

several lexicographical projects which are, commercially speaking, non-viable, yet of great social relevance.

In this respect projects such as Turkish-Dutch v.v., Arabic-Dutch v.v., Hungarian-Dutch v.v., Polish-Dutch v.v., Italian-Dutch v.v. and Swedish-Dutch v.v. need to be mentioned.

However not only is it the Committee's task to have concrete products realized, but also to see to it that, if needed, adequate lexicographical tools and infrastructure are provided for.

The construction of OMBI is to be situated within this second domain, aiming at providing lexicographical teams with a generic and powerful editing tool.

In what follows we will point at the main characteristics of OMBI paying special attention to its reversal function. However in order to understand fully OMBI's characteristics it is necessary to deal with some of its architectural aspects as well.

In the section to follow therefore we will briefly mention some of these.

2. Some aspects of the OMBI-architecture

OMBI contains three levels:

- the UDS or universal deep structure
- the PDS or product specific deep structure
- the SUS or surface structure

With the UDS is meant those elements that all bilingual dictionaries (should) share and the relations that hold between them. So e.g. all bilingual dictionaries (should) have form units (FUs), lexical or meaning units (LUs) and example units (EUs)/combinations in two languages. These units are connected to each other, see fig. 1

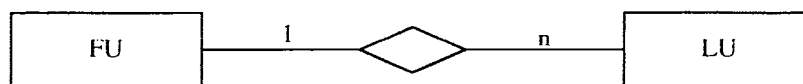


Fig. 1

meaning that

- corresponding to an LU there is exactly one FU
- one FU has at least one LU