

# Create your own interactive diachronic semantic maps: a flexible and user-friendly open-source tool for historical linguistics

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## 1. What is Pygmalion?

Pygmalion is a user-friendly open-source tool conceived to draw and visualise diachronic semantic maps. It was designed in the framework of the WoPoss project and it comes in two flavours:

- **Pygmalion-simple**: for any diachronic semantic map
- **Pygmalion-modal**: for diachronic semantic maps describing the evolution and the relations between modal readings



## 2. Data visualisation: development

**Key components:**

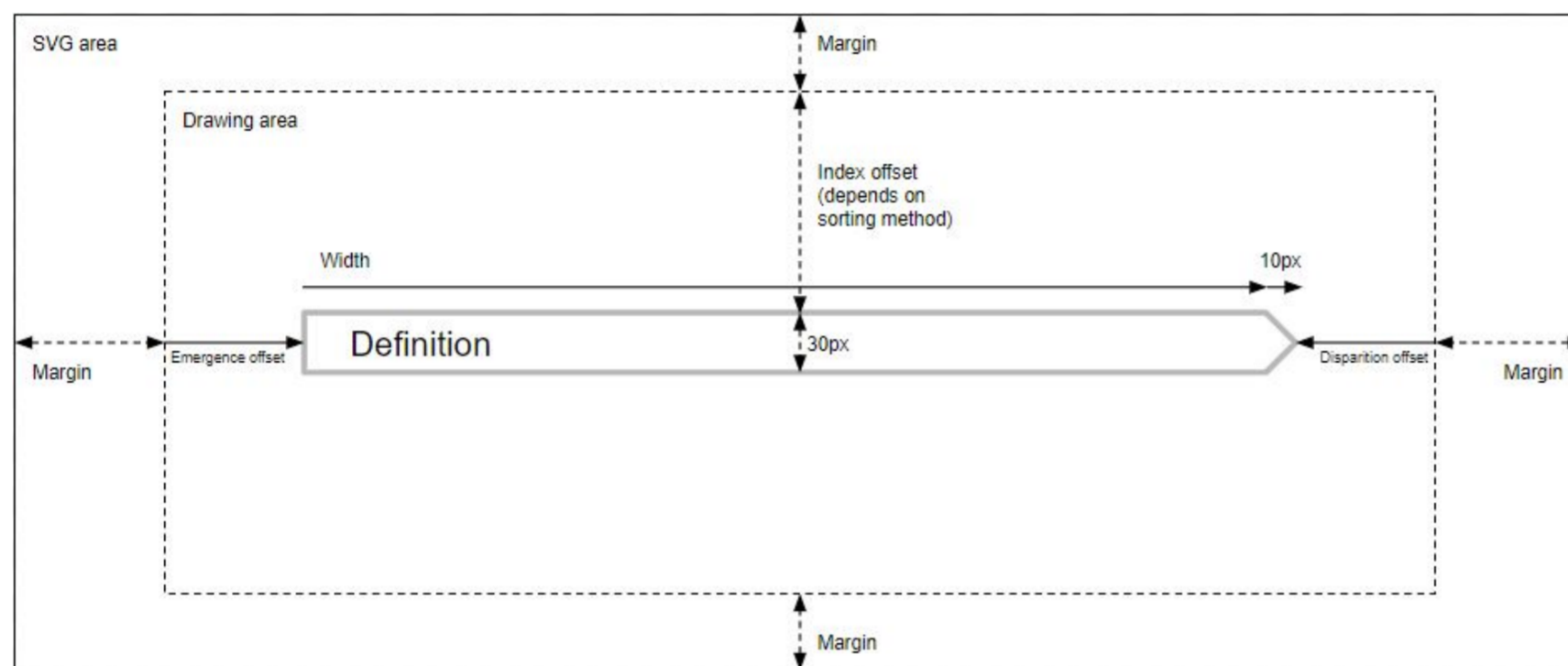
- HTML5, CSS3, ECMAScript 6
- Data-Driven Documents (D3)

**Main steps:**

1. Data gathering – forms
2. Data structuring – preprocessing
3. Data visualisation – drawing pipeline

**Main visualisation:**

1. Chronological line
2. Definitions (and modal readings):
  - Sort algorithm
  - Positions calculations
  - Height correction
3. Left-hand side metadata – reflect sort method: gather elements by semantic group or collocation
4. Right-hand side metadata (when a definition is clicked):
  - Rather complex path calculations
  - Certain or hypothetical relationship
  - Direction of the relationship (if any)



**Network graph:**

1. Data restructure – keep only the relevant information
2. Simulation elements (nodes and links)
3. Simulation environment (type, forces applied)

