

"Backwards" or "backward" in the Brown corpus family (Using Wordsmith)

Corpora: Brown family (Brown, Frown, LOB, FLOB)

Programs: Wordsmith

Tasks:

- While the adjective is nearly always *backward*, the adverb can be *backward* or *backwards*. Use the concordance function in Wordsmith Tools to manually disambiguate and compare percentages of *backward* (Adv) and *backwards* between BrE and AmE and the 1960s and 1990s.

Notes:

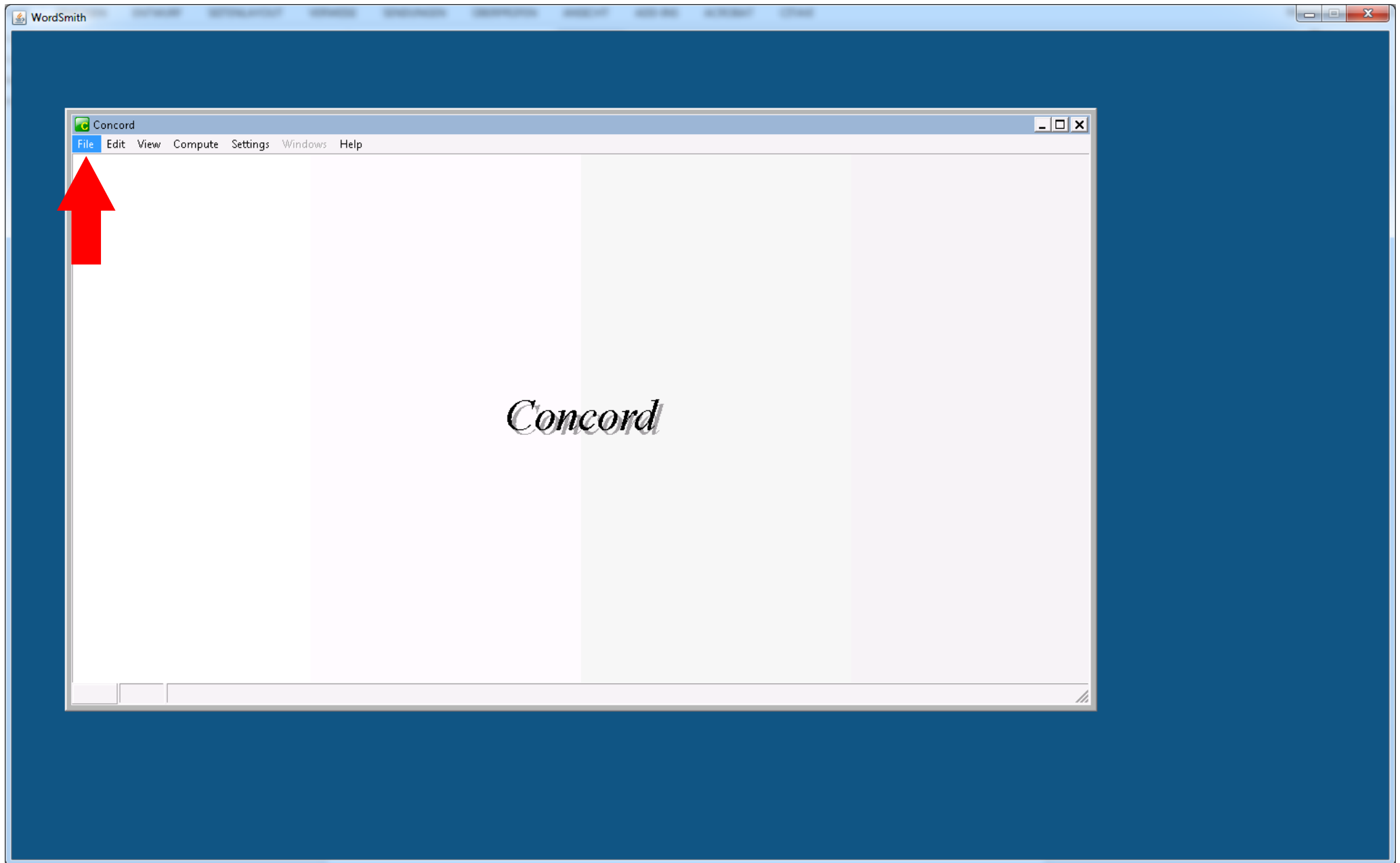
- The corpora and Wordsmith Tools can be accessed via DBIS: http://rzblx10.uni-regensburg.de/dbinfo/detail.php?bib_id=ub_ba&colors=&ocolors=&lett=f&titel_id=6156
- Tutorials for Wordsmith Tools can be found here: http://sitemaker.umich.edu/corpus_analysis_tools/files/wordsmith_tools_4_user_guide.pdf (Version 4)

Step 1:

