

NLM



Associates  
‘15

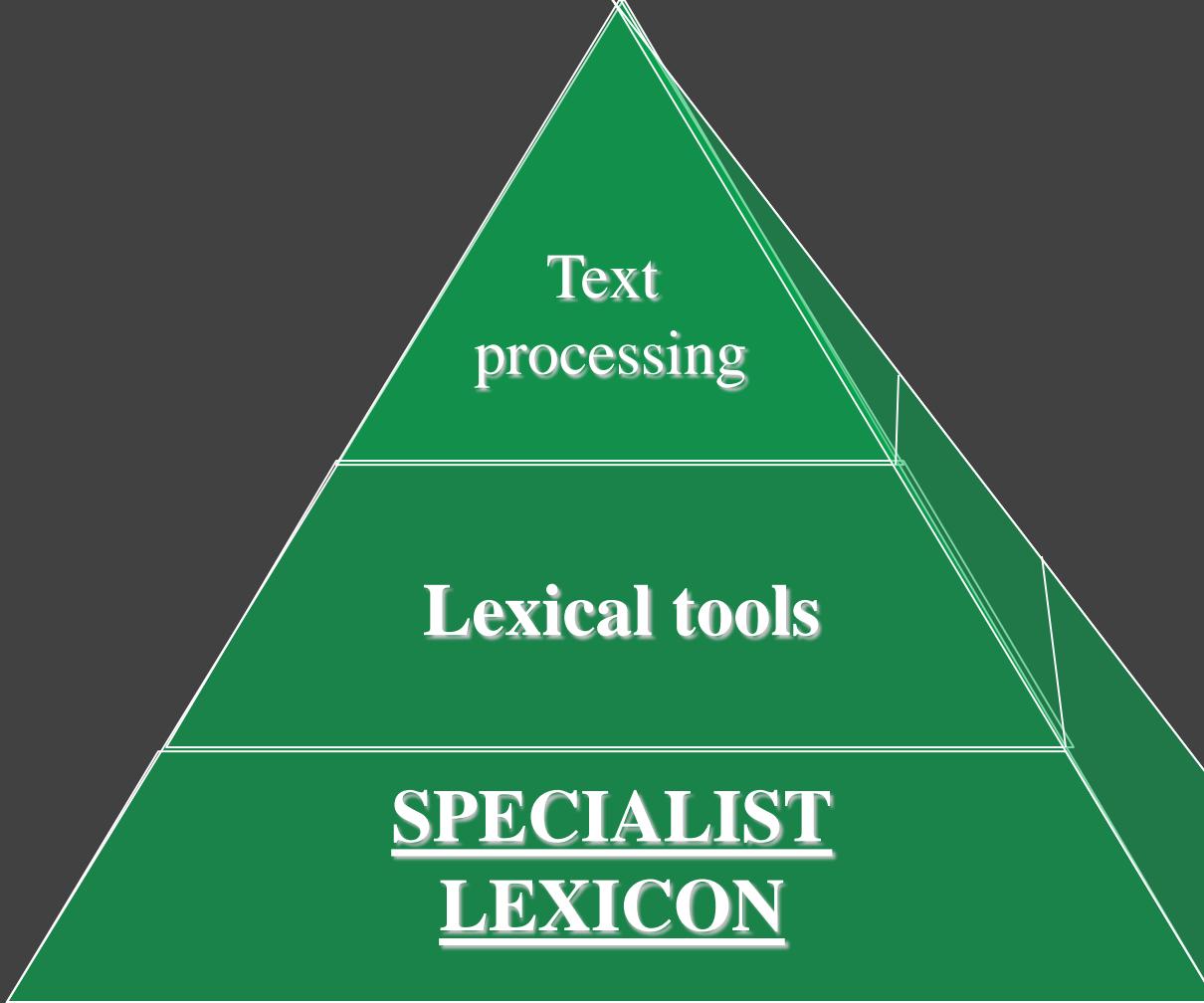
Oct. 22, 2015



Allen Browne  
Chris Lu

The SPECIALIST Lexicon and Lexical Tools

Oct 22, 2015



Text  
processing

Lexical tools

SPECIALIST  
LEXICON

# Lexicon: A fancy synonym for “dictionary”

## THE INSOMNIAC'S DICTIONARY

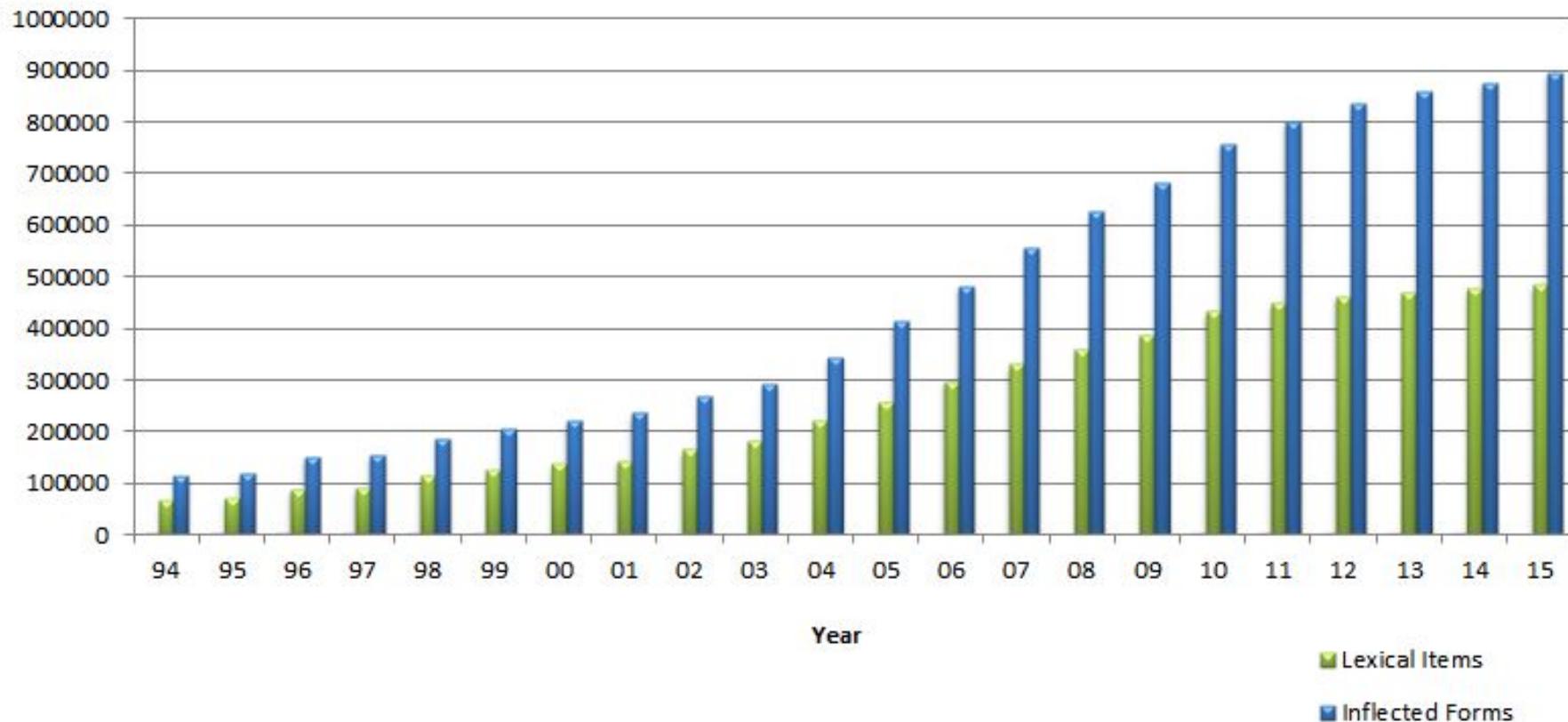
- Illeism:** Reference to oneself by use of the third person
- Infavoidance:** The act of covering up one's inferiority complex
- Inglenook:** A place by the fire or any warm and comfortable area
- Insilium:** Legal term for evil advice or counsel
- Jamais vu:** Illusion that one has never previously experienced a situation, when in fact it is quite familiar (see *Déjà vu*)
- Jen:** A compassionate love for all humanity or for the whole world
- Karateka:** A karate expert
- Kloof:** A deep ravine
- Kludge:** A system (especially of computers) made up of poorly matched components
- Lallation:** Pronouncing an "R" so that it sounds like an "L"
- Lapidation:** The act of stoning a person to death
- Latrocination:** A robbery that involves the use of force or violence
- Lexicon:** A fancy synonym for “dictionary”  
A red arrow points from the word “Lexicon” to the left margin.
- Litotes:** A form of understatement in which two negatives are used to make a positive (“he was not unhappy”)
- Longueur:** A long and boring passage in a work of literature, drama, music, etc.
- Macarism:** The practice of making others happy by praising them
- Matutinal:** Pertaining to anything that takes place in the morning
- Melorrhœa:** The writing of excessively long musical works
- Meteorism:** A tendency to uncontrollable passing of intestinal gas
- Metrona:** A young grandmother
- Microporf:** The very small perforations along the edges of computer paper
- Migrateur:** A wanderer
- Mnemonic:** That which assists memory (a classic mnemonic device is the one familiar to astronomy students: “Oh be a fine girl, kiss me”—a unique way to remember the stellar classifications O,B,A,F,G,K, and M)
- Moria:** Morbid impulse to make jokes
- Omnistrain:** The stresses of modern life
- Omphaloskepsis:** The act of contemplating one's navel
- Onychophagy:** The habit of biting one's fingernails
- Oxymoron:** A phrase or expression composed of contradictory elements (“awfully good,” for example)

