Subject: Writing & Stylistics Ebola project
From: Megan Hazel <mhazel1@villanova.edu>
Date: 11/1/2014 12:44 PM
To: Thomas Way <thomas.way@villanova.edu>, Seth Whidden <seth.whidden@villanova.edu>

Dear Dr. Way & Dr. Whidden,

I looked up my project description, and I think it sounds pretty good so far, but I want to add some more components.

I have articles in English and French from 4 organizations about Ebola in Guinée, and I have started to look into their mission statements. The UN and WHO webpages specifically talk about the official languages they use on their "About" section of their webpage. so if I had to predict, I would think that these two organizations would have very good quality translations. Caritas specifies that they are a Catholic organization, and both Caritas and Doctors without Borders have a part of their website looking for donations. Hopefully, I can use some of this information to explain why one organization's website is more emotionally charged than another.

I want to compare how texts in French about Ebola differ from one organization to another, but I also want to compare the English and French version of an article from the same organization to see if there is a difference there as well. I definitely want to use the sentiment analyzer for this. I have a few other ideas, though, after looking at the different project descriptions on the webpage. I'm not sure if I will be able to use all of these ideas in my paper, but I think they would be interesting. Here are my possible ideas:

- I liked the idea for "The Untouchables" project, which talked about translating English to French and then comparing to the French translation with something like Google Translate. This would be more for comparing the quality of 2 translations from one organization.

- I like the idea of looking at lexical diversity to see if one organization's French articles /one translation from one organization has more sophistication in its writing style, but I'm not sure if all of my texts are long enough. I attached them to this email (let me know if you can’t open them!)

- I want to find a pattern of difference among the French articles from the 4 organizations, and in the 2 translations from one organization. I want to compare paragraph length/ sentence length (I'm not sure which would be better) to compare quantity/specificity of information conveyed when comparing 2 translations. Also, I might want to compare the number of adjectives used in one translation of an article/ number of adjectives used by the 4 organizations to see if that reveals anything about the emotional charge.

- I know that one student had made an interactive world map and mentioned that it could work for the Ebola project. I would like to incorporate it, but I don’t really know how, because I only have English and French translations about Ebola in 1 country.

Sorry for the long email!

Have a good weekend,
-Megan Hazel