Codebook for the ParlText Polish Legislative Speech database

This dataset contains information on the speeches held in the Polish parliament's lower house (Sejm) for the time period from 25 November 1991 to 30 August 2023, with 717,809 observations. The source of the data is the official website of the Sejm.

The dataset contains the following variables:

speech_id: The unique identifier of the speech. It is composed of the two-digit ISO country code, 'S' for speeches, the date of the speech's presentation in YYYYMMDD format and the running order of the speech within the given parliamentary session. For example, PL_S_20110427_00124 for the Polish parliamentary speech held on 27 April 2011 as the 124th speech of the given parliamentary session.

link: Link to the given speech on the official website of the Sejm.

agenda: Agenda item title under which the speech was given. 9999 if there is none, like in the case of pre/post-agenda speeches.

electoral_cycle: The electoral cycle during which the speech was given.

speechnumber: The rank order of the speech within the given session.

speaker: The name of the speaker.

chair: Dummy variable indicating whether the speaker is the parliamentary chair. 1 if the speaker is the chair, 0 if the speaker is not the chair.

date: The date when the speech was held (YYYY-MM-DD).

speech_text: The text of the speech.

bill_ID: The id of the bill(s) discussed. It is composed of the two-digit ISO country code, 'B' for bills, the starting year of the electoral cycle in which the bill was introduced, and the official record number under which the bill was introduced. For example, PL_B_2007_01349 for the Polish bill introduced in the electoral cycle started in 2007 under the official record number 1349. If multiple bills are related to the speech, their IDs are separated by a comma; if the speech is not connected to any bills, it is marked with 9999.

major_topic: The policy content of the bills coded based on the methodology of the Comparative Agendas Project (https://comparativeagendas.net/pages/master-codebook). The codes are mutually exclusive, all-encompassing, and all laws are classified into one category. The codes mean the following policy content of the law:

1 – Macroeconomics

2 – Civil rights

3 – Health

4 – Agriculture

5 – Labour

6 – Education

7 – Environment

8 – Energy

9 – Immigration

10 – Transportation

12 – Law and crime

13 – Social welfare

14 – Housing

15 – Domestic commerce

16 – Defence

17 – Technology

18 – Foreign trade

19 – Foreign affairs

20 – Government operations

21 – Public lands

23 – Culture

999 – No policy content