Transcription basics

ELAN creates annotation files (.eaf) which are linked to audio or video media. The .eaf files are actually just XML text files, containing individual annotations and their timings. ELAN also creates a "preferences" file for each .eaf file, with the extension .pfsx. These files store details of how the ELAN window was arranged when you last worked on that annotation. I recommend naming your .eaf files with the same file name as your media, as in the demonstration files for this workshop. This just helps you to keep track of what audio goes with what transcription.

🞾 Speaker01.eaf	Today 12:42	
Speaker01.pfsx	Today 12:47	
5 Speaker01.wav	Today 11:42	
뛽 Speaker02.eaf	Today 12:34	
Speaker02.pfsx	Today 12:47	
5 Speaker02.wav	Today 12:13	
뛽 Speaker03.eaf	Today 12:38	
Speaker03.pfsx	Today 12:47	
Speaker03.wav	Today 12:22	

Task 1: playback

Open Speaker01.eaf. Because I have already been working with this file, ELAN will also read the .pfsx file and the window should open as below.



minute While we are not making any changes to this particular file, it is sensible to have ELAN make automatic backups, just in case it crashes!

Task 2: transcription mode

A recent addition to ELAN is a dedicated Transcription mode as an alternative to creating annotations directly in the timeline view. (This is very similar to the first version of another piece of software, Transcriber).

Open Speaker2.eaf. It should open in transcription mode: this recording has already been roughly segmented but only the first annotation has been typed in. You can use the mouse to click in the list of segments on the right side of the window: the relevant segment of audio will play automatically. It is much quicker to use the keyboard though:

Return = move to next segment **ALT+up arrow** = move to previous segment

	Orthography
1	Once upon a time uh there were three bears who lived
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
	2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9 10 11 11 12 13 14

Work your way through the recording, typing annotations.

You can go to **Options --> Annotation mode** to see your annotations in the standard ELAN window, as we used in Task 1. I have found this method of transcription to be very efficient: once the file has been segmented, typing in the annotations becomes something you can do without having to move your hands from the keyboard. **Save this transcription.**

Task 3: segmentation mode

This allows us to segment an audio file, in order to use the transcription mode we used in Task 2.



Open Speaker3.eaf. It should open in segmentation mode: the first few utterances have been segmented but the rest of the audio remains to be done. There are several alternative approaches but I find it easiest to select "One keystroke per annotation" and to use the return key to mark segments. For an orthographic transcription of a sociolinguistic interview. I recommend short segments of perhaps a couple of seconds each. It doesn't matter if these are not precisely lined up with syllable boundaries: you're likely to be using this orthographic

transcription to home in on relevant parts of a long interview. If you do want to do fine-grained phonetic analysis, you will be transferring relevant short extracts to Praat anyway, so I recommend a somewhat 'rough and ready' approach to just getting a first pass orthographic transcription done quickly and then making any adjustments later. So, press play (or CTRL+SPACE) then press Return each time you want to start a new segment. Use the scrolling waveform display to guide you about the speaker's utterances, but don't be afraid to make several short segments for any one complete utterance: this makes typing transcriptions easier.

If you want to adjust the segment boundaries you have made, move your mouse cursor over the boundaries: you'll see that you can click and drag to adjust the start of end boundary of any segment.

Alternatively, go to **Options --> Annotation mode** and you'll see the standard ELAN window. You can adjust the start or end of a segment by holding **alt** and clicking and dragging one of the vertical segment boundary lines.



Task 4: setting up the transcription mode

Having segmented the audio, we now want to use the transcription mode we used in Task 2.

Go to **Options --> Transcription mode** and

you'll see the setting window. I like to use quite a big font, but it is up to you. We are only using one column for this task (because we are only producing a single orthographic 'tier' of annotation for now. You need to select a 'type' for this column: use the *default-lt* type that pops up when you click <select a type>. Then click the *Select tiers...* button and choose the Orthography tier (the only tier we currently have in this .eaf file). Once you click *Apply* you should see the transcription window as in Task 2. You can now go through the file typing transcriptions.

