

syntactic information and illustrations about the target language. In a decoding/passive dictionary, on the contrary, one can include the irregular flexions and form/spelling variants in the source language with a reference to the base forms.

3. OMBI's main characteristics

OMBI's main characteristics basically come down to the following:

- it functions as an *editor*
- which is *generic*
- having *importing and exporting* facilities
- and the power to *reverse* lexical databases, trying to do so in *as accurate as possible* a way

As the last aspect is the most innovative one we will deal with it in a separate section. Before doing so we briefly mention the other characteristics as well.

3.1 Editing

First of all, OMBI has all the classical editing devices which structure, guide and correct the input of data, according to a pre-defined grammar for the lexical database. The benefits of these devices are clear: the input is efficient, and the data are consistent and structurally correct. As was stated before, the pre-defined grammar can be customized. As is usually the case the editing process is guided by making use of menu dialogues presented as screens with a set of possible actions to perform. To edit the maximal graphemics of a form unit (FU) e.g. the following menu/screen containing the fields will be opened.

- spelling
- spelling pragmatics (e.g. BE, AE etc.)
- spelling status (e.g. official)
- spelling type (e.g. full form, abbreviation etc.)
- hyphenation
- hyphenation pragmatics
- spelling variants
- form variants
- comments and
- illustrations