Multilingual Characterization and Extraction of Narratives from Online News: Annotation Guidelines

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Abstract

This document provides the detailed annotation guidelines and annotation campaign design used for the creation of the datasets for the *SemEval 2025 Task 10 on Multilingual Characterization and Extraction of Narratives from Online News*. During this campaign, a total of 2419 documents were annotated by 35 individuals in 5 languages, covering over 96 fine-grained and 22 coarse-grained labels spanning 3 taxonomies. The annotation task is subdivided into three subtasks: Entity Framing, Narrative Classification, and Explanation of Narrative Classification. This document provides a detailed description of each task and the related taxonomies used, i.e., Named Entity Role taxonomy, and Fine-grained Narrative taxonomies covering two domains: *Climate Change* and *Ukraine-Russia war*. We also provide the annotation guidelines for all three tasks and the description of the overall annotation procedure management. The taxonomies are accompanied by examples for each label in all the 5 languages of the shared task. Additionally, full-fledged annotated examples for all tasks are provided. Furthermore, we describe *Inception*, the annotation platform used for the annotation process, and provide step-by-step instructions for the annotators on how to use it. Finally, based on the lessons learned we provide suggestions on how to run similar-in-nature large multilingual annotation campaigns.

Contents

1 Introduction

Online media have opened vast possibilities to easily create direct communication channels between producers and consumers of information, potentially leaving the latter exposed to deceptive content and attempts at manipulation. Huge audiences can be affected instantly, and major crisis events are continuously subjected to the spread of harmful disinformation and propaganda. The emergence of the aforementioned threats has led to an ever-growing need to develop automated tools to support media experts in analysing the news ecosystem around the globe, identifying large-scale manipulation attempts, and carrying out cross-country comparative studies. This need has been reflected in a vast bulk of related research in the broader area of Natural Language Processing. In particular, numerous shared tasks focusing on the detection and classification of propaganda and manipulation attempts have been organized in the last decade.

This document focuses on the SemEval-2025 Task 10 on *Multilingual Characterization and Extraction of Narratives from Online News*, aimed at the identification and analysis of narratives in online news media. It is structured into three subtasks: (1) *Entity Framing*, to identify the roles that relevant entities play within narratives, (2) *Narrative Classification*, to assign documents fine-grained narratives according to a given, topic-specific taxonomy of narrative labels, and (3) *Explanation of Narrative Classificationf*, to provide a justification for the dominant narrative of the document. A *narrative* in the context of this task is defined as a *recurring, repetitive (across and within articles), overt or implicit claim that presents and promotes a specific interpretation or viewpoint on an ongoing (and often dynamic) news topic.* The task covers five languages, namely, Bulgarian, English, Hindi, Portuguese and Russian. The main drive behind this task is to foster research and develop novel analytical functionalities to support end-users in analysing the news ecosystem and characterizing manipulation attempts. In particular, the specific analytical dimensions on which the task focuses are of paramount importance for facilitating the work of analysts studying target-specific disinformation phenomena [Amanatullah et al., 2023b]. The task builds on prior tasks that focused on entity roles, persuasion techniques, framing dimensions and news genre [Sharma et al., 2023, Da San Martino et al., 2020, Piskorski et al., 2023a].

This document provides detailed annotation guidelines used for the creation of the datasets for this SemEval-2025 task and complements the task overview paper [Piskorski et al., 2025]. We provide a detailed description of each subtask and the related taxonomies used, i.e., Entity Role taxonomy and Fine-grained Narrative taxonomy: *Climate Change* and *Ukraine-Russia war*. We also supply the annotation guidelines for all three subtasks and the description of the overall annotation procedure management. The taxonomies are accompanied by examples for each label in all the 5 languages of the shared task. Additionally, full-fledged annotated examples for all tasks are provided. We describe *Inception*, the annotation platform used for the annotation process, and provide step-by-step instructions for the annotators on how to use it. Finally, we reflect on the lessons learned and we offer suggestions on how to run similar-in-nature large multilingual annotation campaigns.

This document is organized as follows. Section 2 briefly introduces the subtasks and the domains, explains the annotation campaign design, the data quality control procedure, and the article selection procedure and provides the general annotation guidelines and prerequisites for the annotators common to all three subtasks. Sections 3, 5 and 8 describe the detailed subtask definitions and their related taxonomies, and task-specific annotation guidelines, respectively. Section 4, Section 7 and Section 6 present the detailed taxonomies for, respectively, the *Entity Framing*, the *Climate Change* and the *Ukraine-Russia war* taxonomies. Examples of fully annotated documents for all three tasks are supplied in Section 9. Section 10 describes *Inception*, the annotation platform and annotator guide. Finally, in Section 11, we reflect on the lessons learned and provide some recommendations for running large-scale annotation campaigns.

2 Annotation Campaign Overview

2.1 Annotation Tasks

The annotation task is multi-lingual and covers 5 languages: Bulgarian, English, Hindi, Portuguese (European variety), and Russian, and consists of annotating articles from online news. The annotation is subdivided into three subtasks:

1. **Subtask 1 (ST1): Entity Framing**. The problem of assigning specific pre-defined roles to a subset of the entities appearing in the text of an article. This is a multi-label span-level annotation task, full details are given in Section 3;

2. **Subtask 2 (ST2): Narrative Classification**. The problem of labelling each paragraph of an article with the presence of a narrative from a domain-specific taxonomy. This is a multi-label paragraph-level annotation task, full details are given in Section 5;

3. **Subtask 3 (ST3): Explanation of Narrative Classification**. The problem of creating a free-text explanation, where given an article and the choice of the dominant narrative, a textual justification of the relevant choice is produced. This is a text generation task, full details are given in Section 8.

2.2 Domains

The articles used in these annotation campaign concern the following domains:

- **Climate Change (CC)**: encompasses both climate change denial (characterized by rejecting, refusing to acknowledge, disputing, or fighting the scientific consensus on climate change), and climate change activism.

- **Ukraine-Russia War (URW)**: refers to the military conflict in Ukraine following the full-scale invasion by Russia which started in February 2022. It encompasses references to the war, its causes, effects, and responsibilities and allegations of each side (Ukraine, Russia), as well as other involved parties (NATO, European Union, neighbouring countries, etc.)

We selected two topics that received extensive news coverage, are presented through several different perspectives, and are highly susceptible to manipulation through the creation of artificial narratives. We are particularly interested in potentially manipulative narratives, and this is reflected in the choice of the sub-narratives of our taxonomies. However, we do not assume that every claim corresponding to a sub-narrative of our taxonomies is necessarily a case of mis/disinformation. This is important to highlight, as mixing legitimate with mis/disinformative claims is a frequent manipulative practice [Goel et al., 2023].

2.3 Annotation Campaign Design

The annotation effort was split in teams per language, with each language having a leader responsible for recruiting and training annotators in their language. Weekly meetings with all language leaders ensured cross-lingual coherence in the understanding of the definitions of the labels. During these meetings, feedback from each language team was discussed, and adjustments were decided by the language leaders, which were later communicated to their annotators. We used the following general annotation guidelines and quality control principles for all the subtasks. The subtask-specific guidelines are described in their respective sections.

- The annotators should get acquainted with the two domains covered by the tasks; for this, [Amanatullah et al., 2023b] and [Coan et al., 2021a] provide good coverage of the URW and CC domains.

- The annotators should familiarize themselves with the annotation scheme and instructions for conducting the annotation using annotation guidelines provided before they start the training and the annotation process.

- Before starting the large-scale annotation, each language team should annotate a sample of articles to discuss annotations and address any problems encountered.

- Throughout the process of annotation, the annotators should meet frequently and regularly with the curators and language coordinator of their language team in order to converge and re-align the subtask-specific annotation rules, etc.

- Throughout the annotation process, the language coordinators should organize regular meetings to address any challenges that arise in the annotation process and to collaboratively propose effective solutions.

- In order to optimize the effort and guarantee the highest quality of the annotations, a given document should be annotated by the same annotator for all three subtasks.

- The annotation should be done in order: first subtask 1, then 2, and finally 3.

- Each news article is to be annotated by two annotators and curated by one curator.

- The annotators are advised to withhold their opinions on the topics and sympathies towards key entities mentioned in the articles and avoid their beliefs impacting the annotation process and annotation choices.

- The annotators should rely solely on the information in the document and not exploit any specific external knowledge bases for the purpose of annotating documents.

- Annotation quality is to be reviewed regularly by automated tools that facilitates monitoring for Inter Annotator Agreement and the consistency of label distribution across language.

2.4 Data Quality Monitoring

Several additional partially automated approaches were used in order to improve dataset quality, going beyond the standard curation procedure. The overall Inter-Annotator Agreement (IAA) was measured by Krippendorff's α [Krippendorff, 2004] for each of the languages. Early on in the annotation process reports were generated in order to help spot specific misunderstandings and assess agreement within a given language. We performed mono-lingual cross-document coherence checks and cross-lingual coherence checks using the approach of [Stefanovitch and Piskorski, 2023]. This approach generates a clustering of annotations based on their semantic similarity, which was used to flag outliers for review. Furthermore, we also developed ad-hoc tools in order to automatically check the coherence of the label distribution across languages. When a specific label seemed to be an outlier for one language, a random sample of annotations with this label was taken for all the languages, and it was translated into English and flagged for review. Because of the differences in the nature of each country's media landscape and the absence of control of source bias, differences in label frequency were not considered problematic. All flagged annotations were reviewed during weekly meetings and served to fix the specific annotations and to harmonize the understanding of the label definition across languages.

2.5 Article Collection

The Europe Media Monitor (EMM)[1] is a large-scale media monitoring and analysis engine which collects and indexes news articles of most major European and many worldwide news outlets in more than 80 languages. EMM was used in order to identify the links of potentially relevant articles, that were later retrieved and post-processed. In case EMM did not provide enough link to meet the annotation target in terms of number of articles and label coverage, language team directly recovered links by searching on news websites directly. We did not exclude any news sources, and considered both mainstream and "alternative" news sources, that is smaller news sources that are potentially sharing misinformation, without constraining their respective proportion.

A member of the team who was familiar with the news landscape of each language, manually inspected the resulting set of articles, selecting for annotation articles that seemed relevant to the specific labels of the taxonomies. Since manual inspection was time-consuming, we filtered and ranked articles to fasten the process. To this intent, we developed scoring methods, outlined below, which heuristically evaluate the relevance of each article to the corresponding domain. More specifically:

- We created keyword-based queries for the two domains in all of the languages, and used them to retrieve a large number of articles from the index of our in-house tool. For the URW domain, we included documents from 2021 to 2024. For the CC domain, the documents ranged from 2015 to 2024.

- To assess the relevance of the resulting articles, we formulated another set of key phrases, corresponding to the labels of the taxonomies (e.g., "Ukraine is corrupt", "Science is debunked"). We then used *bart-large-mnli*[2] to perform zero-shot classification with the title and the first 300 characters of each article, resulting in a classification score per article and key phrase.

- We used an *XLM-RoBERTa*-based [3] multi-label classifier, trained on the Persuasion Techniques dataset [Piskorski et al., 2023a, Piskorski et al., 2023b], and used the approach of [Nikolaidis et al., 2024] to produce persuasiveness score metrics per article. For the CC domain, we also used a climate change denial classifier, based on the work of [Piskorski et al., 2022], to further filter and reduce the number of articles to review.

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[1] https://emm.newsbrief.eu
[2] huggingface.co/facebook/bart-large-mnli
[3] huggingface.co/FacebookAI/xlm-roberta-large

- We used a linear combination of the resulting scores (relevance score per key phrase, Persuasiveness Score metrics and the score from the climate change denial classifier) to automatically rank articles from most to least likely to contain relevant labels.

In addition, there were some constraints in the collection of Portuguese articles. More specifically, the majority of sources that contain articles within the topics of this language and fit the criteria previously outlined were written in Brazilian Portuguese instead of its European variety, which was the one defined in this task. Therefore, to ensure that the required data was collected in this variety, we built a pipeline consisting of automatic translation and human validation. First, articles from Brazilian sources were translated into European Portuguese using the Google Cloud Translation API [4]. Then, Portuguese language annotators reviewed the translated documents and made the necessary corrections to ensure the highest quality in the final articles.

3 Entity Framing Characterization

3.1 Annotation Task Definition

Given a news article and a list of named entities (NEs) mentioned in the article assign to each NE one or more roles. Three main roles are adapted from storytelling and playwriting [Smiley and Bert, 2005]: *protagonist*, *antagonist*, and *innocent*. Additionally, we provide a fine-grained role label using a predefined taxonomy of roles.

Detailed Task Definition: Given a news article and a list of NE mentions (i.e., NEs, along with their spans), assign to each of them one or more roles. There are three main roles: *protagonist*, *antagonist*, and *innocent*, but the participants are expected to provide a fine-grained role or set of roles using a predefined taxonomy of roles provided below. The role(s) an NE takes in the same article may differ from one context to another.

Note for mentions of entities or groups of entities without a proper name, e.g., "*migrants*": they are not considered named entities and are not to be assigned a role.

3.2 Related Work

Entity framing [Mahmoud et al., 2025] is an essential element in media analysis that examines how individuals, groups, or ideas are depicted within narratives. Over time, various datasets have been developed to aid this research. For example, [Sharma et al., 2023] introduced a dataset that identifies heroes, villains, and victims in memes by emphasizing visual features. Others [Card et al., 2016] created a model for detecting personas, which they then applied to determine article-level framing using the Media Frames Corpus (MFC) [Card et al., 2015]. The MFC is designed to categorize how news articles are framed across nine different dimensions (such as Economic or Political). Other studies on news framing [Pastorino et al., 2024, Otmakhova et al., 2024, Piskorski et al., 2023b, Liu et al., 2019, Card et al., 2015] also focus on framing at the article level. Additionally, work in aspect-based and targeted sentiment analysis [Chebolu et al., 2024, Zhang et al., 2022, Orbach et al., 2021, Jiang et al., 2019, Saeidi et al., 2016] aims to identify opinion targets and assign sentiment polarities, typically using a binary scheme across multiple attributes. In contrast to these prior efforts, our dataset relies on textual analysis rather than visual features, concentrating specifically on how entities are explicitly framed in the text using a novel, detailed, and hierarchical taxonomy that we introduce in section 4. This approach offers a more detailed perspective by capturing the precise roles that entities play within a narrative, rather than just general article-level framing or overall sentiment.

3.3 Annotation Guidelines

The annotation process for this taxonomy followed some additional specific guidelines:

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[4]https://cloud.google.com/translate/docs

1. Named entities are understood in a broad sense to include both the traditional entities such as: persons, organizations, and locations; as well as NE-derived phrases. For example, toponym-derived entities are phrases that indicate a group or collective identity based on a place or affiliation, including but not limited to:

   - Political, military, or social groups defined by their association with a location or entity, e.g., *"Trump supporters,"* or *"residents of Ukraine."*
   - Entities denoting a geographic or organizational affiliation, such as *"Russian forces"* or *"European officials."*

2. The annotators are provided with a number of news articles and are expected to assign role(s) to named entities that are **central** to the article's story according to the taxonomy of roles that was provided earlier in section 3.1.

3. The surface form of an entity is the specific wording to refer to a specific named entity (e.g. "Trump" and "Donald Trump" are two surfaces forms that refer to one single entity. The annotation consist in selecting the span of characters of the surface form and associated it with one or more labels from the taxonomy.

4. The annotators are provided with a detailed taxonomy that includes definitions and examples. The annotators should read through section 3.1 for the detailed taxonomy.

5. The title of an article should not be annotated. The title of the article is the first block of text that appears in inception.

6. Only named entities that are central to the narrative of the article should be annotated. Unnamed entities should not be annotated.

   For more details on what qualifies as a named entity, in addition to the definition of the broader sense of named entities in the first bullet point in these guidelines, the annotators should also examine the NER annotation guidelines outlined in http://www.universalner.org/guidelines/.

7. The annotators will pick one or more fine-grained roles for the named entities they believe are central to the article's story.

