

Lexical Resource for free subject verb MWEs

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WP1

Introduction

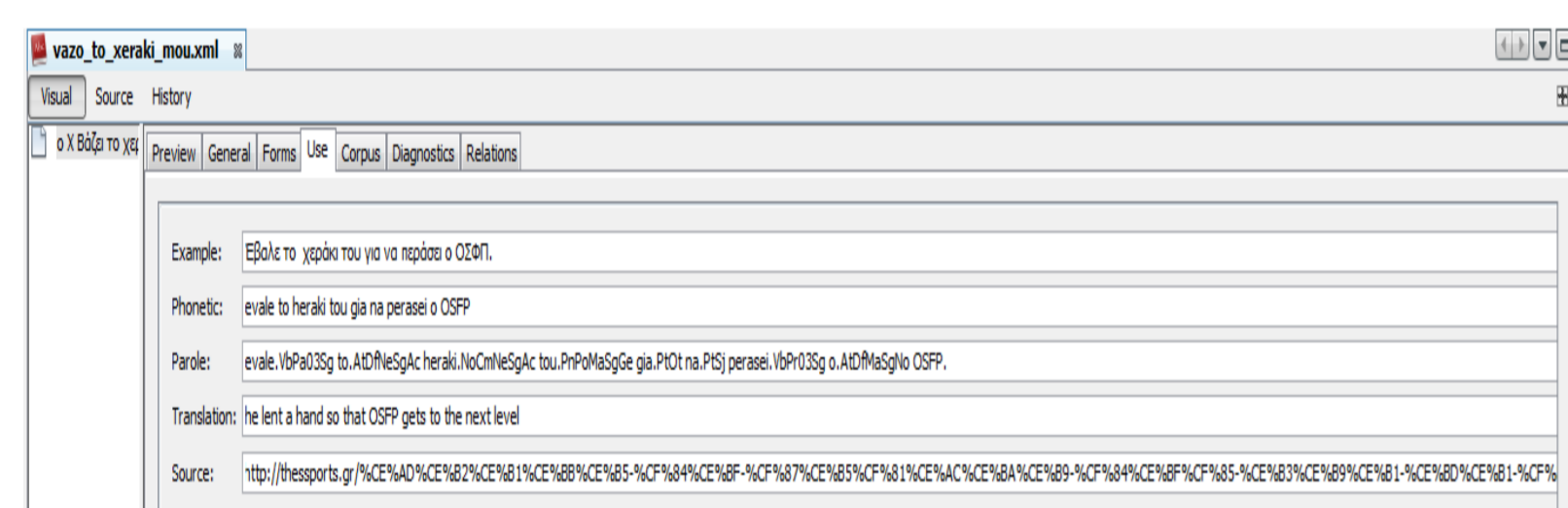
The database developed combines a wide range of linguistic information on Modern Greek free subject verb multi-word expressions (MWEs). We refer to the classification of MG MWE by Samaridi & Markantonatou (2014) and of English by Sailer (2014). The DB allows for encoding:

1. The grammatical features of a string that single it out as a MWE and possible specialized modifiers aiming at supporting parsing in different set ups
2. MWE meaning and relations among MWEs
3. Corpora of grammatical and ungrammatical strings containing the MWEs.

We have developed a custom-made Java desktop application based on the NetBeans Rich-Client Platform (RCP) framework for the editing of the XML lexical resource.

