

Annotation Manual for Conflict Annotation Guidelines for Speeches in the UN Security Council

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Author:

Karolina Zaczynska

Applied CL Discourse Lab

Dept. of Linguistics Uni Potsdam

University of Potsdam

zaczynska@uni-potsdam.de

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1. Introduction and Background

1.1. General Remarks

This report documents the annotation guidelines for the first release of the UNSC Conflicts Corpus (UNSCCon, Zaczynska et al. 2014). The UNSCon is available through GitHub¹. The repository contains the corpus, annotation manual, and code for preliminary classification experiments on the corpus data.

1.2. Goal of the Annotations

We present a framework for annotating expressions of Conflicts used in a diplomacy setting, focusing on recordings of English UN Security Council (UNSC) speeches. Our framework provides an analysis of Conflict defined as disputes, criticism, and expressed negative evaluation of entities (like governments, documents, or persons).

Our approach is closely connected with the linguistic concept of evaluative language. Our interest lies in Conflicts between participants at the Council, and how the diplomats are communicating when expressing disagreement or critique. To this end, we define different types of conflict and a fixed set of possible Targets for the Conflict statements. We differentiate between directly and indirectly expressed negative evaluations of the Targets. Furthermore, we look at Conflict statements accusing someone to making false claims.

We will use the annotation to identify communication strategies for different types of debate, underlying linguistic phenomena like terminology or typical phrases used in expressed Conflicts. Additionally, we will use the dataset to examine existing classifiers for sentiment analysis on the domain of diplomatic language.

1.3. The Corpus

We base our studies on the debates given in the UNSC (also often called “the Council”). The UNSC is the world’s primary source of responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The meeting notes include debates with several speeches given by a representative of a country or a group of countries, by the Secretary-General, or by an expert invited to the debate (often called ‘Briefer’). With few exceptions, the speeches are pre-formulated and therefore not dialogues in the sense of a conversation with frequent

¹ <https://github.com/linatal/UNSCCon>

interchanges. The speeches are numbered in the order in which they were delivered during the meeting and will be annotated according to that order.

Each debate (and therefore each speech) is assigned to an agenda item or topic. We will examine two agenda items where we expect, among other differences, different character and intensity of conflicts: The debate on military actions in Ukraine and the debate on norms discussed in the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda (WPS).

In the following, we will briefly describe the topics discussed under each agenda items.

1.3.1. WPS Debates

The Resolution 1325 and seven subsequent resolutions² form the cross-cutting WPS agenda, which establishes an international normative and policy framework to address the gender-specific impact of military conflicts on women and girls, and to address the underrepresentation of women in all stages of peace processes. While all members agree on the need for more women in designing, negotiating, and implementing peace and security policies, they argue for this position in different ways. Potential areas of Conflicts include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Different views on the scope of what does and does not concern WPS, for example counter terrorism,
2. Criticizing the (insufficient) implementation of the WPS agenda,
3. State sovereignty vs. UN influence in supporting the goals of the WPS agenda,
4. Statements critical of the distribution of women in key positions at the UN

1.3.2. Ukraine Debates

Next to the WPS agenda, we annotate debates dealing with the Ukraine crisis from different time periods, starting with debates from 2014 (SPV.7154), right before the annexation of Crimea. The war in Ukraine represents a huge challenge to the international system, its security, and thus to the current global order. Within these speeches we expect to find intensified and direct expressions of confrontation between states, dealing with concrete military and violent unrest.

² These resolutions make up the WPS: 1325 (2000); 1820 (2009); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2010); 1960 (2011); 2106 (2013); 2122 (2013); 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019), and 2493 (2019). See also: <http://www.peacewomen.org/why-WPS/solutions/resolutions>

1.4. Terminology

In the following section we give a first short overview of the terminology regarding the corpus and the annotation.

1.4.1. The Corpus

The **UNSC corpus** is the corpus of all speeches as provided by Schönfeld et al. 2019. The **(UNSC) Conflict Corpus** are the debates and speeches we selected for the Conflict annotations.

A **debate** in the UNSC corpus consists of several speeches and states one meeting in the UNSC. One debate is dealing with one or more predefined agenda items.

A **speech** during a debate is given by a representative of a country or a briefer.

1.4.2. Conflict annotations

Conflict is a direct or indirect critique or negative evaluation of other entities (persons, behaviors, situations, and policies) verbalized in political speeches.

Conflict spans will be annotated. There are four Types of Conflict: Direct and Indirect Negative Evaluation, and Challenging Statement.

Conflict Marker are linguistic markers of Conflicts. They are not annotated separately but are used as an indicator that the span is a Conflict.

The **Target** of a Conflict is the entity the Conflict is directed at (another country, another Person, etc.). Target annotations are part of the Conflict annotation span. Targets are obligatory for Conflicts, and there can be more than one Target per Conflict.

1.4.3. Segmentation

Span is a general term used to describe any series of consecutive words, such as a sentence, or a combination of sentences.

