

Annotation Guidelines

Procedure

Thank you for participating in this annotation study. The purpose of this study is to create a ground truth for certain aspects of news articles (e.g., positivity/negativity, subjectivity, fluency, and quality).

For our annotation study we ask you to evaluate news articles. As shown in Figure 1, this is a two-step process. For each news article, you will be asked to report scores on two different levels of granularity: (a) sentence-level, and (b) document-level.

In case of sentence-level evaluation, we ask you to provide judgments for each sentence separately and independent of the other sentences. For document-level evaluation, we ask you to evaluate the document as a whole.

Please note that, with respect to the sentiment analysis of the text, we ask you to provide your feedback for positive/negative **emotions & events** expressed or described in the text; that is, we want to capture any type of positivity/negativity whether it is factual (e.g., events) or subjective (e.g., direct or indirect opinion and sentiment expressions). For example, the sentence:

“Gaza Truce Deadline Expires Amid Rockets, Israeli Airstrikes”

should receive a score of +1 (no positivity) and -3 (moderate negativity), overall suggesting the presence of negativity in the text. In the particular example, this negativity stems from the events that are described within the text. Complementarily, the sentence:

“Reese Witherspoon proudly shows off her enviable backside in a pair of black leggings”

should receive a score of +3 (mild positivity) and -1 (no negativity), as the author is expressing a positive point-of-view. Please, ignore any opinions *you* may have on matters/events discussed (e.g., political stand, gossip).

In the next section, we provide a description of all the indicators that will be used in the study. Please read them carefully to understand what each indicator is about and also to familiarize yourself with the rating scales.

If you are in doubt or you have any questions please contact us using the emails provided below, or take a note (we have provided a field for comments at the end of each annotation form).

arapakis@yahoo-inc.com
barla@yahoo-inc.com



Figure 1 - Annotation steps

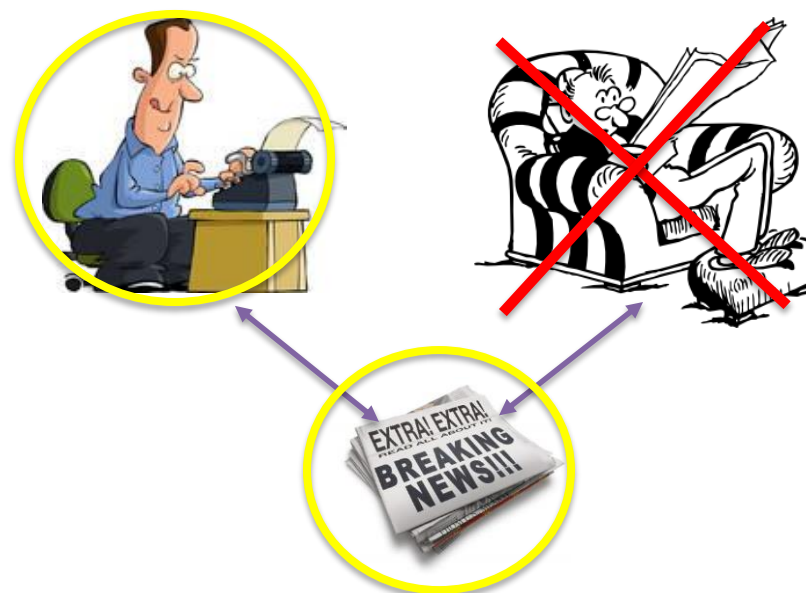


Figure 2 - Interaction between author, text, and reader emotions

Annotation Guidelines

Metric	Type	Description of the metric	Scale used in the study
Fluency	Readability	The text should build from sentence to sentence to a coherent body of information about a topic. Consecutive sentences should be meaningfully connected. Paragraphs should be written in a logical sequence. The best way to achieve fluency is to have at least one object or subject repeatedly mentioned in consecutive units of text.	(1) Very Poor, (2) Poor, (3) Average, (4) Good, (5) Very Good
Conciseness	Readability	The text should have a focus. Sentences should only contain information that is related to the main theme of the news article. The same or similar information should not be repeated in the text.	
Descriptiveness	Informativeness	The title of the article should reflect the article's content well. Usually, titles that are click baits have low descriptiveness (e.g., "You won't believe this animal is real"). Such titles may lead to dissatisfaction, as the reader does not get the content he is expecting to see.	(1) Very Poor, (2) Poor, (3) Average, (4) Good, (5) Very Good
Novelty	Informativeness	The content should provide new and valuable information, which is not likely to be known to an average reader before reading the article.	
Completeness	Informativeness	Text should cover the news in adequate level of detail. After reading the news article, the reader should not be left with further information need.	
Referencing	Informativeness	The degree to which the text references external sources (including other people's opinions or other work). Providing references enables easy access to related sources of information.	
Formality	Style	Formal text follows certain writing guidelines. It is more likely to contain formal words and obey punctuation/grammar rules.	(1) Very Low, (2) Low, (3) Moderate, (4) High, (5) Very High
Richness	Style	Is the writing style and vocabulary used rich and interesting as opposed to plain and straightforward?	
Attractiveness	Style	Is the title of the article written in a way that will raise curiosity and attract people to read the main content of the article?	
Technicality	Content	Are the topic and used language technical? Does it require effort and previous knowledge to understand the text?	(1) Very Low, (2) Low, (3) Moderate, (4) High, (5) Very High
Popularity	Content	The size of the audience for whom the topic of the article would be of potential interest. How many people would be interested in reading this article? Take into consideration both the title and body of the article.	
Subjectivity	Valence	The subjective text tends to contain opinions, preferences, or possibilities. There are fewer factual statements. Usually, reaching consensus is less likely on subjective text.	(1) Objective, (2) Low Subjectivity, (3) Moderate Subj., (4) High Subj., (5) Very High Subj.
Positivity	Valence	The text contains or describes positive sentiments or events. If you think that the punctuation emphasizes the positivity in any way then include this in your rating.	(1) No positivity, ..., (5) Very strong positivity
Negativity	Valence	The text contains or describes negative sentiments or events. If you think that the punctuation emphasizes the negativity in any way then include this in your rating.	(1) No negativity, ..., (5) Very strong negativity
I/S	Overall	Enter "I" for and irrelevant/wrong sentence extraction OR "S" for a sentence-splitting problem, If there are no issues, please leave this field blank. If you enter I", then there is no need to provide scores for sentences.	"I" OR "S"
Quality	Overall	The overall quality of the article as perceived by the annotator.	(1) Very Poor, (2) Poor, (3) Average, (4) Good, (5) Very Good