**Relevant/interesting code snippets:**

```
function prepareDefinitions() {
  const meanings = data.meanings;
  const definitions = [];
  if (data.normalForm) {
    meanings.forEach((meaning) => {
      if (meaning.modalities.length > 1) {
        meaning.modalities.forEach((modality) => {
          definitions.push(modalityFormatting(meaning, modality));
        });
      } else {
        definitions.push(modalityFormatting(meaning, meaning.modalities[0]));
      }
    });
  } else {
    meanings.forEach((meaning) => {
      definitions.push(simpleModalityFormatting(meaning));
    });
  }
  return definitions;
}

const offset =
lines[elementIndex] * 30 + wrap(element.meaning, cW, cP, element) * 15;
const x0 =
element.disparition != -1 && !isNaN(element.disparition)
? element.disparition * cP + 10
: cW + 10;
const y0 = elementIndex * 37 + offset;
```

## 3.1 Data entry: headword and etymology

Headword: Fr. carte

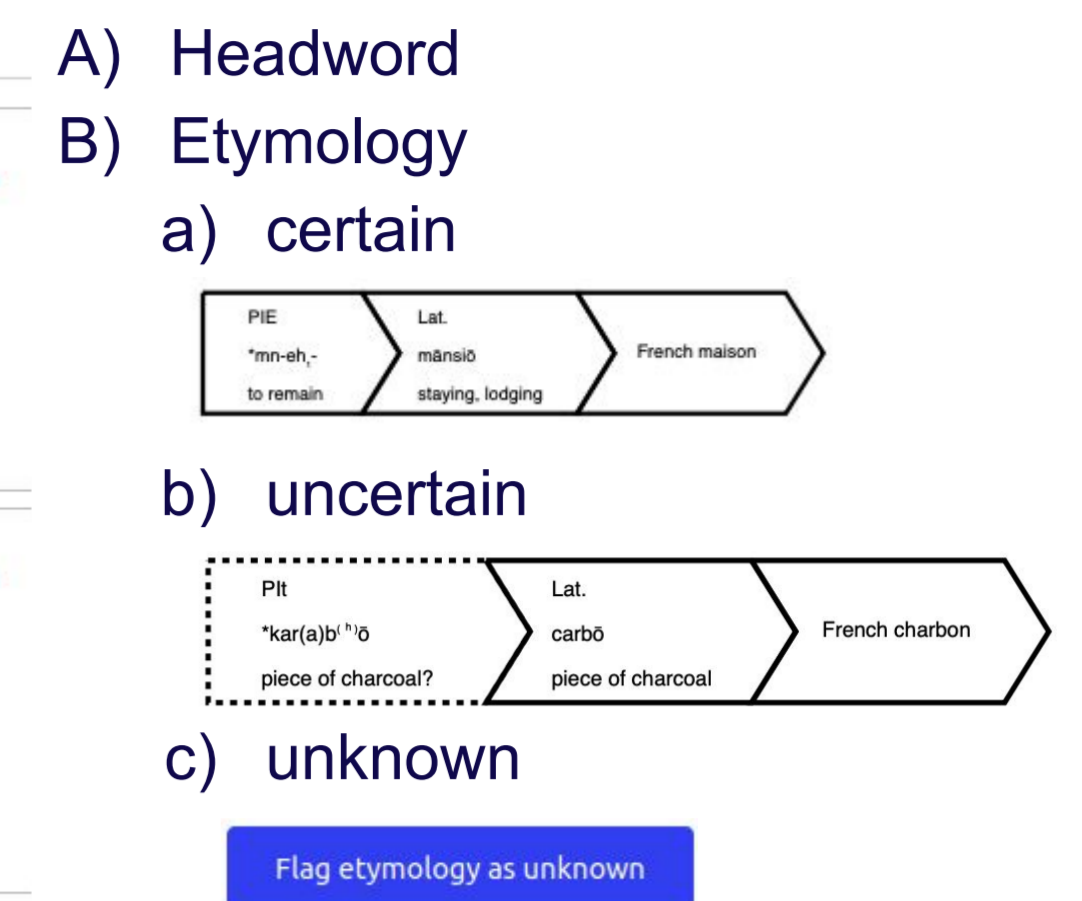
Etymology:

Etmological step: Greek (Language/period) khártēs (Etmological form) papyrus, roll made the (Short definition) [X] (Etmology is certain) [X] (Delete entry)

Etmological step: Latin (emprunt au grec) charta (Language/period) 'paper' made from pap. (Etmological form) [X] (Short definition) [X] (Etmology is certain) [X] (Delete entry)

Etmological step: French (emprunt au lat) carte (Language/period) Rectangle or square of (Etmological form) [X] (Short definition) [X] (Etmology is certain) [X] (Delete entry)

