Method and expected results

The four diagrams each display a representation of a network of the same actors. They show (1) the change of the connections over time and (2) the formation of new groups that result from the process of collective decision-making via language.

Diagram 1 shows Twitter users and their interrelation at random.

Language and Opinion

- A lower degree of human knowledge is stored in propositional form, while its instantiation may vary depending on the speaker’s perception.
- Literacies rely on linguistic encoding of what was meant; every utterance requires a selection of linguistic elements.
- Assumption: linguistic preference correlates with opinion and social belonging.
- Collectives emerge around divergent use of linguistic elements framing similar phenomenological events.

Emergent Collectives via Language

Decisions in Networks and Deliberation in Democratic Public

Networks and Decisions

- Decisions are conceptualized as collective processes rather than individual endeavours (as assumed by Rational Choice Theory).
- Influence on seemingly individual choices is dependent on actors’ positions in social networks.
- Linguistic elements used by individuals are the result of a more or less conscious decision-making process regulated by the logic of the network.
- Changes in network structures are observable in the change of use of linguistic material.

Research Questions

1. How can social dynamics in collective formations be described on the basis of language analysis?
2. How does distribution of linguistic elements contribute to the formation of social collectives?
3. How can decisions for certain linguistic elements be defined as social phenomena and which methods of linguistics are adequate and promising?

Bibliography


4. Actors clustered according to opinion as emergent collectives with similar opinions.

2. Actors deciding for discourse positions (Post1, Post2, Post3)