The SPECIALIST Lexicon and Lexical Tools

Oct 24, 2014

Allen Browne
Chris Lu
Lexical tools

SPECIALIST LEXICON

Text processing
Lexicon: A fancy synonym for “dictionary”

THE INSOMNIAC’S DICTIONARY

Illeism: Reference to oneself by use of the third person
Inavoidance: The act of covering up one’s inferiority complex
Inglenook: A place by the fire or any warm and comfortable area
Insulium: Legal term for evil advice or counsel
Jamais vu: Illusion that one has never previously experienced a situation, when in fact it is quite familiar (see Déjà vu)
Jen: A compassionate love for all humanity or for the whole world
Karateka: A karate expert
Kloof: A deep ravine
Kludge: A system (especially of computers) made up of poorly matched components
Lallation: Pronouncing an “R” so that it sounds like an “L”
Lapidation: The act of stoning a person to death
Latrocination: A robbery that involves the use of force or violence
Lexicon: A fancy synonym for “dictionary”
Litotes: A form of understatement in which two negatives are used to make a positive (“he was not unhappy”)
Longueur: A long and boring passage in a work of literature, drama, music, etc.
Macarism: The practice of making others happy by praising them
Matutinal: Pertaining to anything that takes place in the morning
Melorrrhea: The writing of excessively long musical works
Meteorism: A tendency to uncontrollable passing of intestinal gas
Metrona: A young grandmother
Microperf: The very small perforations along the edges of computer paper
Migrateur: A wanderer
Mnemonic: That which assists memory (a classic mnemonic device is the one familiar to astronomy students: “Oh be a fine girl, kiss me”—a unique way to remember the stellar classifications O, B, A, F, G, K, and M)
Moria: Morbid impulse to make jokes
Omnistain: The stresses of modern life
Omphaloskepsis: The act of contemplating one’s navel
Onychophagy: The habit of biting one’s fingernails
Oxymoron: A phrase or expression composed of contradictory elements (“awfully good,” for example)
The SPECIALIST lexicon

- A syntactic lexicon
- Biomedical and general English
- Over 476,000 records
Lexicon Growth
George A. Miller
The Science of Words
1991
Frequency Spectrum of Medline 2006

V(m,N) vs. M
Frequency Spectrum: Alice in Wonderland
The Long Tail

Number of Words →

Word Frequency →
The SPECIALIST LEXICON

- Morphology
  - Inflection
  - Derivation
- Orthography
  - Spelling variants
- Syntax
  - Complementation for verbs, nouns, and adjectives
Morphology

- Inflectional
  - nucleus, nuclei
  - cauterize, cauterizes, cauterized, cauterizing
  - red, redder reddest

- Derivational
  - laryngeal -- larynx
  - transport -- transportation
I suppose you could say I’m a dictionaryologist.

Dictionary+ology+ist
Derivational Morphology

WAITER

WAITRESS

BUTTER

BUTTRESS

MATTER

MATTRESS

© 2006 Stivers
Orthography

Spelling Variation

- align -- aline
- Grave’s disease -- Graves’s disease -- Graves’ disease
- anesthetize -- anesthetise
- Esophagus -- oesophagus
- foetus – fetus
- centre -- center
I need the correct spelling for the records...

How do you spell ‘crocodile’?

DR. ZOOK
Syntax -- Verb Complements

- **intran**
  - I’ll treat.

- **tran=np**
  - He treated the patient.

- **ditran=np,pphr(with,np)**
  - She treated the patient with the drug.
Syntax -- Verb Complements

{base=treat
 entry=E0061964
  cat=verb
  variants=reg
  intran
  tran=np
  tran=pphr(with,np)
  tran=pphr(of,np)
  ditran=np,pphr(to,np)
  ditran=np,pphr(with,np)
  ditran=np,pphr(for,np)
  cplxtran=np,advbl
  nominalization=treatment|noun|E0061968
}

Syntax -- Verb Particle Constructions

clean up
scrub down
look up
{base=clean
entry=E0017272
cat=verb
variants=reg
intran
intran;part(up)
tran=np
tran=np;part(up)
nominalization=clean|noun|E0017273
nominalization=cleanup|noun|E0319808}
Categories – Parts of Speech

Number of lexical items

- noun
- adjective
- verb
- adverb
- preposition
- pronoun
- conjunction
- determiner
- modal
- auxilliary
- compl
Lexicon Unit Records

{base=Kaposi's sarcoma
  spelling_variant=Kaposi sarcoma
  entry=E0003576

  cat=noun
  variants=uncount
  variants=reg
  variants=glreg
}

{base=chronic
  entry=E0016869

  cat=adj
  variants=inv
  position=attrib(1)
  position=pred
  stative
}

{base=aspirate
  entry=E0010803

  cat=verb
  variants=reg
  tran=np
  nominalization=aspiration|noun|E0010804
}

{base=in
  entry=E0033870

  cat=prep
}

Orthographic vs. Lexicographic Word:

Why, for instance, if a two-word boy scout feels chilly on his one-word campground, does he pull up a two-word camp chair in front of his one-word campfire? Anyone who seeks a strictly logical answer to such questions is chasing will-o'-the-wisps (chargeable in telegrams as a single word, because of the hyphens) in a semantic bog.

{base=resume
  spelling_variant=résumé
  spelling_variant=resumé
  entry=E0053099
    cat=noun
    variants=reg
}

{base=role
  spelling_variant=rôle
  entry=E0053757
    cat=noun
    variants=reg
}

{base=deja vu
  spelling_variant=deja-vu
  spelling_variant=déjà vu
  entry=E0021340
    cat=noun
    variants=uncount
}

{base=cafe
  spelling_variant=café
  entry=E0420690
    cat=noun
    variants=reg
}
Noun Variants

{base=Kaposi's sarcoma
 spelling_variant=Kaposi sarcoma
 entry=E0003576
  cat=noun
  variants=uncount
  variants=reg
  variants=g1reg
}

- Kaposi’s sarcoma
- Kaposi’s sarcomas
- Kaposi’s sarcomata
- Kaposi sarcoma
- Kaposi sarcomas
- Kaposi sarcomata
Regular Nouns

The plural suffix is \( s \).

- \( y \) becomes \( ie \) following a consonant before \( s \).
- \( e \) is inserted before \( s \) if the base ends in \( s, z, x, ch, \) or \( s \).

Leach – Leaches
Stomach – Stomachs \( \rightarrow \) irregular
### Greco-latin Regular Nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular Ends With</th>
<th>Plural Ends With</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-us</td>
<td>-i</td>
<td>focus/foci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ma</td>
<td>-mata</td>
<td>trauma/traumata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-a</td>
<td>-ae</td>
<td>larva/larvae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-um</td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>ilium/ilia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-on</td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>taxon/taxa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-sis</td>
<td>-ses</td>
<td>analysis/analyses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-is</td>
<td>-ides</td>
<td>cystis/cystides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-men</td>
<td>-mina</td>
<td>foramen/foramina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ex</td>
<td>-ices</td>
<td>index/indices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-x</td>
<td>-ces</td>
<td>matrix/matrices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Octopuses

"Fellow octopi, or octopuses ... octopi? ... Dang, it's hard to start a speech with this crowd."
Uncount Nouns
(abstract or mass)

{base=smallpox
 entry=E0056359
  cat=noun
  variants=uncount
 }

{base=potassium
 entry=E0049387
  cat=noun
  variants=uncount
 }

* a smallpox
* two smallpoxes
much smallpox
* a potassium
* two potassiuums
much potassium

* This form does not occur
Countability

- Mail
  * A mail
    much mail
  * many mails

- E-Mail
  An e-mail
  much e-mail
  many e-mails

* This form does not occur
Uncount Nouns

- Spaghetti
- Broccoli
- Jacuzzo
Fixed Plural Nouns

{base=police
tenry=E0048616
cat=noun
variants=plur
}

{base=scissors
tenry=E0054633
cat=noun
variants=plur
}
Irregular Nouns

{base=corpus
entry=E0019113
  cat=noun
  variants=irreg|corpora|
  variants=reg
}

{base=larynx
entry=E0036919
  cat=noun
  variants=irreg|larynges|
  variants=reg
}
Regular Verbs

- The third person present tense suffix is *s*.
  - *y* becomes *ie* following a consonant before *s*.
  - *e* is inserted between *z*, *x*, *ch*, or *sh* and *s*.
- The past tense suffix is *ed*.
  - *y* becomes *ie* following a consonant before *ed*.
  - Final *e* is deleted before *ed*.
- The past participle is the same as the past tense.
- The present participle suffix is *ing*.
  - *y* becomes *ie* following a consonant before *ing*.
  - Final *e* is deleted before *ing* unless preceded by *e*, *y* or *o*.
Regular Verbs

- dismiss: dismisses, dismissed, dismissing
- agree: agrees; agreed; agreeing
- dry: dries, dried, drying
Regular Doubling Verbs

- End in a CVC pattern
- Double the final consonant before *ed* and *ing*.
- Are otherwise regular
- variants=regd

control: controls, controlled, controlling
Irregular Verbs

Bite: bite, bites, bit, bitten
Irregular Verbs

{base=bite
  entry=E0013219
  cat=verb
  variants=irreg|bite|bites|bit|bitten|biting|
  intran
  tran=np
  cplxtran=np,advbl
}

