European Discourse Community

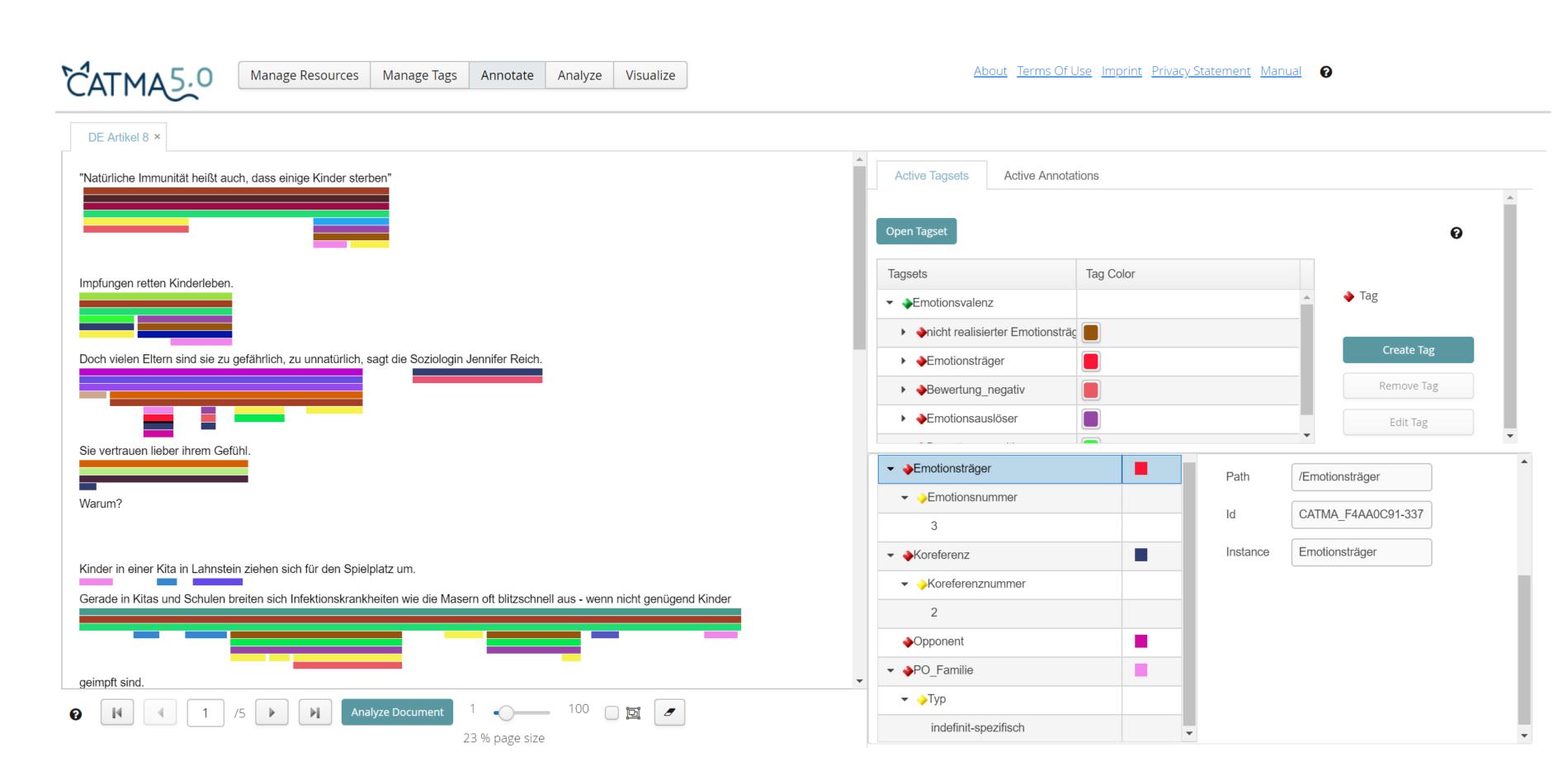
Language, emotion and argumentation

In Europe, people in different countries with various linguistic and cultural backgrounds simultaneously discuss a wide range of issues relevant to society (European integration, migration, balance between security and civil rights etc.).

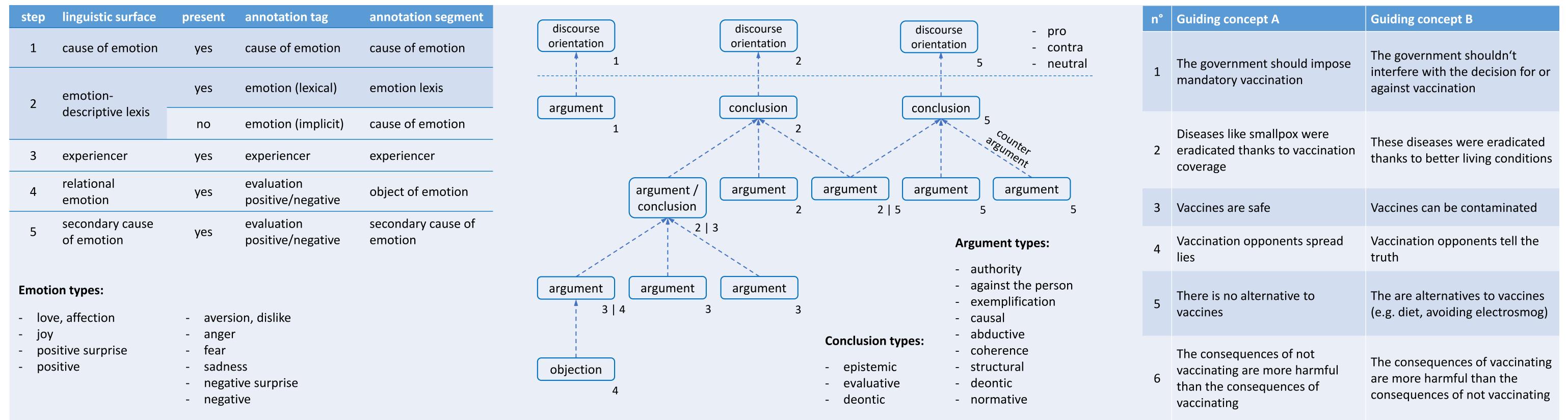
In our project *European Discourse Community*, we elaborate a corpus-based, contrastive methodology which combines qualitative and quantitative methods as a basis for **multilingual discourse analysis**. The **aim of our project** is to develop a **gradually expandable platform providing methods for the contrastive analysis of cross-lingual discourses** and to test it on a specific discourse.