# The SPECIALIST Lexicon

- A syntactic lexicon
- Biomedical and general English
- Over 490,000 records

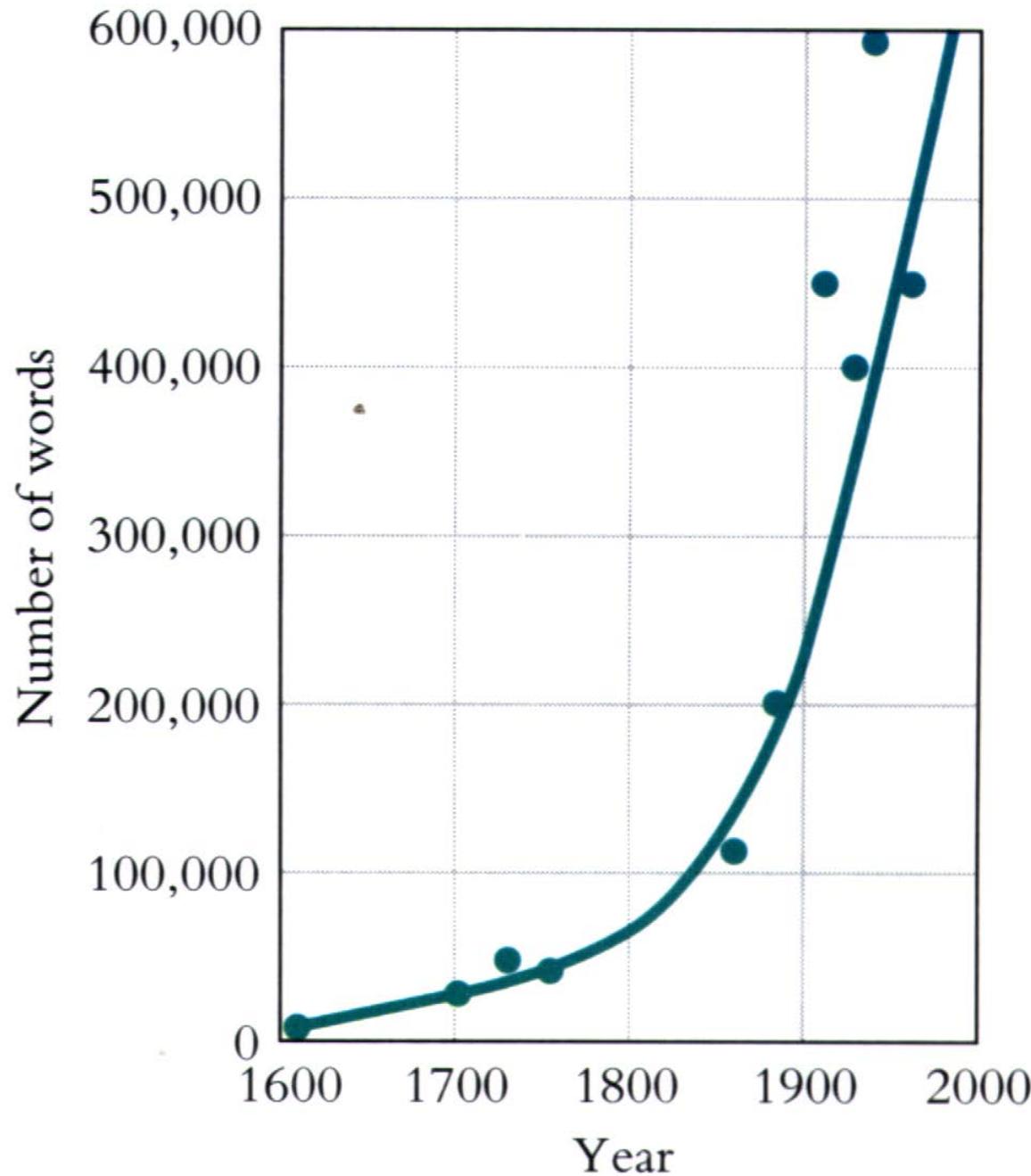
# Lexicon Growth

## SPECIALIST LEXICON Growth

