

# INTEX and the processing of natural languages

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## 1. Introduction

INTEX is a linguistic development environment that allows users to build large-coverage Finite State descriptions of Natural Languages and apply them to large texts (several dozen million words in real time).

Several modules of INTEX have been available since 1992 under NextStep; INTEX has been fully integrated in a graphical interface since 1996 (release 3.0), at which point it began to be distributed to research centers as a linguistic development tool. INTEX has just been ported to Windows 95-NT, as INTEX 4.0.

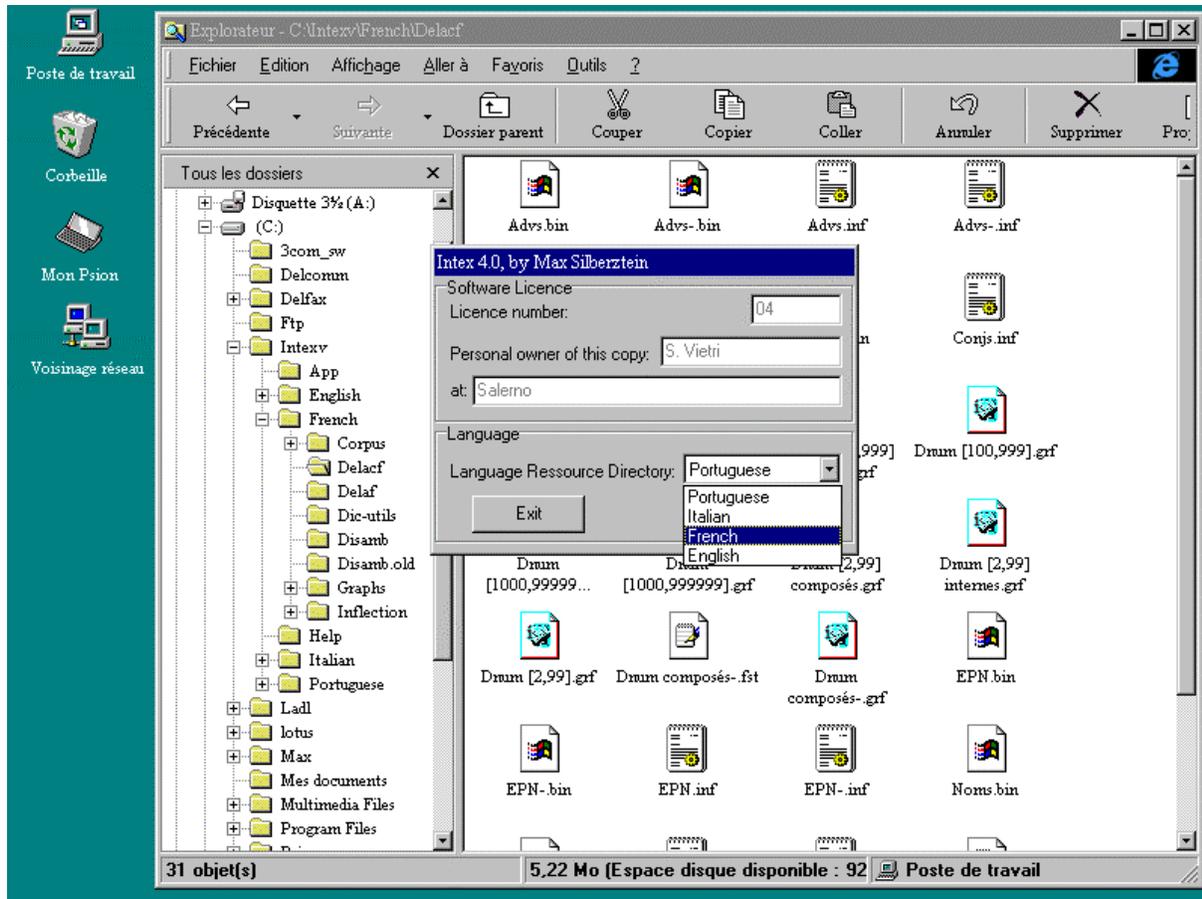
INTEX uses the work performed at the Laboratoire d'Automatique Documentaire et Linguistique (LADL), founded in 1967 by Prof. Maurice Gross. The goal of the LADL is to build a large-coverage description of Natural Languages by using 3 sets of tools:

- *Electronic dictionaries* and Finite State descriptions of the vocabulary and the morphology of Natural languages;
- *Local grammars* to identify frozen, semi-frozen and phrases in texts;
- Transformational rules described in a *Lexicon-Grammar* to extract (or generate) elementary sentences from (into) complex sentences.

One important aspect of INTEX is that Texts, Dictionaries and Grammars are all represented by **Finite State Transducers** (FSTs). Therefore, all the operations the user performs via the graphical interface are translated into a small number (about 30) of elementary operations on FSTs. For instance, applying a set of dictionaries to a text is performed by constructing a union of the dictionaries' FSTs, then applying the resulting FST to the text FST; removing lexical ambiguities in the text is performed by computing the intersection between a grammar FST and the text FST, etc.

## 2. Launching INTEX

The first operation consists of selecting the directory where the linguistic data is stored: alphabet of the language, preprocessing dictionaries and Finite State Transducers (FSTs), dictionaries for simple and compound words, FSTs representing the inflectional and derivational morphology of the language, FSTs used to remove lexical ambiguities, utilities for the maintenance of the dictionaries and the grammars.

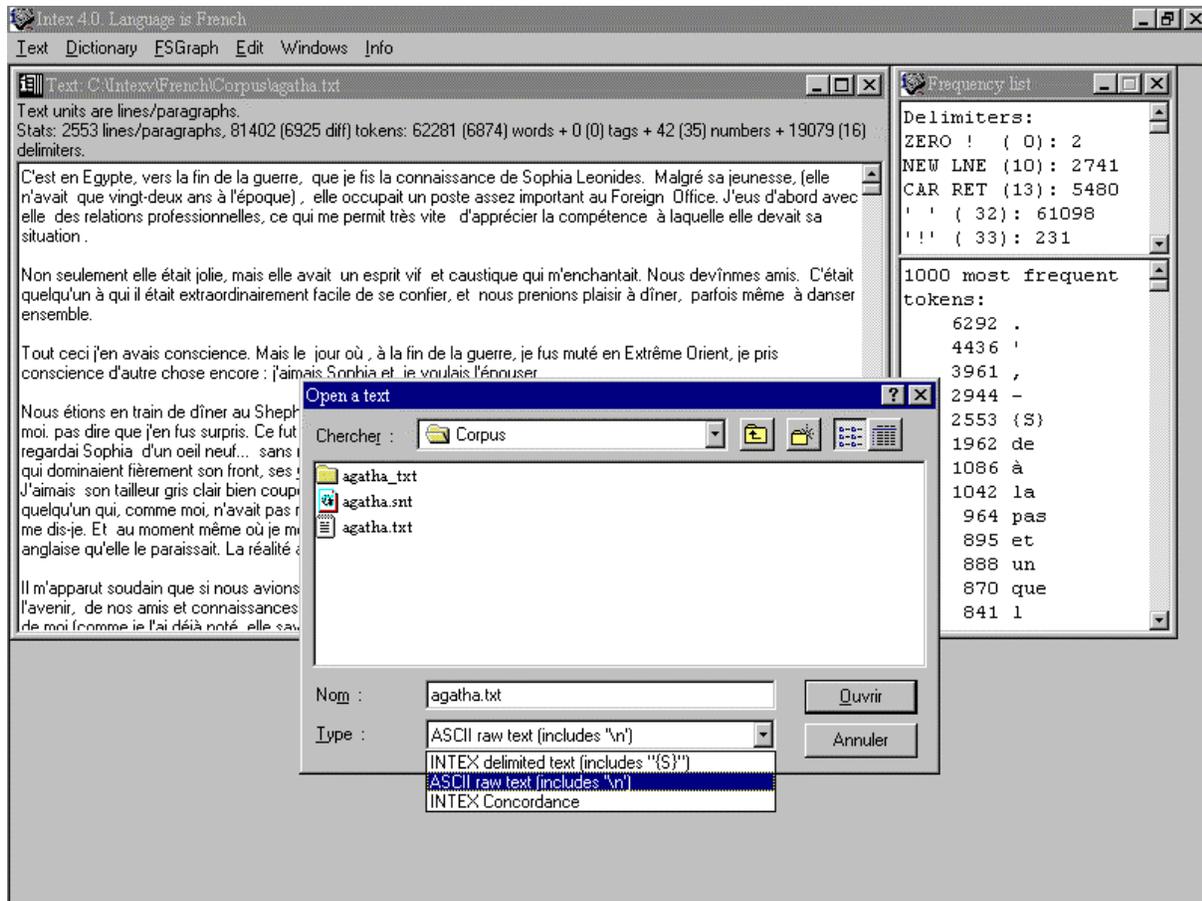


### 3. Opening a text (Text->Open)

INTEX processes three types of texts:

- ASCII files are considered as raw texts; they are considered as sequences of units delimited by the NEWLINE character; they do not contain any linguistic data;
- INTEX files are enriched texts where linguistic units (usually, sentences) have been delimited by the mark {S}; these files may contain linguistic tags;
- Concordance files are sequences of lines; each line consists of 3 columns: a left context, a sequence, and a right context. Concordances may have been created by previously indexing a FST in a text.

Below, a raw ASCII text is loaded and then indexed.



## 4. Finite State Transducers (FSTs) in INTEX

First of all, a few definitions:

- an FST is a device that recognizes some sequences in the input, and associate them with some outputs. Typically, sequences are sequences of characters or sequences of words in the text written in a natural language; outputs are some linguistic information;
- an FST has the form of a graph that starts with an initial state, and ends with a terminal state. Recognized sequences are the ones that can be spelled by a path that goes from the initial state to the terminal state; Outputs of the FST are produced when a sequence has been recognized.

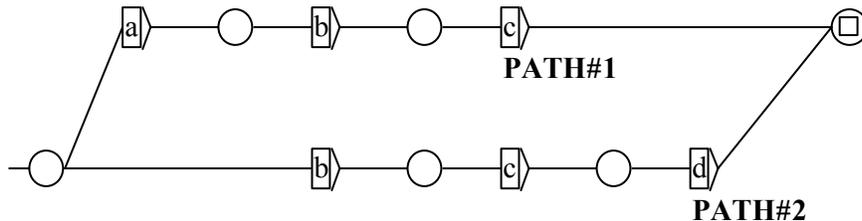
Now, let's explain how FSTs are applied to texts by the INTEX system:

(1) *FSTs are applied from left to right*

When the FST has matched one sequence of the text, it is reapplied **after** the end of the matching sequence. For instance, consider the following text:

**z a b c d z**

if we apply the following FST<sup>1</sup> to this text in REPLACE mode (*FST outputs replace matching sequences*):



we produce the resulting text:

**z PATH#1 d z**

The sequence **a b c** matched and was replaced by the output of the transducer, i.e. **PATH#1**. If we apply the same FST in MERGE mode (*FST outputs are inserted in the text*), we produce the following result:

**z a b PATH#1 c d z**

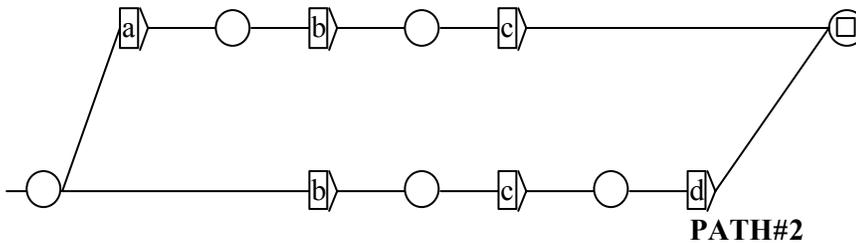
The sequence **a b c** matched, and the output **PATH#1** was inserted before the character **c**.

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<sup>1</sup>. FST inputs are displayed inside boxes, FST outputs are displayed below boxes.

In these two examples, the sequence **b c d** was not even 'seen' by the system. The sequence **a b c** has priority over the sequence **b c d** because it has matched *before*.