0	O Trans	cription mode setting	IS	
				2
Font s	ize	16		÷
Numb	er of columns			1 + -
Colum	n Select type for colum	n		
1	<select a="" type=""></select>			
Se	lect tiers	Ap	oply	Cancel

Task 5: setting up a transcription file from scratch

We now have .eaf files for three speakers, but we have an additional recording for Speaker04.

Go to File> New	● ○ ○ New	
You will see the window to the left. Use the file browser	Selected Files:	
to locate your ELAN		Add Media File
Workshop folder		Add Template File
Select Speaker04.wav you		
should see it listed under "Selected Files". Then press		Add Streaming File
OK and you will see a very		Remove
basic ELAN window. Save		
this file as Speaker04.eaf		OK Cancel

000							onuc	inieu riie	Marine							
		Grid	Tex	t Su	btitles	Lexi	con	Audio Ree	cognizer	Me	tadata	Cont	rols			
Volume 100	0	1	1	1			1	50	1 1	1	1	1 1	1	1	1	0 100
Rate: 100	0	I	ı	1	1 1	1	1	100		ı	I	1 1	1	ı	,	200
00:00:00.000	I (F (-1	▶ ▶⊧	▶F	▶1 M	M	Select	ion: 00:00:00	.000 - 00:0	→ 1		Se	lection N	fode	_ L	.00p N\$
		000		01.000		00:02.00		0:00:03.000		00:04.00		0:00:05.		00:00		
A T		000		01.000		00:02.00		: 0:00:03.000		00:04.00	10 0	0:00:05.		00:00		
		_												-0)	

Right click on the *default* tier label and select **Change Attributes Of** *default*. You can now give it a more useful label (Orthography). You can right click on the waveform display and select a higher Vertical Zoom setting (try 1000%). Now work on transcribing this file. Use the segmentation mode covered in task 3 and the transcription mode used in tasks 2 and 4.

We now have a mini-corpus of four orthographically transcribed recordings.

Task 6: basic searching

Although we can play back our .eaf files and see the time-aligned annotations, we really want to be

able to search for things. We will start by searching within a single .eaf file. Go to **Search --> Find (and Replace)**. Search for occurrences of ing in the orthographic transcription as shown to the right. **Select the regular expression tick box**. This will return a list of each occurrence in the current .eaf file.

•	I	R & B 🕾	▲ 《 1 》 Replace			
IND						
An	ar	nnotation on tier Orth	ography that matches regular	expression in	g	
Nr		Annotation	^	Begin Time	End Time	Duration
	2	in the morning they all h	ave	00:00:15.180	00:00:16.087	00:00:00.907
	3	one morning they were	all	00:00:26.940	00:00:27.937	00:00:00.997
		trying their porridge and		00:00:27.937	00:00:29.094	00:00:01.157
	5	bear found it too hot I'm	adding bits in	00:00:29.094	00:00:30.590	00:00:01.496
	6	so she just left the bowl	sittina empty	00:01:41.452	00:01:43.174	00:00:01.722
	7	living room	bear found it too hot I'm adding b	its in 01:50.359	00:01:51.170	00:00:00.811
	8	someone had been eat	ng his porridge	00:02:58.359	00:02:59.959	00:00:01.600
	9	someone's been eating	my porridge	00:03:00.942	00:03:03.024	00:00:02.082
	10	saw that someone had	been eating her porridge	00:03:05.182	00:03:07.399	00:00:02.217
	11	someone's been eating	my porridge too	00:03:08.270	00:03:10.495	00:00:02.225
	12	so they went to the living	g room	00:03:23.952	00:03:25.977	00:00:02.025
	13	were all wrong in his ch	air somebody'd been sitting in	00:03:27.519	00:03:29.510	00:00:01.991
	14	the blanket's all wring o	n my chair	00:03:32.254	00:03:34.127	00:00:01.873
-	-	-	tions Search Close		Search com	

Now if you run a similar search, such as a regular expression search for the string of characters *ing*, the results will include each occurrence in all the transcription files in your ELAN Workshop folder. If you wanted to find every occurrence of *bear* you could search for that across all the transcription files, again making sure to tick the regular expression box.

