

"How to argue and evoke emotion in French
and German: some common points and
divergences between written discourses
about vaccination"

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8th Sorbonne SUNY Graduate Symposium



Outline

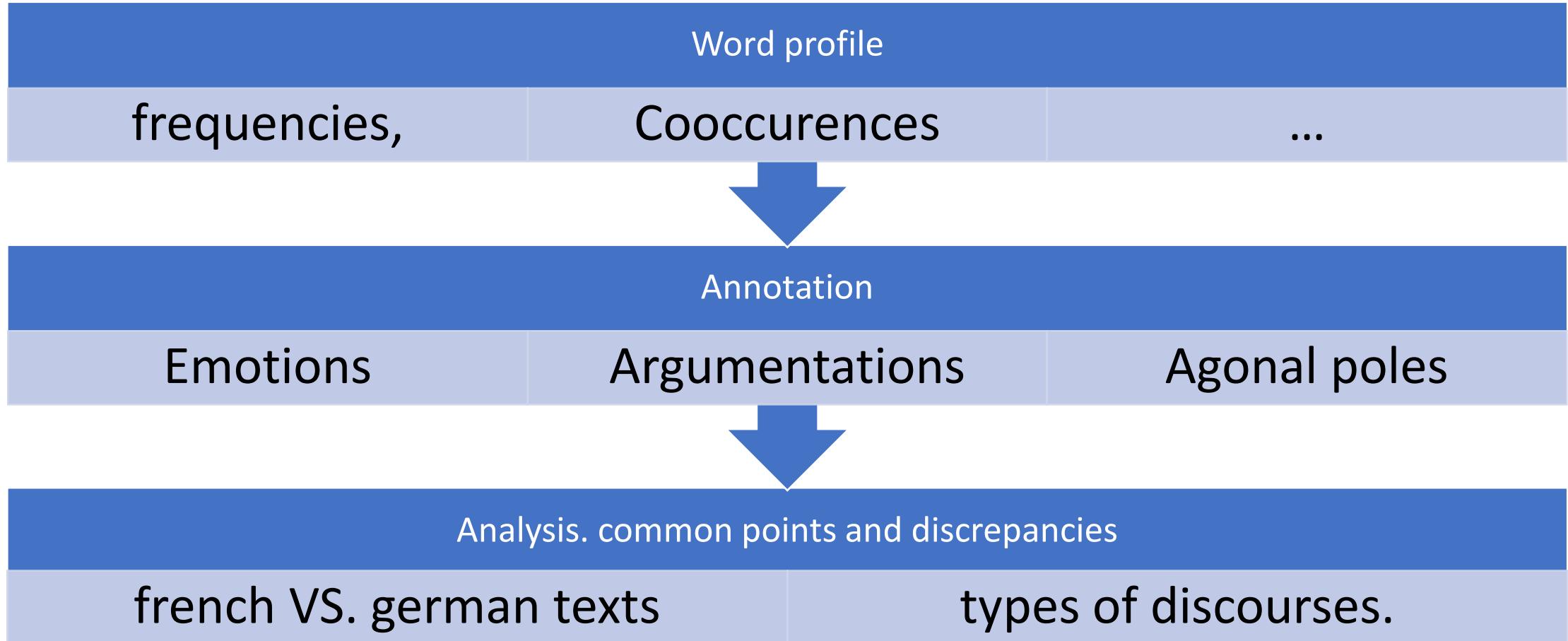
1. Objectives of the research project
2. Theoretical framework
 - 1.1. linguistical discourse analysis, method
 - 1.2. Argumentation
 - 1.3. Emotions
 - 1.4. « Agonale Zentren »
3. Hypotheses
4. Corpus
5. Step 1: Keyword analysis. Some results
6. Step 2: Semantic pragmatic analysis. Presentation

Objectives

- Context: European discourse analysis project
- Vaccination: a current topic, a subject of debate
- Analysis of the types of argumentation, the different linguistic means used and the part of emotion present
- I will focus on two main types of texts for this presentation: that are press articles and tweets, and try to identify some common points and discrepancies between the different corpus parts.

