Computational Lexicography

NOVA University Lisbon

School of Social Sciences and Humanities

Study Cycle(s) and Field(s)

BA degrees in Language Sciences, Digital Humanities, or other related fields

Course name

Computational Lexicography (Module for the Lexicology and Lexicography course)

Learning outcomes

After taking this course students are expected to:

- to understand the concepts of Lexicology and Lexicography and the relation established between them,

- to describe and model lexical units of Portuguese, considering computational usages and trends

- to use and evaluate current methodologies and tools for lexicographic edition.

Syllabus/Contents to be covered in the course

1. Contents of modern lexicography

    1.1. General goal of Lexicography

    1.2 Meaning description and Lexicology

    1.3 Methods and resource planning

2. Informational contents and strategies

    2.1 Nomenclatures and macrostructure

    2.2 Microstructure and information organization

    2.3 Other information and multimodality

3. Contemporary Lexicography

3.1 Dictionary goals and types

3.2 The role of dictionary and the users of dictionaries

3.3 Building a dictionary in Lexonomy

The contents covered in this syllabus intend to show students that dictionary typologies are bottom-up derived and to make them aware of the reflexes of choices at the various levels of planning and data treatment for making a dictionary, preparing them to further analyse these decisions, at microstructure level. Contemporary Lexicography has as main goal to demystify the idea that Lexicography and lexicographical studies and work are not related and/or interested in Lexicology and Lexical Semantics findings and research, to show students that integrated Lexicology and Lexicography studies are more and more attuned, and to prepare them to better understand contemporary lexical resources making and lexicographic practical limitations, but also their potential for theoretical and technological innovation.
Also, in a more practical approach, the contents aim at getting students acquainted with the level of complexity involved in lexicographic work and the implication of strategic decisions in terms of adequacy and quality of lexicographic resources; showing them current practices in Lexicography and lexical resources, accounting for their hybrid nature, and enabling students to better analyse and evaluate specific resources and to stimulate them to study and propose new trends and innovation.

Teaching methods and activities

The course will be delivered conjugating theoretical exposure and hands-on work, favouring the bottom-up discovery of theoretical and methodological needs.

This means designing controlled activities that will allow students to work with data, and dictionary making using the current tools and methods of computational lexicography.

The teaching methods and activities will include theoretical exposure, group and individual hands-on activities, peer discussion and cooperation, workflow evaluation and monitoring, and collaborative work in the compilation of a dictionary.

Teaching language(s)

Portuguese and/or English

Basic bibliography:

- Lew, R. (2007). Linguistic semantics and lexicography: a troubled relationship. In: Fabiszak, M. (ed.), Language and Meaning: Cognitive and Functional Perspectives. P. Lang, pp. 217-224.

- Lew, R. (2015), Dictionaries and Their Users. In Hanks, P. & G.-.M. de Schryver (eds.), International Handbook of Modern Lexis and Lexicography, Berlin Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, pp. 1-9.

- Lino, T. (2018), Portuguese lexicography in the internet era. In: Fuertes-Oliveira, P. (ed.), The Routledge Handbook of Lexicography. Abingdon: Routledge, 11 pp.

- Liu, X. (2017), Multimodal Exemplification: The Expansion of Meaning in Electronic Dictionaries. In Lexikos, 27, pp. 287-309.

- Rundell, M. (2012). It works in practice, but will it work in theory? The uneasy relationship between lexicography and matters theoretical. In: Fjeld, R. V & J. M. Torjusen (eds.), Proceedings of the 15th EURALEX International Congress, 7-11/08, Oslo Norway. Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies, University of Oslo, pp. 47-92.

- Tarp, S. (2014), Dictionaries in the Internet Era: Innovation or Business as Usual?. In Alicante Journal of English Studies 27, pp. 233-261.