Computerized Text Analysis: Classwork 3
Exploring and Coding Texts in MaxQDA

Kenneth Benoit

This exercise involves loading and exploring MaxQDA and importing two sets of manifestos. The first are the original source documents from the French manifestos we have used already, while the second are a set of plain text manifestos from the UK.

Instructions:

1. Install and start MaxQDA.

2. Load the French texts from Assignment 1 in their original format into a new project. Check their formats. Get a word frequency matrix for all documents. Compare this to the totals you obtained from Assignment 2 and check to see if the frequency of the most frequent word is the same.

3. Load the UK texts into another project. For this set of texts, we will be researching (searching) and coding the position of each party on the adoption of the euro.

   (a) First, create a search for "single currency", "euro", "European currency", "British pound", and "pound". These should be an `or` search.

   (b) Create a set of codes to be applied to sentences containing the serach terms. This will be a three-part category scheme: Against the adoption of the euro; In favour of the euro; mildly positive (for instance given the right conditions); mildly negative (in favour of keeping the pound unless something really exceptional happens); and in favour of a popular referendum to decide the matter. Note that if there are additional categories that arise from coding, feel free to add them.

   (c) Examine each text for the searched terms. For each natural sentence in which search terms occur, apply one of the codes. If you feel like making additional notes or annotations, feel free to apply these to some sentences. Keep track of "false positives" or sentences returned that are not about the currently issue.

   (d) Summarize the codes once you are finished to characterize how pro or anti-euro each party is over time. How you do this is open-qended, but you should consider assigning negative numeric codes to negative positions and postive numeric codes to positive conditions, and using these to construct some form of index.