

LANGUAGE-BASED INFLUENCE OPERATIONS

AN A.I. ELECTION RISK CHECKLIST

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Language minority citizens may more readily accept false claims made in their preferred language. Lack of in-language news media can limit voters' ability to verify civic information.

AI tools can translate text and audio across languages, often using appropriate idioms, slang, and grammar. These tools greatly reduce the time and resources previously required to target language groups.

MISUSE EXAMPLES

- Infiltrating language-specific threads on popular messaging apps or popular online forums to sway discussion on social issues.
- Audio dubbing short-form videos in-language to discourage voting or make false claims.
- Coopting popular hashtags to promote in-language posts targeting specific communities.
- New websites offering in-language content about social issues or news.

MITIGATIONS

NEWS MEDIA, ADVOCATES, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

- Groups serving language minority communities can inform readers that bad actors may try to influence community sentiment on social issues or voting using language tools. Particular attention should be given to smaller language communities that have not been previously prioritized by bad actors (e.g., Korean, Hindi, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Arabic speaking communities). Ethnic and minority press in particular can help inoculate communities against in-language manipulation.
- News outlets and election officials may consider translating trustworthy content and key resources into multiple languages. If using AI translation tools, perform quality checks, notifying readers when automated translation has been used and linking to the authoritative resource, where applicable.

Interested in learning about other AI election risks? Visit www.aspendigital.org/ai-election-risks for more risk checklists.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS

- Translate first-party resources and consider responsible ways to use AI tools to translate social media and other official communications. If using AI translation tools, perform quality checks, notify readers when automated translation has been used, and link to an authoritative resource, where applicable.
- Establish relationships with community leaders in language minority communities. Engage with these communities throughout the election cycle.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Evaluate language coverage across critical integrity systems. Make appropriate investments to ensure detection and policy enforcement across languages.
- Ensure first-party election resources and alert features are available in multiple languages. Consider multilingual notifications (e.g., diglossia, where appropriate). Encourage any civic information partners to translate websites into multiple languages.
- Prepare integrity teams for the possibility of increased volumes of non-English content about social issues and elections.
- Track influence operations that may increasingly involve lower-resourced bad actors expanding into new languages.

MESSAGING APPS & SERVICES

- Monitor open threads for signs of interference targeting language minority users.
- Ensure integrity and election notification are provided in the user's primary language.

A.I. LABS, DEVELOPERS, & COMPANIES

- Consider integrity mitigations when systems detect high rates of translation requests.
- Adopt policies prohibiting hyperlocal voter suppression and adopt model rules that direct users to trusted election sources, regardless of the querying language.
- Perform model checks to ensure ensure election-related completions do not differ based on the language used in the request.