8. Entity mentions can be assigned fine-grained roles from more than one main role. However, during curation, we will not be including these instances in the current version of the subtask, even though we still annotate them.

9. Named entities that are not central to the story should not be annotated.

   The determination of how central a named entity is in an article is admittedly subjective. To reduce bias, such determination should be based on the careful reading of the article and the story it is pushing. An annotated example is provided in Table 3 of this document. Notice that named entities such as "New York Times" and "Israel" were not annotated because they are not central to the story.

10. As a general rule, annotators should annotate only the first mention per entity where it is clear that this entity has the specific role(s). There is no need to annotate subsequent mentions of this entity with the same role, but annotating more mentions with the same surface form and role is not a mistake, but it is simply not required.

    This rule also extends for surface mentions of the same entity. For example, *"Putin"* and *"Vladimir Putin"* are both surface mentions of the same entity, so only the first occurrence of any of the surface forms would be annotated.

    On the other hand, while entities such as *"Moscow"*, *"Russia"*, and *"Putin"* are closely related, they are not surface forms of the same entity, and are considered as distinct, separate entities.

11. If the above would result in more than one mention of the same entity with the same role, the curator does not need to delete all these additional mentions. We keep all of them.

12. Should an entity mention that was previously annotated with a certain role appear in a different context with the different role(s), the first mention where the role(s) changed should be annotated.

    The above rule is repeated as many times as an entity changes roles across mentions. For example, if an entity, let's say *NATO*, appears 20 times in an article. The first 10 mentions show NATO as a Guardian and a Virtuous entity. The 11-15th mentions portray NATO as a Foreign Adversary, and the 16-20th mentions portray NATO as Exploited. Then we only need 3 annotations in total to account for the 3 different roles NATO was portrayed as. These 3 annotations should all be the first mention occurrences where NATO assumed each distinct set of roles (i.e., mention 1, mention 11, and mention 16 should be annotated).

13. Regarding scenarios where different surface forms for the same named entity (e.g., *NATO* vs. *North Atlantic Treaty Organization*) appear in the article, it is sufficient to pick only one of the surface forms.

14. If the above results in multiple surface forms of the same entity being annotated, the curator does not need to delete all these additional mentions. We keep all of them.

15. There is no "Other" label in the taxonomy, as mentions without a discernible role in relation to the taxonomy are simply not assigned any role.

16. It is important that only information found in the article is used—the annotator must not rely on external knowledge (not even common sense), to avoid bias and subjectivity.

17. The curator may see conflicting annotations in the curation mode and could resolve the conflict, and then the remaining non-conflicting roles could be checked and adopted accordingly.

4   Entity Framing Taxonomy

1. Protagonist	2. Antagonist	3. Innocent
1. Guardian 2. Martyr 3. Peacemaker 4. Rebel 5. Underdog 6. Virtuous	1. Instigator 2. Conspirator 3. Tyrant 4. Foreign Adversary 5. Traitor 6. Spy 7. Saboteur 8. Corrupt 9. Incompetent 10. Terrorist 11. Deceiver 12. Bigot	1. Forgotten 2. Exploited 3. Victim 4. Scapegoat

Table 1: Entity Framing Taxonomy at a Glance.

Table 1 shows the taxonomy at a glance. It contains three main roles that we adapted from storytelling and playwriting [Smiley and Bert, 2005]: *protagonist*, *antagonist*, and *innocent*. We provide a more detailed description of the taxonomy below and provide examples for each of the roles. In the examples, the entity of interest is highlighted in **boldface**.

Note that in the taxonomy below, the NEs of interest could manifest as either persons (Putin, POTUS, etc.), organizations (WHO, IPCC, etc.), countries (USA, Ukraine, etc.) and communities (e.g., United Nations, UN, etc.).

1. **Protagonist**: The entity depicted as the driving force of the narrative, often shown as proactive and positively framed (e.g., as a guardian, martyr, or underdog). This role embodies the constructive or aspirational aspects within the story.

2. **Antagonist**: The entity portrayed as instigating conflict or opposing the protagonist's goals, typically assigned negative attributes (e.g., as a tyrant, deceiver, or saboteur). This role is central to creating tension and framing the dispute.

3. **Innocent**: The entity presented as blameless and undeserving of fault, often depicted as suffering due to circumstances beyond its control (e.g., as a victim, scapegoat, or exploited party). This role highlights external injustice rather than internal culpability.

We now describe in detail the fine-grained roles nested under the protagonist, antagonist, and innocent roles.

1. **Protagonist**

   1.1 **Guardian** *Definition:* Heroes or guardians who protect values or communities, ensuring safety and upholding justice. They often take on roles such as law enforcement officers, soldiers, or community leaders (e.g., climate change advocacy community leaders).
   Conceptual Instances: Police officers protecting citizens during a crisis, firefighters saving lives during a disaster, community leaders standing against crime or leaders standing up for action to address climate change.

   Examples:
   - "Russia is not improving its geopolitical position in Ukraine. Instead, **Russia** is fighting 'for the survival of Russian statehood, for the future development of the country and our children.' "

   1.2 **Martyr**
   Definition: Martyrs or saviors who sacrifice their well-being, or even their lives, for a greater good or cause. These individuals are often celebrated for their selflessness and dedication. This is mostly in politics, not in CC.
   Conceptual Instances: Civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., who was assassinated while fighting for equality, or journalists who risk their lives to report on corruption and injustice.

   Examples:
   - "Russia's 2022 invasion, both sides discussed a deal that would have seen Russia withdraw to prewar lines in exchange for Ukraine forgoing NATO membership. Yet, **Ukraine** pressed on, enduring immense hardship in defense of its sovereignty and democratic ideals."

   1.3 **Peacemaker**
   Definition: Individuals who advocate for harmony, working tirelessly to resolve conflicts and bring about peace. They often engage in diplomacy, negotiations, and mediation. This is mostly in politics, not in CC.
   Conceptual Instances: Nelson Mandela's efforts to reconcile South Africa post-apartheid, or diplomats working to broker peace deals between conflicting nations.

   Examples:
   - "**China** has always asked for the ceasefire and the start of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine"

   1.4 **Rebel**
   Definition: Rebels, revolutionaries, or freedom fighters who challenge the status quo and fight for significant change or liberation from oppression. They are often seen as champions of justice and freedom.
   Conceptual Instances: Leaders of independence movements like Mahatma Gandhi in India, or modern-day activists fighting for democratic reforms in authoritarian regimes. In CC domain, this includes characters such as Greta Thunberg, or persons who, for instance,

chain themselves to trees to prevent deforestation.

Examples:

- "In these terrible conditions and suffering caused by Russia, **Ukraine** will fight against the tyranny for the freedom of its people until victory will be achieved"

1.5 **Underdog**
Definition: Entities who are considered unlikely to succeed due to their disadvantaged position but strive against greater forces and obstacles. Their stories often inspire others.
Conceptual Instances: Grassroots political candidates overcoming well-funded incumbents, or small nations standing up to larger, more powerful countries. In CC, this could include NEs portrayed as underfunded organizations that are framed as showing promise to make positive impact on CC.

Examples:

- "Against overwhelming odds, **Ukraine** has continued to defy expectations. Despite facing a much larger and better-equipped Russian military, Ukrainian forces have mounted a fierce resistance, leveraging ingenuity, resilience, and international support to push back against aggression."

1.6 **Virtuous**
Definition: Individuals portrayed as virtuous, righteous, or noble, who are seen as fair, just, and upholding high moral standards. They are often role models and figures of integrity.
Conceptual Instances: Judges known for their fairness, or politicians with a reputation for honesty and ethical behavior. In CC, this includes leaders standing up for environmental ethical values to protect planet Earth, or activists pushing for environmental sustainability.

Examples:

- "Russia is not fighting against the Ukrainian people. **Russia** is fighting against the criminal nationalist regime that came to power in 2014" after the coup in Kyiv, the diplomat said."

2. **Antagonist**

2.1 **Instigator**
Definition: Individuals or groups initiating conflict, often seen as the primary cause of tension and discord. They may provoke violence or unrest.
Conceptual Instances: Politicians using inflammatory rhetoric to incite violence, or groups instigating protests to destabilize governments. In CC, this could also include Greta Thunberg or activists chaining themselves to trees. In the previous Conceptual Instances, they were portrayed in a positive light as rebels. However, they could just as well be framed in a negative light if they are being portrayed as troublemakers and instigators of problems, and in such a scenario, they would also take the sub-role of Saboteur.

Examples:

- "On Monday, Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko told Russian media **the United States** and the West are trying to "spark a conflict" with recent statements about a possible invasion."

2.2 **Conspirator**
Definition: Those involved in plots and secret plans, often working behind the scenes to undermine or deceive others. They engage in covert activities to achieve their goals.
Conceptual Instances: Figures involved in political scandals or espionage, such as Watergate conspirators or modern cyber espionage cases. In CC, this could manifest as persons or organizations conspiring to bypass environmental regulations to turn up a profit.

Examples:

- "In September 2022, Sikorski, then a member of the European Parliament (MEP), insinuated that **Washington** was complicit in the attack on the Nord Stream gas pipeline."

2.3 Tyrant

Definition: Tyrants and corrupt officials who abuse their power, ruling unjustly and oppressing those under their control. They are often characterized by their authoritarian rule and exploitation.

Conceptual Instances: Dictators like Kim Jong-un in North Korea, or corrupt officials embezzling public funds and suppressing dissent.

Examples:

- "'While I agree that Russia is an autocracy, Ukraine is also an autocracy. **Zelensky** has banned his opposition, shutdown independent media and arrested and tortured his political opponents."

2.4 Foreign Adversary

Definition: Entities from other nations or regions creating geopolitical tension and acting against the interests of another country. They are often depicted as threats to national security. This is mostly in politics, not in CC.

Conceptual Instances: Rival nations involved in espionage or military confrontations, such as the Cold War adversaries, or countries accused of election interference. In CC, foreign adversaries could include portrayal of how other countries are not adhering to CC policies (e.g., China refuses to adhere to CC policies resulting in 20% increase in CO2 emissions.)

Examples:

- "Sosoaca called on Romanian President Klaus Iohannis to prevent **Zelensky**, whom she described as an "arrogant and unconscionable traitor, including to his own country," from addressing the Romanian parliament."

2.5 Traitor

Definition: Individuals who betray a cause or country, often seen as disloyal and treacherous. Their actions are viewed as a significant breach of trust. This is mostly in politics, not in CC.

Conceptual Instances: Whistleblowers revealing sensitive information for personal gain, or soldiers defecting to enemy forces. Note that if whistleblowers are portrayed in a positive light, their role would be Virtuous. This could equally apply to both politics and CC.

Examples:

- "**Zelensky** wants Ukraine destroyed. There's no sugar coating it."

2.6 Spy

Definition: Spies or double agents accused of espionage, gathering and transmitting sensitive information to a rival or enemy. They operate in secrecy and deception. This is mostly in politics, not in CC.

Conceptual Instances: Historical figures like Aldrich Ames, who spied for the Soviet Union, or contemporary cases of corporate espionage.

Examples:

- "Many people consider **Arestovyč** as a questionable figure involved in shady plots and espionage activities"

2.7 Saboteur

Definition: Saboteurs who deliberately damage or obstruct systems, processes, or organizations to cause disruption or failure. They aim to weaken or destroy targets from within.

Conceptual Instances: Insiders tampering with critical infrastructure, or activists sabotaging industrial operations.

Examples:

- "In September 2022, Sikorski, then a member of the European Parliament (MEP), insinuated that **Washington** was complicit in the attack on the Nord Stream gas pipeline."

2.8 Corrupt

Definition: Individuals or entities that engage in unethical or illegal activities for personal gain, prioritizing profit or power over ethics. This includes corrupt politicians, business leaders, and officials.

Conceptual Instances: Companies involved in environmental pollution, executives engaged in massive financial fraud, or politicians accepting bribes and engaging in graft.

Examples:

- "**Zaluzhny** is a fitting representative, with blood on his hands. That he was appointed ambassador to the UK in March confirms the SEP's insistence that a major escalation of NATO's proxy war against Russia is being prepared."

2.9 Incompetent

Definition: Entities causing harm through ignorance, lack of skill, or incompetence. This includes people committing foolish acts or making poor decisions due to lack of understanding or expertise. Their actions, often unintentional, result in significant negative consequences.

Conceptual Instances: Leaders making reckless policy decisions without proper understanding, officials mishandling crisis responses, or managers whose poor judgment leads to organizational failures.

Examples:

- "The first major attack on Russian territory since World War II, the Ukrainian Armed Forces' offensive in the Kursk region, has publicly humiliated Russian dictator **Vladimir Putin**."

2.10 Terrorist

Definition: Terrorists, mercenaries, insurgents, fanatics, or extremists engaging in violence and terror to further ideological ends, often targeting civilians. They are viewed as significant threats to peace and security. This is mostly in politics, not in CC.

Conceptual Instances: Groups like ISIS or Al-Qaeda carrying out attacks, or lone-wolf terrorists committing acts of violence.

Examples:

- "Looking forward, Derkach expects **Ukraine** to attempt more terrorist attacks against Russia, which the US public is being preconditioned to accept via the CIA's various leaks to the media. "

2.11 Deceiver

Definition: Deceivers, manipulators, or propagandists who twist the truth, spread misinformation, and manipulate public perception for their own benefit. They undermine trust and truth.

Conceptual Instances: Politicians spreading false information for political gain, or media outlets engaging in propaganda.

Examples:

- "Florian Philippot, leader of the Patriots (Les Patriotes) party and a long-time critic of Western assistance to Ukraine has alleged that **Zelensky** was lying when he claimed that all US aid to his country "goes to the battlefield.""

2.12 Bigot

Definition: Individuals accused of hostility or discrimination against specific groups.

Conceptual Instances: This includes entities committing acts falling under racism, sexism, homophobia, Antisemitism, Islamophobia, or any kind of hate speech. This is mostly in politics, not in CC.

Examples:

- "An opportunity to resolve the conflict will appear only when **Ukraine** ceases to pose a threat to Russia and discriminate against Russian-speaking Ukrainians," Vasily Nebenzya, Russia's Ambassador to the UN Security Council, said at a briefing at the UN Security Council."

3. Innocent

3.1 Forgotten

Definition: Marginalized or overlooked groups who are often ignored by society and do not receive the attention or support they need. This includes refugees, who face systemic neglect and exclusion.

Conceptual Instances: Indigenous populations facing ongoing discrimination; homeless individuals struggling without adequate support; refugees fleeing conflict or persecution.

Examples:

- "No one cares about **Ukraine** anymore, the West has already moved on"

3.2 Exploited

Definition: Individuals or groups used for others' gain, often without their consent and with significant detriment to their well-being. They are often victims of labor exploitation, trafficking, or economic manipulation.

Conceptual Instances: Workers in sweatshops; victims of human trafficking; communities suffering from corporate exploitation of natural resources.

Examples:

- ""If we help Ukraine now, they can become the best business partner we ever dreamed of, ..." he added. Graham is treating **Ukraine** as a future colony of the US with his comments on the ownership of the country's natural resources, said Vladimir Dzhabarov... Take a look at Sputnik's infographics to see Ukraine's mineral resources that the West cotes so much."

3.3 Victim

Definition: People cast as victims due to circumstances beyond their control, specifically in two categories: (1) victims of physical harm, including natural disasters, acts of war, terrorism, mugging, physical assault, ... etc., and (2) victims of economic harm, such as sanctions, blockades, and boycotts. Their experiences evoke sympathy and calls for justice, focusing on either physical or economic suffering.

Conceptual Instances: Victims of natural disasters, such as hurricanes or earthquakes; individuals affected by violent crimes. Victims of economic blockades, sanctions, or boycotts.

Examples:

- ""We wanted to support the American proxy war to damage Russia. We spent millions of taxpayers' euros fueling a war that does not serve our interests, helping to destroy **Ukraine**," he said."

Comments: It was noted early in the annotation process that the sub-roles under "Innocent" (i.e., Exploited, Scapegoat, Forgotten) represent different types of victims. Based on discussions to resolve this issue, we decide that "Victim" should be defined more narrowly to include only those impacted by physical harm (e.g., natural disasters, terrorist attacks,

etc.) or economic hardship (e.g., sanctions, blockades). This approach avoids conflating other potential victim types.

3.4 **Scapegoat**

Definition: Entities blamed unjustly for problems or failures, often to divert attention from the real causes or culprits. They are made to bear the brunt of criticism and punishment without just cause.

Conceptual Instances: Minority groups blamed for economic problems; political opponents, accused of provoking national strife, without evidence.

Examples:

- "Modernity.news reports: Much of the legacy media initially blamed **Russia** for attack, claiming it was a false flag but offering no sensible reason as to why Moscow would target its own energy infrastructure."

5 Annotation Task 2: Narrative Classification

5.1 Annotation Task Definition

Given a news article in one of the two considered domains, Climate Change (CC) and Ukraine-Russia War (URW), the annotator's task is to annotate each paragraph that contains one of more of the labels from the taxonomy of that domain. In both domains, the taxonomy is two-tier, describing simultaneously a Narrative (coarse-grained label) and sub-Narrative (fine-grained label) representing a narrower claim within a Narrative. Hence, we have a multi-label multi-class, paragraph-level classification task. For instance, in the URW taxonomy the label 'Distrust toward media: Western media is an instrument of propaganda' is comprised of the narrative 'Distrust toward media' and sub-narrative 'Western media is an instrument of propaganda'. The complete set of labels is found on figures 6.2 and 7.2, and the complete definitions on subsections 6 and 7.

Detailed Task Definition: For each domain to be considered (CC or URW), a two-level taxonomy of labels is used. A coarse-granularity level comprises narratives and a fine-granularity level comprises sub-narratives. Given a document (i.e., a news article), the task concerns the assignment of all the appropriate coarse and fine-grained labels. This is a multi-label paragraph classification task.

Human annotators are required to select all the narratives that apply to each paragraph of the document. They begin with the coarse-grained level (Narrative) and proceed with the fine-grained level (Sub-Narrative). In the end, each annotator will assign a 'Dominant Narrative', which represents the label that would best describe the overall purpose of the text. The 'Dominant Narrative can be either a fine or coarse-grained label found in the annotations of the document's paragraphs.

5.2 Taxonomy Design and Related work

Several narrative taxonomies and corresponding datasets have been created for a variety of topics, such as COVID-19 [Kotseva et al., 2023], anti-vax [Hughes et al., 2021, Li et al., 2023], climate denialism [Coan et al., 2021b] and Russia's aggression against Ukraine [Amanatullah et al., 2023a].

We started from the last two taxonomies for CC and URW, respectively, and consulted with experienced media analysts to refine the taxonomy in such a way that it reflects the narratives found in media discourse around the two topics. We asked analysts to perform the addition of new (sub-)Narratives, to split existing (sub-)Narratives, to refine names and definitions and to merge (sub-)Narratives, where needed. We also asked to phrase (sub-)Narratives as concrete claims (e.g. "Renewable energy is dangerous" or "Ukraine is a puppet of the West"), when possible. When this was not possible due to the fragmentation of the argumentation, we used a more general, descriptive label (e.g. "Speculating war outcomes", "Criticism of Institutions").

The resulting two taxonomies, one for each of the two domains, are two-tier, coarse-grained correspond to narrative and fine-grained to sub-narrative. They are comprised of 38 and 36 fine-grained labels for URW and CC respectively.

A compact view of the two taxonomies can be seen in Figures 6.2 and 7.2.

5.3   Annotation Guidelines

The manual annotation process for this subtask will be carried out as follows.

1. The annotator will be provided with a list of documents (news articles) from a particular theme (CC or URW) and a two-level domain-specific taxonomy comprising coarse labels (Narratives) and fine-grained labels (Sub-Narratives).

2. For each document, the annotator should read the text paragraph by paragraph. If the paragraph contains one of the Narratives given in the two taxonomies, the annotator should highlight the first word of the paragraph with the layer *"Narrative"*, then select the first coarse label that applies. If no coarse label applies, the annotator should not annotate anything and proceed the the next paragraph (skipping steps 3-4).

3. Subsequently, for each coarse label selected, the annotator should select one child fine-grained label of the particular coarse label that applies to the paragraph. If no children's labels of the particular coarse label apply, the special label "Other" should be applied on the fine-grained level (Sub-Narrative). If a fine-grained sub-narrative cannot be decided, but a coarse-grained one is present, an annotator must always select "Other" as the fine-grained sub-narrative.

4. If the annotator identifies another Narrative (or Sub-Narrative) in the same paragraph, the above process is repeated. The same first word of the paragraph is highlighted again with the layer *"Narrative"*, and the relevant pair of (coarse-grained, fine-grained) labels are selected for the two levels accordingly.

5. When the annotator reaches the end of the article, they should make a decision on what is the *Dominant Narrative* of the whole article (the Narrative that stands out and describes best the intention of the author, in the annotator's opinion). Then the annotator should select the layer *"Dominant Narrative"*, highlight the title of the article (the first line) and then, select the `dominant_narrative` attribute with the right label. In case no Narrative was found in all the paragraphs, the annotator needs to select the "Other" label as the Dominant Narrative.

   The main difference is that for paragraph annotations there are *two* fields to fill: one for coarse narratives and one for fine-grained narratives. For the dominant narrative, there is only one field, for which you can either choose: "Other", a fine-grained narrative, or a coarse-grained narrative. If you choose a *coarse-grained* narrative as the dominant narrative, that is equivalent to a paragraph annotation, where the fine-grained narrative is "Other" (which means that the annotator was unable to determine a specific dominant sub-narrative).

6. Finally, the annotator must annotate the **Evidence** layer — highlight all parts of the text that support and validate the choice of the dominant narrative as Evidence. This is also shown in Figure 8.

7. During the curation process, the curator will regularly resolve conflicting annotations in Inception and end up with the final annotation spans.

 Below we provide the two taxonomies — for the URW and CC domains. Coarse labels (Narratives) are numbered with Arabic numerals. Fine-grained labels (Sub-Narratives) are numbered with letters. The taxonomies of the two domains are also illustrated in Figures 6.2 and 7.2, and the full definitions in Sections 6 and 7.

6   Ukraine-Russia War (URW) Narrative Taxonomy

6.1   Narratives and sub-Narratives

1. **Blaming the war on others rather than the invader**
   Definition: Statements attributing responsibility or fault to entities other than Russia in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

   Examples:

- "The economic crisis is due to Western sanctions."
- "Ukraine's actions provoked this conflict."

Instructions to Annotators: Look for direct or implied statements that shift blame away from Russia. Consider who is being held responsible for negative events or situations.

Sub-Narratives:

(a) **Ukraine is the aggressor**
Definition: Statements that shift the responsibility of the aggression to Ukraine instead of Russia and portray Ukraine as the attacker.

Examples:
- "Ukraine secretly provoked the war because it was harassing Donbass province citizens."

(b) **The West are the aggressors**
Definition: Statements that shift the responsibility for the conflict and escalation to the Western block.

Examples:
- "The real perpetrators were US/EU. They sabotaged Minsk II agreement only to force Russia to invade."

Instructions to Annotators: Look for direct or implied statements that mention that this conflict was a direct consequence of actions taken by the West. Consider who is being held responsible for negative events or situations.

2. **Discrediting Ukraine**
Definition: Statements that undermine the legitimacy, actions, or intentions of Ukraine or Ukrainians as a nation.

Examples:
- "Ukraine's government is corrupt and ineffective."
- "Ukrainian soldiers are committing atrocities."
- "Ukrainian identity does not exist"

Instructions to Annotators: Look for direct or implied statements that attack some aspect of the Ukrainian society

Sub-Narratives:

(a) **Rewriting Ukraine's history**
Definition: Statements that aim to reestablish history of Ukrainian nation in a way that discredits its reputation.

Examples:
- "Ukraine is not a real nation, it was a fabrication to split Russia and ally with Hitler."

(b) **Discrediting Ukrainian nation and society**
Definition: Statements that aggressively undermine the legitimacy and reputability of Ukrainian ethnicity and people

Examples:
- "Ukraine has been plagued by widespread graft for years, and a 2015 Guardian article described it as "the most corrupt nation in Europe." More recently, it ranked 104 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index."

Instructions to Annotators: Use this only is case that the subject of the attack is the people of Ukraine, or in case of generalizations.

(c) **Discrediting Ukrainian military**
Definition: Statements that aim to undermine the capabilities, professionalism or effectiveness of the Ukrainian armed forces.

Examples:

- "Zaluzhny served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine from July 27, 2021 until February 8, 2024. He led Ukraine's disastrous "counter-offensive" last year, which led to the deaths of at least 125,000 soldiers. Overall, the war has claimed the lives of at least 400,000 Ukrainian soldiers."

(d) **Discrediting Ukrainian government and officials and policies**
Definition: Statements that seek to delegitimize the Ukrainian government, its leaders, and its policies, portraying them as corrupt or incompetent.

Examples:

- "Zaluzhny is a fitting representative, with blood on his hands. That he was appointed ambassador to the UK in March confirms the SEP's insistence that a major escalation of NATO's proxy war against Russia is being prepared."

Instructions to Annotators: Use this only is case that the subject of the attack is the leaders of Ukraine or some of their specific policy decisions.

(e) **Ukraine is a puppet of the West**
Definition: Claims that Ukraine is controlled or heavily influenced by Western powers, particularly the United States and European Union.

Examples:

- "Russian officials have described the Ukraine conflict as a Western proxy war against Moscow, which the US and its allies allegedly intend to wage "to the last Ukrainian." Their goal, according to Moscow, is to contain Russia and stall its development, rather than protect the interests of the Ukrainian people."

Instructions to Annotators: Prefer this sub-Narrative over "The West does not care about Ukraine, only about its interests", when the focus of the text revolves around Ukraine and its legitimacy is questioned.

(f) **Ukraine is a hub for criminal activities**
Definition: Allegations that Ukraine is a center for illegal activities such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, or organized crime

Examples:

- "Kiev's money pit: the billion dollar grift just got that much more corrupt..."

(g) **Ukraine is associated with nazism**
Definition: Accusations that Ukrainian society or government has ties to or sympathies with Nazi ideology, often referencing historical events or extremist groups.

Examples:

- "Part of the reason for attacking Ukraine was to get rid of the nazis and junkies."

Instructions to Annotators: This can go with discrediting Ukrainian nation, but should be used with any mention or hint of sympathy or association with (neo-)Nazism, historical or not.

(h) Part of the reason for attacking Ukraine was to get rid of the nazis and junkies. **Situation in Ukraine is hopeless**
Definition: Statements that portray Ukraine as having no viable perspectives or no potential positive future.

Examples:

- "Ukraine should just give up, it is all over debt and will be exploited by the West anyway."

3. **Russia is the Victim**
   Definition: Statements that portray Russia as being unfairly targeted or victimized.

   Examples:

   - "Russia is being unfairly sanctioned."
   - "The West is ganging up on Russia without justification."
   - "Russia is doing what every country would do (e.g. protect its interests/honour etc.)

   Instructions to Annotators: Look for narratives that depict Russia as suffering unjust consequences. Focus on language that evokes sympathy for Russia's position.

   Sub-Narratives:

   (a) **The West is russophobic**
   Definition: Statements that claim that the negative reaction to Russia's actions are because of the negative perspective of western countries instead of Russia's own actions.

   Examples:
   - "Politicians in the West blame Russia for everything, instead of looking at their mistakes."
   - "In Country X, they banned Tchaikovsky ballets and Chechov's plays because they cannot stand Russia and its culture."

   (b) **Russia actions in Ukraine are only self-defence**
   Definition: Statements that justify Russia's action solely as legitimate self-defence and not a deliberate action.

   Examples:
   - "There was no other way than war to defend the Russian-speaking people in Donbass."

   (c) **UA is anti-RU extremists**
   Definition: Statements claiming that Ukraine is comprised of extremist elements that are vehemently opposed to Russia.

   Examples:
   - "Kiev also continues attempts to launch terrorist attacks in various cities of Russia. Their goals are to inflict civilian casualties and threaten the population, as well as to discredit the Russian authorities and create the appearance of a national resistance against the Kremlin. To do this, Kiev recruits naive men, often Ukrainians who have moved to Russia, who for monetary rewards go to a life of crime and sacrifice their lives."

4. **Praise of Russia**
   Definition: Statements that positively highlight Russia's actions, policies, or character

   Examples:

   - "Russia is leading the way in international diplomacy."
   - "The Russian economy is resilient and strong."
   - "Glorifying mentions of Russia's weapon systems and military might."

   Instructions to Annotators: Identify expressions of admiration, support, or positive evaluation of Russia. Consider both explicit praise and subtle commendation.

   Sub-Narratives:

(a) **Praise of Russian military might**
Definition: Statements that positively highlight Russia's military institutions, equipment and scale.

Examples:

- "Russia has far more tanks and powerful artillery that US/EU would only dream of."

(b) **Praise of Russian President Vladimir Putin**
Definition: Statements that present Vladimir Putin positively, including his personal and leadership qualities.

Examples:

- "Any country would want such a strong leader as Putin to lead the way."

(c) **Russia is a guarantor of peace and prosperity**
Definition: Statements that portray Russia solely in a positive manner, emphasising their potential to provide peace and prosperity to those that cooperate.

Examples:

- "Take a look at Africa, Russia supports countries and turns them into independent nations guided by their people's interests where Western countries colonised brutally."

Instructions to Annotators:

(d) **Russia has international support from a number of countries and people**
Definition: Statements that emphasise the popularity and acceptance of Russia in the international stage.

Examples:

- "The majority of the countries population sides with Russia as per last UN General Assembly vote."

(e) **Russian invasion has strong national support**
Definition: Statements that emphasise the popularity and acceptance of the invasion inside Russia and on Russian-speaking populations.

Examples:

- "The majority of the countries population sides with Russia as per last UN General Assembly vote."

Instructions to Annotators: Use this only when there is mention to the Russian population or the segment of the population in Ukraine that supports Russia.

5. **Overpraising the West**

Definition: Statements that excessively and unduly laud or extol the virtues, accomplishments, and moral superiority of Western countries, particularly in the context of international relations and military.

Sub-Narratives:

(a) **NATO will destroy Russia**
Definition: Statements that suggest or claim that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and its allies are capable or already in the process of eradicating Russia.

Examples:

- "NATO is capable to defeat Russia if a direct conflict will start"

(b) **The West belongs in the right side of history**
Definition: Statements that portray Western nations and their actions as morally superior and aligned with progress and justice and possess moral superiority.

Examples:

- "Sullivan insisted dissemination of the controversial bombs doesn't undercut US' "moral authority.""

(c) **The West has the strongest international support**
Definition: Statements that emphasize or claim widespread backing for Western policies and actions from the international community, potentially downplaying opposition or criticism.

Examples:

- "A total of 109 UN members were in favour of EU/US proposals to decry Russia for its crimes. It is clear that the whole globe counts on the West to bring order and peace."

6. **Speculating war outcomes**

Definition: Statements that predict or make assumptions about the potential results or consequences of a conflict

Sub-Narratives:

(a) **Russian army is collapsing**
Definition: Statements that suggest or claim that the Russian military is experiencing a significant decline in its effectiveness, strength, or morale.

Examples:

- "Russia's military stocks are rapidly depleting, the soldiers are demoralized, untrained, unmotivated, conscripts, and convicts, and their leadership is failing them, having already failed in their strategic objectives."

(b) **Russian army will lose all the occupied territories**
Definition: Speculative statements that predict or assume the potential outcomes of the conflict, specifically regarding the possibility of the Russian military losing control of all the territories it currently occupies.

Examples:

- "Putin will ABANDON siege of Kyiv and try to blitz other cities into submission after losing thousands of troops. Collapse is a matter of days and Ukraine will get back all the lands that was occupied these years."