A typical DB entry

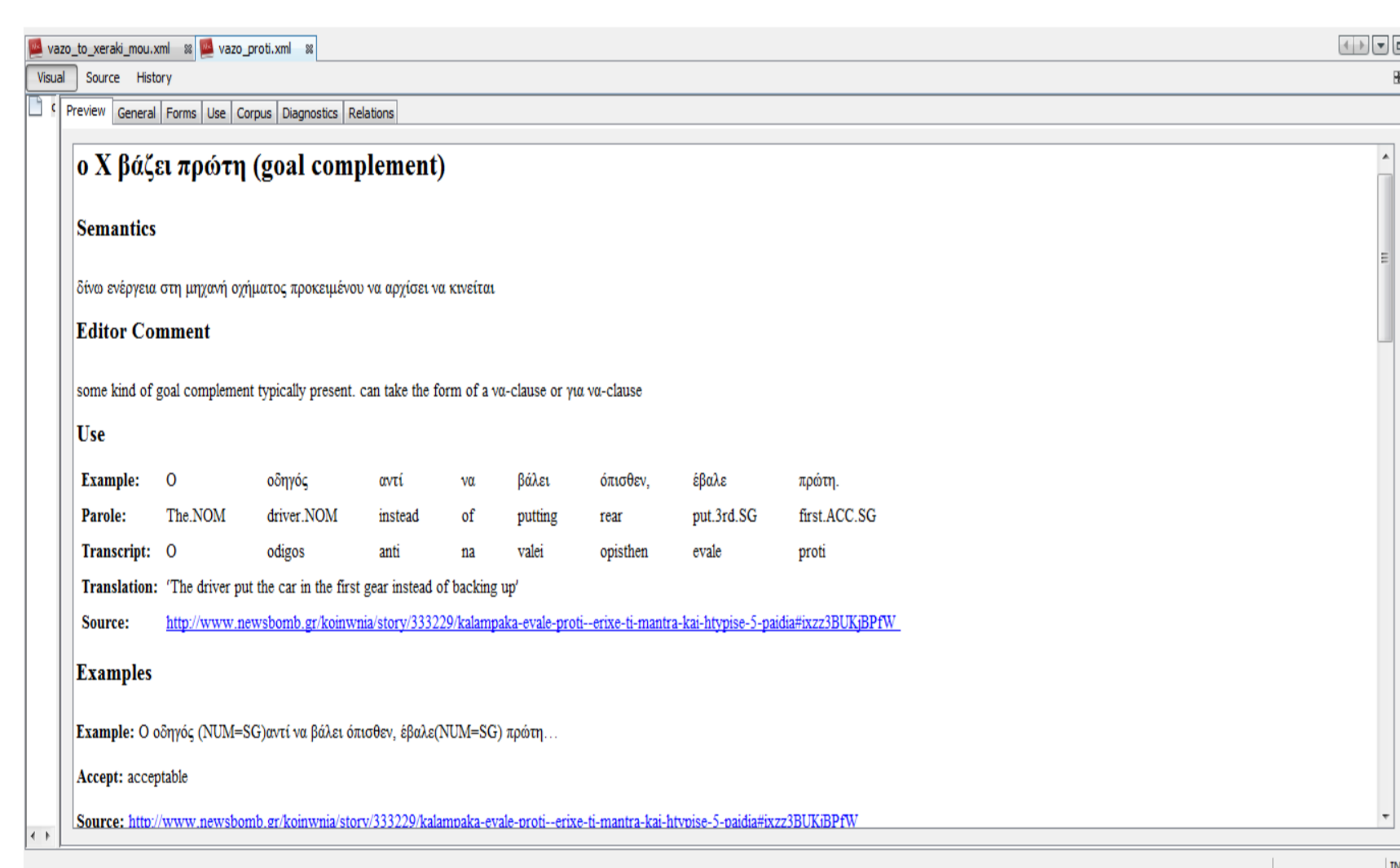
A characteristic example, along with the phonetic transcription, PAROLE transliteration and English translation is provided at the ‘Use’ tab for each MWE entry.



1. Screenshot of 'Use' tab

Grammatical structure information is encoded in the ‘Forms’ and ‘Diagnostics’ tabs. Lexicographic information is encoded in both the ‘General’ and the ‘Relations’ tabs. The corpus built in the designated tab is inter-connected to the diagnostics tab and provides examples.

The tab ‘Preview’ is auto-generated and presents all the information about the entry.