Buttons: Flag etymology as unknown, Add etymological step



## 3.2 Data entry: meanings

Date format: Centuries

Meanings:

Meaning / function / use: playing card

Collocation: jouer aux cartes

Semantic group (or other kind of groups): playing card

Description: XIV

Date of meaning emergence: Century (II BC, I BC, I, II) or Year

Date of meaning disappearance: Ménagier, I, 72 ds T.-L.: les autres jouans aux cartes et aux autres jeux d'e

First attestation:

- C) Date format:
- centuries
  - decades
  - specific years
- D) Meanings
- meaning/function/use (mandatory)
  - collocation
  - semantic group (or other kind of group)
  - description
    - date of meaning emergence (mandatory)
    - date of meaning disappearance
    - first attestation

Pygmalion-modal includes additional subfields in the field "description":

- E) Description of modality (recursive):
- modality type
  - certainty of the modal description

## 3.3 Data entry: relations between meanings/functions

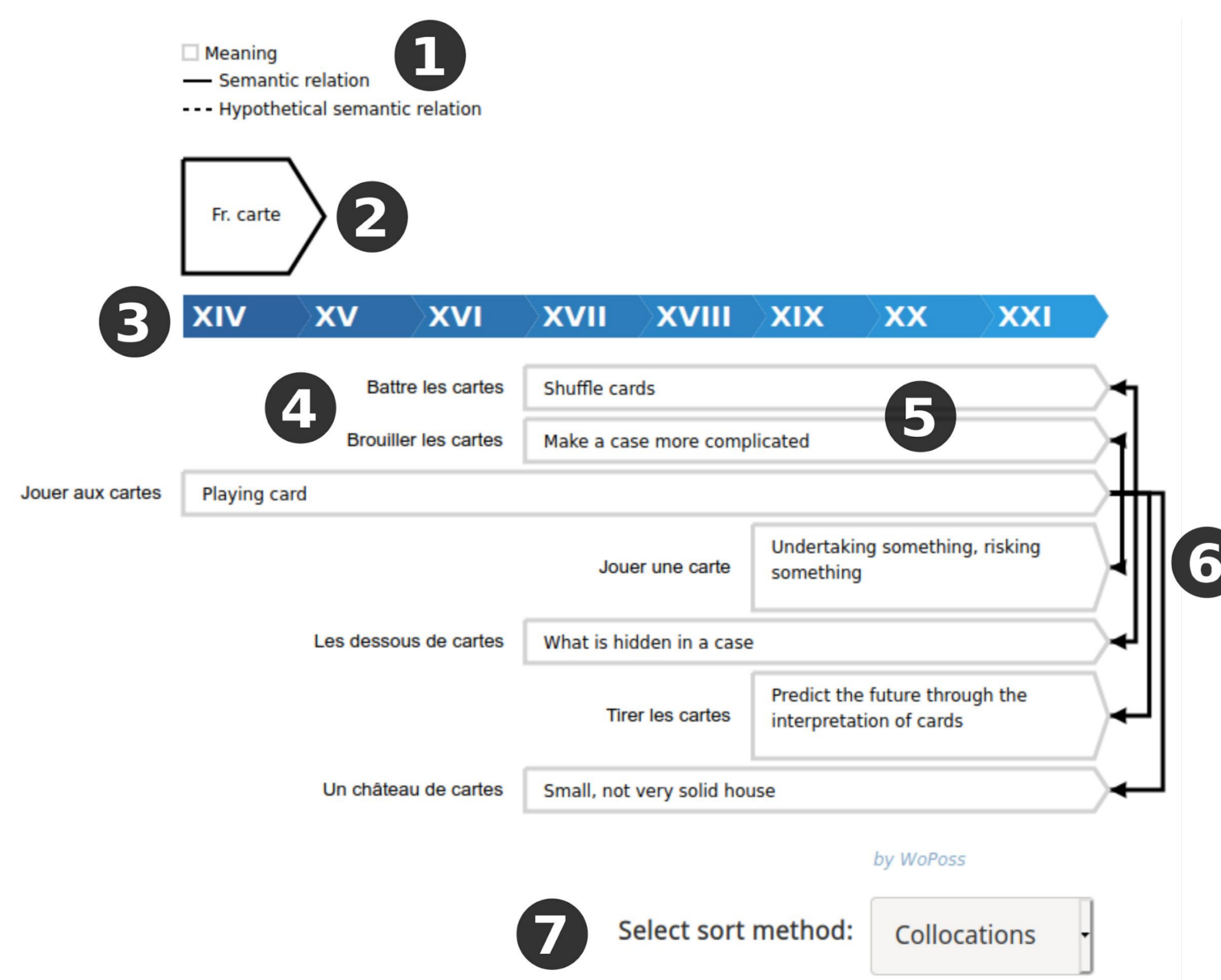
Semantic relationships:

paperboard (piece of paper, paperboard) to geographical map (map) [X] Relationship is certain