Elementary Discourse Units (EDU) is the minimal unit of discourse, mostly a clause or a sentence. The concept is taken from Rhetorical Structure Theory (Thompson and Mann 1988). The EDU segmentation is conducted according to the RST Annotation guidelines by Stede et al. 2017. In the examples, they are marked between parentheses “[]”.

The unit of annotation is one sentence, or one or more EDUs. See section [Unit of Conflict Annotations](#) for more details.

2. Specifications of Conflict Annotations

In this section, we will define Conflicts and, in more detail, the four Conflict Types. We describe how to detect negative evaluation and challenging statements questioning the truth of a claim given by a Target.

2.1. Conflicts and Conflict Types

We define **Conflict** as a form of critique or distancing oneself from the positions or actions from another country present at the Council. Generally, this is done via expressing a negative evaluation. A Conflict in our guidelines is therefore not necessarily a report of a military conflict. A Conflict consists of a Target, which is the entity being evaluated, and a negative evaluation toward that Target. The holder of the evaluation is always the speaker.

Conflicts can be expressed by directly criticizing the country (*Direct Negative Evaluation*) or indirectly by addressing the critique to a surrogate entity (*Indirect Negative Evaluation*). Next to Conflicts being defined as a negative evaluation of a Target, we look at *Challenging Statements* accusing the Target of not telling the truth, and the *Correction* of that allegedly false statement. Fig. 1 shows the different Conflict Types.

Statements expressing Conflict

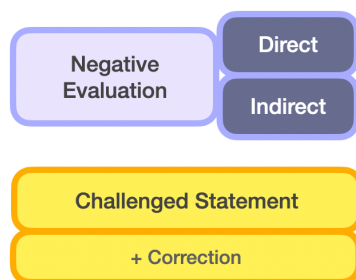


Figure 1: Relation between different Conflict Types.

Next, we will describe the Conflict types in more detail, beginning with Negative Evaluation, which is the core concept for the Conflict annotations.

2.1.1. Negative Evaluation

Negative Evaluation (NegE) is a statement that attaches a negative value to something or someone (“something is bad”). The holder of the evaluation is always the speaker. There must be a lexical marker for NegE (see also section “[Linguistic Markers for Negative Evaluation](#)”). Nevertheless, we only annotate the Conflict span, and not the linguistic markers separately.

In the next example from one of the speeches given in the UNSC, the speaker for the Russian Federation formulates a critique towards former speeches. The lexical markers for NegE are here the “unfair pronouncements”, which “accused” the Russian Federation:

We have heard many unfair pronouncements about Russia today, but of course the most unfair of all came from our Ukrainian colleague, who accused Russia of terrorism.

– Negative Evaluation

UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch021_Russian_Federation2_01.txt

We define different types of NegE in the UNSC based on the Target. The Target is to whom the evaluation is directed at. **Every text span marked as Conflict must be at its core targeted at someone present at the Council.**

This can be done by criticizing the country directly, or indirectly by criticizing something that is representative for the standpoints/actions of the Target, like a law proposed by the target country or a group working on behalf of the target country. Consequently, we distinguish between **Direct** and **Indirect NegE**, as illustrated in Fig. 2 below.

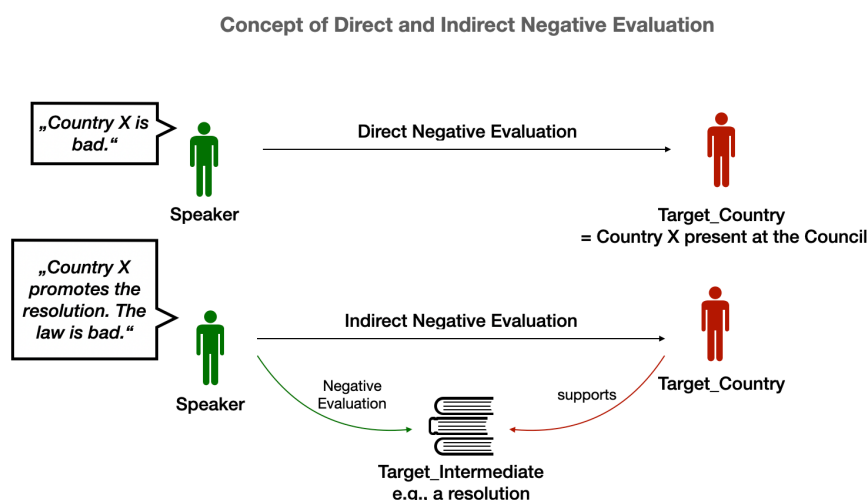


Figure 2: Simplified concept of Negative Evaluation Types. “Country X” in this example would be the Target_Council, the “resolution” would be Target_Intermediate.

2.1.1.1. Direct Negative Evaluation (Label-Name: *Direct_NegE*)

We define Direct NegE as Conflict statements where the critique/conflict is obviously directed at someone present at the council. The countries or country present at the Council criticized is called **Target_Council**.

