

Instructions for Annotating Attitude Types and Targets

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1 Introduction

In this document, we build on the annotation scheme presented in the *Instructions for Annotating Opinions in Newspaper Articles* [2]. The *Instructions* begin with the following two paragraphs.

Picture an information analyst searching for opinions in the world press about a particular event. Our research goal is to help him or her find what they are looking for by automatically finding text segments expressing opinions, and organizing them in a useful way.

In order to develop a computer system to do this, we need people to annotate (mark up) texts with relevant properties, such as whether the language is opinionated and whether someone expresses a negative attitude toward someone else.

In the *Instructions*, we were primarily concerned with finding text segments expressing opinions and identifying the source of those opinions. With these new annotation instructions, we focus on addressing the second part of our research goal, organizing opinions in a useful way.

So far in these instructions, we have used the term **opinion** for convenience, but as you know, the annotations actually focus on **private states**. To review, a private state is an internal mental or emotional state [1]. Included in private states are opinions, beliefs, thoughts, feelings, emotions, goals,

evaluations, judgments, etc. Conceptually, we can view a private state as a state of an **experiencer** holding an **attitude**, optionally toward an **object** [2]. These new instructions begin with overviews of how we are extending the annotation scheme to mark the attitudes and targets that make up private states. After that, we present several real-world examples to give you a better feel for the new annotations and how they are tied our existing annotations. Finally, we will go into detail about the different types of attitudes and some characteristics of attitudes that we want you to mark.

2 Annotating Attitudes

The idea of an attitude annotation is to capture the span of text that expresses the overall attitude(s) that makes up a given private state. If the attitude of a private state is a negative emotion, the attitude annotation for that private state should encompass the span of text that completely expresses the negative emotion.

To give you some examples of attitude annotations and what we mean by the span of text that completely expresses the attitude of a private state, consider the private states being expressed by Sue in the following sentences. In each sentence, the span of text marking the attitude annotation is in bold.

- (1) Sue said, "That's a **stupid** idea."
- (2) Sue is **afraid** to go outside.
- (3) Sue is **afraid that the world is coming to an end**.

In sentence (1), the attitude of Sue's private state is a negative evaluation, and the attitude of Sue's private state in both sentence (2) and (3) is a negative emotion. In (1), the negative attitude is completely captured by the span **stupid**. Similarly, in sentence (2) the span **afraid** completely captures the negative emotion Sue is expressing. However, in sentence (3), a much larger span, **afraid that the world is coming to an end** is needed to capture the negative emotion of Sue's private state.

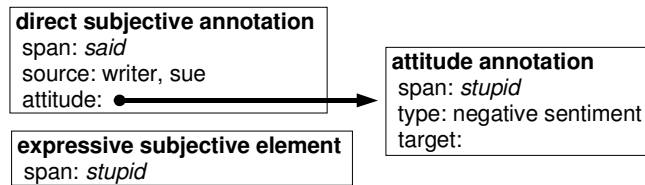
Conceptually, each attitude makes up part of a private state. In the annotation scheme, we capture this relationship by linking each attitude annotation to the appropriate *direct subjective* annotation. Direct subjective annotations include explicit mentions of private states and speech events expressing private states¹. Recall from the *Instructions for Annotating Opin-*

¹This is new terminology. In the *Instructions* [2], explicit mentions of private states,

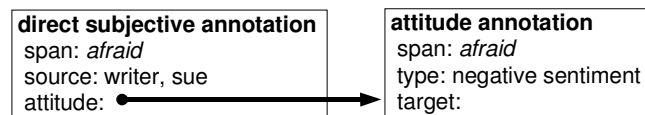
ions in Newspaper Articles [2] that explicit mentions of private states and speech events expressing private states are two of the three main types of private state expressions in text. We will discuss how expressive subjective elements, the third main type of private state expression, relate to the attitude annotations, shortly.

Returning to our example sentences, below we show graphically how the direct subjective annotation and attitude annotation are linked together for each of Sue’s private states. In (1), the direct subjective annotation for Sue’s private state is marked on the speech event *said*, and the attitude annotation for Sue’s private state is linked to this direct subjective annotation. In sentence (2), the direct subjective annotation for Sue’s private state is marked on *afraid*, an explicit mention of a private state, and the attitude annotation for Sue’s private state is linked to this direct subjective annotation. Sentence (3) is similar to (2).

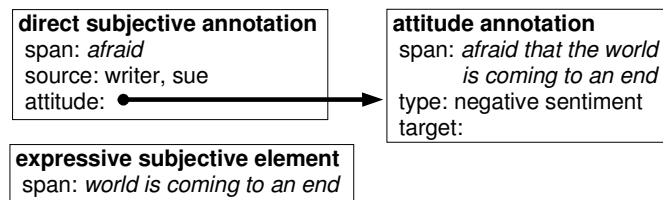
Sentence 1 Annotations



Sentence 2 Annotations



Sentence 3 Annotations



speech events expressing private states, and objective speech events together were called *ons*. *Direct subjective* annotations are *ons* that are *onlyfactive* = *no*.

When marking attitudes, it is important to realize that although each attitude is part of a private state, an attitude annotation does not necessarily correspond to a single private state expression. In sentence (1), the attitude comes from the expressive subjective element *stupid*, and the two annotations share the same span. In (2), the attitude comes from the explicit private state *afraid*. In Sentence (3), the span for the attitude annotation overlaps with both the explicit private state *afraid* and the expressive subjective element *the world is coming to an end*.

You will be performing attitude annotation on documents that have already been annotated with our existing scheme. Speech events, explicit private states, and expressive subjective elements will already be marked. When making decisions about marking attitudes, you should let the existing annotations guide you. However, do not try to limit your attitude annotations to only expressions that have already been marked. Depending on the attitude(s) that you perceive, it may feel appropriate to capture several expressive subjective elements with a single attitude annotation, or maybe the attitude seems to be expressed with an expressive subjective element together with some surrounding text, or perhaps only a single direct subjective expression is used to express the attitude, etc. The point is for you as a language user to make your best judgment about what span of text best captures the attitude(s) being expressed.

