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*G. R. Boynton's New Media and Politics*

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Language and Public Domain

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## Language and Public Domain

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This report focuses on the domain and the languages used in Twitter to carry political messages across the world. The two topics, 'Karzai corruption' and 'Kandahar longer OR slower' are our samples to answer these questions: How global are the events? How many languages used? How many days the events stay in discussion?

To answer those questions, this report observes and analyses the searches which were conducted by Professor G.R. Boynton using the search engine Archivist. The search of 'Kandahar longer OR slower' was started on June 10, 2010 and ended on June 16, 2010. The total number of messages was 629 Tweets, in which 542 messages were posted on the first day, 29 messages on the second day, 3 messages on the third day, 6 messages on the fourth day, and 1 message on the fifth, sixth, and seventh day. Out of 629 messages, 627 of them were announcements. Meanwhile 'Karzai corruption' search was commenced on June 22, 2010 and ended on July 1, 2010. The total amount of messages was 257, in which 1 message were posted on the first day, 3 messages on the second day, 0 messages on the third day and fourth day, 91 messages on the fifth day, 46 messages on the sixth day, 76 messages on the seventh day, 15 messages on the eighth day, 17 messages on the ninth day, and 5 messages on the tenth day. Out of 257 Tweets, 251 of them were just announcements. The language used in both topics was solely English.

In context, there was no true "breaking news" related to Karzai and corruption, just continuing news about how corrupt his government and his officials are. The most recent news when the Twitter search was done involved Karzai's officials interfering with US corruption investigations in Afghanistan. This would have led to the increased number of tweets containing the words "Karzai" and "corruption."

However, because it was not something truly revolutionary or shocking, it did not lead to very many tweets on the subject.

On the other hand, in the topic 'Kandahar longer OR slower', there was a news announcement about Kandahar shortly before the Twitter search was done. The announcement was from (former) General McCrystal about the setbacks in the Kandahar region of Afghanistan. He said that because of Afghani resistance to American intervention in the country, the campaign in this region would have to be extended. This led to an increase in tweets, however many of them were about another topic related to Kandahar, rather than the General's announcement. Once those irrelevant tweets were removed, the number of related tweets was rather small.

In short, our topics, 'Karzai corruption' and 'Kandahar longer OR slower' were not very popular in the global community because there were only 629 messages for 'Karzai corruption' and 257 messages for 'Kandahar longer OR slower'. Furthermore, the language used in both topics was only English. Compared to other topics analyzed by other groups, such as Afghanistan, had total messages more than our topics and included other languages as well, e.g. Dutch, German, French, Vietnamese, etc. The table below shows a comparison between our topics and other topics.

	Afghanistan	Base Attack	Kabul Bombing	Obama Afghanistan	Clinton Afghanistan	Kandahar slower or longer	Karzai corruption	8 troops	Gates to Afghanistan
AF Afrikaans	4		3						
AZ Azerbaijan	1								
BR Breton	3								
CY Welsh	1								
Da Danish	7								
De German	100		5						1
En English	3887	2386	3785	2385	444	629	257	317	930
ES Spanish	9								1
FIL Filipino	5								3
FR French	103								
GL Galatian								1	
HU Hungarian	1								
ID Indonesian	22							1	1
IT Italian	70			1					
JP Japanese					1			5	2
KU Kurdish	1								
LT Latvian								1	
MS Malay	23	3		3					
NI Dutch	30							2	
NO Norwegian	30								
PT Portuguese	1							2	
RO Romanian	7								
SQ Albanian	6								
SU Sudannese									1
SV Swedish	16								
TR Turkish	1								
UZ Uzbek	4								
VI Vietnamese	8	2		2					
Ar Arabic			1						
Total	4340	2391	3794	2391	445	629	257	329	939