Sentence-level Annotation

Gaza Truce Deadline Expires Amid Rockets, Israeli Airstrikes

http://finance.yahoo.com/news/gaza-truce-deadline-expires-amid-221146963.html;_ylt=AwrBEiStnPRTYIgAcy3QtDMD

	Subjectivity	Positivity	Negativity	I/S
An Egyptian-brokered truce in the Gaza Strip expired after Palestinian militants renewed rocket fire and Israeli air raids left three dead.				
Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Cairo yesterday failed to extend a series of temporary cease-fires that had lasted nine days, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu calling back his team hours before a midnight deadline.				
Hamas's military wing said it was responsible for firing the rockets.				
At least 50 rockets hit Israeli territory late yesterday, without causing injuries, with one damaging a coffee shop, according to police.				
Israeli air raids struck at least 25 targets in Gaza, killing 3 Palestinians, including a child, according to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry.				
Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev called the rocket fire a "grave and direct violation of the cease-fire to which Hamas committed itself."				
The ending of the truce and the spike in violence has raised the possibility of a new ground offensive by the Israeli military as the prospect of finding a last peace deal fades.				
Palestinian negotiator Azzam al-Ahmad blamed Israel for the collapse of the talks.				
"The Israeli delegation fled the negotiations and their departure was designed to undermine the talks," Ahmed told reporters in Cairo.				
Military Commander Hamas official Musa Abu Marzouk, who was among the negotiators in Cairo, said on his Facebook page that Israeli airstrikes targeted the home of Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif and killed his wife and daughter.				
Deif has survived several Israeli assassination attempts.				
Negotiators have been trying for more than a week to reach an agreement to end hostilities that began July 8.				
The fighting has killed more than 2,000 Palestinians, including hundreds of civilians, and 67 people on the Israeli side, all but three of them soldiers.				
Israel withdrew ground troops from Gaza on Aug. 5 following a four-week offensive that it said was designed to end years of rocket fire and destroy tunnels militants built to infiltrate Israel.				
Rocket attacks by militants and Israeli airstrikes have violated the cease-fire in recent weeks without leading to a renewed ground offensive in Gaza.				
Hamas, which is considered a terrorist group by Israel, the U.S. and European Union, has demanded an end to the blockade on the coastal territory that Israel, citing security considerations, initiated after the militant group won Palestinian elections in 2006.				
Israel has sought assurances that militants won't resume their rocket attacks and cross-border raids.				
Even with the loss of life and damage from Israeli air raids, Hamas may emerge politically stronger from the confrontation with Israel, said Youssef Munayyer, executive director of the Washington-based Palestine Center, a research group.				

Sentence-level Annotation

"They might actually benefit politically from the war because they were able to inflict unprecedented losses on the Israeli military," Munayyer said in an e-mail.				
The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's benchmark TA-25 Index was little changed yesterday, while the shekel dropped 0.4 percent.				
The yield on Israel's benchmark government bond fell 2 basis points, or 0.02 percentage point, to 2.64 percent.				
Egypt had proposed an 11-point truce plan that includes halting hostilities, easing the Israeli blockade and giving the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority a role in rebuilding the territory, according to a report in Egypt's Al-Shorouk newspaper.				
Israel withdrew ground troops from Gaza on Aug. 5 after criticism from the US and elsewhere for the number of civilians its military killed. Israel accuses Hamas of deliberately putting civilians in harm's way.				

Gaza Truce Deadline Expires Amid Rockets, Israeli Airstrikes

An Egyptian-brokered truce in the Gaza Strip expired after Palestinian militants renewed rocket fire and Israeli air raids left three dead.

At least 50 rockets hit Israeli territory late yesterday, without causing injuries, with one damaging a coffee shop, according to police. Israeli air raids struck at least 25 targets in Gaza, killing 3 Palestinians, including a child, according to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev called the rocket fire a "grave and direct violation of the cease-fire to which Hamas committed itself."

The ending of the truce and the spike in violence

[illegible]

Document-level Annotation

[illegible]

Document-level Annotation

[illegible]

Document-level Annotation

[illegible]

Feedback

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement:

	(1) Strongly disagree, ..., (5) Strongly agree
I am confident in my judgments	1

Please provide any additional comments here: