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## OMBI: An editor for constructing reversible lexical databases

### Abstract

In this paper OMBI (Dutch acronym for **Om**keerbare **Bi**linguale **L**exicale **D**atabases (= Reversible Bilingual Lexical Databases)) is presented and its approach, in particular with regard to the reversal function, is dealt with.

First a description of *OMBI's basic architecture*, aimed at genericity and flexibility is given. In this respect a distinction is made between three organizational levels: the UDS (Universal Deep Structure) of bilingual lexicons, the PDS (Product Specific Deep Structure) and the SUS (Surface Structure).

Thereafter *OMBI's main characteristics* are briefly mentioned (editing, genericity, import/export), to finally discuss the *reversal function and approach*. Here several parameters such as conceptual equivalence, pragmatic contrast, variant status and lexicalization status are used in order to link lexical units (not form units) from different languages to each other.

The end result should be a non-directional but *linkable* bilingual database from which databases and/or dictionaries in both directions can be automatically derived at a subsequent stage, and which can be used to be linked with languages outside of the original language pair.

### 1. Background

OMBI, an acronym based on the Dutch wordgroup 'Omkeerbare **Bi**linguale **L**exicale **D**atabanken' (= Reversible Bilingual Lexical Databases), is an editor which has been developed during the academic year 1994 – 1995 by the Dutch software house SERC (= Software Engineering Research Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands) under the auspices of the CLVV – Committee (Commissie voor Lexicografische Vertaalvoorzieningen = Committee for Lexicographical Translation Resources). This Committee is an intergovernmental body of lexical experts set up in 1993 by the Ministry of Education and Science of both Flanders and the Netherlands in order to improve and stimulate the production of bilingual dictionaries and lexical databases with Dutch as a source or target language. The Committee has been given an initial budget of 2 Mi ECU (for the period March 1993 – February 1996) and has launched up till now

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