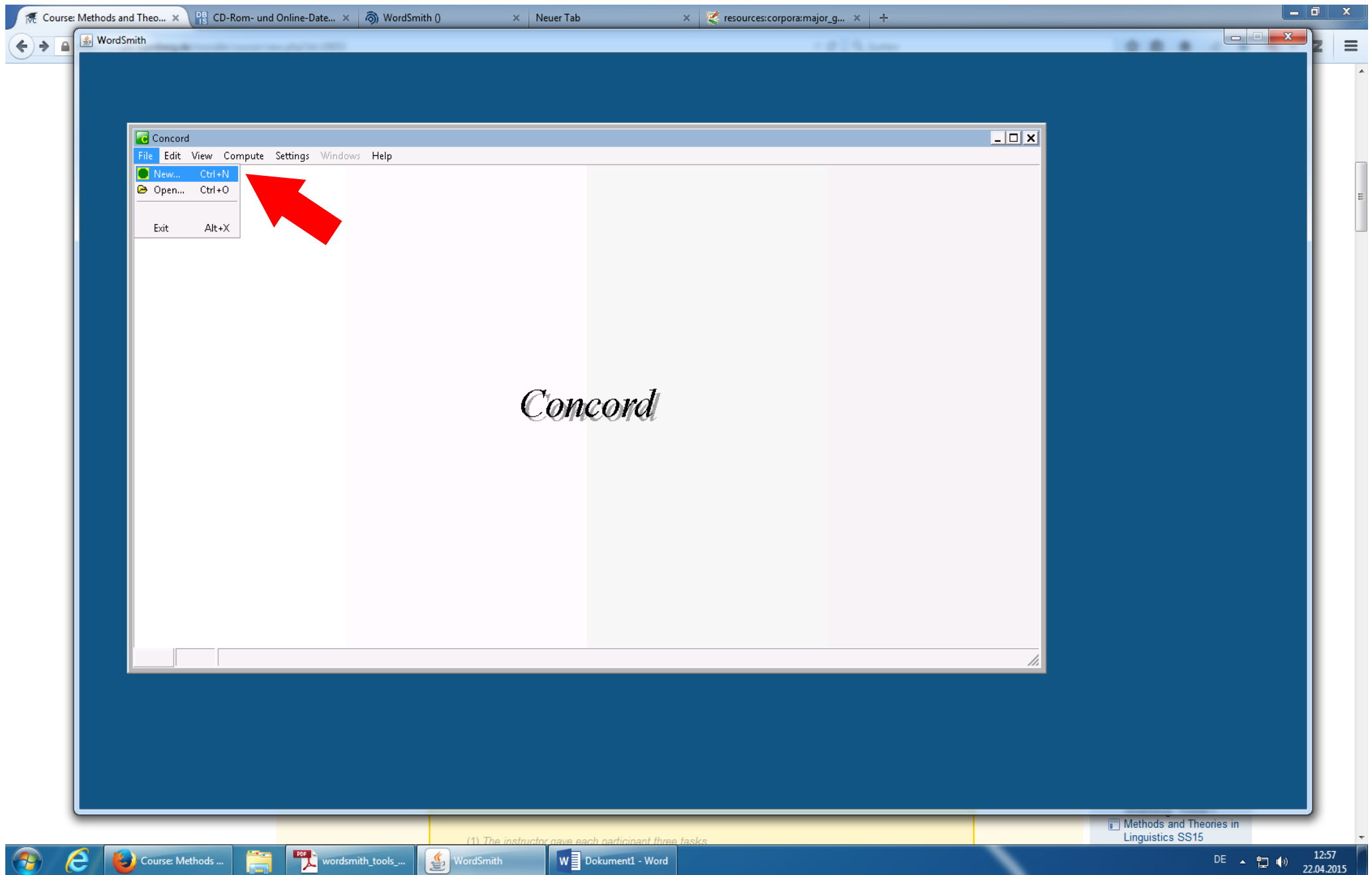
The screenshot displays a Windows desktop environment. In the foreground, a window titled "WordSmith" is open, showing a dark blue background. Overlaid on this is a smaller window titled "WordSmith Tools". This window has a menu bar with "File", "Settings", "Utilities", "Windows", and "Help". Below the menu bar are three buttons: "Concord" (with a green 'C' icon), "KeyWords" (with a green 'K' icon), and "WordList" (with a green 'W' icon). A large red arrow points directly to the "Concord" button. Below the buttons, the text "much can be inferred from what is absent" is visible. Further down, there are tabs for "Main", "Progress", "Media", "Characters", and "Previous lists". Below the tabs, a timer shows "00:00:00". At the bottom of the "WordSmith Tools" window, there is a "Suspend" button with a red exclamation mark icon and a help icon (?). Below that, it shows "RAM" usage as "8191Mb".

At the bottom of the desktop, the taskbar shows several open applications: "Course: Methods ...", "wordsmith_tools_...", "WordSmith", and "Dokument1 - Word". The system tray on the right shows the language "DE", system icons, and the date/time "12:52 22.04.2015".

