

Fine-Grained Analysis of Propaganda in News Articles (Appendix)

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A Annotation Guidelines

We provided the definitions in Section 2 together with some examples and an annotation schema, to our professional annotators, so that they could manually annotate news articles. The annotators performed their task following the instructions displayed in Figure A.1. In order to help them, we built the flowchart displayed in the same figure. It partitions the set of techniques hierarchically and can be traversed by answering a series of questions. These instructions and the flowchart were always available to the annotators, next to the annotation interface (cf. Figure 1). As an example of the process for generating the questions, the first subdivision is inspired by the following description of propaganda: “Propaganda comes in many forms, but you can recognize it by [...] the use of faulty reasoning and/or emotional appeals”. The description distinguishes between logical fallacies and techniques appealing to emotions.

We aim at identifying propagandistic techniques in news articles. We provide you with a news article and a flowchart to guide you through the identification of propaganda techniques. The definition of each technique is shown when setting the mouse pointer on the name of the technique in the flowchart. You are free to annotate single words, phrases, or sentences, but we encourage you to select the minimal amount of text in which the propaganda technique appears.

1. Let us look at the flowchart [below]
2. Let us look at an example which includes four propaganda techniques [cf. Figure 1]

- **Name calling:** the democrats are being called "babies"
- **Black-and-white fallacy:** obstruction vs progress
- **Loaded language:** stupid, petty, killing

- **Exaggeration:** killing a grandma, stomaching the presence of a person

Use the flowchart as your guide to spot propaganda. If you are not sure about a propaganda technique (any rounded box in the flowchart), just click on it and a new page will open with explanations and examples when necessary. [cf. Section 2]

TIPS

- Some sentences might be tricky. Please try to select the right technique(s)
- Your emotions have nothing to do with the articles, as you are requested to spot propagandistic techniques, not their message: try to distance yourself from the contents and avoid being biased.
- One text fragment may include more than one technique at the same time

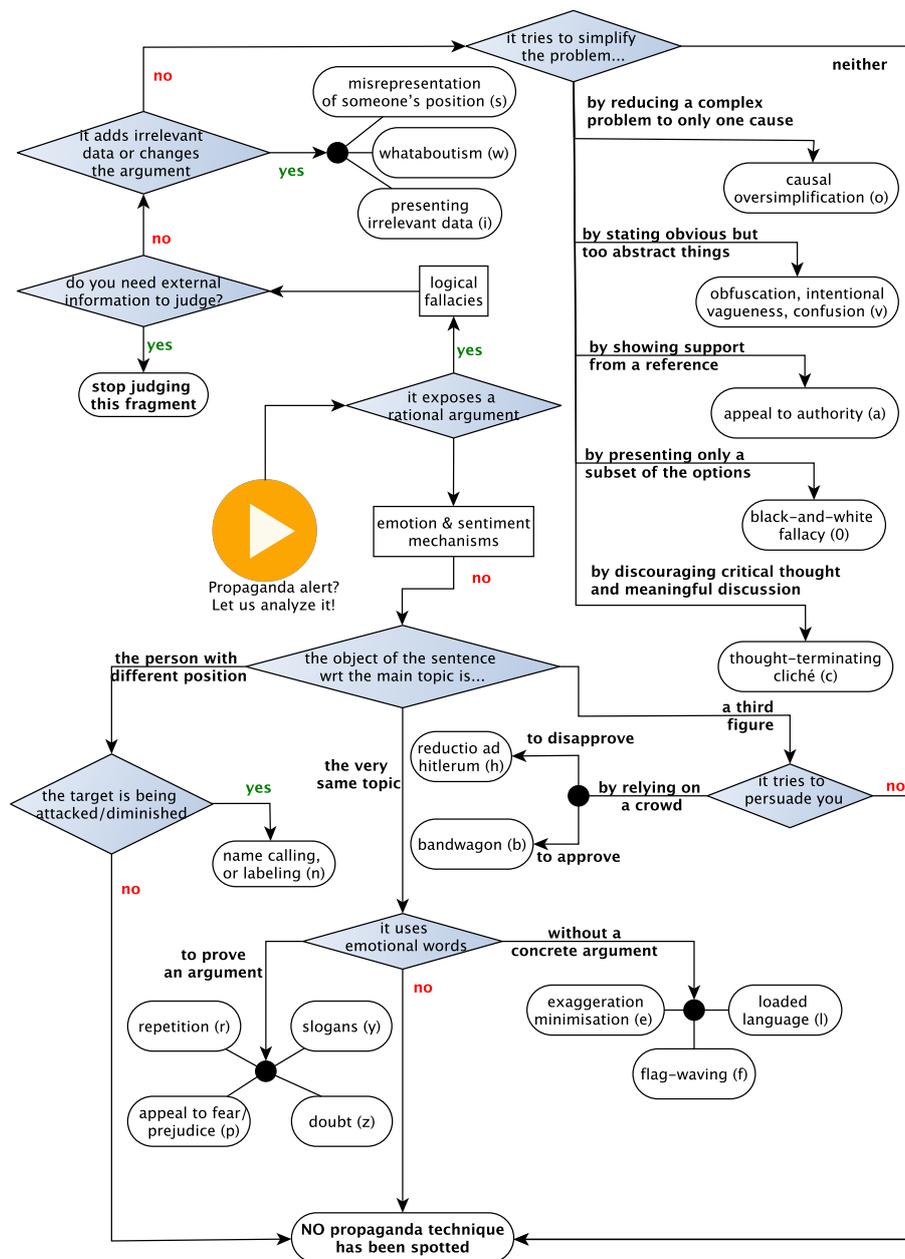


Figure A.1: Instructions as provided to the professional annotators in the Anafora-based annotation process (top). Flowchart to drive the identification of propaganda techniques (bottom).