Computerized Text Analysis: Classwork 4
Dictionary-Based Coding

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In this class exercise, we will work with a dictionary-based coding of political manifestos, drawn primarily from the Laver and Garry (2000) example. We will be using the freely available program Yoshikoder, written by Will Lowe. This program applies dictionaries to text but also can produce word concordances and KWIC (key words in context). For an example, we will use the same UK manifestos as in Laver and Garry (2000), plus a selection of manifestos from the 2001 and 2005 UK elections.

Instructions

1. Download the program Yoshikoder. This is a Java standalone program and should run on any platform with Java installed. (You will need to follow the links to the latest version, probably located on Sourceforge.)
2. Download the files `LaverGarryAJPS.ykd` and `UKManifestos.zip` and save them in your working directory.
3. Start the Yoshikoder program and load the UK manifestos into a new project.
4. Import the Laver and Garry dictionary `LaverGarryAJPS.ykd`.
5. Try out the concordance and highlighting functions. You can use the help function to find out more about the functions and properties of `Yoshikoder`.
6. Check you understand what the reports are telling you (use the help function).
7. Run (unified) dictionary reports.
8. Construct the EconLR and SocLR measures using 1992 as a baseline. Check the Laver and Garry (2000) Article to find out how they constructed their scales. Do you get the same results as presented in the paper?
9. Extend your analysis to the next two elections (2001, 2005). Briefly discuss the results.
10. Figure 1 of the paper shows some shrinkage towards centre positions. Why?
11. Examine the small categories (e.g. rural, women, ethnic) in the dictionary using KWIC and present three examples.