

DATA SCIENCE

Title: Wordcloud of Last Words of Death Inmates

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Keywords:

death inmates, wordcloud, sentiment

Description:

Capital punishment is one of the controversial human rights issues in the United States. This dataset includes information on criminals executed by Texas Department of Criminal Justice from 1982 to November 8th, 2017. In *Furman v Georgia* in 1972, the Supreme Court considered a group of consolidated cases, whereby it severely restricted the death penalty. However, like other states, Texas adjusted its legislation to address the Court's concern and once again allow for capital punishment in 1973. Texas adopted execution by lethal injection in 1977 and

in 1982, the starting year of this dataset, the first offender was executed by this method.

Dataset: <https://www.kaggle.com/mykhe1097/last-words-of-death-row-inmates>

Layout:

```
library(tm)

library(SnowballC)

library(wordcloud)

library(RColorBrewer)

data <- read.csv('data.csv', stringsAsFactors = FALSE)

dataCorpus <- Corpus(VectorSource(data$LastStatement))

dataCorpus <- tm_map(dataCorpus, content_transformer(tolower))

dataCorpus <- tm_map(dataCorpus, removePunctuation)

dataCorpus <- tm_map(dataCorpus, PlainTextDocument)

dataCorpus <- tm_map(dataCorpus, removeWords, stopwords('english'))

dataCorpus <- tm_map(dataCorpus, stemDocument)

dataCorpus <- Corpus(VectorSource(dataCorpus))

wordcloud(dataCorpus, max.words = 100, random.order =
FALSE, colors=brewer.pal(8, "Dark2"))
```

Outcomes (expected):



Psychological studies have shown that status of a death row inmate have negative impacts on offenders' mental health. While interested readers could refer to concepts of death row phenomenon and death row syndrome for more details, in this kernel we are concerned with sentiments of the criminals in Texas demonstrated through their last statements before they were executed.

In the word cloud, here and there we can spot different groups of common words. There is a group of words of emotions including "love", "family", "heart", "hope", "forgive", "life", "mom", etc. Another group is of religion, including "god", "allah", "christ", "jesus", "lord", "heaven", etc. The last group is of justice, with "wrong", "truth", "innocent", etc.

Thus we can see that the offenders' last words are most of the times gloomy.