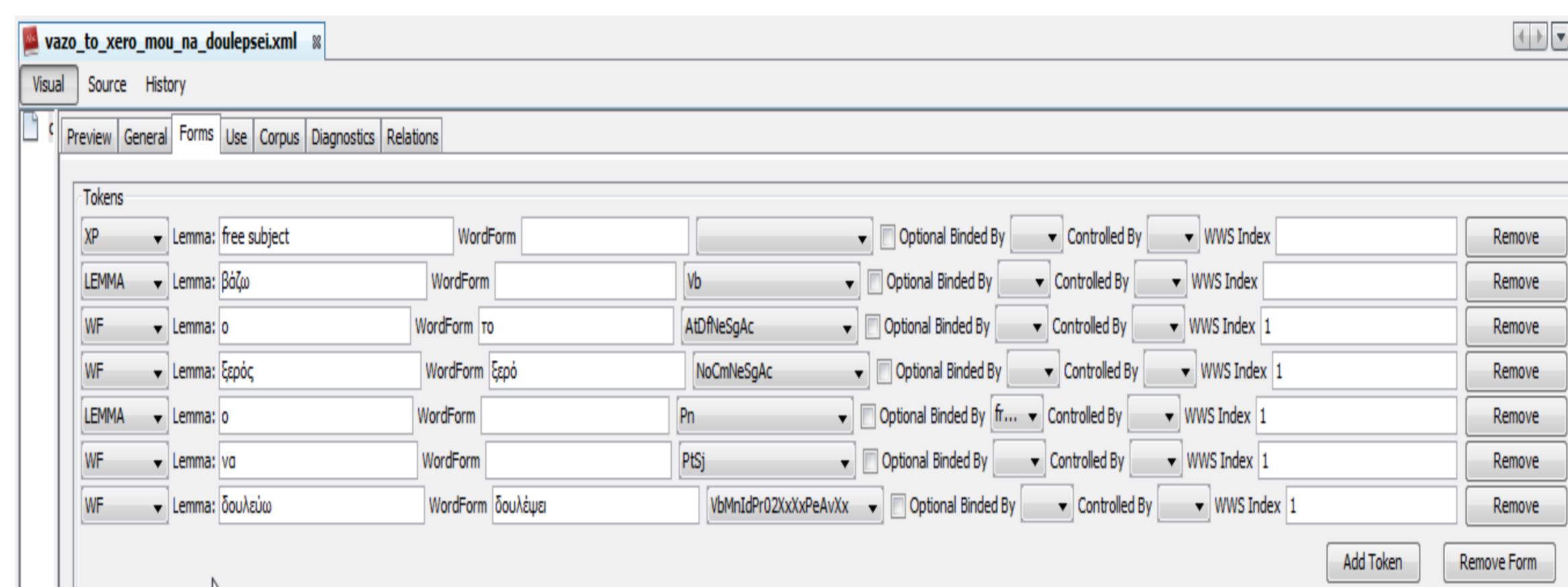


2. Screenshot of 'Preview' tab

MWE Analysis

Information encoded in the Forms tab:

- The tokens constituting the MWE. Each token is individually encoded and tagged in PAROLE (http://nlp.ilsp.gr/nlp/tagset_examples/tagset_en/). Tokens are labelled as follows: LEMMA: declinable, WF (WORDFORM): non-declinable, CLAUSE, XP and MODIFIER. Optional tokens are marked as such in the DB
- Deep syntactic relations, i.e. binding and control
- Tokens constituting parts of a WWS. The WWS tokens are co-indexed with a common number in the option WWS Index in order to demonstrate their linking.



