

# Adding frequencies to the *LGLex* lexicon with IRASUBCAT

Elsa Tolone and Romina Altamirano

FaMAF, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba,  
elsa.tolone@univ-paris-est.fr, romina.altamirano@gmail.com

**Abstract.** We present a method for enlarge a lexicon (with frequencies information), that is useful for parsing and others NLP applications. We show an example enlarging the verbal *LGLex* lexicon of French [8], using several corpora extracted from the evaluation campaign for French parsers Passage [5]. To do that, we use the results of the FRMG parser [7] with IRASUBCAT [1], a tool that automatically acquires subcategorization frames from corpus in any language and that also allows to complete an existing lexicon. We obtain the frequencies of occurrence for each input and each subcategorization frame for 14,068 distinct lemmas.

**Keywords:** Lexicon-Grammar, syntactic lexicon, French lexicon, subcategorization, frequency of occurrence.

## 1 Lexicon-Grammar, *LGLex* lexicon and FRMG parser

Lexicon-Grammar tables are currently one of the major sources of syntactic lexical information for the French language [4]. Moreover, several Lexicon-Grammar tables exist for other languages, such as Italian, Brazilian Portuguese, Modern Greek, Korean, Romanian, and others.

We improved the Lexicon-Grammar tables to make them usable in various NLP applications, in particular parsing [8]. So we generated a French syntactic lexicon for verbs, nouns playing the predicative role frozen expressions including verbal and adjectival idioms, and adverbs from the Lexicon-Grammar tables, called *LGLex* [3]<sup>1</sup>.

Then, we converted the verbs and predicative nouns into the Alexina framework, that is the one of the *Lefff* lexicon (Lexicon of French inflected form) [6]<sup>2</sup>, a large-coverage morphological and syntactic lexicon for French.

This enables its integration in the FRMG parser (French MetaGrammar) [7]<sup>3</sup>, a large-coverage deep parser for French, based on Tree Adjoining Grammars (TAG), that usually relies on the *Lefff*. The result is a variant of the FRMG parser, that we shall call *FRMG<sub>LGLex</sub>*, to distinguish it from the standard *FRMG<sub>Lefff</sub>*.

<sup>1</sup> All tables are fully available under the LGPL-LR license at <http://infolingu.univ-mlv.fr/english> > Language Resources > Lexicon-Grammar > Download.

<sup>2</sup> *Lefff* is available at <http://gforge.inria.fr/projects/alexina/>.

<sup>3</sup> FRMG is available at <http://gforge.inria.fr/projects/mgkit/>, with a visualization of the grammar FRMG on <http://alpage.inria.fr/frmgdemo>.

In this article we present a method for enlarge a lexicon (with frequencies information), that is useful for parsing and others NLP applications. We show an example enlarging the verbal *LGLex* lexicon of French, using several corpora extracted from the evaluation campaign for French parsers Passage [5]. To do that, we use the results of the FRMG parser with the IRASUBCAT tool [1].

## 2 IRASUBCAT

IRASUBCAT is a tool that acquires subcategorization information about the behaviour of any tag class (e.g., part of speech, syntactic function, etc.) in a corpus [1]<sup>4</sup>. We are interested in using it to acquire information about verbs.

IRASUBCAT takes as input a corpus in XML format. The output of IRASUBCAT is a lexicon, also in XML format, where each of the verbs under inspection is associated to a set of subcategorization patterns. The lexicon also provides information about frequencies of occurrence for verbs, patterns, and their co-occurrences in corpus.

Moreover, IRASUBCAT allows to integrate the output lexicon with a pre-existing one, merging information about verbs and patterns with information that had been previously extracted, possibly from a different corpus or even from a hand-built lexicon.

## 3 Experiment with IRASUBCAT and the *LGLex* lexicon of French

We want to use the results of FRMG parser on a big corpus with IRASUBCAT in order to improve the *LGLex* lexicon of French, adding the frequencies of occurrence for each entry and each subcategorization frame. To do this, we must:

- find a corpus with millions of words (using a small part for the experiment);
- parse the corpus with the FRMG parser, with and without the *LGLex* lexicon (i.e. only with the *Lefff* lexicon) – results with *FRMG<sub>LGLex</sub>* and *FRMG<sub>Lefff</sub>*;
- convert both the processed corpus and the *LGLex* lexicon into XML format;
- use IRASUBCAT in order to add the frequencies of occurrence for each entry and each subcategorization frame in the *LGLex* lexicon from the corpus.

### 3.1 Conversion of the verbal *LGLex* lexicon

The input is the verbal *LGLex* lexicon, or more precisely, the *extensional lexicon* of *LGLex* lexicon in *Lefff* format, which contains each inflected form of the lemma and every possible redistribution.

In the output lexicon converted into XML format as IRASUBCAT output lexicon, each lemma is associated to a set of subcategorization patterns. In fact,

<sup>4</sup> IRASUBCAT is available at <http://www.cs.famaf.unc.edu.ar/~romina/irasubcat/>.

we simplify by omitting the realizations. So, we have only the syntactic functions because it's more easy to find them in the processed corpus.