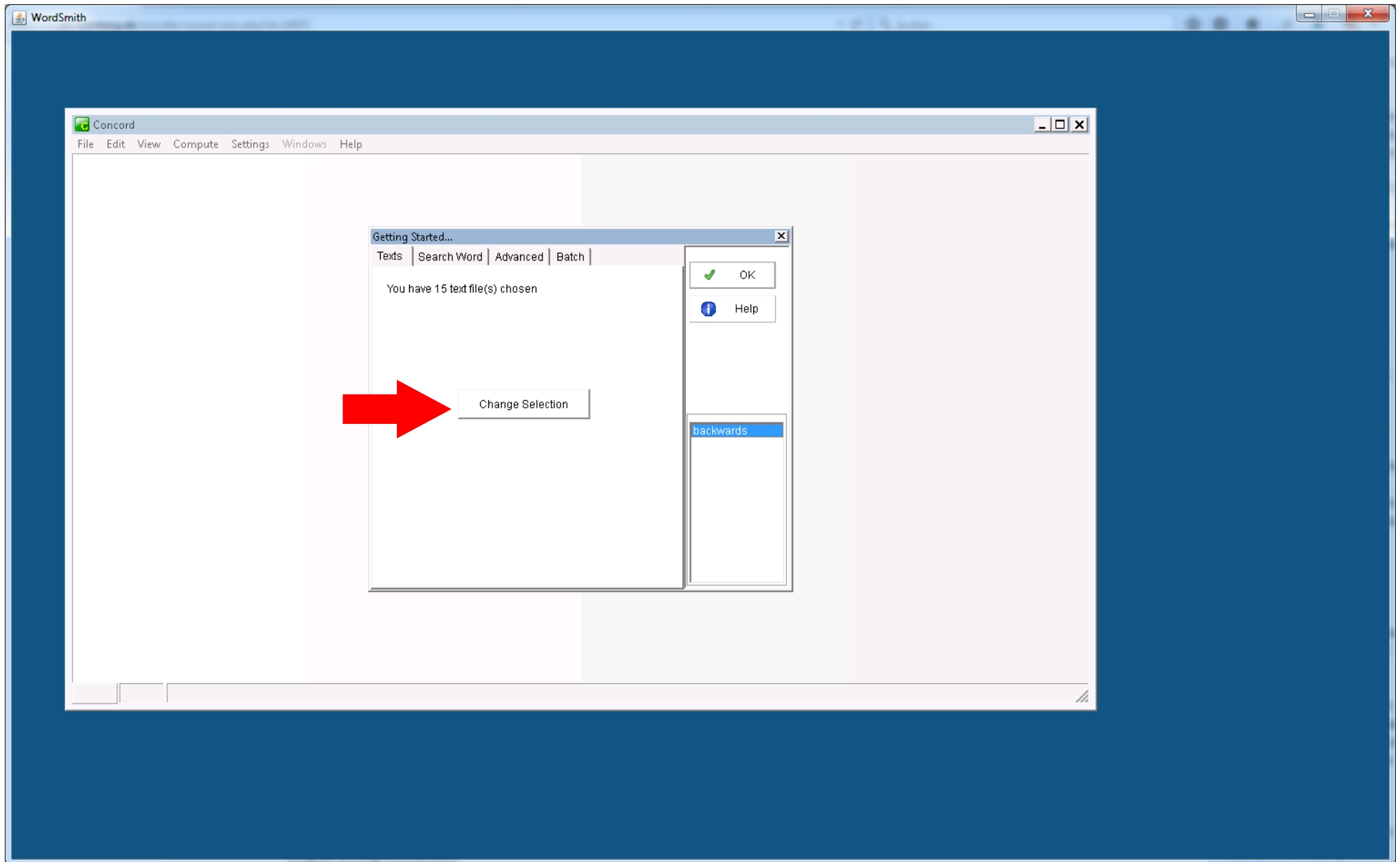
Step 2:



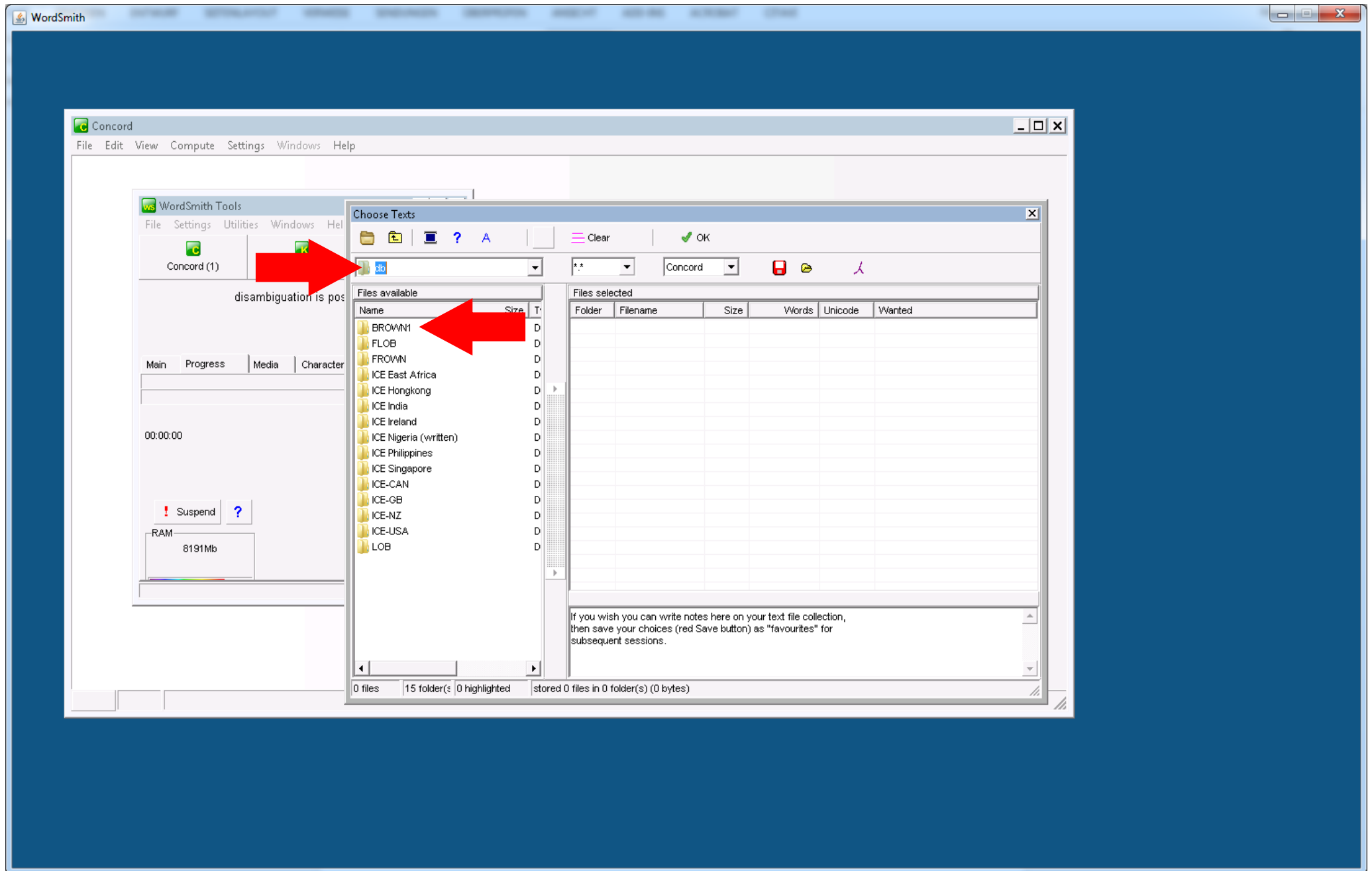
Step 3:



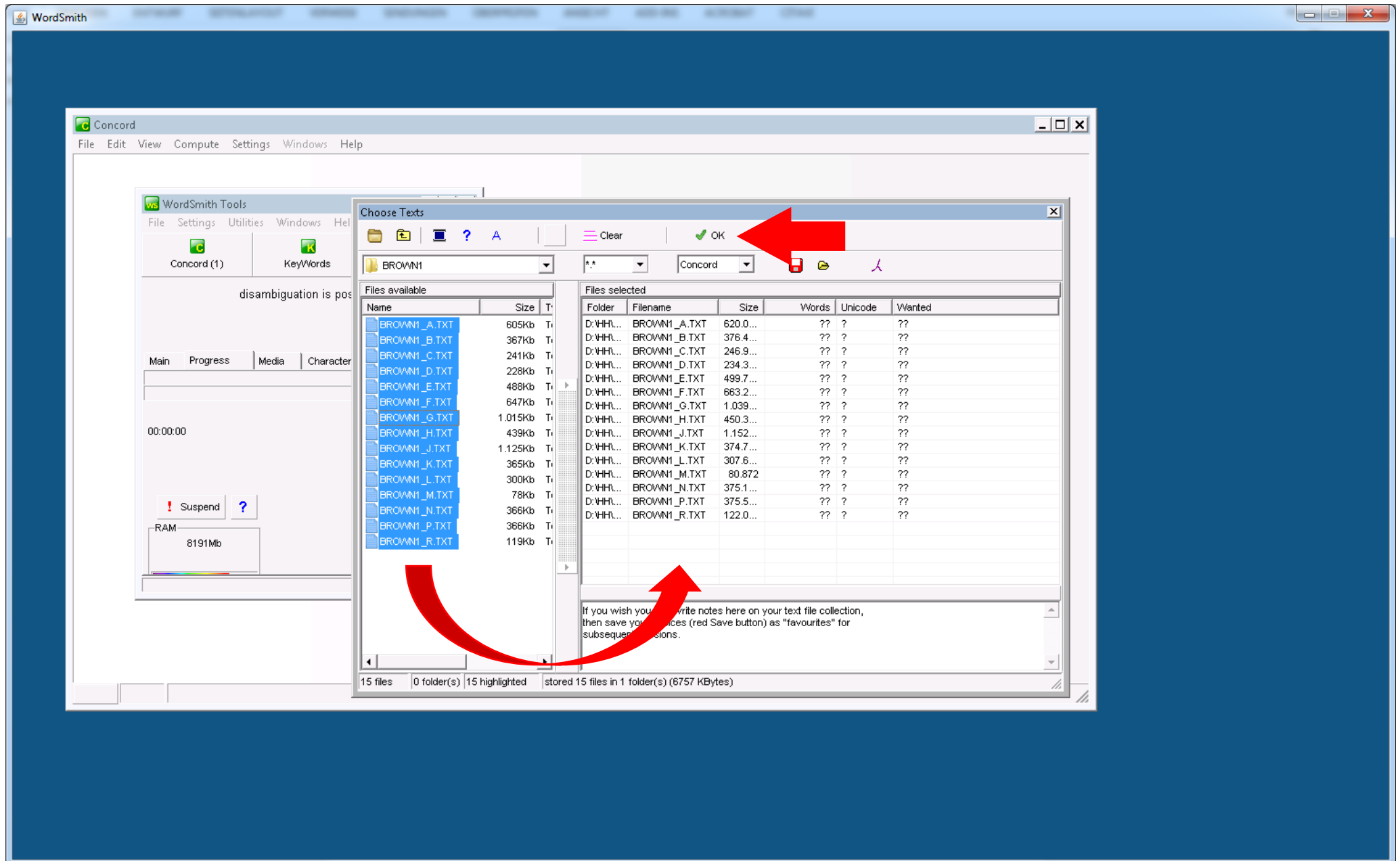
Step 4:



Step 5:



Step 6:



Step 7:

The screenshot shows the WordSmith application window with a 'Getting Started' dialog box open. The dialog box has four tabs: 'Texts', 'Search Word', 'Advanced', and 'Batch'. The 'Search Word' tab is active, and the search term 'backwards' is entered in the text field. Below the text field, there is a section for loading search words from a file with 'Load' and 'Edit' buttons. At the bottom, there is a list of examples and a preview window showing the search term 'backwards'. Three red arrows point to the search term, the 'OK' button, and the examples section.

Getting Started

Texts Search Word Advanced Batch

backwards

or get search-words from a file

Load Edit

Examples:

- book
(gets book but not books, booking etc.)
- book*
(gets book OR booking OR books etc.)
- book* a hotel
(gets 'book a hotel' OR 'booking a hotel' but not 'book a good hotel')
- ==New==
(gets New but not new)
- Paris/Moscow/New York
(gets Paris OR Moscow OR New York)

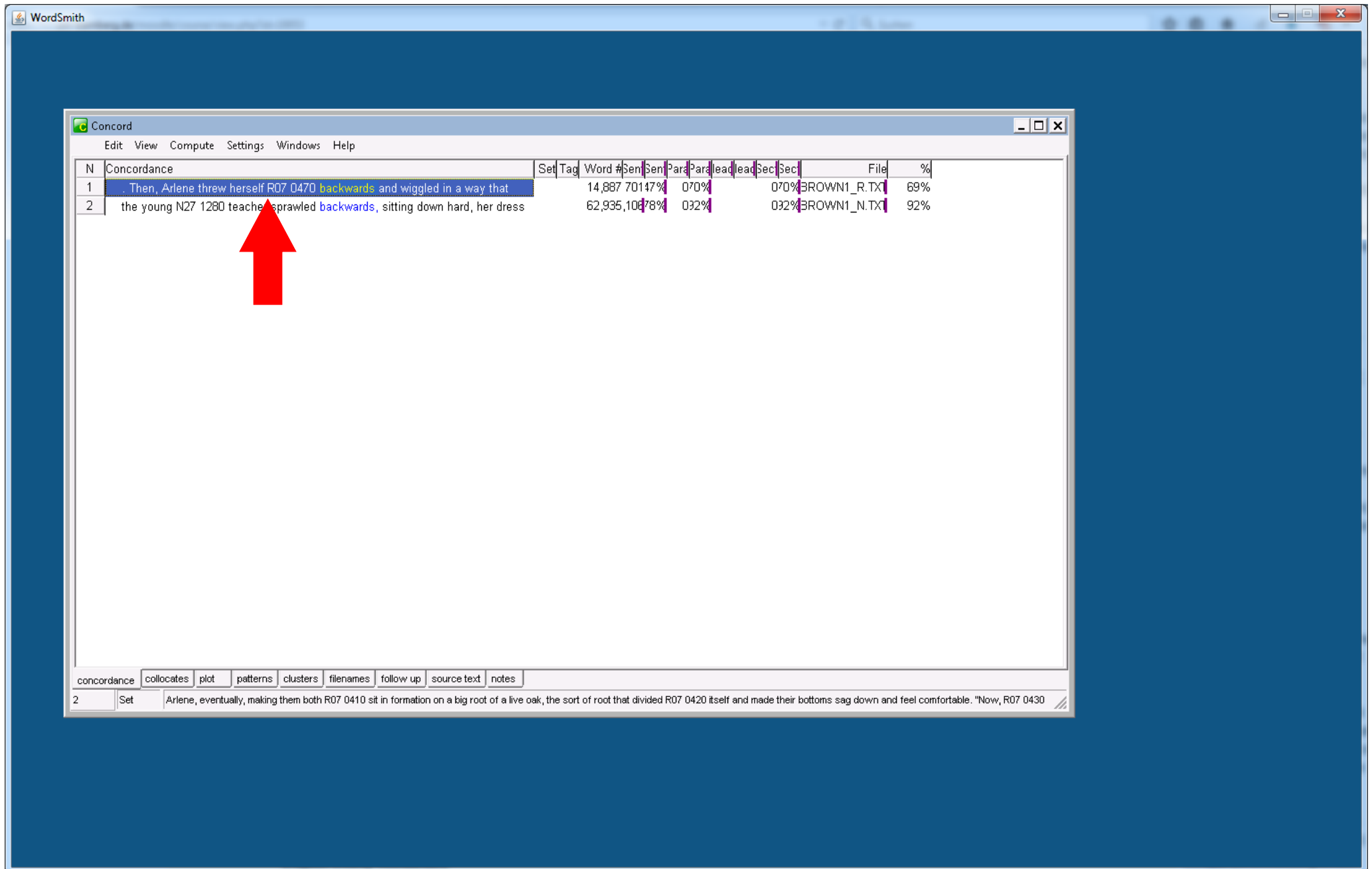
backwards

SEITE 4 VON 6 326 WÖRTER ENGLISCH (USA)

