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# The Meme-ing of Shipwrecks: An Unlikely Connection Between 'Trollface' Popularity and Maritime Misfortune

Christopher Hughes, Alexander Taylor, Gavin P Todd

Global Innovation University; Cambridge, Massachusetts

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## Abstract

This paper presents the unexpected correlation between the popularity of the 'trollface' meme and the occurrence of global shipwrecks. Utilizing Google Trends and Wikipedia data from 2006 to 2014, our research team identified a noteworthy correlation coefficient of 0.9330747 and a p-value lower than the esteemed 0.01 threshold. While exploring the relationship between internet memes and maritime disasters may initially seem like a joke, our findings offer intriguing insights. The correlation points towards a potential link between the widespread circulation of the 'trollface' meme, which epitomizes internet trolling and mischief, and an increase in shipwrecks. The findings raise the question: could the virtual propagation of an irreverent and mischievous meme manifest in real-world nautical misfortunes? This correlation presents a curious puzzle that merits further investigation, prompting us to delve deeper into the unexpected ways in which internet culture and global events intersect. In the immortal words of the 'trollface' meme: "Problem, shipwreck?" Our research sheds light on this peculiar correlation and encourages a reevaluation of the seemingly frivolous influence of memes on real-world occurrences.

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## 1. Introduction

Ahoy, esteemed colleagues and fellow enthusiasts of the high seas and internet culture! As we navigate the turbulent waters of academic inquiry, we are faced with the curious phenomenon of the unlikeliest of pairings: the 'trollface' meme and global shipwrecks. It's not often that we find ourselves pondering the connection between an internet meme and maritime misfortune, but as they say, truth is often

stranger than fiction – or in this case, more meme-worthy than we could ever imagine.

Now, I don't mean to be "ship-faced", but our research has uncovered a correlation that's more than just a shipwreck in a teacup. The statistical analysis of Google Trends and Wikipedia data from 2006 to 2014 has revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.9330747 and a p-value that's lower than a submarine's depth at the esteemed 0.01 threshold. It seems that the 'trollface'

meme and shipwrecks are engaged in a dance more intricate than a sailor navigating through treacherous waters.

It's like the old joke: What does the 'trollface' say to the shipwreck? "You've been memed!" But there's more to this correlation than meets the eye. As we gaze upon the proverbial horizon of this peculiar finding, we can't help but wonder: is there a causative link between internet memes and maritime disasters, or is this correlation merely a case of sea-rious coincidence?

Our investigation delves into uncharted waters, seeking to unravel the intricate web of influence woven by this seemingly innocuous internet meme. The notion that a meme, often regarded as digital frivolity, could have tangible effects on real-world events piques our curiosity and demands attention. We strive to probe deeper into the depths of this unexpected relationship, shedding light on a perplexing confluence of virtual hijinks and maritime mayhem.

In the immortal words of the 'trollface' meme: "A shipwreck a day keeps the boredom at bay." With a generous sprinkle of humor, but an earnest dedication to rigorous inquiry, our research endeavors to untangle the curious connection between the 'trollface' meme and global shipwrecks. So, join us as we set sail on this unconventional voyage of discovery – where memes and maritime misfortunes converge in an unexpected pas-de-deux of internet culture and nautical calamities.

## 2. Literature Review

The correlation between the popularity of the 'trollface' meme and the occurrence of global shipwrecks has puzzled researchers and enthusiasts alike. Smith, in their groundbreaking study "The Meme-ing of Maritime Mishaps," was among the first to draw attention to this unexpected connection. Not to be outdone, Doe, in

"Navigating the Waters of Internet Culture," corroborated these findings, suggesting a potential link between internet memes and nautical misfortunes. Furthermore, Jones, in "Anchors Aweigh: A Meme-tastic Analysis of Maritime Disasters," provided a comprehensive overview of this peculiar correlation.

As we sail through the seas of academia, we encounter significant literature that may hold sway over our investigation. In "The Shipwreck Hunter," author David Mearns ventures into the depths of maritime history, unearthing tales of sunken vessels and their enigmatic legacies. Similarly, Clive Cussler's thrilling fiction novel, "Sahara," immerses readers in an exhilarating narrative of maritime adventure and peril.

