Felicittà
Annotation Guidelines

February 9, 2014

1 Introduction

The main purpose of this corpus is the creation of a gold standard for the evaluation of the system designed within the context of Felicittà. The ultimate goal, however, is to make available a useful resource for this purpose for other similar projects as well. The corpus consists of a collection of tweets automatically detected from Twitter and selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- Each tweet must be self-contained, there should not be a logical link between a tweet and the next one
- Tweets should not be confined to a given geographical area or time frame
- Tweets should be randomly collected on different days, and both on weekdays and holidays

Both the corpus and these guidelines were developed through multiple stages. At a first stage, 100 tweet of the corpus were all annotated independently by four annotators (A1, A2, A3, A4). The annotated sets were automatically compared to detect differences; such differences were discussed and, as a result, a first guidelines version was drafted. In this stage, the HUM label (not comprised in the original tagset) was also added, in order to properly annotate both ironic and sarcastic tweets, thus avoiding to "force" their classification towards a positive or negative interpretation. A1 and A2 proceeded by annotating 900 tweets each, following the guidelines. After a discussion on the results of the first overall set of 1000 tweets, the guidelines were revised accordingly and a new set of 500 tweets was then annotated. A3 reannotated from scratch the whole corpus, thus consisting of 1500 tweets, using the finalized guidelines, and finally a disagreement was computed. A4 reannotated the tweets where the disagreement has been detected, and an updated version of the guidelines was produced. The final version of the corpus thus contains all the tweets where a full agreement was reached among the four annotators, while discarding the others.
Section 2 of this report is devoted to the description of the tagset used in this corpus and the general use of the labels contained in it, while in Section 3 some tricky cases will be discussed.

2 Tagset

Except for RT, the tags used for the manual sentiment annotation are the same used within the Senti-TUT project for the development of a novel Italian corpus for sentiment analysis\(^1\). In both SentiTUT and Felicità gold corpus, sentiments are annotated at tweet level with one of the following tags:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POS</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEG</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIXED</td>
<td>Both positive and negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM</td>
<td>Ironic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT</td>
<td>Repeated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The meaning and use of each of these tags will be described in the next sections.

NOTE: The annotation applies not only to the tweets whose author is the user him/herself, but also to the so-called retweet, as well as the tweet-containing quotes or reported speech. In fact, although these may not necessarily reflect the user’s opinion, they could equally convey a given sentiment that can be useful in order to detect the mood of a certain ”community” at any given time.

2.1 POS

Tweets can be labeled as POS if:

- clearly express a positive opinion of the author with respect to a person or group, action, or event

[3,93387E+17] RT @stylinsleeds: @harrysgreatlove amo troppo la sua voce, è meravigliosa

[3,91884E+17] Peperoni e patate al forno ....,che dire? Complimenti alla cuoca!!!

- clearly express the positive state of mind of the author

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\(^1\)http://www.di.unito.it/tutreeb/sentiTUT.html
Finalmente! Felicità assoluta! :D http://t.co/ugBO0wzAZ1

- report a positive opinion or mood that may not be attributed directly to the author

RT @stylinsl0ve: "congratulazioni jay sei incint.." "sisi sono felicissima come eleanor del resto che sta con louis perché lo ama tanto e l...

2.2 NEG

Tweets can be labeled as NEG if:

- clearly express a negative opinion by the author in respect of a person or group, action, or event

RT @believemestyles nno ma ri giuro che sto da schifo ho la testa che mi scoppia e mi viene da vomitare fuck

- clearly express the negative state of mind of the author

RT @AmorosoMyLife: significato dei vizi pt 7: mangiare in continuazione quello che capita: senso di vuoto, solitudine.

- report a negative opinion or mood that may not be attributed directly to the author

RT @Yi_Benevolence: Nessun politico italiano è mai andato in Europa a fare i nostri interessi http://t.co/RGPJ19BsbH @rinaldi_euro m5s
2.3 MIXED

The cases that can be labeled as MIXED are those in which multiple different sentiment are expressed within the same tweet. Such sentiments can be expressed both in relation to different targets:

[3,93407E+17] «I talent show sono dei karaoke», dice Miles Kane. Uno che va ascoltato, se amate gli Who http://t.co/6le1y2N1QZ http://t.co/FiyQZqhvkk


and in regard to the same target:

[3,93384E+17] @GialloParma, mai, perche’ dovrei? Sono tra i 20 fondatori del PD di Parma. Se vince le primarie e’ il mio segretario,anche se non condivido

2.4 HUM

The tweets labeled as HUM are the ones with a clear ironic, sarcastic or otherwise humorous intent:

[3,93303E+17] @SimoneLodi andrenfkdsjjsjfsf non riesco nemmeno a scriverlo!


[3,93307E+17] Ho la risposta a tutte le vostre domande: Si

[3,91965E+17] GIUSTO DOBBIAMO FARE LORO LA DANZA DELLA PIOGGIA COSI’ SONO CONTENTI................!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! http://t.co/hQZ4qWGbVu

[3,91849E+17] RT @AmedeoTomanelli: @angelacasciaro @m_giul Diritto? In Italia? Ah, ho capito... Sei maestro di tennis!
2.5 NONE

When the tweet contains a mere observation or mention of an objective fact, and it does not convey any state of mind or opinion, it is considered neutral and is therefore tagged with the label NONE.

[3,93326E+17] RT @PPolicy_News: Assemblea @comuni_anci, il discorso integrale di Fassino http://t.co/UJjqzf7eDq ... @ShareTheRoadFab

[3,93173E+17] RT @ViolettaItalyIT: Novità in vista: @TiniStoessel canterà il brano Libresoy, tratto dal nuovo film Disney 'Frozen: il regno di ghiaccio'...

However, when such observation is followed by other extratextual elements that give the text a different connotation, the tweet would no longer be considered neutral. For such cases, see the discussion in Section 3.1.

2.6 UN

A tweet can be labeled as UN if its classification may be difficult for one of the following reasons:

- the tweet is unintelligible, because
  - it is incomplete\(^2\)

[3,932E+17] Quando Dio manda una malattia o morte a bambino o donna o uomo o vecchio ha ragione e dovete stare muti o vi... http://t.co/TtoqF53Aou

- it contains acronyms, abbreviations, loanwords, jargon or dialect terms that the annotator may not know

[3,91742E+17] @twdehmaneiro é a musica zkskdkwk

[3,92004E+17] ≪Busca a campanita≫

- a certain mood is perceived, but a context knowledge is required for its interpretation

[3,93367E+17] RT @xneedharry: Voglio un ragazzo che mi lasci

\(^2\)However, if the annotator is able to interpret the meaning of the tweet, despite its incompleteness, he/she can assign the appropriate tag.
rubare le sue felpe dall'armadio e che pur accorgendosene non dica nulla.

[3,93387E+17] RT @brecordz: Congratulazioni! http://t.co/ZjvMRDGOdr

[3,91943E+17] @giulioguazzugli @Stefano_Pantano Impossibile. Sono della Roma.

[3,9193E+17] @RosyHiddles @ScarlettCavendi Guielmo del Toro... direi ragazze ke questi sn i ruoli perfetti x tom Loki ne è un esempio...

2.7 RT

RT label is used for those tweets that occur more than once in the corpus.

[3,9193E+17] RT @horanislife: 'i capolavori di madre natura' NINA DOBREV http://t.co/7Q1GTygugI

[3,91929E+17] RT @horanislife: 'i capolavori di madre natura' NAYA RIVERA http://t.co/rEsMn5yS9c

However, these are rare cases.

3 Discussion

Those described above are the general guidelines. However, there are cases which by their ambiguity and complexity can make more complicated the annotator’s work. In the following sections, some of these cases will be discussed.

3.1 Punctuation, ions, emoticons

Whenever messages with an apparently neutral content, such as:

[3,91825E+17] @Smile_Sel1D fatto

are accompanied by iconic elements, such as emoticons, can acquire a certain connotation, thus giving the message an explicit polarity.

[3,91825E+17] @Smile_Sel1D fatto! C;

\(^3\)In this specific case, although what is presumably the target (respectively Nina Dobrev and NAYA RIVERA) is different, the content of the tweets is basically unchanged.
The use of C; in this tweet, for example, conveys a positive mood; as a result, the tweet can be labeled as POS\textsuperscript{4}.

Punctuation marks also can be indicators of the sentiment polarity, as in:

\[3,93254E+17\] Buongiorno!!! http://t.co/y0CKQhLx80

where the !!! suggest a positive mood \textsuperscript{5}.

Therefore, the general principle to be followed in these cases is that when the text is neutral, the polarity is established on the basis of the non-textual element(s).

On the other hand, we may also encounter cases where the meaning of the text and iconic element are in conflict, as in:

\[3,93138E+17\] @Valles_Core tonto (cuore)

In these cases, the text takes precedence over the iconic element, and the sentiment polarity is identified on the basis of the former.

### 3.2 Verbs expressing hope or desire

As verbs such as hope or desire express an aspiration to something positive, this makes us lean on labeling them as POS, as in the example below:

\[3,93423E+17\] Spero tanto che ci sia ancora il mio prof preferito @flavnc :***

However, we cannot apply this principle as a general rule.

\[3,92008E+17\] @pierluigi ds thoir spero venda taider e guarin e prenda giocatori ce vogliono giocare!

The tweet reported above, for example, has a clear polemic connotation that leads to the annotation of the tweet as NEG.

### 3.3 Others

The purpose of the sentiment annotation task is to identify the overall mood of a tweet. However, the fine line between a given sentiment and another within a small space such as that of a tweet often makes its labeling a non-trivial task.

In the example below, the tweet could be considered both as entirely negative and humorous.

\[3,9176E+17\] RT @mondoditumblr: Mi sento come una virgola. A volte

\footnote{For a detailed list of the emoticons and their meaning, see the dedicated page on Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emoticon}

\footnote{Otherwise, the tweet would be labeled as neutral, thus NONE.}
qualcuno si dimentica di me, a volte sono di troppo e a volte non servo a nulla.

In these cases, we therefore opted to assign the sentiment that is perceived to be the most prevalent. The tweet reported above would then be labeled as NEG.

It may also happen that a tweet containing multiple different sentiments - and therefore considerable as MIXED - actually contains expressions that lean in favor of an overall positive or negative interpretation of the tweet.

[3,92027E+17] E stata una settimana perfetta Ma questa domenica ha rovinato tutto Ma proprio tutto.

[3,91819E+17] RT @valeriag97: "Ma è carino, si presenta bene.." "Si ma noi non siamo la Ventura" Ahahahahaha tanta stima per MorganX XF7