Our corpus consists of German, English, French and Italian newspaper articles focusing on the vaccine debate. We identify and analyse **relevant discourse parameters on an autosemantic micro level and an interpretation-based macro level**.

We annotate in CATMA. The **micro level surface parameters** cover amongst others the lexis of discourse-relevant areas and fields, locations, and discourse roles of the actors involved. They form the basis of our **macro level target parameters**: argumentation structure, emotion, and main points of controversy. The following scheme shows how we model these parameters:



Emotion Argumentation Argumentation



In order to answer specific questions, we correlate single target parameters with particular surface parameters. Correlations are then evaluated for each language individually as well as across languages and shed light on the principal convergences and divergences between the different languages and cultures analysed.

Some **concrete questions** we want to answer in our pilot study:

- Are emotions mainly expressed implicitly or explicitly?
- Can a lexis of rationality or a lexis of emotionality be attributed to specific actors?
- Which linguistic elements are used to constitute, structure and communicate knowledge?

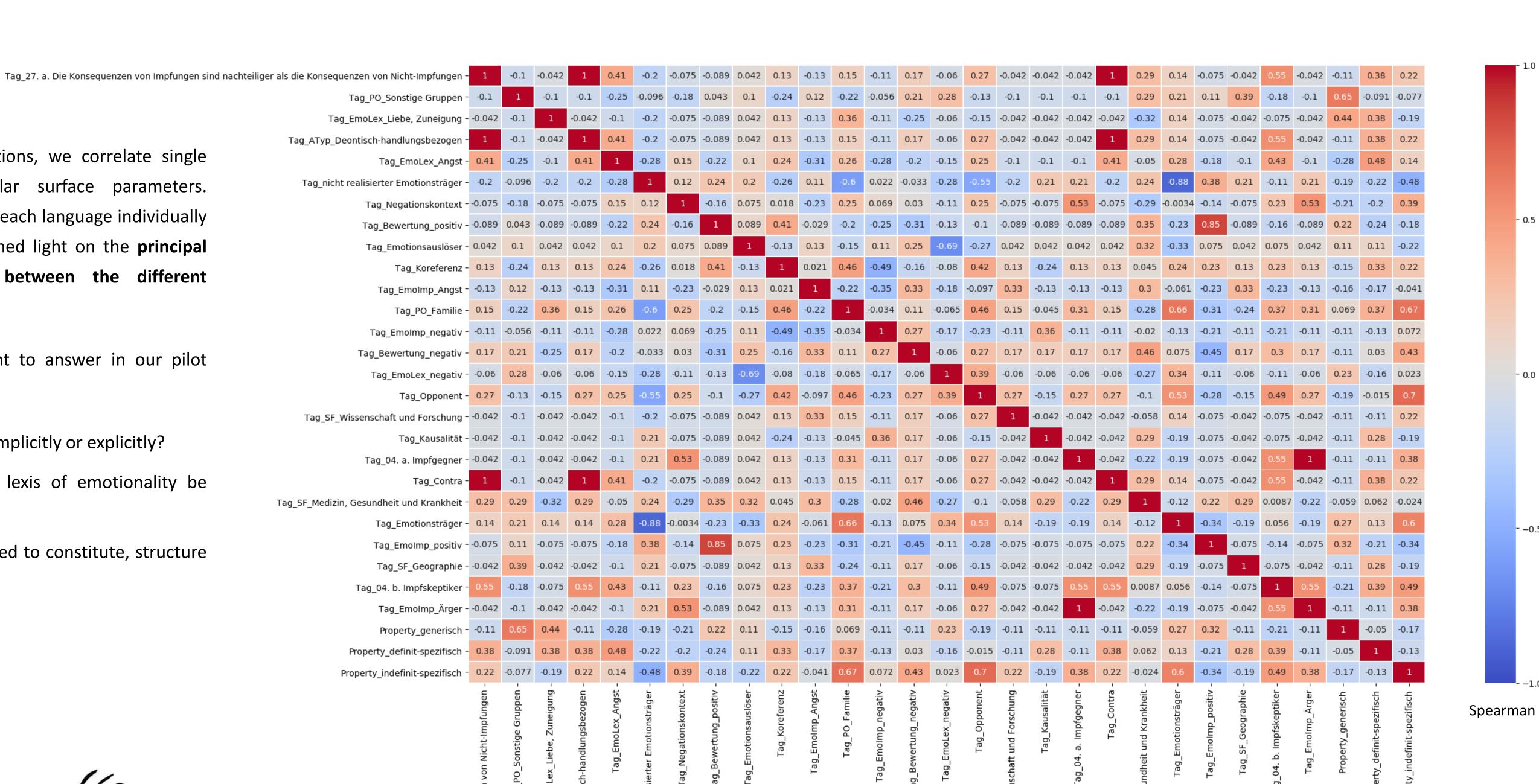




Fig.: The correlation matrix shows correlations of all annotations related to the target parameter *emotion* for a single text.

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