3 Annotating Targets

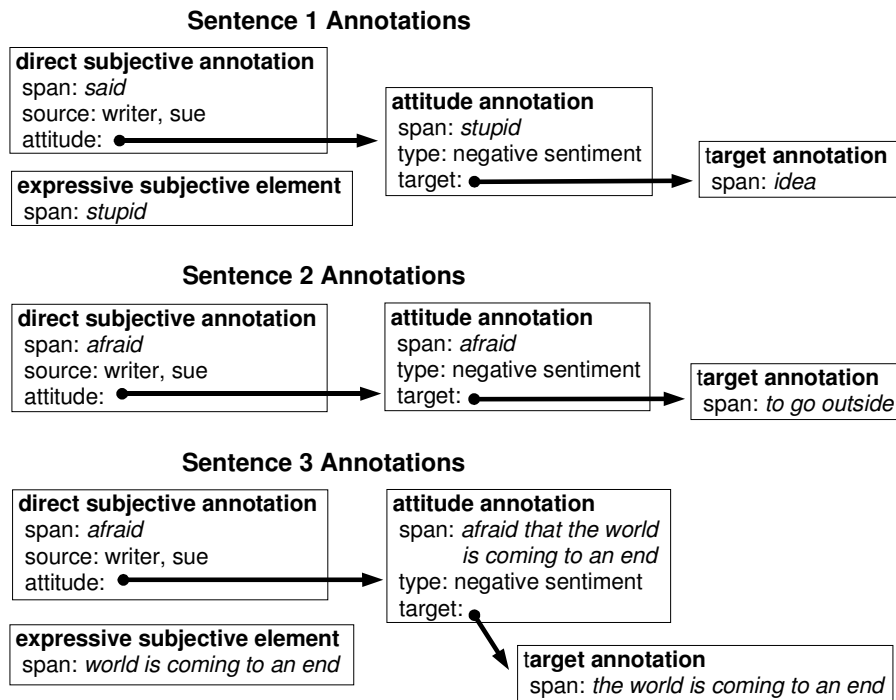
Target annotations are the second extension to the annotation scheme. Recall that conceptually, a private state is composed of a source expressing an attitude, possibly about a target. When the attitude of a private state is directed toward a target, we use a target annotation to capture the text span of the target, and we link the target back to the “targeting” attitude.

To give some examples of target annotations, we return to our three example sentences. These sentences are listed again below. In addition to the attitude annotations (marked in bold), we also give the target for each attitude in angle brackets.

- (1) Sue said, “That’s a **stupid** < idea > .”
- (2) Sue is **afraid** < to go outside > .
- (3) Sue is **afraid that** < the world is coming to an end > .

Note that although the attitude in each of the above sentences has a target, it is not true that every attitude must have a target. If sentence (2) was just *Sue is afraid*, there would be no target for Sue's negative emotion.

Target annotations are linked to their corresponding attitude annotations in the same way that attitude annotations are linked to their corresponding direct subjective annotations. The figure below shows graphically how targets annotations link to attitude annotations, helping to form a complete representation of a private state.



It is important to note that it is quite possible for the span of a target annotation to overlap with the span of the attitude annotation that it is linked to, as is the case for sentence (3).

4 Inferred Attitudes

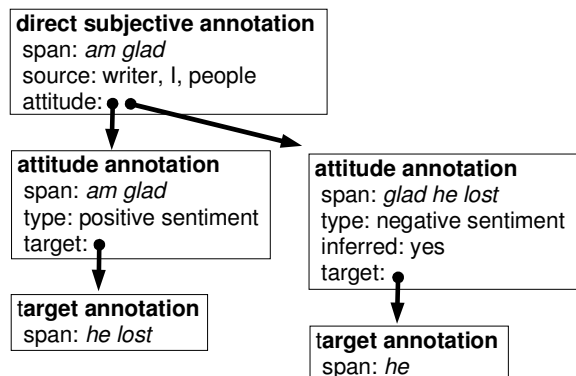
Most attitudes are directly evoked by the words and phrases that are used to express a private state. The word “afraid” in the examples above directly evokes a negative emotion, as does describing something as “terrifying.” However, sometimes an attitude in a private state is not directly evoked. Instead, we understand the attitude is there by putting things together from what is stated and from context. We call these **inferred** attitudes. For example, consider the following two sentences.

(4a) ⟨ Malfoy ⟩ is a **jerk**.

(4b) I **am glad** ⟨ he lost ⟩.

The directly evoked attitudes in (4) are marked in bold and the targets of these attitudes are in angle brackets. In sentence (4a), we have a negative sentiment being expressed toward Malfoy. In sentence (4b), there is a positive sentiment being expressed toward Malfoy [he] having lost. However, in (4b) there is also an inferred attitude. From “glad that he lost” we infer a negative sentiment toward Malfoy [he]. The figure below shows a graphical representation of the attitudes in sentence (4b).

Sentence 4b Annotations



5 Prominent Attitudes

For this task, we have decided to annotate only the most prominent attitude(s) that are being expressed by a given source. Think of attitudes as layers. There are the attitudes on top that are the most noticeable, the most conspicuous, the ones the source is most intending to convey. Under this top layer, there may be other attitudes that are implied, inferred, or that just seem to be there. For example, consider the private state being expressed by Brazil in the following sentence.

(5) Brazil hopes the US will not interfere in greenhouse effect negotiations.

The most prominent attitude for Brazil is a positive sentiment expressed toward the US not interfering in the negotiations. Less prominent is a negative attitude toward the interfering. This negative sentiment is there, but because it is less prominent than the positive attitude, we are not marking it.

To give another example, consider the private state for the writer in the next sentence.

(6) The world community should not tolerate crimes of war.