For Direct NegE, the Target_Council is always named in the marked Conflict span or directly before or after. This can be realized by:

- Naming the speaker (Mr. Smith)
- Naming the country
- Naming the Government of the country
- Using different aliases like the Capital instead of the official country name (*Berlin* instead of *Germany*) or via using pejorative names (see shame naming)
- The Target_Council can also be a group of countries where it is possible to name who is meant (the *African Union*, the *West*, the *Council*).
- Often speakers use self-referencing formulations (“we”). For these cases, we presume that the Council or part of the Council is meant. Therefore, we annotate self-references as Direct Negative Evaluations.

The following table includes examples for different types of Direct NegE. Here and in the following examples, **Conflict markers** are in bold. EDUs are in parentheses (“[]”). We only annotate the Conflict span, the emphases within the text and the explanations only serve the understanding.

[Again, considerable Russian troops are massed on Ukraine's borders.] – No Conflict
[Again, the external anti-Ukrainian and **anti-Western propaganda machine** is in full swing,]
[inciting suspicion, mistrust and hatred waiting to explode.]
– Direct_NegE; Target_Council: Underspecified
UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch005_Lithuania_00_GD.txt

Explanation: The sentence includes a critique of the actions of “*external [...] propaganda machine*”. Based on the sentence before, we can guess Russian Federation is meant, nevertheless, it is not one hundred percent clear who the “*external*” forces are from the Conflict span alone. Therefore, we choose *Underspecified* as Target.

[Should we be surprised that **Grotesque Russophobia and entrenched hatred** have become the norm in the Verkhovna Rada as well.]
– Direct_NegE; Target_Council: Country, Ukraine
UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch004_Russian_Federation_00.txt

Explanation: The sentence is criticizing the norms and values of the Ukrainian Government (*Verkhovna Rada*).

2.1.1.2. Indirect Negative Evaluation (Label-Name: *Indirect_NegE*)

Indirect NegE are Conflicts where an entity the Target_Council stands for/is responsible for is criticized instead of the Target_Council directly. The target is called **Target_Intermediate**.

Intermediate Targets can be for example:

- Directives the Target_Council argues for, like a law or a resolution.
- Criticizing someone working officially or unofficially for the Target_Council, like politicians not belonging to the Government or non-governmental groups

For Indirect NegE, the Target_Council must be mentioned directly before or after the Conflict span. The Target_Intermediate can be expressed in the same way as directly evaluated Target_Councils, i.e., using a negative attribute, shame naming or by criticizing actions/plans/statements.

The table shows an example for indirect negative evaluation:

[Ukraine's **traitor** Yanukovich,]
[who abandoned his country and fled,]
[opening the floodgates to Crimea's annexation,]
[is being pushed again into the daylight to clear the way for Ukraine's further dismemberment.]
– Indirect_NegE, Target_Intermediate: Person; Target_Council: Underspecified
UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch005_Lithuania_00.txt

Explanation: In the first EDU, a politician (*Yanukovich*) is criticized via shame naming (*traitor*), as well as Yanukovich's actions (*who abandoned his country and fled*) and the consequences of these actions (*opening the floodgates to Crimea's annexation*). Because Yanukovich is neither part of the Ukrainian nor of the Russian government, this is a Target_Intermediate. At the same time, the paragraph serves to basically criticize the entity that "*pushed*" him again into daylight. It is not clear from the sentence itself, but most probably the Russian Federation is meant in this example since Russian Federation was mentioned in the sentences before. Therefore, we label this as Indirect Negative Evaluation. The Target_Council is *Underspecified* since there is passive used and we can only guess who the Target is really.

2.1.1.3. Underspecified Target_Council

The nature of language used in diplomatic settings makes it often difficult to determine who the addressee is. Diplomats often use formulations that avoid directly naming the Target, for example by:

- using unclear addressees as “some in this chamber” or “the international community”, or
- using passive constructions.

To avoid losing this type of Conflicts – as they are often used deliberately in diplomatic speech– we will include them for cases, when it is possible to draw the conclusion that someone in the chamber is being implicitly referred to. **We mark Conflicts where neither one sentence before nor after the Target_Council is mentioned as Underspecified for the Target_Council label.**

The next example shows such a case where the Target_Council is *Underspecified*, due to the passive construction used. It is not directly apparent who is meant but the target in this sentence is most probably particular states in the Council:

[In that context, it is important to bear in mind]
[that national plans of action for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) cannot be **used as an instrument**]
[for **assessing the policy of States** in terms of their gender-promotion policies.]
-- Direct_NegE, Target_Council: Underspecified
(UNSC_2016_SPV.7658_spch024_Russian_Federation_02_GD.txt)

2.1.1.4. Linguistic Markers for (Negative) Evaluation

There are various possible **linguistic markers** for expressions of evaluation (see e.g., Taboada 2016). They are not separately annotated, but every NegE needs a conflict marker within the annotation span. Markers can be for example:

- Lexical markers like adjectival attributions (*bad, dreadful, worrying*, etc.) convey much of the subjective, and therefore potentially evaluative content in a text.
- Other parts of speech, such as nouns (*traitor*) adverbs (*poorly, and yet, even, only*) or negation phrases and quantifiers (*not at all, not a single*).
- By particular patterns in sentences, like: “It is unfortunate that ...” or “There is something worrying about”.

