

Nigerian Fraud Email Annotation Guidelines

Version 1.3

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I. Introduction

Our goal of the project is to categorize and label sentences in ‘Nigerian Fraud’ emails with content notations. We want to find out the patterns shared between these types of emails. We use the Fraudulent E-mail Corpus (<https://www.kaggle.com/ratatman/fraudulent-email-corpus>) as our dataset.

We have created 6 tags that can be applied to each sentence as needed including: SELF-INTRO, RAPPORT, BENEFITS, PURPOSE, MOTIVATION, and OTHER. The parts of text that will be annotated with each label applying to entire sentences. Attributes will not be used for labeling. Only one tags are allowed to apply on each sentence in this annotation process. If the annotator feels as though more than one label can be applied to a sentence, pick the one with main idea of this sentence. There is one exception, however, if the annotator is swinging between any label and the OTHER label, then the annotator should choose OTHER. This is because if there is an intuition that a sentence may not confidently be any of the labels: SELF-INTRO, RAPPORT, BENEFITS, PURPOSE, MOTIVATION, then it is fine to assume the sentence may not contain much information related to these labels.

MAE will be used to annotate the data. Each of the 3 annotators will be annotating 3 sets of the same 230 sentences, so we can cross-exam the results and agreement between the annotators.

II. Explanation of tags and their attributes

<SELF-INTRO>:

<SELF-INTRO> tagged sentences are sentences where the email sender introduces their name, job position, company, organization. Any self-directed descriptions of the sender is considered in this tag.

- *“I am (Dr.) James Ngola, the personal assistance to the late Congolese (President Laurent Kabila) who was assassinated by his body guard on 16th Jan. 2001.”*
- *“I work with Bank Sino Pac, International Bank of Taipei as General Manager.”*
- *“My name is Master Danjuma Anndani the son of late Chief Yakubu Anndani.”*
- *“I am a native of Yendi in the Dagbon district in the northern part Ghana in west Africa.”*
- *“I am 22 years old presently residing in Abidjan cote d’ivoire in West Africa.”*

<RAPPORT>:

<RAPPORT> tagged sentences are characterized by personal language the sender uses in one of the following cases:

(1) create trust - language that tries to solicit trust from the victim.

- *"Can I trust you?"*
- *"Please, I hope you will grant and view this very request with favour and much understanding of our situation now, and will be a very honest and reliable person to deal with. "*

(2) create assurance - explicit sentences where the sender attempts to convince, promise or assure the reader about the legitimacy of their solicitation (compared to <MOTIVATION> tagged sentences where backstory may not explicitly tell the reader to trust them, but only gives them details of the solicitation). It could also be that the sender is asking the reader to trust them, which in a way questions the reader's dependability and character. Sentences of this type frequently contains first person pronouns where the sender refers to themselves.

- *"Finally, it is important also that I let you understand that there is no risk involved whatsoever as the money had no record in Kinshasa for it was meant for the personal use of (Mr. President) before the nefarious incident occurred, and also I have all the necessary documents as regards to the funds including the (certificate of deposit), as I am the depositor of the cosignment."*
- *"Truly, I know that a transaction of this magnitude will make any one apprehensive and worried, but I am assuring you that all will be well at the end of the day."*

(3) present or past connections/relations between them and the recipient - sentences where the sender attempts to create or fake a personal relationship with the reader. These sentences' purpose is to get the reader to trust the sender because of the relationship they now have - which is purely constructed by the scammer.

- *"Meanwhile, I didn't forget your past efforts and attempts to assist me in transferring those funds despite that it failed us some how."*
- *"You were introduced to me by a reliable friend of mine who is a traveller, and also a member of the Chamber of Commerce as a reliable and trustworthy person whom I can rely on as foreign partner, even though the nature of the transaction was not revealed to him for security reasons."*
- *"I obtained your email from the internet, while searching for a reliable person, who could assist us in receiving cash gift from contractors awarded contracts executed under the current budgetary allocation for NDDC. "*

(4) confidentiality - language that tries to create secrecy only between the sender and victim.

- *"Finally I want you to know that your ability to keep confidential information about this transaction is very important as all our hope for a better life depends on this money."*
- *"This business is 100% risk free for you so please treat this matter with utmost confidentiality."*

<MOTIVATION>:

<MOTIVATION> tagged sentences are the reasons for the sender to write this email. Sentences with tag <MOTIVATION> are usually illustrating a background story or a situation that the senders has to write this email to you. The sentence with expression of <MOTIVATION> is usually in one of the following cases:

(1) Business investment

If the sender is providing a business investment or want to build up a business relationship with you.

- *"I have an obscured business proposal of Seventeen million three Hundred thousand United State dollars."*
- *"Our Government have Assigned me to contact a Company with there good products to supply for the new project."*

(2) Promotion products

If the sender is promoting some products, online courses, etc.

- *"Our products have been past test through Acts testing Labs(H.K.) Ltd, China light industry quality supervise testing center."*
- *"My sole purpose of contacting you is for you to assist me in selling in your country or elsewhere of my rough uncutted diamonds which weighs 14220 carats from 3-45 carats 3kg gross on the scale S-1 quality all rough and worths about US\$8Million"*

(3) Personal Issue

If the sender is describing his personal issues (e.g. illness, family, etc.) and ask you for help.

