

Examining the Representation of the Ultra-Orthodox factions in the Knesset using Topic Modelling of *Divrei Haknesset*

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The Ultra-Orthodox parties are perceived by the public as sectorial parties that are concerned only with the interests of their constituency and with the Jewish-religious character of the State of Israel.

Representation theories in Political Science distinguish between descriptive representation and substantive representation.

The purpose of this research is to examine the representation patterns of the Ultra-Orthodox parties in the Knesset over the years, using automatic content analysis of *Divrei Haknesset*, the official collection of plenary records since the time of the Provisional State Council. The whole collection is digitally available and is a researchable corpus that allows us the application of automatic content analysis methods and tools of Digital Humanities and Social Sciences.

The research method is unsupervised topic modeling of *Divrei Haknesset*, taking into account the different structures of the files. This method allows us to extract and map topics from the corpus using a LemLDA package for Topic modeling in Hebrew.

After the extraction and the mapping of the topics, a linkage between the topics and the ultra-orthodox speakers will lead us to examine the representation patterns of the Ultra-Orthodox MK.

This study will contribute by applying a quantitative method on all the Knesset sessions, a researchable corpus that was investigated by qualitative or mixed methods or in partial samples, and by applying representation theories on the Ultra-Orthodox Members of the Knesset over the years. This kind of analysis can give us a broad historic perspective.