

What was the portrayal of the Irish Home Rule movement in Irish newspapers from 1886 to 1920, and how did it reflect prevailing attitudes and perspectives of the time?

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Caitlin Quinn – 120375486

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Abstract

This paper investigates the discourse in historical media on Ireland's Home Rule movement in the 19th and 20th centuries. The study examines the themes, linguistic patterns, and recurrent features found in newspaper coverage of Home Rule using a variety of analytical techniques, such as sentiment analysis, topic modelling, word cloud analysis, and collocation analysis.

The analysis is divided into two separate historical periods: the 1800s, which were defined by ardent appeals for constitutional change and reform, and the 1900s, which were distinguished by international conflicts, social unrest, and an intensification of the Irish independence movement. The essay reveals both continuity and change in the story of Home Rule by contrasting media portrayals during various periods, offering insights into the political ideologies, social processes, and cultural discourses that moulded Irish history.

The results demonstrate the Home Rule movement's continuing significance in Irish history as well as its influence on the development of the country's political system and sense of national identity. The study adds to a better understanding of the subtleties and complexity of Ireland's fight for self-determination and against colonial control by placing the media discourse within larger historical dynamics.

Introduction

Examining historical press coverage offers insight into the attitudes, issues, and discussions of previous society eras. This essay investigates the developing tale around the Home Rule movement in Ireland—a crucial period that influenced the country's political course and cultural identity—by examining newspaper articles from the 19th and 20th century. Strong arguments and disputes that echoed across Irish society and beyond were caused by the Home Rule movement, which aimed to establish self-governance for Ireland inside the United Kingdom.

This essay explores the themes, linguistic patterns, and recurrent features found in media coverage of the Home Rule movement using a variety of analytical techniques, such as sentiment analysis, topic modelling, word cloud analysis, and collocation analysis. By using these techniques, we hope to learn more about the political ideologies, cultural discourses, and socioeconomic dynamics that defined Irish public discourse throughout this pivotal time. The study covers two discrete historical periods: the 1800s, which were defined by passionate demands for constitutional reform and change, and the 1900s, which were distinguished by international conflicts, social unrest, and the escalation of the Irish independence movement. We aim to reveal the continuities, transformations, and subtleties in the story of Home Rule and its effects on Irish society by contrasting and comparing media representations during different time periods.

This essay also considers the larger historical framework within which the Home Rule movement developed, considering the political environments, socioeconomic situations, and cultural movements that influenced Irish history in the 19th and 20th centuries. It seeks to offer a thorough grasp of the complexities and significance of the Home Rule campaign within the larger story of Irish nationalism, colonialism, and nation-building by placing the media debate within these larger historical dynamics.

It hopes to shed light on the complex character of the Home Rule campaign and its lasting influence on Irish politics, history, and culture through this multidisciplinary examination. Through an analysis of the language, ideas, and narratives present in historical media sources, our aim is to enhance comprehension of the intricate and subtle aspects of Ireland's fight for independence and the formation of its national identity.

Literature Review

Introduction

The final decades of the 1800s saw the beginning and height of the Irish Home Rule movement. This, together with a separate parliament and self-government, served to ease the country's existing frustration with British control. Leading figures like Isaac Butt and Charles Stewart Parnell led these efforts to promote social and economic reforms in politics and to establish a sense of national identity. It continued until then, dividing Britain and Ireland, despite barriers like the parliamentary stalemate at Westminster and the constant defiance of Ulster Unionist forces. It was not just about politicians; it was also about a nation's resistance, its real, physical realisation of its independence, and the result showed how Irish culture was impacted by colonialism, which in turn impacted Irish history.

Related Work

Historical Context of Irish Home Rule

The movement for Home Rule in 19th and early 20th-century Ireland was one of the issues directly related to political, social, and economic issues; all three have been present in Irish history to various degrees. The idea was that Federalism, rather than Home Rule, was the only way to change the political landscape in the country and that Federalism was an incomplete solution.¹ The best quote, however, was, 'No mile is straight, and no road is smooth in life.'² The likelihood of Home Rule was limited by political unrest, deteriorating economic conditions, and conflicts over cultural identities. Charles Stewart Parnell lived simultaneously and contributed more to the cause of home rule than almost anybody else could have. Others, however, were free to pursue legislative independence at any time by taking significant actions.³ Other British colonial struggles took longer to resolve because the people had to go through the genuine misery of poverty and suffering before the popular public saw the glory of nationhood and desired independence in a patriotic fashion. A recurrence of autonomous eras after lengthy periods of foreign authority or control is typical of this phenomenon. Ireland was trapped and sought guidance, but the social-political climate was incompatible. The British Empire, which was marred by racism, simply used class and religious divisions to strengthen its position, which led to the widening gaps in society. Ireland's Catholic and Protestant populations furthered their allegiance to their respective groups, deepening the nation's division and making it more challenging for the two groups to fight for home rule separately. This division substantially impacted lifestyle, not just religion. They shared a house with their significant others, but the distance had an impact on every part of their life. Ireland, which is experiencing economic decline, highlighted the significance of structural reforms considering the anger in the farm sector brought on by economic imbalances. These manifested not only in symbols or rituals but also in the

¹ Fielding, Steve. "Irish politics in Manchester 1890–1914." *International Review of Social History* 33, no. 3 (1988): 261–284.

² McCaffrey, Lawrence J. "Irish federalism in the 1870's: a study in conservative nationalism." *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* 52, no. 6 (1962): 1–58.

³ O'Donoghue, Martin. "The Legacy of the Irish Parliamentary Party in Independent Ireland, 1922–49." PhD diss., NUI Galway, 2016.

expressive and well-spoken declarations of mobs. As a result, Ireland went through every political and social upheaval in history.⁴

Newspaper Coverage: Irish Home Rule

Newspapers were sometimes referred to as the fourth estate because of their power to sway public opinion on significant matters like the Irish Home Rule movement of the 19th and 20th centuries, therefore newspaper coverage was essential during that period. Popular publications in Ireland, like *The Irish Times*, promoted nationalistic viewpoints on a range of political issues, influencing public opinion. Other publications concentrated on articles concerning Home Rule, debating national identity, and self-governance.⁵ *The Independence Chronicles* published several pieces by the *Irish Times*.⁶ On the other hand, pro-union publications like *Irish Unionists* and *The Belfast Newsletter* strongly opposed Home Rule in their pieces, arguing that Britain had to keep governing Ireland.⁷ On the other hand, nationalists claimed that a Protestant system would pose a serious threat to the survival of a nation and envisioned political unrest and economic decline in the unlikely event that nationalist forces came to power in the United Kingdom. Once nationalists came to power, the *Belfast Newsletter* continued to publish issue after issue with ominous forecasts of economic collapse brought on by religious divide and civil violence.⁸ People talk a lot about war, and between 1863 and 1865, major newspapers ran a variety of images of the conflict.

