

Computerized Text Analysis: Classwork 4

Retrieval, coding, and agreement

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In today's lab we will use the search and keyword-in-context features of QDA Miner to analyse the Irish Budget speeches and construct a coding scheme to represent different arguments for and against the budget.

The context of the debate is an austerity budget passed by the Irish government in 2010. The governing coalition consisted of the Fianna Fail party (historically the largest party in Ireland), and the much smaller Green Party. The opposition consisted of the Fine Gael, Labour, and Sinn Fein parties, who all spoke against the budget.

Instructions

1. Open the budget speech texts, and add variables to each document to indicate which party each speaker belongs to.
2. Focusing on a subset of the texts (perhaps Cowen, Burton, O'Caolain, and Bruton), construct a coding scheme that captures the different kinds of argument used by the different speakers.

One possible scheme would be to code arguments as either

- (a) Calling for responsible action (pro-budget)
- (b) Criticising the budget on technical grounds (e.g. that it is well- intentioned, but won't work)
- (c) Criticising the budget or the government on emotional grounds.

3. Using these codes, or others, apply some codes to some sections of the texts. To define a code, choose *Codes*, *Add from the top menu*, and define a code name and a code type ("under").
4. To speed up the coding process, you can use the search and retrieval functionality provided by QDA Miner under the *Retrieval* menu. Here you can quickly retrieve all documents, paragraphs or sentences that contain a particular word or set of words.
5. Which words are particularly indicative of certain kinds of argument? You can use the word list ordered by Chi-Square in WordStat to help with this.
6. Examine the option to create multiple users and compute a reliability statistic, provided under the "teamwork" button on the file menu, and the "Coding agreement" button under the "Analyse" menu.