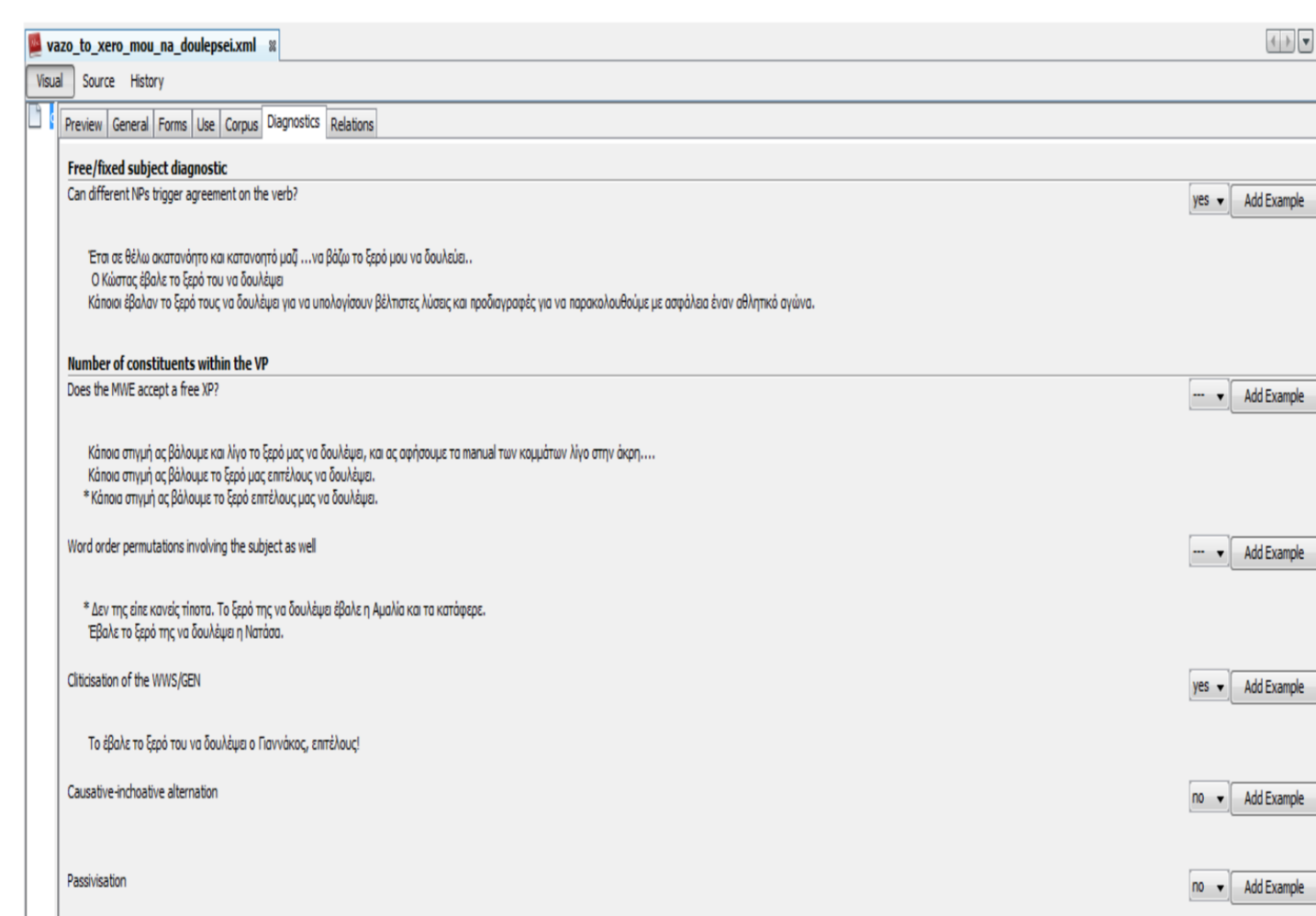
3. Screenshot of 'Forms' tab

Information encoded in the Diagnostics tab:

In the Diagnostics tab, we examine the following:

- Can different NPs trigger agreement on the verb?
- Does the MWE accept a free XP? What is its syntactic function?
- Which are the allowed word order permutations including the subject as well?
- Can the WWS be replaced by a clitic (weak personal pronoun)?
- Can the verb of the MWE show the Causative-Inchoative alternation?
- Can the verb within the MWE passivize?

Each question is assigned a yes/no button and the ability to draw corpus examples illustrating the phenomenon in question.



4. Screenshot of "Diagnostics" tab

The Corpus

The DB currently contains ~300 Modern Greek MWEs drawn from a list of ~1120 MWEs (Samaridi 2014, <http://users.sch.gr/samaridi/attachments/article/3/Lexical%20Resources.pdf>).

The text corpora accommodated in the DB contain both grammatical and ungrammatical strings featuring MWEs and are directly linked to the Diagnostics tab. The grammatical strings are drawn from the HNC and from the WEB while the ungrammatical ones have been evaluated by native speakers (introspection).

