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**Logos in Debates on Religion: Using AI for Its Analysis and Visualisation**

In this paper, we propose a corpus study and AI-based technology of *Argument Analytics* for exploration of complex logos structures in debates on social media devoted to religion. By ‘logos’ we mean structural components of a discourse that encompass not only inferences, but also other propositional relations such as instances of conflict or cases when users rephrase either their own or others’ statements. As an illustrative material for our study, we take discussions on Reddit that involve religious issues: (1) the case of religion-rationalised child abuse (a Reddit discussion starting with the post: “We were supposed to wait for God to provide. And that's what we did”), and (2) the case of becoming religious (a Reddit discussion starting with the post: “Why I became religious, and why I like the classic terms”). We create annotated corpus of structured data of the debates, using *OVA3: Online Visualisation of Arguments* software (Janier et al. 2014). The corpus analysis helps us to answer following research questions: (1) is the discourse on religion different from discussions on other topics discussed on social media in terms of the density of arguments, conflicts and rephrases?; (2) does the discourse on religion differ from other discourse kinds as it comes to the density of ethotic arguments related to users’ character and credibility?; and (3) does the discourse on religion differ significantly from other discourse types in terms of level of emotional exchanges?. To this end, we develop *Argument Analytics* technology (Lawrence et al. 2016) that automatically creates statistical summaries and synthesis of logos structures in these debates. Reddit discourse on religion is then compared with the dynamics of Reddit discussion on Covid-19 vaccinations and offline debates in the UK Parliament. The results open a path for designing a fully-fledged methodology to the study of logos in debates about religion.

**References**

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