Course: Methods ... wordsmith_tools_... WordSmith Dokument1 - Word

DE 13:10 22.04.2015

Step 8:



The screenshot shows the WordSmith software interface. A window titled "Concord" is open, displaying a table of concordance results. The table has columns for N, Concordance, Set, Tag, Word #, Sen, Sen, Para, Para, lead, lead, Sec, Sec, File, and %. The first row shows a concordance for the word "backwards" in the sentence "Then, Arlene threw herself R07 0470 backwards and wiggled in a way that". The second row shows a concordance for the word "sprawled" in the sentence "the young N27 1280 teacher sprawled backwards, sitting down hard, her dress". A red arrow points to the word "sprawled" in the second row. Below the table, there are buttons for "concordance", "collocates", "plot", "patterns", "clusters", "filenames", "follow up", "source text", and "notes". At the bottom, there is a status bar showing "2 Set Arlene, eventually, making them both R07 0410 sit in formation on a big root of a live oak, the sort of root that divided R07 0420 itself and made their bottoms sag down and feel comfortable. "Now, R07 0430".

N	Concordance	Set	Tag	Word #	Sen	Sen	Para	Para	lead	lead	Sec	Sec	File	%
1	Then, Arlene threw herself R07 0470 backwards and wiggled in a way that			14,887	70	147%	070%				070%		BROWN1_R.TXT	69%
2	the young N27 1280 teacher sprawled backwards, sitting down hard, her dress			62,935,108	78%		032%				032%		BROWN1_N.TXT	92%

Step 9:

The screenshot shows the WordSmith software interface. The main window displays a text file named "D:\HH\Prog.nm\Wordsmith5\db\BROWN1\BROWN1_R.TXT". The text in the file is a passage with line numbers from R07 0370 to R07 0710. A concordance search has been performed, and the results are shown in a separate window at the bottom. The search term is "Arlene, eventually, making them both", and the results show the context of this phrase in the text, specifically the line "R07 0410 sit in formation on a big root of a live oak, the sort of root that divided R07 0420 itself and made their bottoms sag down and feel comfortable. "Now, R07 0430".

WordSmith

D:\HH\Prog.nm\Wordsmith5\db\BROWN1\BROWN1_R.TXT

File Edit View Compute Settings Windows Help

R07 0370 especially the ones that all other grownups laughed at loudest. She would
R07 0380 sometimes even get a little hard on you, she took you so seriously.
R07 0390 But not hard for very long. Just long enough to make you feel important.
R07 0400 "Now", said Arlene, eventually, making them both
R07 0410 sit in formation on a big root of a live oak, the sort of root that divided
R07 0420 itself and made their bottoms sag down and feel comfortable. "Now,
R07 0430 we're going to be like what General Burnside and his horse make
R07 0440 us think of". The children looked at each other and
R07 0450 sagged their bottoms down even more comfortably than ever. Their curiosity
R07 0460 went happily out of bounds. Then, Arlene threw herself
R07 0470 backwards and wiggled in a way that was just wonderful. She held herself
R07 0480 that way and turned her head towards them and laughed and winked.
R07 0490 "Imagine being able to laugh and wink when you're like the top part
R07 0500 of that picture frame at home", one of them said. They both laughed
R07 0510 and winked back. "I'm General Burnside's horse, upside
R07 0520 down", Arlene said, sort of gaspingly, for her: even she had
R07 0530 to breathe kind of funny when she was in that position. She made General
R07 0540 Burnside's horse's belly do so funny when it was upside down.
R07 0550 Then, she was back on her feet, winking and smiling that enormous
R07 0560 smile (she had lots of wonderful big teeth that you never would have suspected
R07 0570 she had when she was not smiling). And she would wink and throw
R07 0580 kisses. They both tried to keep smiling and winking for a long time,
R07 0590 but it made <their> lips and eyelids tremble. But they kept on
R07 0600 clapping for a long, long time. "This time", Arlene said,
R07 0610 and she even kept on wiggling a little bit while she was just talking,
R07 0620 "<you're> going to tell me what I am and what I'm doing. It
R07 0630 all has something to do with General Burnside and his horse".
R07 0640 This time, it was so grand; they could tell exactly what it was.
R07 0650 It was General Burnside's horse running in a circle. His legs
R07 0660 shook, and the shaking went right on up his body through his hips to
R07 0670 his shoulders. "That's the General's horse", one of them cried
R07 0680 out. The other remarked, in a happy laughter, "That's
R07 0690 a funny old horse". The first one said, "He sure does shake.
R07 0700 <He's old>". Then there was the General kissing his
R07 0710 wife. They had to be told that one. But it was even funnier after

