AUTNES Coding of TV Confrontations 2013

Coding procedure & overview of variables

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Vienna, June 2016

Content

Introduction

This list of variables describes the coding of televised debates by the Austrian National Election Study (AUTNES), a National Research Network funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) (grant no. S10903-G11).

AUTNES applies a common method of content analysis to different sources. This coding scheme is described in greater detail in the coding instructions for the content analysis of party press releases (ZA5861). The document at hand builds upon this description and gives details only for adaptions of the coding scheme that aim at maximising the validity of the TV debate coding. Moreover, technical variables specific to the TV debates dataset are described. Inquiries on further details regarding the data and coding can be directed at Laurenz Ennser-Jedenastik (laurenz.ennser@univie.ac.at) at the University of Vienna's Department of Government.

How to cite these data:

Data users are kindly asked to acknowledge the data *and* the accompanying release document. Please refer to the GESIS data catalogue (www.gesis.org) for a recommendation on how to cite these data and the documentation.

File name:

"ZA5862_v1.0.0"

Conditions of use

Restrictions

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In order to facilitate exchanges within the scientific community and to provide funding agencies with essential information about use of archival resources users of the AUTNES data are requested to notify the AUTNES team of all forms of publications making use of AUTNES data.

Coding procedure

The dataset on TV confrontations holds observations for fifteen debates between pairs of top candidates. The debates were televised by the Austrian national broadcasting company ORF during the general election campaign in 2013 between August 29th and September 24th.

All statements spoken during the debates are part of the dataset. The basis of the analysis are transcripts provided by the Austria Press Agency (APA). Research assistants then checked these transcripts for completeness. Hereafter, four trained research assistants coded the spoken statements of the debates. The units of analysis are grammatical sentences.

The list of coded variables is structured into four parts. The first group of variables contains information about the debate and the coded sentences. The second group of variables refers to the subject actor, followed by variables referring to issues and a set of variables recording information on object actors.

Variables referring to the debate and coded sentence

This block of variables gives general information about the debate such as the date, time and participants. Moreover, information about the coded sentences is provided. Examples are the names of the speaker or the count of words.

v01 case_id

- *Description:* ID to identify an individual sentence within the dataset.
- *Type:* numeric

v02 debate_id

- *Description:* ID to identify an individual debate within the dataset.
- *Type:* numeric
- *Values:*
  - (1) Grüne-FPÖ
  - (2) BZÖ-Stronach
  - (3) ÖVP-Stronach
  - (4) BZÖ-SPÖ
  - (5) SPÖ-Stronach
  - (6) BZÖ-ÖVP
  - (7) Grüne-SPÖ
  - (8) FPÖ-ÖVP
  - (9) FPÖ-Stronach
  - (10) BZÖ-Grüne
  - (11) Grüne-ÖVP
  - (12) FPÖ-SPÖ
  - (13) BZÖ-FPÖ
  - (14) Grüne-Stronach
  - (15) ÖVP-SPÖ

v03 sentence_id

- *Description:* ID to identify a sentence within a debate.
- *Type:* numeric

v04 sender

- *Description:* TV station broadcasting the debate.

- *Type:* numeric

- *Values:* according to AUTNES list of organisations

v05 date

- *Description:* Date of the debate.

- *Type:* date (day-month-year)

v06 time: begin

- *Description:* Begin time of the debate.

- *Type:* string

v07 time: end

- *Description:* End time of the debate.

- *Type:* string

v08 duration

- *Description:* Duration of the debate (measured in minutes).

- *Type:* numeric

v09a discussant 1: organisation

- *Description:* Party affiliation of discussant 1.

- *Type:* numeric

- *Values:* according to AUTNES list of organisations

v09b discussant 2: organisation

- *Description:* Party affiliation of discussant 2.

- *Type:* numeric

- *Values:* according to AUTNES list of organisations

v10a discussant 1: name

– *Description:* Name of discussant 1.