There are again two attitudes being conveyed. The writer is arguing about what the world community should not tolerate. Also, by using the phrase “should not tolerate” the writer is also conveying a negative sentiment toward crimes of war. When you see a sentence like this where you perceive that there is more than one attitude being conveyed, you should ask yourself which attitude is more prominent. In (6), there are three possibilities: 1) the arguing attitude is more prominent; 2) the negative sentiment is more prominent; and 3) the arguing attitude and the negative sentiment are both equally prominent. We believe (6) is an example where the arguing attitude is more prominent than the negative sentiment, so only the arguing attitude should be annotated. An example where the arguing attitude and the negative sentiment are equally prominent is the following.

(7) Given the death toll, Mr. Chavez’s claims seem rather flimsy.

But wait, you ask, what about the example above where we inferred a negative sentiment toward Malfory.

(4a) ⟨ Malfoy ⟩ is **a jerk**.

(4b) I **am glad** ⟨ he lost ⟩.

We are making one exception to the “mark only the most prominent attitude” rule — when the target of the less prominent attitude is an agent in the text. In (4b), the negative sentiment toward he (Malfoy) is slightly less prominent than the positive attitude toward him loosing. However, we are very interested in attitudes toward agents, so we are making an exception and marking less prominent attitudes like the negative sentiment toward he (Malfoy) in (4b). Even still, don’t get carried away. If you find yourself really digging and doing many inferences to identify an attitude toward an agent, you are probably going too deep.

Later when we present the different attitude types in Section 7, we give more examples of attitudes that are more and less prominent.

6 Examples

This section goes over several real-world examples that are more complex than the example sentences we used to illustrate the basic concepts of attitudes and targets. When reading through these examples, don’t worry so much about the types of attitudes that are marked; they will be covered in the next section. Instead, for each sentence, focus on how the attitude and target annotations are marked with respect to the direct subjective annotations and expressive subjective elements, and how all the annotations are linked together.

The first example comes from an article about the 2002 presidential coup in Venezuela.

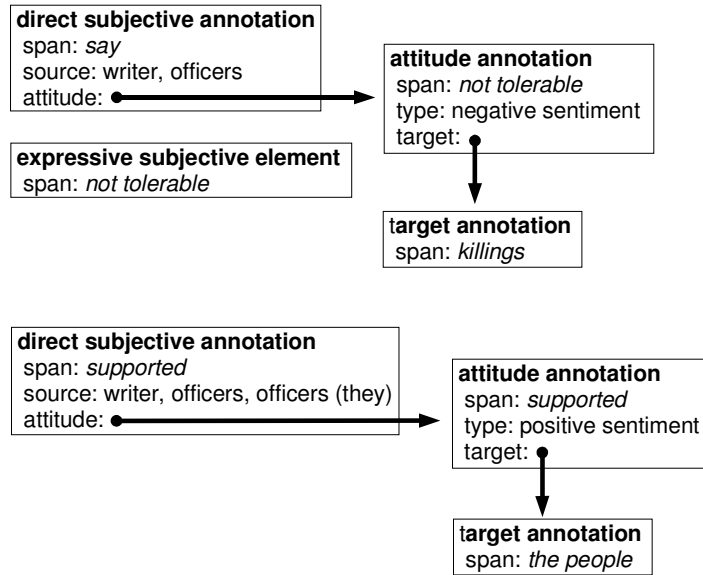
(8a) A succession of officers filled the TV screens *to say they supported* the people and that the killings were “*not tolerable*”

(8b) A succession of officers filled the TV screens to say they **supported** ⟨ the people ⟩ and that the ⟨ killings ⟩ were “**not tolerable**”.

In (8a), the spans corresponding to direct subjective annotations and expressive subjective elements are in italics. In (8b), the spans for the attitude annotations are in bold and the targets annotations are in angle brackets.

Below we show graphically all of these annotations and how they are linked together to fully capture each private state in the sentence. There is an attitude annotation created for *not tolerable* that is linked to the direct subjective annotation for *to say*. Also, there is an attitude annotation created for *supported* that is linked to the direct subjective annotation also marked on the span for *supported*.

Sentence 8 Annotations



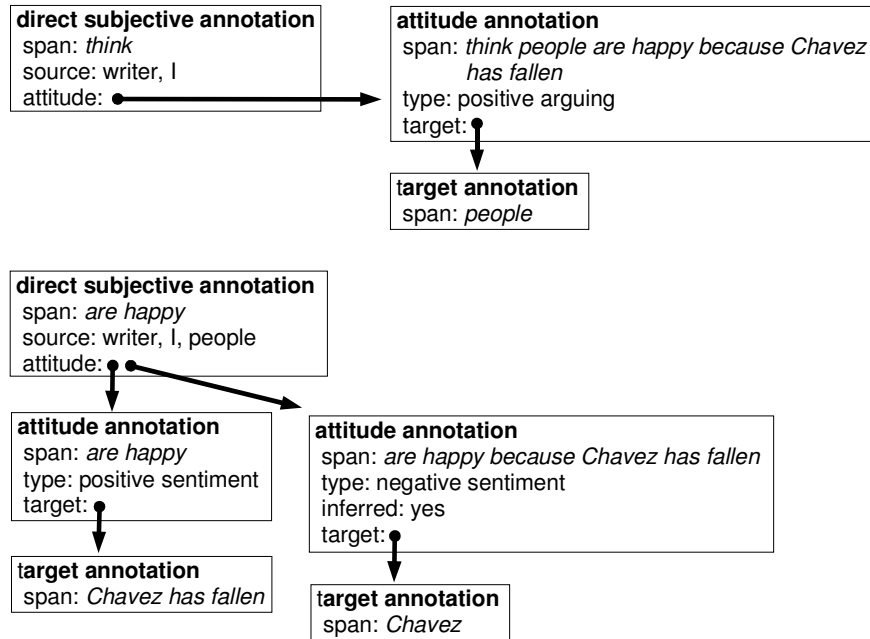
Although in sentence (8), the span marked for each of the attitude annotations corresponds exactly to a span for one of our existing annotations, keep in mind that this will not always be the case.

Sentence (9) also has private states being expressed for two sources; the spans for the direct subjective annotations are in italics.

(9) I *think* people *are happy* because Chavez has fallen.

