

# ***Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* User Documentation**

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## **1 Introduction**

*Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* is a tool that can use a PC-PATR grammar to disambiguate a text or a portion of a text that has been analyzed in a *FieldWorks Language Explorer* project. You tell *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* the PC-PATR grammar file and the *FLE<sub>x</sub>* project to use. Then you can choose a text or a portion of that text and ask *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* to try and disambiguate it.

*Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* is compatible with any version of *FLE<sub>x</sub>* that is compatible with version 700072 of the *FLE<sub>x</sub>* database. It was developed with version 9.0.4 Beta of *FLE<sub>x</sub>*, so that version is known to work with *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>*.

While you can use any PC-PATR grammar file, *Use PC-PATR with FLEx* expects that you will have used the *PAWS* program to create the PC-PATR grammar file. See <https://software.sil.org/paws/> for more on this program.

Whenever you first load a *FLEx* database in *Use PC-PATR with FLEx*, it will automatically add to your *FLEx* database the following:

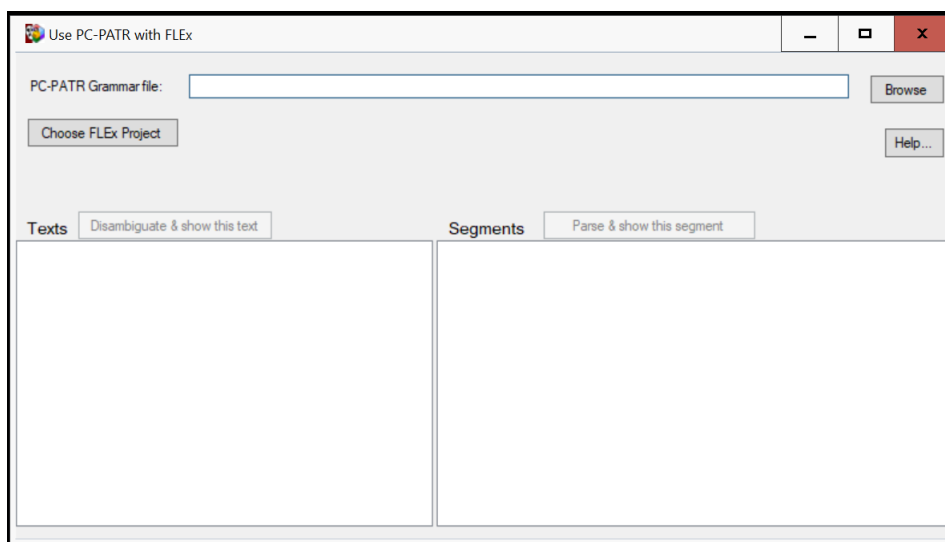
1. a custom field to each sense (called “PCPATR”) and
2. a custom list (called “PCPATR Feature Descriptors”) containing the template names that the PC-PATR grammar generated by the *PAWS* program expects.

The names shown above are always in the English analysis writing system and English is the only writing system containing these names.

Please be aware that you cannot run both *Use PC-PATR with FLEx* and *FLEx* at the same time. You will need to close one before you start the other.

*Use PC-PATR with FLEx* looks like what is shown in (1).

(1)



There are five buttons you can click. Each is discussed in section 2 below.

## 2 Buttons

You control *Use PC-PATR with FLEx* by using the various buttons. This section briefly describes them. See sections 3–4 for more on what happens for the segment and text buttons, respectively.

### 2.1 PC-PATR grammar Browse button

To choose which PC-PATR grammar file to use, click on the Browse button. By convention, PC-PATR grammar files have an extension of “.grm” so this is what the file browser uses.

## 2.2 Choose *FLEX* project button

When you click the “Choose FLEX Project” button, you will see the standard *FLEX* choose project dialog box. You use it to select the project to use. Once the project has been loaded (which may take a while, depending on the size of the project), the names of the project's texts will appear in the bottom left pane. By default, the first text will be selected and all of its segments<sup>1</sup> will be shown in the bottom right pane (using the default vernacular language). By default, the first segment will also be selected.

Note that if a given segment does not yet have an analysis for every word in it, the segment will be grayed out. This is because there is no need to try and pass this segment to the PC-PATR grammar. Since at least one word does not have an analysis, *PC-PATR* cannot parse it: there is no parsing information for that word so the segment is guaranteed to fail to parse.

Please note that you cannot run both *FLEX* and *Use PC-PATR with FLEX* on the same project at the same time. You will need to close one before you start the other.

## 2.3 Help button

The “Help...” button is used to get this user documentation file, show the PC-PATR Reference Manual, or to show the “About” dialog box.

## 2.4 Disambiguate button

Above the pane containing the texts is a button labeled “Disambiguate & show this text.” You use this button to try and use the PC-PATR grammar to disambiguate this entire text. See section 4 for more.

## 2.5 Parse button

Above the pane containing the segments of the selected text is a button labeled “Parse & show this segment.” You use this button to try and use the PC-PATR grammar to parse this particular segment. See section 3 for more.