Future Plans

Further analysis of WWS creating a series of WWS diagnostics that yields extra information on:

- whether it can be replaced by a definite/indefinite pronoun
- whether it can form the target of an anaphoric clause.
- whether it can be assigned any reference at all

A MWE may be assigned a meaning that is related through some modifier to another MWE that has been assigned a “basic meaning”. We therefore plan to capture such relations by adding the relation: is modified form of... in the relations tab.

For instance, the MWE “μου.GEN.DAT ανάβου.V.INCH τα.DET λαμπάκια.PL.NOM” (my lights are switched on) means “to become angry”. A modified form of this MWE exists that has an extended meaning. The modified MWE contains the adjective (“όλα” (all)) that modifies “λαμπάκια” and increases semantic intensity: “μου.GEN.DAT ανάβου.V.INCH όλα.ADJ τα.THE λαμπάκια.PL.NOM (all my lights are switched on) means “to become extremely angry”.

Another goal is to make the lexical resource available on line.

Grammatical features

We consider as a MWE a string with no compositional meaning. Each entry is examined to obtain a full description of its identifying features:

- form and number of the necessary words in a string (tokens)
- form and number of optional lemmata (e.g. modifiers)
- existence of Words With Spaces (WWS). We define as a WWS a set of words in fixed order with limited or no declination freedom.
- morphology
- deeper syntactic relations (control/ binding)
- internal/external modification

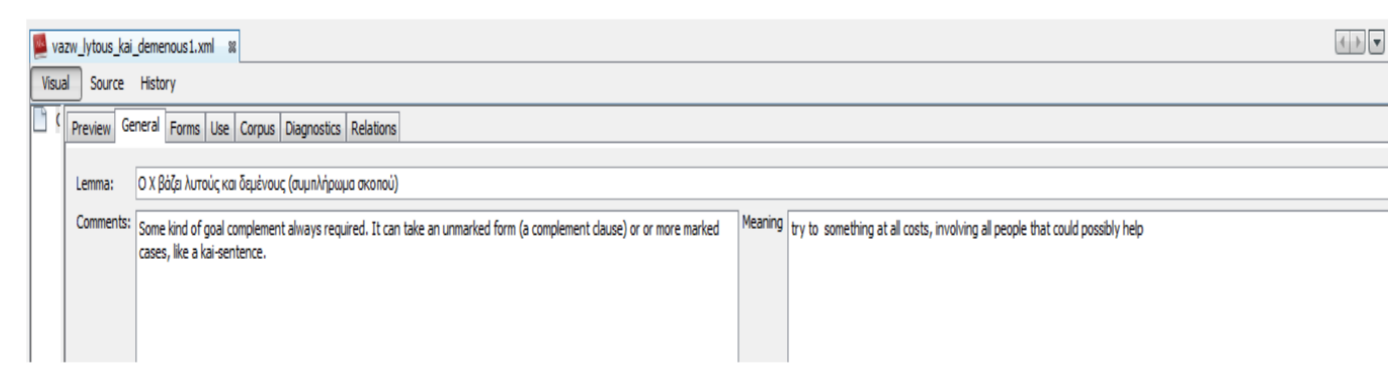
Two points are due in order to further clarify the adopted approach:

1. The syntactic properties encoded are those of the MWE in question. The ‘underlying syntax’ applied to create the MWE is not encoded, though the two sets of syntactic properties may diverge or intersect.
2. MWEs are not classified in terms of flexibility. We are not as yet sure whether the flexible/non-flexible/semi-flexible distinction is of parsing importance once the notion of WWS has been accounted for in the Grammar.

Lexicographic Information

Information encoded in the “General” tab.

In the “General” tab the meaning(s) of the MWE is encoded. There is also space to add some general comments/notes about the MWE examined.