– *Type:* numeric

– *Values:* according to AUTNES list of individuals

v10b discussant 2: name

– *Description:* Name of discussant 2.

– *Type:* numeric

– *Values:* according to AUTNES list of individuals

v11 moderator: name

– *Description:* Name of the debate's moderator.

– *Type:* numeric

– *Values:* according to AUTNES list of individuals

v12 speaker: organisation

– *Description:* Organisational affiliation of the sentence's speaker. Several statements by journalists, experts or party affiliates were shown in videos during the debates. Therefore, various actors besides the participants of the debate can appear as speakers.

– *Type:* numeric

– *Values:* according to AUTNES list of organisations

v13 speaker: name

– *Description:* Name of the sentence's speaker.

– *Type:* numeric

– *Values:* according to AUTNES list of individuals

v14 sentence

– *Description:* Wording of the sentence coded.

– *Type:* string

v15 count words

- *Description:* Sentence length in words.

- *Type:* numeric

v16 count characters

- *Description:* Sentence length in characters.

- *Type:* numeric

Variables referring to the subject actor

One subject actor per sentence is coded. This subject actors does not have to be identical with the speaker, but is defined as an actor that positions himself/herself towards an issue in the sentence. Only the top-candidates, parties or cabinets can be coded as subject actors, other political actors were coded as object actors (with the speaker as subject actor). If no subject actor according to this definition is mentioned, the speaker is chosen as subject actor. In the event that the moderator states the position of a political actor, this actor is coded as the subject actor.

v17 subject actor: organisation
- *Description:* Organisational affiliation of subject actor.
- *Type:* numeric
- *Values:* according to AUTNES list of organisations

v18 subject actor: name
- *Description:* Name of subject actor.
- *Type:* numeric
- *Values:* according to AUTNES list of individuals

v19 subject actor: characteristics
- *Description:* Characteristics of subject actor coded in v17-v18.
- *Type:* numeric
- *Values:*
  - o (1) no characteristic
  - o (2) competence (+)
  - o (3) competence (-)
  - o (4) character (+)
  - o (5) character (-)
  - o (6) leadership (+)
  - o (7) leadership (-)
  - o (8) appearance (+)
  - o (9) appearance (-)
  - o (10) not discernible (+)
  - o (11) not discernible (-)

v20 subject actor: record issue

- *Description:* Reference to subject actor's (v17-v18) record.

- *Type:* numeric

- *Values:*

    - (0) no record

    - (1) record on issue v24

    - (2) record on other issue

v21 subject actor: record level

- *Description:* Level on which the subject actor (v17-v18) established the record coded in v20.

- *Type:* numeric

- *Values:*

    - (1) national

    - (2) regional

    - (3) international

    - (4) historic

    - (.) no record

v22 subject actor: record govopp

- *Description:* Indicates whether the subject actor (v17-v18) established the record coded in v20-v21 while in government or while in opposition.

- *Type:* numeric

- *Values:*

    - (1) not identifyable

    - (2) government record

    - (3) opposition record

    - (.) no record coded in v21

Variables referring to issues

One issue per sentence is coded. If the subject actor positions himself/herself towards more than one issue, the issue that best captures the meaning of the whole sentence is chosen.

v23 predicate

‒ *Description:* Issue position of the subject actor coded in v17-v18.

‒ *Type:* numeric

‒ *Values:*

  o (-1) reject / criticise

  o (0) neutral

  o (1) support

  o (.) no issue coded in v24

v24 issue

‒ *Description:* Issue to which the subject actor coded in v17-v18 positions himself/herself

‒ *Type:* numeric

‒ *Values:* according to AUTNES list of issues

v25 EU reference

‒ *Description:* Indicates whether the issue coded in v24 should be regulated on the EU level.