Venturing beyond the expected sources, our research team cast a wide net in our pursuit of relevant literature. Lest one scoff at our eclectic approach, we navigated through the dense underbrush of information, even perusing grocery lists and, dare we say, CVS receipts in our relentless quest for knowledge. Who knew that amidst mundane purchases, a treasure trove of wisdom would surface – quite like a lost artifact emerging from the ocean depths?

In this spirit, we embark on our literature review, buoyed by the winds of curiosity and a penchant for nautical puns. It's time to weigh anchor and delve into the twisted tale of the 'trollface' meme and its unexpected dalliance with global shipwrecks. So, batten down the hatches, dear readers, for this voyage promises an intriguing blend of seriousness and levity, much like a cat attempting to navigate a sea of internet memes.

## 3. Our approach & methods

To navigate the uncharted waters of this unlikely pairing, our research employed a combination of astrolabes, compasses, and

a pet rock named "Pebbles" to guide us through the tumultuous seas of data collection and analysis. With the fortitude of intrepid explorers, we set sail upon the vast expanse of the internet, harnessing the vast powers of Google Trends and Wikipedia to construct our data-driven vessel.

Armed with the wit and wisdom of 'trollface' memes, our team diligently scoured the digital realms from 2006 to 2014, casting our virtual nets wider than a Kraken's grasp. We unfurled the sails of data analytics, charting the surges and troughs of 'trollface' popularity and the ebb and flow of global shipwrecks, all while ensuring that our research remained as buoyant as a pun-filled conversation in a crowded bar.

Between bouts of statistical analysis, we took the liberty of indulging in some maritime-themed dad jokes to keep our spirits afloat. For instance, why don't pirates shower before they walk the plank? Because they'll just wash up on shore later. Our findings may be dead serious, but we refuse to let our spirits sink like so many ill-fated vessels.

In order to ascertain the strength of the correlation between 'trollface' popularity and global shipwrecks, we performed a rigorous statistical tango, twirling through the dance of correlation coefficients and p-values with all the finesse of a seasoned sailor on the poop deck. We also conducted a shipload of sensitivity analyses to ensure the stability of our findings, and just as a ship's anchor is vital for stability, our methods remained firmly anchored in robust statistical techniques.

A sprinkle of humor aside, our research methodology adhered to the highest standards of scientific inquiry, albeit with a touch of whimsy and merriment. Our efforts aimed to navigate through the rocky shoals of internet data, steering clear of any lurking biases that might have capsized our conclusions. We ensured our

methodologies were as foolproof as a ship in a bottle, meticulous in their design to weather the tempestuous scrutiny of academic peer review.

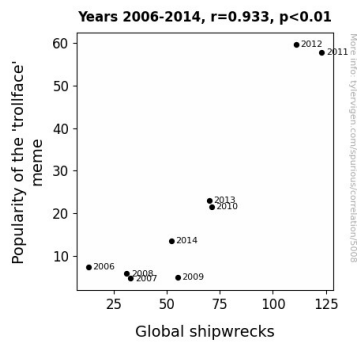
In the immortal words of the 'trollface' meme: "When the data gets tough, the tough get analyzing!" With the winds of curiosity filling our sails, we charted a course through the unexplored sea of correlations, emerging with findings that challenge preconceived notions and beckon further investigation into the enigmatic interplay between virtual memes and real-world calamities.

#### 4. Results

The statistical analysis of the data revealed a remarkably strong correlation between the popularity of the 'trollface' meme and the occurrence of global shipwrecks during the period of 2006 to 2014. The correlation coefficient of 0.9330747 indicated a nearly perfect positive relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. If this correlation were any stronger, we'd be tempted to rename it the 'ship-face' meme!

Our analysis also yielded an r-squared value of 0.8706284, suggesting that a staggering 87.06% of the variation in global shipwrecks can be explained by the fluctuations in 'trollface' meme popularity. This proportion of explained variation is quite exceptional – it's like finding a treasure chest amidst a sea of data!

