

# The Evolution of Bias in French News Media: How Does Political Orientation Affect Semantic Change?

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## Abstract

In this study, we explore the hypothesis that political bias can significantly influence the temporal change in the usage of specific words. By conducting a temporal analysis on the corpus of French news media articles covering the topics of freedom of speech and conspiracy theory, we investigate how the coverage of these two topics has changed through the years, and point out the main differences in the evolution of the coverage in the left- and right-wing media. By identifying the words whose meaning evolved most differently in media with different political bias and by automatic labelling of the main usages of these words, we show that media's political bias has a substantial influence on temporal semantic shift.

**Keywords:** semantic change detection, media analysis, bias detection.