Computerized Text Analysis: Classwork 5
Dictionary Construction

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Instructions

1. Download and unpack the zipped archive `iebudget2010.zip` that contains 14 speeches in the debate over the passage of the 2010 Irish budget. We will be constructing a dictionary of the 10 most anti-budget and 10 most pro-budget words.

2. Import the budget speeches into MaxQDA.

3. Our "extreme" texts will be from Deputy Joan Burton of the Labour Party (against) and Prime Minister Brian Cowan and Finance Minister Brian Lenihan (for). Compile word frequencies for the texts and attempt to find which appear to be most discriminating for and against the budget. Look for these words in context, attempting to verify their usage as identifying pro- or anti-budget positions.

4. Add the pro and anti budget words to Pro and Anti dictionary categories.

5. Use MaxDictio to "score" each text by counting the two categories in each text.

6. Produce a scale from the frequencies or relative frequencies of each category to compare the overall pro- versus anti-budget positions of each speaker.