Note that the output of the FST may be the empty string. The same rule applies, even though the text was not modified. For instance, the following FST:



produces the following, unmodified text:

**z a b c d z**

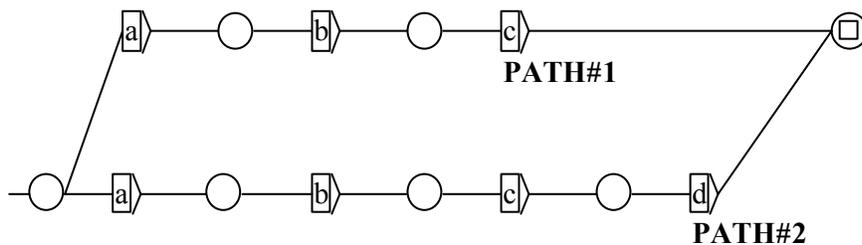
(**a b c** matched, then the FST is being applied at the position at **d z**).

(2) *Longest matches have priority over shorter ones.*

For instance, consider the following text:

**z a b c d z**

if we apply the following FST to it:



we get the resulting text:

(in REPLACE mode)

**z PATH#2 z**

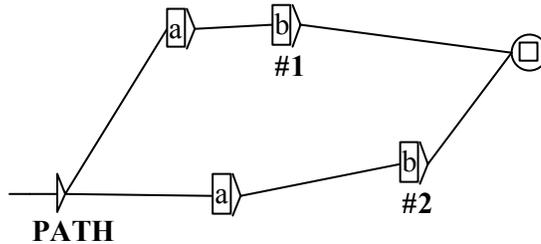
(in MERGE mode)

**z a b c PATH#2 d z**

In other words, the matching sequence **a b c d** has priority over the sequence **a b c** because it is longer.

(3) *INTEX doesn't handle ambiguous FSTs*

If one sequence in the text is associated with 2 or more different outputs, INTEX performs an undefined action. For instance, if the following FST is applied to the text **z a b z** in REPLACE mode:



we get one of the two results:

**z PATH#1 z**

or

**z PATH#2 z**

(4) *INTEX doesn't handle FSTs that recognize the empty string*

INTEX produces an error message if one attempts to apply an FST that recognizes the empty string.

**Attention:**

- INTEX **can** apply ambiguous FSTs to texts that are represented by FSTs;
- Therefore, ambiguous FSTs **can** also be used to disambiguate texts (because the disambiguated text is internally represented by an FST);
- When applying Finite State Automata<sup>2</sup> to texts, users **can** choose to index only shortest matching sequences, only the longest matches or all matches.

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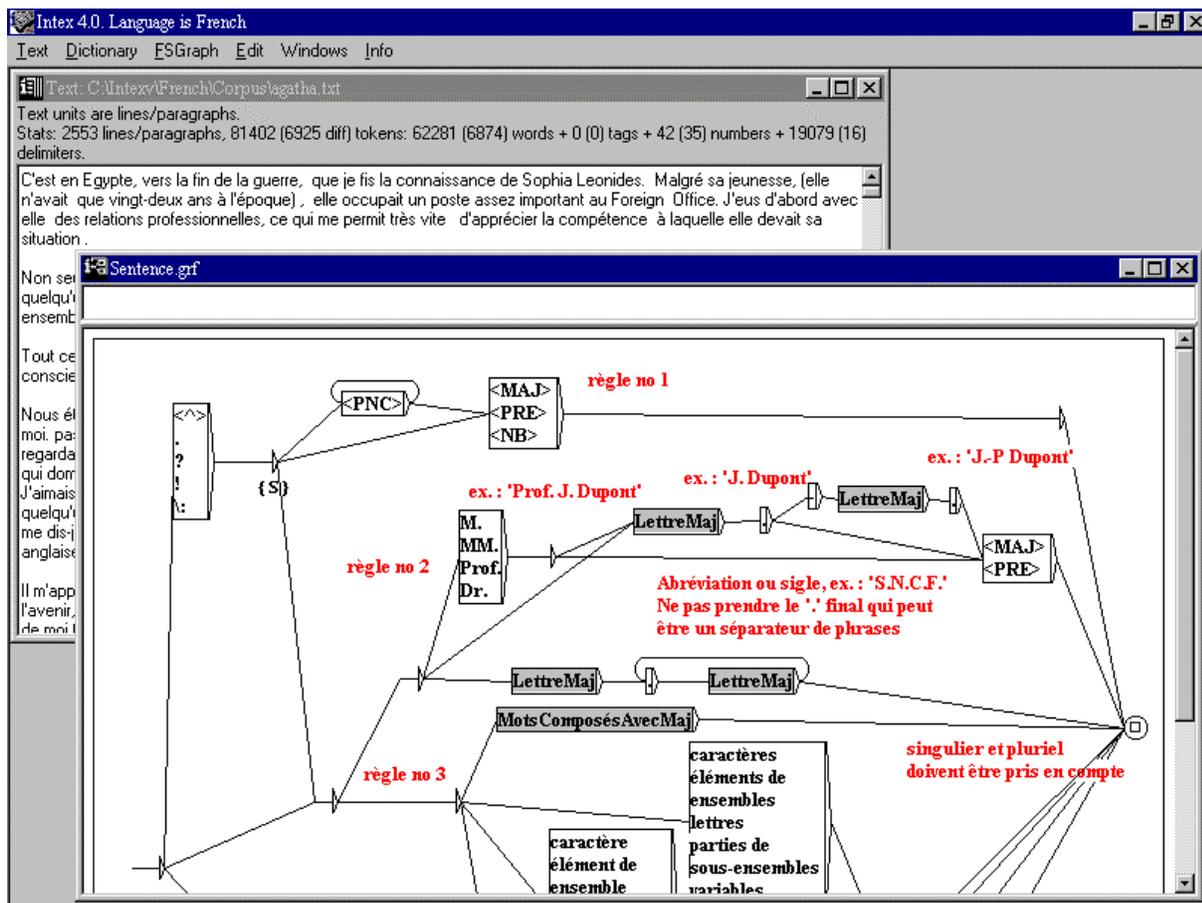
<sup>2</sup>. In INTEX, Finite State Automata are FSTs that produce the empty string.

## 5. Preprocessing the text (Text->Preprocessing)

Let us go back to the parsing of an ASCII file. After having loaded the file, users can preprocess the text, i.e. prepare the text for the linguistic analyses. The preprocessing consists of three operations: identification of sentences, of unambiguous compounds, and of special tokens.

### 2.1. Identifying sentences

The standard FST **Sentence.fst** (stored in the current language directory) is applied to the text in MERGE mode, i.e. the output of the FST is inserted in the text. Generally, this FST is used to insert the sentence delimiter **{s}** between consecutive sentences. Further INTEX processing will take this mark into account to process and index every linguistic unit.



Gray nodes refer to embedded FSTs; for instance, **LettreMaj** is the name of an FST that identifies the 26 capital letters A...Z; **MotsComposésAvecMaj** is the name of an FST that lists all the French compound words that end with a capital letter (e.g. *Vitamine C*).

The FST `Sentence.fst` must be read in the following manner:

- if a period is followed by a word in capital letters, INTEX inserts the sentence delimiter between the period and the word (see on the top of the FST);
- if an single uppercase letter is followed by a period, followed by a word in uppercase (e.g. *J. Dupont*), INTEX does not insert any sentence delimiter;
- compound words that end with an uppercase letter (e.g. *Vitamine C*) may occur at the end of a sentence; the uppercase letter followed by a period must not be mistaken for an abbreviated firstname.

Thanks to the *Left to Right* priority seen previously, the last processing gets priority over the second processing, which has priority over the first processing. We then get the correct result:

**J. Dupont comes. {S} Paul eats some vitamine C. {S} Luc also.**

(*C. Luc* is not processed as *J. Dupont*). Although this FST is not perfect (some systematic errors are due to the use of some English abbreviations in French texts), it process usual French novels and journalistic texts with a high rate of success (>99.5%).

## 2.2. Identifying unambiguous compounds

The second step of the preprocessing will consist of identifying and tagging the unambiguous compound words in the text, this operation corresponds to a look-up of the dictionary `Norm.dic` (stored in the current language directory).

Let us first define INTEX units of processing.

## INTEX units of processing

INTEX users define the **alphabet** of the language in the file **Alphabet** stored in the current language directory.

All the characters that are listed in this file are **letters**; the other characters are **delimiters**.

The alphabet file consists of a sequence of lines ordered alphabetically; each line contains two or three 'equivalent' letters; these equivalence classes are used by the sort and the lookup routines. For instance, here are the first 7 lines of the French alphabet:

**Aa**  
**Àà**  
**Ââ**  
**Bb**  
**Cc**  
**Çç**

Linguistic units are classified in two main types:

- simple words are sequences of letters, e.g. *table*
- compound words are sequences of simple words, e.g. *red tape*

Since the apostrophe, the hyphen and the blank are not listed in the alphabet, INTEX treats the following words as compounds (even though their constituents cannot appear alone):

*aujourd'hui, attaché-case, parce que*

Generally, simple and compound words are identified by consulting the dictionaries of the system. In certain cases, they may be identified by applying morphological FSTs.

## Ambiguity

Ambiguous words are words that correspond to more than one lexical entry in the dictionaries and the FSTs of the system.

Ambiguous compound words are sequences that correspond either to more than one lexical compound entry, such as:

**pi**ed **no**ir (*Blackfoot*, Frenchman born in Algeria)

**pi**ed **no**ir (*Blackfoot*, American Indian)

or to more than one sequence of lexical (simple or compound) entries, e.g.:

**red** **tape** : {**red** **tape**, .N} + {**red**, .A} {**tape**, .N}

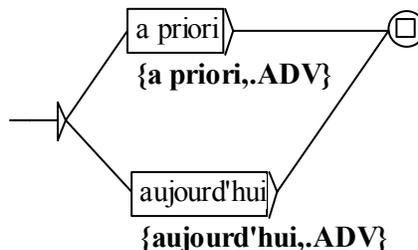
Unambiguous compound words correspond to only one lexical compound entry, e.g.:

**a** **p**riori : {**a** **p**riori, .ADV}

Tagging a text consists of replacing its forms by the corresponding lexical entry, written between curly brackets.

### One can only replace unambiguous, or disambiguated forms

It is desirable to identify and tag unambiguous compound words as soon as possible, in order not to treat their constituents (e.g. 'a' and 'priori') as simple words. This operation can be performed during the preprocessing analysis by means of the special dictionary **Norm.dic** stored in the current language directory, or by FSTs applied in REPLACE mode. For instance, the following FST:



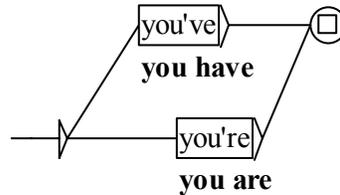
would tag the two French unambiguous adverbs.

The French dictionary **Norm.dic** lists over one thousand entries.

### 2.3. Identifying special tokens

The last stage of the preprocessing consists of identifying and tagging special tokens, such as elided and contracted words, unambiguous abbreviations, etc. This step is performed by applying the FST **Norm.fst** (stored in the current language directory) in REPLACE mode.

For instance, by applying the following FST to English texts:

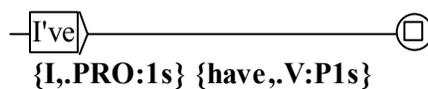


one replaces all the utterances of the sequences *you've* and *you're* by the more explicit sequences *you have*, *you are*. Such replacements are performed before indexing the text and before consulting the dictionaries.

One could perform a similar substitution to replace the sequence *I've* by the form *I have*, but that would lead to artificially add an ambiguity in the text: the sequence *I've* is not ambiguous (it is the pronoun *I*, followed by the verb *have*), while *I have* is ambiguous, as shown in the sentence:

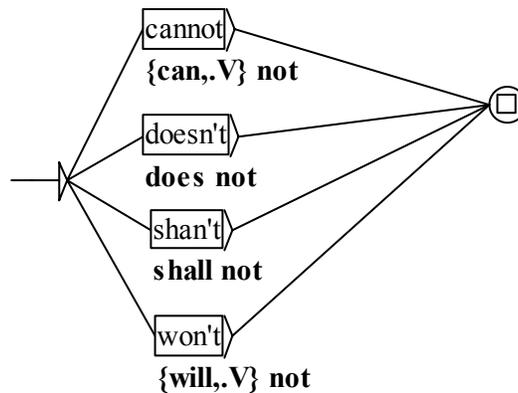
*Nelson and Napoleon I have met in ...*

(*I* is used as a roman numeral). Thus, it is better to use the following FST:



*I* is the pronoun, first person singular; *have* is the verb conjugated in the present, first person singular.

