

**130.** The desired full word candidate is thus made available for selection by the user by pointing at its suffix with the stylus.

[0099] **FIG. 15** illustrates word completion functionality according to yet an alternative embodiment. Like reference numerals represent the same or equivalent elements as in the previously described embodiments. This embodiment may advantageously include a virtual keyboard, for instance like the virtual keyboard **110** of the embodiment shown in **FIG. 11** and **FIG. 12**. As an alternative, it may use another kind of text input means, such as the handwriting recognition (HWR) functionality described above for the embodiment of **FIG. 13** and **FIG. 14**. It is assumed for the rest of the exemplifying description of this embodiment that it indeed includes a virtual keyboard **110**, even if only the spacebar **130** thereof is actually visible in **FIG. 15**.

[0100] Operationally, the embodiment of **FIG. 15** differs from the previously described ones in that each of the suffixes **233a-d** that are derived for an entered prefix **232**, and that are presented for selection in the spacebar **130**, does not necessarily represent a full word completion candidate in the sense that the prefix **132** plus a suffix (e.g. **233a**) would equal a full word. Rather, all or some of the suffixes **233a-d** may represent only a portion of a full word candidate, advantageously a syllable of such a full word candidate. This will make a large number of word completion candidates conveniently available to the user with a low number of selecting actions, even if only a few characters have been entered for a desired long word that has many characters and therefore also has many potential full word candidates. The following example will explain the approach and its benefits further:

[0101] Starting with the situation which is illustrated at the top of **FIG. 15**, it is assumed that the user has entered a partial sentence **104**, reading "Have you read this morning's com", on the virtual keyboard (probably, of course, making use of the word completion functionality). The partial sentence **104** is shown in the text input field **102** of the touch-sensitive display screen. For the last, incomplete input **106**, "com", the word completion functionality derives a set of word completion candidates which all have "com" as prefix in the currently active language, which is English. As is well known, many English words starts with "com", and the potential set of word completion candidates may contain many candidates, particularly far too many to be presented all at once within the spacebar **130**.

[0102] The word completion functionality therefore divides the potential word completion candidates into word portions, such as syllables or other practical segments. The first portion of all the candidates will be the same, namely the prefix "com". The second portion of each candidate may however be different between different candidates. Groups of candidates may have the same second word portion but different third portions, and so on.

[0103] For instance, continuing with the example, a first group of word completion candidates **233a** for the entered partial input **232** may be ones that have the syllable "put" as second word portion, following the prefix (first word portion) "com". A second candidate group **233b** has the syllable "plet" as second word portion, a third group **233c** has "mand", and a fourth group **233d** has "mun". These four groups **233a-d** are presented in the spacebar **130**, essentially

like the suffixes **133a-133d** of **FIGS. 11 and 13**, and are made available for selection by the user. Thus, the presented suffixes **233a-d** in this embodiment need not always represent a full word completion candidate (forming a complete word when appended to the prefix), but only a syllable or other practically sized segment of it.

[0104] The fact that a presented suffix does not represent a full word completion candidate in this sense, but an incomplete one, is indicated to the user by adding a visual indication **234** next to the suffix. In **FIG. 15**, this indication **234** has the form of three dots ". . .".

[0105] Selection of such an incomplete candidate will cause the word completion functionality to append the selected suffix, such as **233a**, to the current prefix **232**, as is shown at **232a** in **FIG. 15**, and derive a new set of word completion candidates having as their prefix the thus appended prefix consisting of the original prefix **232** plus the selected suffix **233a** (i.e. new prefix="com"+"put"="comput"). A candidate in the new set may represent a full word completion candidate, i.e. have a suffix that when appended to the new prefix forms a full word like in the previous embodiments, or it may again represent an incomplete one. In **FIG. 15**, all three word completion candidates **243a-c** for the new prefix **232** represent full word completion candidates, as is seen by the absence of ". . ." therein.

[0106] However, if the user instead would have selected the suffix **233d**, "mun", for the original prefix **232**, "com", two of the new candidates for that case would be full word completion candidates, namely **273a** and **273b**, whereas the third one, **273c**, would be incomplete. If the incomplete candidate **273c** is selected, further word completion candidates **283a-c** would be presented, as is seen at the lowermost part of **FIG. 15**.

[0107] As is seen in **FIG. 15**, the part **134** of the spacebar **130**, that is still left available for the user to tap with the stylus for manual selection of a space character, will of course vary in length ( $L_{dyn1}$ ,  $L_{dyn2}$ ) depending on the number and lengths of the currently presented suffixes.

[0108] Of course, full word completion candidates could appear already at the uppermost level in **FIG. 15**, i.e. for the original prefix **232**. One example is "pact" for the prefix "com".

[0109] Advantageously, not only the prefix and the suffixes are updated on the display screen upon selection of a particular suffix, but also the incomplete text input **106** at the cursor **107** in the text input field **102**.

[0110] It is to be noted that the user is not obliged to make use of the presented suffixes **233a-d**, etc. At all times during the text input, he may also choose to enter characters manually by way of the text input means (for instance virtual keyboard). In the example above, if after having entered the partial word input **106** ("com") he manually enters an additional "m", the word completion functionality will immediately derive a new set of word completion candidates, all having the prefix "comm" in common, and present the suffixes thereof for selection by the user at his will.

[0111] The word completion functionality of this embodiment consequently operates by making available for selection a hierarchical structure of word portions acting as potential suffixes of a current prefix for word completion