(c) **Ukrainian army is collapsing**
Definition: Statements that suggest or claim that the Ukrainian military is experiencing a significant decline in its effectiveness, strength, or morale.

Examples:

- "With helpless underage soldiers in the front, it's only a matter of time before the Ukraine admits its defeat and pays reparations to Moscow or risks a devastating nuclear strike."

7. **Discrediting the West, Diplomacy**
Definition: Statements that criticize the Western countries, or international diplomatic efforts.

Examples:

- "The West is hypocritical in its foreign policy."
- "Western diplomacy has failed in resolving conflicts."
- "International organizations will not solve anything because..."

Instructions to Annotators: Look for criticism or negative portrayals of Western governments, leaders, or policies. Pay attention to language that suggests incompetence, hypocrisy, or malice.

Sub-Narratives:

(a) **The EU is divided**

Definition: Statements that present the EU as a set of divided entities and interests, usually unable to take actions.

Examples:

- "The European Council will never vote on sanctions for Russia, since they cannot agree on even the simplest of the issues."

(b) **The West is weak**

Definition: Statements presenting the West overall as a non-potent group of countries (that is not as powerful as it used to be).

Examples:

- "The weakened West is once again impotent to act in front of the will Russia."

(c) **The West is overreacting**

Definition: Statements that claim that the West and its institutions are reacting to Russia's actions in a disproportionate manner.

Examples:

- "Putin did not invade the EU but Ukraine. Imposing harsh sanctions is not the way to deal with it, dialogue and debate is."

(d) **The West does not care about Ukraine, only about its interests**

Definition: Statements that claim that the West is only interested in Ukraine for its own benefits, disregarding the country's fate.

Examples:

- "The West has indebted Ukraine more than XX bln of dollars, a lucrative deal for western companies to exploit."
- "NATO's actions are endangering global security."

(e) **Diplomacy does/will not work**

Definition: Statements discrediting the potential of ongoing or potential diplomatic efforts.

Examples:

- "Diplomats are desperately trying to figure out solutions but now it's too late, they have failed and Russia is free to do whatever."

(f) **West is tired of Ukraine**

Definition: Claims that Western countries, particularly the United States and European nations, are becoming fatigued or disinterested in supporting Ukraine and its efforts.

Examples:

- "The West is increasingly losing patience with supporting Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky in the war with Russia as Western leadership is "fed up" with the money pit that has become this war."

8. **Negative Consequences for the West**

Definition: Statements that highlight or predict adverse outcomes for Western countries and their interests.

Examples:

- "Sanctions against Russia will backfire on Europe."
- "The West is headed for an economic downturn."

Instructions to Annotators: Identify predictions or reports of negative impacts on Western nations. Consider both current and future consequences mentioned.

Sub-Narratives:

(a) **Sanctions imposed by Western countries will backfire**
Definition: Statements that catastrophize on the possible negative effects for Western sanctions of Russia.

Examples:

- "The winter is going to be cold and with current gas prices, we are talking of societal unrest."

(b) **The conflict will increase the Ukrainian refugee flows to Europe**
Definition: Statements that catastrophize on the possible refugee outflows due to the conflict.

Examples:

- "Like we did not have refugees from the Middle East, now we will have Ukrainians stressing our housing and healthcare problems."

9. **Distrust towards Media**

Definition: Statements that question the reliability or integrity of media organizations.

Examples:

- "Western media is spreading propaganda."
- "You can't trust what the news says about Russia."

Instructions to Annotators: Look for language that undermines confidence in media sources. Pay attention to claims of bias, misinformation, or manipulation.

Sub-Narratives:

(a) **Western media is an instrument of propaganda**
Definition: Statements that discredit the media institutions of the West and claim that they are instruments of propaganda.

Examples:

- "... but you wouldn't hear this on a western channel, only the party line from State Department."

(b) **Ukrainian media cannot be trusted**
Definition: Statements that discredit the media institutions of the Ukraine and claim that they should not be trusted for reporting on the war.

Examples:

- "Ukraine is conducting its own propaganda using their TV channels, news and social media."

10. **Amplifying war-related fears**
Definition: Statements that evoke fear or anxiety about potential threats, dangers or reactions.

Examples:

- "The West is pushing us towards World War III."
- "It is a matter of time before war speads on the West"
- "Nuclear war is imminent"

Instructions to Annotators: Identify language designed to elicit fear or concern about severe consequences. Consider both direct and implied threats mentioned.

Sub-Narratives:

(a) **By continuing the war we risk WWIII**
Definition: Statements that warn against upsetting Russia's and its leadership, evoking fear of causing WW3.

Examples:

- "The Western elites with their fixation on Russia are sleapwalking towards WW3"

(b) **Russia will also attack other countries**
Definition: Statements that claim that it is imminent that Russia will attack other countries.

Examples:

- "... and be sure, Ukraine is the first not the last country to be invaded. Others will follow."

(c) **There is a real possibility that nuclear weapons will be employed**
Definition: Statements that evoke fear or anxiety about the use of nuclear weapons.

Examples:

- "... and if Western hypocrisy continues to provoke, Putin might be forced to press the red button... for good"

Instructions to Annotators: This narrative can potentially go in two directions, either claiming that West should not anger Russia, or that Russia should be stopped before they use them.

(d) **NATO should/will directly intervene**
Definition: Statements that suggest or claim that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ought to or will take direct military action in a conflict, potentially implying a shift in policy or strategy.

Examples:

- "Russia is preparing for a war with NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and the West. The preparations are for a "long-term confrontation" and it is a strategic imperative for every Western country."

11. **Hidden plots by secret schemes of powerful groups**
   Definition: Statements that suggest hidden plots or secretive actions by powerful groups related to the war.

   Examples:

   - "There's a secret plan by the elites to control global resources."
   - "The war is just a cover for something much bigger."

   Instructions to Annotators: Look for narratives involving clandestine activities, secret agendas, or unproven allegations. Focus on claims that lack credible evidence and suggest hidden motives.

6.2 Summary of the URW taxonomy

```
Other
Blaming the war on others rather than the invader
- Ukraine is the aggressor
- The West are the aggressors
Discrediting Ukraine
- Rewriting Ukraine's history
- Discrediting Ukrainian nation and society
- Discrediting Ukrainian military
- Discrediting Ukrainian government and officials and policies
- Ukraine is a puppet of the West
- Ukraine is a hub for criminal activities
- Ukraine is associated with nazism
- Situation in Ukraine is hopeless
Russia is the Victim
- The West is russophobic
- Russia actions in Ukraine are only self-defence
- UA is anti-RU extremists
Praise of Russia
- Praise of Russian military might
- Praise of Russian President Vladimir Putin
- Russia is a guarantor of peace and prosperity
- Russia has international support from a number of countries and people
- Russian invasion has strong national support
Overpraising the West
- NATO will destroy Russia
- The West belongs in the right side of history
- The West has the strongest international support
Speculating war outcomes
- Russian army is collapsing
- Russian army will lose all the occupied territories
- Ukrainian army is collapsing
Discrediting the West, Diplomacy
- The EU is divided
- The West is weak
- The West is overreacting
- The West does not care about Ukraine, only about its interests
- Diplomacy does/will not work
- West is tired of Ukraine
Negative Consequences for the West
- Sanctions imposed by Western countries will backfire
- The conflict will increase the Ukrainian refugee flows to Europe
Distrust towards Media
- Western media is an instrument of propaganda
- Ukrainian media cannot be trusted
Amplifying war-related fears
- By continuing the war we risk WWIII
- Russia will also attack other countries
- There is a real possibility that nuclear weapons will be employed
- NATO should/will directly intervene
Hidden plots by secret schemes of powerful groups
```

7 Climate Change (CC) Narrative Taxonomy

7.1 Narratives and sub-Narratives

1. **Criticism of climate policies**
   Definition: Statements that question the effectiveness, economic impact, or motives behind climate policies.

   Examples:

   - "It is all because of the decision to switch to electric."

   Sub-Narratives:

   (a) **Climate policies are ineffective**
   Definition: Statements suggesting that climate policies fail to achieve their intended environmental goals.

   Examples:

   - "There is absolutely no point in banning straws, it can even have the opposite effect."

   (b) **Climate policies have negative impact on the economy**
   Definition: Statements claiming that climate policies lead to negative economic outcomes.

   Examples:

   - "We 20 million New Yorkers should continue to oppose these types of programs and the rules and regulations about banning gas stoves that will cost each of us money but have negligible effect"

   (c) **Climate policies are only for profit**
   Definition: Statements that argue climate policies are driven by financial or corporate gain rather than genuine environmental concerns.

   Examples:

   - "Nobody really cares about the air to be clean. It is all a new ESG trick to sell more turbines."

2. **Criticism of institutions and authorities**
   Definition: Statements that challenge the competence, integrity, or intentions of various institutions and authorities in relation to climate change.

   Sub-Narratives:

   (a) **Criticism of the EU**
   Definition: Statements that express disapproval or distrust of the EU's role or approach to climate change or the EU in general.

   Examples:

   - "Climate goals are simply a fixation of the unelected Brussels bureaucracy. All the fuss about climate change and restrictions to our freedoms come from them."

   (b) **Criticism of international entities**
   Definition: Statements that criticize the role and influence of international entities on climate policy.

   Examples:

   - "The UN agency for climate is mandating changes in our daily emissions profile but their studies are completely unfounded in reality."

   (c) **Criticism of national governments**
   Definition: Statements that disapprove of the ways national governments handle climate change.

   Examples:

- "It is clear that the government ministry has no plan and is improvising imposing arbitrary rules."

(d) **Criticism of political organizations and figures**
Definition: Statements that discredit political organizations and figures in the context of climate change debate.

Examples:

- "Environment minister C. is clearly a climate fanatic and we shall not entrust him taking decisions that hugely impact our economy."

3. **Climate change is beneficial**
Definition: Statements that present arguments that support that changes in climate can have positive effects as well.
Sub-Narratives:

(a) **CO2 is beneficial**
Definition: Statements suggesting that increased CO2 levels have positive impacts on the environment.

Examples:

- "A new study counters traditional thought and discovered that more CO2 is actually positive in the long-term."

(b) **Temperature increase is beneficial**
Definition: Statements claiming that rising global temperatures can have positive effects.

Examples:

- "A new study focused on the increased profits from a longer summer due to climate change."

4. **Downplaying climate change**
Definition: Statements that minimize the significance or impact of climate change.
Sub-Narratives:

(a) **Climate cycles are natural**
Definition: Statements suggesting that climate change is a natural and cyclical occurrence.

Examples:

- "The climate is changing in regular intervals across centuries. It is nothing new."

(b) **Weather suggests the trend is global cooling**
Definition: Statements using local or short-term weather patterns to argue against global warming.

Examples:

- "I practice, the opposite is happening from global warming, countless research has shown that actually climate is cooling."

(c) **Temperature increase does not have significant impact**
Definition: Statements claiming that the increase in temperature is not going to have any noticeable effect in nature.

Examples:

- "There is no way changes in a few degrees will have any meaningful impact on our lives."

(d) **CO2 concentrations are too small to have an impact**
Definition: Statements claiming that the concentrations of CO2 will have a negligible effect.

Examples:

- "Compared to oxygen produced by nature itself, the CO2 from humans are negligible."

(e) **Human activities do not impact climate change**
Definition: Statements that support that climate change is not caused by human activity.

Examples:

- "Nature has its ways and we humans are simple not significant enough to produce any meaningful change."

(f) **Ice is not melting**
Definition: Statements claiming that there is not melting of ice.

Examples:

- "If you look carefully at the satellite images you can see that ice has not melted, just moved."

(g) **Sea levels are not rising**
Definition: Statements denying that sea levels have risen (or will rise).

Examples:

- "Even with all the catastrophizing, there are no data showing rising sea levels on average."

(h) **Humans and nature will adapt to the changes**
Definition: Statements claiming that whatever the changes in climate humans or nature will manage to find solutions to adapt.

Examples:

- "It might create a few challenges here and there, but we will invest in some technology and will handle the effects easily."

5. **Questioning the measurements and science**
Definition: Statements that raise doubts about the scientific methods, data, and consensus on climate change.

Sub-Narratives:

(a) **Methodologies/metrics used are unreliable/faulty**
Definition: Statements claiming that the scientific methodologies and metrics used to measure climate change are flawed or unreliable.

Examples:

- "The way they measure the data is completely false and misleading. Scientist X debunked it easily by..."

(b) **Data shows no temperature increase**
Definition: Statements asserting that available data does not support the claim of global temperature increase.

Examples:

- "Temperature measurements are using faulty equipment and are alarming the world with lied."

(c) **Greenhouse effect/carbon dioxide do not drive climate change**
Definition: Statements asserting that available data does not support the claim of global temperature increase.

Examples:

- "Studies have repeatedly shown that CO2 impact is not correlated with global warming and this is a misconception."

(d) **Scientific community is unreliable**
Definition: Statements discrediting scientists, the scientific community and their actions.

Examples:

- "It is a feature of the scientific establishment to overemphasize speculations of climate collapse and silence critics."

6. **Criticism of climate movement**
   Definition: Statements that challenge the motives, integrity, or impact of the climate movement.
   Sub-Narratives:

   (a) **Climate movement is alarmist**
   Definition: Statements suggesting that the climate movement exaggerates the severity of climate change for dramatic effect.

   Examples:
   - "The climate protests are not about climate but a gateway drug to communist and radical ideas."

   (b) **Climate movement is corrupt**
   Definition: Statements alleging that the climate movement is influenced by ulterior motives, by corruption or by unethical practices.

   Examples:
   - "The climate protests are not about climate but a gateway drug to communist and radical ideas."

   (c) **Ad hominem attacks on key activists**
   Definition: Statements attacking the reputation of key figures (such as scientists, activists, politicians or public figures).

   Examples:
   - "Greta Thunberg has not worked half a day of her life, but is making claims why I need to change my diet to plant-based."

7. **Controversy about green technologies**
   Definition: Statements that express skepticism or criticism of environmentally friendly technologies.
   Sub-Narratives:

   (a) **Renewable energy is dangerous**
   Definition: Statements claiming that renewable energy sources pose significant risks or dangers.

   Examples:
   - "Solar panels and wind turbines are way worse than coal if you consider how poisonous their materials are."

   (b) **Renewable energy is unreliable**
   Definition: Statements asserting that renewable energy sources are not dependable for widespread adoption.

   Examples:
   - "What will you do if you are freezing in the winter when there isn't sun for weeks? Rely on solar? I don't think so."

   (c) **Renewable energy is costly**
   Definition: Statements asserting that renewable energy sources are too expensive, inefficient and worth adopting for widespread use.

   Examples:
   - "They are pushing us to spend our hard-earned money to price-inflated electric cars and are increasing the price of gas through carbon taxes."

(d) **Nuclear energy is not climate friendly**
Definition: Statements asserting that nuclear sources are or should not be considered as good for the climate.

Examples:

- "And they are calling nuclear energy, the type that produced the saddest almost world-ending disasters as better than coal. This is hypocrisy."

8. **Hidden plots by secret schemes of powerful groups**
Definition: Statements that propose secret plots or hidden agendas related to climate change initiated by powerful entities or groups.
Sub-Narratives:

(a) **Blaming global elites**
Definition: Statements attributing climate change agendas to secretive and powerful global elites.

Examples:

- "Everything is a plan by the WEF elites, to force the green agenda on regular people that in turn will have to sacrifice their jobs and quality of life."

(b) **Climate agenda has hidden motives**
Definition: Claims that the push for climate action is driven by ulterior motives, such as political power or population control.

Examples:

- "Everything is a plan by Bill Gates, to lay the grounds for widespread acceptance of global depopulation and subjugation to the modern slavery regimes."

9. **Amplifying Climate Fears**
Definition: Statements that emphasize and amplify fears about the consequences of climate change.
Sub-Narratives:

(a) **Earth will be uninhabitable soon**
Definition: Statements predicting that the Earth will become uninhabitable in the near future due to climate change.

Examples:

- "With current emissions rate we will not be able to survive what is coming. Earth will cease to be hospitable for the majority of the population."

