

Political Science

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COP16 Communication

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Cancun Communication

With the advent of Twitter, the medium of global communication has become far more simplified. It has made it easier for people with like minded views from around the world communicate with each other, and share their ideas. Twitter has become a new important part of the emerging global culture and understanding it, will helps us understand the global culture as a whole. With a new United Nations meeting on global climate change around the corner, Twitter has made it easier for people to share their ideas about major issues with the use of a hash tag, in the case #cop16. By following this hash tag we can see what the current feeling around the world is about this issue while also looking at the language its being discussed in.

For the procedure of this collection, we started off by gathering tweets over a Seven week period using the hash tag #cop16. Once the information had been gathered we alphabetized it by language and then looked at the totals for each language. The next step was dividing the tweets into a week by week section, where they were divided into four language categories: English, Spanish, Portuguese and other. By dividing them up this way we were able to look at the three top languages counted and the total number for all the rest. This process has allowed us to accurately evaluate the week by week numbers and see when there were speaks in the amount of tweets by language.

This data shows that people have opinions on worldwide topics and they want to share their views with other people. Before social networking sites came along, namely Twitter, there was no way for people from all over the globe to communicate with one another. Twitter is widely available for everyone that has access to the internet and that population of people is growing all over the world. We found that on topics covered worldwide that there is a wide distribution of languages used tweeting. Although there are many different languages, there are still a large number of people tweeting in some

of the most popular languages; English, Spanish, and Portuguese were the languages that showed up most in our search. While we feel that there are a large number of native English, Spanish, and Portuguese speakers tweeting we also think that there are a number of people that are tweeting in those languages because they feel that their opinion will be easier to understand. There is no way to find out how many native speakers of each language there are but the fact that there is a large variety of people tweeting supports our question that many people all over the world are interested in having their opinions heard.

In previous searches we looked at a specific topic, Afghanistan or Bin Laden, where the language distribution was coming from a majority of English users and also a small number of other languages from around the world. That is what we expect when we look at a topic that is important to a certain type of people. When we looked at a topic like Cop16, one that has worldwide implications, we found that people from all over the world are tweeting because the decisions made will affect everyone.

Here are a comparison of the previous searches we did and the search for Cop16

The following table consists of the number and quantity of languages that tweeted: Kabul

Language	# of Tweets
English-En	3785
Afrikaan-Af	3
German-De	5

Total 2391- Language Distribution: Base Attack

Language	Number
En-English	2,386
Ms-Malay	3
VI-Vietnamese	2

Total 7933 – Language Distribution: Cop16

Language	Af	Br	Ca	Co	Da	De	En	Eo	Es
#	1	1	5	2	4	12	4528	12	2834

Fil	Fo	Fr	Gd	Gl	Id	It	La	Lt	Ms
5	2	68	1	40	13	60	2	1	6

Nl	No	Oc	Pt	Ro	Sq	Sv	Sw	Uz	Vi
10	22	2	258	3	3	8	1	7	16

Week by week distribution of major languages: Cop16

Week	9/1-9/8	9/9-9/16	9/17-9/24	9/25-10/1	10/2-10/9	10/10-10/17	10/18-10/24
English	310	352	470	578	1104	820	895
Spanish	232	138	238	338	537	643	708
Portuguese	1	4	8	12	45	38	150

As you can see just by glancing at the table, the Cop16 thread had a lot more languages commenting on it, while you can still see that English was the primary language used as with the Kabul and Base Attack searches. We think that this isn't surprising because many more people will be commenting on a global issue rather than a topic about attacks in Afghanistan. We also think that this trend will continue because more and more people will get familiar with the internet and be able to communicate using twitter or another networking site.

Language	% of total
English	57%
Spanish	36%
Portuguese	3%
Other	4%