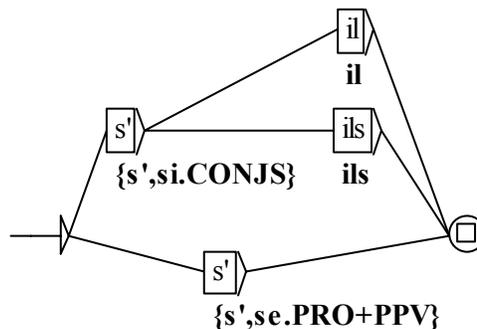
It is also possible to replace one word by a more complex sequence, such as in the following FST:



(the forms *can* and *will* are ambiguous in general; it is better to tag them here).

### Unambiguous sequences of simple words

During this early stage of preprocessing, it is also possible to disambiguate a number of grammatical words by replacing them with a tag when they occur in certain contexts. For instance, the following FST:



replaces on the one hand all the utterances of the sequence *s'il* by the following sequence:

... {s',si.CONJS} il ...

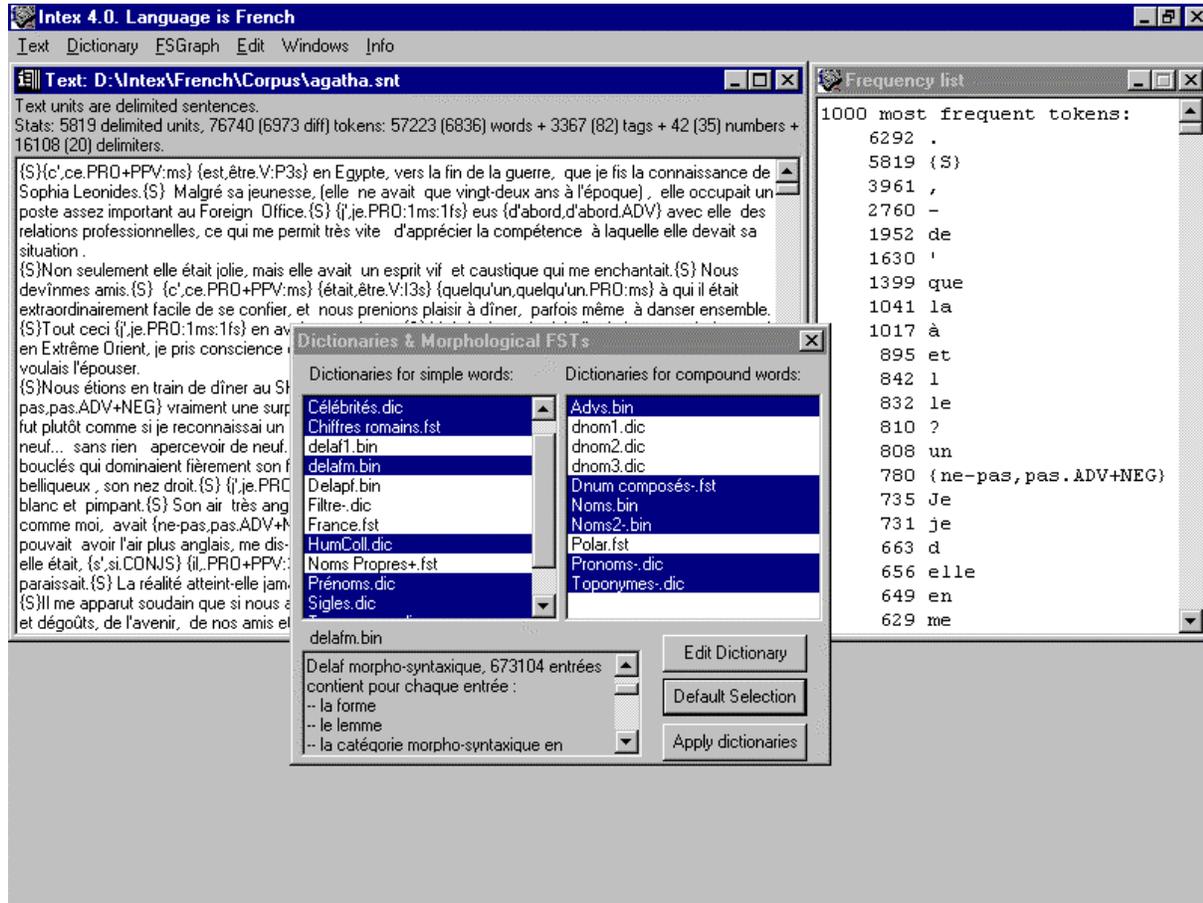
On the other hand, a sequence like *s'aide* would be replaced by:

... {s',se.PRO+PPV} aide ...

Thus, the ambiguous form (*s'* corresponds either to the conjunction *si*, or the pronoun *se*) has been disambiguated.

## 6. Apply dictionaries and lexical FSTs (Text->Apply dictionaries)

After the completion of the preprocessing stage, the user selects the dictionaries and FSTs used to identify simple words (left column) and compound words (right column) in the text.



The three types of files are:

- **.dic** an ASCII file that corresponds to a DELAF-type dictionary;
- **.fst** an FST graph
- **.bin** a dictionary compacted into a FST represented in a binary file.

## 7. Priority levels

Dictionaries and FSTs are associated with a 3-level priority system used to hide or impose some lexical data:

- if a (simple or a compound) form in the text matches a high priority dictionary or FST, the consultation stops;
- if not, all 'regular' dictionaries and FSTs are consulted;
- if no lexical entry corresponds to the form, low level priority dictionaries and FSTs are consulted.

Giving a high priority to a dictionary or a FST for simple words is generally useful in order to remove 'unpleasant' ambiguities from the general-purpose dictionaries: if one knows that a certain use of a word never occurs in the current text, one can insert the word in a high priority dictionary, without the irrelevant analysis. For instance, the word *la* in French is three-time ambiguous:

**{la,le.DET:fs} + {la,le.PRO+PPV} + {la,.N:ms}**

*la* can be either a determiner, a pronoun or the masculine noun (musical note). These three analyses are represented in the general-purpose **Delaf.bin** dictionary. By entering the only first two entries in a dictionary that has priority over the Delaf, one gets rid of the noun (which is not frequent).

Giving a high priority to a dictionary or a FST for compounds is useful to get rid of systematic structural ambiguities when compound words can be shortened. For instance, the following regular expression represents two synonymous variants of the same adverb:

**Dans l'intimité (la plus stricte + <E>)**

(*in the intimacy*). If the longest variant occurs in a text, INTEX must not parse it as ambiguous, as seen in the following two tagged results:

- either the adverb: **{dans l'intimité la plus stricte,ADV}**
- or the sequence: **{dans l'intimité,ADV} la plus stricte**

Obviously, the longest variant has to have priority over the shortest one. Giving priority to dictionaries and FSTs for compounds gives priority to the longest matches.

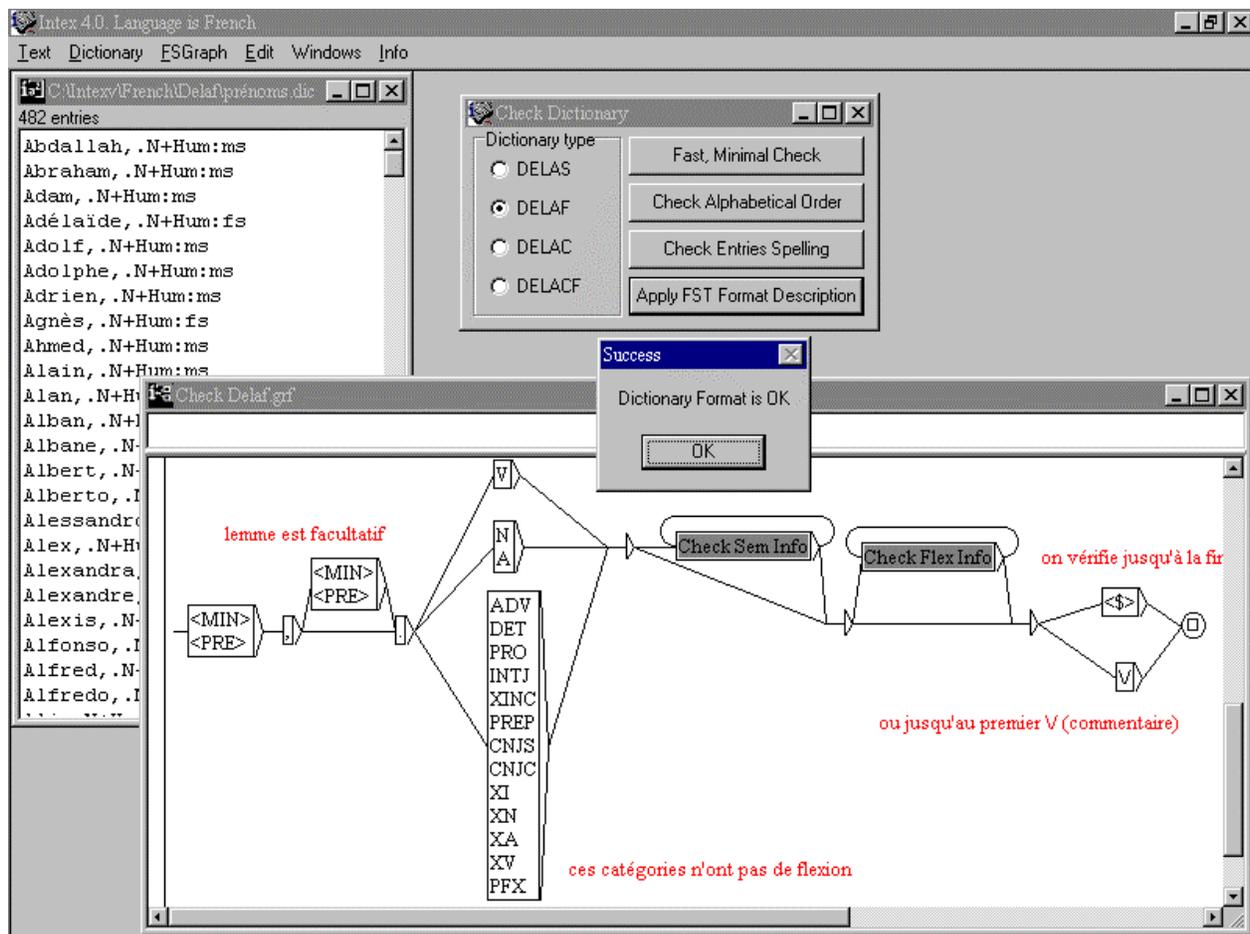
## 8. INTEX Dictionaries (Dictionary->Open)

Dictionaries applied by INTEX to identify simple forms in texts must be in the format of a **DELAF**; dictionaries used to identify compounds must be in the format of a **DELACF**. These dictionaries associate text utterances with one lemma and some linguistic information. Here is for instance one entry of the French DELAF:

**amuserions, amuser.V+t+4:C1p**

the form *amuserions* is associated with the lemma *amuser* which is a transitive (+t) verb (v) of the syntactic class #4 (+4); the form is conjugated in the Conditional, first person plural (C1p).

The format of user-defined dictionaries must be checked via the command: **Check format**<sup>3</sup>:



**CheckSemInfo** describes the syntactic and semantic features associated with the entry (e.g. +t for transitive); **CheckFlexInfo** describes the inflectional codes (e.g. :ms for masculine singular).

<sup>3</sup>. Of course, users may edit the FSTs that describe INTEX dictionaries' format in order to add their own linguistic information.

## 9. From a DELAS to a DELAF (Dictionary->Inflect)

Some dictionaries can be entered by the users directly in the form of a DELAF; typically, dictionaries of first names, abbreviations, etc.

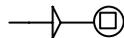
However, in most languages, the dictionary of all the inflected forms would be too big to be entered 'manually'. It is then better to manually build a DELAS-type dictionary, and automatically generate the corresponding DELAF.

