Concordanciers : Thème et variations
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To cite this version:

HAL Id: halshs-00154100
https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-00154100
Submitted on 21 Apr 2009

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Concordancers: 
Theme & Variations

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8èmes Journées internationales d’Analyse statistique des Données Textuelles 
JADT 2006, Besançon, 19-21 avril 2006

What is a Concordancer ? Or what should it be ?

1) Generalization
   - Key features – summary from existing KWIC tools

2) Extension
   1. Emphasis on meaningful specificity of concordancers

3) Specialization
   1. Case of use in a distributional semantics approach
      (Classes d’objets theory, Gaston Gross)
What is a (true) Concordancer?

- **Definition** (and *parameters*)
  - For a given *corpus*
  - A list of *all occurrences* of a word (or *linguistic item*)
  - Vertically aligned (column), « *stacked* »
  - Surrounded by their left and right *contexts* (of a given *size*)
  - And *sorted* by a relevant criteria
Parameter #1 : Search object

• Word
• Phrase
• List of items (topic,..)
• Stem
• Annotations (lemma, part-of-speech,..)
• Mixed (as a complex regular expression)
  – Example : CQP (Christ, 1994)

Parameter #2 : Context’s size

• A line
  – Visual stack effect : the contexts are vertically aligned and immediately superposed
• Different focus
  – shorter => lexical phrases, syntactic constructs
  – longer => for some semantic considerations
• Centered or not
Parameter #3 : Sorting order

- Not incidental, but really mandatory feature
  - Visual stack effect:
    - Convergences (and their extent: massive convergences)
    - Divergences
- Classical sorting keys
  - Textual linearity (chronologic order)
  - The search expression (if varying)
  - L1, L2… and R1, R2… (words around the search object, on the left and/or on the right)
- Multiple sort
  - In practical, Contextual key = last key

The best of the concordance: visual effects

- Why? Heuristic guiding for efficient reading
  - convergences and divergences
  - extent (singularity or repetition)
- How? Stack effect
  - Vertical alignement
  - Sort that groups similar items together
Consequences on the classical definition - towards a new (but tradition grounded) definition

- Parameter #2 (Context’s size) is undesirable
  - Illusory power
  - Fixed (default) and adjusted to
    - page / window size (corresponding itself to a good look span)
    - reasonable size of characters for a comfortable reading
  - Possibility of a horizontal curser (for screen output)

- New ways to enhance and refine grouping and contrasting visual effects: the zones

Zones: definition

- The search object is detailed into adjacent zones
- Each zone is qualified by:
  1) A stack column (or not)
  2) A possibly typographical emphasis (bold characters, choice of a colour)
  3) An eventual sort (and which one: alphabetical, textual, canonical…)

Zones : example of query

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Left context</th>
<th>shall</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>MOT{0,3}</th>
<th>-</th>
<th>be .+ed</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>Right context</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No column</td>
<td>No column</td>
<td>column</td>
<td>column</td>
<td>No column</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Red +</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>+ Bold</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No sort</td>
<td>No sort</td>
<td>2,</td>
<td>1,</td>
<td>3,</td>
<td>Alphabetical</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Zones : example of output

| … Such declarations shall | be deposited | by the St… |
| … equally authentic , shall | be deposited | in the ar… |
| … … | … | … |
| … Such gratis personnel shall | be employed | in accorda.. |
| … under 18 years of age shall | not | be employed | in night w.. |
| subject to compulsory education shall | not | be employed | in such wo. |
| … | … | … | … |
| … nor life imprisonment […] shall | be imposed | for offence. |
| … was committed . Nor shall | a heavier penalty | be imposed | than the on |
| … was committed . Nor shall | a heavier penalty | be imposed | than the on |
| … Sentence of death shall | not | be imposed | for crimes |
Benefits from Zones

- Zones are especially efficient to (visually) group and sort tokens selected by a pattern with contextual conditions and (very) variable realizations.

- Compared to the state-of-art:
  - As powerful as every kind of sort in existing KWIC concordancers.
  - Allows sorting on distant words, with better control (not only the number of words).

- Multiplied and characterized visual stack effects.

A concordancer for distributional semantics

- Context: Classes d’objets theory.

- Goal: efficient use of corpora in order to build, complete or correct the linguistic description.

- Concordancers are already used (and useful) for these tasks, but:
  - Massive outputs.
  - Difficulty to focus on contextual dependancies (variability).
Classes d’objets Theory (1/3) : arguments => predicate

- Language (and especially semantics) is described through the predicate – argument dependencies
- Predicates are defined by their argumental pattern, syntactically and semantically:
  - Conduire\(_1\) (hum, hum, loc) : *Pat conduit son petit frère à l’école*
  - Conduire\(_2\) (hum, transport) : *Pat conduit une décapotable*
  - Conduire\(_3\) (voie, locatif) : *Ce sentier conduit à la mer*
- Linguistical vs ontological approach of semantic

Classes d’objets Theory (2/3) : arguments are structured in classes

An argument’s value is taken from a set called *Classe d’objets*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREDICATES</th>
<th>ARGUMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>juste(_1)</td>
<td>pantalon, veste, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vêtements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Classes d’objets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>juste(_2)</td>
<td>piano, flûte, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instruments de musique</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Classes d’objets Theory (3/3) :
(appropriate) predicates => arguments’ classes

A few appropriate predicates (faisceau de prédicats appropriés) can select all the elements of a class, and only them

Arguments of METTRE : qqn met X
X = Vêtement
Arguments of ÊTRE EN : qqn est en X
Arguments of ALLER BIEN À : X va bien à qqn

Four ways of exploring a corpus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Looking for</th>
<th>Syntactic characterization</th>
<th>Class composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Building classes of arguments | Given = classe d’objets
Looking for = appropriate predicates | Given = appropriate predicates
Looking for = elements of the classe d’objets |
| predicates | Given = class of predicates
Looking for = classes d’objets as defining arguments | Given = argumental pattern (with classes d’objets)
Looking for = class of predicates |
The KWAC-LLI prototype

- Corpus = Newspaper (Le Monde), morphosyntactically tagged (Cordial)
- Classe d’objets = communication routes (voies de communication, Mathieu-Colas, 1998)
- Goal = to find new appropriate predicates
Specificities of the concordancer

- Synthetic table
  - Plus some results as lists, when more suited
  - Avoids the output overflow: mediates and organizes the results
- Results are ordered according to the linguistic principle (in the *classes d’objets* theory):
  - A relevant predicate can be used with all the elements of the *classe d’objets*
- Visual stack effect

![Synthetic table image]
Lists (out of table) : predicates found with only one argument

KWAC-LLI : concordance lines with zones (1)
Main ideas

- A concordance is more than a set of contexts, because of its heuristic **visual effects**: vertical alignment and sort order
- **Zones** to develop and refine querying possibilities
- KWAC-LLI for distributional semantics, with a synthetic table