Theoretical framework

1. Discourse analysis and method (Atayan et al. 2020)



Theoretical framework

2. Which kind of argumentation?

Statements in the texts as :

- **complex networks of arguments, concessions, and counterarguments** in the texts. There are microstructures (argument/conclusion pairs) and macrostructures (complex connections with coordination or subordination) (Atayan 2006)
- **positioning** in the overall discursive framework of the vaccination discourse and an (implicit) **answer** to the basic questions such as “for or against vaccination?” or “for or against compulsory vaccination”. (Atayan et al. 2020)

Theoretical framework

3. Annotation of the emotions

- Emotion : fear, anger, joy, sadness, disgust, and surprise (Ekman, Friesen, Ellsworth 1972) + positive and negative (for cases where no more specific emotion is apparent.)

Theoretical framework

4. « Agonale Zentren »

“Agonal centers” in a discourse refer to the competition to assert points of view by using certain linguistic expressions. They condense and synthesize what is implicit in discourse by analyzing what is explicated. (Atayan et al. 2020)

In the overall corpus : question : which concepts of an agonal center does occur how often and in which textual and argumentative contexts. Interest is not only for each individual language, but has interest for a language comparison.

Hypotheses

- All types of discourse are characterized by a certain level of (lexical and/or syntactic) fixedness (Steyer 2013)
- Certain types of arguments (single arguments or argumentative schemes) are only used depending on the type of discourse or the type of speaker.

Corpus



Nicki Minaj
@NICKIMINAJ

My cousin in Trinidad won't get the vaccine cuz his friend got it & became impotent. His testicles became swollen. His friend was weeks away from getting married, now the girl called off the wedding. So just pray on it & make sure you're comfortable with ur decision, not bullied

2:44 PM · Sep 13, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

10.2K Retweets 60.3K Quote Tweets 53.7K Likes

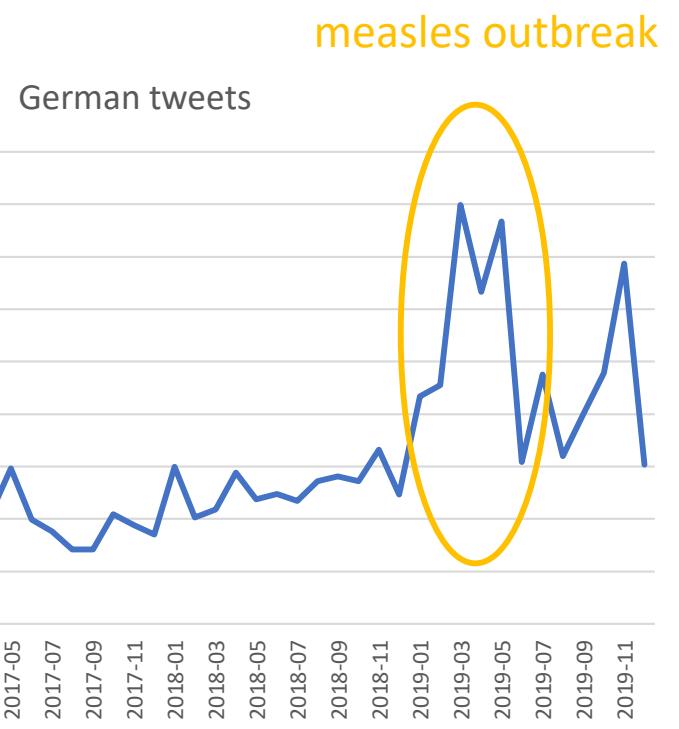
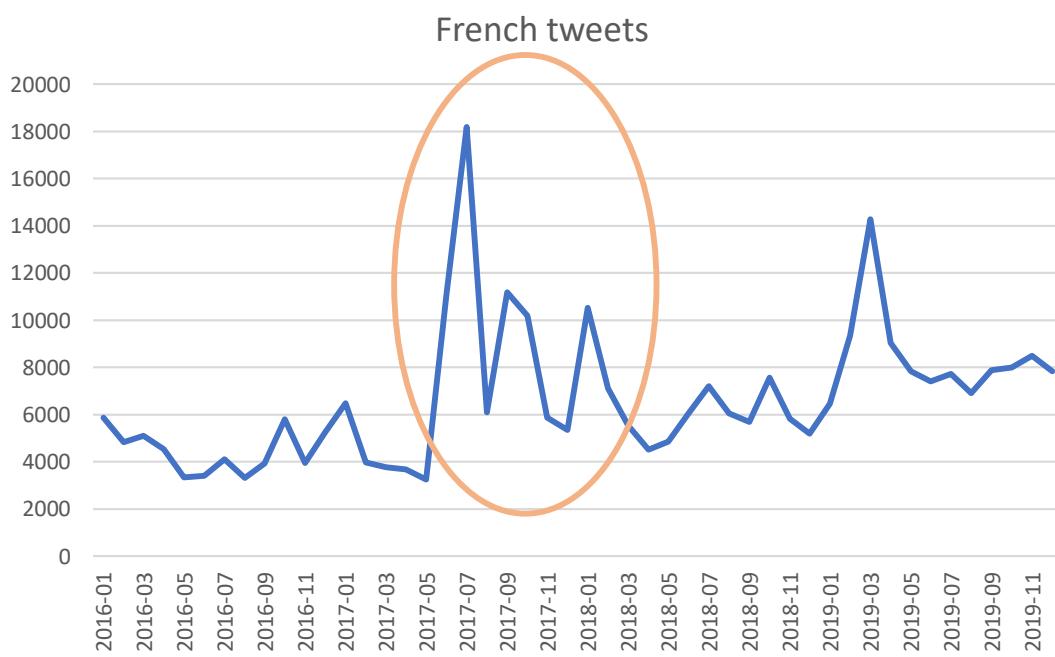
Orality / literacy (Dürscheid 1999/ 2006,
following Koch & Österreicher 19855)