Below we show the attitude and target annotations and how they correspond to the two direct subjective annotations.

Sentence 9 Annotations



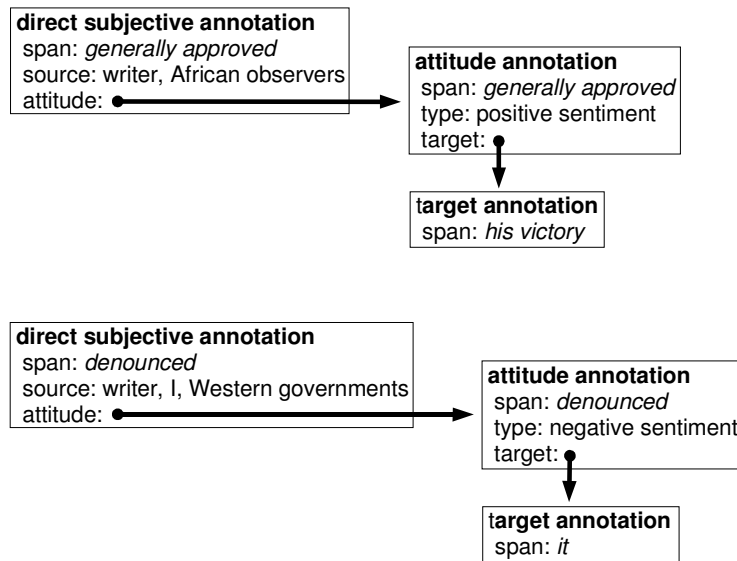
Although the attitude annotation for *think* is fairly straightforward, the attitude annotations capturing the private state of the people is more complex. The private state for the people has more than one attitude, each with its own target. The people feel negatively toward Chavez and positively toward Chavez falling. Note that although the phrase *are happy* is sufficient to capture the positive sentiment of the people, the entire phrase *are happy because Chavez has fallen* is needed to capture the negative sentiment toward Chavez.

In sentence (10), there are two private states being express, one for the African observers and one for Western governments. (10a) shows the direct subjective annotations for these two private states in italics. (10b) shows the corresponding attitude annotations in bold with their targets in angle brackets.

(10a) African observers *generally approved* of his victory, while Western governments *denounced* it.

(10b) African observers **generally approved** of ⟨ his victory ⟩, while Western governments **denounced** ⟨ it ⟩.

Sentence 10 Annotations



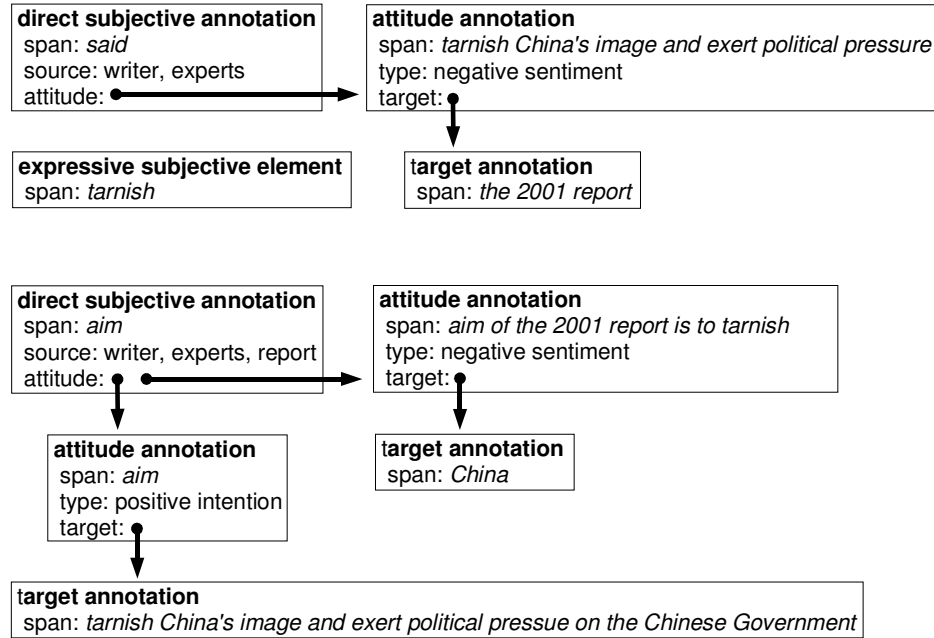
As you can see, in this example the attitude annotations correspond directly to the spans for the direct subjective annotations. What we want to draw your attention to is the spans for the targets that have been annotated. The sources of the two private states, African observers and Western governments are both giving their opinion about the same thing, the victory of Robert Mugabe in the election. However, when marking the targets for the two attitudes, we mark what is **syntactically the most appropriate span**. Thus, the target for *generally approved* is *his victory*, and the target for *denounced* is the pronoun *it*.

Sentence (11) is the last example in this section, and due to its complexity, we only show the annotations graphically.

(11) Its aim of the 2001 report is to tarnish China's image and exert political pressure on the Chinese Government, human rights

experts said at a seminar held by the China Society for Study of Human Rights (CSSHR) on Friday.

Sentence 11 Annotations



There are two private states marked in (11), one for the human rights experts and one for the report. The private state for the human rights experts is a negative sentiment toward the report. The private state for the report is more complex with two attitudes and two targets. The first attitude is the part of the private state expressing an intention with the goal of tarnishing and exerting pressure. However, intending or aiming to tarnish also expresses a negative sentiment, in this example, toward China.

When performing the attitude annotations, it is important to remember that a private state may be made up of more than one attitude and an attitude may be directed toward one or more targets.

7 Types of Attitude

There are many different types of private states and many different ways we might consider organizing them into categories. With the the set of attitude

types described below, we choose to focus on broader categories that we believe will capture useful distinctions for a question answering system or for other NLP applications.

When marking attitude types, remember that as always, these judgments must be made **in context**. It is important that you don't assume that a particular word or phrase will always be expressing the same type of attitude.