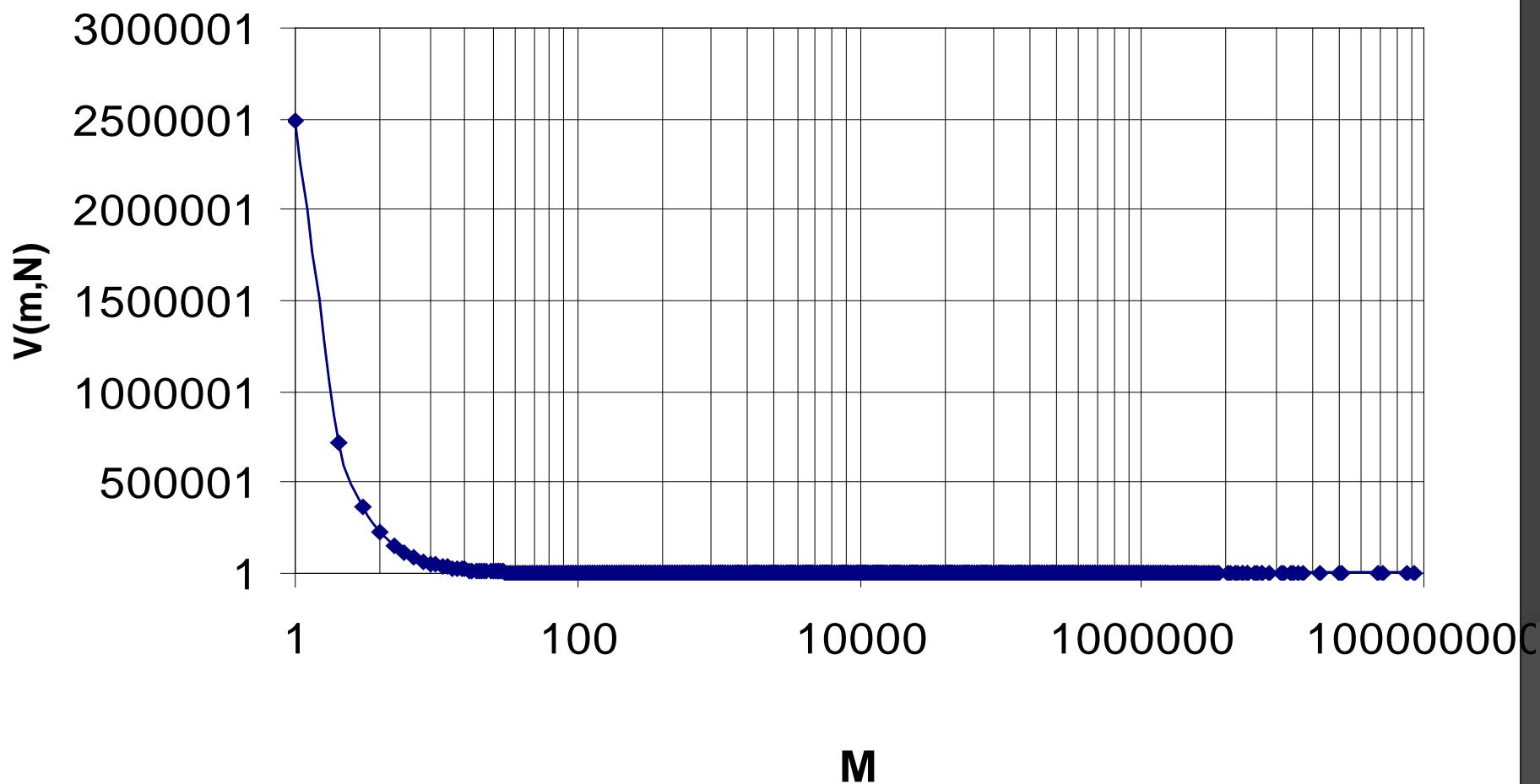


village square root  
square the circle  
square fair and square

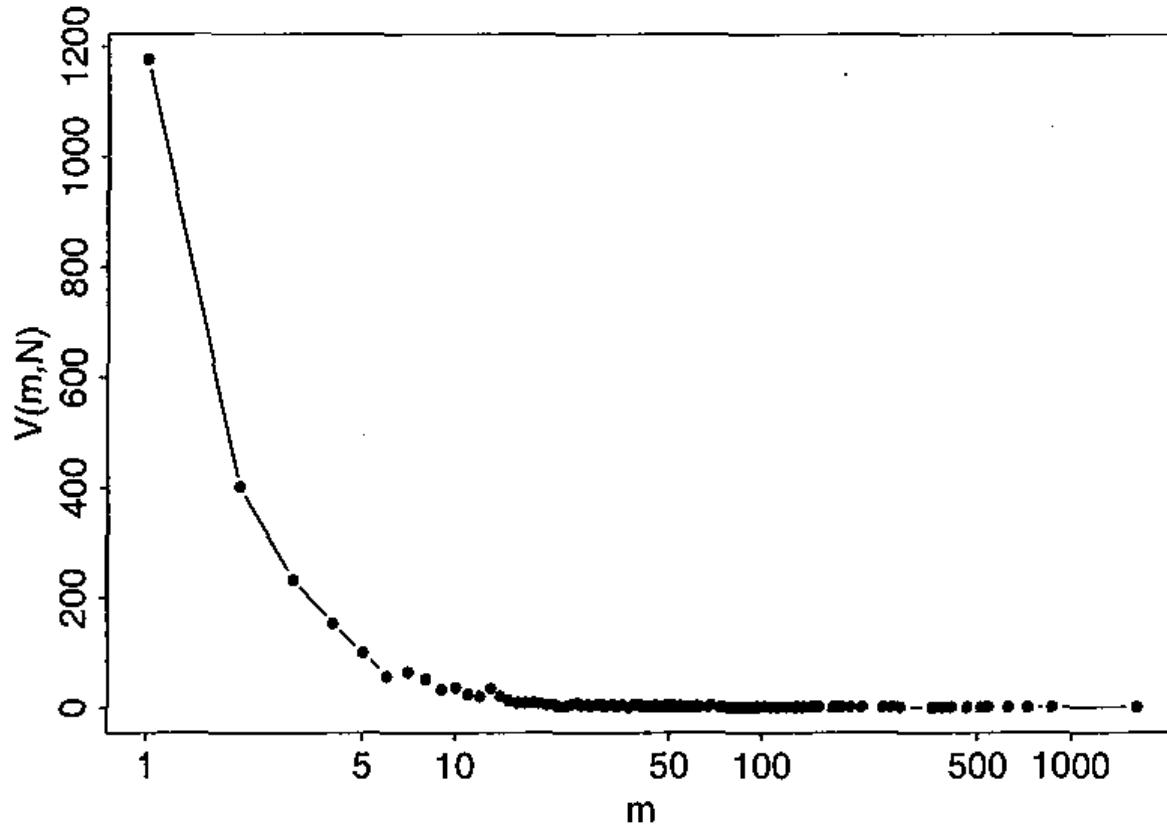
George A.  
Miller  
The Science  
of Words  
1991



