COVID-19, MISINFORMATION, FAKE NEWS, CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND ISLAMOPHOBIA ON TWITTER
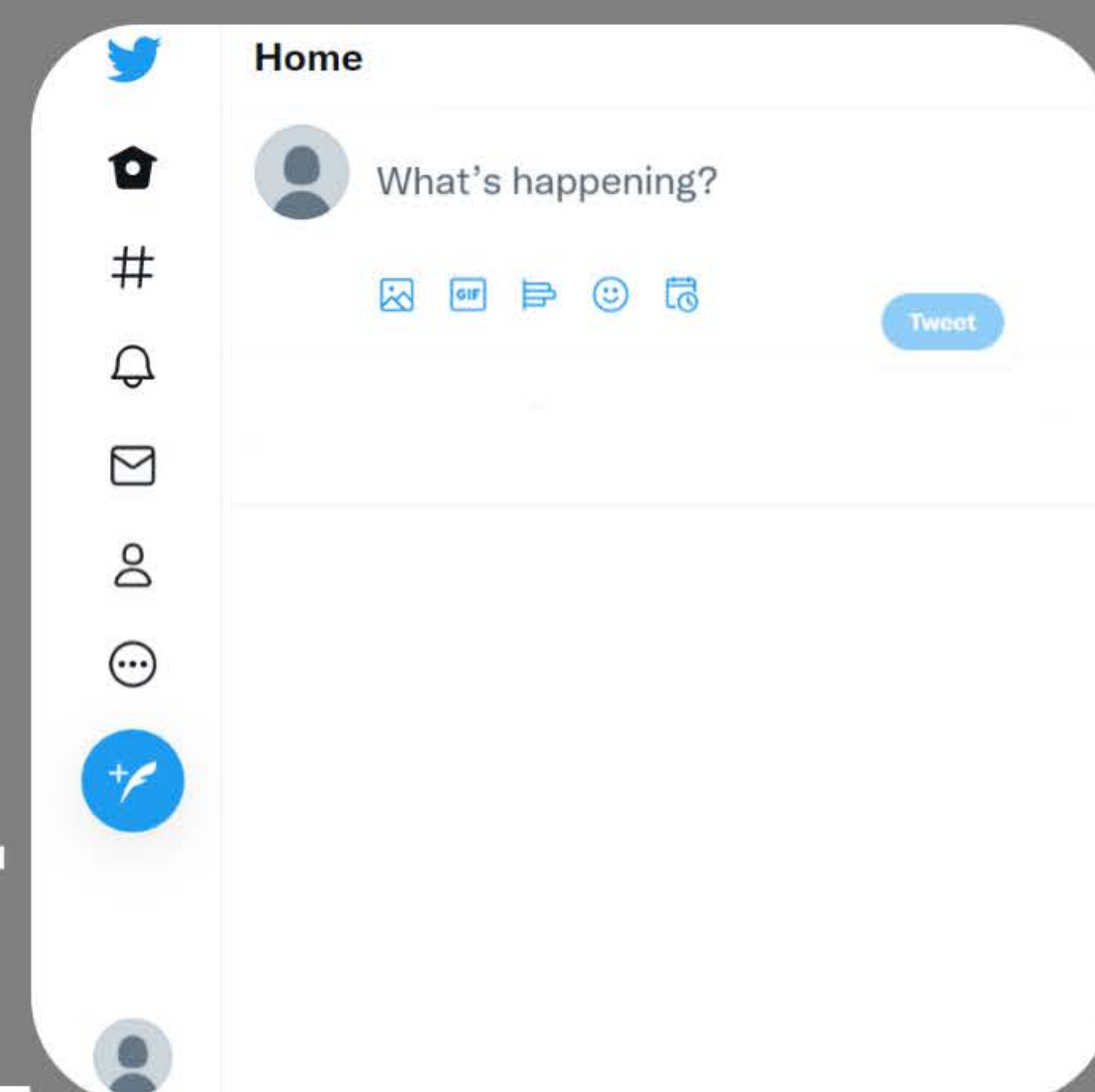
CORPUS LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

100,545
TWEETS

100
TWITTER ACOUNTS

METHOD

100,545

Tweets were analysed from 100 Twitter accounts

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Participants were rated on anonymity, membership length and postage frequency

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AntConc software was used to produce a word list and keyness results for the corpora

28 key terms were generated i.e. islamspreadcovid, ihateislam, islamiccoronajehad, jihadagent, crushtablighispitters, islamicvirus. The frequency of these terms were compared across low, moderate and high level of the three variables

coronajihad coronahoax
jihadwatchrs islamiscancer
islamicvirus covidscam bantablighijamal saynotohalal
spitting stayawayfromislam muslimban islamisevil
delhiagainstjehadviolence beingmuslimterriost
islamspreadcovid ihateislam covidiots
islamiccoronajehad banjihadimedia jihadagent
allahisgay islamistheproblem crushtablighispitters
nizamuddinidiots coronajehad banjahiljamat
radicalislamicterrorist islamexposed

FINDINGS

ANONYMITY
The 28 keywords appeared statistically more frequently in the tweets of low anonymity users than they did in either moderate or high anonymity users, clearly suggesting that low levels of anonymity may be predictive of increased Islamophobic language use.

MEMBERSHIP LENGTH
The 28 keywords appeared statistically more frequently in the tweets of moderate membership length users than they did in either low or high membership length users. Suggesting that moderate levels of membership length may be predictive of increased Islamophobic language use.

POSTAGE FREQUENCY
The 28 keywords appeared statistically more frequently in the tweets of low postage frequency users than they did in either moderate or high postage frequency users. Suggesting that low levels of postage frequency may be predictive of increased Islamophobic language use.

CONCLUSION

Overall the corpus linguistic analysis has demonstrated that extreme language used online relating Islamophobia and misinformation during the covid-19 pandemic was significantly more associated with accounts that demonstrate low levels of anonymity (more identifiable, displaying five to seven identifiable items), moderate levels of membership length (1001 to 3000 days active) and low levels of postage frequency (average number of tweets per day between zero and ten).

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