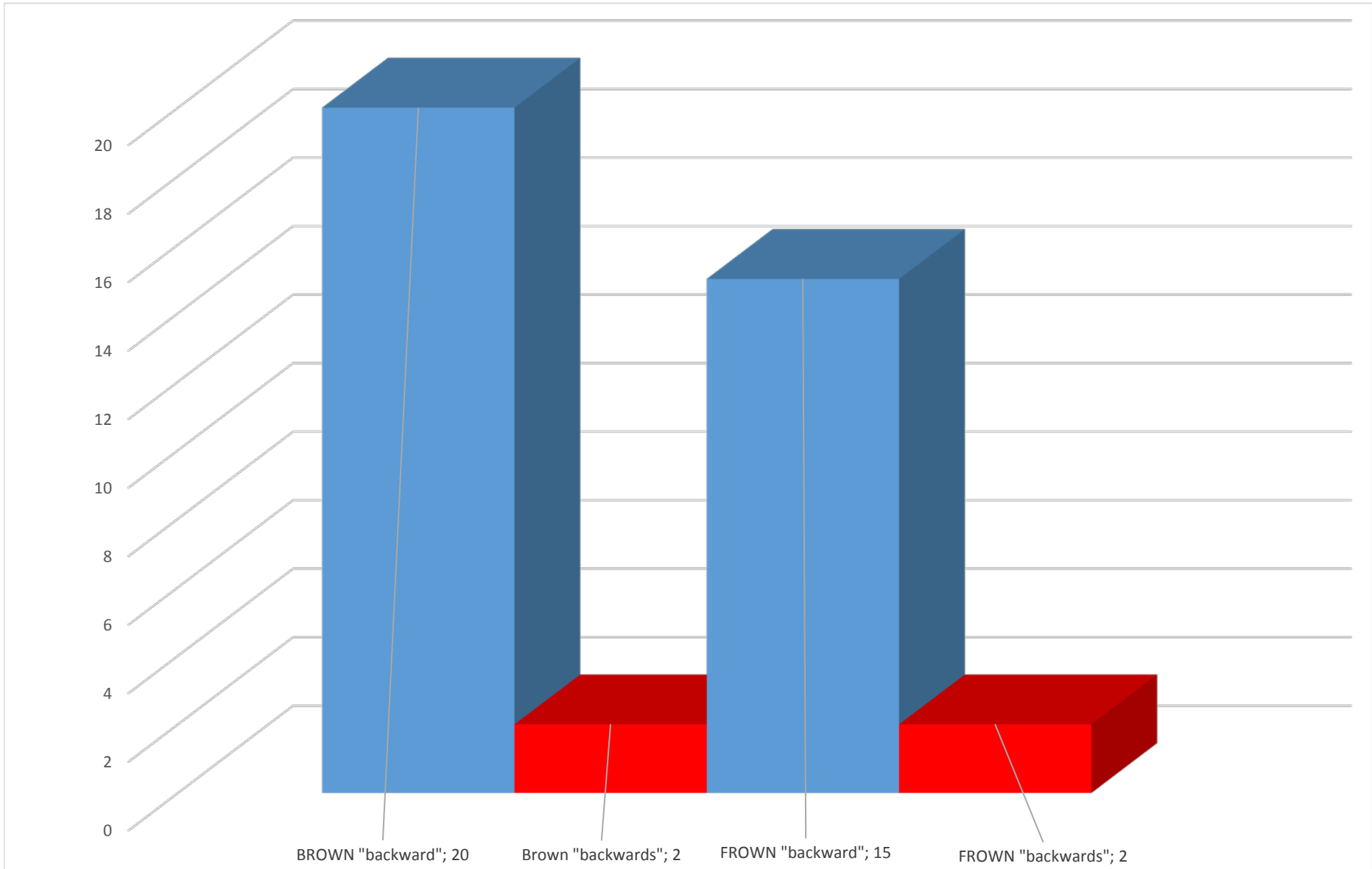
concordance collocates plot patterns clusters filenames follow up source text notes

2 Set Arlene, eventually, making them both R07 0410 sit in formation on a big root of a live oak, the sort of root that divided R07 0420 itself and made their bottoms sag down and feel comfortable. "Now, R07 0430