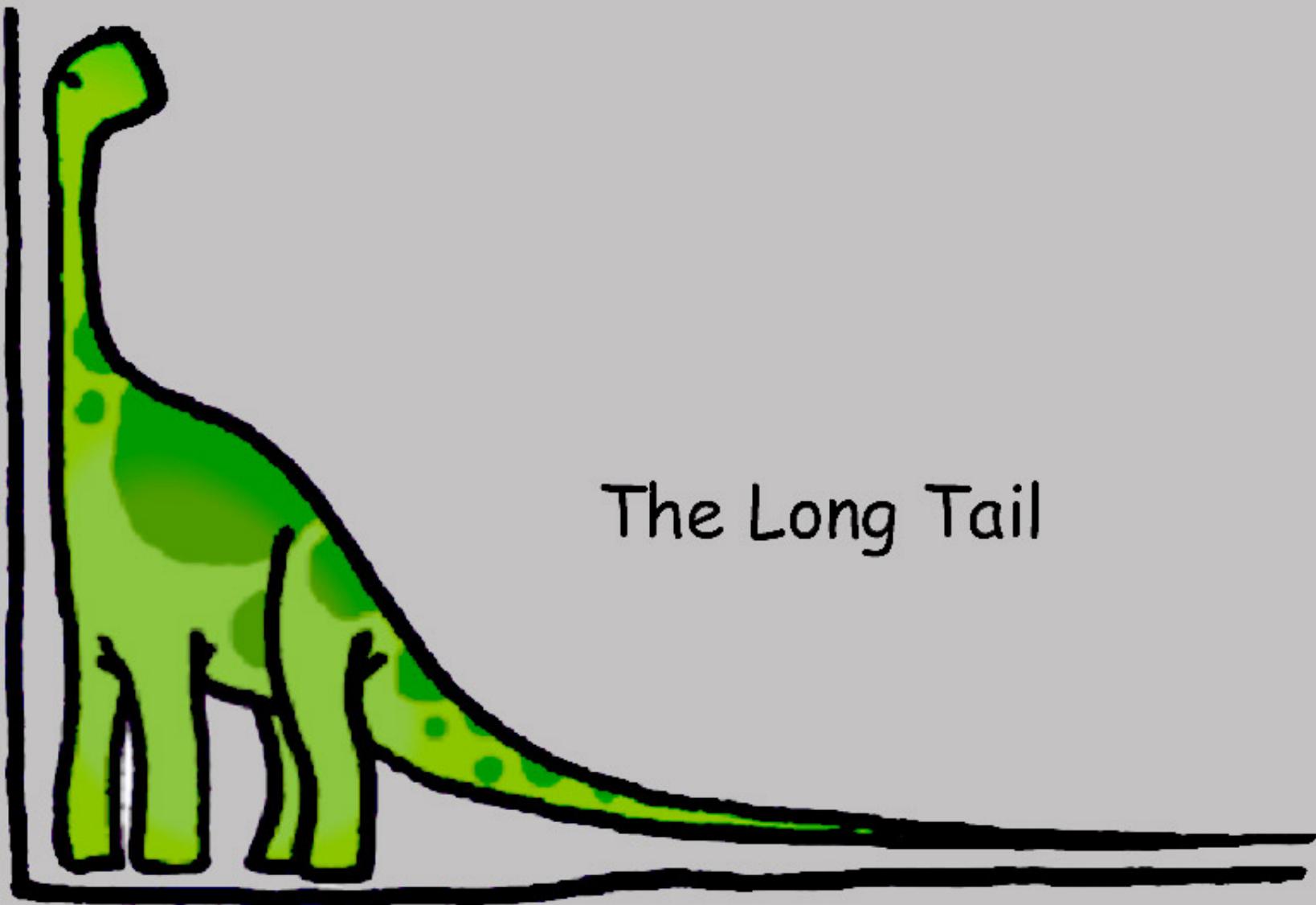
# Frequency Spectrum of Medline 2006



# Frequency Spectrum: Alice in Wonderland



Number of Words ->



Word Frequency ->

# The SPECIALIST LEXICON

- Morphology
  - Inflection
  - Derivation
- Orthography
  - Spelling variants
- Syntax
  - Complementation for verbs, nouns, and adjectives

# Morphology

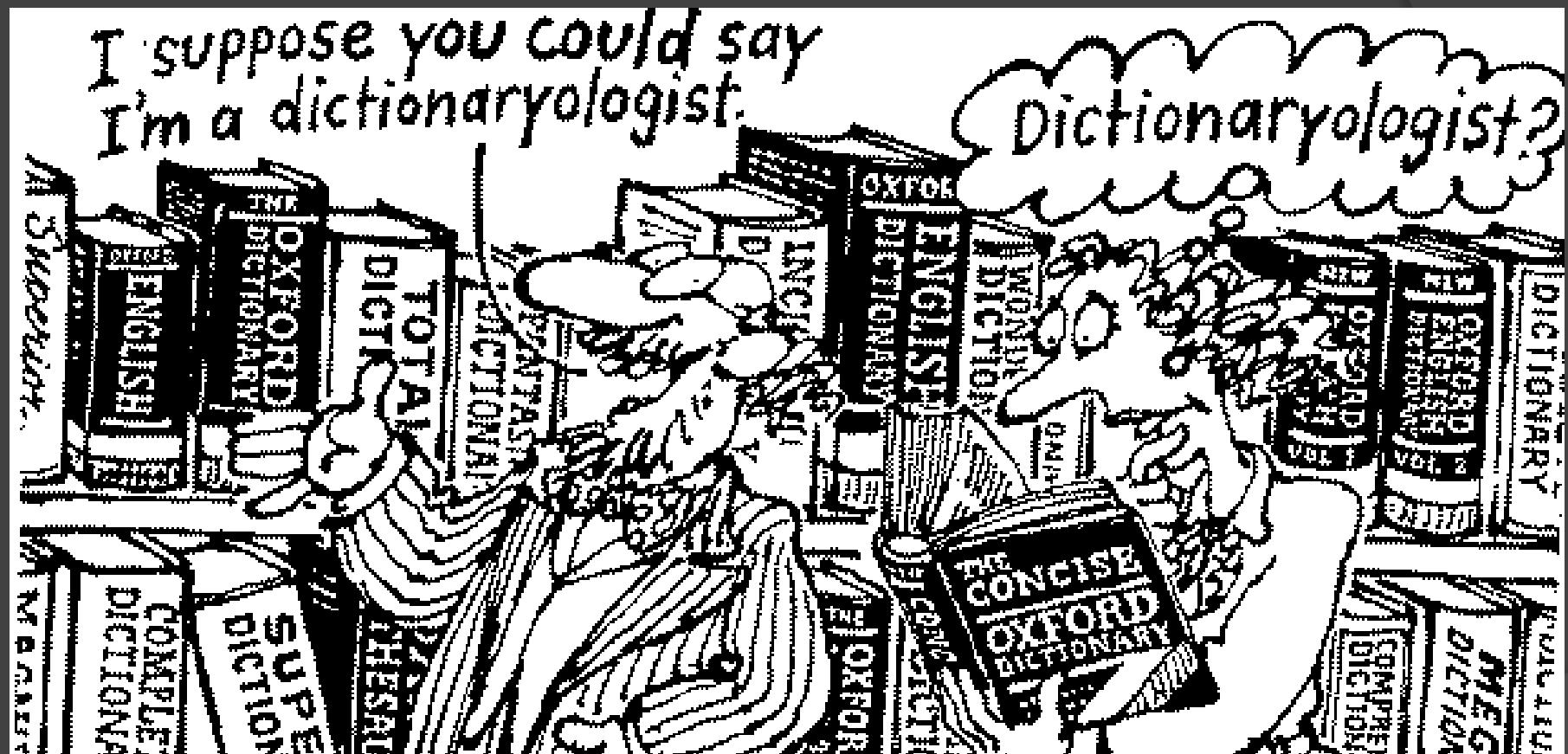
- Inflectional

- nucleus, nuclei
- cauterize, cauterizes, cauterized, cauterizing
- red, redder reddest

