Annotation Guidelines - NarratEx

1. Introduction

Online media have opened vast possibilities to easily create direct communication channels between producers and consumers of information, potentially leaving the latter exposed to deceptive content and attempts at manipulation. Huge audiences can be affected instantly, and major crisis events are continuously subjected to the spread of harmful disinformation and propaganda. The emergence of the aforementioned threats has led to an ever-growing need to develop automated tools to support media experts in analysing the news ecosystem around the globe, identifying large-scale manipulation attempts, and carrying out cross-country comparative studies. This need has been reflected in a vast bulk of related research in the broader area of Natural Language Processing. In particular, numerous shared tasks focusing on the detection and classification of propaganda and manipulation attempts have been organized in the last decade.

This document focuses on two tasks (1) Narrative Classification, to assign documents fine-grained narratives according to a given, topic-specific taxonomy of narrative labels, and (2) Narrative Extraction, to provide a justification for the dominant narrative of the document. A narrative in the context of this task is defined as a recurring, repetitive (across and within articles), overt or implicit claim that presents and promotes a specific interpretation or viewpoint on an ongoing (and often dynamic) news topic.. The task covers five languages, namely, Bulgarian, English, Hindi, Portuguese and Russian.

Annotation Task 1: Narrative Classification

1.1 Annotation Guidelines

The manual annotation process for this task will be carried out as follows:

1. The annotator will be provided with a list of documents (news articles) from a particular theme (CC or URW) and a two-level domain-specific taxonomy comprising coarse labels (Narratives) and fine-grained labels (Sub-Narratives).

2. For each document, the annotator should read the text paragraph by paragraph. If the paragraph contains one of the Narratives given in the two taxonomies, the annotator should highlight the first word of the paragraph with the layer "Narrative", then select the first coarse label that applies. If no coarse label applies, the annotator should not annotate anything and proceed the the next paragraph (skipping steps 3-4).

3. Subsequently, for each coarse label selected, the annotator should select one child fine-grained label of the particular coarse label that applies to the paragraph. If no children labels of the particular coarse label apply, the special label "Other" should be applied on the fine-grained level (Sub-Narrative). If a fine-grained sub-narrative cannot be decided, but a coarse-grained one is present, an annotator must always select "Other" as the fine-grained sub-narrative.

4. If the annotator sees another Narrative (or Sub-Narrative) in the same paragraph, the above process is repeated. The same first word of the paragraph is highlighted again with the layer "Narrative", and the relevant pair of (coarse-grained, fine-grained) labels are selected for the two levels accordingly.

5. When the annotator reaches the end of the article, they should make a decision on what is the Dominant Narrative of the whole article (the Narrative that stands out and describes best the intention of the author, in the annotator's opinion). Then the annotator should select the layer "Dominant Narrative", highlight the title of the article (the first line) and then, select the dominant narrative attribute with the right label. In case that no Narrative was found in all the paragraphs, the annotator needs to select the "Other" label as Dominant Narrative. The main difference is that for paragraph annotations there are two fields to fill: one for coarse narratives and one for fine-grained narratives. For the dominant narrative, there is only one field, for which you can either choose: "Other", a fine-grained narrative, or a coarse-grained narrative. If you choose a coarse-grained narrative as dominant narrative, that is equivalent to a paragraph annotation, where the fine-grained narrative is "Other" (which means that the annotator was unable to determine a specific dominant sub-narrative).

6. Finally, the annotator must annotate the Evidence layer — highlight all parts of the text that support and validate the choice of the dominant narrative as Evidence.

7. During the curation process, the curator will regularly resolve conflicting annotations in Inception and end up with the final annotation spans.

Below we provide the two taxonomies — for the URW and CC domains. Coarse labels (Narratives) are numbered with Arabic numerals. Fine-grained labels (Sub-Narratives) are numbered with letters.

1.3. The taxonomies

Ukraine-Russia War (URW) Narrative Taxonomy
1. Blaming the war on others rather than the invader

Definition: Statements attributing responsibility or fault to entities other than Russia in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
Examples:
- "The economic crisis is due to Western sanctions."
- "Ukraine's actions provoked this conflict."

Instructions to Annotators: Look for direct or implied statements that shift blame away from Russia. Consider who is being held responsible for negative events or situations.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Ukraine is the aggressor
Definition: Statements that shift the responsibility of the aggression to Ukraine instead of Russia and portray Ukraine as the attacker.
Examples:
- "Ukraine secretly provoked the war because it was harassing Donbass province citizens."

(b) The West are the aggressors
Definition: Statements that shift the responsibility for the conflict and escalation to the Western block.

Examples:
• "The real perpetrators were US/EU. They sabotaged Minsk II agreement only to force Russia to invade."

Instructions to Annotators: Look for direct or implied statements that mention that this conflict was a direct consequence of actions taken by the West. Consider who is beingheld responsible for negative events or situations.

2. Discrediting Ukraine
Definition: Statements that undermine the legitimacy, actions, or intentions of Ukraine or Ukrainians as a nation.

Examples:
• "Ukraine's government is corrupt and ineffective."
• "Ukrainian soldiers are committing atrocities."
• "Ukrainian identity does not exist"

Instructions to Annotators: Look for direct or implied statements that attack some aspect of the Ukrainian society

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Rewriting Ukraine's history
Definition: Statements that aim to reestablish history of Ukrainian nation in a way that discredits its reputation.

Examples:
• "Ukraine is not a real nation, it was a fabrication to split Russia and ally with Hitler."

(b) Discrediting Ukrainian nation and society
Definition: Statements that aggressively undermine the legitimacy and reputability of Ukrainian ethnicity and people

Examples:
Ukraine has been plagued by widespread graft for years, and a 2015 Guardian article described it as "the most corrupt nation in Europe." More recently, it ranked 104 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index.

Instructions to Annotators: Use this only is case that the subject of the attack is the people of Ukraine, or in case of generalizations.

(c) Discrediting Ukrainian military
Definition: Statements that aim to undermine the capabilities, professionalism or effectiveness of the Ukrainian armed forces.

Examples:
• Zaluzhny served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine from July 27, 2021 until February 8, 2024. He led Ukraine's disastrous "counter-offensive" last year, which led to the deaths of at least 125,000 soldiers. Overall, the war has claimed the lives of at least 400,000 Ukrainian soldiers.

(d) Discrediting Ukrainian government and officials and policies
Definition: Statements that seek to delegitimize the Ukrainian government, its leaders, and its policies, portraying them as corrupt or incompetent.

Examples:
• Zaluzhny is a fitting representative, with blood on his hands. That he was appointed ambassador to the UK in March confirms the SEP's insistence that a major escalation of NATO's proxy war against Russia is being prepared.

Instructions to Annotators: Use this only is case that the subject of the attack is the leaders of Ukraine or some of their specific policy decisions.

(e) Ukraine is a puppet of the West
Definition: Claims that Ukraine is controlled or heavily influenced by Western powers, particularly the United States and European Union.

Examples:
• Russian officials have described the Ukraine conflict as a Western proxy war against Moscow, which the US and its allies allegedly intend to wage "to the last Ukrainian." Their goal, according to Moscow, is to contain Russia and stall its development rather than protect the interests of the Ukrainian people.

(f) Ukraine is a hub for criminal activities
Definition: Allegations that Ukraine is a center for illegal activities such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, or organized crime

Examples:
• Kiev's money pit: the billion dollar grift just got that much more corrupt. . .

(g) Ukraine is associated with nazism
Definition: Accusations that Ukrainian society or government has ties to or sympathies with Nazi ideology, often referencing historical events or extremist groups.

Examples:
• Part of the reason for attacking Ukraine was to get rid of the nazis and junkies.
Instructions to Annotators: This can go with discrediting Ukrainian nation, but should be used with any mention or hint of sympathy or association with (neo-)Nazism, historical or not.

(h) Part of the reason for attacking Ukraine was to get rid of the nazis and junkies.
Situation in Ukraine is hopeless
Definition: Statements that portray Ukraine as having no viable perspectives or no potential positive future.

Examples:
• "Ukraine should just give up, it is all over debt and will be exploited by the West anyway."

3. Russia is the Victim
Definition: Statements that portray Russia as being unfairly targeted or victimized.

Examples:
• "Russia is being unfairly sanctioned."
• "The West is ganging up on Russia without justification."
• "Russia is doing what every country would do (e.g. protect its interests/honour etc.)

Instructions to Annotators: Look for narratives that depict Russia as suffering unjust consequences. Focus on language that evokes sympathy for Russia's position.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) The West is Russophobic
Definition: Statements that claim that the negative reaction to Russia's actions are because of the negative perspective of western countries instead of Russia's own actions.

Examples:
• "Politicians in the West blame Russia for everything, instead of looking at their mistakes."
• "In Country X, they banned Tchaikovsky ballets and Chechov's plays because they cannot stand Russia and its culture."

(b) Russia actions in Ukraine are only self-defence
Definition: Statements that justify Russia's action solely as legitimate self-defence and not a deliberate action.

Examples:
• "There was no other way than war to defend the Russian-speaking people in Donbass."

(c) UA is anti-RU extremists
Definition: Statements claiming that Ukraine is comprised of extremist elements that are vehemently opposed to Russia.

Examples:
• Kiev also continues attempts to launch terrorist attacks in various cities of Russia. Their goals are to inflict civilian casualties and threaten the population, as well as to discredit the Russian authorities and create the appearance of a national resistance against the Kremlin. To do this, Kiev recruits naive men, often Ukrainians who have moved to Russia, who for monetary rewards go to a life of crime and sacrifice their lives.

4. Praise of Russia
Definition: Statements that positively highlight Russia's actions, policies, or character

Examples:
• "Russia is leading the way in international diplomacy."
• "The Russian economy is resilient and strong."
• Glorifying mentions of Russia's weapon systems and military might.

Instructions to Annotators: Identify expressions of admiration, support, or positive evaluation of Russia. Consider both explicit praise and subtle commendation.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Praise of Russian military might
Definition: Statements that positively highlight Russia's military institutions, equipment and scale.

Examples:
• "Russia has far more tanks and powerful artillery that US/EU would only dream of."

(b) Praise of Russian President Vladimir Putin
Definition: Statements that present Vladimir Putin positively, including his personal and leadership qualities.

Examples:
• "Any country would want such a strong leader as Putin to lead the way."

(c) Russia is a guarantor of peace and prosperity
Definition: Statements that portray Russia solely in a positive manner, emphasising their potential to provide peace and prosperity to those that cooperate.

Examples:
• "Take a look at Africa, Russia supports countries and turns them into independent nations guided by their people's interests where Western countries colonised brutally."

(d) Russia has international support from a number of countries and people
Definition: Statements that emphasise the popularity and acceptance of Russia in the international stage.

Examples:
• "The majority of the countries population sides with Russia as per last UN General Assembly vote."

(e) Russian invasion has strong national support
Definition: Statements that emphasise the popularity and acceptance of the invasion inside Russia and on Russian-speaking populations.

Examples:
• "The majority of the countries population sides with Russia as per last UN General Assembly vote."

Instructions to Annotators: Use this only when there is mention to the Russian population or the segment of the population in Ukraine that supports Russia.

5. Overpraising the West
Definition: Statements that excessively and unduly laud or extol the virtues, accomplishments, and moral superiority of Western countries, particularly in the context of international relations and military.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) NATO will destroy Russia
Definition: Statements that suggest or claim that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

(NATO) and its allies are capable or already in the process of eradicating Russia.

Examples:
"NATO is capable to defeat Russia if a direct conflict will start"

(b) The West belongs in the right side of history
Definition: Statements that portray Western nations and their actions as morally superior and aligned with progress and justice and possess moral superiority.

Examples:
• "Sullivan insisted dissemination of the controversial bombs doesn't undercut US' "moral authority." ""

(c) The West has the strongest international support
Definition: Statements that emphasize or claim widespread backing for Western policies and actions from the international community, potentially downplaying opposition or criticism.

Examples:
• "109 UN members were in favour of EU/US proposals to decry Russia for its crimes. It is clear that the whole globe and counts on the West to bring order and peace."

6. Speculating war outcomes
Definition: Statements that predict or make assumptions about the potential results or consequences of a conflict

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Russian army is collapsing
Definition: Statements that suggest or claim that the Russian military is experiencing a significant decline in its effectiveness, strength, or morale.

Examples:
• "Russia's military stocks are rapidly depleting, the soldiers are demoralized, untrained, unmotivated, conscripts, and convicts, and their leadership is failing them, having already failed in their strategic objectives."

(b) Russian army will lose all the occupied territories
Definition: Speculative statements that predict or assume the potential outcomes of the conflict, specifically regarding the possibility of the Russian military losing control of all the territories it currently occupies.

Examples:
• "Putin will ABANDON siege of Kyiv and try to blitz other cities into submission after losing thousands of troops. Collapse is a matter of days and Ukraine will get back all the lands that was occupied these years."

(c) Ukrainian army is collapsing
Definition: Statements that suggest or claim that the Ukrainian military is experiencing a significant decline in its effectiveness, strength, or morale.

Examples:
• "With helpless underage soldiers in the front, it's only a matter of time before the Ukraine admits its defeat and pays reparations to Moscow or risks a devastating nuclear strike."

7. Discrediting the West, Diplomacy
Definition: Statements that criticize the Western countries, or international diplomatic efforts.

Examples:
• "The West is hypocritical in its foreign policy."
• "Western diplomacy has failed in resolving conflicts."
• "International organizations will not solve anything because..."

Instructions to Annotators: Look for criticism or negative portrayals of Western governments, leaders, or policies. Pay attention to language that suggests incompetence, hypocrisy, or malice.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) The EU is divided
Definition: Statements that present the EU as a set of divided entities and interests, usually unable to take actions.
Examples:
• "The European Council will never vote on sanctions for Russia, since they cannot agree on even the simplest of the issues."
(b) The West is weak
Definition: Statements presenting the West overall as a non-potent group of countries (that is not as powerful as it used to be).

Examples:
• "The weakened West is once again impotent to act in front of the will Russia."

(c) The West is overreacting
Definition: Statements that claim that the West and its institutions are reacting to Russia's actions in a disproportionate manner.

Examples:
• "Putin did not invade the EU but Ukraine. Imposing harsh sanctions is not the way to deal with it, dialogue and debate is."

(d) The West does not care about Ukraine, only about its interests
Definition: Statements that claim that the West is only interested in Ukraine for its own benefits, disregarding the country's fate.

Examples:
• "The West has indebted Ukraine more than XX bln of dollars, a lucrative deal for western companies to exploit."
• "NATO's actions are endangering global security."

(e) Diplomacy does/will not work
Definition: Statements discrediting the potential of ongoing or potential diplomatic efforts.

Examples:
• "Diplomats are desperately trying to figure out solutions but now it's too late, they have failed and Russia is free to do whatever."

(f) West is tired of Ukraine
Definition: Claims that Western countries, particularly the United States and European nations, are becoming fatigued or disinterested in supporting Ukraine and its efforts.

Examples:
• "The West is increasingly losing patience with supporting Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky in the war with Russia as Western leadership is "fed up" with the money pit that has become this war."

8. Negative Consequences for the West
Definition: Statements that highlight or predict adverse outcomes for Western countries and their interests.

Examples:
• "Sanctions against Russia will backfire on Europe."
• "The West is headed for an economic downturn."

Instructions to Annotators: Identify predictions or reports of negative impacts on Western nations. Consider both current and future consequences mentioned.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Sanctions imposed by Western countries will backfire
Definition: Statements that catastrophize on the possible negative effects for Western sanctions of Russia.

Examples:
• "The winter is going to be cold and with current gas prices, we are talking of societal unrest."

(b) The conflict will increase the Ukrainian refugee flows to Europe
Definition: Statements that catastrophize on the possible refugee outflows due to the conflict.

Examples:
• "Like we did not have refugees from the Middle East, now we will have Ukrainians stressing our housing and healthcare problems."

9. Distrust towards Media
Definition: Statements that question the reliability or integrity of media organizations.

Examples:
• "Western media is spreading propaganda."

• "You can't trust what the news says about Russia."

Instructions to Annotators: Look for language that undermines confidence in media sources. Pay attention to claims of bias, misinformation, or manipulation.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Western media is an instrument of propaganda
Definition: Statements that discredit the media institutions of the West and claim that they are instruments of propaganda.

Examples:
• "... but you wouldn't hear this on a western channel, only the party line from State Department."

(b) Ukrainian media cannot be trusted
Definition: Statements that discredit the media institutions of the Ukraine and claim that they should not be trusted for reporting on the war.

Examples:
media."
• "Ukraine is conducting its own propaganda using their TV channels, news and social

10. Amplifying war-related fears
Definition: Statements that evoke fear or anxiety about potential threats, dangers or reactions.

Examples:
• "The West is pushing us towards World War III."
• "It is a matter of time before war speads on the West"
• "Nuclear war is imminent"

Instructions to Annotators: Identify language designed to elicit fear or concern about severe consequences. Consider both direct and implied threats mentioned.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) By continuing the war we risk WWIII
Definition: Statements that warn against upsetting Russia's and its leadership, evoking fear of causing WW3.

Examples:
• "The Western elites with their fixation on Russia are sleapwalking towards WW3"
(b) Russia will also attack other countries
Definition: Statements that claim that it is imminent that Russia will attack other countries.

Examples:
• "... and be sure, Ukraine is the first not the last country to be invaded. Others will follow."

(c) There is a real possibility that nuclear weapons will be employed

Definition: Statements that evoke fear or anxiety about the use of nuclear weapons.

Examples:
• "... and if Western hypocrisy continues to provoke, Putin might be forced to press the red button. . . for good"

Instructions to Annotators: This narrative can potentially go in two directions, either claiming that West should not anger Russia, or that Russia should be stopped before they use them.

(d) NATO should/will directly intervene
Definition: Statements that suggest or claim that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ought to or will take direct military action in a conflict, potentially implying a shift in policy or strategy.

Examples:
• "Russia is preparing for a war with NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and the West. The preparations are for a "long-term confrontation" and it is a strategic imperative for every Western country."

11. Hidden plots by secret schemes of powerful groups
Definition: Statements that suggest hidden plots or secretive actions by powerful groups related to the war. Examples:
• "There's a secret plan by the elites to control global resources."
• "The war is just a cover for something much bigger."

Instructions to Annotators: Look for narratives involving clandestine activities, secret agendas, or unproven allegations. Focus on claims that lack credible evidence and suggest hidden motives.

Climate Change (CC) Narrative Taxonomy
1. Criticism of climate policies
Definition: Statements that question the effectiveness, economic impact, or motives behind climate policies.

Examples:
• "It is all because of the decision to switch to electric."
Sub-Narratives:
(a) Climate policies are ineffective
Definition: Statements suggesting that climate policies fail to achieve their intended environmental goals.
Examples:
• "There is absolutely no point in banning straws, it can even have the opposite effect."

(b) Climate policies have negative impact on the economy
Definition: Statements claiming that climate policies lead to negative economic outcomes.

Examples:
• "We 20 million New Yorkers should continue to oppose these types of programs and

the rules and regulations about banning gas stoves that will cost each of us money but have negligible effect"

(c) Climate policies are only for profit
Definition: Statements that argue climate policies are driven by financial or corporate gain rather than genuine environmental concerns.

Examples:
• "Nobody really cares about the air to be clean. It is all a new ESG trick to sell more turbines."

2. Criticism of institutions and authorities
Definition: Statements that challenge the competence, integrity, or intentions of various institutions and authorities in relation to climate change.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Criticism of the EU
Definition: Statements that express disapproval or distrust of the EU's role or approach to climate change or the EU in general.

Examples:
• "Climate goals are simply a fixation of the unelected Brussels bureaucracy. All the fuss about climate change and restrictions to our freedoms come from them."

(b) Criticism of international entities
Definition: Statements that criticize the role and influence of international entities on climate policy.

Examples:
• "The UN agency for climate is mandating changes in our daily emissions profile but their studies are completely unfounded in reality."

(c) Criticism of national governments
Definition: Statements that disapprove of the ways national governments handle climate change.

Examples:
• "It is clear that the government ministry has no plan and is improvising imposing arbitrary rules."

(d) Criticism of political organizations and figures
Definition: Statements that discredit political organizations and figures in the context of climate change debate.

Examples:
• "Environment minister C. is clearly a climate fanatic and we shall not entrust him taking decisions that hugely impact our economy."

3. Climate change is beneficial
Definition: Statements that present arguments that support that changes in climate can have positive effects as well.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) CO2 is beneficial
Definition: Statements suggesting that increased CO2 levels have positive impacts on the environment.
Examples:
• "A new study counters traditional thought and discovered that more CO2 is actually positive in the long-term."

(b) Temperature increase is beneficial
Definition: Statements claiming that rising global temperatures can have positive effects.

Examples:
• "A new study focused on the increased profits from a longer summer due to climate change."

4. Downplaying climate change
Definition: Statements that minimize the significance or impact of climate change.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Climate cycles are natural
Definition: Statements suggesting that climate change is a natural and cyclical occurrence.

Examples:
• "The climate is changing in regular intervals across centuries. It is nothing new."

(b) Weather suggests the trend is global cooling
Definition: Statements using local or short-term weather patterns to argue against global warming.

Examples:
"I practice, the opposite is happening from global warming, countless research has shown that actually climate is cooling."

(c) Temperature increase does not have significant impact
Definition: Statements claiming that the increase in temperature is not going to have any noticeable effect in nature.
Examples:
• "There is no way changes in a few degrees will have any meaningful impact on our

(d) CO2 concentrations are too small to have an impact lives."
Definition: Statements claiming that the concentrations of CO2 will have a negligible effect.

Examples:
• "Compared to oxygen produced by nature itself, the CO2 from humans are negligible."

(e) Human activities do not impact climate change
Definition: Statements that support that climate change is not caused by human activity.
Examples:
• "Nature has its ways and we humans are simple not significant enough to produce any meaningful change."

(f) Ice is not melting
Definition: Statements claiming that there is not melting of ice.
Examples:
• "If you look carefully at the satellite images you can see that ice has not melted, just

(g) Sea levels are not rising
Definition: Statements denying that sea levels have risen (or will rise).

Examples:
• "Even with all the catastrophizing, there are no data showing rising sea levels on average."

(h) Humans and nature will adapt to the changes
Definition: Statements claiming that whatever the changes in climate humans or nature will manage to find solutions to adapt.

Examples:
• "It might create a few challenges here and there, but we will invest in some technology and will handle the effects easily."

5. Questioning the measurements and science
Definition: Statements that raise doubts about the scientific methods, data, and consensus on climate change.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Methodologies/metrics used are unreliable/faulty
Definition: Statements claiming that the scientific methodologies and metrics used to measure climate change are flawed or unreliable.

Examples:
"The way they measure the data is completely false and misleading. Scientist X de-bunked it easily by..."

(b) Data shows no temperature increase
Definition: Statements asserting that available data does not support the claim of global temperature increase.

Examples:
• "Temperature measurements are using faulty equipment and are alarming the world with lied."

(c) Greenhouse effect/carbon dioxide do not drive climate change
Definition: Statements asserting that available data does not support the claim of global

temperature increase.

Examples:
• "Studies have repeatedly shown that CO2 impact is not correlated with global warming and this is a misconception."

(d) Scientific community is unreliable
Definition: Statements discrediting scientists, the scientific community and their actions.

Examples:
• "It is a feature of the scientific establishment to overemphasize speculations of climate collapse and silence critics."

6. Criticism of climate movement
Definition: Statements that challenge the motives, integrity, or impact of the climate movement.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Climate movement is alarmist
Definition: Statements suggesting that the climate movement exaggerates the severity of climate change for dramatic effect.

Examples:
• "The climate protests are not about climate but a gateway drug to communist and radical ideas."

(b) Climate movement is corrupt
Definition: Statements alleging that the climate movement is influenced by ulterior motives, by corruption or by unethical practices.

Examples:
• "The climate protests are not about climate but a gateway drug to communism and radical ideas."

(c) Ad hominem attacks on key activists
Definition: Statements attacking the reputation of key figures (such as scientists, activists, politicians or public figures).

Examples:
• "Greta Thunberg has not worked half a day of her life, but is making claims why I need to change my diet to plant-based."

7. Controversy about green technologies
Definition: Statements that express skepticism or criticism of environmentally friendly technologies.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Renewable energy is dangerous
Definition: Statements claiming that renewable energy sources pose significant risks or dangers.

Examples:
• "Solar panels and wind turbines are way worse than coal if you consider how poisonous their materials are."

(b) Renewable energy is unreliable
Definition: Statements asserting that renewable energy sources are not dependable for widespread adoption.

Examples:
• "What will you do if you are freezing in the winter when there isn't sun for weeks? Rely on solar? I don't think so."

(c) Renewable energy is costly
Definition: Statements asserting that renewable energy sources are too expensive, inefficient and worth adopting for widespread use.

Examples:
• "They are pushing us to spend our hard-earned money to price-inflated electric cars and are increasing the price of gas through carbon taxes."

(d) Nuclear energy is not climate friendly
Definition: Statements asserting that nuclear sources are or should not be considered as good for the climate.

Examples:
• "And they are calling nuclear energy, the type that produced the saddest almost world-ending disasters as better than coal. This is hypocrisy."

8. Hidden plots by secret schemes of powerful groups
Definition: Statements that propose secret plots or hidden agendas related to climate change initiated by powerful entities or groups.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Blaming global elites
Definition: Statements attributing climate change agendas to secretive and powerful global elites.

