

# TNA ACTIVITY REPORT

## WORDS TO ACTION: HOW AND IF IDEOLOGY TRANSLATES TO VIOLENCE IN THE CASE OF INTERWAR FASCISTS ORGANISATIONS

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## Introduction

The research basis for this project is the analysis and study of the interwar radical right organization ORJUNA (Organization of Yugoslav Nationalists), and their activities. The main research question revolved around the connection between rhetoric and violence. In other words, is there a correlation between rhetoric that in some way promotes or endorses violence with actual violent events connected to the extremist group.

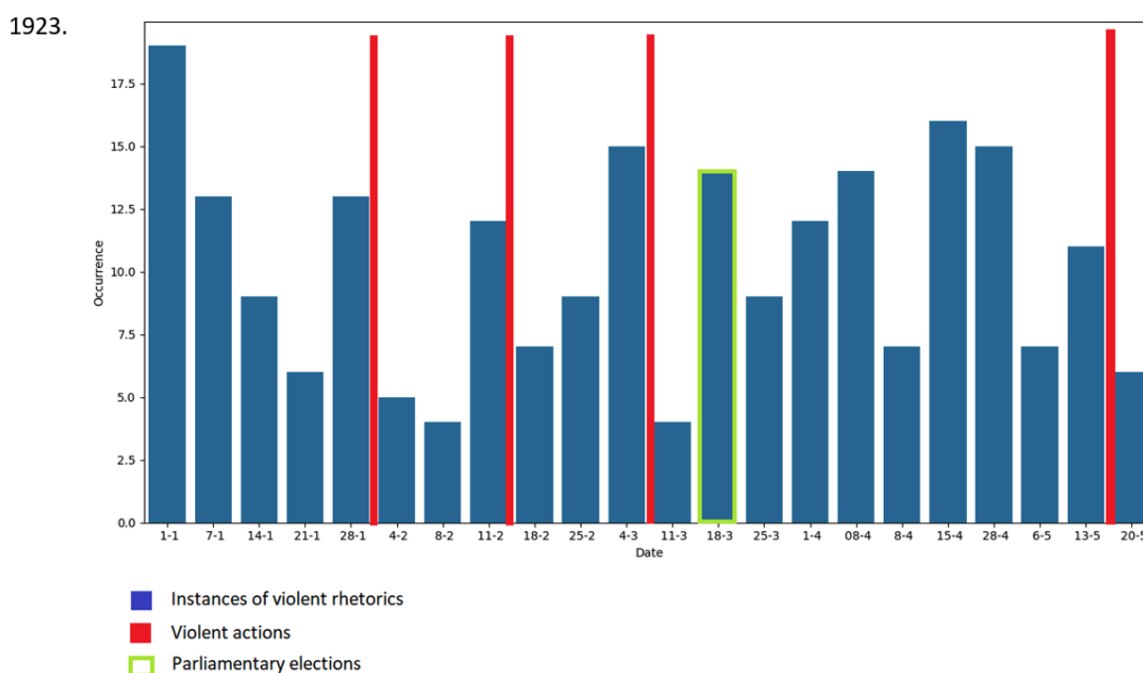


Figure 1

To answer that question, a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative analysis of source material was needed. Since the organization had a very lively publishing activity, it opened a prospect of chronological measurement of rhetoric by using computational methods. The idea started around a rudimentary rule-based NLP code, written in Python, that was to measure the instances and frequency of words and phrases that could indicate violence. This was later compared against violent actions that shows a correlation between the two (see Figure 1). However, this approach was limited in itself by the rule-based methodology and rigidity in terms of language analysis.

After coming to UNED, professor Munoz proposed a different approach, consisting of several research methods which employ the newest AI advances in language processing. The methodology revolves around the integration of Large Language Models (LLMs) within a conversational pipeline. This process involves the creation of systematically crafted conversational prompts, amalgamating both system-generated and user-provided messages to guide the model through the labeling process. The study adopts a combined methodology, incorporating "few-shot learning" (Brown et al., 2020) and "chain of thought" (Wei et al., 2022) reasoning. This strategic approach provides context to the model with minimal examples, elucidating the rationale behind its classifications. The objective is to enhance the

accuracy in identifying nuanced expressions of violence and offer transparency in the decision-making process.

## Few-Shot Learning and Chain of Thought Techniques

The "few-shot" learning technique enables the LLM to distill insights from a restricted set of examples, facilitating the generalization of understanding violent language patterns present in 1920s Slovenian newspapers. This method enhances the adaptability of the language model to historical contexts characterized by limited labeled data, positioning it as a valuable tool for digital humanities research. The "chain of thought" aspect unfolds as a structured narrative, guiding the LLM through a meticulous process of recognizing and labeling linguistic nuances associated with violence. The combination of these techniques not only enriches the LLM's interpretative abilities but also contributes to a broader understanding of the socio-political landscape of 1920s Slovenia.

## Significance of Research

This research aims to analyze and explain the type of language that was used by the interwar radical right in order to convey violent intent, while simultaneously trying to evade censorship and government suppression. This language heavily relied on metaphors and claims of self-defense and warnings against other organizations. This further means that the models that are trained on contemporary data have a hard time in picking up instances of potential violence. Yet, the model so far proved adept at identifying speech patterns connected to some forms of radical right rhetoric, like militarism or expansionism. It is my hope that the model could be tuned to assess and flag instances of implied violent rhetoric. This could further benefit even contemporary internet users by identifying radical right patterns that have the capacity to prompt violence.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this research represents a substantial contribution to the evolving field of digital humanities. The practical implementation of advanced language models in historical research has played a crucial role in illuminating historical events that were previously obscured by the shadows of time. The methodologies outlined in this report provide a robust framework for leveraging Mistral (Jiang et al., 2023) LLM in similar studies across various historical periods and regions, thereby expanding the scope and impact of digital humanities research.

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