Regarding Home Rule, regional journalism in Ireland held differing views. Among the most popular newspapers of the period were *The Irish Examiner* and *The Dublin Evening Mail*, which addressed issues with decentralized policymaking for topics related to regionality, customs or cultural background, and economic benefits.⁹ *The Irish Examiner* and the *Dublin Evening Mail* were two of the most widely read local newspapers; they covered subjects like home rule while also taking into account regional concerns, cultural identities, and economic interests. It is said that the fight for Home Rule will right historically wrongs and strengthen local communities, referring to articles in the *Irish Examiner* that advocate for economic growth and regional sovereignty.¹⁰ Different editorial stances were taken by newspapers to reflect the diversity of public opinion. Op-ed columns, readers' reaction pages, and letters to the editor were used by those who objected to expressing their views. Leaders in politics, religion, and the community also shared their opinions about the state of society today and

⁴ Hepworth, Jack. "'As long as Ireland is unfree, the only attitude for Irishmen and Irishwomen is an attitude of revolt': The Armalite, the ballot box, and the shifting politics of Irish republicanism, c. 1970-c. 1994." PhD diss., Durham University, 2017.

⁵ Golden, J. J. "The Protestant Influence on the Origins of Irish Home Rule, 1861–1871." *The English Historical Review* 128, no. 535 (2013): 1483-1516.

⁶ Elliott, Marianne. "Catholics in Northern Ireland, 1921–1969." *The Oxford Handbook of Religion in Modern Ireland* (2024): 195.

⁷ Aughey, Arthur. *The Politics of Northern Ireland: Beyond the Belfast Agreement*. Psychology Press, 2005.

⁸ Aughey, Arthur. *The Politics of Northern Ireland: Beyond the Belfast Agreement*. Psychology Press, 2005.

⁹ Doughan, Christopher. "The printed word in troubled times: A historical survey of the Irish provincial press, 1914-1921." PhD diss., Dublin City University, 2015.

¹⁰ McCarthy, Alan. n.d. "The Media and the Rising." University College Cork. Accessed February 25, 2024.

the differences in ideologies around the Home Rule issue.¹¹ Newspapers were vital as powerful awareness-raising methods for sharing information, voicing opinions, and mobilizing the political class to keep the focus on the factors that led to the Irish Home Rule Movement. Because they represented a variety of interests, reflected a variety of political dynamics, and highlighted the voices of many social groups, newspapers played a crucial role in influencing the conversation surrounding home rule.¹² An examination of the early newspaper coverage of the Home Rule debates highlights the importance of media representation in researching how newspapers understand political events.¹³

Variations in Newspaper Sentiments

One may think papers are always truthful, but that's not true. Individuals write what they want to read, and their beliefs might come through in their writing. When it came to covering heated topics like Home Rule, newspapers across the nation didn't all have the same beliefs or methods. Irish newspapers are similar in that they each present a fragmented picture of reality to readers based on their audience and the outlet.¹⁴ Different regions, including the regional newspapers in parfait, responded differently to Ireland's Home Rule movement and search for independence. McGurk delves into this by examining each newspaper's sentiment during a period of tense political and cultural relations. He provides insight into Ireland's socio-political landscape from 1880 to 1900 by dissecting the political and economic variables that shaped this news discrepancy. By closely examining publications like *The Irish Examiner* and *The Freeman's Journal*, he also discovered that every publication was presenting a unique narrative. These journals represented the outlook of Home Rule movements generally based just on their readership region, but they also reflected the political character and historical background of specific towns.¹⁵

The Belfast papers, which gained prominence as a powerful unionist voice very rapidly, reflected the deep political divisions and unresolved social issues in Northern Ireland as well as their strong opposition to house legislation. Home Rule is not only Edward Carson's and Belfast Newsletter's slogan but also a problematic phrase for the Irish Unionists, the banking sector, Protestants, and the United Kingdom.¹⁶ Belfast Newsletter and gazettes began publishing news pieces that were critical of home rule and encouraged unionist outrage. As imagined in a united Ireland, this changed the political scene by displaying economic unrest and religious conflict. However, these papers provided proof of the communities and the agricultural land's worth.

Conflicting opinions on land reform and rural agriculture led to localized pieces on home rule

¹¹ Kelly, Matthew. "Irish Nationalist Opinion and the British Empire in the 1850s and 1860s." *Past and Present* 204, no. 1 (2009): 127-154.

¹² Chaib, Amina, and Houda Bahri. "The Failure of William Ewart Gladstone's Policy in Ireland between 1868-1894." (1894).

¹³ Chaib, Amina, and Houda Bahri. "The Failure of William Ewart Gladstone's Policy in Ireland between 1868-1894." (1894).

¹⁴ McGurk, Dr John. n.d. "Newspapers and Nationalism: The Irish Provincial Press, 1850-1892 | Reviews in History." [Reviews.history.ac.uk](https://reviews.history.ac.uk/). Accessed February 25, 2024.

¹⁵ Collombier, Pauline. *Imagining Ireland's Future, 1870-1914: Home Rule, Utopia, Dystopia*. Springer Nature, 2023.

¹⁶ Aughey, Arthur. *The Politics of Northern Ireland: Beyond the Belfast Agreement*. Psychology Press, 2005.

in the Connacht Tribune and The Munster Express.¹⁷ The Connaught Tribue encouraged the government to enforce home rule to restore equity of treatment and mend fences between urban and rural areas.¹⁸ Two other major issues were land ownership and rural development. Furthermore, "The Munster Express" worked to raise awareness of the issues facing rural Ireland. It wanted the public to know that others were standing up for them and that they weren't alone. They worked to improve social and economic conditions for those who were most negatively impacted by this challenging time. O'Riordan (2008) states that under Home Rule, there was a possibility for increased agricultural earnings.¹⁹ People loved regional newspapers as most Local figures, public servants, and regular people were all spotlighted in these papers, giving readers a glimpse into the many different lives around them. Following that, they released reader letters, opinion pieces, and editorials discussing the philosophical and social differences of Home Rule. A thorough examination of opinions on home rule included input from political analysts, religious authorities, and regular citizens concerned with their town.²⁰

Perspectives on Newspaper Coverage

Newspapers were a means of recording popular opinion and providing insight into the extent of support for Irish Home Rule in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Newspapers likely serve as a sort of platform for the exchange of various human narratives and points of view by publishing editorials, letters, and diaries that spark and fuel the debate over Home Rule. Editor communication is important, particularly in the letter columns where readers are encouraged to use voice and volume to convey their ideas. When Scottish Home Rule Association Treasurer William Mitchell stated in The Irish Times in 1890 that both Scots and Irishmen backed nationalist home rule, it sparked a discussion.²¹ But letters weren't the only thing that brought about an entire shift. People expressed their opinions on home rule in a variety of ways besides articles, postings, and newspaper editorials. Nonetheless, their messages gained media attention and changed the public's perception of self-governance. Thus, through their goals and inspirations, the prominent speakers shed light on these notables' actual personalities. Journalists seized Charles Stewart Parnell's opportunity to use his interview, which was published in The Irish Independent, to further their cause of strengthening Ireland's future.²²²³

¹⁷ Doughan, Christopher. "The printed word in troubled times: A historical survey of the Irish provincial press, 1914-1921." PhD diss., Dublin City University, 2015: 49.