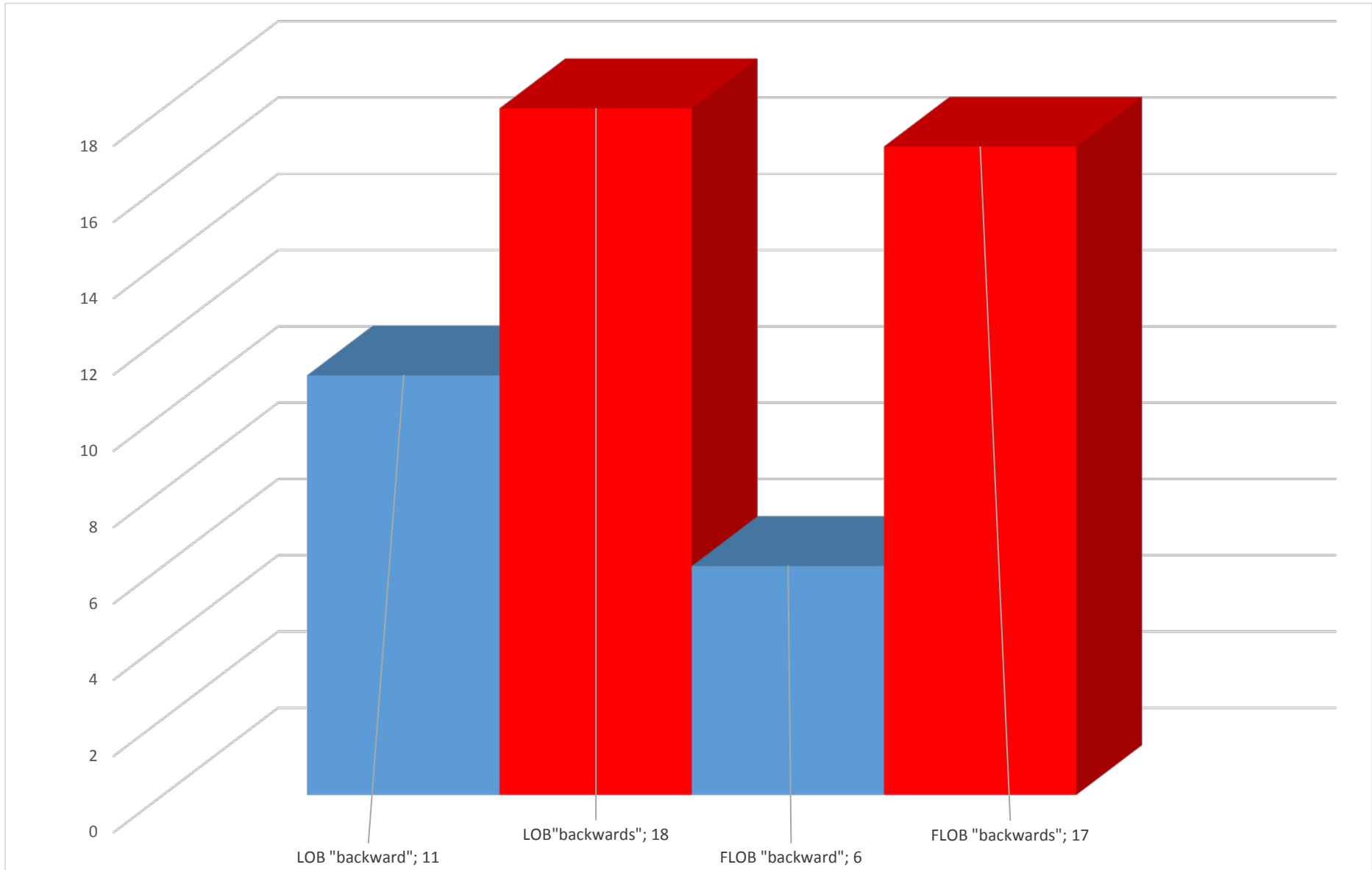
Results

	Brown (American, 60s)	FROWN (American, 90s)
backwards	<p>2 results</p> <p>R07 0460 <i>went happily out of bounds. Then, Arlene threw herself</i> R07 0470 <i>backwards and wiggled in a way that was just wonderful.</i></p>	<p>2 results</p> <p>J30 157 <i>The task of</i> J30 158 <i>dream interpretation is to work backwards from the manifest dream</i> J30 159 <i>to the latent dream thoughts by listening to the dreamer's</i> J30 160 <i>association to each dream element</i></p>
backward	<p>20 results</p> <p>R09 0890 <i>heard of thuggee? Nuf sed **h. But it is the wooden sculpture from</i> R09 0900 <i>Bali, the one representing two men with their heads bent backward and</i> R09 0910 <i>their bodies interlaced by a fish, that I particularly call to your</i> R09 0920 <i>attention.</i></p>	<p>15 results</p> <p>P12 19 <i>Lanie Robinson - who had never traveled more than a hundred miles</i> P12 20 <i>from home in her life - had scrawled a note, packed a bag and</i> P12 21 <i>walked out on her home, job and family without a backward glance.</i></p>

	LOB (British, 60s)	FLOB (British, 90s)
backwards	<p>18 results</p> <p>P24 11 <i>hour while either Mark or Adkins gets hold of a crowbar. ^Then go</i> P24 12 <i>ahead, shine the light backwards. **"</i></p>	<p>17 results</p> <p>R04 20 <i><p_>After dipping into the original English version I suspect that</i> R04 21 <i>the Japanese could find our rules for gracious living pretty</i> R04 22 <i>aggressive compared with their own life-style of courteous</i> R04 23 <i>bowing, enigmatic smiles and shoes left facing backwards on the</i> R04 24 <i>door-mat.<p/></i></p>
backward	<p>11 results</p> <p>L22 53 <i> / ^Without a backward glance, Vera tiptoed downstairs to wait.</i></p>	<p>6 results</p> <p>R08 85 <i>lovingly to her figure. No jewels, Venice decided firmly, with</i> R08 86 <i>hardly a backward glance at her box of baubles, the box which only</i> R08 87 <i>a week ago had given her so much pleasure, the box which she could</i> R08 88 <i>quite happily gaze at for an hour, when she had an hour to spare.</i></p>



Backwards vs. Backward in American English



Backwards vs. Backward in British English