# 3 Parsing a segment

When you use the “Parse & show this segment” button for a segment, *Use PC-PATR with FLEX* will pass the parsing information that you entered in *FLEX* to *PC-PATR*, along with the PC-PATR grammar, and process that segment. The result will be shown in a slightly newer version of the *PcPatr Browser* tool (<https://software.sil.org/carla/pc-patr-browser/>). See appendix A for more information on this tool.

You use this tool to see all the parses the *PC-PATR* program produced for this segment using the PC-PATR grammar file. When there are two or more parses, you

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<sup>1</sup>By “segment” we mean the portion of the text that FLEX treats as a unit. These are often sentences or clauses.


can show the correct one and then use **Parse / Use This Parse** menu item (or click on the  tool bar button) to have this analysis be recorded in the *FLE<sub>x</sub>* database for this segment. That is, this segment will be disambiguated, using the information from this parse.

When you are done looking at the results, close the *PcPatr Browser* tool and you will return to *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>*.

## 4 Disambiguating a text

When you use the “Disambiguate & show this text” button, *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* will pass the parsing information for all segments in the text to *PC-PATR*, along with the PC-PATR grammar, and process all those segments. Since all the segments are processed, this will probably take a while. So please be patient. The result will be shown in the slightly newer version of the *PcPatr Browser* tool. See appendix A for more information on this tool.

Unlike with parsing a segment (see section 3), the result will have as many “sentences” as there are segments in the text.

By default, *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* will disambiguate a segment in the *FLE<sub>x</sub>* database whenever the result of the parsing uniquely identifies the analysis of each word in the segment. For those cases where there are still ambiguities, you can use the *PcPatr Browser* tool to select a given parse to use. Like with parsing a segment, you show the correct parse and then use **Parse / Use This Parse** menu item (or click on the  tool bar button) to have this analysis be recorded in the *FLE<sub>x</sub>* database for this segment. That is, this segment will be disambiguated, using the information from this parse.

When you are done looking at the results, close the *PcPatr Browser* tool and you will return to *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>*.

## 5 Restarting *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>*

Whenever you exit and restart *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>*, it will do the following:

1. remember which PC-PATR grammar file you last chose;
2. remember which *FLE<sub>x</sub>* project you last used and open it;
3. remember which text in that project you last selected; and
4. remember which segment in that text you last selected.

As a result, if the last *FLE<sub>x</sub>* project you used is large, it may well take a while before *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* finishes starting.

## 6 Error messages

In certain situations, *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* will issue an error message.

Example (2) lists the errors *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* reports along with a brief description of what the error might mean.

(2)	Error	Meaning
	Loading failed. The FieldWorks project is currently open in another application. Close the application and try to run this command again.	Most likely, <i>FLEX</i> is open with the same project. Please close <i>FLEX</i> .
	Loading failed. The FieldWorks project was created with an older version of <i>FLEX</i> . Migrate the project to the latest version by opening it in a newer version of <i>FLEX</i> .	The <i>Use PC-PATR with FLEX</i> program works with certain versions of <i>FLEX</i> (currently version 9.0.4 Beta which has database version 700072). You will need to use a version of <i>FLEX</i> that will migrate the database to version 700072.
	The PC-PATR grammar file had an error in it and failed to load. We will show the error log after you click on OK. Please fix all errors in the grammar file and then try again.	The PC-PATR grammar file being used has at least one error in it so the <i>PC-PATR</i> program could not load and use it. The list of errors (and any warning messages, too) will be shown as soon as you click on the OK button. Note that in the error message file, the grammar file's location may look odd, but it is the same as what is showing before the "Browse" button. <sup>2</sup> Also, the error messages and warnings may be a bit cryptic. See the PC-PATR Reference Manual for (some possible) help on this. (The manual is available via the "Help" button; see section 2.3.)

If you get an error message not in the list above, please report it. See section 8.

## 7 Known problems

The following items are known to be less than desirable with this version of *Use PC-PATR with FLEX*:

- *Use PC-PATR with FLEX* only works with a version of *FLEX* that also uses version 700072 of the database. One such version is *FLEX* version 9.0.4 Beta.
- You cannot run *Use PC-PATR with FLEX* and *FLEX* on the same database at the same time. You must close one before opening the other.

<sup>2</sup>This happens for long file names or folder names. *PC-PATR* is a "DOS" program and uses this cryptic format.

- *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* assumes that the comment character in the PC-PATR grammar file is a vertical bar |. If you use something else, the parser will fail every segment.
- When a word in *FLE<sub>x</sub>* does not have the “Word Cat” field filled out for a word in the interlinear, *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* will try and guess what the category of the word should be. It does this as follows:
  1. If there is only one morpheme, use its category.
  2. If there are two or more morphemes and only one stem/root, find the stem and use its category. (This could be incorrect if one of the affixes is derivational and changes the category.)
  3. If there are two or more stems, use the category of the left-most one. (This could be incorrect if some other stem is the correct category to use or if the stem compounding results in a different category or if one of the affixes is derivational and changes the category.)
 Therefore, it is always a good idea to overtly fill out the “Word Cat” field in *FLE<sub>x</sub>*.
- The user interface is in English only.

