EMW Event Sentence Labeling Annotation Manual

Event Sentence Labeling Manual

This task aims at identifying and labeling sentence(s) that contain protest events in the news articles. It follows the document labeling protest labeling task which identifies news articles that contain protest events as identified in the Event Labeling Annotation Manual (ELAM). Once the news reports are classified as containing a protest event, what remains is to identify where in the article the relevant event information is present. In determining this location, the unit we evaluate is sentences. In terms of this task, you will analyze the sentences of the protest news articles one by one and categorize them by giving each one one of the three following labels:

> Event sentence: [1]
> Planned event sentence: [2]
> Non-event sentence: [3]

Event sentences, i.e those that are labeled as 1, should contain an explicit reference to any protest event that makes the document eligible for being classified as a protest article. Such reference can be any word or phrase which denotes the said event. They can be direct expressions of the event or the pronouns which stand for the event. The sentence must clearly indicate that the event in question has definitely happened in the past or is an ongoing event. For additional information about this principle and our event definition, please refer to the ELAM.

Planned event sentences, i.e. those that are labeled as 2, are those sentences which contain reference to events that have been planned, announced, threatened or attempted by a given actor but have not taken place for one reason or another. They can be events that are expected to happen in the future, events that had been planned in the past but have not taken place, or events that any social agent threatens or declares to carry out.

Non-event sentences, i.e. those that are labeled as 0, are the ones which does not contain any event reference past, present, and future.

As an abstract procedural framework, the task can be divided into two phases. The first is to determine whether the sentence contain any event reference, thus making it eligible to be labeled as either 1 or 2. Once the non-event sentences are labeled as 0 and thus excluded, what remains is to decide whether the event took place in the past, is an ongoing event or has not taken place. The past and ongoing events are labeled as 1, the rest 2.

Notes

1. The event sentences must contain at least one expression which denotes the event. These expressions can be:
   i. Expressions which denote an action which is the whole or part of a protest event e.g. clash, strike, demonstrate, protest, attack, hit, blockade, shout slogans, sit-in, kidnap, assassinate etc.
   ii. Generic or dummy expressions which stand for the event e.g. incident, event etc.
   iii. Pronouns and demonstratives such as "it" and "this" when they stand for the events.
2. The expressions listed below are not to be considered event expressions that are defined above, that is, they do not make a sentence an event sentence by themselves:
   i. Expressions which denote the participants or actors such as protesters, agitators, demonstrators, attackers etc.
   ii. Expressions which denote *situations* which cause or contain events, but neither are events themselves nor stand for events e.g. situation, tension, conflict etc. (Please refer to the ELAM for a detailed explanation of the difference between events and situations.)

      iii. Expressions which denote the ***consequences*** of events, e.g. death, injury, damage, captivity etc.

      iv. The word "protest" when it denotes the feeling or attitude of objection e.g. "There were murmurs of protest among the committee members after the meeting was postponed for the second time."

3. The sentences which refer to the protest events in the abstract or refer to them in general are not event sentences. e.g. "Police forces were heavily deployed in the area to deter any such agitation" or "The inhabitants of the city are no strangers to violent clashes."

4. The necessary characteristics of protest events such as presence of civilian actors, time and location necessities hold for event sentences as well, however, we do not expect the sentences themselves to satisfy them. If the event that is mentioned in the sentence satisfies the criteria in the overall document, the sentence is to be labeled 1. On the other hand, if the event mention in the sentence conforms to the criteria neither in the sentence not in the document, the sentence containing it will not be labeled 1.

5. Be mindful of the sentences which contain event references ***but*** mean or imply overall that the said events did ***not*** take place, or were ***not protest*** events. These sentences should be labeled [0]. e.g. "The governor criticized the press for covering a petty street fight as a political clash." "The aid convoys are advised to use those border crossings where there are no clashes and disruptions."

6. Planned event references must be made to concrete possibilities. In other words, there must be a threat, an announcement or an attempt of an event. ***Perceptions*** of risks or threats are not to be labeled as planned events. e.g. "With the union representatives voicing their dissatisfaction with the negotiations, the possibility of a transportation strike looms large." "The embassies have warned their personnel to avoid crowded places due to the risk of a terrorist attack." "'We believe the organization was planning a major strike during the upcoming celebrations', another police official said."

7. Similar to the above point, the threats voiced by a given actor must be specific enough to warrant being labeled a planned event. Some threats to take an unspecified action might not involve protest events. e.g. "The party spokesperson threatened dire consequences if the ruling coalition goes forward with the motion" "Their leader vowed that they would retaliate in kind to any such action."

8. As explained in more detail in ELAM, remember that the threats or attempts of violent actions such as assassination, bombing, self-immolation, are to be considered as events themselves and therefore the sentences that contain them will be labeled 1.

9. The speeches given during a rally or a protest gathering are not protest events themselves.