This dataset contains every dream occurrence in the *Twenty-Four Histories*. It has 10 columns. The detailed descriptions are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Column* | *Description* |
| *book (A)* | *The dynastic record in which the dream occurs* |
| *dreamer (B)* | *The type of the dreamer* |
| *interpreter (C)* | *The interpreter of the dream.* |
| *type (D)* | *The type of dreams. “sign” means the dream is symbolic and requires interpretation; “straight” means the dream directly foretells future events; “itpre” represents message dream in which the message occurs before some corresponding event in reality, and “itpost” represents message dream in which the message occurs after some corresponding event in reality* |
| *interpretation (E)* | *The type of dream interpretations (see SI table 2 for more detail)* |
| *accuracy* | *Whether the dream prediction is accurate or not. “1” denotes accurate prediction; “0” denotes vague prediction, and “-1” denotes inaccurate prediction* |
| *legitimizing power* | *Whether the dream is (could be) used to justify emperors or queens’ political power or legitimacy* |
| *text* | *The actual text in which the dream occurrence* |
| *repeat* | *Whether the dream is a repetition of previously mentioned dreams* |
| *multiple dreamer* | *Whether multiple people had the same dream* |
| *notes* | *Additional notes* |

SI Table . Description of the dataset.

The detailed description of the type of dream interpretation is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Type of dream interpretation* | *Description* |
| *Pregnancy* | *dream interpretation that involves pregnancy and/or giving birth* |
| *NA (non-predictive dreams)* | *Dreams that are non-predictive* |
| *miscellaneous* | *Miscellaneous dream interpretations that do not fall into preset categories* |
| *Disaster* | *General bad outcomes in reality* |
| *Death* | *Dreams that foretell death in reality, either the dreamer himself or others* |
| *Career* | *Dreams that indicate a career change* |
| *Politics* | *Dreams that involve political events* |
| *War* | *Dreams that foretell outcomes in war* |
| *Ability* | *Dreams where some ability is granted to the dreamer* |
| *Location* | *Dreams where certain location is indicated and usually found in reality* |
| *Illness* | *Dreams where some illness is indicated or illness is cured* |
| *Person find* | *Dreams where the dreamer sees some person and finds the person in reality* |
| *Injury* | *Dreams that foretell some injury in reality* |
| *Auspiciousness* | *Dreams that foretell general auspiciousness* |

Table . Descriptions of the type of dream interpretations

The instruction to coders are as follows:

Hi,

In the file random\_sample\_empty.xlsx, you will find a total of 133 dreams that I selected from my original dataset, ordered by their occurrence chronologically in the dynastic histories. In “text” column, you will see the context in which the keyword “梦” appears. If you need more context, you may copy the text and paste it into the “keyword” area of this website <http://www.guoxuedashi.net/24shi/> (except for zuozhuan and guoyu); this should give you the chapter in which the dream occurs instantly.

There are four areas to be coded.

1) type: I’ve decided to categorize all dreams into 3 types: message dreams, sign dreams (straight) and sign dreams (symbolic). Message dreams refer to the kind of dreams where a message is transmitted either from a deceased person or a spirit; sign dreams (straight) refer to dreams where what appears in dream is a straightforward representation of what appears in reality: for example, someone dreams of the death of her mother and later her mother indeed dies. Symbolic dreams refer to the dreams where what appears in dreams require some interpretive effort.

2) interpretation: See the table below. Generally, more specific labels should take precedence: for example, if a dream foretells an event that involves both career change and disaster (e.g. the career change is bad for the dreamer), then the dream should be classified as “Career”. Some dreams are Non-predictive, in the sense that they do not involve an obvious prediction of future events. For example, dead individuals offering “thank-you” notes to the dreamer because they’ve done something nice to their grave.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
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| *Auspiciousness* | *Dreams that foretell general auspiciousness* |

3) accuracy. This refers to whether the dream prediction is accurate or not. “1” denotes accurate prediction; “0” denotes vague prediction, “-1” denotes inaccurate prediction, and “non-predictive” denotes dreams that are not predictive. Note that vague prediction refers to the type of dreams where one would normally expect some future events that correspond to what occurred in dreams but such future events are never mentioned in the text. An example would be the following: 二世梦白虎齧其左骖马，杀之，心不乐，怪问占梦。卜曰：“泾水为祟。” Another thing to pay attention to is that all pregnancy dreams should generally be treated as offering a prediction and the birth of the child as being fulfilling the prediction. For example, the following dream “始莫邪梦白象而孕，及生，从母左肋出，生而有结，堕地能行七步。” should be viewed as a predictively successful dream

4) legitimizing power. This one is optional. But I’d appreciate if you could perform this additional coding as well. Briefly, it checks whether the dream could (potentially) be used to justify someone (usually emperors or queens)’s political power. For example, the mother of a future emperor dreaming of the Sun or dragon and then later give birth to the emperor-to-be. Or the emperor himself dreaming of a dragon surrounding him or something. “1” denotes the dreams could be used for legitimizing political power, “0” denotes not.

Hope this would be a fun experience for you. Let me know if you have any questions!