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A text analytics of Russian comments posted on YouTube toward Russia-Ukraine war

In this study, I collected and analyzed Russian-language comments posted on YouTube videos about the war in Ukraine by using text mining. By creating co-occurrence networks and conducting LDA, one of topic modelings from the Russian text data, I visualized the content of the Russian comments and examined what Russian speakers thought about this war.

I used the statistical analysis programming language "R" and the free software for text mining "KH coder". Words describing humans appeared at the centre of the co-occurrence network such as 'friend', 'ethnic group', 'people' and 'myself'. On the other hand, political words appeared on the outer edges of the network such as 'Putin', 'territory' and 'Soviet Union'. And also, the LDA analysis showed that the war-related topic such as "military" and "rockets" were less common in the comments with a lot of replies. However, in the comments about Poland, a set of words related to war support was detected, such as "logistics" and "mercenaries".

Considering this war and Ukraine, Russian speakers may be more interested in 'connections between people, including themselves', rather than in 'government institutions, wars and armies'. However, they tend to be more interested in the military more frequently when discussing Central and Eastern European countries such as Poland.