LREC 2008 Language Resources and Evaluation Conference Marrakech 26 May-31 June 2008

The Glossa search interface system

- an easy-to-use, flexible graphic user interface
- does not presuppose full-text access to the corpora
- has advanced results management as part of its standard user interface

Glossa supports all types of corpora:

- multilingual corpora
 multimodal, with various amounts of annotation.
- The Glossa system is already being used with several corpora.
- For written language:
 the Oslo Multilingual Corpus (a
 parallel corpus for Norwegian,
 English, German, French, Dutch
 and Portuguese), corpora for
 North Sámi and Lule Sámi, and
 Danish, French and Macedonian
 corpora, several other mono lingual Norwegian corpora.
- For spoken language corpora, with multimodal, transcribed audio and video options: the UPUS corpus of multicultural Norwegian, the NoTa corpus of modern Oslo dialect, and the Taus corpus of older Oslo dialects.

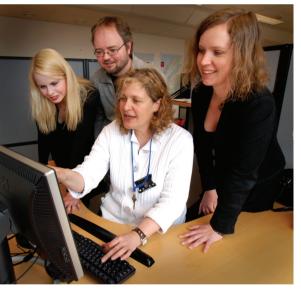


Figure 1. With Glossa querying corpora is fun.

Queries

The corpus user can specify any given token by attributes. Importantly, all attributes are independently searchable.

- word
- lemma
- affix or part of word
- part of speech
- morphological features
- syntactic functions
- sentence position

It is possible to search for part of speech without specifying a search string. All searches are done using checkboxes, pull-down menus, or writing simple letters to make words or other strings. Querying for more than one word is simply done by

Glossa: A multilingual, multimodal, configurable user interface

Lars Nygaard*, Joel Priestley**, Anders Nøklestad**, Janne Bondi Johannessen**

- ** The Text Laboratory, ILN, University of Oslo, Norway: http://www.hf.uio.no/tekstlab
- * Kaldera språkteknologi AS, Oslo: http://kaldera.no

adding an additional query box. No regular expressions are needed to perform queries. As an example, compare how a query for a word beginning with the sequence "jump", specified to be a noun and plural, would look like with a regular expression (fig. 2) and with Glossa (fig. 3):



Figure 2. A regular expression in the language defined by CWB.

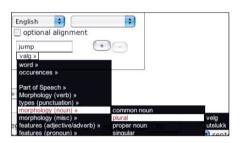


Figure 3. Equivalent query in Glossa.

In multilingual corpora, one or more search phrases can be created for the aligned corpus. The graphical interface makes it easy to create queries.

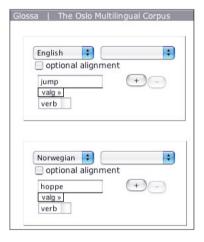


Figure 4: A simple query for a bilingual search.

Results

The results of queries in the Glossa system are presented as traditional KWIC lists, and, if available, with audio/video, aligned text and annotation of tokens. The attributes associated with the hit can be viewed by passing the mouse over the words (fig. 5). Notice the action option on top and the clickable bibliographical information link on the left.

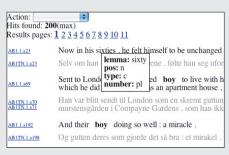


Figure 5: Results window, with the mouse roll-over effect.

A transparent, modular set-up has been created to allow integration of further post-processing and browsing options (collocation analysis etc.). The results can be post-processed in a number of ways, incl.:

- sorting on matching phrases or bibliographic information
- counting matched phrases
- downloading result set in various formats, e.g. Excel spreadsheets
- collocation analysis
- co-occurrence analysis
- user-defined annotation
- singling out individual hits or whole results file for saving or deletion
- viewing with regards to metadata distribution

Figure 6 shows a collocation table selected in the action menu. The collocations option in the action menu comes with several sub-options, as provided by the Ngram Statistics Package (Pedersen 2008).

Left context				Right context		
ngram	rank	AM	осс	ngram	rank	AM
the **	2	0.2703	10	**	1	0.2933
ski **	3	0.1714	6	** ,	2	0.2703
a **	4	0.1449	5	** to	5	0.1176
and **	6	0.0896	3	** in	6	0.0896
my **	6	0.0896	3	** and	6	0.0896

Figure 6: Collocations of nouns beginning with jump-.

Bilingual query results are presented in the same way as monolingual results. Fig. 7 shows how the results page is enriched with a checkbox for each result, after the user has chosen the delete option in the action menu. This enables the user to remove individual hits. The results can be saved for further annotation, processing and refinement.

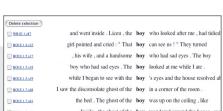
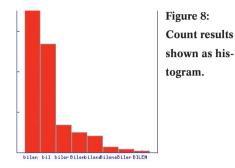


Figure 7. Results enriched with a box for ticking off hits that should be deleted.

Finally, results can be counted in a number of ways. In fig. 8 are results from the query "all occurrences of the Norwegian lemma *bil* 'car' " in the corpus. (For nouns there are four inflections: sg indef, sg def, pl indef, pl def; *bil*, *bilen*, *biler*, *bilene*)





Technical details

- A front-end PHP file.
- JavaScript files, both general and specific to the individual corpora. The JavaScript is both generated and hard-coded, and is used for building the interface menu structures.
- Configuration files, declaring corpus structure, attributes, tags, metadata, etc.
- MySQL database tables containing corpus metadata, associated with the individual texts within the corpora.
- The IMS Corpus Workbench and corpus files.
- A collection of back-end CGI scripts, where most of the work is done.
- Various Perl modules used by the CGI scripts.

All programming code is available under an open source licence. All components are freely available. The IMS Corpus Workbench is available for both Solaris and Linux platforms.

Sub-corpus creation

Glossa supports the creation of bibliographic databases of arbitrary complexity. This enables queries to be limited according to criteria such as • linguistic register • geography • time • author • age • sex • social background.

Speech corpora

Glossa has been used extensively with speech corpora of transcribed audio and video material. The time codes generated during transcription allow accurate video streaming of the segments matching query hits. We have used the QuickTime format for streaming video content.



Figure 9: Audio/video panel, used with speech corpus.

The Glossa Manual. The Text Laboratory. www.hf.uio.no/tekstlab/English/glossa.html