¹⁸ O'Donoghue, Martin. "The Legacy of the Irish Parliamentary Party in Independent Ireland, 1922-49." PhD diss., NUI Galway, 2016.

¹⁹ O'Riordan, Maeve. "Home, family and society: women of the Irish landed class, 1860-1914. A Munster case study." PhD diss., University College Cork, 2014.

²⁰ Mitchell, W. "Letter to the Editor from the Treasurer of the Scottish Home Rule Association." *The Scottish review, 1882-1920* 16 (1890): 338-350.

²¹ Mitchell, W. "Letter to the Editor from the Treasurer of the Scottish Home Rule Association." *The Scottish review, 1882-1920* 16 (1890): 340.

²² McCarthy, Alan . n.d. "The Media and the Rising." University College Cork. Accessed February 25, 2024.

²³ Elliott, Marianne. "Catholics in Northern Ireland, 1921–1969." *The Oxford Handbook of Religion in Modern Ireland* (2024): 195.

A Comparative Examination of Contemporary Newspaper Analysis

Using research and analysis, numerous academics have been trying to determine how newspapers influence public opinion. They adopt the Home Rule movement as a model in one approach to achieve this. We can learn more about how publications from that period influenced their readership by looking at contemporary literature from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Doughan's (2015) evaluation of the Irish provincial newspapers from 1914 to 1921, conducted for the same objective, serves as a contemporary illustration of this type of work. He discovered methods for methodically assessing past newspaper coverage by taking audience participation, points of view, and content into account.²⁴ These results demonstrate the evolution of media, as do additional newspaper studies published between 1886 and 1920. As a result, this study offers a fresh perspective on the workings and political consequences of the media when combined with current research and historical press studies. Let's say scientists determine what has remained consistent in their research from before current. If such is the case, they will be closer than ever to discovering the secret force underlying the media's influence throughout history.

The Image of Home Rule Ireland had typically been regarded alongside other personal interpretations. Concerns regarding resemblances to earlier Irish and European national movements and the consequences they produced are widespread. By contrasting wealth with autonomy, we come to understand the fundamental purpose of political civil actions. Ireland's colonial past reflected a complex pattern of mobilization through the process of imperialism. The Irish Home Rule campaign and the Civil Rights struggle in Northern Ireland in the 1960s are similar in that both movements relied on nonviolent means of achieving their objectives. Therefore, nonviolent protests are an excellent way to show that, even though every group responds to inequality and underrepresentation differently, all communities are equal. The rallies and protests conducted by both sides led to the movement's progress.²⁵ One significant distinction between the Irish separatist movement and the civil rights movement is that the latter's aim was considered more radical, but the former was considerably more direct in pursuing its goals. They only paid attention to empire-wide governance and constitutional reform. The other comparison relates to nationalist movements that pursued similar goals, such as the independence struggles in Corsica and Catalonia. Several parallels between *El País* and *Le Monde* highlight the conflicts' primary concerns being cultural identity and regional sovereignty. There is a strong argument for establishing a democratic transition that respects traditions, decentralizes politics, and protects languages. Therefore, by looking into national movements in many different countries throughout the world, scientists should be able to comprehend why people are separating themselves and why they desire to have their nation historically linked to the country's sovereignty. Thus, acting as a platform for independence movements struggling to attain self-autonomy and self-rule.

Conclusion

The newspaper review "The Case of Irish Home Rule Movement (1886-1920)" offers insight into a specific period in history and how the media influenced political communication and

²⁴ Doughan, Christopher. "The printed word in troubled times: A historical survey of the Irish provincial press, 1914-1921." PhD diss., Dublin City University, 2015.

²⁵ Elliott, Marianne. "Catholics in Northern Ireland, 1921-1969." *The Oxford Handbook of Religion in Modern Ireland* (2024): 195.

public opinion. Understanding the role of news sheets in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and their role in shaping public opinion and disseminating political ideologies, is essential. You can identify many causes, stories, and narratives that have been utilized as a means of communication across Ireland by looking through them. The boundaries between their epoch and other epochs are broken by the following implications. This theory relates to democratic themes that the media regularly covers today, such as political debates and media representation, even if it only considers the mass media's coverage of political campaigns as a dominant element. Instead, by looking at how the British press covered the Irish home rule struggle, we can gain a greater understanding of how the press has been used for emerging Irish politics, its function in political messaging, and its implications for contemporary media communication and sociopolitical consciousness.

Methodologies

Introduction to Methodology

The methodology and processes applied to gather, evaluate, and produce the project's conclusions will be outlined and explained in this portion of the report. These techniques combine qualitative and quantitative methods to provide a deeper understanding of the Home Rule movement. Gathering a broad and diverse selection of newspapers to examine through sentiment, themes, collocations, and word clouds was the main goal of this study. Since these techniques have a strong interactive foundation, a Power BI dashboard has been used to display them. This promotes a methodical and thorough approach to the research process, which makes it possible to draw important findings and useful insights.

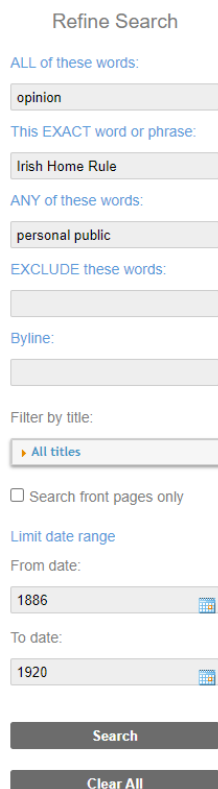
This study intends to add to the body of information currently available in the field and provide a comprehensive grasp of the research issue by combining numerous analytical methodologies.

Tools and Methods

Data Collection

This project's entire data set was gathered from the Irish Newspaper Archive (<https://www.irishnewsarchive.com/>). On this website, viewers can view digitized copies of newspapers dating back, in certain situations, all the way back to 1733. The user of this website can also select the type of newspaper they want to view by using a search engine and several filters. To find the available newspapers that are relevant to my project, I took advantage of these filters.

Here on the left, you can see these filters. Considering the project's objectives, these filters are filled out as such. These filters contain the phrase "Irish Home Rule" since it started a near-disappearing domino effect in Scotland and Wales following the first movement for Home Rule in Ireland. As a precautionary measure against pieces about Welsh or Scottish Home Rule unintentionally getting mixed along with the rest, I chose to specifically mention the Irish Home Rule movement.



The image shows a 'Refine Search' sidebar from the Irish Newspaper Archive website. It contains several filter sections: 'ALL of these words:' with a text input containing 'opinion'; 'This EXACT word or phrase:' with a text input containing 'Irish Home Rule'; 'ANY of these words:' with a text input containing 'personal public'; 'EXCLUDE these words:' with an empty text input; 'Byline:' with an empty text input; 'Filter by title:' with a dropdown menu showing 'All titles'; a checkbox for 'Search front pages only' which is unchecked; 'Limit date range' with 'From date:' set to '1886' and 'To date:' set to '1920'; and at the bottom, 'Search' and 'Clear All' buttons.

The word "opinion" must be in the newspapers because that is the focus of this project. The approach in how each article expresses and changes their views in newspapers. The terms "public" and "personal" are also optional in the papers since they are more frequently associated with "opinion," which is meant to allow newspapers that employ terms like "public opinion" and "my personal opinion" to show up in the results of the search.

