

Codebook of the Veil of Ignorance Project (VOIP)

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Summary of unitizing definitions and rules

Definitions:

1. **Unit of analysis:** a power relation

Power relation:

An **agent**

Has the **capacity to do** (or is denied this capacity)

2. **Agent** = individual or collective

- Explicitly identified agent

Or

- General expression (everyone, none, etc.)

Examples: - one or several delegates = 1 agent

- one delegate or several delegates = 2 agents

- everyone = 1 agent

3. **Capacity:**

- Verb of action

- Verb form / verb expression / substantive directly transposable into a verb of action

N.B. If the substantive is the complement of a verb of action, then only one capacity is extracted (Ex : The Queen declares by proclamation; The President sends a request; the president presides over the debates of the house; the house may refuse the ratification;) but there are 2 actions in: the house may refuse to ratify («may refuse» and «may ratify»).

- Passive form if directly transposable into active form with verb of action

Rules:

1. A unit of analysis is created when a discursive structure of the type: “Agent / Capacity to do something (or is denied the capacity to do something)” is found. Only the «Agents» and the «Capacities» *explicitly* identified in a clause are considered for a unit to be extracted.

2. A separate unit is created for each combination of «Agent» and «Capacity» found in a clause.

3. In case of doubt, abstain! If, after a reasonable time of thinking, there is still doubt about the existence of a specific power relation, do not unitize it and pass on to the next segment of text.

4. Examples of verbs of action: give, nominate, appoint, vote, declare, do, authorise, impose, receive, supervise, adopt, represent.

5. «Want» and «desire» are not verbs of action.

To help identify the resource used by the influencing agent (**V1**), here is a non-exhaustive list of verbs that may most often be associated with each power resource:

Authority / Force	Wealth / Things of value	Knowledge / Information & rhetoric
Consent Authorize Request Exercise Appoint Perform duties Adopt a law Limit Legislate Preside Decide Demand Vote Enact Sign a petition Agree Assent Concur Regulate Make treaty Recognize Ensure Refer matters Give instructions Give orders Preserve, protect institutions, territory, etc. Declare war Enforce Choose policy Claim right Etc.	Pay Buy Spend Sell Subsidize Borrow Loan Exchange Trade Give / grant money Etc.	Advise Address Counsel Express opinion Teach Instruct (= teach) Give speech Give advice Publish Write Communicate information Inform Study Investigate Declare (except «declare war») Affirm Practice religion Join in worship Judge Estimate Evaluate Think fit Etc.
If the resource is not clear and if the verb of action cannot be associated with one of the verbs given above, code 8 . For example: respect the law, respect the constitution, swear, pledge fidelity, etc.		
Verbs that are not considered as verbs of action: Own Have Be Enjoy Want Desire In general, verbs that denote a quality		

Summary of coding rules

V1- The *source* of the power relation: Which resource would the influencing «Agent» use to perform the action he has the capacity to perform or to make another perform an action?

1- Authority/Force

2- Wealth/Things of value

3- Knowledge/Information and rhetoric

8- Indeterminate (when the information contained in the text is not sufficient to make a precise coding)

N.B. If the answer is 1 and/or 2, code 2

1 and/or 3, code 3

2 and/or 3, code the most important one, otherwise, code

8.

Consider only the action, not the identity of the agent, when coding a unit on V1.

V2- The *type* of the power relation: Could this action add or remove a possibility of choice in the choice set of another agent explicitly identified?

1- Yes (Social power)

2- No (Instrumental power)

8- Indeterminate (when the information contained in the text is not sufficient to make a precise coding)

V3- Direction of the power relation:

If instrumental power (V2 is coded 2)

1- Positive (the «Agent» has the capacity to do something)

2- Negative (the «Agent» is denied the capacity to do something)

8- Indeterminate (when the information contained in the text is not sufficient to make a precise coding)

If social power (V2 is coded 1):

1- Positive (the «Agent» has the capacity to add or to remove a possibility of choice in the choice set of another agent)

2- Negative (the «Agent» is denied the capacity to add or to remove a possibility of choice in the choice set of another agent)

8- Indeterminate (when the information contained in the text is not sufficient to make a precise coding)