For each lemma represented by his identifier (for example, **verb="achever\_\_\_V\_1\_1"**, which correspond to the 1st entry in the verb class 1), a count of occurrences of this lemma is initialized at 0 (**count\_oc\_verb="0"**). We extracted the set of subcategorization patterns from all his inflected forms and all his redistributions and the number of different pattern is indicated (for example, **different\_patterns="6"**). For each pattern ([**'obj'**, **'suj'**], [**'obl'**, **'suj'**], [**'obl2'**, **'suj'**] and [**'obl'**, **'obl2'**]), a count of occurrences of this pattern for this lemma and a count of occurrences of this pattern for all verbs are both initialized at 0 (**count\_w\_verb="0"** **total\_count="0"**).

We have in total 14,068 distinct lemmas. An example of the output lexicon:

```
<dictionary>
  <entry verb="achever___V_1_1" count_oc_verb="0">
    <tag name="fs" different_patterns="6">
      <pattern id="['obj', 'suj']" count_w_verb="0" total_count="0"
        rejected_patterns_freq_test="NO">
      </pattern>
      ...
    </tag>
  </entry>
</dictionary>
```

### 3.2 Conversion of the processed corpus with the FRMG parser

To use the result of the parsing in NLP applications of high-level, *Forest utils*<sup>5</sup> represents the forest of dependencies in format XMLDep [7]. Basically, we represent in XMLDep format a graph of dependencies with nodes (lemmas), grouped in clusters (forms), with arcs describing the syntactic dependencies between nodes.

The processed corpus with *FRMG<sub>LGLex</sub>* used for the experiment is CPJ (Corpus Passage Jouet) with 100K sentences of AFP (Agence France-Presse), Europarl, Wikipedia and Wikisources, extracted from the corpus of the evaluation campaign (in 2009) for French parsers Passage [5].

The input is the processed corpus CPJ with the FRMG parser, more precisely, with *FRMG<sub>LGLex</sub>*. We want to extract only the useful information in a format directly readable by IRASUBCAT.

In the output in XML format, for each sentence of the corpus (for example, **<sentence ID="12" corpus="frwikipedia\_012" s="12">**), we extracted the verbs (**cat="v"**) with their identifiers (for example, **lemmaid="achever\_\_\_V\_1\_1"**). For each verb, we extracted the syntactic functions and we indicated the number of arguments (**nb\_fs="2"**) and then, each syntactic function (**fs**) one by one (for example, **fs="suj"** for subject, and **fs="obl2"** for oblique).

<sup>5</sup> *Forest utils* is a set of Perl scripts to convert between various formats for shared derivation forest produced by parsers for TAG (available at <https://gforge.inria.fr/projects/lingwb/>).

An example of the output:

```
<sentence ID="12" corpus="frwikipedia_012" s="12">
  <word lexica="acheve" lemma="achever" lemmaid="achever___V_1_1" cat="v"
    nb_fs="2">acheve</word>
  <word fs="suj"></word>
  <word fs="obl2"></word>
</sentence>
```

## 4 Conclusion

Using IRASUBCAT with the converted lexicon and the relevant information extracted of the processed corpus we can complete the lexicon with the frequencies of occurrence for each verb and each syntactic function. The processed corpus is the results of the FRMG parser with *LGLex* lexicon, so it could find wrong sense.

The next step is to consider the information on realizations, that we must extract from processed corpus, but it is not a straightforward task. Then we have to use the FRMG parser with *Lefff* lexicon only, without the *LGLex* lexicon influences the results. We could also use IRASUBCAT with another parser which is statistical, such as MaltParser, MSTParser, or Berkeley Parser [2]. And we could do a comparison using the original lexicon and the enlarged lexicon with that different parsers to verify that the accuracy is better using more information.

## References

1. Ivana Romina Altamirano and Laura Alonso Alemany. Irasubcat, a highly parametrizable, language independent tool for the acquisition of verbal subcategorization information from corpus. In *Proceedings of the NAACL HLT 2010 Young Investigators Workshop on Computational Approaches to Languages of the Americas*, pages 84–91, Los Angeles, California, 2010.
2. Marie Candito, Joakim Nivre, Pascal Denis, and Enrique Henestroza Anguiano. Benchmarking of statistical dependency parsers for french. In *Proceedings of COLING'10 (poster session)*, Beijing, China, 2010.
3. Matthieu Constant and Elsa Tolone. A generic tool to generate a lexicon for NLP from Lexicon-Grammar tables. In Michele De Gioia, editor, *Actes du 27e Colloque international sur le lexique et la grammaire (L'Aquila, 10-13 septembre 2008)*, *Seconde partie*, volume 1 of *Lingue d'Europa e del Mediterraneo, Grammatica comparata*, pages 79–193. Aracne, Rome, Italy, 2010.
4. Maurice Gross. *Méthodes en syntaxe : Régimes des constructions complétives*. Hermann, Paris, France, 1975.
5. Olivier Hamon, Djamel Mostefa, Christelle Ayache, Patrick Paroubek, Anne Vilnat, and Éric de La Clergerie. Passage: from french parser evaluation to large sized treebank. In *Proceedings of LREC'08*, Marrakech, Morocco, 2008.
6. Benoît Sagot. The Lefff, a freely available and large-coverage morphological and syntactic lexicon for French. In *Proceedings of LREC'10*, Valletta, Malta, 2010.
7. François Thomasset and Éric de La Clergerie. Comment obtenir plus des métagrammaires. In *Actes de TALN'05*, Dourdan, France, 2005.
8. Elsa Tolone. *Analyse syntaxique à l'aide des tables du Lexique-Grammaire français*. Éditions Universitaires Européennes, Saarbrücken, Germany, July 2012. (352 pp.).