In a DELAS dictionary, lexical entries are lemmas; each entry is associated with one FST that represents all the corresponding inflected forms. For instance, here are five entries of the French DELAS:

```
amuser, V3+t+4
cousin, N1+Anim
cousin, N32+Hum
de, PREP
```

**V3**, **A31**, **N1**, **N32** and **PREP** are names of inflectional FST files.

- All the words in a language that have the same set of suffixes, associated with the same inflectional information are associated with the same inflectional FST. For instance, in French, all the verbs that conjugate like *amuser* (*aider*, *voler*, etc.) are associated with the FST **V3**; all the nouns that take an 'e' in the feminine and an 's' in the plural are associated with the FST **N32**, etc.;
- if a word has no inflection, it must be associated with an FST that has no input and produces no output. For instance, in French, the FST **PREP** is the following (prepositions do not inflect):



## 10. Multiple entries in the DELAS

If one word is associated with more than one inflectional class, it must be represented by more than one DELAS entry. For instance:

**cousin, N32+Hum**  
**cousin, N1+Anim**

The first entry corresponds to a person (= cousin); the noun gets the feminine form *cousine*; the second entry corresponds to an animal (= mosquito); this noun is masculine only. In the same manner, the French DELAS includes the two following entries:

**voile, N1+Conc**  
**voile, N21+Conc**

the first entry corresponds to a masculine noun (= veil); the second entry corresponds to a feminine noun (= sail). Although both entries are associated with the same distributional class (+**Conc** stands for concrete nouns), and to the same inflection (they both take an 's' in the plural) they must be associated with two different FSTs: one generates the code **m** (masculine) whereas the other generates the code **f** (feminine).

Sometimes, different sets of syntactic or semantic properties may lead to different inflections. For instance, the verb *voler* in the meaning of 'to steal' accepts a passive construction; therefore, the four past participle forms *volé*, *volée*, *volés*, *volées* must be represented, as we see in:

*Ces fleurs ont été volées (= these flowers have been stolen)*

The verb *voler* in the meaning of 'to fly' is intransitive; therefore, only the invariable form *volé* must be represented. This leads to at least two entries in the DELAS:

**voler, V3U+i**  
**voler, V3+t**

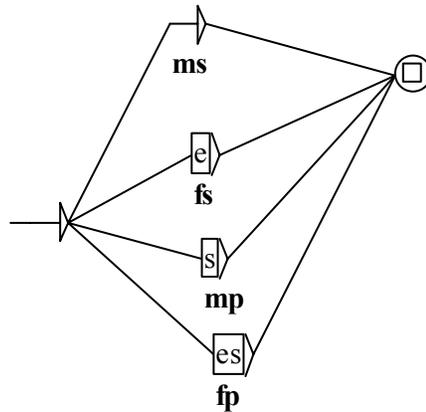
**V3U** represents only one invariable participle form whereas **V3** represents the four forms.

## First entries of the French DELAS dictionary, 'basic' vocabulary

a, N2  
 a, XI+PMCO  
 à, PREP  
 ab, XI+PMCO  
 abaissé, A32  
 abaisser, V3+t+11  
 abaisser, V3+t+32RA  
 abaisser, V3+t+38L  
 abaisser, V3E+pi  
 abandon, N1  
 abandonné, A32  
 abandonné, N32+Hum  
 abandonner, V3+t+32H  
 abandonner, V3+t+36DT  
 abandonner, V3+t+38L1  
 abandonner, V3+t+38LR  
 abandonner, V3+t+6  
 abandonner, V3+t+9  
 abandonner, V3E+pi+7  
 abandonner, V3U+i+31H  
 abandonner, V3U+i+35R  
 abasourdi, A32  
 abasourdissant, A32  
 abatage, N1  
 abats, N2P+Conc  
 abattage, N1  
 abattement, N1  
 abattoir, N1+Conc  
 abattre, V68+t+32H  
 abattre, V68+t+32R3  
 abattre, V68+t+37E  
 abattre, V68+t+38LD  
 abattre, V68+t+4  
 abattre, V68E+pi+35R  
 abattu, A32  
 abattu, N1  
 abbaye, N21+Conc  
 abc, N2  
 abcès, N2+Conc  
 abdication, N21  
 abdiquer, V3+t+32R3  
 abdomen, N1+Conc  
 abdominal, A76  
 abdominaux, N2P  
 abeille, N21+An1  
 aberrant, A32  
 aberration, N21  
 abêtir, V18+t+11  
 abêtir, V18+t+4  
 abêtissant, A32  
 abêtissement, N1  
 abhorrer, V3+t+12  
 abîme, N1+Conc  
 abîmé, A32  
 abîmer, V3+t+32C  
 abîmer, V3+t+38LD  
 abîmer, V3+t+4  
 abject, A32  
 abjection, N21  
 ablation, N21  
 ablution, N21  
 abnégation, N21  
 aboiment, N1  
 abois, N2P  
 abolir, V18+t+10  
 abolir, V18+t+32R2  
 abolition, N21  
 abolitionniste, A31  
 abolitionniste, N31+Hum  
 abominable, A31  
 abominablement, ADV  
 abomination, N21  
 abominer, V3+t+12  
 abondamment, ADV+Dadv  
 abondamment, ADV+PADV  
 abondance, N1  
 abondance, N21  
 abondant, A32  
 abonder, V3U+i+34L0  
 abonné, A32  
 abonné, N32+Hum  
 abonnement, N1  
 abonner, V3+t+11  
 abord, N1  
 abord, XI+PMCO+Préd  
 abordable, A31  
 abordage, N1  
 aborder, V3+t+32H  
 aborder, V3+t+32R2  
 aborder, V3+t+38L1  
 aborder, V3U+i+35L  
 abords, N2P  
 abouti, A32  
 aboutir, V18U+i+14  
 aboutir, V18U+i+31R  
 aboutir, V18U+i+35L  
 aboutissant, A32  
 aboutissement, N1  
 aboyer, V13+t+32R3  
 aboyer, V13+t+9  
 abracadabrant, A32  
 abrégé, N1+Abst  
 abrégé, N1+Conc  
 abrègement, N1  
 abrègement, N1  
 abrèger, V10+t+32RA  
 abreuver, V3+t+37M1  
 abréviation, N21  
 abri, N1+Conc  
 abricot, A80+Conc  
 abricot, N1+Conc  
 abricotier, N1+Conc  
 abrité, A32  
 abriter, V3+t+10  
 abriter, V3+t+38LD  
 abriter, V3+t+38R  
 abriter, V3E+pi+35R  
 abrogation, N21  
 abrupt, A32  
 abrupt, N1+Conc  
 abruptement, ADV  
 abrupto, XI+PMCO  
 abruti, A32  
 abruti, N32+Hum  
 abrutir, V18+t+11  
 abrutir, V18+t+37M1  
 abrutissant, A32  
 abrutissement, N1  
 abscons, A61  
 absence, N21  
 absent, A32  
 absent, N32+Hum  
 absentéisme, N1  
 absentéiste, A31  
 absentéiste, N31+Hum  
 absenter, V3E+pi+2  
 absenter, V3E+pi+31H  
 absinthe, N21+Conc  
 absolu, A32  
 ...

## 11. Inflectional FSTs

Inflectional FSTs associate sets of suffixes to the corresponding inflectional information. For instance, the FST **N32** (used to describe the inflection of the noun *cousin*) is displayed below (this file is stored in the **Inflection** subdirectory of the current language directory):



The FST associates each suffix of the DELAS entry *cousin* to some inflectional codes:

- if nothing is concatenated to the DELAS entry, one gets *cousin*; this form is associated with the inflectional codes **ms** (masculine singular);
- if 'e' is concatenated to the DELAS entry, one gets *cousine*; this form is associated with the inflectional codes **fs** (feminine singular);
- if 's' is concatenated to the DELAS entry, one gets *cousins*; this form is associated with the inflectional codes **mp** (masculine plural);
- if 'es' is concatenated to the DELAS entry, one gets *cousines*; this form is associated with the inflectional codes **fp** (feminine plural).

A simple process of concatenating the FST **N32** to the lexical entry, and then exploring the FST to generate all the paths will produce the resulting DELAF entries:

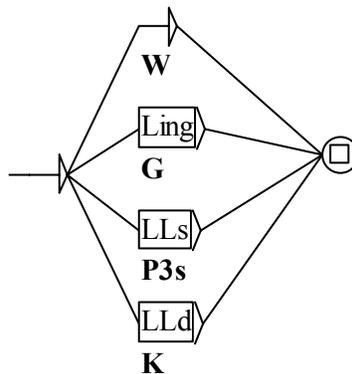
```
cousin,cousin.N32+Hum:ms  
cousine,cousin.N32+Hum:fs  
cousins,cousin.N32+Hum:mp  
cousines,cousin.N32+Hum:fp
```

## 'Delete' operator

Lemmas are not always proper prefixes of their inflected forms. For instance, the verb 'have' gets the following forms:

*have, having, has, had*

In order to produce the last three forms, one needs to be able to 'delete' characters from the lemma. This operation is performed by adding the 'delete' character **L** (*Go Left*) to the alphabet of the DELAS dictionary. The FST used to produce the four inflected forms is then:



From the DELAS entry: **have, V1**, the process of constructing a DELAF dictionary becomes the following: (1) first we get the four following lines by exploring the FST V1:

```
have, have.V1:W
haveLing, have.V1:G
haveLLs, have.V1:P3s
haveLLd, have.V1:K
```

(2) then we spell each inflected form, interpreting the operator **L** as a 'delete last character' command. The final result is then:

```
have, have.V1:W
having, have.V1:G
has, have.V1:P3s
had, have.V1:K
```

## Stack operators

In theory, the two operators *insertion*, *deletion* are sufficient to represent all kinds of inflection, even highly irregular ones:

**avoir LLLLLont => ont**

Basically, one can always connect any form to any lemma, by deleting all the letters, and then spelling the form.

The problem I discuss now is a practical one. Consider for instance the following German nouns:

*Anrand, Balg, Blatt, Dach, Daus, Fach, Gehalt, Gemach, Geschmack, Gewand, Haus, Inland, Kaff, Kalb, Kraut, Lamm, Land, Mahd, Mann, Mark, Maul, Pfand, Rand, Salband, Wald, Wams...*

These nouns have a similar inflected form:

*Anränder, Bälger, Blätter, Dächer, Däuser, Fächer, Gehälter, Gemächer, Geschmäcker, Gewänder, Häuser, Inländer, Käffer, Kälber, Kräuter, Lämmer, Länder, Mähder, Männer, Märker, Mäuler, Pfänder, Ränder, Salbänder, Wälder, Wämser...*

Basically, the inflection of all these forms is the same: add an *ä* to the *a* two letters before the end, and add the suffix *er*.

Unfortunately, with the only two operators of insertion and deletion, each of these forms would have to be associated with a different FST:

**Anrand LLLänder => Anränder**  
**Balg LLLälger => Bälger**  
**Blatt LLLätter => Blätter**

⇒ Over 40 almost identical inflectional FSTs would have to be added to the system!

I added two operators to the inflection process: **C** (*Copy*) and **R** (*Go Right*); all the previous inflections are then performed with the same command:

**LLLäRCCer**

go left three times, insert an 'ä', go right one time, copy the two letters, insert 'er'

The string produced by the FST is processed by four stack operators that take a constant time:

- c** insert character 'c' at the end of the form
- L** delete last character; push it onto the stack
- R** pop the stack
- C** copy the character at the top of the stack to the end of the form; pop the stack

Here is how the string **BalgLLLälger** is processed:

<i>Operator</i>		<i>Resulting form</i>	<i>Stack</i>
B	Insert B	B <sup>^</sup>	-
a	Insert a	Ba <sup>^</sup>	-
l	Insert l	Bal <sup>^</sup>	-
g	Insert g	Balg <sup>^</sup>	-
L	Push g	Bal <sup>^</sup>	g
L	Push l	Ba <sup>^</sup>	l g
L	Push a	B <sup>^</sup>	a l g
ä	Insert ä	Bä <sup>^</sup>	a l g
R	Pop	Bä <sup>^</sup>	l g
C	Pop & Insert	Bäl	g
C	Pop & Insert	Bälg	-
e	Insert e	Bälge	-
r	Insert r	Bälger	-

The result is **Bälger**. In the same manner, the following French verbs are associated with a unique FST **V6**

*acheter, amener, beder, écarteler, élever, peser, semer*

The conjugated forms: achète, amène, bède, écartèle, élève, pèse, and sème are produced by the command: **LLLLèCC**.

- 200 FSTs are required for the description of English,
- 250 FSTs for Italian,
- 300 for French and Spanish,
- 450 for Bulgarian,
- 670 for German.

⇒ The construction of DELAF dictionaries takes a time proportional to their length (linear time).