Interaction between readers?
Possibly simultaneity (Senders / Recipients)?

Tweets each month (2016-2019)

France makes 11 child vaccines compulsory



Step #1: Keyword, cooccurrence and frequency analysis

Query : Vaccination, vaccin, Impfung
Vaccin obligatoire, Impflicht (mandatory vaccination)

Aim : Which level of fixedness?

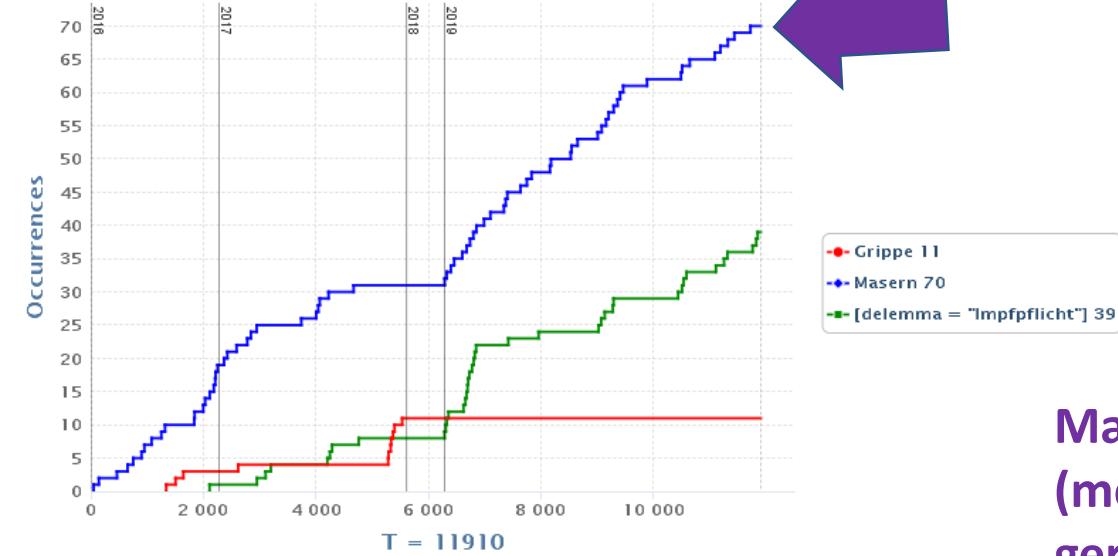
Against which dessease?

TOP 5 (Press articles and tweets). Frequencies

Tweets_de		Tweets_fr
1. Masern (<i>measles</i>) 2. Grippe (<i>influenza</i>) 3. Tollwut (<i>rabies</i>) 4. Tetanus 5. Krebs (<i>cancer</i>)	Measles in FR vs. GER corpus?	1. Grippe (<i>influenza</i>) 2. Cancer 3. Hépatite (<i>hepatitis</i>) 4. Rougeole (<i>measles</i>) 5. Rage (<i>rabies</i>)
Presse_de		Presse_fr
1. Masern (<i>measles</i>) 2. Mumps (<i>mumps</i>) 3. Polio 4. HPV (<i>human papillomavirus</i>) 5. Röteln (<i>maesles</i>)		1. Grippe (<i>influenza</i>) 2. Hépatite (<i>hepatitis</i>) 3. Papillomavirus 4. Méningocoque (<i>meningitis</i>) 5. Rougeole (<i>measles</i>)

