

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS (DIPLOMARBEIT)

STANCE MARKERS IN POLITICAL BLOGS

We are looking for a student with a background in English and linguistics interested in writing his/her undergraduate thesis in the area of political blogging. The thesis would be part of a larger project aimed at analyzing the production and consumption of Web content (www.idiom.at). Among other things, IDIOM will monitor political blogs in the run-up to the U.S. presidential elections in November 2008 to automatically track people's attitudes toward parties, candidates, and campaign issues such as climate change.

The aim of this thesis will be to create a dictionary of words and phrases indicative of people's stance toward political issues, including:

- Positive and negative verbs, nouns, and adjectives in standard English and slang
- Positive and negative idioms and stock metaphors
- Anger words and expletives
- Joy words
- Humor and irony

These expressions will help refine an automated tool employed in the run-up to the 2004 U.S. presidential elections to monitor the coverage of elections on media websites. The results of this study and details on its methodology can be found at <http://www.ecoresearch.net/election2004>. Monitoring for the 2008 elections will begin in July 2007. Thus, final results will be needed by June 2007. An excellent thesis completed within this time-frame will be rewarded with a bonus between 300 and 1,000 EUR.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS PROJECT

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