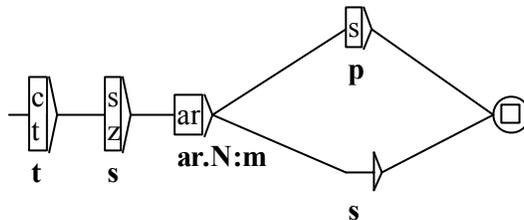
## Resulting DELAF dictionary

a, .N:ms:mp  
a, .XI+PMCO  
à, .PREP  
ab, .XI+PMCO  
abaissé, .A:ms  
abaissée, abaissé.A:fs  
abaissés, abaissé.A:mp  
abaissées, abaissé.A:fp  
abaïsser, .V+t+11:W  
abaissant, abaïsser.V+t+11:G  
abaissé, abaïsser.V+t+11:Kms  
abaissée, abaïsser.V+t+11:Kfs  
abaissés, abaïsser.V+t+11:Kmp  
abaissées, abaïsser.V+t+11:Kfp  
abaïsse, abaïsser.V+t+11:P1s:P3s:S1s:S3s:Y2s  
abaïsses, abaïsser.V+t+11:P2s:S2s  
abaïssons, abaïsser.V+t+11:P1p:Y1p  
abaïssiez, abaïsser.V+t+11:P2p:Y2p  
abaïssent, abaïsser.V+t+11:P3p:S3p  
abaïssais, abaïsser.V+t+11:I1s:I2s  
abaïssait, abaïsser.V+t+11:I3s  
abaïssions, abaïsser.V+t+11:I1p:S1p  
abaïssiez, abaïsser.V+t+11:I2p:S2p  
abaïssaient, abaïsser.V+t+11:I3p  
abaïssai, abaïsser.V+t+11:J1s  
abaïssas, abaïsser.V+t+11:J2s  
abaïssa, abaïsser.V+t+11:J3s  
abaïssâmes, abaïsser.V+t+11:J1p  
abaïssâtes, abaïsser.V+t+11:J2p  
abaïssèrent, abaïsser.V+t+11:J3p  
abaïsserai, abaïsser.V+t+11:F1s  
abaïsseras, abaïsser.V+t+11:F2s  
abaïssera, abaïsser.V+t+11:F3s  
abaïsserons, abaïsser.V+t+11:F1p  
abaïsserez, abaïsser.V+t+11:F2p  
abaïsseront, abaïsser.V+t+11:F3p  
abaïssasse, abaïsser.V+t+11:T1s  
abaïssasses, abaïsser.V+t+11:T2s  
abaïssât, abaïsser.V+t+11:T3s  
abaïssassions, abaïsser.V+t+11:T1p  
abaïssassiez, abaïsser.V+t+11:T2p  
abaïssassent, abaïsser.V+t+11:T3p  
...

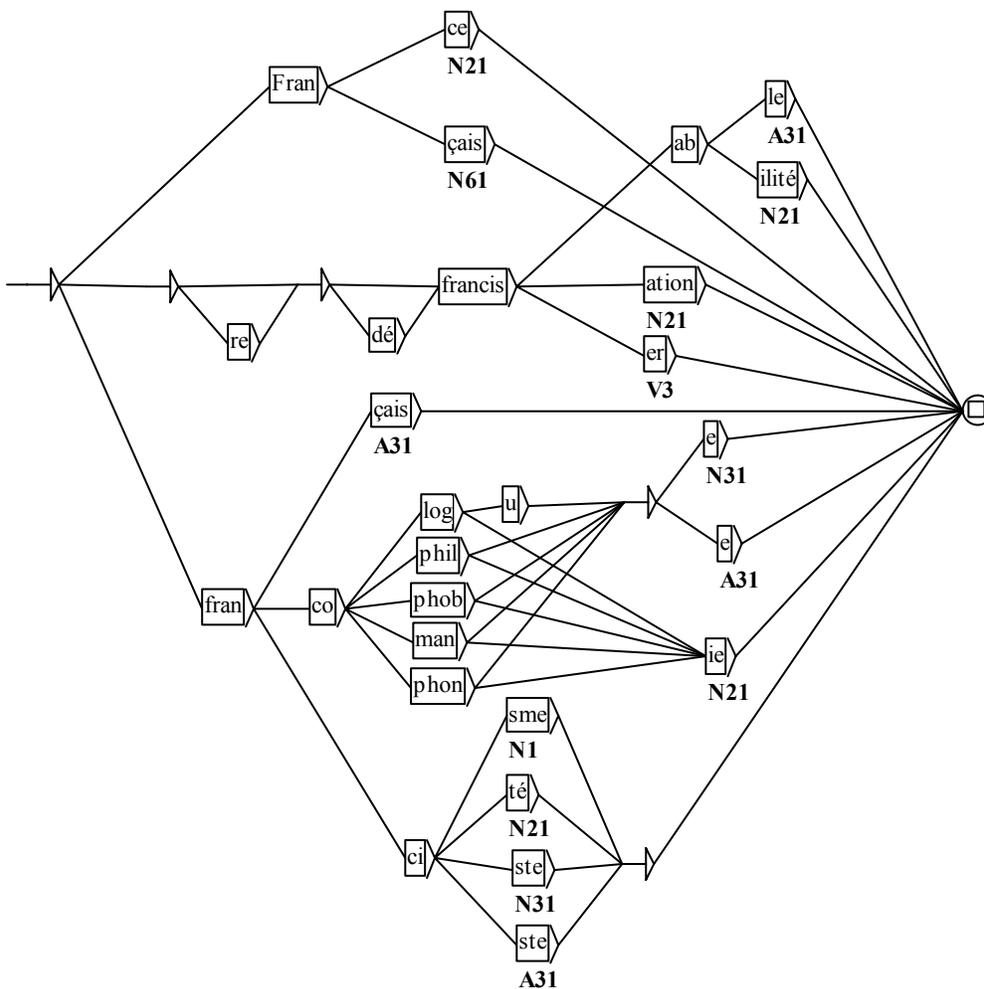
DELAF dictionaries are stored in minimal deterministic Finite State Transducers.

## 12. Lexical FSTs

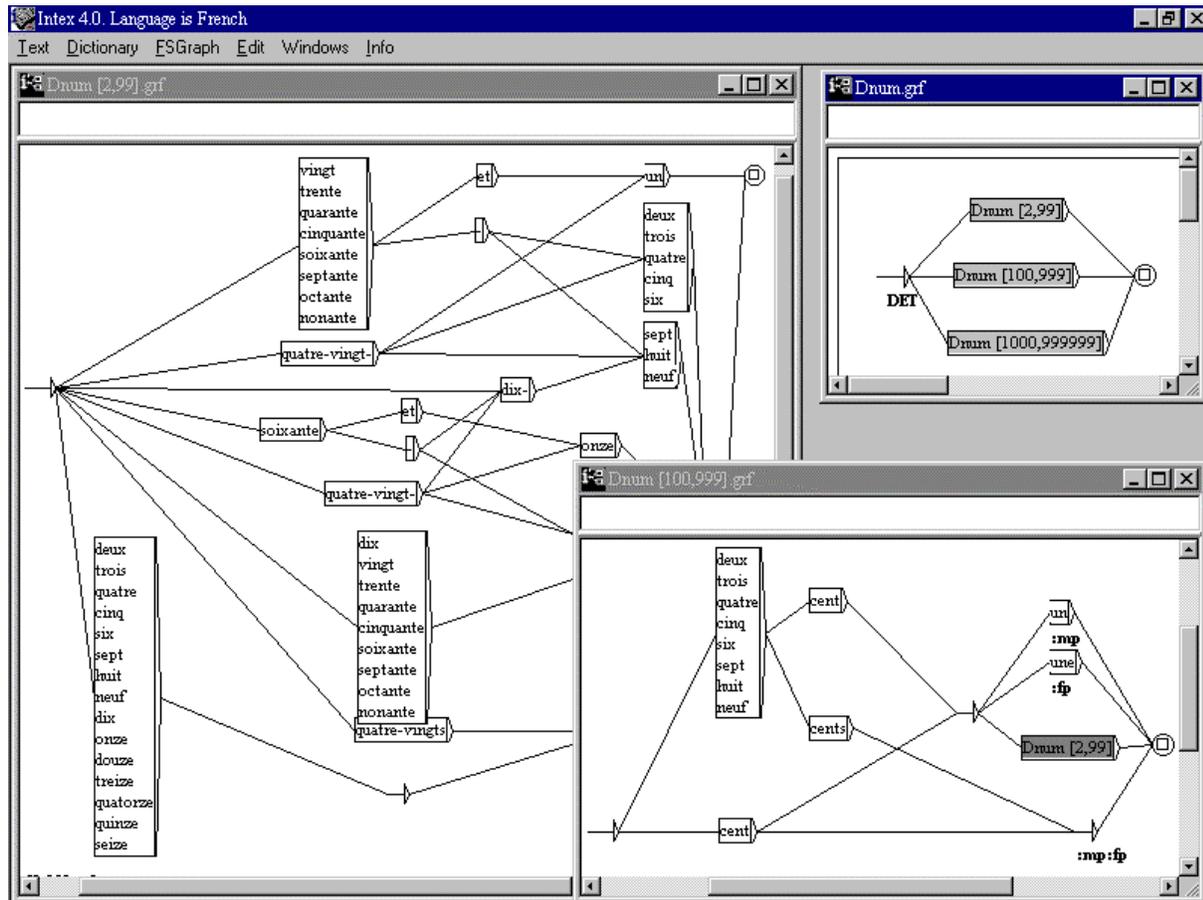
Generally, FSTs must be used to represent infinite sets of lexical entries (e.g. numerical determiners); they are used as well to put together members of a 'natural' family, such as derived forms of a lemma, orthographic variants, synonymous expressions, etc. For instance, here is a FST used to tag the orthographic variants of the noun *tsar* in French:



Here is a FST that represents all the derived forms of the noun *France*:



The following FST **Dnum** identifies and tag all the numerical determiners from 2 to 999999 written in French:



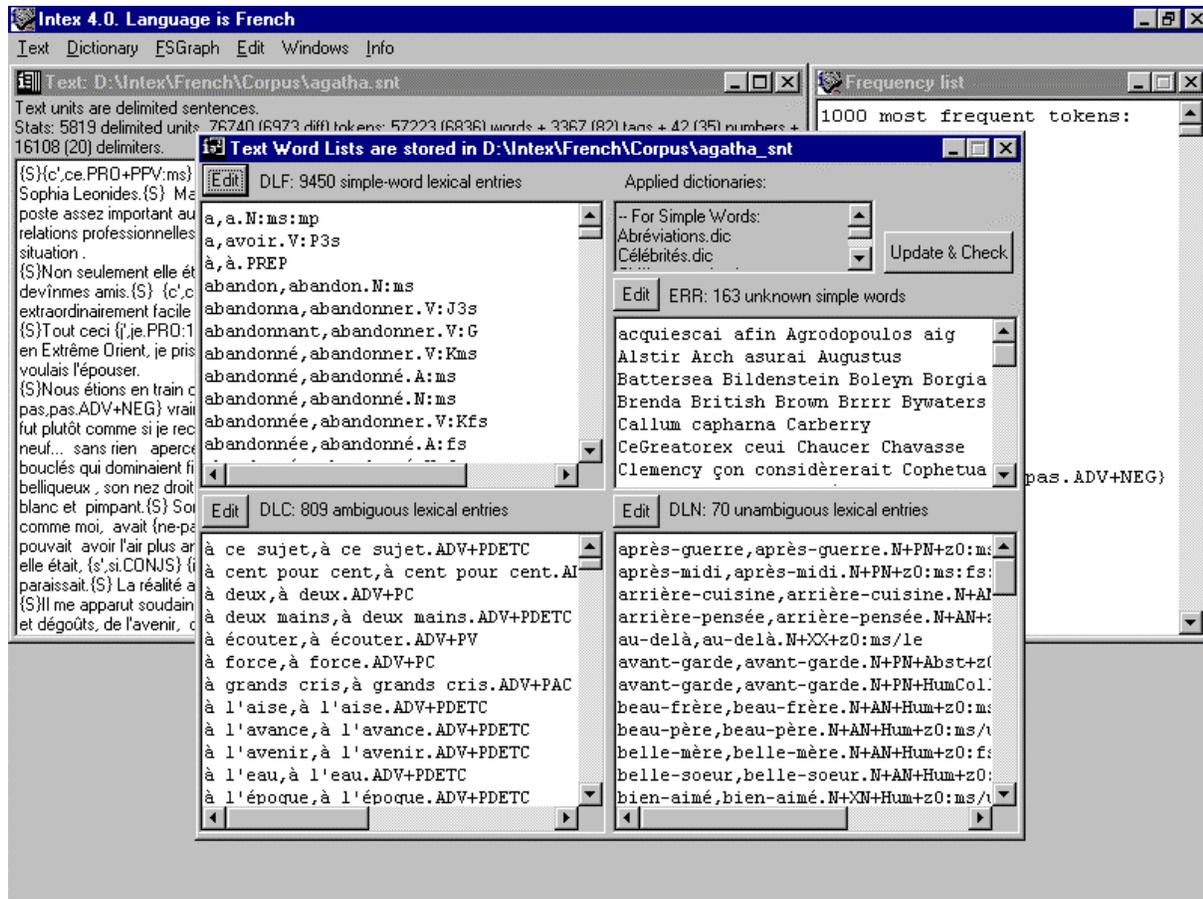
Since it is possible to embed FSTs in others, one can construct a large library of FSTs that will be re-used in other bigger projects. More than 3,000 FSTs have already been built for various descriptions of French:

- technical expressions (e.g. stock market, weather reports, medical statements, etc.),
- semi-frozen expressions (e.g. expressions of feelings),
- complements of dates, duration, addresses,
- etc.