Ancillary Data Bases

- Synonymy
  - sm.db
- Derivation
  - dm.db, dm.rules
- Inflection
  - im.rules
- Neoclassical compounds
  - nc.db
Derivational Facts and Rules

dm.facts

treatment|noun|treat|verb
prohibition|noun|prohibitive|adj
cell lineage|noun|cell line|noun
photochemotherapeutic|adj|photochemotherapy|noun
pharmacotherapeutic|adj|pharmacotherapy|noun
Derivational Facts and Rules

dm.rules

# e.g. alienation|alienate
ation$|noun|ate|verb
ration|rate; station|state;
Inflectional Facts and Rules

im.rules

# Noun rules (glreg)
us$|noun|singular|i$|noun|plural
  antus|anti;
ma$|noun|singular|mata$|noun|plural
a$|noun|singular|ae$|noun|plural
um$|noun|singular|a$|noun|plural
on$|noun|singular|a$|noun|plural
sis$|noun|singular|ses$|noun|plural
is$|noun|singular|ides$|noun|plural
men$|noun|singular|mina$|noun|plural
ex$|noun|singular|ices$|noun|plural
x$|noun|singular|ces$|noun|plural
Neoclassical compounds

nc.db

abdomin(o)|abdomen|root
ab|away from|prefix
acanth(o)|prickle|root
acar(o)|mite|root
acetabul(o)|acetabulum|root
ad|towards|prefix
agogue|inducing|terminal
albumin(o)|albumin|root
sis|condition|terminal
stomy|surgical opening|terminal
pneumoconiosis: a pneumoconiosis caused by the inhalation of very fine silicate or quartz dust

The Protein of a tobacco mosaic virus, Dahlemense strain

acetylserlyrosylserlylsoleucylthreonylserylprolylserylglutaminylnphenylalanylvalylphenylalanlyserecylserylvalyltryptophynylanlaspartylprolylisoleucylglutamyllleucyllleucyllasparaginylnylalanlyserylglutaminylthreonylglycillasparaginylnylalanlyserylglutaminylvalylglutaminylglutaminylglutaminylphe
nylanlyserylglutaminylvalyltryptophylllysylprolylphenylalanlprolyglutaminylserylthreonylvalylarginylphenylalanlprolylgly
cylaspartylvalytyrosylllysylvalytyrosyllarginyltyrosylasparaginylalanlvalyllleucylaspartylprolylisoleucylthreonyllalanlleu
cylleucylglyclythreonylphenylnylanlysartylthreonyllarginylasparaginy larginylisoleucylisoleucylglutamylnvalylglutamyllasparaginylglutaminylglutaminylserylprolylthreonyllthreonyllalanlgluta
myllthreonyllleucylaspartylalanlthreonyllarginyllarginylvalylasparaginylarginylisoleucylisoleucylglutamylnvalylglutamyllasparaginylglutaminylglutaminylserylprolylthreonyllthreonyllalanlgluta
myllthreonyllleucylaspartylalanlthreonyllarginyllarginylvalylasparaginy larginylisoleucylisoleucylglutamylnvalylglutamyllasparaginylglutaminylglutaminylserylprolylthreonyllthreonyllalanlgluta
myllthreonyllleucylaspartylalanlthreonyllarginyllarginylvalylasparaginylglutamyllleucylvalylarginylglyclythreonyllglyclylleucultyrosylasparaginyllglutaminylasparaginyllthreonylphenylnylanlglutamyllserylmethionylserylglyclylleucylvalyltryptophylthreonylseryllalanlprolyllalan
serylserine
Synonyms

sm.db

alar|adj|wing|noun
amygdaline|adj|tonsil|noun
articular|adj|joint|noun
bulbar|adj|medulla oblongata|noun
fununcular|adj|boil|noun
genicular|adj|knee|noun
hepatocellular|adj|liver cells|noun
lazar|adj|leprosy|noun
lenticular|adj|crystalline lens|noun
ypsiliform|adj|upsiloid|adj
wolfram|noun|tungsten|noun
double vision|noun|diplopia|noun
Lexical Tools

- **Wordind** -- breaks strings into words
  - Produces the Metathesaurus word indexes (MRXW)
- **LVG** -- performs various lexical transformations
- **NORM** -- a selection of LVG transformations,
  - Used for Metathesaurus indexing
  - Produces the Metathesaurus Normalized word and string indexes (MRXNW & MRXNS)
  - Used to access those indexes
Normalization

- Hodgkin Disease
- HODGKINS DISEASE
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Disease, Hodgkin's
- HODGKIN'S DISEASE
- Hodgkin's disease
- Hodgkins Disease
- Hodgkin's disease NOS
- Hodgkin's disease, NOS
- Disease, Hodgkins
- Diseases, Hodgkins
- Hodgkins Diseases
- Hodgkins disease
- hodgkin's disease
- Disease; Hodgkins
- Disease, Hodgkin

- disease hodgkin
The Lexical Systems Group

- Allen Browne: browne@nlm.nih.gov
- Chris Lu: lu@nlm.nih.gov