

Specifying Language in ELAN transcripts

For multilingual corpora, it's important that each transcript specifies the language of the speech that has been transcribed.

In ELAN, each tier can have a language specified by setting the *Content Language* attributed of the tier. This is set using a dropdown box, which unfortunately is often populated with a single item: *English (eng)*.

If the speech is in a language other than English, you will first have to add the desired language to the list of options.

Adding a new language option

1. Click the *Edit* menu and select the *Edit List of Languages...* option.



2. Click the lower dropdown box (directly above the buttons) and select the language you want.

Edit List of Languages for Multilingual Content

Edit List of Languages for Multilingual Content

Languages

List of languages:

English (eng) - eng - http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138502-001

All available languages:

Maori (mri)	mri	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138567-001
Mantsi (nty) - nty	nty	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00137183-001
Manumanaw Karen (kxf) - kxf	kxf	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132575-001
Manusela (wha) - wha	wha	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00136299-001
Manx (glv) - glv	glv	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138519-001
Manya (mzj) - mzj	mzj	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132339-001
Manyawa (mny) - mny	mny	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132047-001
Manyika (mxc) - mxc	mxc	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132324-001
Manza (mzv) - mzv	mzv	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132391-001
Mao Naga (nbi) - nbi	nbi	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132358-001
Maonan (mmd) - mmd	mmd	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132090-001
Maore Comorian (swb) - swb	swb	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00135670-001
Maori (mri) - mri	mri	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138567-001
Mape (mlh) - mlh	mlh	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132271-001
Mapena (mnm) - mnm	mnm	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132057-001
Mapia (mpy) - mpy	mpy	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132109-001
Mapidian (mpw) - mpw	mpw	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132094-001
Mapos Buang (bzh) - bzh	bzh	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00134307-001
Mapoyo (mcg) - mcg	mcg	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132817-001
Mapudungun; Mapuche (arn) - arn	arn	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00132817-001
Mapun (sjm) - sjm	sjm	http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00137449-001

3. Click *Add*.

The selected language should appear in the upper dropdown box.

Edit List of Languages for Multilingual Content

Edit List of Languages for Multilingual Content

Languages

List of languages:

Maori (mri) - mri - http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138567-001

All available languages:

Maori (mri) mri http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138567-001

Add Change Delete

Close

4. Click *Close*

Defining the language for the transcript

Your transcript tiers now need to have this language selected.

1. In the transcript, right-click the name of a transcript tier on the left and select the *Change Attributes Of...* option.

Change Add Delete Import

Select Tier interviewer

Tier Name interviewer

Participant interviewer

Annotator

Parent Tier none

Tier Type default-lt

Input Method None

Content Language None - -

More Options...

Change Close

2. Change the *Content Language* option by selecting the language from the dropdown list.

The screenshot shows a window with tabs: Add, Change, Delete, and Import. The 'Change' tab is active. It contains several fields: 'Select Tier' (dropdown with 'interviewer'), 'Tier Name' (text box with 'interviewer'), 'Participant' (text box with 'interviewer'), 'Annotator' (empty text box), 'Parent Tier' (dropdown with 'none'), 'Tier Type' (dropdown with 'default-lt'), 'Input Method' (dropdown with 'None'), and 'Content Language' (dropdown with 'Maori (mri) - mri - http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138567-001'). The 'Content Language' dropdown is open, showing a list of options: 'English (eng) - eng - http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138502-001', 'Maori (mri) - mri - http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138567-001', and 'None - -'. A 'More Options...' button is located below the dropdown. At the bottom of the window are 'Change' and 'Close' buttons.

3. Click Change.
The tier attributes window will close.
4. Repeat the previous three steps for each transcript tier.

Speech in a Different Language

Sometime the speaker may include words or phrases in a different language from the rest of the transcript. It may be important to tag these words with the language they're in (e.g. to ensure that after upload to LaBB-CAT, the pronunciation is correctly inferred).

LaBB-CAT recognises a transcription convention for tagging 'code-switches' (CS) into another language. Immediately following the word (i.e. with no intervening space) in square brackets the code "CS:" is added with the [ISO 639 3-letter code](http://www.iso.org/iso/639-3) for the language. e.g.

...me mudé de Christchurch[CS:eng] en 2004...

For longer phrases, the code-switch tag can be placed immediately before the first word and immediately after the last word, to mark those and all intervening words as being in a different language. e.g.

...it has a certain [CS:fre]je ne sais quoi[CS:fre] I think...