For each attitude type, we first provide a general description of the types of private states included in the category. We follow each description with several example sentences to illustrate the variety of ways the attitude type may be expressed.

7.1 Sentiments

Sentiments include emotions, evaluations, judgments, and stances. The target of a sentiment is what that sentiment is directed toward.

We distinguish between two types of sentiment, positive and negative.

7.1.1 Positive Sentiments

Positive Sentiments include positive emotions, positive evaluations and judgments, and positive stances. Expressions like *I'm happy*, *Great movie!*, and *We support our troops* are examples of positive sentiments. The following sentences all contain private states expressing positive sentiments. The positive sentiments are marked in bold, with their targets in angle brackets.

(12) The criticism was toned down greatly after Russia **became an enthusiastic member of** ⟨the anti-terrorist coalition⟩.

- Positive emotion of Russia toward the anti-terrorist coalition

(13) The Namibians went as far as to say ⟨Zimbabwe's election system⟩ **was "water tight, without room for rigging"**.

- Positive evaluation of Namibians toward Zimbabwe's election system

(14) Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld **defended** ⟨the **United States' conduct**⟩ **at length** . . .

- Positive stance of Rumsfeld toward the United States' conduct

(15) After ⟨Putin's statement⟩ they **rubbed their palms at length**.

- Positive sentiment of they (probably) toward Putin's statement

7.1.2 Negative Sentiments

The opposite of positive sentiments are *Negative Sentiments*, which include negative emotions, negative evaluations and judgements, and negative stances. Examples of negative sentiments include the following expressions: *I'm angry*, *Boring book*, *We're against the NHL strike*. The following sentences all contain private states expressing negative sentiments. The negative sentiments are marked in bold, with their targets in angle brackets.

(16) ⟨The sale⟩ **infuriated** Beijing which regards Taiwan an integral part of its territory awaiting unification, by force if necessary.

- Negative emotion of Beijing toward the sale.

(17) Wu defended the government's cautious approach **warning** that ⟨Beijing could try to use the situation to gain the upper hand⟩.

- Warning of Wu about what Beijing might do.

(18) The MDC leader said **systematic cheating, spoiling tactics, rigid new laws and sheer obstruction - as well as political violence and intimidation - were just some of the irregularities** practised by ⟨the authorities⟩ in the run-up to, and during the poll.

- Negative evaluation of the MDC leader toward the authorities

(19) **The time has come, gentlemen, for ⟨Sharon⟩, the assassin to realize that injustice cannot last long.**

- Negative evaluation of the writer toward Sharon

7.2 Agreement

Agreement is used to mark private states where a person agrees, concedes, consents, or in general gives assent to something. The target for this attitude type is what is being agreed to.

We distinguish between two types of agreement, positive agreement and negative agreement (disagreement).

7.2.1 Positive Agreement

Positive Agreement is used to mark private states where the source agrees with a statement or idea of someone else, consents to an action, or comes to an understanding about something. The target for this attitude type is what is being agreed to, consented to, or what the understanding is about. The following sentences all contain private states expressing positive agreement. The positive agreements are marked in bold, with their targets in angle brackets.

(20) Republicans **concede** that ⟨at this point it could be his only option⟩.

- Republicans agreeing about his option.

(21) ⟨Mr. Cardoso's concerns⟩ **are quite valid**, but he has downplayed some of Mr. Chavez's more alarming faults.

- Writer agreeing about Cardoso's concerns.

(22) Russian officials from President Vladimir Putin on down have portrayed the conflict in Chechnya as a war against international terrorists. U.S. officials **have partially endorsed** ⟨that view⟩.

- U.S. officials partially agreeing with the view of Russian officials.

(23) Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and visiting U.S. President George W. Bush differed over the Kyoto Protocol and how to prevent global warming but **agreed** ⟨to cooperate on that issue⟩.

- Koizumi and Bush agreeing (coming to an understanding) to cooperate.

7.2.2 Negative Agreement

Negative Agreement is used to mark private states where the source does not agree with a statement or idea of someone else, does not consent to an action, or is unable to come to an understanding about something. The target for this attitude type is what is not being agreed or consented to. The following sentences all contain private states expressing negative agreement.

(24) “I **don’t accept** ⟨these figures⟩,” the Prime Minister said.

- The Prime Minister disagreeing with the figures.

(25) Afghanistan is now under US bombardment for **refusing** ⟨to hand over the chief suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden⟩.

- Afghanistan not consenting to hand over bin Laden.

(26) Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and visiting U.S. President George W. Bush **differed over** ⟨the Kyoto Protocol and how to prevent global warming⟩ but agreed to cooperate on that issue.

- Koizumi and Bush disagreeing over the Kyoto Protocol and how to prevent global warming.

7.3 Arguing

Arguing is used to mark private states where a person is arguing about what she believes is true or should be true in her view of the world, or where a person is just expressing what she believes is true. The target for this attitude type is what is being argued about or what the belief is about. The span for the *arguing* attitude is the argument or belief itself.

We distinguish between two types of arguing, positive and negative.

7.3.1 Positive Arguing

Positive Arguing includes private states where the source is arguing for something (X *should* do Y), arguing or expressing the belief that something is true or is so, arguing that something did happen or will happen, arguing that something was caused by something else, arguing that something will cause the world to change, etc. Below are several examples of positive arguing and their targets.

(27) Putin remarked that ⟨the events in Chechnia⟩ “**could be interpreted only in the context of the struggle against international terrorism.**”

- View of Putin about the events in Chechnia

(28) In his view, Kao said ⟨the cross-strait balance of military power⟩ **is critical to the ROC’s national security.**

- View of Kao about the cross-strait balance of military power

(29) “**⟨It⟩ is analogous to the US crackdown on terrorists in Afghanistan,**” Ma said.

- View of Ma about it.

(30) **⟨A probe of what transpired⟩ should be in the offing.**

- View of writer about what should happen.

7.3.2 Negative Arguing

Negative Arguing includes private states where the source is arguing against something (X *should not* do Y), arguing or expressing the belief that something is not true or is not so, arguing that something did not happen or will not happen, arguing that something was not caused by something else, arguing that something will not cause the world to change, etc.