- Derivational

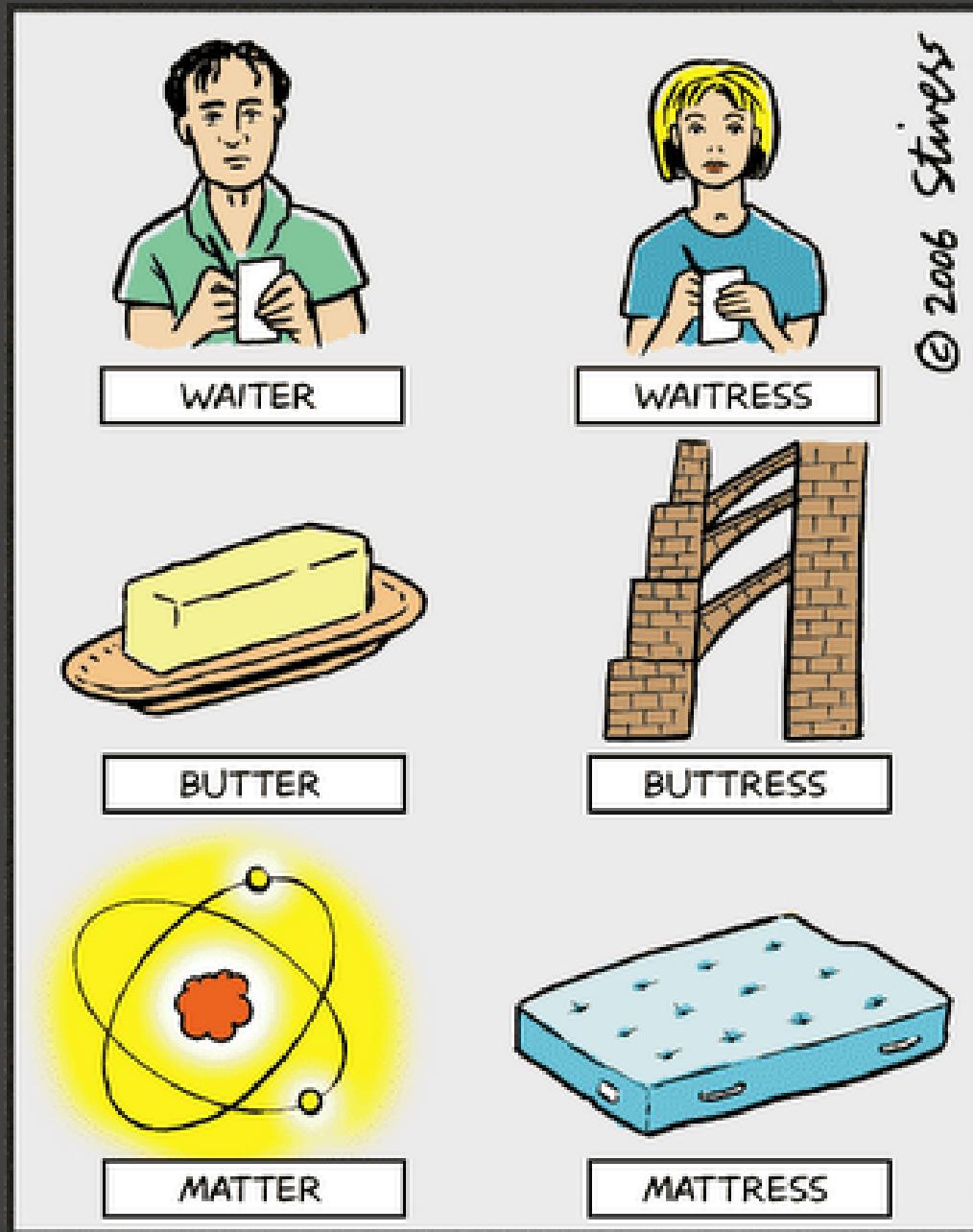
- laryngeal -- larynx
- transport -- transportation

# Derivational Morphology



Dictionary+ology+ist

# Derivational Morphology



# Orthography

## Spelling Variation

- align -- aline
- **Grave's disease** -- **Graves's disease** -- **Graves' disease**
- anesthetize -- anesthetise
- Esophagus -- oesophagus
- foetus – fetus
- centre -- center

# Orthography

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE CHRIS BROWNE

I NEED  
THE CORRECT  
SPELLING  
FOR THE  
RECORDS...

HOW DO YOU SPELL "CROCODILE"?

DR.  
ZOOK

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CHRIS  
BROWNE  
12-8

# Syntax -- Verb Complements

- intran

- I'll treat.

- tran=np

- He treated the patient.

- ditran=np,pphr(with,np)

- She treated the patient with the drug.

# Syntax -- Verb Complements

```
{base=treat  
entry=E0061964  
    cat=verb  
    variants=reg  
    intran  
    tran=np  
    tran=pphr(with,np)  
    tran=pphr(of,np)  
    ditran=np,pphr(to,np)  
    ditran=np,pphr(with,np)  
    ditran=np,pphr(for,np)  
    cplxtran=np,advbl  
    nominalization=treatment|noun|E0061968  
}
```

# Syntax -- Verb Particle Constructions



© King Features Syndicate.

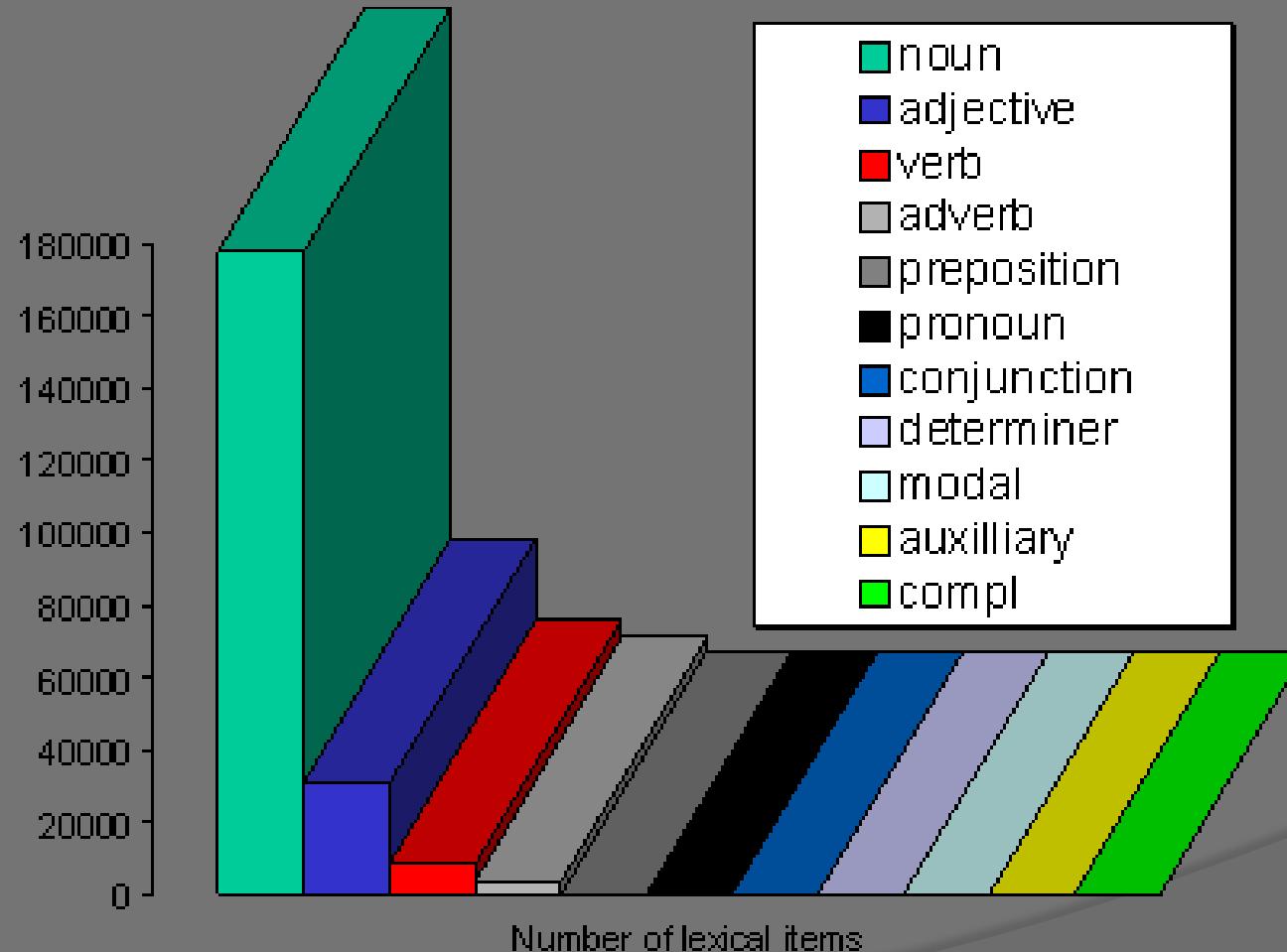
clean up

scrub down

look up

{base=clean  
entry=E0017272  
cat=verb  
variants=reg  
intran  
intran;part(up)  
tran=np  
tran=np;part(up)  
nominalization=clean|noun|E0017273  
nominalization=cleanup|noun|E0319808 }

# Categories – Parts of Speech



# Lexicon Unit Records

{ **base**=Kaposi's sarcoma

**spelling\_variant**=Kaposi sarcoma

**entry**=E0003576

**cat**=noun

variants=uncount

variants=reg

variants=glreg

}

{ **base**=chronic

**entry**=E0016869

**cat**=adj

variants=inv

position=attrib(1)

position=pred

stative

}

{ **base**=aspirate

**entry**=E0010803

**cat**=verb

variants=reg

tran=np

nominalization=aspiration|noun|E0010804

}

{ **base**=in

**entry**=E0033870

**cat**=prep

}

# Orthographic vs. Lexicographic Word:

Why, for instance, if a two-word boy scout feels chilly on his one-word campground, does he pull up a two-word camp chair in front of his one-word campfire? Anyone who seeks a strictly logical answer to such questions is chasing will-o'-the-wisps (chargeable in telegrams as a single word, because of the hyphens) in a semantic bog.

Louis Salomon, Semantics and Common Sense, Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1966.

# UTF-8

```
{base=resume  
spelling_variant=résumé  
spelling_variant=resumé  
entry=E0053099  
    cat=noun  
    variants=reg  
}
```

```
{base=deja vu  
spelling_variant=deja-vu  
spelling_variant=déjà vu  
entry=E0021340  
    cat=noun  
    variants=uncount  
}
```

```
{base=role  
spelling_variant=rôle  
entry=E0053757  
    cat=noun  
    variants=reg  
}
```

```
{base=cafe  
spelling_variant=café  
entry=E0420690  
    cat=noun  
    variants=reg  
}
```

# Noun Variants

```
{base=Kaposi's sarcoma  
spelling_variant=Kaposi sarcoma  
entry=E0003576  
cat=noun  
variants=uncount  
variants=reg  
variants=glreg  
}
```

- Kaposi's sarcoma
- Kaposi's sarcomas
- Kaposi's sarcomata
- Kaposi sarcoma
- Kaposi sarcomas
- Kaposi sarcomata

# Regular Nouns

The plural suffix is *s*.

*y* becomes *ie* following a consonant before *s*.

*e* is inserted before *s* if the base ends in *s, z, x, ch, or s*

Leach – Leaches

Stomach – Stomachs ← irregular

# Greco-latin Regular nouns

singular ends with:	plural ends with:	Examples
-us	-i	focus/foci
-ma	-mata	trauma/traumata
-a	-ae	larva/larvae
-um	-a	ilium/ilia
-on	-a	taxon/taxa
-sis	-ses	analysis/analyses
-is	-ides	cystis/cystides
-men	-mina	foramen/foramina
-ex	-ices	index/indices
-x	-ces	matrix/matrices

