

The Speech from the Throne: Aggregate Dataset Variable Codebook

Speech_Year: Counting variable from the first speech in 1911 to the last speech in the dataset in 2008, by speech from 1 to 101.

Year: Indicates the calendar year in which the speech occurred.

Short_Speech*: Dichotomous variable, coded 1 if the speech opened a special short session and 0 otherwise.

Major_Topic: Policy Agendas major topic code associated with the aggregated data. Note, 0 indicates non-policy statements.

Count†: Counting variable indicating the total number of mentions in the speech for each Speech_Year, Major_Topic.

Exec_Count†*: Counting variable indicating the total number of mentions in the executive section of the speech for each Speech_Year, Major_Topic.

Leg_Count†*: Counting variable indicating the total number of mentions in the legislative section of the speech for each Speech_Year, Major_Topic.

Topic_Proportion†: Proportion of the speech dedicated to each Speech_Year, Major_Topic excluding 0, non-policy statements.

Topic_Exec_Proportion†*: Proportion of the executive section of the speech dedicated to each Speech_Year, Major_Topic excluding 0, non-policy statements.

Topic_Leg_Proportion†*: Proportion of the legislative section of the speech dedicated to each Speech_Year, Major_Topic excluding 0, non-policy statements.

Total: The total number of policy mentions in each Speech_Year, excluding 0, non-policy statements.

Total_Exec*: The total number of policy mentions in the executive section of the speech for each Speech_Year, excluding 0, non-policy statements.

Total_Leg*: The total number of policy mentions in the legislative section of the speech for each Speech_Year, excluding 0, non-policy statements.

Entropy_Total*: Entropy, calculated as Shannon's H, for policy mentions in each Speech_Year, excluding 0, non-policy statements.

Entropy_Exec*: Entropy, calculated as Shannon's H, for policy mentions in the executive section of the speech for each Speech_Year, excluding 0, non-policy statements.

Entropy_Leg*: Entropy, calculated as Shannon's H, for policy mentions in the legislative section of the speech for each Speech_Year, excluding 0, non-policy statements.

Sentences: The total number of sentences used in each Speech_Year.

Quasi_Sentences*: The total number of policy and non-policy quasi-sentences contained in each Speech_Year.

Words: The total number of words used in each Speech_Year.

Exec_Words*: The total number of words in the executive section of the speech for each Speech_Year.

Leg_Words*: The total number of words in the legislative section of the speech for each Speech_Year.

Characters: The total number of characters used in each Speech_Year.

† In the wide version of the dataset, the number following the variable name indicates the Major_Topic.

* For a more detailed explanation of special short sessions, the distinction between the legislative and executive sections of the speech, entropy and what constitutes a quasi-sentence, see Jennings, Bevan and John, forthcoming.

When using the dataset please use the citation: Will Jennings, Shaun Bevan and Peter John. (n.d.). 'The Agenda of British Government: the Speech from the Throne, 1911-2008', forthcoming in *Political Studies*.