In the guidelines, the lexical markers are marked with bold in the examples, but they will not be marked separately in the annotation process.

2.1.1.5. Not Annotated as Negative Evaluation

Next, we look at examples that are not marked as NegE. In the next example, it could be argued that the speaker criticizes the Chamber for not inviting enough women. Nevertheless, the critique is not apparent from the text, and could be seen as a simple call for action. Therefore, the next example is not a Conflict.

[We should hear the voices of women activists from civil society in the Chamber more often.] – No Conflict

UNSC_2016_SPV.7658_spch012_United_Kingdom_Of_Great_Britain_And_Northern_Ireland.txt

The next constructed example is similar in content, but there is an evaluation of the Chamber's practice with a negated adjective (*not enough*) as marker, therefore this would be marked as Conflict.

*[The Chamber does **not** invite **enough** female activists.]*

– Direct NegE (constructed)

We will **not mark quoted expressions of Conflicts** unless the speaker openly expresses to agree with the reported argument:

[United Nations monitors have reported]

[a consistent reinforcement of barricades and armed civilians on both sides.]

– No Conflict

UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch002_UN_Briefer.txt

[The statement that Mr. Churkin has referred very negatively to several times today]

[was made by the acting President, Mr. Turchynov, [...]]

– No Conflict

UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch025_Ukraine.txt

Next to NegE, we include *Challenged Statements* and *Correction* as other type of Conflict statements. This will be explained in the following section.

2.1.2. Challenging and Correcting Statements (Label Names: Challenge, Correction)

Statements that argue that the opponent gave a statement that is not according to the truth (“You are lying”) are called **Challenges**.

We annotate text spans where an allegedly untrue information is reported, and additionally the correction of statement as **Correction**.

Challenging statements are always a Conflict, since they evaluate the quality of the opponent based on truthfulness. Therefore, they do not need to have a linguistic marker for negative evaluation. The next sentences show an example for Challenging Statement as well as a Correction of the allegedly false information.

[We have been told]
[that restraint will be exercised]
[and a peaceful solution found to the situation]
[that takes into account the opinions of the various groupings of the Ukrainian population.]
[That has been confirmed by our Western interlocutors.]
– Challenge, Target_Council: Countries, the West

[**However**, on 13 April the Verkhovna Rada-appointed President Turchynov stated]
[that the Ukrainian Security Council had decided to launch a full-scale anti-terrorist operation, including the use of the armed forces.]
– Correction

We only annotate statements as Challenge which can answer the question: *What information is being spread that is not true?* Only accusing someone of spreading untrue information without saying what the content is, is not marked as Challenge. Therefore, the next example will be annotated as Direct NE instead of Challenge:

Russian media and Government spokespersons are spreading fiction ,
so we must tonight focus on facts .
– Direct NE, Target_Council: Country, Russian Federation
UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch006_United_States_Of_AmericaA_00_GD.txt

The Target for Challenging Statements (Target_Challenge) is always a present state at the Council, like the Target_Council. Target_Challenge annotations answers the question: *Whose statement is being challenged as being inaccurate or untrue? Who is responsible – according to the speaker – for spreading incorrect information?*

We do not annotate Targets for Correction-statements.

2.1.3. Policies

Policies are not annotated by themselves but only when they contain lexical markers for Conflict.

Policy is an assertion that a certain action should or should not be taken, or that a law or rule should or should not be implemented. Typical markers for Policy are the use of modal verbs to make requests, offers and invitations for actions (“We should/ought to” etc.).

The next example from the Lithuanian speech includes a series of sentences including a Policy but only some of them include lexical markers for NegE.

[Lithuania urges]

[the holding of a full , thorough and independent investigation into the downing of the Malaysian Airlines flight,]

[as agreed today by the Council.]

– No Conflict

[Lithuania urges Russia]

[to unequivocally distance itself from any kind of direct or indirect support for **terrorists , separatists and foreign fighters.**]

– Indirect NegE, Target_Council: Country, Russian Federation, Target_Intermediate: Non_Governmental_Group

[The insurgents must lay down their weapons.]

– *no Conflict*

[Lithuania calls on Russia]

[to cooperate with Ukraine]

[in order to ensure the security of the borders]

[and to prevent weapons and **armed terrorists** from entering the territory of Ukraine.]

– Indirect Negative Evaluation, Target_Council: Country, Russian Federation, Target_Intermediate: Non_Governmental_Group

[We call on Russia]

[to constructively cooperate on the implementation of the peace plan put forward by President Petro Poroshenko.]