‒ *Type:* numeric

‒ *Values:*

  o (0) no reference to EU

  o (1) no reference to EU

  o (.) no issue coded in v24

v26 justification

‒ *Description:* Subject actor's justification of his/her issue position coded in v23-v24.

‒ *Type:* numeric

‒ *Values:*

  o (1) no justification

  o (2) economy

  o (3) welfare state: expansive

- o (4) welfare state: protective
- o (5) environment
- o (6) security
- o (7) education
- o (8) governance
- o (9) ethnic-national
- o (10) religious
- o (11) universalistic
- o (12) not discernible
- o (.) no issue coded in v24

Variables referring to object actors

Up to three object actors according to the AUTNES-definition of actors are coded per sentence. If more than three object actors are mentioned, the first three are coded. Moreover, the relevance of each object actor is assessed. In order to be classified as relevant, a political actor has to be a member of a party and either a member of government, a legislator, a candidate in the national election or an executive members of a party (sub) organisation on the national or European level. The characteristics and the track record are coded only for these relevant object actors.

All variables from v27_1 to v35_3 hold information about the object actors. The digit after the underscore indicates to which object actor the variable refers to. For example, v28_1 gives the name for the first object actor whereas v28_3 holds the name of the third object actor. For reasons of parsimony, only the variables for the first object actor are described.

v27_1 object actor 1: organisation
  – *Description:* Organisational affiliation of the first object actor.
  – *Type:* numeric
  – *Values:* according to AUTNES list of organisations

v28_1 object actor 1: name
  – *Description:* Name of first object actor.
  – *Type:* numeric
  – *Values:* according to AUTNES list of individuals

v29_1 object actor 1: relevance
  – *Description:* Indicates whether the object actor coded in v27_1 and v28_1 is politically relevant.
  – *Type:* numeric
  – *Values:*
    o (0) not relevant
    o (1) relevant
    o (.) no actor coded in v27_1-v28_1

v30_1 object actor 1: predicate

- *Description:* Relation of the subject actor coded in v17-v18 towards the object actor coded in v27_1-v28_1.
- *Type:* numeric
- *Values:*
    - (-1) reject / criticise
    - (0) neutral
    - (1) support
    - (.) no actor coded in v27-v28

v31_1 object actor 1: issue reference

- *Description:* Indicates whether the relationship between subject actor and object actor is related to the issue coded in v24.
- *Type:* numeric
- *Values:*
    - (0) not discernible
    - (1) reference to issue v24
    - (2) reference to other issue
    - (.) no actor coded in v27-v28

v32_1 object actor 1: characteristic

- *Description:* Characteristics of object actor coded in v27-v28.
- *Type:* numeric
- *Values:*
    - (1) no characteristic
    - (2) competence (+)
    - (3) competence (-)
    - (4) character (+)
    - (5) character (-)
    - (6) leadership (+)
    - (7) leadership (-)
    - (8) appearance (+)
    - (9) appearance (-)
    - (10) not discernible (+)

- o (11) not discernible (-)
- o (.) no (relevant) actor coded in v27-v28

v33_1 object actor 1: record issue

- – *Description:* Reference to the object actor's (v27-v28) record.
- – *Type:* numeric
- – *Values:*
    - o (0) no record
    - o (1) record on issue v24
    - o (2) record on other issue
    - o (.) no (relevant) actor coded in v27-v28

v34_1 object actor 1: record level

- – *Description:* Level on which the object actor (v27-v28) established the record coded in v33.
- – *Type:* numeric
- – *Values:*
    - o (1) national
    - o (2) regional
    - o (3) international
    - o (4) historic
    - o (.) no record (v33=0 or v33=.)

v35_1 object actor 1: record govopp

- – *Description:* Indicates whether the object actor (v27-v28) established the record coded in v33- v34 while in government or while in opposition.
- – *Type:* numeric
- – *Values:*
    - o (0) not identifyable
    - o (1) government record
    - o (2) opposition record
    - o (.) no record (v33=0 or v33=.)