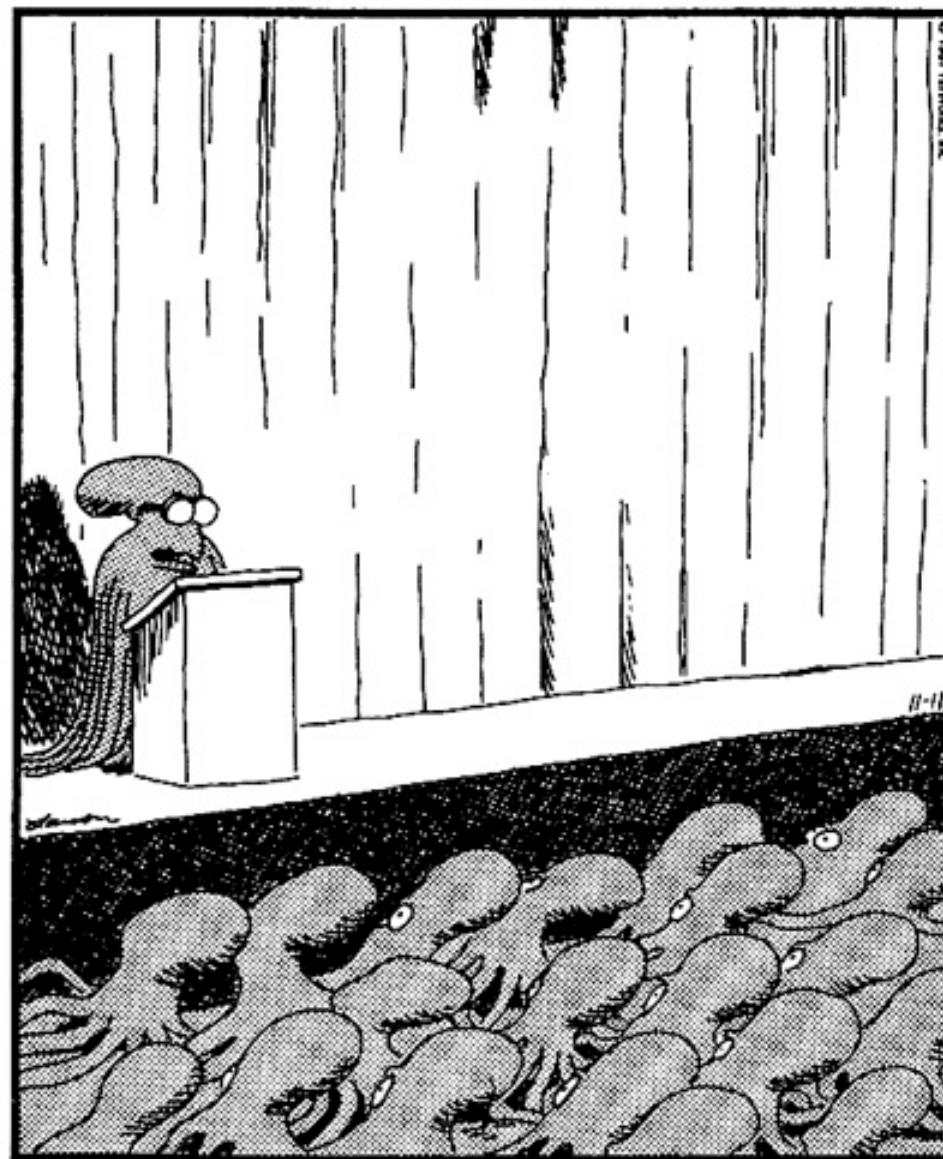
# Octopuses

{base=octopus  
entry=E0204527  
cat=noun  
variants=reg  
variants=glreg

}

**THE FAR SIDE**

By GARY LARSON



"Fellow octopi, or octopuses ... octopi? ... Dang,  
it's hard to start a speech with this crowd."

# Uncount Nouns

(abstract or mass)

```
{base=smallpox  
entry=E0056359  
    cat=noun  
    variants=uncount  
}  
  
{base=potassium  
entry=E0049387  
    cat=noun  
    variants=uncount  
}
```

- \* a smallpox
- \* two smallpoxes
- much smallpox
- \* a potassium
- \* two potassiums
- much potassium

\* This form does not occur

# Countability

## ○ Mail

\* A mail

much mail

\* many mails

## ○ E-Mail

An e-mail

much e-mail

many e-mails

\* This form does not occur

# Uncount Nouns

Singulär



Spaghetto



Broccolo



Jacuzzo

AKL  
+ 175

# Fixed Plural Nouns

{base=police  
entry=E0048616  
cat=noun  
variants=plur  
}

{base=scissors  
entry=E0054633  
cat=noun  
variants=plur  
}

# Irregular Nouns

```
{base=corpus  
entry=E0019113  
cat=noun  
variants=irreg|corpora|  
variants=reg  
}
```

```
{base=larynx  
entry=E0036919  
cat=noun  
variants=irreg|larynges|  
variants=reg  
}
```

# Regular Verbs

- The third person present tense suffix is *s*.
  - *y* becomes *ie* following a consonant before *s*.
  - *e* is inserted between *z*, *x*, *ch*, or *sh* and *s*.
- The past tense suffix is *ed*.
  - *y* becomes *ie* following a consonant before *ed*.
  - Final *e* is deleted before *ed*.
- The past participle is the same as the past tense.
- The present participle suffix is *ing*.
  - *y* becomes *ie* following a consonant before *ing*.
  - Final *e* is deleted before *ing*unless preceded by *e*, *y* or *o*.

# Regular Verbs

- dismiss: dismisses, dismissed, dismissing
- agree: agrees; agreed; agreeing
- dry: dries, dried, drying

# Regular Doubling Verbs

- End in a CVC pattern
- Double the final consonant before *ed* and *ing*.
- Are otherwise regular
- variants=regd

control: controls, controlled, controlling

# Irregular Verbs



Bite: bite, bites, bit, bitten

# Irregular Verbs

{base=bite

entry=E0013219

cat=verb

variants=irreg|bite|bites|bit|bitten|biting|

intran

tran=np

cplxtran=np,advbl

}

# Ancillary Data Bases

- Synonymy
  - sm.db
- Derivation
  - dm.db, dm.rules
- Inflection
  - im.rules
- Neoclassical compounds
  - nc.db



# Derivational Facts and Rules

dm.facts

treatment|noun|treat|verb

prohibition|noun|prohibitive|adj

cell lineage|noun|cell line|noun

photochemotherapeutic|adj|photochemotherapy|noun

pharmacotherapeutic|adj|pharmacotherapy|noun

# Derivational Facts and Rules

**dm.rules**

# e.g. alienation|alienate  
action\$|noun|ate|verb  
ration|rate; station|state;

# Inflectional Facts and Rules

## im.rules

```
# Noun rules (glreg)
us$|noun|singular|i$|noun|plural
    antus|anti;
ma$|noun|singular|mata$|noun|plural
a$|noun|singular|ae$|noun|plural
um$|noun|singular|a$|noun|plural
on$|noun|singular|a$|noun|plural
sis$|noun|singular|ses$|noun|plural
is$|noun|singular|ides$|noun|plural
men$|noun|singular|mina$|noun|plural
ex$|noun|singular|ices$|noun|plural
x$|noun|singular|ces$|noun|plural
```

# Neoclassical compounds

**nc.db**

abdomin(o)|abdomen|root

ab|away from|prefix

acanth(o)|prickle|root

acar(o)|mite|root

acetabul(o)|acetabulum|root

ad|towards|prefix

agogue|inducing|terminal

albumin(o)|albumin|root

sis|condition|terminal

stomy|surgical opening|terminal



# PNEUMONULTRAMICROSCOPICS ILICOVOLCANOCONIOSIS

pneu.mo.no.ul.tra.mi.cro.scop.ic.sil.i.co.vol.ca.no.co.ni.o.sis  
\n(y)u:-m\*-(.)no--.\*l-tr\*-mi--kr\*-'ska:p-ik-'sil-i-(.)ko--(.)v\  
n [NL, fr. Gk pneumo-n + ISV ultramicroscopic + NL  
silicon +]a:l-'ka--no--.ko--ne--'o--s\*s ISV volcano + Gk  
konis dust : **a pneumoconiosis caused by the inhalation of  
very fine silicate or quartz dust**

-- Merriam Webster's 3rd International Dictionary, page 1747.