## 8 Support

If you have any questions with *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* or find bugs in it, please send an email to [andy\\_black@sil.org](mailto:andy_black@sil.org).

### A. The *PcPatr Browser* tool

This appendix briefly covers the various parts of the *PcPatr Browser* tool.

#### A.1 Overview

Example (3) is a screen shot of what it looks like for one segment using one PC-PATR grammar.

(3)

The screenshot shows the PC-PatR browser interface with the following components:

- Top Pane (Sentence 1 of 1):** Displays the sentence "we want to get married and be happy" with feature structures for each word.
 

we	want	to	get	married	and	be	happy
we	want	to	get	married	and	be	happy
1PL-nom	v	aux	get-cop	marry-PART	conj	v	happy
pro	sentential_-finiteIP_or_transitive	-finite	v	v	plural	copular	adj
first nominative plural			copular	participle			
- Middle Left Pane (Parse 1 of 2):** Shows a syntactic tree for the sentence. The root is S, which branches into IP. IP branches into DP+ and I'. DP+ branches into D'+, which branches into Pron, which branches into "we". I' branches into V, which branches into "want". V branches into Aux, which branches into "to". Aux branches into "get". "get" branches into "married". "married" branches into "and". "and" branches into "be". "be" branches into "happy".
- Middle Right Pane:** Contains a note: "When you click on a node in the tree shown in the panel to the left, any feature structure associated with that node will show up here. (Note: if you do not have PC-PATR include feature structures in the output, then no features will ever show here.)"
- Bottom Pane:** Displays the PC-PATR grammar file for PAWS Starter Kit, including the header "DO NOT EDIT THIS FILE UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE ENTIRE STARTER KIT!" and the phrase structure rules.

There are four panes:

1. the segment in an interlinear form (at the top);
2. the syntactic tree, if any (left, middle);
3. the feature structure of the selected node in the tree (right, middle); and
4. the PC-PATR grammar file used (bottom)

When a node in the tree is selected, the bottom pane will show the rule in the PC-PATR grammar file that produced that node. In addition, the features for that selected node will appear in the right, middle pane. For example, when clicking on the IP node, it looked like example (4).

(4)

The screenshot shows the PcPatrBrowser application window. The title bar reads "PcPatrBrowser - C:\Users\ANDYBL-1\AppData\Local\Temp\Invoker.and (Default Language)". The menu bar includes File, View, Sentence, Parse, Language, and Help. The toolbar contains various navigation icons. The main window displays "Sentence 1 of 1" with the text: "we want to get married and be happy". Below the text, a table provides morphological and syntactic information for each word:

we	want	to	get	married	and	be	happy
1PL-nom	want	to	get-cop	marry-PART	and	be	happy
pro	v	aux	v	v	conj	v	adj
first nominative plural	sentential_finiteIP_or_transitive	-finite	copular	participle	plural	copular	

Below the table, "Parse 1 of 2" is shown. The parse tree for the sentence is displayed on the left, and the corresponding feature structure is on the right. The feature structure for the root node [cat: IP] is:

```
[cat: IP
  head: $10 [adjoinedVP: -
             adverbialVP: -
             embedded: $7 [cat: IP
                           head: $6 [adjoinedVP: -
                                     adverbialVP: -
                                     embedded: [cat: none]
                                     fronted: none
                                     infl: [finite: -
                                           polarity: positive
                                           valence: active
                                           voice: none ]
                                     subject: [head: faer: 11]
```

The bottom of the window shows a list of rules, including "rule (IP option 2a - subject initial, required, active only)".

When there is more than one segment, you can use the **Sentence** menu item options or the first set of arrow buttons on the tool bar to navigate from one sentence to another. (Please note that with *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>*, “sentence” is the same as “segment.”)

When there is more than one parse for a given segment, you can use the **Parse** menu item options or the second set of arrow buttons on the tool bar to navigate from one parse to another.

## A.2 Right-to-left script

If the vernacular language of your *FLE<sub>x</sub>* project is a right-to-left script, *Use PC-PATR with FLE<sub>x</sub>* will try to tell the *PcPatr Browser* this. You may need to use the **Language** menu item, though, and uncheck and then check the “Use right-to-left orientation in parse tree and interlinear” option.

## B. Another way to edit a PC-PATR grammar file

One challenge with editing a PC-PATR grammar file is that it is a plain text file. If one wants to try and debug a grammar, one has to comment off a large amount of lines. It can get to be tricky.

Some tentative work has been done on a tool that will take a PC-PATR grammar file and convert it to a form that can be used in a tool like the *XMLmind XML Editor*. Some advantages of this are that one can:



1. Quickly enable/disable given rules
2. Quickly enable/disable given templates

A major disadvantage is that once converted to this form, large PC-PATR grammar files are quite slow to load into the *XMLmind XML Editor*.

If you are interested in trying this, please contact [andy\\_black@sil.org](mailto:andy_black@sil.org).