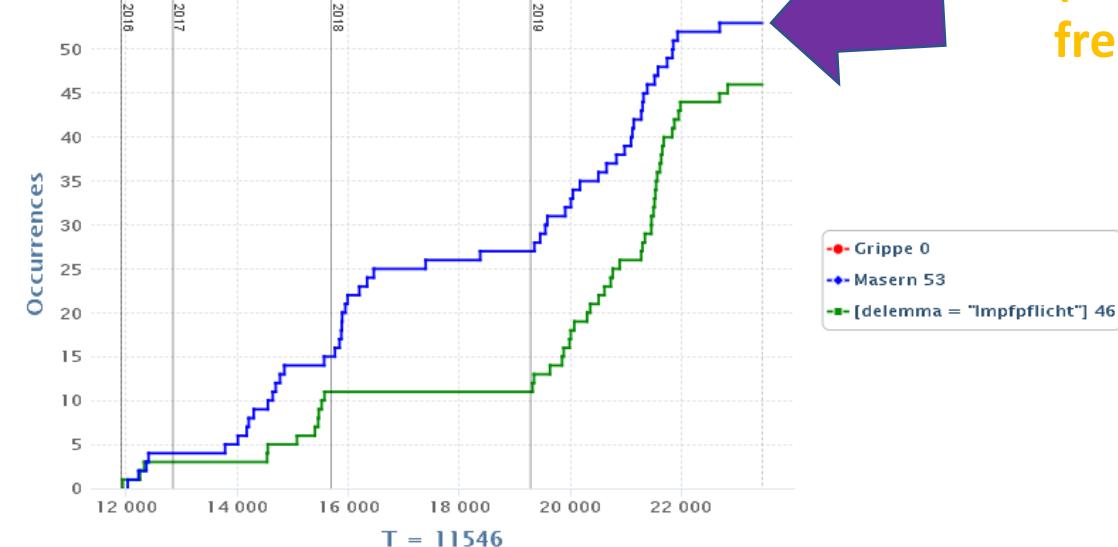
Progression de Grippe, Masern, [delemma = "Impfpflicht"] dans
VACCINATIONALLEMAND/Der Spiegel

(structure : text, propriété : année, REGEX de filtrage :)



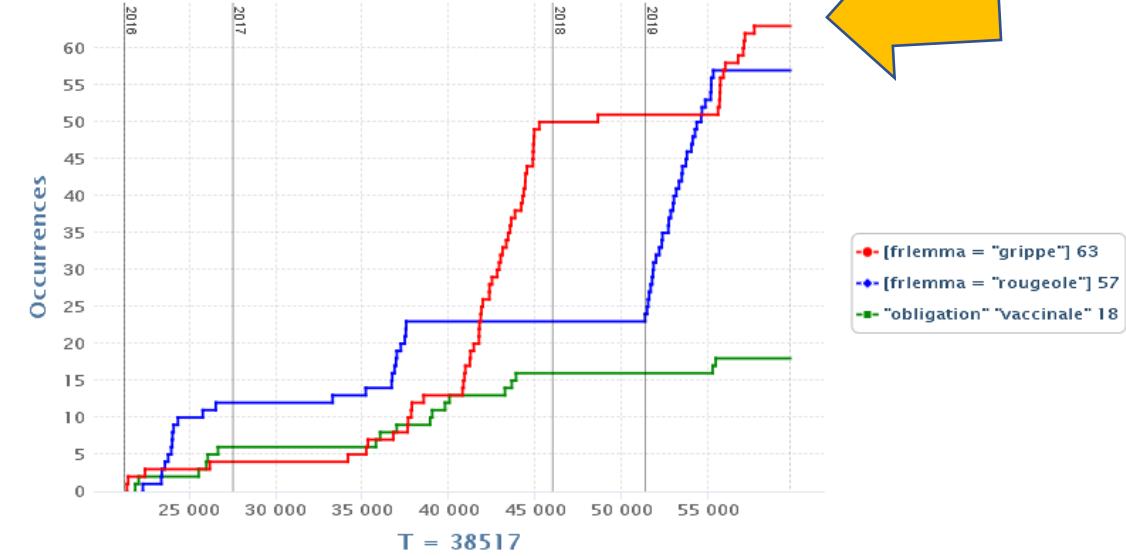
Progression de Grippe, Masern, [delemma = "Impfpflicht"] dans
VACCINATIONALLEMAND/Die Zeit

