"Codebook": Making Words Count

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Abstract

This document contains a brief description of the data used for the analysis in Indridason & Kristinsson (2013).

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1 The Data

The data is in Stata format (Making Words Count Data.dta). The file "Making Words Count Table 2.do" contains the Stata code to run the models presented in table 2 of the article.

Information about governments and general cabinet characteristics comes from Müller & Strøm (2001). Information about the importance of portfolios and the number of portfolios comes from Warwick & Druckman (2001). Additional data was obtained from Döring & Manow (2012).

A brief note on junior ministers. A 'watchdog junior minister' is defined as a junior minister placed in a portfolio of a cabinet minister who is a member of different party.

1.1 Variables

TABLE 1: VARIABLES

Variable	Explanation/Coding
hwords	Words about policy in coalition agreement (in thousands of words)
pm	Importance of PM's Portfolio (Warwick & Druckman)
top3portf	Sum of portfolio importance for three highest ranked portfolios (Warwick & Druckman, 2001)
v133y	PM's institutions strength (Müller & Strøm, 2001)
juntab1	Junior minister use: $\frac{\#\text{Watchdog Junior Ministers}}{\#\text{Ministers}}$
juntab2	Junior minister role: $\frac{\#\text{Watchdog Junior Ministers}}{\#\text{Junior Ministers}}$
govtpolariz3	Government Polarization. Esteban & Ray (1994) polarization measure with $\alpha = 1.3$
cabparties	Number of parties in the cabinet
noport	Number of portfolios
noport2	Number of portfolios squared
unique	Indicator for a new coalition agreement, i.e., not recycled from previous cabinet
payoffLH	Politician's preference for office over policy from Laver & Hunt (1992)
minority	Minority cabinet
oversized	Oversized cabinet
SMBcountry	Country codes corresponding to (Müller & Strøm, 2001)
formopp	Cabinet id (Müller & Strøm, 2001)
in_date	Date cabinet took office
no_seats	Number of MPs in legislature
coalseats	Number of cabinet party MPs
electiondate	Date of previous election
effectiveno	Effective number of legislative parties
countryname	Name of country
year	Year cabinet formed
yearsince	Year (1944=0)
yearsq	Year squared (1944=0)

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