Morgan Shively

Final Assignment Part 2 Report

Part 1 – Explanation of Words

Positive Words (Social Calm):

1. <u>Work</u> – In general I believe that the internalization of the concept of work in civil society represents much more, for most people, than a nine to five job in a cubicle and a paycheck to keep the bills paid. Despite the fact that quality of work and tiers of jobs can be vastly different, I find that for people, particularly members of the working class, their job can be considered as a reflection of themselves and their social status. Where and how you work, determines everything from the clothes you wear, the car you drive, the house you live in etc. Naturally we can suppose that to some degree, "work" is something that can determine overall quality of life for people. Furthermore we can propose those who are employed, working respectable jobs they enjoy and making sustainable income could typically be, or at least appear to be, happier than those who are not. Overall I believe that work is very important piece of social structure that can promote a feeling of stability in people, whereas the lack of work allows people to approach the introspective question, why does it feel like society is working against me.

2. <u>Trustworthy</u> – Trustworthiness is a more abstract concept that may not be as black and white in terms of understanding its effect on social unrest. However, trustworthiness is a word I chose in that it is often used as a method of describing people holding elected office who typically have the ability to "upset the apple cart" more so than average citizens. On the contrary, a sense of trustworthiness can help people feel a sense of security.

3. <u>Politician</u> – Politician is a great word that can be attributed to social unrest in that politicians, typically people lobbying for people holding elected office or people campaigning for elected office themselves tend to be the ones that make executive decisions that will to varying degrees influence the general population's quality of life.

4. <u>Prowess</u> – Prowess is a word I chose due to its implication of expertise. Without prowess in a given field, in this case we can imagine any arbitrary form of employment, the ability to find a job can be difficult. A feeling of prowess can create a sense of professionalism and empowerment for people that I believe to be uplifting, diffusing ideas of skepticism towards social constructs.

5. <u>Innovation</u> – Innovation can be viewed as something similar to progress. In an innovative society we are seeing efficient solutions to social issues and instances of social tension. In another sense, innovation implies a forward direction in any given field which I find commonplace for societies who are seeking to alleviate issues that may cause social deviancy.

6. <u>Success</u> – Success speaks for itself in that success is something that people strive for. Being successful can entail achieving goals, hitting deadlines, or anything considered to be an advancement in life. The feeling of being successful can directly be attributed to overall sense of wellness and being in the right place. In terms of social unrest, a society full of people who are achieving "success" would not feel pressured or unhappy.

7. Ethics – Ethics are essentially a standard of behavior and expectations we believe to be appropriate. Whenever people follow a code of ethics, namely behaving under standards created by society, they are not seen as unruly or problem causing. However, people who fail to act under a certain code of ethics can be seen as deviant or strange which can cause tension in society, particularly when something considered to be ethical isn't unanimously agreed upon, or viewed differently be opposing parties.

8. Economy – The economy is a huge social structure that directly affects social unrest. We can see a plethora of instances in society where a failing economy has caused extreme degrees of social tension (ex. The Great Depression). In societies where economies are unstable or volatile, things such as stocks, job availability, and home ownership are all directly affected.

9. Change – From a basic perspective we can view change as literally something we want to happen when we don't like something. Society undergoes changes constantly. This is affected by a lot of different variables, such as the economy and political atmosphere. The issue with change is that typically change tends to favor certain parties or agendas, and rarely will change be considered good unanimously. Rather, we can say that not all changes are pleasing which can cause a sense of uneasiness in society.

10. Progress – Progress is similar to our concepts of change and innovation. Progressive society can be considered undergoing a constant state of "change". When thinking about representations of sociological progress we can use an example of something such as making the change to renewable energy. While progress tends to have a positive connotation, progressivism isn't always perceived as a good thing depending on the nature of what it seeks to achieve.

Negative Words (Social Unrest):

1. Power – Power can be considered to be something that controls us. Rather, people in power can be perceived as oppressive. The feeling of oppression and helplessness can ultimately be seen as a catalyst to causing people to take extreme measures to change the status quo, or rather they can take extreme measures to remove people form positions of power.

2. Setback – a setback is essentially the opposite of progress. When thinking about a setback in terms of social unrest we can say that whenever setbacks occur people can see flaws in a social system. Namely, the inability to perceive potential issues in a progressive society can cause setbacks.

3. Murder – Murder can happen for a number of reasons. Areas with high crime rates tend to have high murder counts. Furthermore murder happening around you can cause a feeling of lack of safety. In an even darker reality, murder can be seen by certain people as a way of solving a problem. Murder is also something we can attribute with gang activity. These are all typical assets of social unrest (crime, homicide, segregated social groups).

4. Terrorist – Terrorists arguably are the perpetrators of some of our biggest examples of social unrest, or rather they commit acts of terrorism that cause social unrest (ex. 9/11). Terrorists basically utilize extreme methods in order make their agenda and beliefs known to others.

5. <u>Negligence</u> – Negligence can cause a sense of unhappiness and unimportance. Whenever people feel like they are being neglected, whether it be from a loved one or another person of significance they can be like their problems aren't being heard. When something like this occurs, people can resort to drastic measures in order to receive attention. Even more so, whenever societal issues are neglected large masses of people can feel the same sense of neglect.

6. <u>School</u> – I think that school is a good word here because school is a place where many people, namely student go through tons of personal change in a short period of time. Even more so school is a place where people began identifying with social groups and take measures in order to feel accepted by others. Surely, these types of experiences come with tons of stress. Some people are unable to deal with these social pressures well and the feeling of being an outsider can cause social unrest on the scale as something as awful as school shootings.

7. <u>Feeling</u> – Feeling is also an abstract concept and also yields a pretty basic explanation in that feelings more or less warrant all your methods of dealing with emotional triggers. In terms of social unrest I think that there is a general feeling that is amalgamated by everyone in society, and when this feeling is negative, society is surely affected by it.

