

Corpus Benedita-Zambelli

Corpus composition

This corpus from the Digital Impoliteness project brings together comments directed at members of Congress Benedita da Silva and Carla Zambelli in response to the same public incident. Before the P20 Women Parliamentarians Meeting in Maceió, Zambelli complained that she would not be able to speak. During a live broadcast, she referred to the congresswoman chosen to speak, Benedita da Silva, as “Chica da Silva” – an enslaved eighteenth-century woman, who later gained her freedom. Her remark circulated widely across digital platforms and prompted attacks on both Benedita and Zambelli.

The available version of the Benedita–Zambelli Corpus contains 1,162 comments classified as attacks: 189 directed at Benedita and 973 at Zambelli. Each Portuguese comment is aligned with its English translation. The corpus records both the target of the attack and the source post, allowing users to create subcorpora by public figure, platform, or individual post.

The initial collection comprised 5,707 comments across four platforms. Table 1 identifies the seven posts examined, gives the number of comments collected from each, and shows how many attacks on each public figure were included in the corpus.

Table 1 – Composition of the Benedita da Silva and Carla Zambelli Corpus

Platform and label	Source post	Link	Comments collected	Attacks on Benedita da Silva	Attacks on Carla Zambelli
YouTube (YT1)	Short SBT News video about the incident	Open video	535	89	76
YouTube (YT2)	UOL Notícias video about the incident	Open video	665	51	345
Instagram (IG1)	Video posted by Benedita da Silva in response to Zambelli’s remark	Open post	3,684	9	189
X/Twitter (TW1)	Benedita da Silva’s post about the incident	Open post	236	7	70
X/Twitter (TW2)	Carla Zambelli’s post responding to the public reaction	Open post	87	11	46
TikTok (TT1)	SBT News video about the incident	Open video	398	17	199
TikTok (TT2)	UOL Notícias video about the incident	Open video	102	5	48
Total			5,707	189	973

Source: Digital Impoliteness project files.

Searching by target, platform, and post

Each comment in the corpus has two attributes: target identifies the deputy attacked (Benedita_da_Silva or Carla_Zambelli), while source_label identifies the post listed in Table 1. The letters indicate the platform: YT1 and YT2 are YouTube videos; IG1 is an Instagram post; TW1 and TW2 are X/Twitter posts; and TT1 and TT2 are TikTok videos. The number distinguishes posts on the same platform. These metadata are shared by both language versions of each comment.

In Sketch Engine, users can search all attacks, select those directed at one deputy, or limit a search to an individual post. To examine comments from one platform, select its corresponding labels (for example, YT1 and YT2 for YouTube). The filters can also be combined to compare attacks on Benedita and Zambelli within the same platform or to examine comments from just one video or post.

To save a subset, open the subcorpus creation screen, choose “Subcorpus from text types,” and select the desired values under doc.target and doc.source_label, as shown in Figure 1. The links in Table 1 identify the post corresponding to each label.

Figure 1 – Target and source-post filters in Sketch Engine.

Create subcorpus

Subcorpus name *

☒ Subcorpus from text types
☐ Subcorpus from concordance

expand all collapse all

doc.target ^

Benedita_da_Silva
Carla_Zambelli

doc.source_label ^

IG1
TT1
TT2
TW1
TW2
YT1
YT2

File ID v File name v

Accessing the corpus

The corpus can be consulted in Sketch Engine as a bilingual resource, with Portuguese comments aligned with their English translations.

→ [Benedita-Zambelli Corpus](#)

To request access, email impolidezdigital@gmail.com and provide the address registered with your Sketch Engine account.

Works based on the Benedita-Zambelli Corpus

The works below use data from the Benedita-Zambelli Corpus or subsets of those data.

Works	Corpus subset used
MIRANDA, Monique Vieira; OLIVEIRA, Ana Larissa Adorno Marciotto. “ Racism, Misogyny, and Political Polarization in Brazilian Digital Political Discourse: The Case of Benedita da Silva .” Paper presented at the Sixth Helsinki Conference on Emotions, Populism, and Polarisation (HEPP6), Helsinki, 20 May 2026.	Comments posted after Carla Zambelli called Benedita da Silva “Chica da Silva.” This presentation examines racism, misogyny, and polarization in responses to the incident, focusing on attacks against Benedita.
OLIVEIRA, Ana Larissa Adorno Marciotto; MIRANDA, Monique Vieira. Racism, misogyny, and political polarization in Brazilian digital discourse: a case-study. Manuscript submitted for publication.	Comments about the incident involving Benedita da Silva and Carla Zambelli. This manuscript examines how reactions to a racist remark may also reproduce gendered attacks and partisan aggression.
MIRANDA, Monique Vieira; OLIVEIRA, Ana Larissa Adorno Marciotto. “When Comparison Becomes Aggression: A Case Study of Racialized and Gendered Hostility in Brazilian Digital Media.” Manuscript submitted for publication.	Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and X/Twitter comments about the same incident. This manuscript analyses attacks on Benedita da Silva alongside hostile responses directed at Carla Zambelli.