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## Approaches for Classifying the Peace-War Orientations of Global News Organizations' Social Media Posts

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## Abstract

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The study used the existing conceptualizations of peace and war journalism to create supervised machine learning text classifiers trained and tested to identify the war or peace orientations of news stories posted on social media. Peace-oriented journalists promote peace initiatives, ignore differences, and promote conflict resolution. In contrast, war-oriented journalists promote differences between opposing parties and instigate violence as means to resolving conflicts. Using Naïve Bayes, Logistic Regression, Decision Trees, Random Forests, and Support Vector Machines (SVM), the study trained and tested five computational models to detect the peace or war orientations of the news posted on social media. The results indicate that Random Forest has the highest predictive accuracy for predicting war or peace orientations of online news stories. Naïve Bayes ranked the least accurate algorithm for predicting peace or war orientations of online news stories.

Keywords

- **Naïve bayes**
- **Logistic regression**
- **Support vector machine**
- **Random forest**
- **War and peace journalism**

The trained algorithms are available on Streamlit: <https://share.streamlit.io/ade-rose/peace-and-war-journalism-classifier/app.py>.

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## Appendix

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What does a Peace Journalist do? This is the Original table by Prof Johan Galtung. [Footnote6](#)

The current study was based only on the first theme: Peace and war-oriented journalist.

Peace/conflict journalism	War/violence journalism
<p>I. Peace/conflict-orientated</p> <p>Explore conflict formation, x parties, y goals, z issues general "win, win" orientation</p> <p>Open space, open time; causes and outcomes anywhere, also in history/culture</p> <p>Making conflicts transparent</p> <p>Giving voice to all parties; empathy, understanding See conflict/war as the problem, focus on conflict creativity</p> <p>Humanisation of all sides; more so the worse the weapons</p> <p>Proactive: prevention before any violence/war occurs</p> <p>Focus on invisible effects of violence (trauma and glory, damage to structure/culture)</p>	<p>I. War/violence orientated</p> <p>Focus on conflict arena, two parties, one goal (win), war general zero-sum orientation</p> <p>Closed space, closed time; causes and exits in the arena, who threw the first stone</p> <p>Making wars opaque/secret</p> <p>"us-them" journalism, propaganda, voice, for "us."</p> <p>See "them" as the problem, focus on who prevails in war, Dehumanization of "them"; more so the worse the weapon</p> <p>Reactive: waiting for violence before reporting</p> <p>Focus on the visible effect of violence (killed, wounded, and material damage)</p>
<p>II. Truth-orientated</p> <p>Expose untruths on all sides / uncover all cover-ups</p>	<p>II. Propaganda-orientated</p> <p>Expose "their" untruths / help "our" cover-ups/lies</p>
<p>III. People-orientated</p> <p>Focus on suffering all over; on women, aged children, giving voice to voiceless</p> <p>a Give name to all evil-doers Focus on people peace-makers</p>	<p>III. Elite orientated</p> <p>Focus on "our" suffering non-disabled bodied elite males, being their mouth-piece</p> <p>give name to their evil-doers focus on elite peace-makers</p>
<p>IV. Solution orientated</p> <p>Peace = non-violence + creativity</p> <p>Highlight peace initiatives, also to prevent more war Focus on structure, culture, the peaceful society</p> <p>Aftermath: resolution, reconstruction, reconciliation</p>	<p>IV. Victory orientated</p> <p>Peace = victory + ceasefire</p> <p>Conceal peace-initiative, before victory is at hand Focus on treaty, institution, the controlled society</p> <p>Leaving for another war, return if the old flares up again</p>

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