About the years, I chose to start this project's timeline in 1886 because, even though the Home Rule movement got its start in the 1870s, the first Home Rule bill's legislative advancement happened in that year. The passage of the Government of Ireland Act (the Fourth Home Rule Bill), which effectively put an end to the movement and established a government in Ireland, is another reason I chose to end the timeline in 1920.

There were 562 newspaper articles found using these filters. I read over each of these separately and made a note of the articles that met the

standards I set for myself to make sure a particular level was maintained during the lengthy data collection process:

1. Does the article go into more depth into the movement? Or is it only mentioned in passing?
2. Is the article entirely factual? Or is there an opinion expressed within it?
3. Is the scan of the article legible enough to allow for transcription?

I put these kinds of questions to myself with every newspaper because, while some pieces would show up in the findings, they might not be discussing the movement in the style that my project requires. For instance, the movement might only be mentioned in passing in the sentence "and Mr Morely from the Irish Home Rule party also attended the function"; alternatively, the article wouldn't be able to be included in the project if the scan was smudged or simply scanned incorrectly, leaving most of the text unreadable. I had 287 articles in all after thoroughly reading through each of these.

Now, even though the Irish Newspaper Archive scans their newspapers and provides a text file compiled using OCR software, the software occasionally fails to identify characters that have smudged or faded because of the age of the newspapers and the impact of time on the physical copy. Even though the texts are recognizable to the human eye, the OCR software cannot accurately transcribe the texts needed for this project. Therefore, I went through each article and manually transcribed it into an Excel file, making sure to include necessary information like the month and year it was published, the county, and the newspaper it appeared in.

With newspapers that were distributed to several counties, I simply considered the county in which they were published to be their county.

Creating the Power BI File

Power BI for desktops must first be downloaded; it can be done at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=58494>. I was able to produce the first .pbix file as a result. To use other features, including downloading new graphics for my dashboard, I then had to register for a free trial of Power BI and create an account. I then went to <https://docs.anaconda.com/free/anaconda/install/index.html> and downloaded Anaconda because this program would enable me to set up a virtual environment in which my Power BI Python scripts would operate. This involved setting up the virtual environment, and installing Python 3.7 to it, along with Pycaret 2.3.10 since Pycaret 3+ no longer had the nltk library. To run analysis such as sentiment and collocation, I also installed and imported additional libraries into the environment, including textblob, spaCy, and nltk's Vader lexicon. I entered the code below into the Anaconda Prompt Terminal:

- conda create --name powerbi python=3.7
- conda activate powerbi
- pip install pycaret==2.3.10
- pip install spacy
- pip install textblob
- python -m spacy download en_core_web_sm
- python -m textblob.download_corpora
- python
- import nltk

- nltk.download('vader_lexicon')

My Power BI file was then prepared to start importing data and doing analysis.

Transforming my Data

The Excel file with all the newspaper articles was the first thing I imported. I changed the year and date column to the proper description after Power BI first determined that all the columns were text. Then, to enable the tokenization of the dataset, I created a new column in the dataset and coded it to replicate the newspaper content but remove all punctuation:

```
= Table.AddColumn("#Changed Type1", "Data", each
    Text.Select([Content], {"A".."z", "0".."9", " "}))
```

I then converted every character in the column to lowercase using a function in Power BI. Before starting the analytic process, I made one last modification to the dataset: I eliminated all instances of common stop words. I used the following code to accomplish this:

```
= Table.TransformColumns("#Lowercased Text", {"Data", each
    Text.Combine(List.RemoveMatchingItems(Text.Split(_, " "), {"a", "about", "above", "after",
    "again", "against", "all", "am", "an", "and", "any", "are", "aren't", "as", "at", "be", "because",
    "been", "before", "being", "below", "between", "both", "but", "by", "can't", "cannot", "could",
    "couldn't", "did", "didn't", "do", "does", "doesn't", "doing", "don't", "down", "during", "each",
    "few", "for", "from", "further", "had", "hadn't", "has", "hasn't", "have", "haven't", "having",
    "he", "he'd", "he'll", "he's", "her", "here", "here's", "hers", "herself", "him", "himself", "his",
    "how", "how's", "i", "i'd", "i'll", "i'm", "i've", "if", "in", "into", "is", "isn't", "it", "it's", "its",
    "itself", "let's", "me", "more", "most", "mustn't", "my", "myself", "no", "nor", "not", "of",
    "off", "on", "once", "only", "or", "other", "ought", "our", "ours", "ourselves", "out", "over",
    "own", "same", "shan't", "she", "she'd", "she'll", "she's", "should", "shouldn't", "so", "some",
    "such", "than", "that", "that's", "the", "their", "theirs", "them", "themselves", "then", "there",
    "there's", "these", "they", "they'd", "they'll", "they're", "they've", "this", "those", "through",
    "to", "too", "under", "until", "up", "very", "was", "wasn't", "we", "we'd", "we'll", "we're",
    "we've", "were", "weren't", "what", "what's", "when", "when's", "where", "where's", "which",
    "while", "who", "who's", "whom", "why", "why's", "with", "won't", "would", "wouldn't",
    "you", "you'd", "you'll", "you're", "you've", "your", "yours", "yourself", "yourselves",
    "home", "rule"}), " ")})
```

I chose this approach since it allowed me to add my own words, such as "home" and "rule," and had more control over which words would be eliminated from the data. Despite being the foundation of the study, these two terms were removed from the final data set because they tended to distort the results due to how frequently they featured in the articles.

Topic Modelling

The LDA technique is used to do topic modelling on the articles using the get_topics function from PyCaret's NLP module. Assuming that every text is a combination of subjects and that every word's appearance may be linked to a particular topic, LDA is a probabilistic model. By examining word co-occurrence patterns in the dataset, this program determines subjects. Here is the code:



-To graphically depict the topics taken out of the textual material, a word cloud is made. This graphic gives an overview of the main themes and subjects covered in Irish newspapers by highlighting the terms that appear most frequently in the dataset.

Topic 1



A theme of support for the Irish Home Rule movement emerged from the word cloud analysis, with terms like "Irish," "government," "demand," "people," "give," "support," "majority," "make," and "liberal" appearing frequently. With talks centred on constitutional reform, autonomy, and Irish nationalism, this theme highlights an emphasis on political desires for autonomy and reform within the Irish context. It fits in with the background of the Irish Home Rule movement, which aimed to give Ireland independence inside the boundaries of the British Empire. The identification of this subject offers important insights into the attitudes that prevailed in the Irish media environment during the study period, demonstrating the presence of discourse that is strongly in support of Irish autonomy and self-determination.

Topic 2



An investigation of the word cloud reveals a theme of negativity and rivalry, especially aimed toward Unionist and religious forces. Some common adjectives used to describe this topic include "never," "give," "Unionist," "religious," "opponent," "fight," "force," and "think." Words like "never," "opponent," and "fight" convey resistance or opposition to outside pressures, whereas "give" and "force" imply a confrontational attitude toward perceived opponents. The terms "Unionist" and "religious" suggest that there are targets of this hatred, which may have their roots in political or theological disagreements. Furthermore, the word "think" could imply irritation at these forces' alleged lack of thought or comprehension. All things considered, this theme captures the dissatisfaction or antagonism that exists within the dataset, especially about Unionist and religious organizations.