● ○ ○	Search Dialog	
	🔁 🏦 🗶 🕽 Replace	
FIND		
An annotation on tier (Orthography 🗘 that matches ing	regular expression
and is inside	interval [. s; .	s] case sensitive
Add constraint		
	~	
Nr Annotation	Begin Tin	ne End Time Durati

You can click any item in the list and ELAN will jump to that point in the audio. As we have a corpus of four .eaf files, we can do the same search across all four files. Go to **Search --> Search Multiple eaf...** Click **Define search domain.** You will need to tell ELAN where to search. Do this by clicking the **New Domain** button and browsing to find the ELAN Workshop folder. With the folder itself highlighted, press the >> button, then press OK and give this search domain a useful name, such as **ELAN Workshop**.

The use of Regular Expressions allows you to search in a precise manner. For instance, try **ing\b** which should bring up only examples where *ing* is at the end of a word, or **ing\B** which should bring up only examples where *ing* is **not** at the end of a word. If you're investigating (ing) you might not want tokens of *thing*: the Regular Expression (?<!th)ing will find examples of *ing* which are *not* preceded by *th*. (However, this would miss examples such as *breathing* so you'd need to find out more about Regular Expressions in order to construct your search query more precisely).

urrent Tiers	
Tier N Parent Lingui. Ortho – defaul Phon – defaul	
Add Change	Delete Import
Tier Name	Orthography ‡
Participant	Phon
Annotator	
Parent Tier	none ‡
Linguistic Type	default-lt \$
Default Language	ipa-96 (SAMPA) 🛟

Task 7: add another tier

So far we have just been transcribing orthographically, but you might well want to add further tiers of annotation, perhaps including use of IPA for a phonetic or phonemic level of transcription. Go to Speaker01.eaf and click **Tier --> Add New Tier**. Name it Phon and set the default language to ipa-96 SAMPA from the drop down list.

One possible use for this tier would be if you were interested in variation in (ing) between [ɪŋ] and [ɪn]. Find an example of (ing), perhaps by using the search function we tried in Task 6. Go to **Search --> Find (and Replace)** search for ing in the Orthography tier. Remember to tick the **regular expression** tick box.

ELAN Workshop, Newcastle, 7 March 2013



 Ctrl
 Alt
 Ctrl

 \$5,000
 00:04:15.500
 00:04:16.000
 00:04:16.500
 00:04:17.00
 4

 Orthography [199]
 hen she heard the middle bear talking
 m
 1
 1
 1

 Phon [2]
 m
 m
 1
 1
 1
 1
 1

Task 8: export audio clips to Praat

I have highlighted the second syllable in *talking* by clicking and dragging in the waveform display. You can press **SHIFT +SPACE** to play your selected audio.

Now double click the highlighted section in the Phon tier.

You will see a pop up keyboard map which will show you which IPA symbols are typed when you press particular keys (press shift to see more IPA characters).

Press **CMD+ENTER** (Windows CTRL +ENTER) to 'commit' that annotation (by default ELAN is set to require you to commit changes like this: you can change this in the preferences so that simply clicking away from the annotation will place the annotation.

Add some more annotations on your Phon tier. You can also try changing the default language of your Phon tier to IPA rtr, but this is quite a slow method.