(structure : text, propriété : année, REGEX de filtrage :)



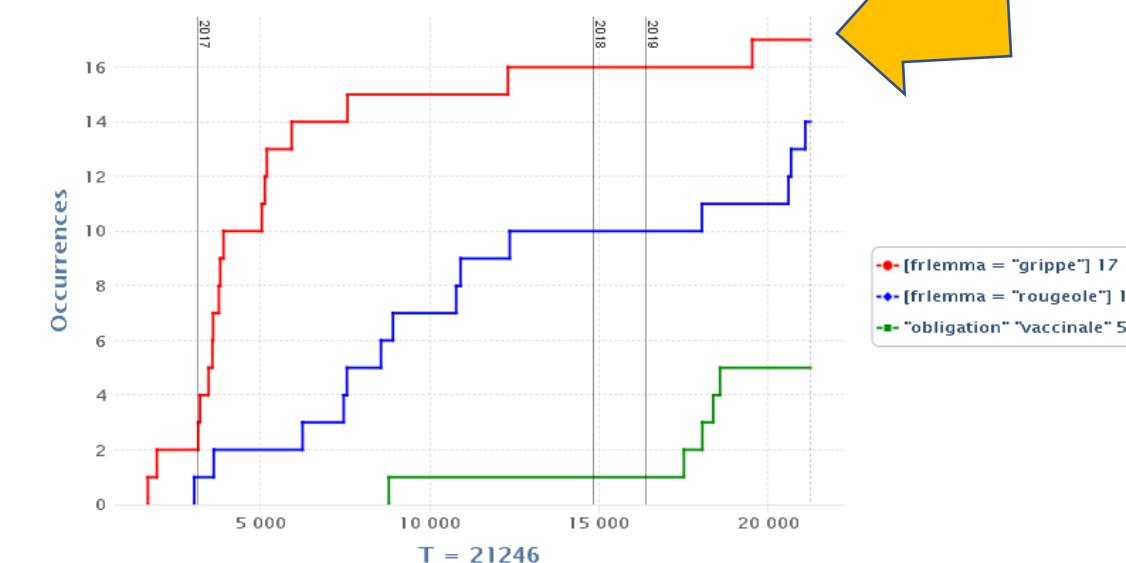
Progression de [frlemma = "grippe"], [frlemma = "rougeole"], "obligation" "vaccinale"
dans VACCINATIONFRANCAIS/Le Monde

(structure : text, propriété : année, REGEX de filtrage :)



Progression de [frlemma = "grippe"], [frlemma = "rougeole"], "obligation" "vaccinale"
dans VACCINATIONFRANCAIS/Le Figaro