### 13. Text dictionaries

The result of the application of the system dictionaries and FSTs is displayed below:

- the list of all the simple forms associated with their lemma and some linguistic data
- the list of all the simple forms that have not been found in the selected dictionaries
- the list of all ‘ambiguous’ compounds, such as ‘red tape’ (either a person, or a tape)
- the list of all ‘unambiguous’ compounds, such as ‘grand parent’



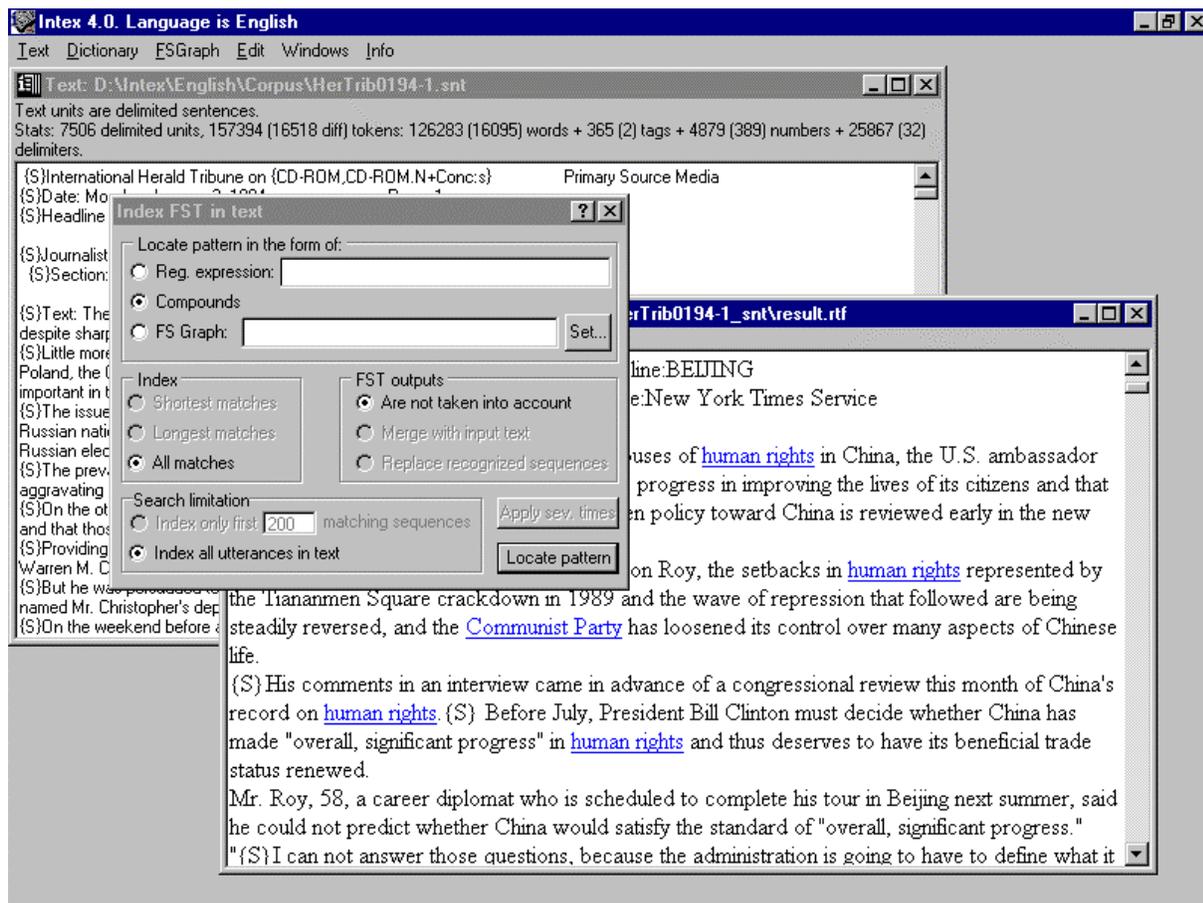
If a form is ambiguous, it appears on more than one line. For instance, *abandonné* is ambiguous: either the adjective masculine singular (**A:ms**), or the noun (**N:ms**), or the participle of the verb *abandonner* (**V:Kms**). The sequence *à ce sujet* (= *speaking of this*) can be an adverb; it is considered as an ‘ambiguous’ compound because the sequence is not obligatorily the adverb, as for instance in:

*Je pense à ce sujet bien défini*  
(= *I think of this well defined topic*)

These four files can be edited, so that the dictionaries used by further processings are closely adapted to the text (one can easily get rid of ambiguities that do not occur in the specific text).

## 14. Highlight Compounds in the text (Text->Locate)

All the compounds that have been identified by the consultation of the selected dictionaries are indexed; it is then possible to highlight them in the text (via the *Display indexed sequences* panel).



Generally, the indexation of compound nouns produces a very precious corpus to be used by information retrieval systems, because compound nouns are almost never ambiguous (compared to simple nouns).

## 15. Locate a regular expression in the text (Text->Locate)

One can index all the sequences of the text that match a particular regular expression. For instance:

`<be> going to + (will + shall ) <V:W>`

`<be>` stands for any inflected form associated with the lemma *be* (that is, any conjugated form of the verb *to be*); `<V:W>` stands for any form associated with the category **V** and the inflectional code **W** (that is, any verb in the infinitive). Any code present in any of the dictionaries is instantaneously useable, for instance:

<code>&lt;N+Hum&gt;</code>	Noun, associated with the code Hum (Human)
<code>&lt;N-Hum&gt;</code>	Noun, not Human
<code>&lt;N:fp&gt;</code>	feminine plural Noun
<code>&lt;!PREP&gt;</code>	any word that is not a Preposition

The resulting index can be displayed in the form of a concordance:

The screenshot shows the Intex 4.0 software interface. The main window displays a concordance of text with the regular expression `<be> going to + (will + shall ) <V:W>` applied. The concordance lists 322 patterns found, with the following text snippet visible:

... big plans for 1994. The first thing I am going to do is destroy all voice mail in the country  
... other Iranians in French prisons who are going to be submitted to French justice," Mr. Lamas  
... to penalize the rest of Europe. "These are going to be the nasty 90s for Europe," said Christo  
... the East for the alliance. It says we are going to be undertaking engagements that relate to  
... occur." He added that "long term, yields are going to come back down." At most, bond yields will  
... ses because people think mortgage rates are going to go up. That borrows from the future - it's  
... will be a great year. Wonderful things are going to happen. Donald and Marla Trump will raise  
... ary power. Now the bonds are broken. We are going to provide a new cement to hold these peoples  
... is just going to keep on going. January is going to be a good month. We'll see 13,000 before Ch  
... ly come from a white woman. "The child is going to be of mixed race, whatever we do," Dr. Brin  
... on Oct. 15. "I think employment growth is going to be strong in the first half of 1994," said  
... said the "pick-up in business activity is going to cause a slight increase in yields to occur.  
... ility problems," Dr. Fisher said. "This is going to come to the fore more frequently." "It is  
... e questions, because the administration is going to have to define what it views as significant  
... said, "is thinking that this investment is going to provide a superior financial return." She a  
... in motion pictures in 1934, they said I was going to be the next Valentino," he recalled in 198  
... ed. will absorb charges of 300 billion yen (\$2.68 billion)  
... He will accompany Madeleine  
... ich will add its own distrib  
... ion will add to inflationary  
... dge will add to the economic  
... ich will allow banks to rais  
... it will allow bigger things  
... hat will allow them to assoc  
... ich will allow us to press al

The 'Index FST in text' dialog box is open, showing the following settings:

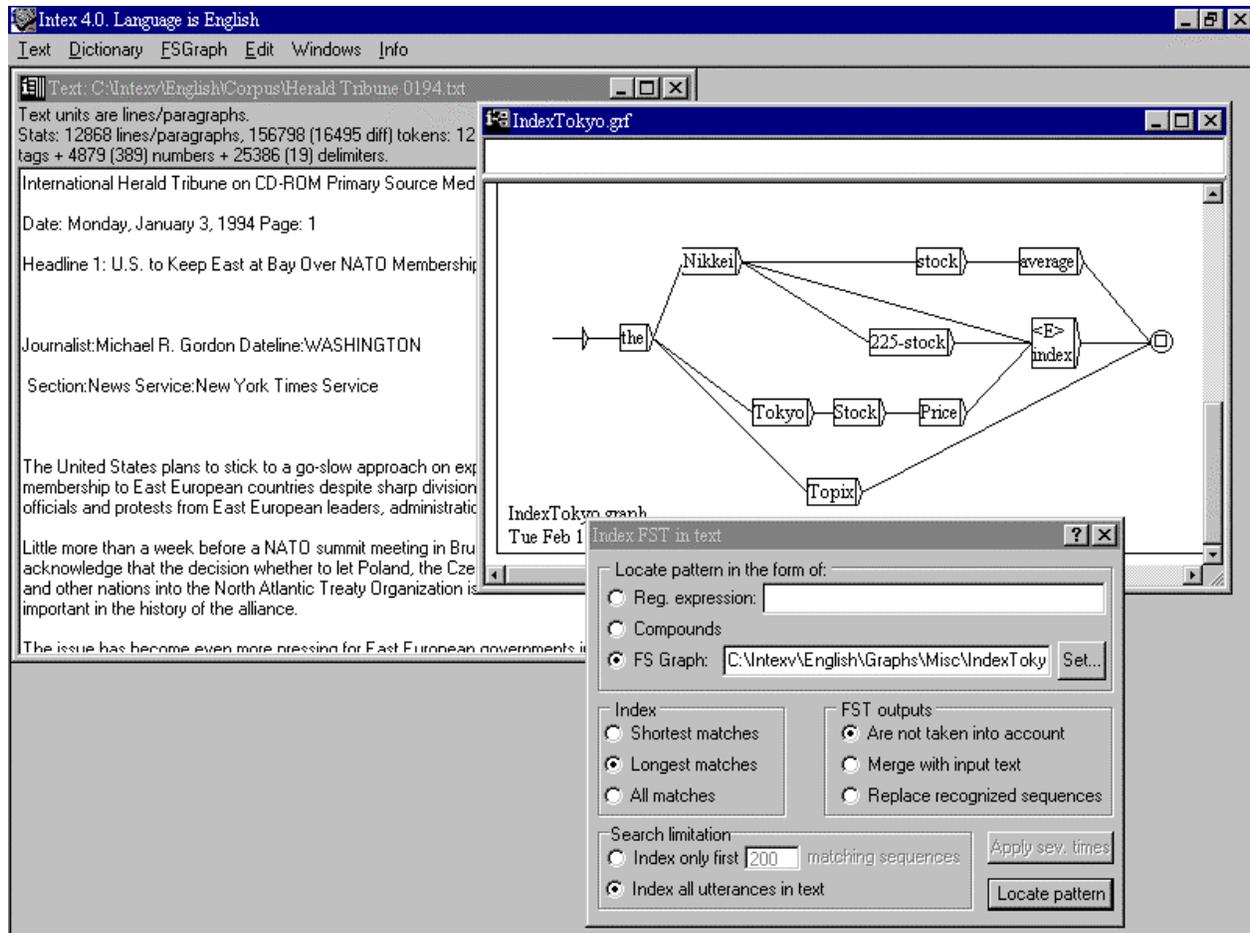
- Locate pattern in the form of:
  - Reg. expression: `<be> <going> to + (will +shall) <V:W>`
  - Compounds
  - FS Graph: [ ] Set...
- Index:
  - Shortest matches
  - Longest matches
  - All matches
- FST outputs:
  - Are not taken into account
  - Merge with input text
  - Replace recognized sequences
- Search limitation:
  - Index only first 200 matching sequences
  - Index all utterances in text
- Buttons: Apply sev. times, Locate pattern

The 'Display indexed sequences...' dialog box is also open, showing the following settings:

- Extract:
  - Matching Text Units
  - Unmatching Units
  - Full Text
  - Set Color... [blue]
- Show Matching Sequences in Context:
  - Lengths of Contexts: Left Col: 40 chars, Right Col: 55 chars
  - Sort According To: Center, Right Col
  - Build concordance
- Statistical Analysis

## 16. Index a FST in the text (Text->Locate)

One can index all the sequences of the text that match a particular FST.