Buttons: Submit form, Add new relationship

- F) Direction of the relation:
- from
  - to
  - unspecified
- G) Certainty of the relation

## 4. Visualisations

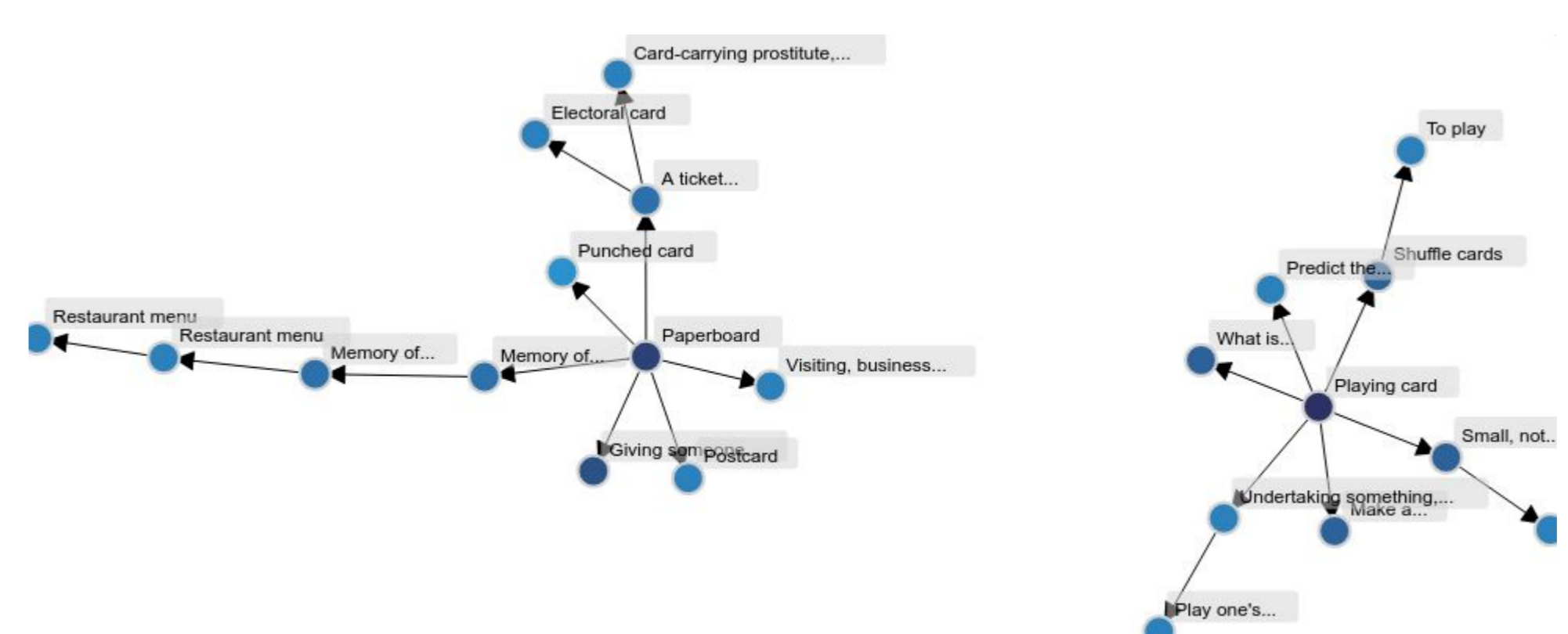


### 4.1 Visualisation 1

- 1) Legend
  - 2) Headword and etymology
  - 3) Chronology
  - 4) Collocations (or semantic groups if selected)
  - 5) Meanings / uses
  - 6) Semantic relations (with the direction)
  - 7) Sorting options:
    - a) Chronologic
    - b) Collocations
    - c) Groups
- When **clicking** on a meaning, the semantic relations of that meaning are visible (6). Double-clicking resets the visualization.
- When **mouseover** a meaning, the chronology and the first attestation are visible.
- Modal maps: meanings are color-coded by **modality type**

### 4.2 Visualisation 2: Network

- Node background color: chronology
- Node border color: modality (not displayed here)
- Edges: direction



## To know more:



WoPoss website: <http://woposs.unine.ch/>  
 Pygmalion website: <http://woposs.unine.ch/pygmalion.html>  
 Pygmalion Github repository: <https://github.com/WoPoss-project/Pygmalion>