

purposes, where an individual suffix can represent a full word completion candidate or an incomplete word completion candidate, depending on whether or not that suffix is followed by at least one additional word portion in the full word associated with the word completion candidate in question, and where the set of suffices that are presented for selection are dynamically updated, when the user either selects a currently presented suffix, or enters additional character(s) manually.

1. A text input method for an electronic apparatus having a user interface with text input means and a display screen, wherein word completion functionality is provided for predicting word candidates for partial word inputs made by said user employing said text input means, the method involving:

receiving a partial word input from said user;

deriving a set of word completion candidates using said word completion functionality, each of the word completion candidates in said set having a prefix and a suffix, wherein the prefix corresponds to said partial word input; and

presenting the suffices for at least a sub set of the word completion candidates in a predetermined area on said display screen, wherein each of the presented suffices is made selectable for said user.

2. A text input method as defined in claim 1, wherein said display screen is touch-sensitive and said text input means includes a virtual keyboard which is presentable on said touch-sensitive display screen, said step of receiving a partial word input from said user involving detecting successive actuations, by said user, of virtual keys of said virtual keyboard which accumulate into said partial word input.

3. A text input method as defined in claim 1, wherein said display screen is touch-sensitive and said text input means includes handwriting recognition (HWR) functionality for interpreting a hand-written input, made by said user on said touch-sensitive display screen, into at least one symbol among a set of possible symbols in a predefined symbol set, so as to generate said partial word input.

4. A text input method as defined in claim 1, wherein a particular presented suffix belongs to a full word completion candidate representing a full word, made up by the candidate's prefix and suffix, in a currently active language for said word completion functionality.

5. A text input method as defined in claim 1, wherein the prefix of a particular word completion candidate corresponds to a first portion of a full word in a currently active language for said word completion functionality, the presented suffix of said particular word completion candidate corresponds to a second portion of said full word, following after said prefix and being followed in said full word by at least a third portion of said full word, and wherein said step of presenting involves presenting the second portion but not the third portion.

6. A text input method as defined in claim 5, involving the steps of

detecting selection by said user of the presented suffix for said particular word completion candidate;

appending the selected suffix to said partial word input; and

repeating said steps of deriving and presenting for the thus appended partial word input, consisting now of the first and second portions of said full word.

7. A text input method as defined in claim 5, wherein said second portion is a syllable of said full word.

8. A text input method as defined in claim 1, involving the steps of

receiving an additional character input made by said user employing said text input means;

appending said additional character input to said partial word input; and

repeating said steps of deriving and presenting for the thus appended partial word input.

9. A text input method as defined in claim 2, wherein said predetermined area is located within or at said virtual keyboard on said display screen.

10. A text input method as defined in claim 1, involving the step of presenting also the prefix that corresponds to said partial word input in said predetermined area.

11. A text input method as defined in claim 10, wherein the prefix is shown first, followed by each presented suffix in a successive order on said display screen.

12. A text input method as defined in claim 9, wherein said predetermined area is located within, or on top of, a space bar included in said virtual keyboard.

13. A text input method as defined in claim 1, involving the steps of

detecting selection by said user of one of the presented suffices; and

for the selected suffix, replacing a presentation of said partial word on said display screen with a presentation of the word completion candidate to which the suffix belongs.

14. A text input method as defined in claim 13, involving the further step, after said step of replacing a presentation, of removing the presented suffices from presentation in said predetermined area.

15. A text input method as defined in claim 1, wherein all presented suffices contain at least two characters.

16. A text input method as defined in claim 12, wherein said predetermined area only overlaps a predefined maximum part of the space bar, the maximum part being such that a sufficient area of the space bar is left available for convenient selection by said user.

17. A text input method as defined in claim 1, involving the step of selecting, among the set of word completion candidates derived by the word completion functionality, candidates to be included in said sub set for presentation in a way such that shorter suffices are favored over longer suffices, thereby allowing a larger number of suffices to be presented in the predetermined area.

18. A text input method as defined in claim 5, wherein the existence of said third portion of said full word is indicated to said user by adding a visually recognizable indication to the presented second portion of said full word.

19. An electronic apparatus having a user interface with text input means and a display screen, and a controller coupled to said display screen, the user interface including word completion functionality for predicting word candidates for partial word inputs made by said user employing said text input means, the controller being adapted for performing the steps of: