

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

3. Click *Add*.

The selected language should appear in the upper dropdown box.

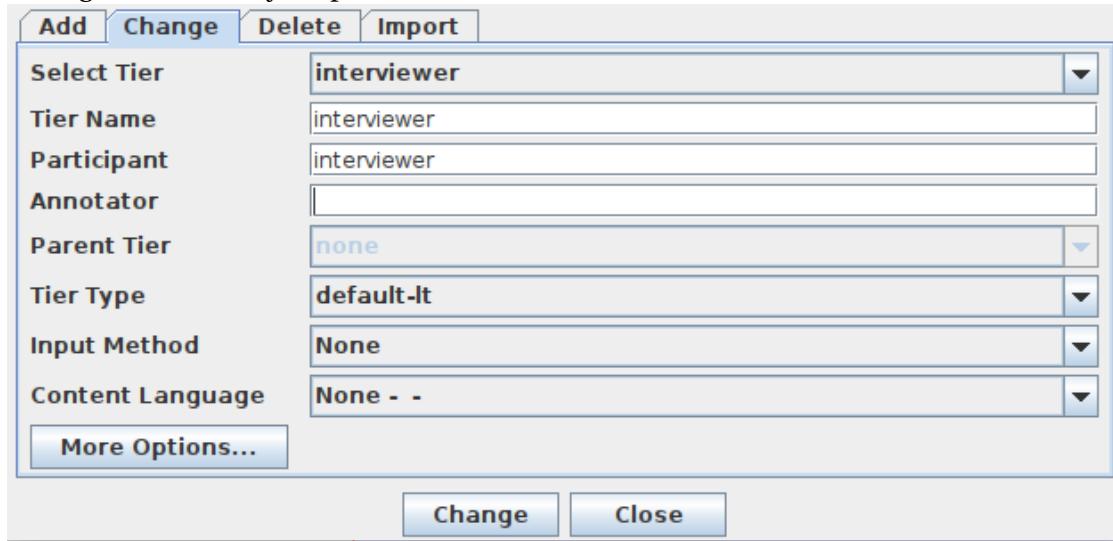


4. Click *Close*

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.

Select Tier	interviewer
Tier Name	interviewer
Participant	interviewer
Annotator	
Parent Tier	none
Tier Type	default-lt
Input Method	None
Content Language	Maori (mri) - mri - http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138567-001 English (eng) - eng - http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138502-001 Maori (mri) - mri - http://cdb.iso.org/lg/CDB-00138567-001 None --

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](#) 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...