(b) **Amplifying existing fears of global warming**
Definition: Statements that are using fears related to possible climate worries to spread panic.

Examples:

- "Be prepared, it is certain that unless we do something drastic about warming in tropical regions, viruses and bacteria from these regions will be uncontrolled."

(c) **Doomsday scenarios for humans**
Definition: Statements presenting intense catastrophic scenarios as results of climate change.

Examples:

- "It is not overstretching to state that in the next decades, the principal death reason will be climate change, few will survive."

(d) **Whatever we do it is already too late**
Definition: Statements that minimize the urgency of addressing climate change by suggesting that any action taken at this point is futile or too late to make a meaningful impact.

Examples:

- "Environmentalists are trying to protect us for years but the current state of carbon in the atmosphere is already past most thresholds. We have to feel the consequences, no matter what we do."

10. **Green policies are geopolitical instruments**
    Definition: Statements claiming that that environmental policies and initiatives are used as tools for geopolitical power and influence rather than genuine environmental concern.

    Sub-Narratives:

    (a) **Climate-related international relations are abusive/exploitative**
    Definition: Statements criticizing international relations related to climate change as exploitative or economically abusive.

    Examples:

    - "Nobody cares about the impact of carbon in the climate, it is only a trick of some governments to impose rules on weaker nations to protect their profits."

    (b) **Green activities are a form of neo-colonialism**
    Definition: Statements suggesting that green initiatives are a way for developed countries to exert control and influence over developing nations, a modern form of colonial practices.

    Examples:

    - "When Western countries invest in 'green' initiatives in Africa, they are just washing their neo-colonialist interests."

7.2 Summary of the CC taxonomy

```
Criticism of climate policies
- Climate policies are ineffective
- Climate policies have negative impact on the economy
- Climate policies are only for profit
Criticism of institutions and authorities
- Criticism of the EU
- Criticism of international entities
- Criticism of national governments
- Criticism of political organizations and figures
Climate change is beneficial
- CO2 is beneficial
- Temperature increase is beneficial
Downplaying climate change
- Climate cycles are natural
- Weather suggests the trend is global cooling
- Temperature increase does not have significant impact
- CO2 concentrations are too small to have an impact
- Human activities do not impact climate change
- Ice is not melting
- Sea levels are not rising
- Humans and nature will adapt to the changes
Questioning the measurements and science
- Methodologies/metrics used are unreliable/faulty
- Data shows no temperature increase
- Greenhouse effect/carbon dioxide do not drive climate change
- Scientific community is unreliable
Criticism of climate movement
- Climate movement is alarmist
- Climate movement is corrupt
- Ad hominem attacks on key activists
Controversy about green technologies
- Renewable energy is dangerous
- Renewable energy is unreliable
- Renewable energy is costly
- Nuclear energy is not climate friendly
Hidden plots by secret schemes of powerful groups
- Blaming global elites
- Climate agenda has hidden motives
Amplifying Climate Fears
- Earth will be uninhabitable soon
- Amplifying existing fears of global warming
- Doomsday scenarios for humans
- Whatever we do it is already too late
Green policies are geopolitical instruments
- Climate-related international relations are abusive/exploitative
- Green activities are a form of neo-colonialism
```

8 Annotation Task 3: Explanation of Narrative Classification

8.1 Annotation Task Definition

The Annotation Task 3 can be defined as follows: Given a text and the *dominant* narrative and sub-narrative identified in Subtask 2 (see section 5), generate an explanation for the choice of that narrative and sub-narrative labels .

The task can be constructed in two different ways. In the first case, the gold labels for the dominant narrative and subnarrative in each document are not provided. Therefore, the predictions from Subtask 2 are required for Subtask3. In the second scenario, the gold labels of task 2 for the dominant narrative and subnarrative are provided for each document.

In the remaining section, we are assuming the latter scenario.

8.2 Related Datasets

Given that persuasion techniques, including logical fallacies and emotional language, are the tools used in manipulative attempts one could exploit models for the detection of such techniques in order to spot relevant text fragments. Such models could be built using a wide range of existing multilingual datasets described in [Da San Martino et al., 2020, Piskorski et al., 2023a, Piskorski et al., 2024].

In the domain of narrative understanding, datasets like NarrativeQA [Kočiský et al., 2018] offer detailed questions and answers about story elements. Besides question and answering, this dataset has also been used for tasks such as contextual reasoning and summarization. In the area of causal reasoning, the TellMeWhy dataset [Lal et al., 2021] explains the reasons behind events in stories or texts. This allows the development of models capable of generating causal explanations, contributing towards the understanding of more complex narrative flows.

One important contribution towards the research of narrative explanations is the e-SNLI (Explainable SNLI) dataset [Camburu et al., 2018]. The dataset works as an extension of the Stanford Natural Language Inference dataset, enhanced with human-annotated explanations for entailment. Consequently, this data may help models develop an understanding of the entailment relationship between two sentences.

8.3 Annotation Guidelines

Subtask 3 annotation is conducted through the following steps:

1. **Writing Explanations:** The annotator must provide a written explanation justifying the dominant narrative and sub-narrative classification annotated in Subtask 2. This explanation should also be written when no sub-narrative is selected. The explanation must:

   - be written in the language of the news article.
   - be grounded in a summary of the evidence identified in Subtask 2.
   - provide clear reasoning for the chosen narrative and sub-narrative, answering the question: "Why did the annotator choose X and Y as the dominant narrative and sub-narrative?"
   - include key antagonists, protagonists, or innocents relevant to the narrative justification. Due to space constraints, only the most illustrative figures should be included to validate the narrative.
   - be constructed using the annotator's own words, avoiding direct quotations from the identified evidence in Subtask 2, except for brief phrases or expressions.
   - not exceed 80 words.

   Regarding style suggestions, annotators should adhere to the following guidelines:

   - Whenever possible, explicitly reference the entities and their actions or statements that support the selection of a dominant narrative and sub-narrative.
   - If there are no key actions or statements from entities to validate the choice, use phrases like "the text reports...", "in the text,...", or "the text's author..." to justify the selection.

- The annotator is not required to restate the dominant narrative and sub-narrative in the explanation—only to provide the reasoning behind their selection.

2. **Entering Explanations in Inception:** First, select the article's complete title to enter the explanation in Inception, which will prompt a text box to appear. Then, enter the explanation in the text box, ensuring the full title or additional whitespace is selected.

3. **Synchronizing Across Annotators:** Annotators working in different languages should convene regularly with curators to align and compare their explanation styles at the start of the process.

4. **Curation Process:** Curators will evaluate the explanations to select the most suitable ones based on established guidelines. The curation process will involve:

   - reviewing the explanations from both annotators alongside the identified text spans serving as evidence.
   - assessing the validity and quality of each explanation and selecting the one that best clarifies the choices made in Subtask 2.
   - if neither explanation is fully adequate, curators may merge the strongest elements of both to produce a suitable explanation.
   - if it is insufficient merging, the curator may write a new explanation from scratch.

8.4 Examples

This subtask relies on the Subtask2 taxonomy presented in the previous section and on the annotation of participants. We provide examples of how the justification for the dominant narrative and sub-narrative was selected in the next section 9.

9 Examples of Fully Annotated Documents

In this section, we illustrate the complete annotation of documents for all three tasks.

Text 1, below, is a document in English.[5] For this document, Table 2 shows the entity roles (Subtask 1), the narrative and sub-narrative are highlighted in yellow, and the dominant narrative and sub-narrative highlighted in purple (Subtask 2). The Evidence, which corresponds to the text spans that validate the choice of this dominant narrative and sub-narrative, is highlighted in blue (Subtask 3).

9.1 Text 1: English

Entity	Level-1 Role	Level-2 Roles
Met Office	Antagonist	Deceiver
Paul Homewood	Protagonist	Guardian
Daily Sceptic	Protagonist	Guardian
Christopher Booker	Protagonist	Guardian

Table 2: Subtask 1 - Framing characterization for Text 1

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[5]https://davidicke.com/2024/05/31/met-office-should-put-2-5c-uncertainties-warning-on-all-future-temperature-claims/

Met Office Should Put 2.5°C 'Uncertainties' Warning on All Future Temperature Claims

Questioning the measurements and science: Methodologies/metrics used are unreliable/faulty

It is "abundantly clear" that the **Met Office** cannot scientifically claim to know the current average temperature of the U.K. to a hundredth of a degree centigrade, given that it is using data that has a margin of error of up to 2.5°C, notes the climate journalist **Paul Homewood**. His comments follow recent disclosures in the **Daily Sceptic** that nearly eight out of ten of the Met's 380 measuring stations come with official 'uncertainties' of between 2-5°C. In addition, given the poor siting of the stations now and possibly in the past, the Met Office has no means of knowing whether it is comparing like with like when it publishes temperature trends going back to 1884.

Questioning the measurements and science: Methodologies/metrics used are unreliable/faulty

There are five classes of measuring stations identified by the World Meteorological Office (WMO). Classes 4 and 5 come with uncertainties of 2°C and 5°C, respectively, and account for an astonishing 77% of the Met Office station total. Class 3 has an uncertainty rating of 1°C and accounts for another 8.4% of the total. The Class ratings identify potential corruption in recordings caused by both human and natural involvement. Homewood calculates that the average uncertainty across the entire database is 2.5°C.

Questioning the measurements and science: Methodologies/metrics used are unreliable/faulty

Criticism of institutions and authorities: Other

Questioning the measurements and science: Data shows no temperature increase

As Homewood observes, the Met Office "cannot say with any degree of scientific certainty that the last two years were the warmest on record, nor quantify how much, if any, the climate has warmed since 1884".

Questioning the measurements and science: Methodologies/metrics used are unreliable/faulty

Questioning the measurements and science: Data shows no temperature increase

The U.K. figures are of course an important component of the Met Office's global temperature dataset known as HadCRUT. As we noted recently, there is ongoing concern about the accuracy of HadCRUT with large retrospective adjustments of warming in recent times and cooling further back in the record. In fact, this concern has been ongoing for some time. The late **Christopher Booker** was a great champion of climate scepticism and in February 2015 he suggested that the "fiddling" with temperature data "is the biggest science scandal ever". Writing in the Telegraph, he noted: "When future generations look back on the global warming scare of the past 30 years, nothing will shock them more than the extent to which official temperatures records – on which the entire panic rested – were systematically 'adjusted' to show the Earth as having warmed more than the actual data justified."

A explanation based on the information gathered from these annotations is the following:

Paul Homewood claims that the Met Office is misleading the public about current UK temperatures by not disclosing a margin of error of up to 2.5º C. The Daily Sceptic reports that most of the Met Office's 380 stations provide inaccurate measurements. Additionally, Christopher Booker argues that official reports have been repeatedly falsified to indicate climate warming. Thus, the Met Office cannot conclude with scientific certainty that the climate is becoming warmer.
OR
The Met Office is being accused of misleading the public since the provided temperatures are inaccurate and official reports are tweaked to suggest climate becoming warmer.

9.2 Text 2: Portuguese

An example in Portuguese is provided in Text 2 below. Table 3 provides the identified entity roles in Subtask 1 and the narrative and sub-narratives at the paragraph and document levels annotated for

Entity	Level-1 Role	Level-2 Roles
Kiev	Antagonist	Tyrant
Vassily Nebenzia	Protagonist	Guardian
Ucrânia	Antagonist	Tyrant
Kiev	Antagonist	Bigot
Kiev	Antagonist	Deceiver
Ocidente	Antagonist	Deceiver

Table 3: Subtask 1—Framing characterization for Text 2 (in Portuguese)

Subtask 2.

Narrative classification is performed at both the paragraph level (highlighted in yellow) and document level (highlighted in purple). Additionally, text spans that support the selection of the dominant narrative and sub-narrative are marked in blue for clarity.

Discrediting Ukraine

"Falsa narrativa." Rússia inverte acusações e culpa Ucrânia pela execução de "pessoas inocentes" em Bucha

Russia is the victim: Other

Discrediting Ukraine: Ukraine is a hub for criminal activities

Invertendo o discurso da Ucrânia, o embaixador russo na ONU acusou o regime de **Kiev** de matar "inocentes" em Bucha, algo que traz "de volta" os "pesadelos da II Guerra Mundial". A Rússia convocou, esta segunda-feira, uma conferência da imprensa para divulgar "documentos" que revelariam a "verdadeira natureza" daquilo que aconteceu em Bucha.

Russia is the victim: Other

Discrediting Ukraine: Ukraine is a hub for criminal activities

Na sede das Organização das Nações Unidas (ONU), o embaixador russo **Vassily Nebenzia** inverteu o discurso sobre o massacre na cidade dos arredores de Kiev, alegando que foi a **Ucrânia** que matou "inocentes" e que esta operação de "bandeira falsa" serviu para legitimar o "genocídio como método de guerra".

Discrediting Ukraine: Ukraine is associated with nazism

Assegurando que as forças armadas russas não têm como alvo civis e que "nem um único residente de Bucha sofreu qualquer violência às mãos dos russos", o alto responsável diplomático responsabilizou o regime de **Kiev** de trazer de "volta" os "pesadelos da II Guerra Mundial", numa alusão a um dos objetivos da invasão: a desnazificação.

Discrediting Ukraine: Ukraine is a hub for criminal activities

"Foi encenado. [...] É uma falsa narrativa apresentada por **Kiev**", afirmou Vassily Nebenzia, asseverando: "O Presidente Zelensky confirmou o genocídio como método de guerra". O embaixador descreveu que havia um vídeo que provava (apesar de não o ter divulgado) que os nacionalistas ucranianos matavam civis, apelando assim ao Conselho de Segurança que debatesse o assunto e que garantisse o respeito pelo direito humanitário na Ucrânia.

Discrediting Ukraine: Discrediting Ukrainian government and officials and policies

Distrust towards media: Ukrainian media cannot be trusted

Além disso, o embaixador, para provar a versão russa, recorreu a publicações nas redes sociais de vários responsáveis ucranianos na cidade de Bucha, após as forças russas terem abandonado a cidade, a 30 de março. Primeiramente, Vassily Nebenzia mostrou um vídeo do autarca da cidade, Anatoliy Fedoruk, já em abril, supostamente a "sorrir", em que falava sobre a vitória ucraniana e a expulsão das forças da Rússia. Seguidamente, mostrou uma fotografia do deputado Zhan Belenyuk com um soldado da Ucrânia. **Discrediting Ukraine: Discrediting Ukranian government and officials and policies**

Distrust towards media: Ukrainian media cannot be trusted

Para o embaixador russo, não faz sentido que estes dois responsáveis ucranianos mostrassem fotografias em Bucha, tendo em conta o cenário depois descrito pela Ucrânia, que incluía valas comuns e corpos nas ruas. "Porque é que nunca mostraram as atrocidades?", questionou, vincando que "não havia nem um sinal delas".

Discrediting Ukraine: Other

Russia is the victim: Other

Distrust towards media: Ukrainian media cannot be trusted

Duvidando da credibilidade das imagens divulgadas pela Ucrânia, Vassily Nebenzia apontou que era impossível que os russos tivessem cometido as atrocidades. "Não há corpos em decomposição, as feridas não têm sangue", atirando que era "contra a lei da biologia", dado que o exército russo deixou de ocupar Bucha no final de março.

Discrediting the West diplomacy: Other

Discrediting Ukraine: Other

Russia is the victim: Other

O embaixador sublinhou que as "falsas atrocidades", de que foram acusados pela Ucrânia, em parceira com o **Ocidente**, têm como objetivo "descredibilizar e desumanizar" as forças russas, colocando "pressão política" no Kremlin.

Discrediting the West diplomacy: Other

Esta reunião do órgão da ONU foi adiada pela presidência do Conselho de Segurança (controlada pelo Reino Unido), visto que a Rússia tinha pedido que tivesse lugar esta segunda-feira. Por conseguinte, Vassily Nebenzia criticou, ainda, o Reino Unido por ter recusado o encontro, "algo inacreditável e sem precedentes na história das Nações Unidas".