To illustrate negative arguing, we have taken the examples from positive arguing and flipped them to be negative. Compare these examples with examples (27), (28), (29) and (30) to see the difference between positive and negative arguing.

(31) Putin remarked that **⟨the events in Chechnia⟩ “could not be interpreted in the context of the struggle against international terrorism.”**

- View of Putin about the events in Chechnia

(32) In his view, Kao said **⟨the cross-strait balance of military power⟩ is not critical to the ROC’s national security.**

- View of Kao about the cross-strait balance of military power

(33) “**⟨It⟩ is not analogous to the US crackdown on terrorists in Afghanistan,**” Ma said.

- View of Ma about it.

(34) **⟨A probe of what transpired⟩ should not be in the offing.**

- View of writer about what should not happen.

7.3.3 Arguing versus Sentiment

Arguing is perhaps the most difficult of the attitude types to distinguish. In part this is because it is not unusual for a positive or negative sentiment to

be expressed at the same time that one is arguing. For example, consider the following two sentences.

(35) ⟨This⟩ **is not a price worth paying.**

(36) So far, ⟨Mr. Chavez⟩ **appears complicit in the initial wave of killings.**

In both of the above sentences, there is arguing and a negative sentiment. In (35), there is negative arguing about the worth of what “this” refers to, and equally prominent is the negative sentiment directed toward “this.” Similarly, in (36), there is positive arguing about Chavez and an equally prominent negative sentiment toward Chavez.

Contrast the above two sentences to the next sentence.

(37) She highlighted the situation of the ethnic Uighhur Muslim population of Xinjiang, China’s furthest west region, where rights groups **have claimed** ⟨a crackdown against separates⟩ **has been stepped up since the September 11 attacks on the United States.**

The topic of the above sentence is China’s treatment of separatists in Xinjiang. In the sentence, rights groups are arguing that a crackdown has been stepped up. From this arguing attitude, we can infer a negative sentiment toward China; however, in this example, the negative sentiment is much less prominent than the arguing.

Arguing and a positive sentiment can also be expressed at the same time. Consider the private state in the next sentence represented by “urged.”

(38) Tsvangirai urged screaming supporters at a campaign stop Friday to vote despite the “intimidation on a massive scale.”

There are two attitudes being expressed with “urged” in this sentence. The first is the positive sentiment of Tsvangirai wanting the supporters to vote.

(38a) Tsvangirai **urged** ⟨screaming supporters at a campaign stop Friday to vote despite the “intimidation on a massive scale⟩.”

The second attitude is positive arguing. With “urged” in this sentence, it is being conveyed that Tsvangirai doesn’t just want the people to vote, he is saying they *should* vote despite the intimidation.

(38b) Tsvangirai **urged** ⟨**screaming supporters**⟩ **at a campaign stop Friday to vote despite the “intimidation on a massive scale.”**

Not only are both of these attitudes present in (38), we believe that that are both equally prominent, and therefore, should both be annotated.

The last sentence in this section also contains a positive arguing attitude. It also contains a positive sentiment that can be inferred from the positive arguing: from the argument that “fighting climate change is vital” we can infer that Wallstrom has a positive sentiment toward fighting climate change. However, in this sentence, the positive arguing and the positive sentiment are not equally prominent, so we do not annotate the positive sentiment.

(39) “⟨Action to fight climate change⟩ **is vital to achieve sustainable development,**” Mrs. Wallstrom added.

7.3.4 Negative Arguing and Negative Agreement

Arguing and negative agreement are closely related, but we are drawing a firm line between the two. Consider the following two sentences.

(40) The US official **unequivocally denied** ⟨the Washington Post report⟩.

(41) The US official **disagreed with** ⟨the Washington Post report⟩.

The attitude in (40) is negative arguing, and the attitude in (41) is negative agreement. The difference between the two is subtle and basically has to do with which attitude is more prominent. In (40), the more prominent attitude is the argument that the report is not true, while in (41), disagreement is the more prominent one.

7.4 Intentions

Intentions include aims, goals, plans, and other *overt* expressions of intention. The target of an intention is the thing that is the aim, goal, plan, etc.

We distinguish between two types of intention, positive and negative.

7.4.1 Positive Intentions

Positive Intentions are the aims, goals, and intentions that the source of the private state is described as holding. Both of the examples below contain a positive intention. The first describes the positive intention of Japan; the second describes the positive intention of the US. As before, the spans corresponding to the attitudes are in bold and the targets are in angle brackets.

(42) “While the government of Japan **intends to take all necessary steps to** ⟨ensure the approval by the Diet of the Kyoto Protocol⟩ ...”

(43) The Republic of China government believes in the US **commitment to** ⟨separating its anti-terrorism campaign from the Taiwan Strait issue⟩, a senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs official said Thursday.

7.4.2 Negative Intentions

Negative Intentions are the opposite of positive intentions. They are the aims, goals, and intentions that the source of the private state is described as **not** holding. Both of the examples below contain a negative intention. The first describes the negative intention of the US; the second describes the negative intention of the Bush administration.

(44) “We believe in the sincerity of the United States in **promising not to** ⟨mix up its counter-terrorism drive with the Taiwan Strait issue⟩,” Kao said.

(45) Meanwhile, a foreign wire service report from Shanghai quoted a senior US department of State official as saying Wednesday that the Bush administration **has no plans to** ⟨ease sanctions against mainland China⟩ .

7.4.3 “Agree to” and Intention

Agreeing to (or not to) do something is closely related to intention. When someone agrees to do something, that he or she has the intention to do something is only a short inference away. Consider the following two sentences.

(46) The U.S. **intends to** ⟨gradually reduce arms sales to Taiwan⟩.

(47) The U.S. **agreed to** ⟨gradually reduce arms sales to Taiwan⟩.

In both sentences above, there is an intention being presented for the U.S. However, for (47) we choose positive agreement as the attitude because it is more prominent than the intention in that sentence.

