

Contents

Acknowledgements	VII
Brief description	IX
1. Language, definitions and dictionaries	1
1.1 Dictionary entries and definitions	1
1.2 Why parse dictionary entries?	2
1.3 A representative sample — the Cobuild dictionary range	7
1.4 The sample dictionary	10
1.5 Specific objectives	12
2. Monolingual English dictionaries	15
2.1 Linguistic information in monolingual English dictionaries	15
2.1.1 Object language and metalanguage in the monolingual dictionary	15
2.1.2 The nature of the metalanguage in full sentence definitions	18
2.2 Defining the meanings of words	21
2.2.1 Lexicographical definition	22
2.3 Stages in the development of the monolingual English dictionary	23
2.3.1 English Dictionaries before Johnson	26
2.3.2 Johnson	36
2.3.3 The Oxford English dictionary	41
2.3.4 Learners' dictionaries	43
2.4 The concept of meaning in dictionaries	45
2.4.1 Sources of semantic information for monolingual English dictionaries	46
2.4.2 Adequacy of detail of the definitions	47
2.4.3 Definition strategies	48
2.4.4 The language of definition	49
2.4.5 Overall assessment of the Cobuild dictionaries	55
2.5 Summary	56

6.1	The definiendum and the definiens in the definition sentences	161
6.2	The hinge and the lexicographic equation	166
6.2.1	Hinges in Group A definitions	168
6.2.2	Hinges in Group B Definitions	171
6.2.3	Hinges in Group C definitions	173
6.3	The text surrounding the definiendum	174
6.3.1	Operators	175
6.3.2	Co-text	176
6.4	Projection	178
6.5	The right hand side	179
6.5.1	Matched and unmatched items	181
6.5.2	The analysis of the definiens	183
6.6	Complex elements	189
6.6.1	Headwords	189
6.6.2	Superordinates	190
6.6.3	Discriminators	193
6.7	The grammar of the definition types: A formal summary	200
6.7.1	Explanation of symbols and conventions	200
6.7.2	Formal summary of the definition language grammar	202
6.8	An outline of the parsing process	202
6.9	The recognition of definition types	203
6.9.1	The definition record data structure	203
6.9.2	The recognition process	204
6.10	The second stage	205
6.10.1	The initial analysis	205
6.10.2	The display stage	208
6.11	Summary	212
7.	Evaluation and applications	213
7.1	Stages of the evaluation process	213
7.2	Implications of the results for the definition sentence description	213
7.2.1	Implications for the taxonomy	214
7.2.2	Implications for the grammar and parser	216
7.3	Implications of the results for the design and compilation of dictionaries	216
7.3.1	Text anomalies	217

7.3.2	Selection of definition strategies	222
7.3.3	Consistency of definition wording	224
7.4	Overall evaluation	226
7.5	Overview of applications	226
7.6	The dictionary as database	227
7.6.1	Improving the navigation of the database	228
7.6.2	Conversion to database format	233
7.6.3	The acquisition of computer lexica	234
7.6.4	Disambiguation	235
7.7	Dictionary construction	237
7.7.1	Dictionary refinement — the taxonomy and parser as quality control tools	238
7.7.2	Dictionary translation	240
7.7.3	Automatic lexicography	242
7.7.4	The automatic thesaurus	243
7.8	Possible extensions	249
7.8.1	Other dictionaries in the Cobuild range	250
7.8.2	Other forms of dictionary definition	250
7.8.3	Non-dictionary definitions	251
7.9	Summary of potential applications	251
7.10	Conclusion	252
Appendix 1		253
Appendix 2		257
Appendix 3 (by Simon Krek)		263
Bibliography		269
Definitons index		273
Names index		278
Terms index		279