

1. Introduction

The purpose of this annotation is to detect and classify the extremity of tone in rhetoric used throughout political speeches. By systematically labeling speech segments, we aim to create a dataset that captures shifts in political rhetoric over time. For a given speech or sub-section of a speech, the task of the annotator is to label the segment under one of the following rhetorical categories:

- Apathetic
- Moderate
- Strongly Worded
- Extreme

Annotators will follow the outlined criteria to ensure consistency in labeling, allowing for meaningful analysis of political discourse over time.

2. Annotation Unit

The annotation unit for this task is a segment of speech, which may consist of a complete sentence or a meaningful multi-sentence excerpt. Each segment should be labeled based on its rhetorical characteristics, independent of the surrounding context. Segments are categorized into one of four rhetorical extremity levels based on tone, intent, and language use.

3. Annotation Guidelines for Rhetorical Categories

3.1. Apathetic

A rhetorical segment should be classified as Apathetic in the following cases:

- A. When the speaker trivializes or diminishes the significance of an issue.

Example: "This isn't a big deal."

- B. When language conveys indifference or disengagement.

Example: "I don't really care about this issue."

C. When the speech redirects attention away from serious matters.

Example: "We have more important things to focus on."

D. When the speaker suggests that nothing can be done or that taking action is purposeless.

Example: "It's not like anything will change anyway."

3.2. Moderate

A rhetorical segment should be classified as Moderate in the following cases:

A. When speech is neutral, diplomatic, or focused on cooperation.

Example: "We need to work together to find solutions."

B. When arguments are fact-based and avoid emotionally charged language.

Example: "The data suggests that this policy will benefit the economy."

C. When the rhetoric remains policy-focused and non-inflammatory.

Example: "The data suggests that this policy will benefit the economy."

D. When the speaker acknowledges differing perspectives or uncertainties.

Example: "There are valid concerns on both sides of the debate."

3.3. Strongly Worded

A rhetorical segment should be classified as Strongly Worded in the following cases:

A. When a speech uses strong critique but does not attack democratic institutions.

Example: "The opposition's policies are failing the people, and we need change now."

B. When the rhetoric includes passionate calls to action within legal and democratic frameworks.

Example: "We must stand up and fight for our rights together!"

- C. When the speaker takes a firm stance against an issue without resorting to extremist language.

Example: "This corruption cannot continue, and we will hold them accountable.

- D. When the speech highlights urgency or injustice with emotionally charged but responsible rhetoric.

Example: "People are suffering while leaders remain silent - this cannot be ignored any longer."

3.4. Extreme

A rhetorical segment should be classified as Extreme in the following cases:

- A. When the speech undermines elections or democratic institutions.

Example: "The election was rigged, and we can't trust the results."

- B. When coded language suggests political violence or unconstitutional actions.

Example: "We must take matters into our own hands and reclaim our country."

- C. When rhetoric demonizes groups or institutions in a way that incites hostility or action.

Example: "The media is the enemy of the people and must be stopped."

- D. When the speaker calls for the use of force or implicates violent retaliation against perceived enemies.

Example: "They won't listen unless we make them pay - by any means necessary."

Remarks:

A rhetorical segment should not be a part of the classification in the following cases:

- A. When the speaker introduces themselves and greets the audience.

Example: "Mr. Speaker, Mr. President Pro Tempore, members of Congress, and fellow Americans..."

B. How the audience reacts

Example: (applause)