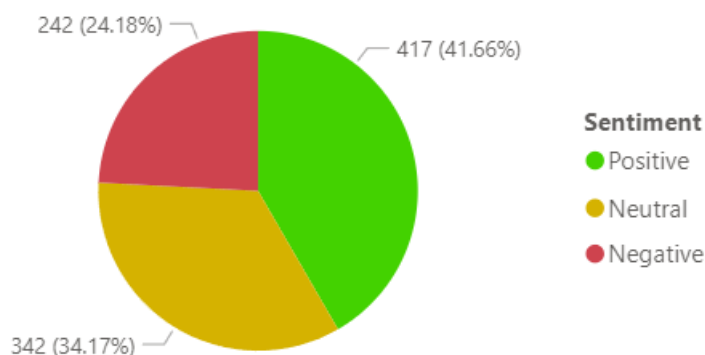
Topic 3



The word cloud analysis reveals a topic that is defined by factual conversations on legislation, societal challenges, and Irish governance. Phrase after phrase appears frequently, including "Irish," "people," "government," "question," "country," "parliament," "make," "great," "bill," "say," and "man." These terms imply an emphasis on issues related to the Irish people, their political system, and their legislative agenda. Words like "question," "make," and "bill" suggest that policy, legislation, and government acts are being discussed. Furthermore, adjectives like "great" and "man" could allude to important personalities or moments in Irish politics or history. Overall, these subject highlights topics pertinent to Irish society, government, and national identity, reflecting an accurate and educational discussion within the dataset.

Sentiment Analysis

The VADER (Valence Aware Dictionary and Sentiment Reasoner) sentiment analysis tool was used to analyse the sentiment of the newspaper articles to learn more about the prevalent sentiments that were conveyed in the dataset. To analyse the textual data and determine the emotion scores for each article, several crucial processes had to be taken. The textual data was then subjected to sentiment analysis using a specially designed Python program. The VADER SentimentIntensityAnalyzer from the vaderSentiment



library, a popular tool for sentiment analysis since it can handle social media and news material well, was used by the following function.

```
import pandas as pd from vaderSentiment.vaderSentiment import SentimentIntensityAnalyzer #
Function to get sentiment score def get_sentiment(text): if isinstance(text, str): analyzer =
SentimentIntensityAnalyzer() return analyzer.polarity_scores(text)['compound'] else: return None # or
any default value you prefer for non-string values # Apply sentiment analysis function to each row
```

```
and add as a new column dataset['SentimentScore'] = dataset['Value.Value.Data'].apply(get_sentiment)
# Output the modified dataset
```

The 'get_sentiment' function identified the general sentiment of the text and used VADER's compound score to produce a sentiment score for each article. Values closer to 0 indicate neutrality. The score runs from -1 (very negative) to 1 (highly positive). The 'SentimentScore' column was added to the dataset as a new column after each article's sentiment score was computed. Further analysis and interpretation were made possible by the inclusion of sentiment scores in the final dataset alongside the associated articles.

Ultimately, the altered dataset was exported for additional research or visualization, along with the sentiment score distribution pie chart. Using this methodology, a thorough sentiment analysis of the newspaper articles was carried out, yielding insightful information about the prevalent sentiments expressed in the dataset.

Collocation Analysis

Collocations

[('common', 'sense')]
[('exercise', 'religion')]
[('form', 'volunteer')]
[('get', 'today')]
[('give', 'vote')]
[('irish', 'people')]
[('legislative', 'independence')]
[('maintain', 'intact')]
[('parliament', 'bill')]

To find important word pairs that commonly occur together in the text, collocation analysis of the newspaper articles was done. The objective of the analysis was to identify word patterns and associations that could shed light on the dataset's thematic organization and linguistic usage. The procedure comprised several crucial steps:

```
import nltk
from nltk.collocations import BigramCollocationFinder
from nltk.metrics import BigramAssocMeasures
from string import punctuation
```

```
def find_collocations(text):
    try:
        # Check if the text is not NaN
        if isinstance(text, str):
            tokens = nltk.word_tokenize(text.lower())
            tokens = [token for token in tokens if token not in punctuation]
            finder = BigramCollocationFinder.from_words(tokens)
            finder.apply_freq_filter(3) # Filter out low-frequency bigrams
            bigram_measures = BigramAssocMeasures()
            collocations = finder.nbest(bigram_measures.pmi, 10) # Select top collocations based
on PMI
```

```

        return collocations
    else:
        # Return an empty list if the text is NaN or unexpected data type
        return []
    except TypeError:
        # Handle unexpected data types
        return []

# Apply collocation analysis to the specified column in your dataset
dataset['collocations'] = dataset['Value.Value.Value.Data'].apply(find_collocations)

```

First, to be sure, the text data from the newspaper stories underwent one more tokenization using the Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK) package. Tokenization entailed removing punctuation and dividing the text into separate words.

The tokenized words were then used to develop a `BigramCollocationFinder`, which was used to find collocations. Word pairings that appear together more frequently than would be predicted by chance are known as bigram collocations. The finder used an applied frequency filter to eliminate low-frequency bigrams to reduce noise and concentrate on significant collocations.

Subsequently, the collocations were arranged in order of Pointwise Mutual Information (PMI) scores, which indicate the degree of correlation between the two terms. The most significant collocations were determined by ranking the top 10 collocations with the highest PMI values.

The text of each article was put through to the 'find_collocations' function, which extracted the collocations that were found. The 'collocations' column was added to the dataset to hold these collocations.

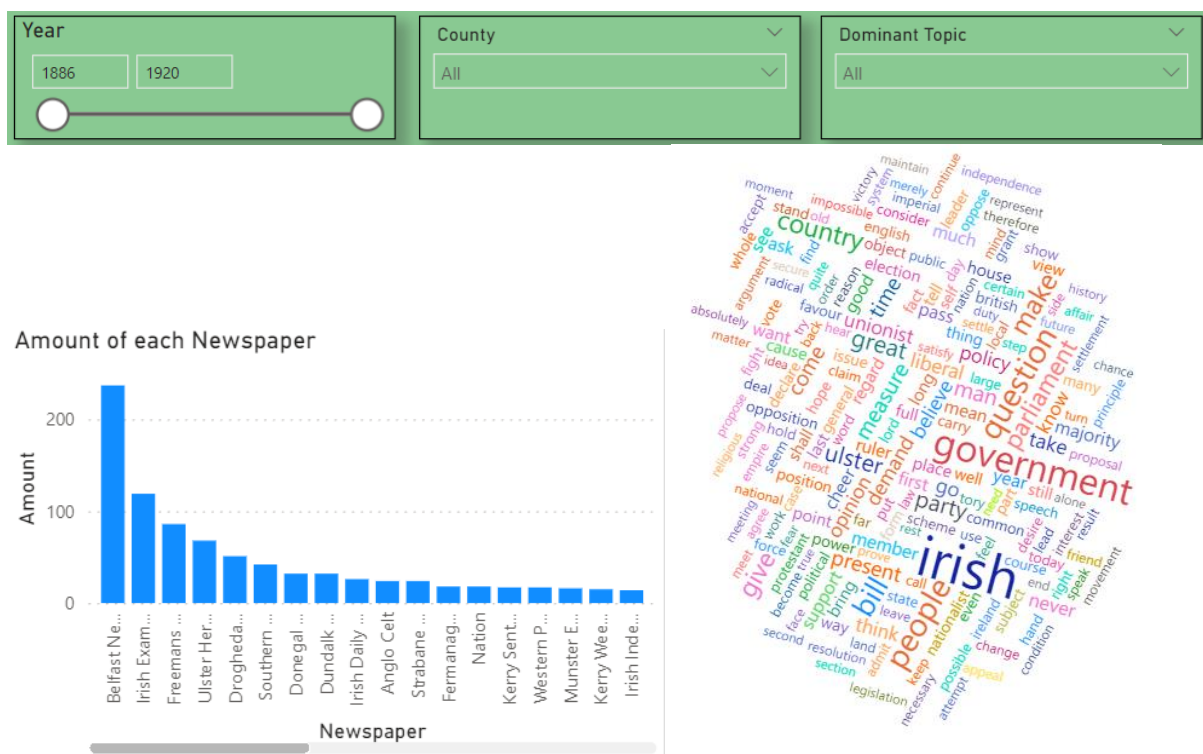
A dashboard was made to show the collocation analysis results. The dataset's top collocations were shown in a straightforward table. The table was organized into rows that each represented a collocation, and the columns showed the PMI scores of the two words that made up the collocation.

Lastly, the dataset was outputted for additional research or study, together with the collocation analysis results shown in the dashboard table.

This methodology was used to identify important word pairs through collocation analysis, which gave important insights into the language patterns and thematic organization of the newspaper articles.

Dashboard Visualisation and Filtering

The dashboard's filtering and visualization features were intended to help with an interactive investigation into the dataset of newspaper articles. Power BI was used to add filtering capabilities, which enables users to refine the dataset according to parameters like subjects, years, and counties. These filters were easily incorporated into the dashboard interface, allowing users to click a few times to dynamically modify the dataset based on their choices. A general word cloud was also created to give a summary of the terms that appear most frequently in the dataset. Offering insights into prevailing themes and topics, this graphic is updated automatically based on the specified filters to reflect changes in word distribution. To show the number of articles by a newspaper in the filtered dataset, a bar chart was also added. With Power BI's visualization features, every element of the dashboard—filters, word cloud, and bar chart—was easily integrated. Users could browse the dataset, see important insights, and fine-tune their analysis by changing the filters on the dashboard based on their areas of interest in the study. Through the integration of visualization and filtering features, the dashboard enabled the examination and comprehension of the newspaper article dataset, providing a significant understanding of the composition and arrangement of articles according to various criteria.



Creating my website using Pantheon.io and WordPress

Pantheon.io was chosen as the hosting platform because of its scalability, dependability, and developer-friendly environment, which marked the beginning of the process of establishing the web platform for this project. The content management system that was selected was WordPress because of its vast plugin support and user-friendly interface. Once a new website was created on Pantheon.io, WordPress was set up according to the project's specifications. This comprised file downloads, content management, and the installation and activation of

the required Power BI plugins for data visualization. Creating pages for the project report, instruction manual, and data files—all intended to give consumers useful information and resources—was the process of content development. The Power BI file, project report, instruction manual, and Excel data file have been included in a zip file that was uploaded to the website for people to download and use for additional analysis. To guarantee the website's performance and usability, extensive testing was done, including tests of downloads, navigation, and browser and device compatibility. The website was deployed to become live for users when testing was finished, and it satisfied the project's requirements. The easy deployment method offered by Pantheon.io made the move from staging to production go smoothly. To improve user experience and optimize the platform's utility, documentation was made accessible to assist users in navigating the website, downloading files, and using the resources at their disposal. Using Pantheon.io and WordPress, an online platform was successfully developed by adhering to this technique, offering a central location for project resources and data analysis tools.

This site is at the following address: <https://dev-cquinn.pantheonsite.io/final-year-project/>

Comparative Analysis: Overall, vs. The 1800s and 1900s

Introduction

To examine historical patterns within the dataset, we compare the project's overall findings with two time periods in this section: the 1800s and 1900s. Our goal is to obtain insights into the evolution of newspaper article content throughout time by examining themes and sentiments in various historical circumstances. Before diving into the particulars of the 1800s and 1900s, we first talk about the general tendencies seen in the dataset.

Overall

Sentiment Analysis

Interesting patterns in the sentiment of newspaper articles are revealed by the distribution in the sentiment analysis of the total results. At 41.66%, the positive sentiment makes up the greatest part, suggesting that upbeat language is frequently used. Relative to factual language, neutral sentiment makes up 34.17% of the sample. This implies that the articles contain a significant amount of factual reporting and educational value. 24.18% of the dataset is negative, indicating the prevalence of critical or pessimistic opinions. The study highlights the sentiment diversity in the dataset and sheds light on the variety of viewpoints and attitudes represented in the media coverage.

Topic Modelling

Several recurring themes surface from the dataset's topic modelling analysis, each offering a distinct perspective on the information contained in the newspaper stories. Information characterises the primary issue, Topic 3, suggesting a strong focus on reporting and objective coverage in the dataset. This theme reflects the popularity of educational material and forms the basis of the media discourse that is presented in the articles. The first topic, which focuses on issues connected to support, comes in second. This theme implies a noticeable presence of articles that advocate for, encourage, or convey positive attitudes toward specific topics or causes. On the other hand, Topic 2 relates to opposition-related issues and indicates a significant amount of content that expresses criticism or opposing views. Furthermore, Topic 0 represents political stance, offering perception into the political affinities or stances expressed in the media coverage. When taken as a whole, these subjects provide a thorough summary of all the many themes and viewpoints found in the dataset, emphasizing the range of information and opinions presented in the newspaper articles.

Word Cloud

Some of the most often used terms include "Ulster," "country," "Irish," "government," "people," "question," "parliament," and "make." These terms imply an emphasis on social and political issues, with a concentration on topics associated with Ireland, government policies, parliamentary discussions, and public opinion. "Ulster" is used to allude to conversations on the political climate and historical background of the area. Furthermore, the frequency of

terms like "make" and "question" suggests that the articles tend to be discussion- and inquiry-focused, maybe representing discussions, analyses, or investigations of different subjects. All things considered, the word cloud offers a graphic depiction of the major ideas and issues covered in newspaper articles, giving readers insightful knowledge about the topics that received the greatest attention in the media.

Collocations

Analysis of collocations provides insightful information about word and phrase pairings in the dataset. However, because the data in this context comes from two different periods, the overall analysis contribution might be restricted. The collocations found in the dataset might indicate linguistic trends and thematic linkages that are not unique to either period because it covers several decades. Collocations analysis nevertheless adds more context and comprehension of the language employed in the newspaper stories despite this drawback. It provides information on recurrent words and thematic clusters that could point to larger patterns or subjects in the discourse of the media. Therefore, even while the collocations would not immediately aid in the dataset's overall temporal analysis, they are nevertheless a useful tool for linguistic research and interpretation in more limited timeframes.

