunting, animal's endangerment/recovering, and destruction of landscape. The nature community is divided so far, with a split between positive and negative comments to posts. There are a lot of people who seem happy when there is an indication for the vigor of nature while others feel worried for and reactionary for measures taken for prevention.



↑ Posted by u/cassus_fett 7 years ago

2.0k This is a wildlife bridge in the Netherlands. They are designed to help animals cross busy highways in safety. They don't just protect wildlife from being hit by cars - they also connect fragmented habitats and help populations intermingle and breed.

[arc-solutions.org/wp-con...](#)



Comments from Post 6

On Reddit, they share a group of identities and social support from the feedback of comments. In the example of Post 6, people become to have the first separation point between the consequences of constructions of wildlife bridges. People diverge their opinions because of the worries of wolves' access and arouse a hot debate between levels of comments. Both levels of comments stand at different perspectives, one with promoting wildlife habitats and one with opposition to a potential enemy. There are more situations of comments on Reddit and we should encourage such collision of mind.

Conclusion

The project's main purpose is its opportunity to first get access to research social science discipline. I have successfully addressed those three research questions above while there are

furthermore questions to be addressed in the future. From the research and literature review, it is shown that human society has a close relationship with nature. Both Animal and landscape are the majority of nature parts that are highly paid attention. Someone may have viewpoints and other concerns that are not likely to support nature and consider human society and nature as a combination. However, there is a general trend of attitudes and tones taken to protect nature. In nature topic, animal and landscape are two most subtopics that are most likely to be addressed to have a close impact to human society. Those findings ultimately display relative representative opinions posed by online platform users. People are using forums like Reddit for expressing their true comments and attitudes between nature and humans.

There are a few limitations of the study, including the sample sizes of the online posts and relevant comments collected are relatively small and from an instant time instead of a period time that it cannot present precise and public opinions, and even though two subreddits has been chosen to present different people's reactions towards nature and human relationship, the ideas from a single online forum like Reddit is not appropriate and cannot represent all of the people's populations to express their attitudes, as well as further details lacked from the data visualization and analysis.

If I have the opportunity to do this project again, I would try my best to possibly overcome the limitations above including the small sample sizes, single online forum conducted since it will influence the answers to three research questions in a more general scope. In the future, to produce a better study, the method will include more data visualization tools and more interpretations of quantitative and qualitative data instead of only analyzing the upvote number and percentages, it is better for me to include how one variable may interact with others by using more advanced data tools.

References

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www.ijhssnet.com/journals/Vol_5_No_6_June_2015/11.pdf.
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- ❓ Naiyi Yang, Endi Zhang & Min Chen (2010) Attitudes towards wild animal conservation: a comparative study of the Yi and Mosuo in China, *International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services & Management*, 6:1-2, 61-67, DOI: 10.1080/21513732.2010.509630