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News Media and Hate Speech Promotion in Mediterranean Countries

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A volume in the Advances in Media,
Entertainment, and the Arts (AMEA) Book Series

Published in the United States of America by

IGI Global
Information Science Reference (an imprint of IGI Global)
701 E. Chocolate Avenue
Hershey PA, USA 17033
Tel: 717-533-8845
Fax: 717-533-8661
E-mail: cust@igi-global.com
Web site: <http://www.igi-global.com>

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Said-Hung, Elías, 1979- editor. | Montero Díaz, Julio, editor.

Title: News media and hate speech promotion in Mediterranean countries /
edited by: Elias Said-Hung, Julio Montero-Diaz.

Description: Hershey PA : Information Science Reference, [2024] | Includes bibliographical references. | Summary: "This book will provide relevant theoretical frameworks and the latest empirical research findings about hate speech' studies. It will be written for professionals and researchers who want to contribute to a debate about hate speech from an approach focused on digital media in a specific geographic and linguistic area (Mediterranean countries). This project can generate a relevant impact in the institutional, professional and academic fields associated with the study of the proposed topic, giving visibility to projects that are currently being advanced around it but also offering the possibility of establishing a new approach, taking into account the particularities of linguistic, media and journalistic characteristics of the Mediterranean countries and of other socioculturally related ones (Latin America)"-- Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023012755 (print) | LCCN 2023012756 (ebook) | ISBN 9781668484272 (hardcover) | ISBN 9781668484319 (paperback) | ISBN 9781668484289 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Hate speech--Mediterranean Region. | Discrimination in language--Mediterranean Region. | Discrimination in mass media--Mediterranean Region. | Hate--Mediterranean Region.

Classification: LCC P95.54 .N49 2024 (print) | LCC P95.54 (ebook) | DDC 302.2309182/2--dc23/eng/20230512

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023012755>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023012756>

This book is published in the IGI Global book series Advances in Media, Entertainment, and the Arts (AMEA) (ISSN: 2475-6814; eISSN: 2475-6830)

British Cataloguing in Publication Data

A Cataloguing in Publication record for this book is available from the British Library.

All work contributed to this book is new, previously-unpublished material. The views expressed in this book are those of the authors, but not necessarily of the publisher.

For electronic access to this publication, please contact: eresources@igi-global.com.

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Chapter 5

Approximation of Hate Detection Processes in Spanish and Other Non-Anglo-Saxon Languages

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ABSTRACT

In this chapter, the authors present how the use of artificial intelligence (AI) can help to identify and reduce the new digital crimes according to hate messages. The appearance of the internet in our lives, at the end of the last century, has meant a great technological advance, providing easier access to a huge volume of information and communication between people. The rise of communication-oriented networks has been such that true digital environments have been created, the so-called social networks, with millions of users all over the planet. This has meant, to a large extent, the modification of our personal relationships, and, unfortunately, the appearance of new ways of sending hate messages. The work presented is aimed at a digital tool built for this purpose for the automatic detection of hate (and non-hate) messages, in Spanish and other non-Anglo-Saxon languages, with AI algorithms, using training data from the Spanish language.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-6684-8427-2.ch005

BACKGROUND

The advent of the Internet has enabled the spread of social networks in all countries, particularly non-English-speaking countries. According to Ethnologic study by Pereltsvaig (2020), it indicates the following population by the number of speakers (this classification is elaborated taking into account the mother tongue): Mandarin Chinese (917.8 million); Spanish (460.1 million); English (379 million); Hindi-Urdu (341.2 million); Arabic (280 million); Bengali (228.3 million); Portuguese (220.7 million); Russian (153.7 million); Japanese (128.2 million); Punjabi (92.7 million).

However, the most spoken languages in the world, considering the second language, we have the following ranking: English (1.268 billion); Mandarin Chinese (1.12 billion); Hindi (637 million); Spanish (537 million); French (280 million); Arabic (274 million); Bengali (US\$ 265 million); Russian (258 million); Portuguese (252 million); Indonesian (199 million).

While English is the most widely spoken, we have many other languages with very large populations. The following ranking considers only the languages we speak on the Internet: English (25,3%); Mandarin Chinese (19,8%); Spanish (8%); Arabic (4,8%); Portuguese (4,1%); Indonesian (4,1%); Japanese (3%); Russian (2,8%); French (2,8%); German (2,2%); Other (23,1%).

Another significant factor to consider is that thanks to the automatic translators we now have multiple news items translated into other languages. This is the list of the most translated languages.

1. English
2. Spanish
3. Chinese
4. French
5. German

This ranking differs slightly from the previous one. For example, French is in fourth place. This is not surprising given that French is the official language of the European Union, the United Nations and the International Court of Justice.

At European level, in addition to English, languages such as Spanish, French, German, Portuguese and Italian are widely used in social networks and by the media. Another important factor to take into account is the ease with which news and comments can be translated online, with numerous tools such as: DeepL, Google translate, Wordreference, Bing Translator, etc.

Social networks are a powerful tool for connecting with people around the world and sharing information and opinions in real time. However, there have also been a number of problems associated with the overuse of social networks in non-English speaking countries. Here are some of the most common problems:

- Read of false and misleading news through social media is a common problem in many non-English speaking countries. A UNESCO report notes that the spread of false information on social media has been particularly problematic during the COVID-19 pandemic in countries like Brazil, Mexico, India, and Nigeria (FreedomHouse, 2020; UNESCO, 2020).
- Threats to online privacy and security: social media also presents significant challenges in terms of online privacy and security. In many non-English speaking countries, regulation of social media is inadequate, and technology companies have little legal liability for misuse of users' personal

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