– no Conflict

[A diplomatic solution is possible.]

– no Conflict

2.2. Unit of Conflict Annotations

The Conflict annotations will be used in combination with other discourse analysis frameworks, such as *Rhetorical Structure Theory*, where the analysis is based on so-called *Elementary Discourse Units (EDUs)*. The EDU segmentations are predefined in the annotations.

We decided to use EDU granularity in addition to sentence granularity for our annotations for practical reasons: We made this decision to achieve better comparability with discourse annotations and because, in some cases, sentence spans are too coarse for Conflict statement spans. We define the following rules:

- 1) For the annotations, **the default type of span is a sentence.**
- 2) Next to sentences, we predefined **EDUs for more fine-grained annotations** for Conflict spans.

In the next example, we annotate only the first three EDUs because these are two separate propositions from which only the first one includes negative evaluation.

[The international community must require the **Maidan henchmen**
[who **seized power** in Kyiv]
[to cease their **war against their own people**
-- Direct NegE
[and to implement all the commitments under the 21 February agreement.]
– No Conflict
UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch004_Russian_Federation.txt

- 3) There are exceptions when more than one sentence can be marked.

In some cases, **more than one sentence** will state a unit of annotation, particularly where there is an anaphoric reference linking one sentence to another.

In these cases, there must be a **pronoun that refers to the original span**. In the next example is a Conflict of type Challenge, the second sentence the demonstrative pronoun “that” refers to the first sentence and informs who was the source of the allegedly false information.

[We have been told]
[that restraint will be exercised]
[and a peaceful solution found to the situation]
[that takes into account the opinions of the various groupings of the Ukrainian population.]
[That has been confirmed by our Western interlocutors.]
-- Challenge

Generally, attributions are included into the Conflict span such as the first EDU in the next example. This speech is on the WPS agenda, and the representative of New Zealand is criticizing the representation of women in peace negotiations.

[We know this,]
[and **yet** we continue to hear arguments]
[that women's participation is **peripheral** rather than essential.]
-- Direct NegE
[We hear cultural **justifications** for the **exclusion** of women from the negotiating table or mediation roles,]
[and we are asked to **delay women's involvement** until the reconciliation phase,]
[often after an agreement has been reached.]
-- Direct NegE

(UNSC_2016_SPV.7658_spch017_New_Zealand_00_GD.txt)

In the next example, the first EDU does not have a Conflict marker, but it provides necessary information about the circumstances for the following EDUs. The Conflict spans contain a negative evaluation of the lack of women there is a quantifying adverbial marker (only, even) and an evaluative phrase (*not a single*).

[When the Council visited Mali, Guinea Bissau and Senegal earlier this month,]
[there was **not a single** female representative of the Council on the trip.]
-- Direct NegE
[And **even** at Headquarters in New York, **only** two of the 15 Security Council member countries are represented by a woman at this debate.]
-- Direct NegE
UNSC_2016_SPV.7658_spch012_United_Kingdom_Of_Great_Britain_And_Northern_Ireland_02_GD.txt

2.3. The Target of Conflict Types

Every text span marked as one of the Conflict Types has a Target. The entity the Conflict is directed at is the Target of the Conflict.

First, we define the type of Targets. Then, for Target_Council and Target_Challenge, we define the specific country name for Targets.

2.3.1. List of possible Target_Councils and Target_Challenge Labels

For Direct Negative Evaluation and Targets of Challenged statements the marked statements can have the following Target types, which all refer to one or more country present at the council:

- a) Label-Name: *Speaker_Speech*
A previous or upcoming **speaker or a speech** (“In her last speech we heard Mrs. ...”). The speaker is usually either representing a country or a group of countries as a diplomat or is an expert speaking at the Council (often called a ‘Briefer’).
- b) Label-Name: *Country*
Country (Germany, China, etc.), including Governments or representatives of the country (“Frau Merkel” for Germany or the “Verkhovna Rada” for the Ukrainian Parliament) present at the Chamber. Please choose if there is no direct reference to the speaker, otherwise choose label Speaker_Speech.
- c) Label-Name: *Countries_Group*
Group of Countries (“the West” or “the African Union”, “permanent members of the Council”), only if a distinct group can be named. Not included are fuzzy group descriptions like “the international community”, or “some people in this chamber”.
- d) Label-Name: *UNSC*
UNSC, also often called “the Council”. Speakers also often refer to the Council via self-referring formulations using 3rd person plural (“We” meant as “the Council”). Only mark these as “UNSC”-Targets if the Council is mentioned directly before or after the Conflict-span. Otherwise, choose the label Underspecified.
- e) Label-Name: *Self-targeting*
Self-targeting: Often diplomats refer to themselves or the country they are representing using self-references using 3rd person plural (“We”) or 1st Person singular

pronouns (“I”). Nevertheless, sometimes it is not clear if they mean their country or someone else, like the Council. For second case, please choose label Underspecified.