# The Protein of a tobacco mosaic virus, Dahlemense strain

acetylseryltyrosylserylisoleucylthreonylserylprolylserylglutaminylphenylalanylvalylphenylalanylleucylserylserylvalyltryptophylalanylasparylprolylisoleucylglutamylleucylleucyllasparaginylvalylcysteinylthreonylserylleucylglycylasparaginylglutaminylphenylalanylglutaminylthreonylglutaminylglutaminylalanylarginylthreonylthreonylglutaminylvalylglutaminylglutaminylphenylalanylserylglutaminylvalyltryptophyllsylprolylphenylalanylprolylglutaminylserylthreonylvalylarginylphenylalanylprolylglycylaspartylvalyltyrosyllsylvalyltyrosylarginyltyrosylasparaginylalanylvalylleucylaspartylprolylleucylisoleucylthreonylalanyleucylglycylthryonylphenylalanylaspartylthreonylarginylasparginylarginylisoleucylglutamylvalylglutamylasparaginylglutaminylglutaminylserylprolylthreonylthreonylalanylglutamylthreonylleucylaspartylalanylthreonylarginylarginylvalylasparylaspartylalanylthreonylvalylalanylisoleucylarginylseryllalanylasparaginylisoleucylasparaginylleucylvallasparginylglutamylleucylvalylarginylglycylthreonylglycylleucultyrosylasparaginylglutaminylasparaginylthreonylphenylalanylglutamylserylmethionylserylglycylleucylvalyltryptophylthreonylseryllalanylprolylalanylserine

# Synonyms

**sm.db**

alar|adj|wing|noun

amygdaline|adj|tonsil|noun

articular|adj|joint|noun

bulbar|adj|medulla oblongata|noun

fununcular|adj|boil|noun

genicula|adj|knee|noun

hepatocellular|adj|liver cells|noun

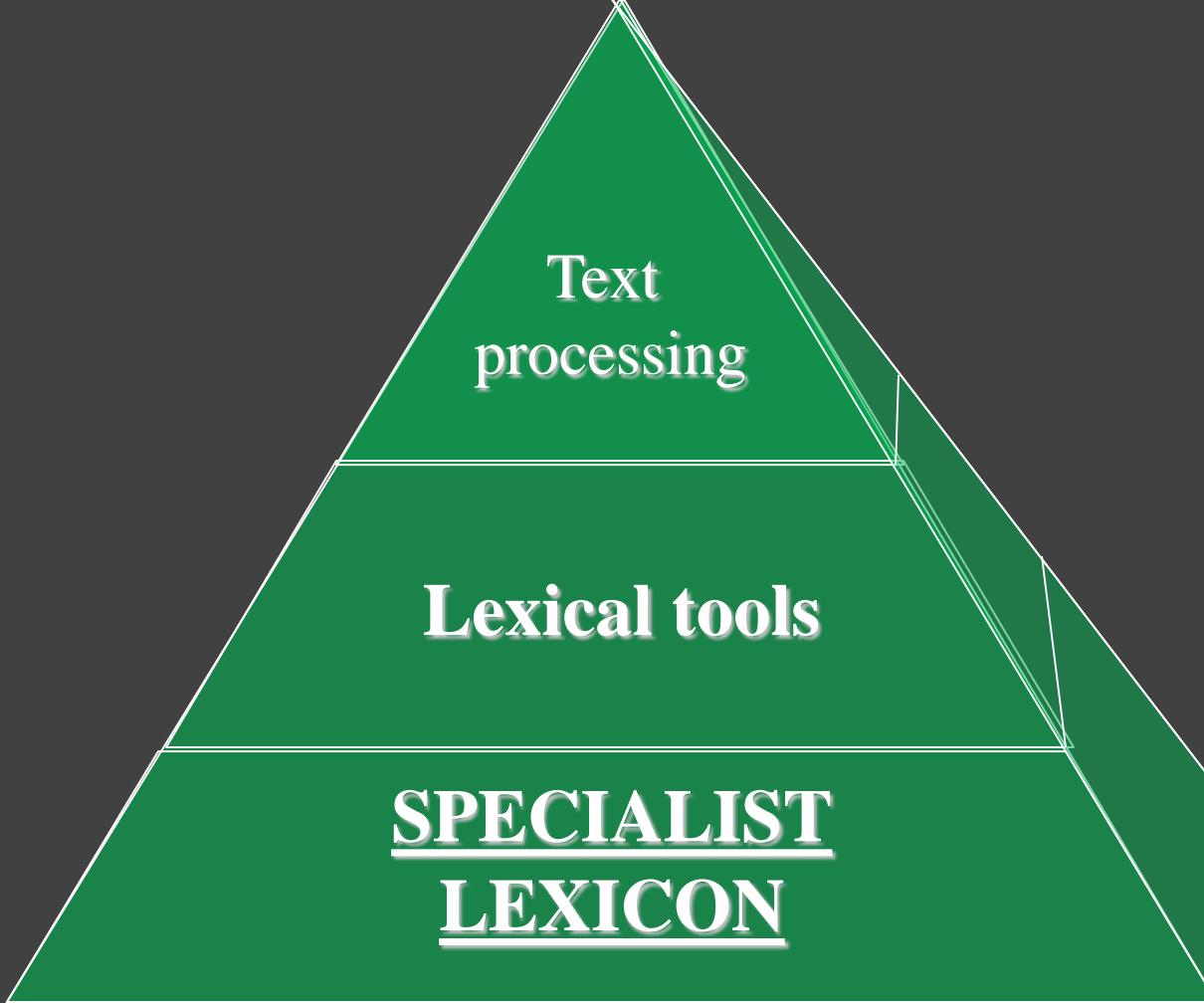
lazar|adj|leprosy|noun

lenticular|adj|crystalline lens|noun

ypsiliform|adj|upsiloid|adj

wolfram|noun|tungsten|noun

double vision|noun|diplopia|noun



Text  
processing

Lexical tools

SPECIALIST  
LEXICON

# Lexical Tools

- ◎ Wordind -- breaks strings into words
  - Produces the Metathesaurus word indexes (MRXW)
- ◎ LVG -- performs various lexical transformations
- ◎ NORM -- a selection of LVG transformations,
  - Used for Metathesaurus indexing
  - Produces the Metathesaurus Normalized word and string indexes (MRXNW & MRXNS)
  - Used to access those indexes

# Normalization

- Hodgkin Disease
- HODGKINS DISEASE
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Disease, Hodgkin's
- HODGKIN'S DISEASE
- Hodgkin's disease
- Hodgkins Disease
- Hodgkin's disease NOS
- Hodgkin's disease, NOS
- Disease, Hodgkins
- Diseases, Hodgkins
- Hodgkins Diseases
- Hodgkins disease
- hodgkin's disease
- Disease;Hodgkins
- Disease, Hodgkin
- disease hodgkin

# The Lexical Systems Group

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- Chris Lu: [lu@nlm.nih.gov](mailto:lu@nlm.nih.gov)