

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

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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-00134307-001 |
| 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.

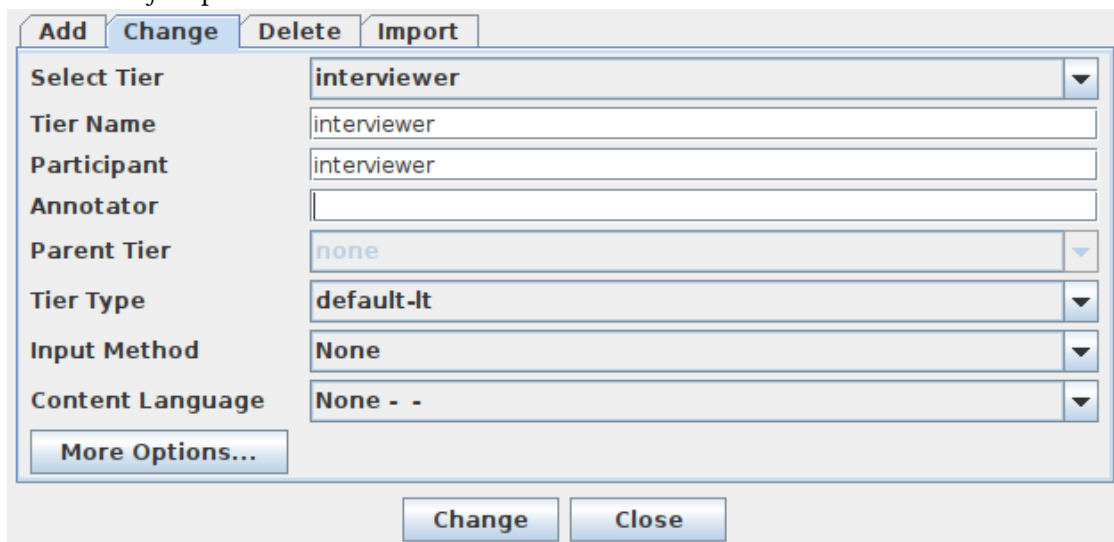


4. Click *Close*

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.



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

| Add Change Delete Import | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Select Tier | interviewer |
| Tier Name | interviewer |
| Participant | interviewer |
| Annotator | |
| Parent Tier | none |
| Tier Type | default-lt |
| Input Method | None |
| Content Language | <div> <div>More Options...</div> <div> English (eng) - eng - http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138502-001 Maori (mri) - mri - http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138567-001 None - - </div> </div> |

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...