

Assignment 1: Coded Language

Prompt:

Hate speech can be defined as any language that targets someone based on group identity or affiliation. It is pointed, inflammatory language often spoken with the intention of inflicting harm and or inciting violence upon the recipient. As we know, hate speech often utilizes key terms, or slurs, that distinguish it as such. These terms are easily recognizable, aiding readers in identifying when and how a speaker intends on inflicting harm upon a recipient.

Yet in the age of the internet, hate speech has taken on more sinister qualities as to go undetected by content moderators. This often involves adopting covert or “coded” language that masks the hate speech as innocuous bits of everyday language. As such, we see hate speech circulated more and more through public circles, its harmful effects masked by terms and phrases that go unnoticed by members of the general public.

Assignment:

Head to the database [Hatebase](#), and get to know the database. Spend the first few minutes clicking through the website, and exploring the different terms and uses available. Familiarize yourself with how to navigate the database as this will be of importance for the exercise.

Once you feel comfortable with the database, go to your assigned text fragment (see next page) and identify any examples of hate or hateful speech within the writing. Plug your selected term into Hatebase, and see what comes up. Navigate to the appropriate entry and click through the provided citation links.

Once you have an understanding of what the term means, answer the questions provided below.

Questions:

- How many examples of hate speech have you found in your text fragment?
- What language was this hate speech in?
- Were you familiar with the hateful term/s prior to the exercise?
- Did the text fragment feel explicitly hateful to you prior to learning what the hateful term meant?
- If you were looking to flag the text for hate speech, would you have been able to spot the hate in your text fragment?
- Why might a speaker wish to use lesser known/ covert hate speech in their writing?
- What can this hate speech tell you about the “in-group” and “out-group”
- What does this text fragment tell you about the speaker? Their motives? Their anxieties? Their lives?

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Text Fragments:

Fragment 1:



CartoonGuns...
@CartoonGuns...

Weekends are so short. One day you are throwing a TGIF party, few hours later you are dropping shoes for the week for Aboki to polish

Fragment 2:



...
@...

Follow



Replying to @...

That guy was right when he said: " no one will believe a talkative kwere kwere " smh

Fragment 3:



...
@...

Follow



This kaffir is dragging men's name/image through the mud

Fragment 4:



...
@...

You do not have a PVC, but are on Social media shouting "Buhari must go" . While underage almajiri are busy registering to vote.

Fragment 5:



...
@...

First time to seen jalab to lead nuer

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