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Wikileaks - Flow

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On November 28, 2010, a website called Wikileaks.org released thousands of cables written by U.S. officials, including the President. They detailed secret proceedings between the U.S. and several other countries in regards to the current war in the Middle East and increasing tensions related to nuclear arms and impending conflict with China and North Korea. There had been previously releases by Wikileaks, but none so threatening as the most recent one.

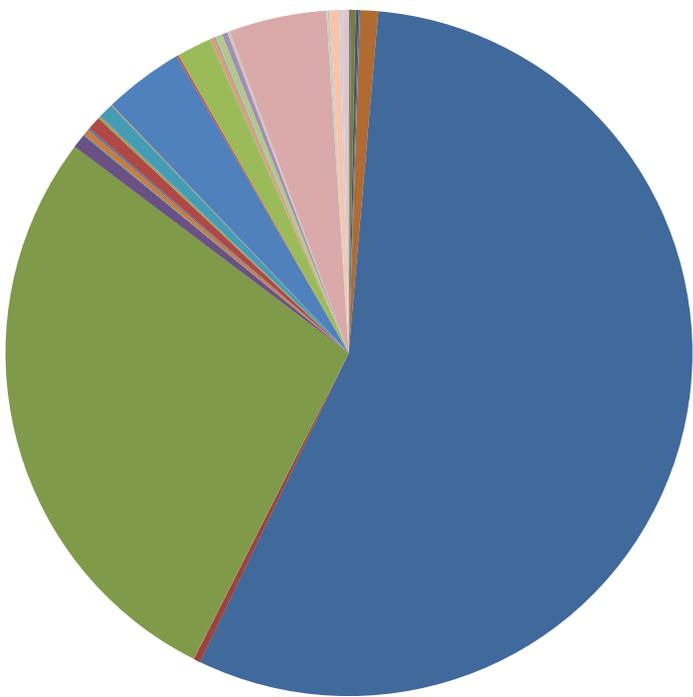
In order to determine the true global ramifications of this event, we looked at the flow of tweets related to Wikileaks. Specifically, we looked at the languages of tweets to better understand how the entire world was viewing such a dangerous controversy, and, potentially, who was the most invested in it. By looking at the languages of tweets about Wikileaks, we could come up with a greater picture as to how this event could bring countries together, incite war, or even have citizens turn on their government.

To collect the data for this collection of tweets, we used Archivist Desktop, an online tweet collector using the search word wikileaks. The amount of tweets for this particular grouping was so large that the online version could not handle it. Instead Professor Boynton used a better version of the same program and gave us the 240,000 tweets from this search. From this collection we took a random sampling of 4,000 tweets and processed it by language using Google documents.

The results from the language compilation are very interesting. They are similar in many ways to some of the past results with English having the highest amount of tweets and Spanish in second. Also there is a large selection of different languages. The main difference between this collection and past language distributions is the vast number difference. The chart below is only

a sampling of 4,000 from the actual collection; if we had done the full collection of 240,000 the numbers would be staggering. This collection shows how much more popular this subject is around the world at this time and that people everywhere are viewing it as a serious event.

When Wikileaks.org released these thousand of cables written by U.S. officials they set intentionally set off a large international scandal. By looking at the tweets by language we can see who was the most affected by this controversy and see what they are thinking about it. Our results show that this is a major topic around the world and is not something that will blow over quickly. The vast numbers of actual tweets prove this and bring into light, what the world thinks of the United States.



- AF - 2
- BR - 2
- CA - 9
- CO - 5
- DA - 3
- DE - 34
- EN - 2,240
- EO - 13
- ES - 1,117
- ET - 1
- FI - 2
- FIL - 11
- FO - 4
- FR - 26
- FY - 4
- GA - 1
- GL - 28
- HU - 2
- ID - 151
- IS - 4
- IT - 65
- JV - 1
- KU - 1
- LA - 6
- LV - 3
- MI - 1
- MS - 13
- NL - 10
- NO - 1
- OC - 2
- PL - 2
- PT - 185