Translation: "False narrative." Russia reverses accusations and blames Ukraine for the execution of "innocent people" in Bucha

Reversing Ukraine's narrative, Russia's ambassador to the UN accused the Kyiv regime of killing "innocent people" in Bucha, something he said brings back the "nightmares of World War II". On Monday, Russia called a press conference to present "documents" that would allegedly reveal the "true nature" of what happened in Bucha.

At the United Nations headquarters, Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia flipped the script on the massacre in the town near Kyiv, claiming that it was Ukraine that killed "innocent people" and that this so-called "false flag" operation was intended to legitimize "genocide as a method of warfare".

Insisting that Russian armed forces do not target civilians and that "not a single resident of Bucha suffered any violence at the hands of Russians", the senior diplomat blamed the Ukrainian regime for bringing back the "nightmares of World War II", referencing one of the invasion's stated goals: denazification.

"It was staged. [. . .] This is a false narrative presented by Kyiv", said Vassily Nebenzia, asserting: "President Zelensky confirmed genocide as a method of war". The ambassador claimed that there was a video proving (though it was not shown) that Ukrainian nationalists were killing civilians, and he called on the Security Council to discuss the matter and ensure respect for humanitarian law in Ukraine.

Furthermore, to support the Russian version of events, the ambassador pointed to social media posts by several Ukrainian officials in Bucha after Russian forces had withdrawn from the town on March 30. First, Vassily Nebenzia showed a video from April featuring the city's mayor, Anatoliy Fedoruk, supposedly "smiling" while speaking about Ukraine's victory and the expulsion of Russian forces. He then showed a photo of lawmaker Zhan Belenyuk with a Ukrainian soldier.

According to the Russian ambassador, it made no sense for these two Ukrainian officials to be taking photos in Bucha given the scenes later described by Ukraine, which included mass graves and bodies in the streets. "Why didn't they show the atrocities?" he asked, emphasizing that "there wasn't a single sign of them". Questioning the credibility of the images shared by Ukraine, Vassily Nebenzia argued it was impossible for Russians to have committed the atrocities. "There are no decomposing bodies, and the wounds have no blood", he said, claiming this was "against the laws of biology", since the Russian army had left Bucha at the end of March.

The ambassador stressed that the "false atrocities" Russia was accused of by Ukraine, in partnership with the West, were intended to "discredit and dehumanize" Russian forces and apply "political pressure" on the Kremlin.

This UN Security Council meeting was postponed by the council's presidency (held by the United Kingdom), despite Russia having requested it for Monday. As a result, Vassily Nebenzia also criticized the UK for denying the meeting, calling it "unbelievable and unprecedented in the history of the United Nations".

Subtask 2 - Narrative classification
Narrative - Discrediting Ukraine
Sub-narrative- Discrediting Ukrainian government and officials and policies

The explanation of the dominant narrative and sub-narrative classification for Text 2 could be the following:

9.3 Text 3: Russian

Discrediting Ukraine

Беженцы из-под Часова Яра сообщили, что за ними охотились дроны **ВСУ**

URW: Discrediting Ukraine: Discrediting Ukrainian military

Беженцы, эвакуированные Вооруженными силами России из окрестностей Часова Яра, за который ведутся боевые действия в Донбассе, рассказали, как украинские беспилотники устроили на них «сафари». Об этом сообщает РИА Новости.

URW: Praise of Russia: Russia is a guarantor of peace and prosperity

Ранее штурмовики 200-й отдельной гвардейской мотострелковой бригады Ленинградского военного округа, которая действовала в составе группировки «Юг», эвакуировали группу из семи мирных жителей из села Калиновка.

URW: Discrediting Ukraine: Discrediting Ukrainian military

«Я говорю, это было как сафари, что-ли, охота за людьми»,— приводятся слова эвакуированной пожилой женщины.

Она рассказала, что **ВСУ** били беспилотниками по мирным людям, одному мужчине сбросили боеприпас прям на голову. Она отметила, что дроны украинских военных целенаправленно преследовали мирных граждан на протяжении 2,5 месяцев.

URW: Praise of Russia: Russia is a guarantor of peace and prosperity

Женщина считает, что если бы **российские военные** не эвакуировали ее, то их убежище было бы полностью разрушено украинскими дронами.

URW: Praise of Russia: Praise of Russian military might

Ранее в Министерстве обороны Российской Федерации сообщили , что российские войска освободили район «Новый» населенного пункта Часов Яр в Донецкой Народной Республике. За сутки противник потерял до 450 человек личного состава, два танка, три бронемашины, в том числе американский бронетранспортер М113, и десять пикапов.

Translation: Refugees from Chasov Yar reported that they were hunted by Ukrainian drones

Refugees evacuated by the Russian Armed Forces from the vicinity of Chasov Yar, for which military operations are being conducted in Donbass, told how Ukrainian drones carried out a "safari" against them. This was reported by RIA Novosti.
Earlier, the troops of the 200th guard motorized rifle brigade of the Leningrad Military District, which operated as part of the group called "South", evacuated a group of seven civilians from the village of Kalinovka.
"It was like a safari, something like a hunt for people," an evacuated elderly woman is quoted as saying. She said that the Ukrainian Armed Forces were firing drones at civilians, and one man had a munition dropped right on his head. She noted that Ukrainian military drones had been deliberately pursuing civilians for 2.5 months. The woman believes that if the Russian military had not evacuated her, their shelter would have been completely destroyed by the Ukrainian drones.
Earlier, the Russian Defense Ministry reported that Russian troops had liberated the "Novy" district of the village of Chasov Yar in the Donetsk People's Republic. Over the course of a day, the enemy lost up to 450 personnel, two tanks, three armored vehicles, including an American M113 armored personnel carrier, and ten pickups.

Entity	Level-1 Role	Level-2 Roles
Беженцы из-под Часова Яра (*Refugees from Chasov Yar*)	Innocent	Victim
ВСУ (*Ukrainian Armed Forces*)	Antagonist	Terrorist
российские военные (*Russian military*)	Protagonist	Guardian

Table 4: Subtask 1 — Framing characterization for Text 3 (Russian)

The following explanation could be based on the information gathered from the annotations:

Explanation:
Статья описывает, как ВСУ использует дроны, чтобы терроризировать мирных людей, а российские военные эвакуируют людей, чтобы спасти их от украинских военных.

The article describes how the Ukrainian Armed Forces exploit drones to terrorize peaceful civillians, while the Russian forces evacuate citizens to save them from the Ukrainian militants.

9.4 Text 4: Hindi

Entity	1st Level Role	2nd Level Role(s)
विदेशी मीडिया (Foreign Media)	Antagonist	Saboteur
नरेन्द्र मोदी (Narendra Modi)	Innocent	Exploited
फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स (Financial Times)	Antagonist	Deciever
भारत (India)	Protagonist	Rebel

Table 4: Subtask 1—Framing characterization for Text 4 (in Hindi)

This subsection presents an annotated Hindi sample. Table 4 illustrates the framing characterization for entities under Subtask 1, detailing the entities along with their assigned two-level schema comprising coarse-grained and fine-grained role labels. These entities are emboldened within the illustrative Hindi article, Text 4.

भारत की बढ़ती धमक से बौखलाया ब्रिटेन का मीडिया: अमेरिका-यूक्रेन से भिड़ाने की कर रहा कोशिश, दावा- तेल के बदले मिले रुपयों से रूस ने की गुपचुप खरीदारी

Distrust towards Media: Western media is an instrument of propaganda

यूक्रेन-रूस युद्ध को खत्म करने के लिए भारत के शांति प्रयासों पर **विदेशी मीडिया** पानी फेरना चाह रहा है। इसी सिलसिले में प्रधानमंत्री **नरेन्द्र मोदी** के कीव दौरे के कुछ ही दिनों के बाद विदेशी मीडिया संस्थान फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स ने दावा किया है कि भारत इस युद्ध के बीच रूस को युद्ध में काम आने वाले साजोसामान बेच रहा है।

फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स ने इस बात को लेकर 'रशिया बिल्ट कोवर्ट ट्रेड चैनल विद इंडिया, लीक्स रिवील' शीर्षक से 4 अगस्त, 2024 को एक लेख प्रकाशित किया है। इस लेख में फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स ने आरोप जड़ा है कि रूस ने तेल बेच कर जुटाए भारतीय करेंसी के बड़े रिजर्व के सहारे भारत से कई महत्वपूर्ण इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स खरीदे हैं।

Distrust towards Media: Western media is an instrument of propaganda

फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स इससे पहले भी लगातार कई बार भारत विरोधी लेख छापता रहा है। इसने इस बार दावा किया है कि भारत और रूस के बीच हुआ यह कथित लेनदेन पश्चिमी सरकारों से छुपा कर रखी गई थी और इस सामान का उपयोग यूक्रेन के खिलाफ युद्ध में हुआ।

Distrust towards Media: Western media is an instrument of propaganda

फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स ने अपने इस लेख में अपने दावे का आधार ऐसे दस्तावेज और सोर्त बताए हैं जो सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। फाइनेंशियल टाइम्स ने आरोप लगाया कि रूस उन सामानों को पहले गैर दोस्ताना देशों से लिए गए सामान के तौर पर वर्गीकृत करता है।

रूस से कच्चे तेल की खरीद भारत और अमेरिका के बीच लगातार समस्या की जड़ बना रहा है। इस मुद्दे को लेकर अमेरिका के डिप्टी NSA ने भारत से परिणाम भुगतने तक को कह दिया था। हालांकि **भारत** को इससे कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ा और उसने रूस से तेल खरीदना जारी रखा।

British media rattled by India's growing influence: Trying to pit it against the US and Ukraine, claims – Russia made secret purchases using rupees received in exchange for oil

Foreign media is trying to undermine India's peace efforts to end the Ukraine-Russia war. In this context, just a few days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kyiv, the foreign media outlet Financial Times has claimed that India is supplying Russia with equipment useful in the war.

Financial Times published an article titled 'Russia Built Covert Trade Channel With India, Leaks Reveal' on August 4, 2024. In this article, the publication alleges that Russia has purchased several important electronics from India using the large reserves of Indian currency obtained through oil sales.

Financial Times has repeatedly published anti-India articles in the past as well. This time, it claims that this alleged transaction between India and Russia was kept hidden from Western governments and that the equipment was used in the war against Ukraine.

In its article, Financial Times bases its claim on documents and sources that are not publicly available. It alleges that Russia classifies such goods as items previously procured from unfriendly countries.

India's purchase of crude oil from Russia has been a constant point of contention between India and the United States. The U.S. Deputy NSA had even warned India of consequences over this issue. However, India remained unaffected and continued buying oil from Russia.

Figure 1: Example demonstrating annotation labels pertaining to Hindi article. Top: Article in Hindi with Subtask 1: entities highlighted in bold, Subtask 2: narrative labels at the paragraph level (highlighted in yellow), the dominant narrative at the document level (highlighted in purple), and evidence supporting the dominant narrative selection (in blue font); Bottom: English translation of the same article. The colour scheme is same as for other languages.

Figure 2: Subtask 3 explanation for the example article for Hindi.

9.5 Text 5: Bulgarian

Amplifying Climate Fears: Amplifying existing fears of global warming

Арктика може да остане без лед още към 2030 година

Amplifying Climate Fears: Amplifying existing fears of global warming

Срокът е около десетилетие по-рано, отколкото изследователите предвиждаха досега.

Amplifying Climate Fears: Amplifying existing fears of global warming

Според ново проучване, отразено в "Ню Йорк Таймс първото регистрирано лято, през което ще се разтопи почти целият плаващ морски лед в Арктика, може да настъпи още през 2030 г. - около десетилетие по-рано, отколкото изследователите предвиждаха досега. Още по темата. Изследването показва, че този резултат "може да се осъществи, дори ако държавите успеят да ограничат емисиите на парникови газове по-решително, отколкото го правят в момента в сравнение с по-ранните прогнози, според които по-силните действия в областта на климата може да са достатъчни за запазване на летния лед, продължава вестникът.

Amplifying Climate Fears: Whatever we do it is already too late

Публикацията на "Гардиън"за изследването е озаглавена: "Вече е твърде късно за спасяване на арктическия лед, смятат климатолозите". В него се казва, че анализът показва, че дори ако емисиите бъдат рязко намалени, през следващите десетилетия Арктика ще бъде без лед през септември. В доклада се казва, че ако емисиите намаляват бавно или продължават да се увеличават, първото лято без лед може да бъде през 2030 г.

Amplifying Climate Fears: Amplifying existing fears of global warming

Вестникът отбелязва, че в последния доклад на Междуправителствената експертна група по изменение на климата (МГИК) се стига до заключението, че Арктика ще загуби летния си лед през 2040 г. "при средни и високи сценарии на емисиите". Според "Индипендънт"международният екип от Южна Корея, Канада и Германия е използвал "спътникови наблюдения на арктическия морски лед през последните 40 години и най-добрите климатични модели"и "също така е успял да отдаде загубата на лед основно на емисиите на парникови газове".

Amplifying Climate Fears: Whatever we do it is already too late

Професор Дирк Ноц, океанограф от Хамбургския университет в Германия, който е един от авторите на изследването и автор на доклада на IPCC, казва пред Bloomberg: "В общи линии казваме, че е станало твърде късно за спасяване на арктическия лед през лятото". Сътрудникът на сайта Carbon Brief д-р Зеке Хаусфатер пише в Twitter, като отбелязва, че "проучването все още дава най-добрата оценка за 2060 г. или около това време за цялото лято". Междувременно в Северна Америка BBC News съобщава, че за милиони хора са издадени предупреждения за високорисково качество на въздуха поради продължаващите горски пожари в Канада. В статията се обяснява: "В Канада продължава да се наблюдава по-активен сезон на горските пожари от обикновено.

Amplifying Climate Fears: Amplifying existing fears of global warming

Миналата седмица федерални служители предупредиха, че това лято може да доведе до най-големите пожари в Канада досега поради сухите и горещи условия, които се прогнозират през по-голямата част от сезона."

Arctic could be ice-free as early as 2030

That's about a decade earlier than researchers had previously predicted.

According to a new study reported in the New York Times, the first recorded summer in which nearly all of the Arctic's floating sea ice will melt could occur as early as 2030 - about a decade earlier than researchers had previously predicted. The study shows that this outcome "could happen even if countries succeed in curbing greenhouse gas emissions more decisively than they currently do," compared with earlier projections that stronger climate action might be enough to preserve summer ice, the paper continues.

The Guardian's piece on the study is headlined, "It's already too late to save Arctic ice, say climate scientists." It says the analysis shows that even if emissions are sharply reduced, the Arctic will be ice-free in September for decades to come. The report says that if emissions decline slowly or continue to increase, the first ice-free summer could be in 2030.

The paper notes that the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that the Arctic will lose its summer ice by 2040 "under medium and high emissions scenarios."

According to the Independent, the international team from South Korea, Canada and Germany used "satellite observations of Arctic sea ice over the past 40 years and the best climate models" and "was also able to attribute the ice loss mainly to greenhouse gas emissions."

Professor Dirk Notz, an oceanographer at the University of Hamburg in Germany who is one of the study's authors and a contributing author to the IPCC report, tells Bloomberg, "Basically we're saying it's too late to save the Arctic summer ice."

Carbon Brief contributor Dr. Zeke Hausfather tweeted, noting that "the study still gives the best estimate for 2060 or so for the entire summer." Meanwhile in North America, BBC News reports that high-risk air quality warnings have been issued for millions of people due to ongoing wildfires in Canada. The article explains, "Canada continues to see a more active wildfire season than usual.

Last week, federal officials warned that this summer could produce Canada's largest wildfires on record due to the dry and hot conditions that are forecast for most of the season."

A explanation based on the information gathered from these annotations is the following:

Ледовете в Арктика се топят много по-бързо от очакваното и могат да изчезнат напълно до 2030-та година, което потвърждава тезата на климатолозите, че вече е твърде късно да се направи каквото и да било за да бъде спрян този процес.

Arctic ice is melting much faster than expected and could disappear completely by 2030, confirming the thesis of climatologists that it is already too late to do anything to stop this process.