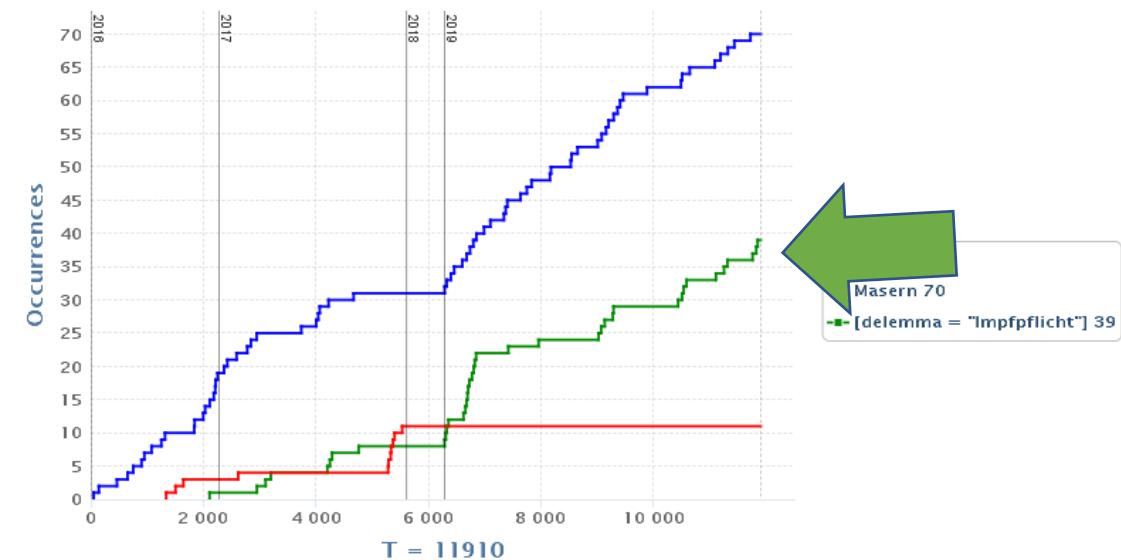
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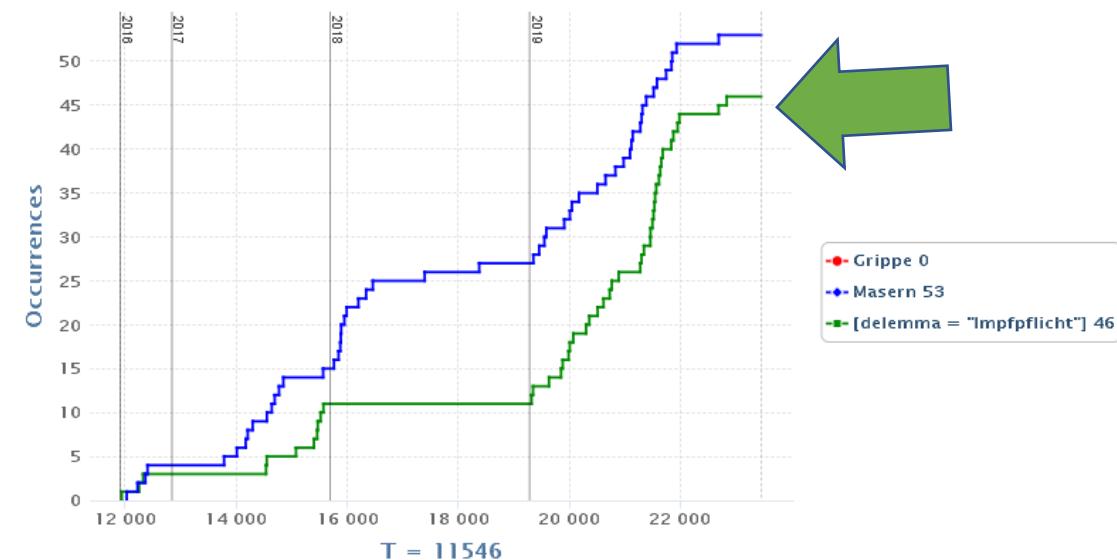
Masern
(measles) in
german articles
VS Grippe
(Influenza) in
french articles

Germany : Mandatory vaccination against measles?

Progression de Grippe, Masern, [delemma = "Impfpflicht"] dans
VACCINATIONALLEMAND/Der Spiegel
(structure : text, propriété : année, REGEX de filtrage :)



Progression de Grippe, Masern, [delemma = "Impfpflicht"] dans
VACCINATIONALLEMAND/Die Zeit
(structure : text, propriété : année, REGEX de filtrage :)



Vaccination is [adj]

« Impfung ist [AdjD] » / « le vaccin est [adj] »

Occ	Fréquence	CoFréquence	Spec.
wichtig	1994	23	30,784
sinnvoll	1131	11	14,2905
wirkungslos	87	4	8,2551
umstritten	129	3	5,4121
kostenlos	144	3	5,2688
gefährlich	647	4	4,7866

Occ	Fréquence	CoFréquence	Spec.
efficace	3871	79	152,8526
inefficace	467	37	93,9969
inutile	1302	25	48,0624
utile	1201	15	26,3248
gratuit	1162	12	20,2123
dangereux	3525	14	17,7193

Step #2: semantic pragmatic analysis

DE Artikel 8 x

Diese Eltern sind meist weiß, haben einen Hochschulabschluss und verdienen mehr als der Durchschnitt.

ZEIT ONLINE: Impfungen haben Millionen Menschen in den vergangenen Ja... iten das Leben gerettet.
Warum entscheiden sich Eltern bewusst gegen sie?

Reich: Sie vertrauen ihrem eigenen Urteil mehr als Ärzten, Forschern oder Regierungsstellen.

Gefühl und Expertise werden gleich gesetzt: Es gibt keinen Unterschied mehr zwischen Impfexperten der ... Regierung und Promis, die gegen Impfungen Stimmung machen.