Note: For each Target Type a)-i), there needs to be a mention in the text that marks the Target. The Target must be named in the Conflict span itself or from a sentence immediately before or after. For cases like use of passive voice or other constructions where there is no explicit Target mentioned, please use the label *Underspecified*:

f) Label-Name: *Underspecified*

Underspecified: There are cases where there is evaluative language and there is a target that could *potentially* fit into one of the labels, but there is no mention one sentence before or after the Conflict span.

The speakers may use *passive* in their statements. Or there can be an entity in the sentence that can be a target, but it is underspecified regarding which country or group of country is meant like “*the international community*” or “*some in this chamber*”. Most often, it is intentional that the target remains ambiguous due to diplomatic conventions.

Each annotated Conflict span must have a Target_Council/Target_Challenge.

The Target must be taken **from the annotated span itself or one sentence before or after**. If not directly mentioned within this window, please choose Underspecified.

The span of one sentence before and after can be increased if there is a pronoun that refers to a Target_Council in the span before, making the Target_Council Type unambiguous.



Figure 3: Expanding the possible window by one sentence before the Conflict Span by referencing using an anaphora.

Next, we show some examples for Conflicts with their Target-types. Markers for Conflict Types are in bold. Targets in the examples are underlined>. Only Conflict spans are annotated, the spans will be labelled with Conflict Type and Target.

[Should we be surprised that **Grotesque Russophobia and entrenched hatred** have become the norm in the Verkhovna Rada as well.]

– Direct NegE, Target_Council: Country, Ukraine
UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch004_Russian_Federation.txt

Explanation: The speaker is criticizing norms and values of the Ukrainian Government.

[Ukraine's **traitor** Yanukovich,]

[who abandoned his country and fled, opening the floodgates to Crimea's annexation,]

[**is being pushed again into the daylight** to clear the way for Ukraine's further dismemberment.]

– Indirect NegE, Target_Intermediate: Person; Target_Council: Underspecified
UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch005_Lithuania.txt

Explanation: A Conflict span with two Target Types: 1. *Person*, because “Yanukovich” is not part of any government anymore; 2. *Underspecified*, because Lithuania is accusing some entity of different actions to destabilize Ukrainian government using a passive construction.

[We know this,]

[and **yet** we continue to hear arguments]

[that women's participation is peripheral rather than essential.]

-- Direct NegE, Target_Council: Underspecified

[We hear cultural **justifications** for the **exclusion of women** from the negotiating table or mediation roles,]

[and we are asked to delay women's involvement until the reconciliation phase,]

[often after an agreement has been reached.]

-- Direct NegE, Target_Council: Underspecified

UNSC_2016_SPV.7658_spch017_New_Zealand_00_GD.txt

2.3.2. List of possible targets for Target_Intermediate

For Indirect Negative Evaluations, the following Intermediate Target Types are possible:

a) Label-Name: *Law_Policy*

Law or Policy is something that should be implemented or is currently in force in the UNSC or other UN Organizations (like setting up a new Expert Group, new structural reforms, resolutions, or amendments to resolutions). The target of a Conflict can be a document that is being discussed and criticized, such as a Resolution. It is possible that

a group of countries or a country that supports the document is (indirectly) criticized when arguing against the document.

g) Label-Name: *Person*

A **Person** which is not clearly connected as representative of a Country or Group.

h) Label-Name: *UN-Organization*

UN-Organizations other than the Council (the Council, the World Bank, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, etc.) A list can be found here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_specialized_agencies_of_the_United_Nations.

i) Label-Name: *Non-Governm_Grp*

Non-Governmental Groups (“the terrorist groups”, “separatists”): It is also possible that Countries are also be criticized by criticizing *groups (supposedly) working for the Target country*, like groups in the society, protestants, guerrilla groups, etc.

j) Label-Name: *Other*

Other label serves for all intermediate Targets, which do not fit into one of the predefined classes.

2.3.3. Country name for Target_Council and Target_Challenge

If applicable, we include the **Country name of the Target_Council or Target_Challenge**. We use the official names as used in the UN Security Council:

<https://research.un.org/en/unmembers/scmembers>. Only one country, not group of countries (“the West”, “the Council” etc.) should be included here.

2.4. Cases Not Marked as Conflicts

- **Situations Criticized:**

It is possible to mark spans where a behavior or a *situation or event is the focus of criticism*, but this alone *is not sufficient*. In addition to the situation or event being criticized, there must be a TT criticized (that is for example responsible for the event).

- **Military Actions:**

A report of a military conflict is generally not a Conflict. Only, if the report also expresses a negative evaluation of one of the TTs, it can be a Conflict. In other words, there must be a judging of the situation by also directing a critique towards the responsible entity for the reported situation. For example, the next text would *not* be marked as Conflict, even if it is reporting on a military Conflict, but in neutral terms:

[United Nations monitors have reported]

[a consistent reinforcement of barricades and armed civilians on both sides.]

