

Contents

List of Tables	v
List of Figures	vi
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Objectives	3
1.1.1 The structure of dictionary networks	3
1.1.2 The evolution of dictionary networks	3
1.1.3 Linguistics insights using dictionary networks	4
1.2 Contributions	4
1.3 Outline and Structure of the thesis	5
2 Related Work	6
2.1 Language as a network	6
2.2 Structure of Dictionary Networks	7
2.3 Lexical Networks	9
2.4 Free-Association Norms	10
2.5 Extracting semantic information from dictionaries	10
2.6 Structural network analysis	11
2.7 Applications of dictionaries as sources of knowledge	12
3 Dictionaries as Networks	14
3.1 Construction and Structure	14
3.1.1 Approaches for modeling dictionaries as networks	15
3.1.2 A comprehensive model that we propose	16
3.2 The minimal model	20
3.3 Building the Minimal Model	20
3.4 Differences and distinctive features	22
3.4.1 Basic Measures	22
3.4.2 Component Analysis	23
3.4.3 Centrality Measures and Cliques	24
3.4.4 Core/Periphery Structure	25
3.5 Word sense disambiguation of definitions	26
3.5.1 Our disambiguation method	28
3.5.2 Experiment	28
3.5.3 Results	30

3.5.4	SemCor Control Experiment	31
3.5.5	Discussion	32
4	Data Collection of Dictionaries	34
4.1	The Online Plain Text English Dictionary	34
4.2	English WordNet	35
4.3	The Spanish Language Dictionary (<i>Diccionario de la Lengua Española</i>)	35
4.4	Thoughts and observations	37
5	Ogden's Basic English	38
5.1	How central are Ogden's words?	39
5.2	Strong components of graphs	41
6	Triadic configuration	44
6.1	A model to generate random dictionary networks	46
6.1.1	The proposed model	47
6.1.2	A note on preliminary models we develop	49
7	Evolution of <i>Diccionario de la Lengua Española</i>	53
7.1	A stable and resilient structure	53
7.2	Definitional and interchangeable entries	55
7.3	Examples of simple local changes	57
7.4	More complex local changes	58
7.5	Conclusion of the Section	61
8	Exploiting Dictionary Networks:	
	A New Class of Proximity Data	62
8.1	Extracting proximity clouds from dictionaries	63
8.1.1	Building dictionary network	64
8.1.2	Getting the similarity between words	64
8.1.3	Determining the clouds of proximity	65
8.2	Evaluation	66
8.2.1	First Task	66
8.2.2	Second Task	66
8.3	Materials	66
8.4	First Task Results	68
8.4.1	Characteristics of positive rated proximity clouds	68
8.4.2	Characteristics of negative rated proximity clouds	68
8.5	Second Task Results	69
8.6	Discussion	70
9	Conclusions	72
9.1	Summary of Contributions	72
9.2	Limitations and future guidelines	73
	Bibliography	75