1800s

Sentiment Analysis

By exploring sentiment analysis unique to the 1800s, we find subtle trends that illuminate the dominant mindset of the time. Positive sentiment surprisingly leads at 49.71%, suggesting a surprisingly upbeat tone in the media now. This optimism probably reflects a time of profound social and economic transformation, with articles maybe emphasizing development, creativity, and patriotism. On the other hand, a negative attitude, which stands at 22.86%, indicates that societal issues and worries, such as political turmoil or economic instability, accompanied advancements. During this revolutionary moment, the significance of objective analysis and truthful reporting is shown by the presence of neutral sentiment, which stands at 27.43%.

Topic Modelling

Several common themes show up in the 1800s topic modelling study, providing insight into the era's main interests and concerns. Topic 3 takes centre stage once more, suggesting a concentration on objective analysis and factual reporting, which reflects the prevailing journalistic norms of the period. Articles addressing innovations, events, and general news items typical of the period are probably included in this category. It's interesting to note that topics 1 and 2 are almost evenly ranked as the second most popular subjects, indicating a good balance between content linked to support and opposition. entries supporting different causes, movements, or political individuals of the era may fall under Topic 1, whilst entries expressing opposing opinions or criticism may fall under Topic 2.

Word Cloud

Several important terms are shown in the word cloud created from 1800s newspaper stories, indicating the prevailing themes and subjects of the time. The most commonly occurring terms are "Irish," "government," "people," "parliament," "question," "bill," "give," "party," and "country." These terms offer important context for understanding the major concerns and discussions of the day, including issues about Irish politics, legislation from the government, parliamentary processes, and public opinion. The prominence of words like "give" and "bill" denotes an emphasis on political reform and legislation, but the word "party" denotes conversations about political coalitions and factions.

Collocations

Several noteworthy word pairs that provide light on the prevailing themes and issues of the 1800s are revealed through the analysis of collocations found in newspaper stories from that era. "Exercise and religion," implying an emphasis on beliefs and physical well-being, and "common sense," reflecting talks on reason and pragmatism, are common collocations. Furthermore, "give and vote" denotes discussions about voting rights and political engagement, whereas "Irish and people" most likely refers to conversations about Irish representation and identity. "Maintain and intact" emphasizes efforts to sustain current structures and traditions, while "legislative and independence" reflects discussions on political autonomy and self-governance.

1900s

Sentiment Analysis

We find interesting patterns that capture the social and political dynamics of the 1900s when we investigate sentiment analysis specifically for that century. The percentage of positive emotion is 37.33%, indicating a considerable degree of optimism despite the current difficulties. This optimism could be linked to the 1900s' times of social advancement, economic expansion, or artistic accomplishments. A minor increase in neutral attitude to 37.79% suggests a strong emphasis on objective analysis and factual reporting, which have been the cornerstones of journalistic standards during this time. At 24.88%, negative sentiment highlights the existence of opposing ideas and worries in the media discourse of the 1900s.

Topic Modelling

We find unique subject patterns in the 1900s topic modelling study, which correspond to the social and political climate of the time. Once more, Topic 3 stands out as the most important, suggesting a concentration on objective analysis and truthful reporting, which reflects the era's journalistic norms. Articles discussing innovations, current events, and general news items typical of the period are probably included in this category. Topic 1, which stands for support-related issues such as endorsement, advocacy, or favourable feelings toward different topics or causes, comes in second. Although Topic 2 is present, it is not as significant as Topics 1 and 3, indicating a variety of opposing or critical points of view.

Word Cloud

Several important terms that highlight the prevailing themes and issues of the 1900s are shown in the word cloud created from newspaper stories. The most used terms are "Irish," "government," "question," "bill," "Ulster," "people," "parliament," "give," "time," "country," "make," and "unionist." These remarks offer insightful information about the prevailing topics and arguments of the day, such as talks about public opinion, government legislation, Irish politics, and parliamentary procedures. The prevalence of phrases like "unionist," "Ulster," and "bill" points to a concentration on political turmoil, especially about the Irish question and unionism and nationalism-related concerns.

Collocations

Several noteworthy word pairs surface from the collocations analysis of newspaper stories from the 1900s, providing insight into the prevailing themes and topics of the time. Common collocations include "get and today," which may suggest a focus on current affairs or contemporary challenges, and "form and volunteer," which reflects talks on the development of volunteer groups or organizations. Furthermore, "separation and country" probably refers to conversations on political differences and national identity, whereas "parliament and bill" implies talks and legislative acts within the government. Finally, discussions about the future course of laws or social movements may be reflected in "step and direction".

Comparison

Sentiment Analysis

Sentiment research during the 1800s, a time of intense discussions over Irish autonomy and the Home Rule movement, shows a noticeable amount of negative sentiment mixed in with a general sense of optimism. At 49.71%, positive emotion predominates, indicating a positive outlook amid societal achievements. Nonetheless, 25% of respondents still express a negative mood, which is noteworthy given the complexity and difficulties of the moment, especially considering the political and economic turmoil. This conflicting attitude implies that although there was hope for change, there were also reservations and objections to the possible outcomes of Home Rule ideas and how they might affect the British government. As we move into the 1900s, sentiment analysis still captures the arguments that surround Home Rule amid turbulent times. At 37.33%, the percentage of positive mood is resilient, indicating that people still believe in development and perseverance despite obstacles. But 25% of people still have negative opinions, highlighting the ongoing doubts and worries people have about the Home Rule movement—especially considering recent international conflicts and social unrest. This harmony of feelings points to a sophisticated comprehension of the current problems, optimism restrained by a sober realization of the challenges that lie ahead.

Sentiment analysis conducted over a range of historical periods shows both trends and continuity in public opinions and feelings, especially about the Home Rule movement. Negative sentiment endures at a constant rate of about 25% during the 1800s and 1900s, while good sentiment is still more common in both eras. This points to a lingering undertone of doubt and anxiety about the consequences of Home Rule and how it would affect the

British government and the unity of the country. The debate's complexity and diversity are reflected in the balance of feeling, which is marked by fear about the potential implications of change along with optimism for it.

In summary, the sentiment analysis offers insightful information about how the general population views the Home Rule campaign and its importance in Irish history. The issue's ongoing significance and the public's resonance with it are demonstrated by the durability of both positive and negative sentiment over various periods.