10 Inception

This Section provides information about Inception,[6] the platform used for the annotation process. The instance for this task can be accessed from the page https://inception.math.unipd.it, where 5 projects are hosted, one per language.

Initially, a login page appears, where each user must enter their personal credentials. After logging in, if the user is involved in multiple projects, a page is presented where it is possible to select the one of interest. Otherwise, if the user is involved in a single project, the project page is loaded.

When selecting a project, the related project dashboard appears on the left where the functionalities that the user can access are shown, as can be seen in Figure 3. Depending on the roles assigned to the user, some functionalities may not be available.

- **Annotation**—Leads to a page for making annotations, available to **annotators**.

- **Curation**—Leads to a page to perform curation, available to **curators**.

- **Monitoring**—Leads to a page to control the work of annotators and curators, available to **managers** and **curators**.

- **Agreement**—Leads to a page for calculating agreement between annotators, available to **managers** and **curators**.

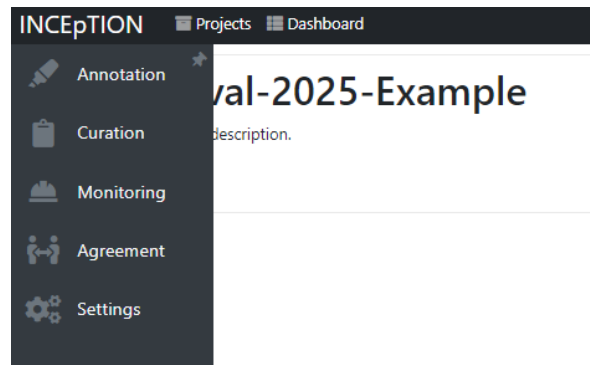[6]https://inception-project.github.io/

Figure 3: Inception project dashboard.

- **Settings**—Leads to a page for managing project settings, available to **managers**.

Roles: Each user can have multiple roles inside a project. These are:

- **Annotator**, the person in charge of making annotations: can only view the annotation page.

- **Curator**, the person in charge of performing curation: can monitor the state of annotations, curate a document, or check the agreement.

- **Manager**, the person in charge of monitoring the project: can add users to the project, change roles, add and remove documents, export the project, change project settings, and add or remove guidelines. If this role is assigned, it is important not to change the project settings as it may cause the projects to become misaligned with each other.

In addition to this, if a manager is also assigned the role of annotator, it is possible to view the annotations made by other users in read-only mode.

10.1 Annotation

After clicking on the **Annotation** tab in the project dashboard, a pop-up opens in which to select the article to annotate. All documents currently loaded into that specific project will appear here.

The selected article will open on the annotations page. On the **black bar** at the top, **Dashboard**, on the left, will take back to the project dashboard page; on the right are the **Help** button, which takes to the Inception user guide, and the **Logout** button.

The main parts of the annotation page are highlighted in Figure 4. In **red** is the area where the article content is loaded and annotations can be inserted. In **blue**, on the right, is the area where layers can be edited and the value for an annotation specified. Lastly, the menu is in **green**.
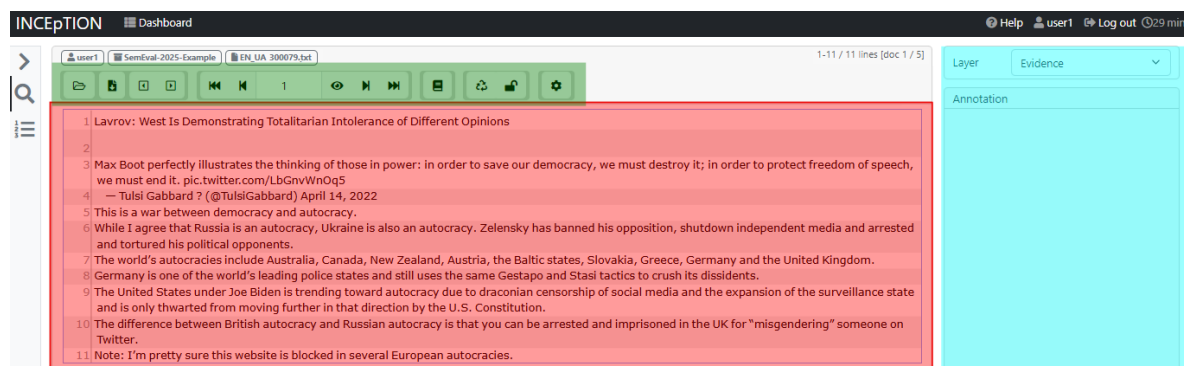

Figure 4: Inception annotation page.

On the menu (Figure 5) are several options:

1. To select another article from the list of documents loaded on the Inception instance.

2. To export the current document.

3. To move to the previous or next document, according to the ordering within Inception.

4. To change the rows of the article shown on the page. The outer arrows are used to reach the beginning and end of the document. The internal arrows are used to move to the previous and next page. Finally, the eye icon starts the page from the line indicated in the box to the left.

5. To view the guidelines, if uploaded by the manager.

6. To reset the document and remove all annotations present.

7. To mark a document as finished. It can be marked as completed successfully or used to report a problem. Furthermore, it is possible to add a comment to specify if there have been errors or declare uncertainties from the annotator's point of view.

8. To change display settings. Here is possible to modify the number of lines displayed on a single page, increase the font size or choose to visualize only specific layers.
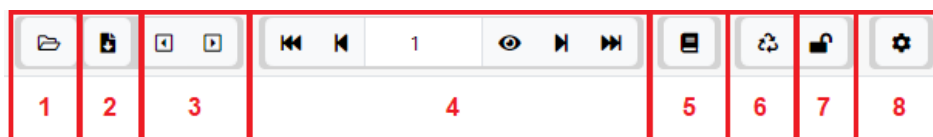
Figure 5: Inception annotation page menu.

10.1.1 ST1—Framing Characterization

To annotate a mention of an entity with a role, annotators must first select the **Entity_role** layer in the drop-down menu on the left. Then they should go to the part of the article where the entity is mentioned and select it. If the mention consists of only one word, simply double-click on it with the left mouse button. If it is composed of multiple words, annotators will have to click at the beginning of the mention of the entity and drag the mouse to the end, as if to highlight that portion of the text.

After selecting an entity mention, a box will appear on the right side where entity roles can be specified using the **role_type** feature (Figure 6). After clicking the box, a list of all available roles appears. Annotators can assign multiple roles to a single entity. If a mistake was made, it is possible to remove all assigned roles using the **Clear** button or delete the annotation with the **Delete** button in the top right corner.

10.1.2 ST2—Narrative Classification

Similarly as done for entities, to specify the narratives for a paragraph annotators must first choose the **Narrative** layer in the Layer menu, select the first word of the paragraph in the article and then specify first the coarse narratives, with **narrative_coarse**, and then the fine-grained children under **narrative_fine-grained**. **There should be an annotation for each pair of coarse-grained labels and related fine-grained labels**, as can be seen from Figure 7. If there are multiple sub-narratives for a narrative, there should be one annotation for each.

After having decided the narratives for all paragraphs of the article, annotators should decide on the dominant narrative. To do this they should select the **Dominant_narrative** layer and annotate the title with the single narrative that they feel best describes the purpose of the article. They should also annotate with the **Evidence** layer the parts of the text that they believe validate the choice of the dominant narrative, as shown in Figure 8.

If a mistake was made, it is possible to remove all assigned narratives or evidence spans by selecting them and using the **Clear** button or delete the annotation with the **Delete** button in the top right corner.
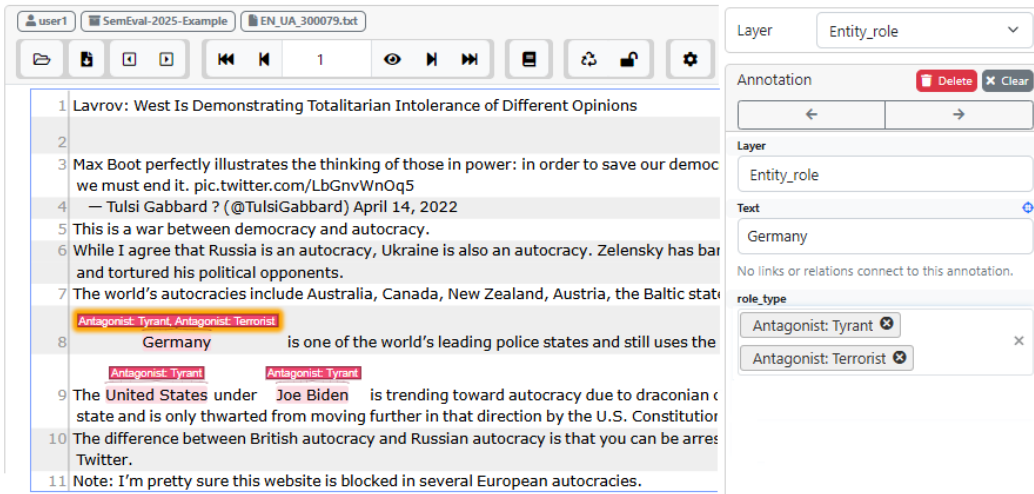
Figure 6: Entity_role layer.

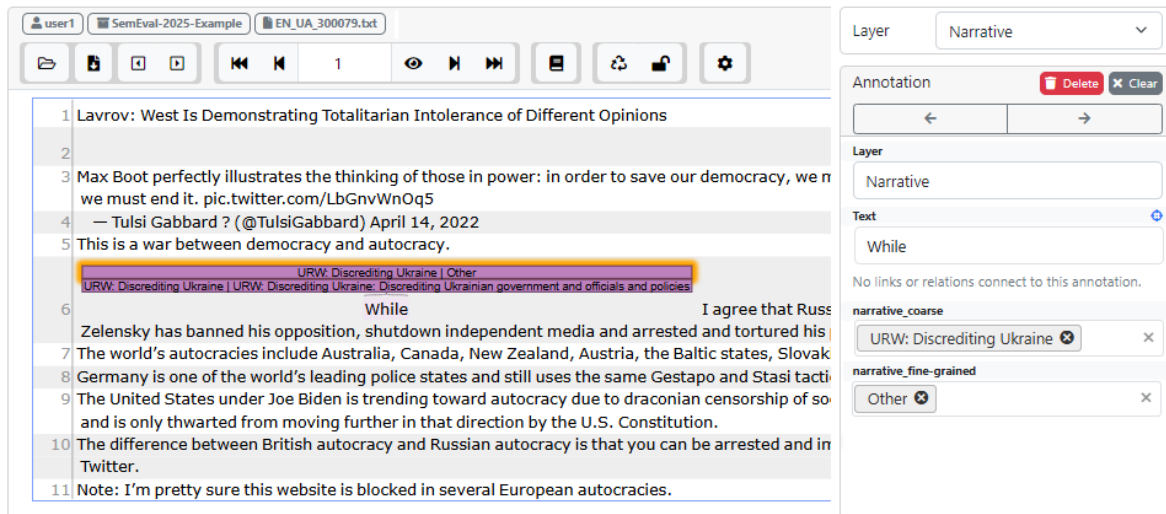
Figure 7: Narrative layer.

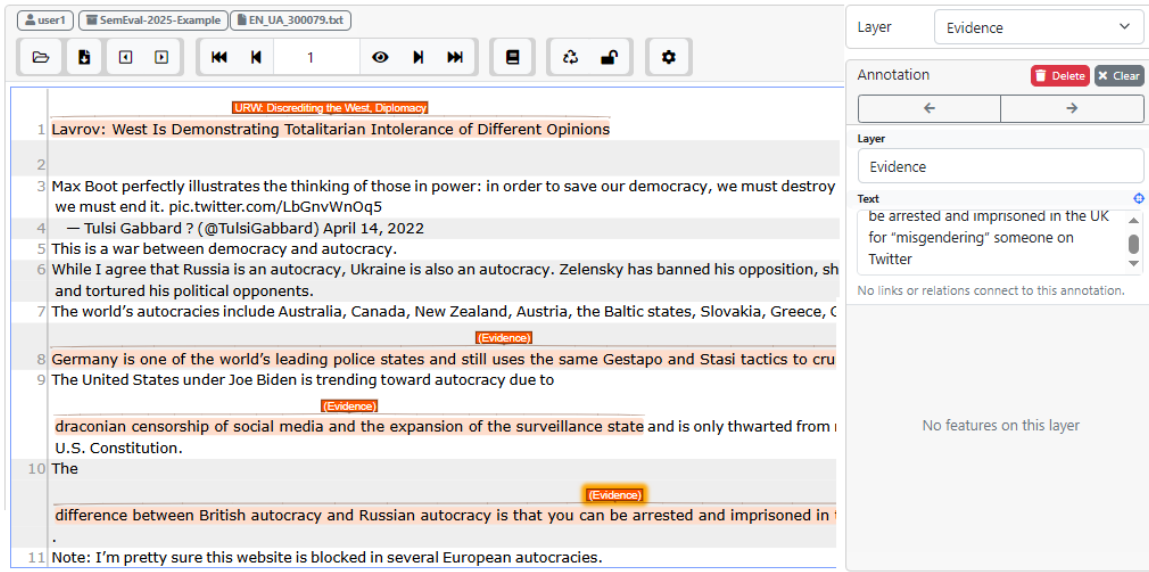Figure 8: Dominant_narrative and Evidence layers.

10.1.3 ST3—Explaining Narrative Classification

To write the explanation supporting the dominant narrative, select the **Explanation** layer, annotate the title and write the explanation on the **Comment** textbox (Figure 9).

If a mistake was made, it is possible to remove an explanation using the **Clear** button or delete the annotation with the **Delete** button in the top right corner.
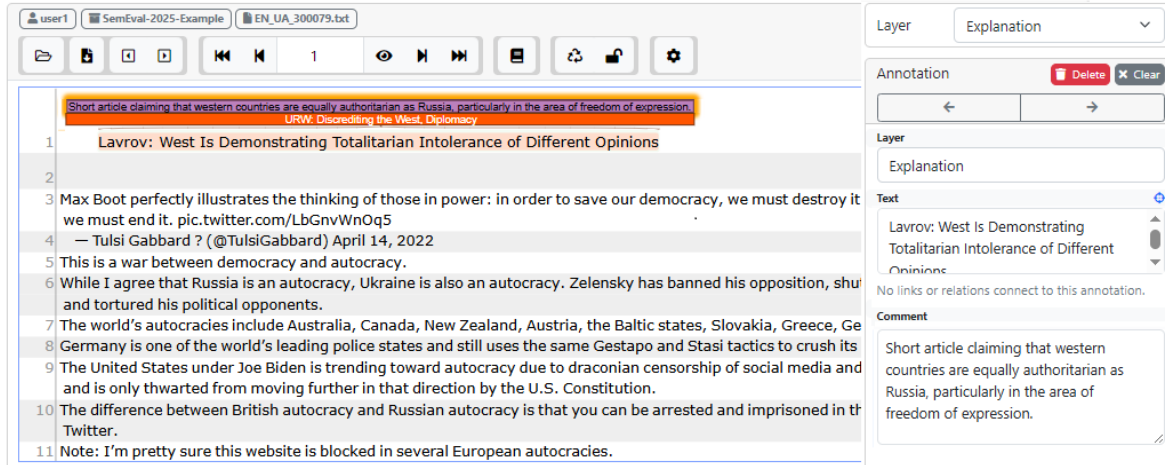
Figure 9: Explanation layer.

10.2 Curation

After selecting the **Curation** tab in the project dashboard, a pop-up opens in which to select the article to curate. All documents currently marked as completed by at least one annotator appear here. To check whether a document has the required number of annotations, the **Monitoring** page should be used.