8. <u>Die</u> – Death is obviously something that rarely reflects a positive sentiment. Death comes in many ways. Death can occur with friends, families, celebrities etc. All instances of death can affect people differently and I feel like death can definitely cause stir in society, particularly death in forms of assassinations/murders or other forms considered where it is unexpected.

9. <u>Home</u> – Home is something that can also be a huge source of stressors much like school. Home is a place where, in a perfect scenario, can be a source of strength, reliability, and sanctuary. However, for many people this is in fact not the case. A broken home can be a huge catalyst for people to act irrationally. It is not uncommon for people to lash out as a result of the idea of "home" having a negative connotation.

10. <u>Virulent</u> – Virulent is also another abstract concept in that it more or less means harmful and detrimental to your health and wellbeing. For me I think that one of the most prevalent instance of this idea has to be pollution in society. In places such as India and China, pollution is so bad that is it literally killing people slowly. Of course negligence of these types of social issues have caused tons of uproar by society.

Part 2 – Cluster Information and Word Relativity

Positive Word Cluster Analysis:

For the cluster of words being used here there seems to be a theme connecting to relation of political atmosphere, the state of the economy, and the quality of work/employment in society. Namely, the words that I have selected inside the cluster are: work, trustworthy, ethics, politician, innovation, progress, change, economy, prowess and success. With analyzing the words inside this network we can see they all effect fundamental aspects of life (politics, finance, and economics.). In terms of work, we can see the work is connecting to success and prowess. Here we can assume that in having a special set of skills there is a correlation to employment and in turn a connection to success. A society that is

skilled and able to participate in the work force is naturally one that will benefit the economy. Having connections to work process and success we can then assume that successful people have prowess. These are also in the same network as change and innovation. Rather, here we can assume that having a skilled society, will then put society in a position to develop in a positive fashion. In terms of political atmosphere, we can see that words like politician, ethics, and trustworthiness are also connected to each other. As mentioned before, people holding elected office are giving the means to control aspects of people's lives, therefor natural it will would make that people are doing their own research to see if these people are ethical and trustworthy. Even more so, people that are in elected office are able to make decisions that directly affect the economy itself (ex. Tax laws, minimum wage).

Negative Word Cluster Analysis:

When examining our network of negative words in this cluster it appears that we can see a reoccurring theme that social unrest can potentially stem for places, events, and phenomenon that can cause people to act irrationally whenever they feel a sense of helplessness. In this list we can see a network consisting of these words: terrorist, home, school, virulent, setback, die, power, murder, feeling, and negligence. I feel as if we can see suppose that people that participate in social deviancy could be experiencing unrest of their own as a result of their own stress in places such as home and school where is it common to feel sentiments such as a lack of acceptance and negligence. Furthermore, we can see a huge connection of negative sentiment to buzz words like death, murder, and terrorism. These sociological phenomenon can be very trying on society, specifically whenever their causes are determined to be something that was self-inflicted or preventable. From here we can see how these are in the network relating power and setbacks. In a society that is experiencing social unrest, we can suppose that an improper use of power and lives being lost could be correlated with each other causing setbacks in the general mood of society.

Part 3 – Explanation of Node Centrality

In terms of the networks I selected, my goal was to locate two nodes connected to each other (node A – work, node B – setback). With node A having several branches connecting itself a many positive words that I believe represent social calm and node B having several branches to negative words that I believed to represent our idea of social unrest. Considering centrality, in theory I wanted to find two nodes that shared completely opposite network key words branching from themselves, but still being connected to each other individually. These two nodes acted as a focal point where despite them being connected to each other, their networks that derived from them were polar opposites regarding semantics. I believe that with work we can see that people can attribute things like financial stability, a career, achieving goals etc. until something we can consider a setback arrives and then potentially this is where their perceived progress stops. Provided these are all suppositions based upon the data, I believe the cardinality of these two node's networks means something being it that they represent such

different social moods yet they are still affiliated with each other. In theory, I think that we can see words or sentiments rather we attribute with positive social atmosphere are to some degree related to work, and that these sentiments can be counter acted by feelings we experience when setbacks occur prohibiting our "pursuit of happiness".
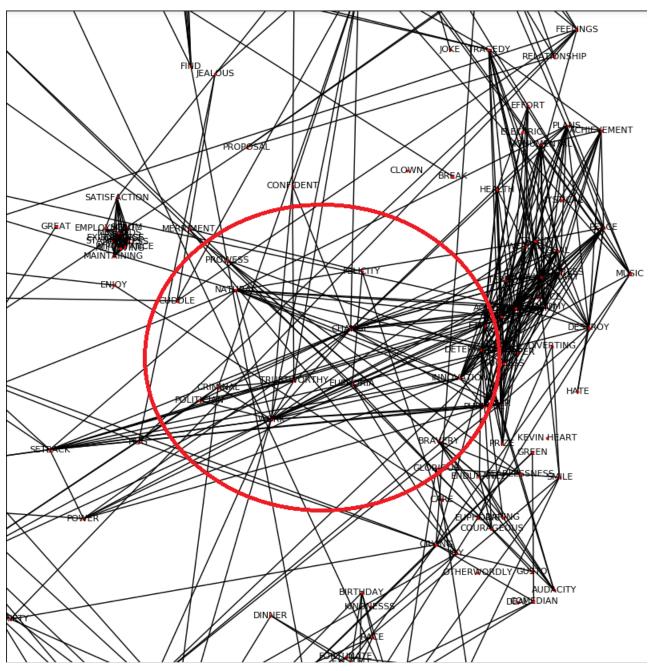

Figure 1 Positive Word Network

Figure 2 Negative Node Network