Having used ELAN's transcription tools to transcribe an interview, you may want to carry out acoustic analysis in Praat. First, launch Praat. Then, in ELAN, highlight the section of audio you'd like to transfer. Right click and choose **Clip**

Selection with Praat

The first time you do this, ELAN will ask for the location of the 'sendpraat executable'. I have included sendpraat for Intel Macs, PowerPC Macs and Windows in the ELAN Workshop folder. For the moment you can just navigate to the relevant instance of sendpraat and press OK (if you are using your own computer, you might want to place sendpraat in a sensible location, such as in your Applications or Utilities folder: once you have set ELAN up to interface with Praat, you will not need to do it again.





You should see your selected audio open in Praat.

ELAN has made a copy of the section of highlighted audio and put it in the same folder as the original file, appending the timings (in ms) to the file name. In my case I was working with Speaker01.wav and I now also have the extract named Speaker01_255672_257085.wav. This can be useful if you want to extract short clips from a long recording for other purposes, such as to use in presentations.

ELAN Workshop, Newcastle, 7 March 2013

ELAN - Short-two-speaker-conversation.eaf Task 9: working with Grid Text Subtitles Lexicon Audio Recognizer Metadata Controls more than one speaker Orthography YF3 * Open the file Short-two- $\label{eq:relation} Brilliant! \cdot [\begin{tabular}{l} There was one last year - oh!] \cdot You did! You saw that big fat one with the dress whose emember \cdot "Who made you that dress?" \cdot "My dad made it" Oh it was terrible! \cdot And she was on-$ Oh yeah have we got another or speaker-conversation.eaf. whose dad made the dress but she was on the finale as well $\,\cdot\,$ No no no no no $\,\cdot\,$ She was a- way younger than us $\,\cdot\,$ Erm $\,\cdot\,$ But she yeah you do · I can't reme You will see that this time know when they \cdot bring out all the crappy ones and they sing like \cdot "We Are The Champions' or some sort ke \cdot they had her on this throne in that dress \cdot it was brilliant! \cdot Oh! She was on it she was terrible! \cdot and was on the finale as well y of \cdot song \cdot she was on i there are two speakers in e · egging them on and I think · it's cruelty that · because · if I- · if my mum built me up · and took me down their parents are the conversation (you'll also hear there and then · Si on Cowell crushed me and said I was absolutely diabolical $\,\cdot\,$ the worst person he's ever seen I'd be like $\,\cdot\,$ Oh my mum's ever told me's a lie! \cdot Oh yeah \cdot Oh that's so embarrassing imagine if that was your mum \cdot and they said I'm God! Everything me from time to time). ot very good · and **** was running down · "Simon!" · [laughter] · "You've got it wrong!" · [laughter] ction: 00:00:05.391 - 00:00:05.811 420 You can play the transcription **II** Loop M file and see that there are Orthography tiers for the two 00:00:14.000 00:00:16.000 00:00:18.000 00:00:20.000 00.00.22.0 speakers. You can also click the Subtitles tab and select both orthography tiers (this can be used with 00.00.16.000 00.00.18.000 00.00.20.000 00.00.14.000 00.00.22.0 transcriptions of video files. You rem "Who made] "My dad made it" Oh it was t I can't remember bu And she was o e dad made the Orthography YF and ELAN can re-encode the (ing) YF video with the subtitles I don't remember it t What was her embedded in the file. (ing) YM2



There is a section in the middle of the audio that is not transcribed. You can add annotations directly to the timeline in the main Annotation mode window.

00:00:46.000

00:00:46.000

00:00:47.000

00:00:47.000

she- she was

Selection:

Click and drag on the waveform to select the relevant section (you can press shift+space to

play your selection to check it's right). Then double click in the relevant tier (so YM1 for the male speaker, and YF3 for the female speaker) and type in the annotation. You need to commit this annotation by pressing ctrl+enter (cmd+enter on a Mac). Work your way through, filling in the missing annotations (they have been doone for you from 1m16s into the file: it's only a short section that is missing).

Task 10: controlled vocabulary



This allows you to specify a drop-down list

of values for an annotation, and is useful for transcribing variables, where you want to use a defined set of possible variants. Find an example of (ing) using the search method from Task 6. Then click and drag to select the relevant audio and double click in the (ing) tier for that speaker. This time, rather than an IPA keyboard, you will see a drop down list of three variants: double-click one to put that variant in the annotation.

If you want to, you can add another variant to the controlled vocabulary list: go to **Edit --> Edit**

controlled vocabularies and you'll see the three variants we already have. You might want a fourth label for inaudible tokens: type in your new value (and a description if you want) and press add. It will then appear in the drop-down list.

[IN]	Entry value
[1ŋ] [1ŋg]	inaudible
	Entry description
	inaudible
	ISO Data Category
	Browse
	Add

Task 11: exporting a transcript

Click **File --> Export As --> Interlinear Text** This will bring up a preview of how your transcription will be exported. Experiment with the different options:

- ➡ Which tiers to include
- ➡ Whether to include tier labels
- ➡ Whether to include timecode
- Click Apply Changes to preview each change

You can then save the file as a text file which can be imported into word processing software. Use of a fixed width font such as Courier will preserve the layout that ELAN creates.

		Set Layout Options	5
	um once upon a time there w	ere three bears that lived in a	Tiers
	in a cottage in the woods	there was a big bear a middle size bear	Orthography Phon
m	and a wee bear in the morn	ing they all have	
	porridge for breakfast I kn	ow I've missed	
m fh	missed bits out is that OK	yeah that's fine in the morning they all ha	v A V
10	porridge for breakfast and	the big bear has a big bowl for his	What
h	porridge the middle size t	ear has a middle size bear for her porridge	 Show Selection Only Show Tier Labels
01	and the wee bear has a wee	bowl for their porridge one morning they we	r 🗌 Show Time Code ss.ms
4	trying their porridge and t	he big bear found it too hot I'm adding bit	
1	amn't I does that is that	OK that's fine um the middle sized bear said	Hide Empty Lines Show All Tiers
	the middle size bear said	her porridge was too hot and the baby bear	Show Page Numbers
	the little bear the wee bea	r said its porridge was too hot	Include silence duration
	so the big bear suggested t	hey all go out for a walk	20 minimal silence
	so they all got up put thei	r coats and jackets and scarves and gloves	a 2 ‡ number of digits
	their wellies on and went	for a walk while they were out a wee old lad	
Ŧ	a wee nasty old lady saw w	ent and looked in the looked in the mirror	Height:
	no looked in the window an	d saw that nobody was in she then went to th	e Wrap Blocks At Block Bound
	looked in the keyhole saw	nocone was in so she tried the door the door	Wrap Lines 🗹
	and she went in she was re	ally nosy she just so she went into the kitc	Sort As Read From
ĺ	and she took a spoon of th	e big bowl of porridge she found out it was	Line Spacing:
			Apply Changes Save A

00	Set Layout Options		
			Tiers
Orthography YF3 Orthography YM1	You did! You saw that big fat one with the dress whose $$\rm I$\ d-$$		✓ Orthography YF3 12 ✓ (ing) YF3 12 ✓ Orthography YM1 12
Orthography YF3	whose dad made the dress You remember		✓ (ing) YM2 12
Orthography YF3 Orthography YM1	"Who made you that dress?" I don't remember it though!		Font Sizes
Orthography YF3 Orthography YM1	"My dad made it" Oh it was terrible! I don't remember what-		What
Orthography YF3 Orthography YM1	And she was on- yeah you do What was her name?		 □ Show Selection Only ✓ Show Tier Labels
Orthography YF3	I can't remember but she was on the finale as well		Show Time Code hh:mm:ss.ms
Orthography YF3 Orthography YM1	No no no no no was she- did she go to school with us?		 Show Empty Slots Hide Empty Lines
Orthography YF3 Orthography YM1	She was a- way younger than us Erm oh right		Show All Tiers
Orthography YF3	But she was on the finale as well you know when they		
orthography YF3	bring out all the crappy ones and they sing like		Width: 80
Orthography YF3	'We Are The Champions' or some sort of song		Height:
orthography YF3	she was on it like they had her on this throne in that dress		Wrap Blocks At Block Boundaries
Orthography YF3 Orthography YM1	it was brilliant! but then		Wrap Lines Sort As Read From File
Orthography YM1	but er when we were watching the other day the the		Line Spacing:
Orthography YM1	the landlady from The Fusilier in Ramsbottom was on it		Block Spacing 2
Orthography YF3 Orthography YM1	Oh! She was on it she was terrible! but she she was		Insert Tabs Between Annotations
orthography VM1	T mean it was just diabolical it was so so terrible	Ŧ	Apply Changes Save As

Our *Three Bears* monologues do not produce particularly interesting exported transcripts, but to the left is an example of a conversation transcribed in ELAN, containing overlapping speech and turn taking.

Font Sizes

luration in ms after decimal

Close

Task 12: Use the 'export as list of words' function and then import into a spreadsheet

Working with Speaker01.eaf, go to File --> Export As --> List of Words...

Select the Orthography tier, and tick the "Count occurrences" box.

Click OK to save the list as a text file (UTF-8 encoding should be fine: this means that the text file will use unicode text encoding, which is important if you are using extended sets of characters (IPA, Cyrillic etc).

This file can be imported into a spreadsheet



In Excel, there is an import function which will guide you through the process of importing this text file. The words and the frequency counts are delimited by tabs: Excel will convert this into columns as shown on the right. You can then sort the data, produce bar charts etc.

Task 13: Tokenise your orthographic transcription

Having created a first pass orthographic transcription, you might want to tag certain words within each of your annotations. ELAN can create a new, 'tokenised' tier for you. NB the individual words will not automatically line up with the audio, although you could move the boundaries by hand if you wanted to achieve that.

First we need to create a new 'linguistic type' (a confusing label, but this is to tell ELAN that our new tier will be the 'child' of our original orthographic 'parent' tier). Go to

Type --> Add New Linguistic Type

Call this type 'Tokens' and (more confusing jargon!) set the 'stereotype' to Time Subdivision. Then **Add** this new type.

00	Tokenize Tie	r	
	Tokenize Ti	er	
Source and destination ti	er		
Source tier (parent tier)	Orthography	\$	
Destination tier	Words	\$	Create New Tier
Default (space chara Custom (each chara) Existing annotations on	cter will be treated as a	a delimiter;	
Overwrite Preserve			
Create destination a	nnotation for empty so	ource anno	tation
		ose	

Now go to **Tier --> Add New Tier**. Call the tier *Words*, set the Parent Tier to Orthography and the Linguistic Type to Tokens. Finally, go to **Tier --> Tokenize Tier** Set the source tier to Orthography and the destination tier to Words and press Start. You'll see a new

set of annotations on the Words tier.

		33.500	00:01:04.000	00:01:04.5		1:05.000	00:01:05.500		:01:06.000	00:01:06	
		منفة ليوماليوماء		Inne A. John							
Ŧ		ىلىيە بالىلىمىلىل ل ىي									,
		03.500	00:01:04.000	00:01:04.5		1:05.000	00:01:05.500		:01:06.000	00:01:06	
			saw nooone was				tried the door the				and s
	Orthography [199]										
	Phon [2]										
		(hole	saw no	oone was	in	SO	she tried	the	door the	door	opened and

1	Home	Layout	Tables	Charts	>>	V #
_	C34	+ 🙁	⊘ (• f:	x		
4	A	В	С	D	E	1
1	Item	Frequency				
2	the	75				
3	and	69				
4	she	53				
5	in	35				
6	bear	32				
7	was	25				
8	that	24				
9	it	19				
10	so	19				
11	а	18				
12	s	17				
13	they	17				
14	porridge	16				
15	went	16				
16	all	15				
17	big	15				
18	too	15				
19	middle	13				
20	said	13				
21	wee	13				
22	saw	12				
	been	11				

Type Name	Stereotype	Use Cont	tro DC ID	Tim	Ref
default-lt	_	-	-	V	٦
	Add Cha	nge 🛛 [Delete Impor	t	
			default-lt		÷
Type Name	<u>!</u>		Tokens		
Stereotype			Time Subdiv	/ision	÷
Use Contro	lled Vocabula	ry	None		÷
Lexicon co	nnection			Select	
ISO Data C	ategory			Browse	
	able		\checkmark		
Time-align	abre				

Other things to try:

• Export as a Praat textgrid and then view your transcription in Praat.

Create additional tiers to tag individual tokens of a variable with contextual detail:
 Here I have created tiers for preceding segment, following segment and category.



With such an approach to annotating your audio, you can export to tab delimited text, which will then import to a spreadsheet (or, indeed, directly to R) for analysis. The screenshot below shows the above annotations imported into OpenOffice. (If you have used Unicode characters, such as IPA, then Excel does not do a good job of importing them. You can import them into OpenOffice though, and save as an Excel file from there if you want).

00	0 0	Speaker01.txt - OpenOffice.org Calc							
: -	- 😕 🗔 🖙 🖻 🗄 🗣 👋 🏁 🏟 - 🛷 🖻 - 🧭 - 🎯 🔥 👬 🏙 🕢 📾 👫 👫 💼 🖉 💼 🗟 🗣 🌘								
9.	Arial ▼ 10 ▼ B I U ≡ Ξ ≡ □ 10 % % ‰ ‰ ∉ ∉ □ • 20 • A •								
A1	1 🔹 🏌 🗵 = 🛛 Begin Time – ss.msec								
	A B C D E 1								
1	Begin Time - ss.msec Orthography Phon Preceding Seg Following seg								
2									
3									
4		when she heard the little bear talking	IN	k	#	v			

The ELAN manual is available online or to download as a pdf here: <u>http://www.lat-mpi.eu/tools/elan/manual</u>

The ELAN website also has a forum and lots of documentation so if you have questions you can probably find the answers there.

A detailed guide is available here: http://fave.ling.upenn.edu/downloads/ELAN_Introduction.pdf

ELAN Workshop, Newcastle, 7 March 2013



FAVE (http://fave.ling.upenn.edu)

This project, based at the University of Pennsylvania and accessible online, will take an orthographic transcription, such as the ones we have generated in ELAN, and force align the transcription at word and phone level, generating a Praat textgrid.

You need to **Export As --> Tab Delimited Text** with options set as shown to the right, to include Begin Time and End Time in seconds.

Your text file should have five tab-delimited columns containing: speaker ID, speaker name, beginning of annotation unit (in seconds), end of annotation unit (in seconds), transcribed text.

(Open it in a text editor to check (or Quicklook it on a Mac):

Orthography	Edinburgh F	0.0	2.51	um once upon a time there were three
Orthography	Edinburgh F	2.51	3.799	bears that lived in a
Orthography	Edinburgh F	3.799	5.487	in a cottage in the woods
Orthography	Edinburgh F	5.487	7.11	there was a big bear
Orthography	Edinburgh F	7.11	8.27	a middle size bear
Orthography	Edinburgh F	8.27	10.062	and a wee bear

This is the result for the Speaker01.eaf file we have been working with:



This is very impressive indeed! While this result was not 100% accurate, I did not optimise the orthographic transcription *at all* for processing by FAVE, and the timings were quite rough and ready, yet it still produced a very accurate result. A small amount of tweaking the orthographic transcription before submitting it to FAVE would make it even more accurate.

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