– No Conflict

UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch002, UNBriefer

- **Quoted Conflicts:**

On the other hand, a speaker may quote a negative evaluation and statements containing Conflict from other sources. These spans can be labeled as Conflict, but only if the speaker has positioned him/herself as a supporter of the reported statement. The support of the statement must be explicitly marked in the speech before or after the quotation. We will not mark sequences where the source of the Conflict is not directly the speaker, and it is not clear that the speaker follows or agrees with the reported argument. The next example is a Quoted negative evaluation without visible consent of the speaker; therefore, it is not a Conflict span:

[The statement that Mr. Churkin has referred very negatively to several times today]

[was made by the acting President, Mr. Turchynov, [...]]

– No Conflict

UNSC_2014_SPV.7154_spch025_Ukraine2_01.txt

3. Annotation Procedure

We use the Tool Inception (Klie et al 2018) for annotations.³ Please prepare your annotation by familiarizing yourself with the background of the debate to better understand potential conflicts reading the provided Background-document.

Granularity of Annotations

One line in the annotation tool is one EDU. Nevertheless, the **default annotation unit is *one sentence at a time***. For more information on the unit of annotation, refer to the section [Definition of Annotation-Spans](#).

Hierarchy of annotations

1. When both Negative Evaluation and Challenging Statement can be found in the same span, prefer Challenging Statement.
2. When both Direct Negative Evaluation and Indirect Negative Evaluation is found in the same span, prefer Direct Negative Evaluation.

The hierarchy of Conflict Types is:

Challenging Statement > Negative Evaluation

Direct Negative Evaluation > Indirect Negative Evaluation

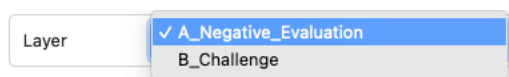
Task #1: Preparation

Please read the summary of the debate and the background information. They will be made available separately.

Task #2: First Layer – Direct / Indirect Negative Evaluation

Annotate one paragraph after another for **Negative Evaluation Type**.

1. Click in Inception on the Layer “A_Negative_Evaluation”.



³ <https://inception-project.github.io/>

2. Read the speech carefully. In the text, mark spans (one sentence, sometimes EDUs) that contain a Negative Evaluation. Constraints:
 - The marked span contains a [linguistic marker for evaluative language](#).
 - The holder of the evaluation is the speaker. We do not include quoted Conflicts.
 - The target of the critique is either a present country at the Council or a representative entity where the critique serves to indirectly targeting the country.

20 These outdated attitudes and approaches must be challenged .

3. Decide, if the evaluation is directly targeted at a present country, then choose **Direct_NegEval**. Refer to section [Direct Negative Evaluation](#) for more details. If the conflict targets an entity the Council member stands for/is responsible for, choose **Indirect_NegEval** . Refer to section [Indirect Negative Evaluation](#) for more details.

A0_Negative_Evaluation

Direct_NegEval	i
Indirect_NegEval	i

For each type of negative evaluation, there is a annotation pipeline based on the Conflict annotation span:

- Direct Negative Evaluation:
 - I. Choose the label *Direct_NegEval*.
 - II. Choose *-NONE-* for Target_Intermediate.
 - III. Choose at least one of the possible Target_Council labels.
 - IV. Choose Country_Name. Eventually include a new country name if not already listed. If not applicable, choose *-NONE-*.

A0_Negative_Evaluation

Direct_NegEval	i
Indirect_NegEval	i

[Show key bindings...](#)

A2_Target_Council

Speaker_Speech

A3_Target_Intermediate

-NONE-

A4_Country_Name

france

- Indirect Negative Evaluation:
 - I. Choose label *Indirect_NegEval*.
 - II. Choose one of the possible *Target_Intermediate* labels.
 - III. Choose one of the possible *Target_Council* labels.

- IV. Choose *Country_Name*. Eventually include a new country name if not already listed. If not applicable, choose *-NONE-*.

The screenshot shows a web interface with four sections:

- A0_Negative_Evaluation**: A dropdown menu with "Direct_NegEval" and "Indirect_NegEval" (highlighted in blue). Below it is a link "Show key bindings...".
- A2_Target_Council**: A dropdown menu with "Country".
- A3_Target_Intermediate**: A dropdown menu with "Person".
- A4_Country_Name**: A dropdown menu with "france".

4. The possible Target_Councils are:

I. *Speaker_Speech*:

A previous or upcoming speaker or a speech ("In her last speech we heard Mrs. ..."). The speaker is usually either representing a country or a group of countries as a diplomat or is an expert speaking at the Council (often called a 'Briefer').

II. *Country*:

Naming the country (Germany, China, etc.), includes Governments or representatives of the country ("Frau Merkel" for Germany or the "Verkhovna Rada" for the Ukrainian Parliament) present at the Chamber. Please choose if there is no direct reference to the speaker, otherwise choose label *Speaker_Speech*.

V. *Countries_Group*:

Like "the West" or "the African Union", "permanent members of the Council", only if a distinct group can be named. Not included are fuzzy group descriptions like "the international community", or "some people in this chamber".

VI. *UNSC*:

Also often called "the Council". Speakers also often refer to the Council via self-referring formulations using 3rd person plural ("We" meant as "the Council"). Only mark these as "UNSC"-Targets if the Council is mentioned directly before or after the Conflict-span. Otherwise, choose the label Underspecified.

VII. *Self-targeting*:

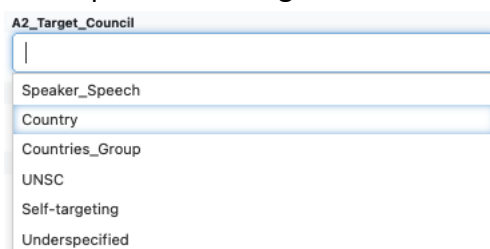
Often diplomats refer to themselves or the country they are representing using self-references using 3rd person plural ("We") or 1st Person singular pronouns ("I"). Nevertheless, sometimes it is not clear if they mean their country or someone else,

like the Council. For second case, please choose label Underspecified.

For each Target Type I-VII, the Target_Council must be named in the Conflict span itself or from a sentence immediately before or after. For cases like use of passive voice or other constructions where there is no explicit Target mentioned, please use the label *Underspecified*:

VIII. *Underspecified*:

There are cases where there is evaluative language and there is a target that could *potentially* fit into one of the labels, but there is no mention in the Conflict span, nor directly after or before. The speakers may use *passive* in their statements. Or there can be an entity in the sentence that can be a target, but it is underspecified regarding which country or group of country is meant like “*the international community*” or “*some in this chamber*”. For these cases, it is possible to choose Underspecified as Target.



A2_Target_Council

- Speaker_Speech
- Country
- Countries_Group
- UNSC
- Self-targeting
- Underspecified

Note: Each annotated Conflict span must have a Target_Council/Target_Challenge.

The Target must be taken **from the annotated span itself or one sentence before or after**. If not directly mentioned within this window, please choose Underspecified.

5. The possible Target_Intermediate are:

I. *Law_Policy*:

Something that should be implemented or is currently in force in the UNSC or other UN Organizations (like setting up a new Expert Group, new structural reforms, resolutions, or amendments to resolutions). The target of a Conflict can be a document that is being discussed and criticized, such as a Resolution. It is possible that a group of countries or a country that supports the document is (indirectly) criticized when arguing against the document.

II. *Person*:

A Person which is not clearly connected as representative of a country or Group.

III. *UN-Organization*:

Organization other than the Council (the Council, the World Bank, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, etc. A list can be found here: [Link](#)).

IV. *Non-Governm_Grp*:

It is also possible that Countries are also be criticized by criticizing groups (supposedly) working for the Target country, like groups in the society, protestants, guerrilla groups, etc.

V. *Other*:

Other label serves for all intermediate Targets, which do not fit into one of the predefined classes.

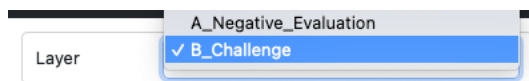
VI. *-NONE-*:

If there is no Target_Intermediate.

Task #3: Second Layer – Challenging Statement

Annotate one paragraph after another for **Challenge Types**.

1. Click in Inception on the Layer “B_Challenge”.



2. In the text, mark spans (one sentence, sometimes EDUs) that argue that the opponent gave a statement that is not according to the truth as **Challenge**.
 - I. Choose label *Challenge*.
 - II. Choose one of the possible *Target_Challenge* labels. They are the same as *Target_Council*.
 - IX. Choose *Country_Name*. Eventually include a new country name if not already listed. If not applicable, choose *-NONE-*.
3. If applicable, mark the correction of statement with the **Correction** label. Only in connection with a Challenge-annotation. For Correction, there is no Target labeled.
 - I. Choose label *Correction*.
 - II. For *Target_Challenge* and *Country_Name* choose the label *-NONE-*.

B1_ChallengeType

Challenge

Correction

[Show key bindings...](#)

B2_Target_Challenge

|

Speaker_Speech

Country

Countries_Group

UNSC

Self-targeting

Underspecified

Do so for the entire debate. For each new debate, please first refer to the background information before starting with the annotations.

Task #4: ReviewAnnotations

Please review all your annotations according to their completeness:

- **Each annotated Conflict span must have a Target_Council/Target_Challenge.**
- Conflict spans for the **A_Negative_Evaluation** layer should have **4 labels**.
- Conflict spans for the **B_Challenge** layer should have **3 labels**.

Literature

- Carlile, Winston, Nishant Gurrapadi, Zixuan Ke, und Vincent Ng. 2018. „Give Me More Feedback: Annotating Argument Persuasiveness and Related Attributes in Student Essays“. In *Proceedings of the 56th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, herausgegeben von Iryna Gurevych und Yusuke Miyao, 621–31. Melbourne, Australia: Association for Computational Linguistics. <https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/P18-1058>.
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