ZEIT ONLINE: Weshalb gibt es diese Stimmung, ist es die Angst vor schwerwiegenden aber äußerst seltenen Impfschäden?

Reich: Viele Eltern sind überzeugt, dass Impfungen nicht so sicher sind wie behauptet.
Allerdings haben sie oft gar nicht so große Angst vor schweren Impfschäden.

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Open Tagset

Tags

- ♦Ort
- ▼ ♦Person oder Organisation
 - ♦PO_Sonstige Gruppen
 - ♦PO_Wirtschaft
 - ♦PO_Politik, Regierung, Gesetze und Verwaltung
- ▼ ♦PO_Familie
 - Typ
 - ♦PO_Soziales
 - ♦PO_Kultur
 - ♦PO_Medizin, Gesundheit und Krankheit

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Agonale Zentren / Pôles agonaux

„Die Impfung schützt vor Krebsvorstufen am Gebärmutterhals, weshalb Fachleute eine Senkung der Krebsrate auf lange Sicht für sehr wahrscheinlich halten.“ (Spiegel, 2017)

"The vaccination protects against precancerous lesions on the cervix, which is why experts believe it is very likely to reduce cancer rates in the long term." (Spiegel, 2017)

- „Ein Mensch schützt mit einer Impfung **nicht nur** sich selbst, **sondern** **indirekt auch** andere.“ (Spiegel, 2019)
"With a vaccination, a person not only protects himself, but indirectly also others." (Spiegel, 2019)
- „Impfen ist **nicht nur** wichtig für mich oder mein Kind, **sondern auch** für die **Gesellschaft**.“ (Spiegel, 2017)
"Vaccination is not only important for me or my child, but also for society." (Spiegel, 2017)
- « Il faudra aussi, selon Agnès Buzyn, développer l' argument **altruiste** - la vaccination individuelle évite la contamination des autres. » (Le Monde, 2017)
"It will also be necessary, according to Agnès Buzyn, to develop the altruistic argument - individual vaccination prevents the contamination of others." (Le Monde, 2017)



lack of transparency

Example: centres/pôles agonaux



risks are transparent

« L'OMS a été accusée d'avoir manqué de transparence, voire d'avoir cédé à des pressions des industriels. » (Le Monde, 2019)

"The WHO has been accused of a lack of transparency, and even of giving in to pressure from industry."

« Je sais qu'il y a encore des parents qui craignent des effets indésirables des vaccins mais les risques de la non-vaccination sont infiniment plus grands », a assuré la ministre de la Santé, en précisant qu'un état des lieux sur la sécurité des vaccins obligatoires sera publié » (Figaro, 2019)

"I know that there are still parents who fear adverse effects from vaccines, but the risks of non-vaccination are infinitely greater", the Minister of Health assured, specifying that a report on the safety of compulsory vaccines will be published" (Figaro, 2019)

To conclude

Selective bibliography

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- Ducrot, O. 2004. « Argumentation rhétorique et argumentation linguistique », In : Doury, Marianne / Moirand, Sophie (éd.) : *L'argumentation aujourd'hui. Positions théoriques en confrontation*. Paris, Presses Sorbonne Nouvelle, p.17-34.

- **Centres agonaux :**

- Atayan, V. 2006. *Makrostrukturen der Argumentation im Deutschen, Französischen und Italienischen*, Frankfurt/Main u. a., Lang.
- Felder, E. 2015. « Lexik und Grammatik der Agonalität in der linguistischen Diskursanalyse ». In : Kämper, Heidrun / Warnke, Ingo (éd.) : *Diskurs – interdisziplinär. Zugänge, Gegenstände, Perspektiven*. Berlin / New York, de Gruyter, p. 87-121.

- **Orality and literacy**

- Dürscheid, C. 1999. « Zwischen Mündlichkeit und Schriftlichkeit: die Kommunikation im Internet ». In : *Papiere zur Linguistik 60*, p. 17-30.
- Koch, P. & Oesterreicher, W. 1985. « Sprache der Nähe – Sprache der Distanz. Mündlichkeit und Schriftlichkeit im Spannungsfeld von Sprachtheorie und Sprachgeschichte » In : *Romanistisches Jahrbuch 36*. Berlin, de Gruyter, p.15-43.

- **Figement :**

- Steyer, K. 2013. *Usuelle Wortverbindungen: zentrale Muster des Sprachgebrauchs aus korpusanalytischer Sicht*. Tübingen, Narr.