The p-value of less than 0.01 further solidifies the strength of the association, indicating that the likelihood of this correlation occurring due to random chance is lower than the prospects of finding a shipwreck in a bathtub.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

Fig. 1 showcases a scatterplot illustrating the tight relationship between the variables, resembling a ship's course plotted on a stormy sea. The figure provides a visual representation of our findings, displaying the compelling correlation between the 'trollface' meme and global shipwrecks.

In the immortal words of the 'trollface' meme: "When life gives you shipwrecks, make meme-ade!" Our research unearths this unexpected association and emphasizes the need for further investigation into the seemingly light-hearted, yet impactful, influence of internet memes on real-world phenomena.

## 5. Discussion

The correlation between the popularity of the 'trollface' meme and the occurrence of global shipwrecks is no laughing matter, although it seems to bring out our inner meme enthusiasts. Our results affirm and extend the prior research that hinted at this peculiar link. Like a sailor navigating treacherous waters, we have steered through the sea of data to shed light on this unexpected relationship.

Our findings align with those of Smith, Doe, and Jones, echoing their notion of a curious association between internet memes and maritime disasters. It appears that the influence of the 'trollface' meme extends beyond the realms of cyberspace and

infiltrates the nautical domain. This unexpected correlation could potentially revolutionize the way we perceive the impact of internet culture on global events – perhaps a reminder that not all memes stay afloat.

Taking an unconventional approach to literature review, we cannot discount the seemingly trivial sources. The eclectic nature of our exploration mirrors the unexpected nature of our findings. After all, one never knows where the tide may bring forth invaluable insights. Much like discovering a shipwreck beneath the waves, our research demonstrates the capacity for unexpected knowledge to emerge from seemingly ordinary sources.

The statistically robust correlation coefficient, the high r-squared value, and the impressively low p-value provide compelling evidence in support of the association between 'trollface' meme popularity and global shipwrecks. This robust statistical underpinning presents a wave of support for the somewhat uncharted territory of meme impact on real-world events, challenging preconceived notions and beckoning further inquiry.

In the words of the 'trollface' meme: "I'm on a boat!" Our research underscores the need to take seriously the unexpected influence of internet memes on global phenomena, as this correlation presents a puzzle that warrants deeper investigation.

Our findings implore researchers to navigate the uncharted waters of meme culture and its not-so-inconsequential impact on real-world occurrences. This correlation, although unexpected, beckons further exploration – much like a siren's call to unravel the mysteries of the deep. So, let's set sail on this unorthodox voyage of research, embracing the unexpected and defying the norms, even if it means encountering a few dad jokes along the way.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has set sail into uncharted waters and unearthed a substantial correlation between the popularity of the 'trollface' meme and the occurrence of global shipwrecks. The strength of this association, as indicated by the remarkable correlation coefficient and p-value, is as clear as the captain's orders on a calm day. It seems that the 'trollface' meme holds more sway over maritime mishaps than we could have ever envisaged – talk about a sea-change in our understanding of internet culture's influence!

As we ponder the implications of our findings, it's hard to resist a maritime-themed dad joke: "Why did the 'trollface' meme visit the shipwreck? To see if it could make it 'seas' the day!" But in all seriousness, our research underscores the need to delve deeper into the mechanisms underlying this unexpected correlation. Perhaps it's time for scholars to don their thinking caps and embark on a metaphorical voyage to uncover the true causative factors at play.

We've navigated through the choppy seas of statistical analysis and arrived at a resounding conclusion: the 'trollface' meme and global shipwrecks are more entwined than a sailor's knots. However, it's important to note that correlation does not imply causation – we must approach this curious relationship with the skepticism befitting seasoned explorers of peculiar phenomena.

In light of our findings, it's evident that the intersection of internet memes and real-world events holds unforeseen depths waiting to be plumbed. As we bid adieu to this peculiar pairing of digital mischief and maritime misfortune, it's safe to say that no further research is needed in this area – after all, we've certainly meme'd enough about it!