7.5 Speculation

Speculation is used to mark private states where a person is speculating about what is or is not true, what may or may not happen, etc. The target for this attitude type is what is being speculated about. The span for the *speculation* attitude is the speculation itself.

(48) The Kimberley Provincial Hospital said it **would probably know by Tuesday** ⟨whether one of its patients had Congo Fever⟩.

- Speculation of the hospital that it will know by Tuesday about whether one of its patients had Congo Fever.

(49) ⟨The president⟩ **is unlikely to endorse the bill.**

- Speculation of writer about what the president will do. The speculation is that he will not endorse the bill.

(50) The opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) complained that the set-up was deliberately confusing in a ploy to discourage ⟨the urban vote⟩, which **is thought to favor Mugabe's challenger Morgan Tsvangirai.**

- Speculation of the world at large (implicit source) about the urban vote.

(51) Wu defended the government's cautious approach warning that ⟨Beijing⟩ **could try to use the situation to gain the upper hand.**

- Speculation of Wu about what Beijing might do.

7.6 Other Attitude

This attitude type is for marking the attitude of significant private states that do not fall into one of the above categories. Examples of private states

included in this catch-all category are neutral emotions (emotions that don't seem clearly positive or negative), cognition, and general uncertainty. Below are some examples.

(52) To **the surprise** of many, ⟨the dollar hit only 2.4 pesos and closed at 2.1⟩ .

- Not clear from the context whether the emotion surprise is positive or negative

(53) Washington **was considering** ⟨new sanctions⟩.

- Cognition of Washington about new sanctions

(54) **It is not clear** ⟨why the US has not officially designated the detainees as prisoners of war⟩ . . .

- Uncertainty of writer about why the US has not officially designated the detainees as prisoners of war

(55) “I’m **not sure** whether ⟨I should wait in line or sell to one of the street traders⟩,” said Fabian, a 36-year old attorney.

- Uncertainty of Fabian about waiting or selling

7.7 A Few More Examples

In the next sentence, there are two negative sentiment attitudes for “concerns.”

(56) Robinson told reporters in Beijing she would raise individual cases of prisoners as well as her concerns about the “widespread” use of torture in China and the treatment of people in the regions of Tibet and Xinjiang.

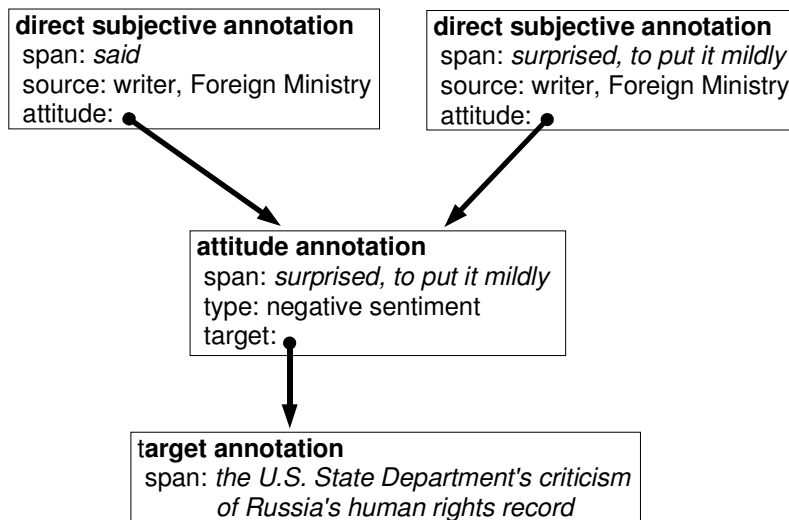
The phrase, “concerns about,” is expressing a negative sentiment toward “the widespread use of torture . . . Xinjiang.” The phrase, “concerns about the ‘widespread’ use of torture in China . . . Xinjiang,” is expressing a negative sentiment toward China. Both attitudes are equally prominent.

Sometimes it may be appropriate to attach an attitude annotation to two different direct subjective annotations. For example, in the following sentences, both “said” and “surprised” are marked as direct subjective annotations for the Foreign Ministry.

(57) The Foreign Ministry said Thursday that it was “surprised, to put it mildly” by the U.S. State Department’s criticism of Russia’s human rights record and objected in particular to the “odious” section on Chechnyz.

However, the attitude being expressed for each is pretty much the same negative sentiment conveyed by the phrase, “surprised, to put it mildly.” So, we create one negative sentiment attitude annotation for “surprised, to put it mildly,” and link it to the direct subjective annotations for both “said” and “surprised.”

Sentence 57 Annotations



Remember to consider the attitude expressed by each private state expression carefully. Just because a word typically evokes a particular type of attitude, doesn’t mean that it always will. For example, consider the following sentence.

(58) Bush’s secretary of state, Colin Powell, earlier concluded: “(Mr Mugabe) **may claim victory, but not democratic legitimacy.**”

At a glance, the phrase “may claim victory” might seem like speculation, but in this sentence it is actually being used to as part of a negative argument (and negative sentiment) being expressed by Powell.

The next sentence is another example where the neither of the attitudes being expressed are typically associated with the word “expect.”

(59) We expect the World Community to take a step toward referring the Israeli criminals of war to the permanent tribunal for war crimes.

In this instance, the “expect” is being used to convey both 1) a positive sentiment toward the World Community referring the Israelis to the war crimes tribunal and 2) an positive argument that this is what the World Community should do.

8 Characteristics of Attitudes

8.1 Intensity

One characteristic of attitudes that you will be marking is their intensity. Intensity is difficult to give a definition for. We believe that this is partly because intensity differs from one type of attitude to the next. For example, we might describe intensity for positive emotions as a measurement of how positive the emotion is. To *like* is positive but to *love* is more positive, more intense. However, degree of positiveness is not an appropriate measurement for the intensity of other attitudes. For example, when the attitude is arguing, the certainty of the attitude would be a better measurement of intensity.

Table 8.1 lists what you should use to gauge intensity for each attitude type. For any private states that you classify as being some Other Attitude, measure intensity according to the degree of the type of attitude being expressed, i.e., if the attitude is surprise, intensity would be a measure of how surprised.