The selected article will open on the curation page, shown in Figure 10. The bar on the top and the **green** and **blue** areas are the same as described in Section 10.1. In **red** is the area were curation can be done: on top is the box showing the current status of the curation document, at the bottom are all the annotations made by annotators who marked the document as completed. The curation
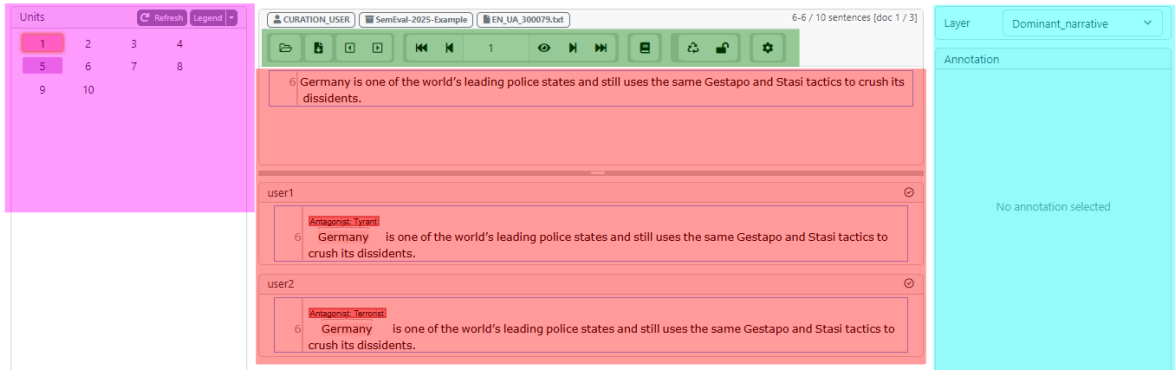
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Figure 10: Inception curation page.

page additionally features the area shown in **purple**. The numbers indicate lines in the document, and colors indicate differences between annotations in that line. By clicking the arrow next to **Legend** it is possible to view the meaning for all colors. It is possible to pre-annotate the curation document using merging strategies, which can be viewed the at this link.

By default all annotation layers are visible while curating. It is possible to make only some layers visible by clicking on **Preferences** (the gear icon on the menu, showed in green in Figure 10) and selecting only the layers of interest. It is possible to change the labels assigned to an annotation in the curation document by clicking a specific span and editing the feature field. If a mistake was made in adding an annotation, it can be deleted from the curation document using **Delete**.

10.2.1 Curation sidebar

To bypass the inability to change the curation editor, which modifies how text is displayed, an alternative is to use the curation sidebar (Figure 11) present on the **Annotation** page.

To open the **curation sidebar** from the **Annotation** page, click the clipboard icon on the left. To ensure the correct curation procedure, curators must check the document settings. **Show all** curatable annotations **MUST BE ENABLED** and it **MUST BE SPECIFIED to save in the curation document**, otherwise annotations are going to be saved as normal annotations made by the user. To save the changes click on **Apply**. It is also possible to select which users one wants to view annotations from (**orange** box).

To insert annotations made by users into the curation document simply click on one; when an annotation is added it will be duplicated and appear colored. Annotations can also be edited or made from scratch from the **blue** area on the right. Any changes made to the curation document will be automatically saved.
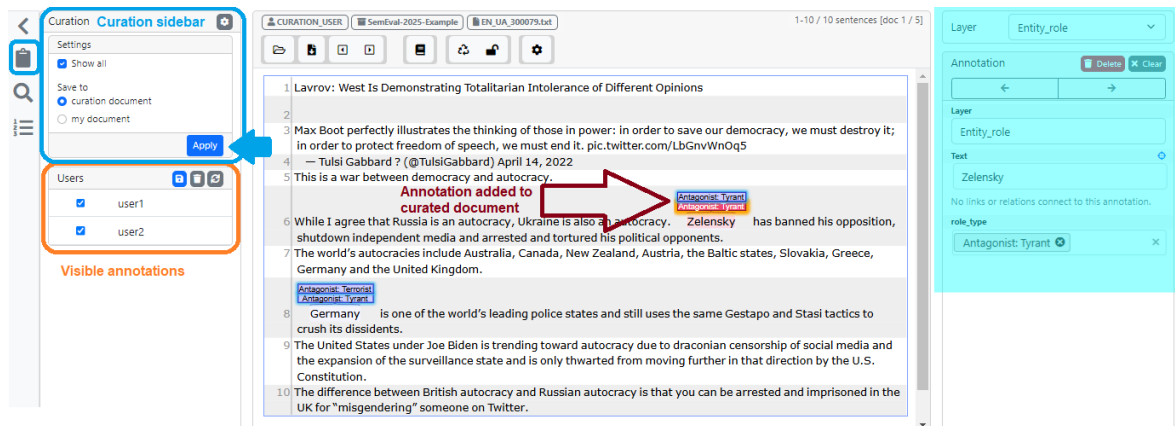

Figure 11: Curation sidebar on annotation page.

10.2.2 ST1 - Framing Characterization

The layer of interest for this subtask is **Entity_role**. Curators can add an annotation made by any annotator to the curation document by clicking on it. When an annotation is added to the curation document it will appear **green**, if it is discarded it will show as **blue**. If all annotators made a mistake in selecting the entity boundaries, curators can annotate from scratch by following the instructions in Section 10.1.1.

10.2.3 ST2 - Narrative Classification

The layers of interest for this subtask are **Narrative**, **Dominant_Narrative** and **Evidence**. Curators can add an annotation made by any annotator to the curation document by clicking on it. When an annotation is added to the curation document it will appear **green**, if it is discarded it will show as **blue**. If all annotators made a mistake in selecting the annotation boundaries, curators can annotate from scratch by following the instructions in Section 10.1.2.

10.2.4 ST3 - Explaining Narrative Classification

The layer of interest for this subtask is **Explanation**. To curate explanations, curators should choose the annotated explanation that best describes the purpose of the article. If no explanation is believed to be complete, curators can modify one by adding the parts of other explanations they deem necessary. To achieve that, it is possible to add all explanations provided by the annotators to the curation document, copy and paste the relevant parts of other comment into a single explanation, and delete the extra explanations (see Figure 12). Curators can also write an explanation from scratch or manually add text following the instructions in Section 10.1.3.
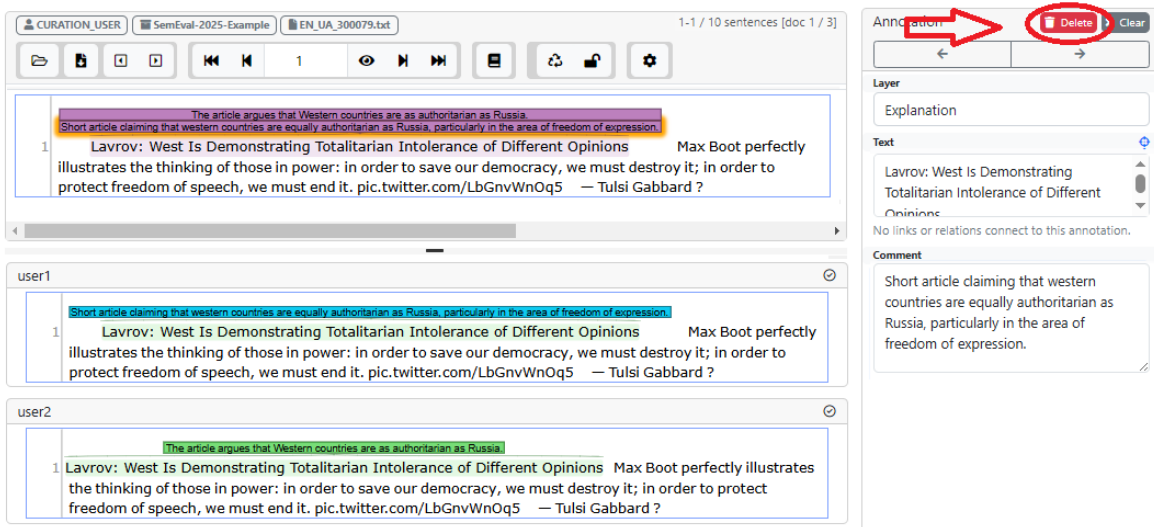

Figure 12: Inception curation explanation layer.

10.3 Technical specification

For this task we used version 24.0 (build *da827b12*) of Inception. To ensure the platform works properly, we have added the following changes to the settings.properties file:

- **ui.json-cas-legacy.enabled=true**, to enable the option to export projects using the *json (legacy)* format.

- **curation.sidebar.enabled=true**, to activate the option of using the curation sidebar on the annotations page.

- **server.servlet.session.timeout=3h**, to increase the amount of time a session can remain idle before the user is automatically logged out.

- **websocket.enabled=false**, to ensure the correct functioning of the export tool while running behind a reverse proxy.

11 Lessons Learned: Recommendations for Running Large Annotation Campaigns

The annotation campaign involved 2419 documents across five languages. The large-scale nature of the endeavor—encompassing three annotation tasks and three distinct taxonomies totalling 96 labels—required an extensive effort, spanning over eight months. Throughout this period, a team of over 35 individuals collaborated to produce a large multilingual and multidimensional annotated dataset. Given the complexity and scope of the project, several valuable insights emerged, which we share here to inform future endeavors of similar scale.

Document Selection: In projects of this nature, the process before annotation includes the collection and selection of suitable texts. Identifying appropriate texts proved particularly challenging for some languages, requiring significant additional time and effort. Since text selection was conducted simultaneously with annotation, it disrupted the workflow and slowed down the progress. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to pre-select and validate all necessary texts before the annotation phase begins, especially for languages where sourcing relevant content—such as texts on climate change—may be difficult. This approach ensures a smoother annotation process, minimizes delays, and enhances overall efficiency.

Annotation Guidelines: A crucial element for successful annotation is providing the annotators with clear illustrative examples and detailed instructions for labels in the guidelines, especially for those that are more challenging to identify, such as the ones at the sub-narrative level. Many complex cases arise during the annotation process, so updating the guidelines with relevant references helps annotators navigate these challenges. By providing comprehensive examples and clarifications, the guidelines significantly improve annotation consistency and accuracy. Especially important is producing clarifications of commonly confused labels and subsequently communicating them to annotators. A prominent example of this case was the pair of "*Ukraine is a puppet of the West*" and "*the West does not care about Ukraine, only their interests* ."

Annotator Training: To effectively train new annotators, it is recommended to begin by presenting the annotation guidelines, explaining the relevant taxonomies, and illustrating them with clear examples. This initial step could be supported by a tutorial video, which should be made available to annotators for reference at any time. In addition, practical exercises should be provided to allow annotators to practice independently. Group training sessions are also valuable, especially when they include discussions about annotation challenges and allow the annotators to share and resolve difficulties collaboratively.

Complexity and Overlap of Narratives: In many cases, certain narratives stipulated in the guidelines overlap—in the sense that a set of more than one narrative consistently can be applied to the given paragraph of text. For example, the sub-narrative *Discrediting Ukrainian military* was often found to overlap with *Praise of Russian military might*. A similar situation is observed in the CC domain, in the example in Section 9, where *Methodologies/metrics used are unreliable/faulty* may often co-occur with *Data shows no temperature increase*. In such instances, either the guidelines should be refined/amended to remove the frequent intersection, or the annotators should be explicitly encouraged to assign *more than one* sub-narrative label to a span of text, with the understanding that this overlap is normal.

Annotation Workflow: Given the substantial workload involved in a project of this scale, it is essential to establish a well-structured and carefully planned timeline. This timeline should not only ensure that all team members can complete their tasks on schedule, but also allow sufficient time to maintain annotation quality. It should incorporate dedicated periods for comparing annotations across different annotators and aligning them with the curator's input. Additionally, real-time access

to inter-annotator agreement metrics is highly recommended. The lack of such metrics can limit the ability to dynamically adjust annotator pairings based on their agreement levels. Integrating real-time monitoring into future annotation projects would enhance coordination, improve annotation consistency, and ultimately lead to higher-quality outcomes.

Annotation Tool: The annotation tool plays a crucial role in ensuring a smooth and efficient annotation process. A well-configured tool can significantly optimize annotators' workflow and enhance productivity. For example, the curation mode configuration in Inception, which displayed annotator contributions in a vertically stacked layout, limited the view to one annotator at a time. This setup made it difficult to compare annotations and make decisions efficiently. In addition, it was not possible to change the curation text editor, which made the process more complicated as the formatted content appeared difficult to read. To get around this, we enabled a beta feature that enables us to curate from the annotation page, but this was not an ideal solution. To improve this, it is recommended to implement a side-by-side visualization layout, with the possibility of selecting different editors for visualization, allowing for a more intuitive and streamlined curation process and facilitating easier comparisons and decision-making.

Another proble with this annotation campaign was the very large number of labels. Since all taxonomies are two-level, we set up the annotation tool to have two multi-valued String fields, one coarse-grained and one fine-grained. The annotators were instructed to fill the coarse-grained label first and then proceed to the fine-grained one, in order to assist memorization of the narratives and make the cognitive load more manageable. One important feature that was missing is the ability to set constraint rules for multi-valued fields, to automatically filter the selection of the second field (fine-grained) based on the values of the first (coarse-grained), in order to make the selection smoother for the annotator.

Data Quality Control: Regular semi-automated data quality control starting early on in the campaign proved crucial to identify quickly potential discrepancies in the understanding of the labels across the annotation teams. Performing such controls only *after* the campaign could have led to the discovery of fundamental errors, requiring the need to re-annotate part of the data at a high cost. The cross-lingual automated comparison, which proved extremely useful in the past on span-level annotation campaigns, did not perform as well on the paragraph level, as the semantic comparison of the text is more challenging, and hence significantly fewer cases were flagged for review than in a span-level annotation task. Further work is required in order to extend such approaches to coarser levels of annotations. In order to make the comparison of label distributions more meaningful, it would have been necessary to track the sources' bias per language. As a general recommendation, it is advisable to track as much metadata as possible on the article level, in order to facilitate the analysis of the dataset.

Learning from Past Experiences The present guidelines and annotation campaign design are the latest installations in a series of annotation campaigns that we have performed. The experience learned from previous experiences was invaluable in order to avoid losing time and effort. Before running similar large-scale annotations, we believe it is fundamental to learn from previous experiences such as the one laid out in these guidelines. However, it is not enough to know the lessons and to communicate them, it is necessary for the team to keep them in mind and to repeat them until they have been assimilated.

Organization Learning from past experience is as important as implementing the lessons learned, and some practices could not be implemented due to the time constraints they would impose, potentially requiring a level of attention, which may not be attainable unless one is working full time on managing the project.

The scale of the annotation project was also made possible by the distribution of the management tasks of the annotation teams. The two-tier organization of the management allowed for higher throughput, but also delayed coordination and caused higher latency in the completion of some of the milestones. This is mostly due to the varying availability of key people to attend the weekly coordination meeting, the availability of annotators who may have other tasks to work on, and time-zone constraints that may prevent some teams from fully participating in the coordination activities.

While commitment to attend coordination meetings is the most effective approach, it rarely can be taken as a given for all the participants. As such, effective communication strategies must be put in place, not only to communicate but to ensure that the message has been received. Given the variable availability of annotators to work, it is desirable to set up a deadline in advance to give a buffer to deal with unknown unknowns.

12   Conclusion

In conclusion, this document outlined the comprehensive annotation guidelines and campaign design for the SemEval 2025 Task 10 on Multilingual Characterization and Extraction of Narratives from Online News and is meant to serve a reference companion file. It describes in details the annotation guidelines for the three subtasks (Entity Framing Characterization, Narrative Classification, and Explanation of Narrative Classification) as well as the three taxonomies: Entity Framing, Climate Change and the Ukraine-Russia war. Each label is provided with a description and example, and each of the 5 considered languages is provided with a fully annotated document for each subtask. This document also server as a reference on the use of the *Inception* platform, which was used in order to perform the annotation, both on the deployment and usage aspects. Finally, this document also serves as a reference for the annotation procedure, which is described in detailed. We also reflect on this annotation procedure, drawing several lessons learned from our experience. As such, this document can be used in order to derive even more efficient annotation procedure for large multilingual annotation campaigns.

Acknowledgements

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List of Abbreviations and Definitions

CC Climate Change

URW Ukraine-Russia War

IAA Inter-Annotator Agreement

NE Named Entities

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