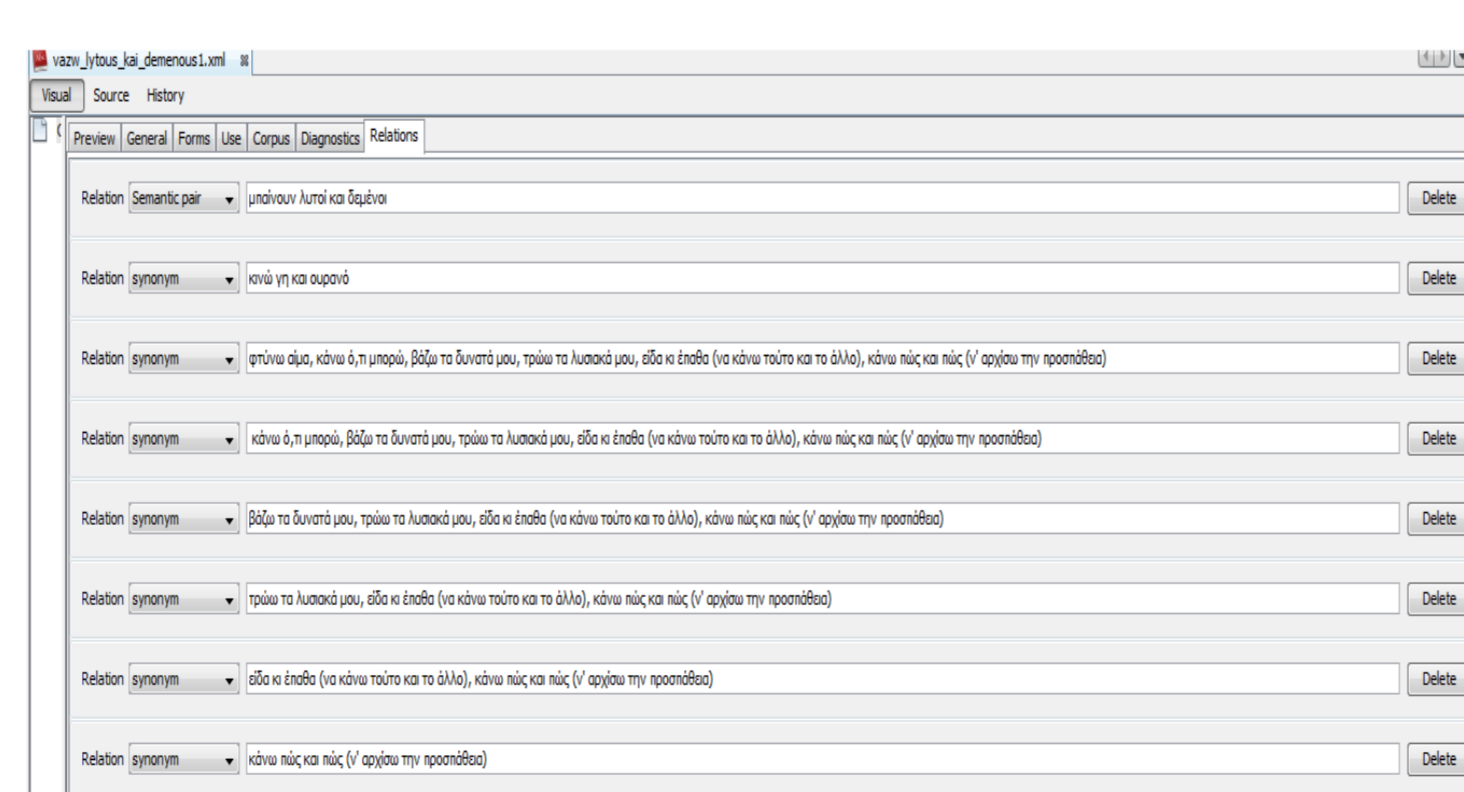


5. Screenshot of "General" tab

Information encoded in the “Relations” tab.

In the “Relations” tab we store the semantic relations among MWEs. The following relations can be encoded:

- Synonymous MWEs
- Semantic pair (MWEs with common nominal phrase but with different verb)
- Antonymous MWEs
- Verb alternations (causative-inchoative, active-passive)



6. Screenshot of "Relations" tab

References

- Manfred Sailer. 2014. MWE Template: English http://wiki.studiumdigitale.unifrankfurt.de/FB10_Parseme/index.php/MWE_Templat_e:_English
- Sag, Ivan A., Timothy Baldwin, Francis Bond, Ann Copestake and Dan Flickinger. 2002. Multiword Expressions: A Pain in the Neck for NLP. In Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Intelligent Text Processing and Computational Linguistics (CICLING 2002), Mexico City, Mexico, pp. 1-15
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