In the earlier *Instructions*, intensity was marked on individual expressions and judged as the strength of the private state revealed by the expression. The strength of a private state was measured using the the ordinal scale: **low, medium, high, extreme**.

For these new annotations, we will continue to use the basic **low, medium, high** scale to judge intensity, but we are introducing a few changes. First,

Attitude Type	Measure of Intensity	Example
Positive Sentiment	degree of positiveness	<i>like < love</i>
Negative Sentiment	degree of negativeness	<i>criticize < excoriate</i>
Positive Agreement	degree of agreement	<i>mostly agree < agree</i>
Negative Agreement	degree of disagreement	<i>mostly disagree < completely disagree</i>
Positive Arguing	degree of certainty/strength of belief	<i>critical < absolutely critical</i>
Negative Arguing	degree of certainty/strength of belief	<i>should not < really should not</i>
Positive Intention	degree of determination	<i>promise < promise with all my heart</i>
Negative intention	degree of determination	<i>no intention < absolutely no intention</i>
Speculation	degree of likelihood	<i>might win < really might win</i>

Table 1: Measures of intensity for different attitude types.

we are refining the scale to allow you to judge the intensity of an attitude as “somewhere in between”. For example, if you think the intensity of an attitude is greater than *medium* but less than *high*, you will be able to mark the intensity as *medium-high*. You should use these “in between” ratings only when you truly feel the intensity falls between two of the basic categories. So the rating scale is now: **low, low-medium, medium, medium-high, high, high-extreme**.

The second change is that you should now always make intensity judgments with respect to other attitudes of the same type. The intensity of positive sentiments should be judged with respect to the intensity of other positive sentiments, the intensity of intentions should be judged with respect to other intentions, etc. To help you when making intensity judgments, Table 8.1 gives examples of prototypical *low*, *medium*, and *high* intensity attitudes for each attitude type. Please read through the examples and use them to calibrate your intensity judgments, referring back to them as often as needed.

8.2 Characteristics of How Attitudes Are Expressed

In addition to intensity, you will be marking several characteristics of how attitudes are expressed in the text. These characteristics are *sarcastic*, *contrasted*, and *repetition*. When you see one of these characteristics in how an attitude is being expressed, you should mark it on the attitude annotation. We describe these attributes and give examples below.

Positive Sentiment		Negative Sentiment	
low	That's fine. I'm ok. I'm somewhat in favor of XYZ.	low	That's slightly bad. I'm just a bit upset. I'm somewhat against XYZ.
medium	That's good. I'm happy. I'm in favor of XYZ.	medium	That's bad. I'm afraid. I'm against XYZ.
high	That's great! I'm exuberant. I'm strongly support XYZ.	high	That's terrible! I'm terrified. I'm strongly oppose XYZ.
Positive Intention		Negative Intention	
low	I intend to XYZ.	low	I don't intend to XYZ.
medium	I promise to XYZ.	medium	I promise not to XYZ.
high	I promise with all my heart to XYZ.	high	I vow never to XYZ.
Positive Arguing		Negative Arguing	
low	It seems that XYZ.	low	It does not seem that XYZ.
medium	You should XYZ. I believe that XYZ.	medium	You shouldn't XYZ. I don't believe that XYZ.
high	There's no question that XYZ. I strongly believe that XYZ. I'm absolutely sure that XYZ.	high	You absolutely should not XYZ.
Speculation			
low	It may/may not be. It's likely/unlikely.		
medium	It's rather likely/unlikely.		
high	It's extremely likely/unlikely.		

Table 2: Prototypical *low*, *medium*, and *high* intensity attitudes.

8.2.1 Sarcastic

When an attitude is expressed at least in part using sarcasm, mark the attitude with the *sarcastic* attribute. For example, the negative attitude being expressed in sentence (38) is largely expressed using sarcasm.

(60) **“Great, keep on buying dollars so there’ll be more and more poor people in the country,”** shouted one.

- Negative sentiment of one toward buying dollars, expressed using sarcasm.

8.2.2 Contrasted

The *contrasted* attribute is used to mark positive and negative attitudes where the type of attitude is only evident because the attitude is contrasted with an attitude of the opposite polarity. For example, in the sentence *Unlike Tom, Sue likes dogs* there are two attitudes. Sue has a positive attitude toward dogs, which is directly expressed with the word *likes*. We also know from the sentence that Tom has a negative attitude toward dogs, but his attitude is not directly stated. We only understand Tom’s negative attitude given the contrast with Sue’s positive attitude.

Sentence (61) is a real world example.

(61) The Italian senator’s **words are in sharp contrast to what was contained in the so-called China human rights report compiled by the United States, which blindly accuses China of restricting religious freedom in Tibet.**

Besides the private state for the writer, there are two private states with two attitudes being expressed in this sentence. One attitude is for the private state expressed by the the United states. This negative attitude is expressed by the span *blindly accuses China of restricting religious freedom in Tibet*. The second attitude is for the private state expressed by the Italian senator. We understand that this is a positive attitude only because it is contrasted with the negative attitude of the United States. The span for the positive attitude of the senator includes almost the entire sentence: *words are in sharp contrast to what was contained in the so-called China human rights report compiled by the United States, which blindly accuses China of restricting religious freedom in Tibet*. Although the span of the attitude expressed by the senator may seem excessive, it is all necessary to truly capture the positive attitude.

8.2.3 Repetition

The *repetition* attribute is used when an attitude and its intensity are expressed at least in part using the repetition of a word or phrase within a sentence or within several consecutive sentences. In sentence (62), the repetition of the phrase *a window* contributes a great deal to the intensity of the positive attitude being expressed toward Taiwan's WTO access.

(62) ⟨ Taiwan's WTO access ⟩ has **given Taiwan a window to the world, a window to the century and a window of opportunity**, he went on, adding that it will allow Taiwan to upgrade its competitiveness and help U.S.-Taiwan trade relations.

References

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