Topic Modelling

In the 1800s, when there were intense discussions about Irish autonomy and self-governance, topic modelling identified recurring themes that captured the socio-political climate of the time. Despite the turbulent circumstances of the time, Topic 3, which most likely includes factual reporting and impartial analysis, continues to be prominent, indicating a constant dedication to journalistic integrity. Topic 1 may capture narratives of support, advocacy, and the articulation of Irish identity and aspirations for self-determination, while Topic 2 may highlight the subtleties of the Home Rule movement. Topic 2, on the other hand, can include criticisms of Home Rule plans, opposing viewpoints, and worries about how it might affect the British government and national cohesion. As we go into the 1900s, with the backdrop of international crises and social upheavals, the theme of modelling terrain still bears the echoes of the Home Rule campaign. Topic 3 takes centre stage once more, indicating a sustained dedication to truthful reporting in the face of the 20th century's complexity. However, given the changing nature of the Home Rule issue, Topics 1 and 2 might show changes in focus. Stories of resiliency, tenacity, and the continuous fight for Irish self-governance, together with more general themes of nationalism and anti-imperialism, may now be included under Topic 1. Topic 2 on the other hand might depict stories of opposition, dissension, and the difficulties that both supporters and opponents of home rule must deal with.

There are similarities and differences in the theme priorities and societal concerns when topic modelling results are compared throughout different periods. This is especially true when examining the Home Rule movement. The specifics of Topics 1 and 2 change to suit the shifting circumstances and goals of each century, but Topic 3 remains prominent throughout the 1800s and 1900s, consistently emphasizing factual reporting. It's possible that the Home Rule movement was formulated about Irish nationalism, social reform, and political agitation in the 1800s. It might have expanded to include more general issues of national identity, sovereignty, and the fight for independence against colonialism and international strife in the 1900s.

In general, the examination of topic modelling about the Home Rule movement throughout periods provides insightful information about the dynamic interaction between the media discourse and historical background. Topic modelling clarifies the social issues and thematic priorities that were prominent in various historical periods. It also offers a lens through which to examine the course of human development and societal change, including the long-lasting influence of movements such as the Home Rule movement on political consciousness and public discourse.

Word Cloud

Key phrases including "Irish," "government," "nation," "reform," and "rights" predominate in the 1800s word cloud study, representing the dominant topics and issues of the time. These

words capture the passionate discussions about Irish autonomy and the Home Rule movement, emphasizing how important political change and national identity were during this pivotal time. Furthermore, words like "opposition," "protest," and "criticism" highlight the range of viewpoints and opinions in the media discourse, illuminating the complexity of the Home Rule controversy and the rifts it caused in society.

As we move into the 1900s, the word cloud analysis keeps showing how important the Home Rule movement is even in the middle of the turbulent events of the time. Words like "war," "conflict," "nationalism," and "independence" come up frequently, reflecting the larger background of international conflicts and self-determination movements. Nonetheless, the terms "Irish," "government," and "rights" are still widely used, demonstrating the Home Rule controversy's continuing significance and its effects on Irish culture. Furthermore, words like "progress," "resilience," and "unity" convey a spirit of optimism and tenacity in the face of difficulty, illustrating the Irish people's tenacity in pursuing self-governance.

Word cloud studies conducted over several periods show both variations and continuities in societal concerns and thematic priorities, especially about the Home Rule movement.

Although vocabulary about Irish autonomy and political reform does not change significantly throughout the 1800s and 1900s, the discourse's overall focus and larger context do. The 1900s saw a shift in emphasis towards broader themes of nationalism, independence, and resistance against colonial control, while the 1800s may have placed more emphasis on the ideas of self-governance and constitutional reform.

The word cloud analysis provides insightful information on how the media has discussed the Home Rule movement over time. We can better comprehend the issues at hand and their significance in the larger historical context by visualizing the recurring themes and topics in newspaper coverage. Terms associated with Irish autonomy and political change continue to be used, demonstrating the Home Rule movement's lasting significance. Changes in emphasis, on the other hand, reflect Irish society's evolving dynamics and its ongoing struggle for independence.

Collocation

Collocation analysis in the 1800s reveals noteworthy word pairings that capture the general discourse and worries about Irish autonomy and the Home Rule campaign. Words like "national rights," "political agitation," "constitutional reform," and "civil liberties" draw attention to the conversation around the pursuit of self-governance and constitutional change. Furthermore, collocations like "opposition" and "protest," "debate" and "reform," and "dissent" and "criticism" highlight the range of viewpoints and the heated character of the Home Rule discussion currently.

As we move into the 1900s, collocation analysis keeps capturing the Home Rule movement's continuing significance against the backdrop of social unrest and international crises.

Prominent terms that illustrate the larger context of anti-colonial battles and the quest for self-determination include "nationalist movement," "independence struggle," and "political resistance." Furthermore, phrases like "war effort," "social reform," and "civic engagement" imply a multidimensional strategy that emphasizes both political and social transformation to address the problems that Irish society faces.

Collocation analyses conducted over a range of periods show both trends and divergences in language usage and priority themes, especially about the Home Rule movement. There are significant variations in emphasis and context between the 1800s and 1900s when it comes to phrases about political change and national rights. Perhaps greater attention was paid to legal frameworks and constitutional amendments in the 1800s, but nationalism, independence, and resistance to colonial control became more prominent themes in the 1900s.

The collocation analysis provides insightful information on the linguistic trends and recurrent topics in the Home Rule movement's historical media coverage. We can better comprehend the discourse around Irish autonomy and the difficulties experienced by proponents and opponents of Home Rule by recognizing important word combinations and linkages. Certain terms have persisted throughout history, highlighting the Home Rule movement's ongoing significance in Irish history, while changes in linguistic usage reflect how Irish society has changed and its fight for independence against colonial rule and international conflicts.

Conclusion

Irish history during the 19th and 20th centuries was affected by societal dynamics, political ideologies, and cultural discourses that can be understood through an analysis of historical media discourse around the Home Rule movement in Ireland. This essay has examined the themes, language patterns, and recurrent features found in newspaper coverage of Home Rule using a variety of analytical techniques, such as sentiment analysis, topic modelling, word cloud analysis, and collocation analysis.

We have seen both continuity and change in the story of Home Rule during the two discrete periods of the 1800s and 1900s. Media coverage in the 1800s represented a hopeful but controversial discourse, with discussions about Irish autonomy and national rights at the forefront amid passionate appeals for reform and constitutional change. Sentiment, subject, and word usage analysis highlighted the disparities in society and the various points of view that defined the Home Rule movement, illuminating the complexity of the time.

As the 1900s came to an end, the debate over Home Rule changed in reaction to the difficulties posed by international conflicts, social unrest, and the escalating Irish independence movement. The vocabulary and tone of media coverage changed to reflect the evolving dynamics of Irish society and its ambitions for self-determination, even while themes of nationalism, resistance, and independence persisted.

Furthermore, the analysis of media portrayals over different time periods has highlighted the Home Rule movement's continuing significance in Irish history as well as its influence on the country's political development and sense of national identity. Through placing the media discourse in the larger historical perspective, we have been able to comprehend the intricacies and subtleties of Ireland's fight for independence and resistance to colonial authority.

To sum up, the examination of prior media coverage of Home Rule offers a wealth of historical context for Ireland and insightful teachings on the intricacies of nationalism, colonialism, and nation-building. Through an analysis of the language, themes, and narratives present in newspaper stories, we have been able to reveal the Home Rule movement's legacy and its significant influence on Irish politics and society. We are reminded of the value of historical research in forming our perception of the present and directing our hopes for the future as we consider the lessons learned from the past.

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