- *"Since the death of her husband, the family has been subjected to all sorts harassment and intimidation with lots of negative reports emanating from the government and the press about her husband."*
- *"I contacted you because of the need to deal with persons whom the family and I have had on previous personal relationships."*

(4) Unexpected money

If the sender mention an amount of unexpected money that you may obtain, but usually uncommon in our real word. For example: lottery, heritage, lost treasure, etc.

- *"I discovered a dormant account in my office, as the Director of Integrated Finance."*
- *"We now want to transfer this money which is in a suspense account with NNPC into any Overseas Account which we expect you to provide for us."*

(5) Other cases

Any other cases besides the four we provided that you think is a reason for the sender to write this email.

If there is an event happened in the sentence and that event influence writer to some extent to write this email, it also should be considered as motivation.

- *"You are invited to attend an international conference of furniture."*
- *'All occupants of the vehicle unfortunately lost their lives.'*

<BENEFITS>:

<BENEFITS> tagged sentences are the baits offered in the emails. The scammers offer concrete benefits in those sentences to appeal the recipients:

(1) promised job and the benefits coming with the job.

- *"You can earn up to 4000 euros a week (further the salary will raise)."*
- *"You can sign the contract with our company for the first 3 years of work."*
- *"To work to you it will be necessary no more than 3 hours per day (From Monday till Friday)."*
- *"An opportunity of increase on career ladders up to the main manager and the Chief of department (with increase of your wages)."*
- *"Working with our company, you can receive free-of-charge holiday by family yearly for the sum not exceeding 2500 euros."*

(2) high return of investment.

- *"I will give you 20% of the total sum as your own share."*

(3) receive unexpected money (could be donation money, or inheritance money). This is different from the unexpected money in motivation tagged sentence in that the scammer explicitly states that the recipient will be receiving the money.

- *"Having known my condition, I decided to donate this fund to an organization or better still a God fearing individual that will utilize this money the way I am going to instruct here in."*

<PURPOSE>:

<PURPOSE> tagged sentences are where the scammers actually request the email recipient to take action, or instruct the recipient to do something, or not to do something. After the scammers construct a back story, the recipients are asked to collaborate with them, to send money to them or using recipient's personal information to prove that they are eligible to become business partners. Purpose tagged sentences are fraudulent attempts to:

(1) obtain recipient's sensitive personal information, this may include full name, date of birth, street address, telephone number, or photocopies of identity documents.

- *"I will want you to be a beneficiary to this account as the next of kin bearing in mind that you are a foreigner with all necessary documents in place as proof."*
- *"Please if you are interested kindly send to me immediately the underlisted:
1. Name to be used as beneficiary and beneficiary's address.
2. Your private and confidential telephone/ fax number(s) and Cell phone.
3. Your bank name, address, bank Account Number and Telephone/fax number(s). Contact me via my alternative e- mail:
richardsullivan008@walla.com
as you receive my mail. I hope to conclude this business within the next fourteen- (14) working days."*

(2) ask the recipient to be a collaborator in the scammer's proposed plan.

- *"If you can be a collaborator to this please indicate interest immediately for us to proceed."*

(3) to click a suspicious website link that could install malicious spyware or malware on recipient's computer.

- *"For reception of work of the manager in our company you will need to fill in the form of registration on a site of our company: (<http://www.rosinvest-trading.net/>)"*

(4) ask the recipient to take further actions in general including not to tell other people.

- *"Urgently, i want you to get back to me, to further explain all procedures required to move forward with this transaction."*
- *"In your best interest to avoid mix up of numbers and names of any kind, we request that you keep the entire details of your award strictly from public notice until the process of transferring your claims has been completed, and your funds remitted to your account."*

<OTHER>:

<OTHER> tagged the sentences that we didn't capture in our categories, or the sentence that is unclear to capture. The sentences with tag of <OTHER> is usually in one of the following cases:

(1) The sentence is explaining facts

- *"Even the London times of July 1998 reported that General Abacha has over US\$3.Billion dollars in one account overseas."*

(2) The sentence is stating some impersonal information or description

- *'In addition to the quarries Wanlistone has a fully automated processing plant for the processing of the granite and marble and granite products.'*

(3) The sentence is in formality way of being polite

- *"I am waiting for your quick response."*
- *"If not, then I humbly apologise for this infringement on your privacy."*
- *"Thanks for your care."*

III. Annotated Example for a complete email

[Transfer of fund/Investment cum joint venture]<PURPOSE>

[I discovered a dormant account in my office, as the Director of Integrated Finance.]<SELF-INTRO>
<MOTIVATION>

[It will be in my interest to transfer this fund worth 15,000,000 million pounds in an account offshore.]
<MOTIVATION>

[If you can be a collaborator to this please indicate interest immediately for us to proceed.]<PURPOSE>

[Urgently, i want you to get back to me, to further explain all procedures required to move forward with this transaction.]<OTHER>

[I also will bring to your notice that the owner of this dormant account was Late Engineer John Hughes, a foreigner who died in 1995.] <MOTIVATION>

[Since my inception into office in 2001, nobody has operated on this account and nobody knows about it or anything concerning it neither does his company, a petrol chemical service company here.]<MOTIVATION>

[I will want you to be a beneficiary to this account as the next of kin bearing in mind that you are a foreigner with all necessary documents in place as proof.]<PURPOSE>

[Do respond as soon as possible for details and directions to my new gillespie_mike@myway.com]
<OTHER>

[Regards and respect, Mike Gillespie.] <OTHER>
Director of Integrated Finance
Bank of Scotland.