The user can choose to index:

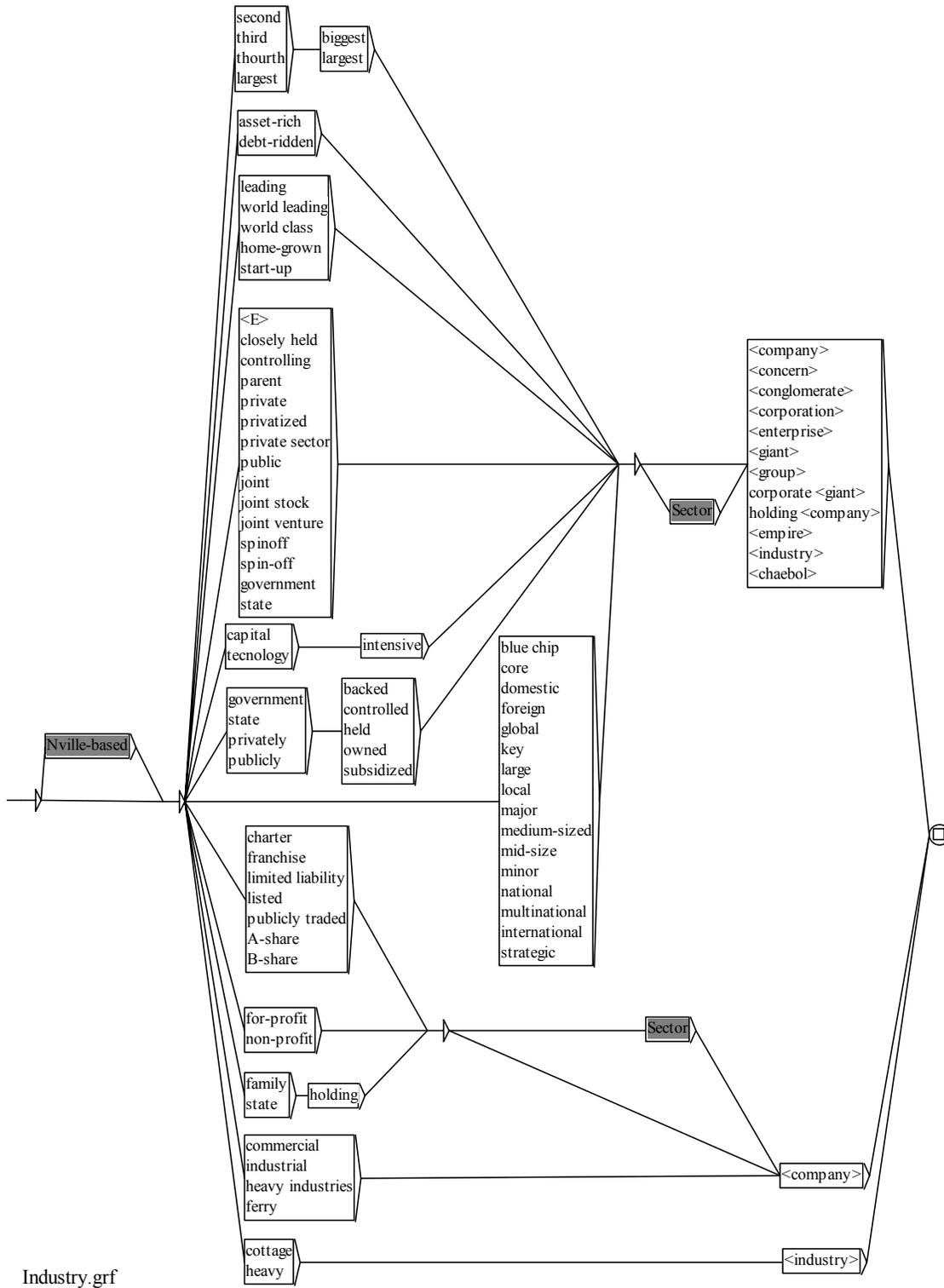
- shortest matches;
- longest matches;
- all matches.

FST outputs can:

- be ignored;
- be merged into the text;
- replace recognized sequences.

With the two last options, the FST can be reapplied several times to the text, for instance until no modification has been performed.

One of the grammars used to locate semi-frozen noun phrases that represent companies; when applied to newspapers, the resulting index can be used by information retrieval systems:



## 17. Various Text Transformations

FSTs can also be applied to texts in order to modify the text itself.

For instance, the following FST, if used in REPLACE mode, could be used to remove adverbs from the text (useful for information retrieval systems):



In the same manner, one could design FSTs that would delete expressions like:

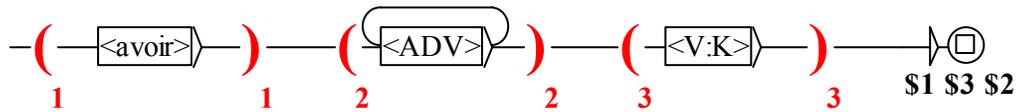
*I think that, In the same manner, as far as I am concerned, officials said that, he argued that, it seems doubtful that, etc.*

The following FST can be used in MERGE mode to insert parentheses around some noun phrases:

## Enhanced FSTs

In INTEX FSTs, outputs and inputs are *synchronized*, that is, the input sequences that match are indexed in the same time as the corresponding output. That feature is essential to the application in MERGE mode (see for instance how parentheses are inserted by the previous FST), or by disambiguation FSTs, where lexical constraints have to be applied to the correct matching forms.

INTEX users are allowed to purposely modify the conditions of this synchronization, by using internal variables to store parts of the matching input sequence. This feature is the same as in the UNIX tool `sed`. Here is one example. The following FST:



is used to extract the adverbs that may be inserted between the auxiliary verb *avoir* and the following past participle. For instance, when the FST is applied to the following text:

**Luc m'avait souvent amusé**

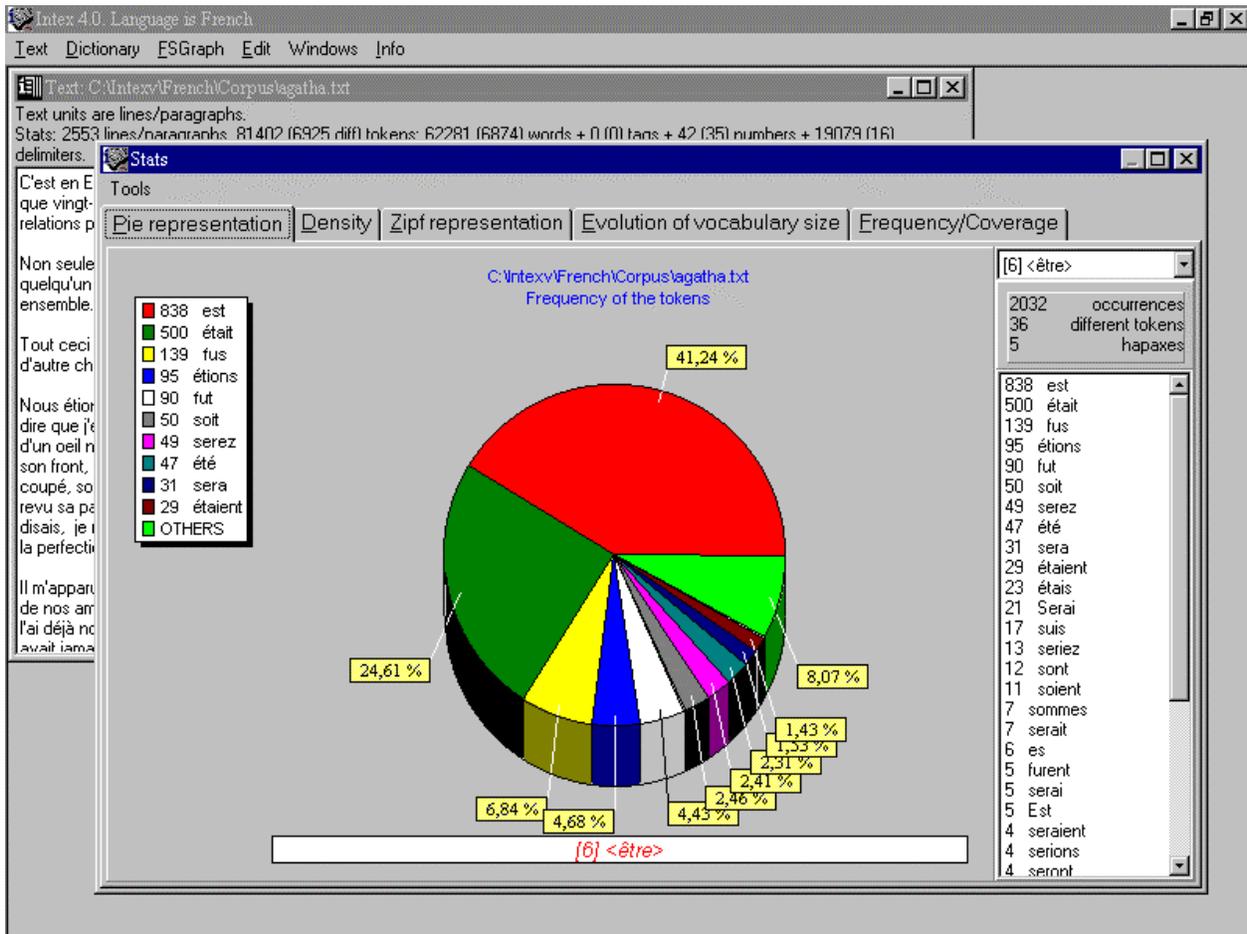
the sequence *avait* is stored in memory slot \$1; the sequence *souvent* is stored in memory slot \$2, and the sequence *amusé* is stored in memory slot \$3. Performing the replacement produces the following result:

**Luc m'avait amusé souvent**

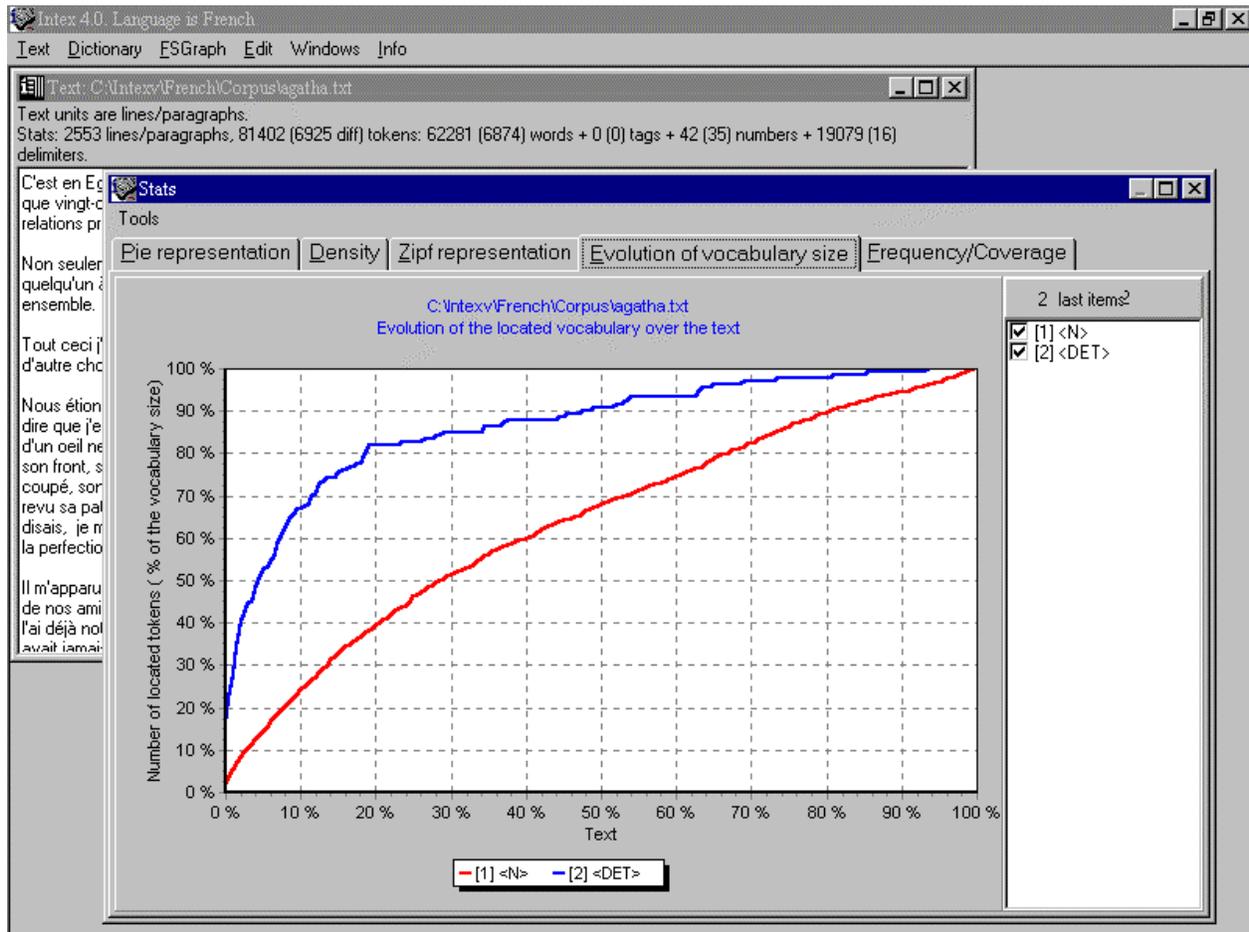
Look at the FST that identifies some French negations in the Norm directory (on the form *ne <V> Neg*).

## 18. Statistical Analyses

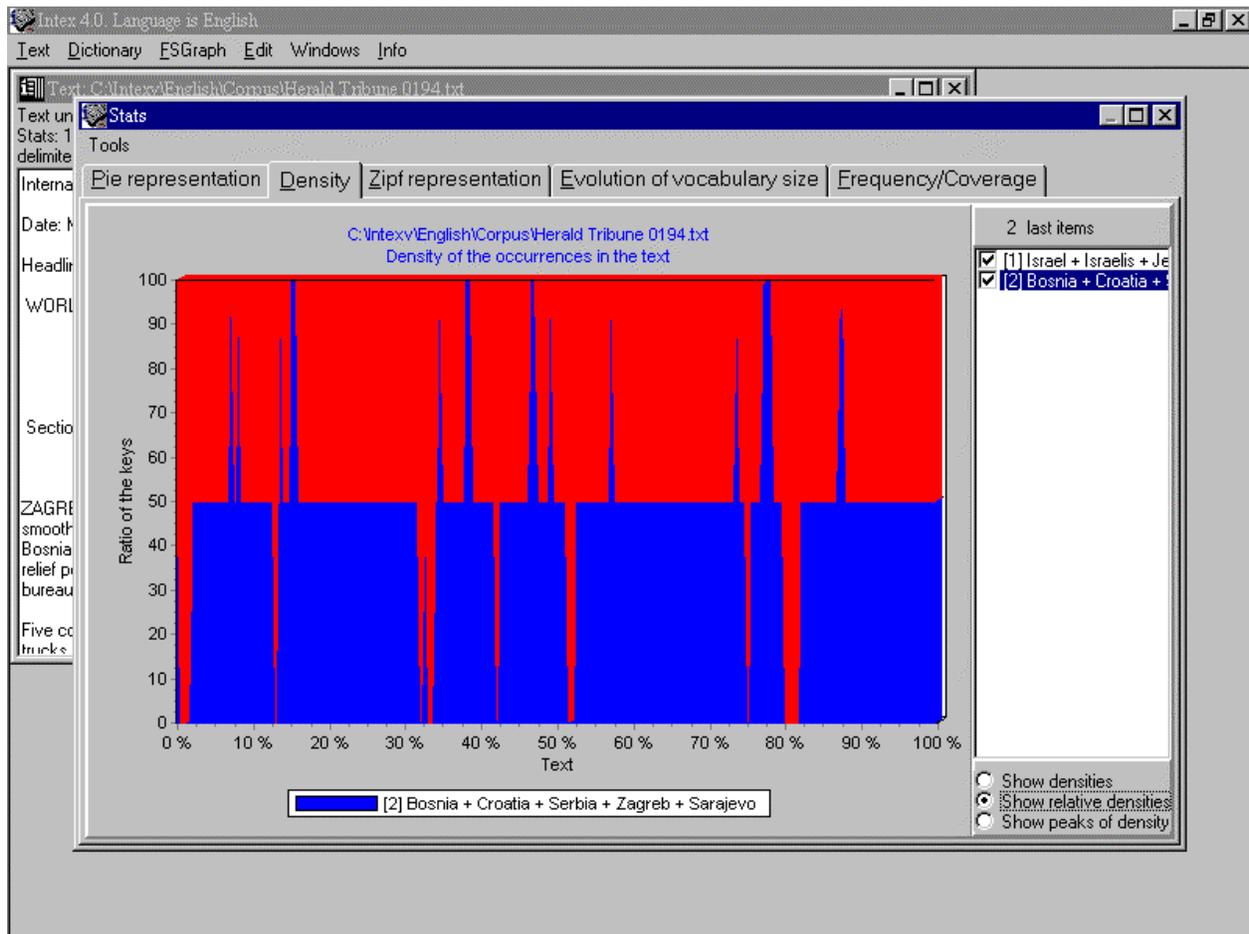
Any index (the index of the compounds, of the sequences that match a regular expression, or a FST) can be studied with a number of statistical measurements. Here for instance, the frequencies of the forms matching the regular expression `<être>` (all the conjugated forms of the verb *être*) are represented in a pie:



Below, we study the evolution of the number of Nouns (<N>) and Determiners (<DET>). The proportion of determiners grows much faster than the one of the nouns (which is almost linear).



Below we study the density of two regular expressions in the *Herald Tribune*, January 1994:



Peaks correspond to an important local density of the forms that match the indexed regular expression.

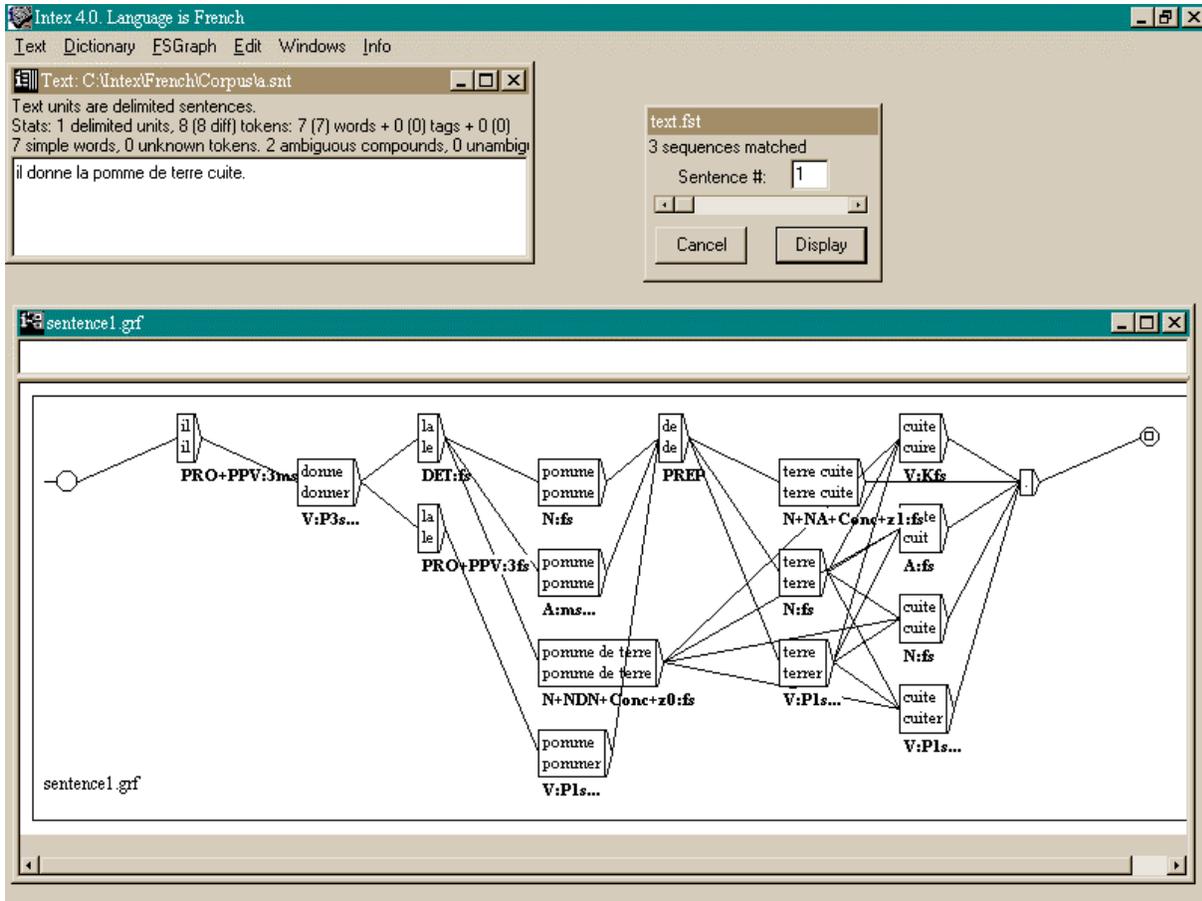
Various other statistical measures are available.



Internally, each text sentence is represented by a FST. INTEX can display it. For instance, the text:

**il donne la pomme de terre cuite**

is represented below with all the ambiguities that remain after having applied selected local grammars. Notice how the two ambiguous compound nouns *pomme de terre* (= *potato*) and *terre cuite* (= *clay*) are represented in the FST.



## **Conclusion**

### **Research Tool**

Over 30 research centers are presently using INTEX as a research tool in various domains: computational linguistics, corpus-based linguistics, information retrieval, terminology, literature studies, teaching of a second-language. At the First INTEX users' Workshop (March 1993, Université Paris 7), 60 participants came from 10 countries; the 15 papers demonstrated the various applications of the system.

I would like to emphasize the fact that thanks to INTEX, about 60 researchers from all over Europe have started to work within a shared framework, using the same tools and the same methodology to construct large coverage descriptions of a dozen natural languages. I believe this situation is unique in the field of Linguistics.

Large-coverage INTEX descriptions have already been built for Bulgarian (contact Prof. Elena Paskaleva, University of Sofia), English, French and Spanish (Contact Prof. Maurice Gross, Université Paris 7), German (Prof. Franz Günthner, University Maximilian, München), Greek (Prof. Ana Symeonides, University of Salonique), Italian (Prof. Annibale Elia, University of Salerne), Polish (Prof. Zygmunt Vetulani), Portuguese (Prof. Elisabete Ranchodd, University of Lisbon), Russian (Alex Kolesov, Academy of Sciences, Moscow). INTEX Dictionaries are being constructed for Korean (Jeesun Nam, University of Seoul) and Old French (Prof. Hava Bat-Zeev, University of Tel Aviv).

### **Teaching Tool for Linguistics, Corpus Linguistics and Computational Linguistics**

INTEX is a great tool to teach Corpus Linguistics and Computational Linguistics.

Describing the linguistic data included in INTEX (Dictionaries for Simple Words, Description of the Morphology, Dictionaries for Compound words, Dictionaries for frozen expressions, Local grammars for disambiguating texts, etc.) as well as the technology used to handle this data (Finite State Automata and Transducers) corresponds to a full year course (50 Hours) for Masters students. There are a plethora of projects that remain to be proposed to students, as the description of Natural Languages is not nearly complete!

### **Teaching Tool for Second Languages**

INTEX is also used to teach French as a second-language; it allows teachers to ask students to locate morpho-syntactic patterns in wide texts (such as 5 years of the newspaper *Le Monde*), to build local grammars for semi-frozen expressions (e.g. how to express a date in French) and to 'play' (edit, correct, apply and test) with some linguistic descriptions.