Examples:
• "Everything is a plan by the WEF elites, to force the green agenda on regular people that in turn will have to sacrifice their jobs and quality of life."

(b) Climate agenda has hidden motives
Definition: Claims that the push for climate action is driven by ulterior motives, such as political power or population control.
Examples:
• "Everything is a plan Bill Gates, to lay the grounds for widespread acceptance of global depopulation and subjugation to the modern slavery regimes."

(9) Amplifying Climate Fears
Definition: Statements that emphasize and amplify fears about the consequences of climate change.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Earth will be uninhabitable soon
Definition: Statements predicting that the Earth will become uninhabitable in the near future due to climate change.

Examples:
• "With current emissions rate we will not be able to survive what is coming. Earth will cease to be hospitable for the majority of the population."

(b) Amplifying existing fears of global warming
Definition: Statements that are using fears related to possible climate worries to spread panic.

Examples:
• "Be prepared, it is certain that unless we do something drastic about warming in tropical regions, viruses and bacteria from these regions will be uncontrolled."

(c) Doomsday scenarios for humans
Definition: Statements presenting intense catastrophic scenarios as results of climate change.

Examples:
• "It is not overstretching to state that in the next decades, the principal death reason will be climate change, few will survive."

(d) Whatever we do it is already too late
Definition: Statements that minimize the urgency of addressing climate change by suggesting that any action taken at this point is futile or too late to make a meaningful impact.

Examples:
• "Environmentalists are trying to protect us for years but the current state of carbon in the atmosphere is already past most thresholds. We have to feel the consequences, no matter what we do."

10. Green policies are geopolitical instruments
Definition: Statements claimin that that environmental policies and initiatives are used as tools for geopolitical power and influence rather than genuine environmental concern.

Sub-Narratives:
(a) Climate-related international relations are abusive/exploitative
Definition: Statements criticizing international relations related to climate change as exploitative or economically abusive.

Examples:
• "Nobody cares about the impact of carbon in the climate, it is only a trick of some

governments to impose rules on weaker nations to protect their profits."

(b) Green activities are a form of neo-colonialism
Definition: Statements suggesting that green initiatives are a way for developed countries to exert control and influence over developing nations, a modern form of colonial practices.

Examples:
• "When Western countries invest in 'green' initiatives in Africa, they are just washing their neo-colonialist interests."

2. Annotation Task 2: Explaining Narrative Classification

2.1. <u>Annotation Guidelines</u>

Task 2 will be conducted through the following steps:
1. Writing Explanations: The annotator must provide a written explanation justifying the dominant narrative and sub-narrative classification identified in Task 2. This explanation should also be written when no sub-narrative is selected. The explanation must:
• Be written in the language of the news article.
• Be grounded in a summary of the evidence identified in Task 2.
• Provide clear reasoning for the chosen narrative and sub-narrative, answering the question: "Why did the annotator choose X and Y as the dominant narrative and sub-narrative?"
• Include key antagonists, protagonists, or innocents relevant to the narrative justification. Due to space constraints, only the most illustrative figures should be included to validate the narrative.
• Be composed in the annotator's own words, avoiding direct quotations from the identified evidence in Task 2, except for brief phrases or expressions.
• Not exceed 80 words.

Style suggestions:
a) Whenever possible, explicitly reference the entities and their actions or statements that support
the selection of a dominant narrative and sub-narrative.
b) If there are no key actions or statements from entities to validate the choice, use phrases like "the text reports...", "in the text,...", or "the text's author..." to justify the selection.
c) The annotator is not required to restate the dominant narrative and sub-narrative in the explanation—only to provide the reasoning behind their selection.

2. Entering Explanations in Inception: First, select the article's complete title to enter the explanation in Inception, which will prompt a text box to appear. Then, enter the explanation in the text box, ensuring the full title or additional whitespace is selected.

3. Synchronizing Across Annotators: Annotators working in different languages should convene regularly with curators to align and compare their explanation styles at the start of the process.

4. Curation Process: Curators will evaluate the explanations to select the most suitable ones based on established guidelines. The curation process will involve:

• Reviewing the explanations from both annotators alongside the identified text spans serving as evidence.

• Assessing the validity and quality of each explanation and selecting the one that best clarifies the choices made in task 2.

• If neither explanation is fully adequate, curators may merge the strongest elements of both to produce a suitable explanation.

• If merging is insufficient, the curator may write a new explanation from scratch.