

# A Whirlwind Demo of ELAN

LING1340: Data Science for Linguists

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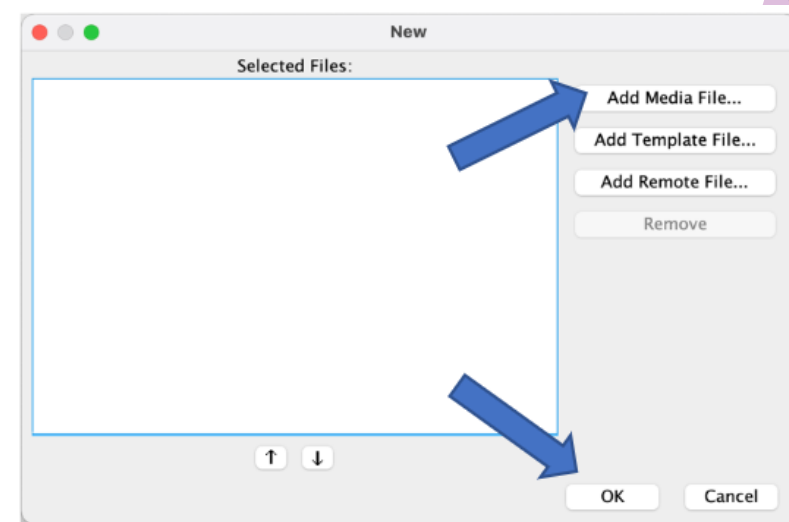
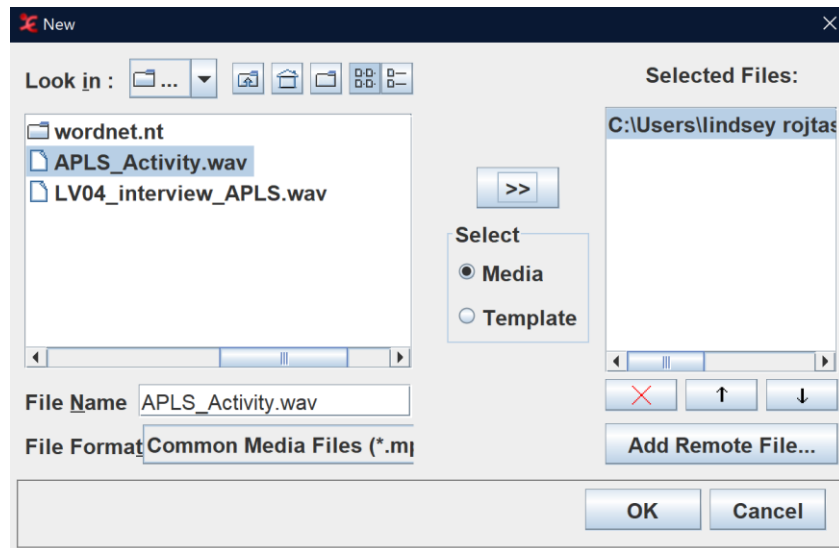
Material adapted from Lexy Brown's ELAN demo and annotation convention presentations for LING1269

# What is ELAN?

- ▶ ELAN is a program used to manually transcribe audio or video recordings
  - ▶ Today's demo will just cover audio!
- ▶ ELAN was published in 2000, but it is still widely used as a professional transcription software
  - ▶ What makes it so good, then...?
- ▶ Some main features of ELAN are:
  - ▶ Support for various audio and video formats depending on OS
  - ▶ Creating multi-leveled annotations through tiers and tier hierarchies
  - ▶ Multiple ways to view annotations
  - ▶ And it's open source! (GPL 3)

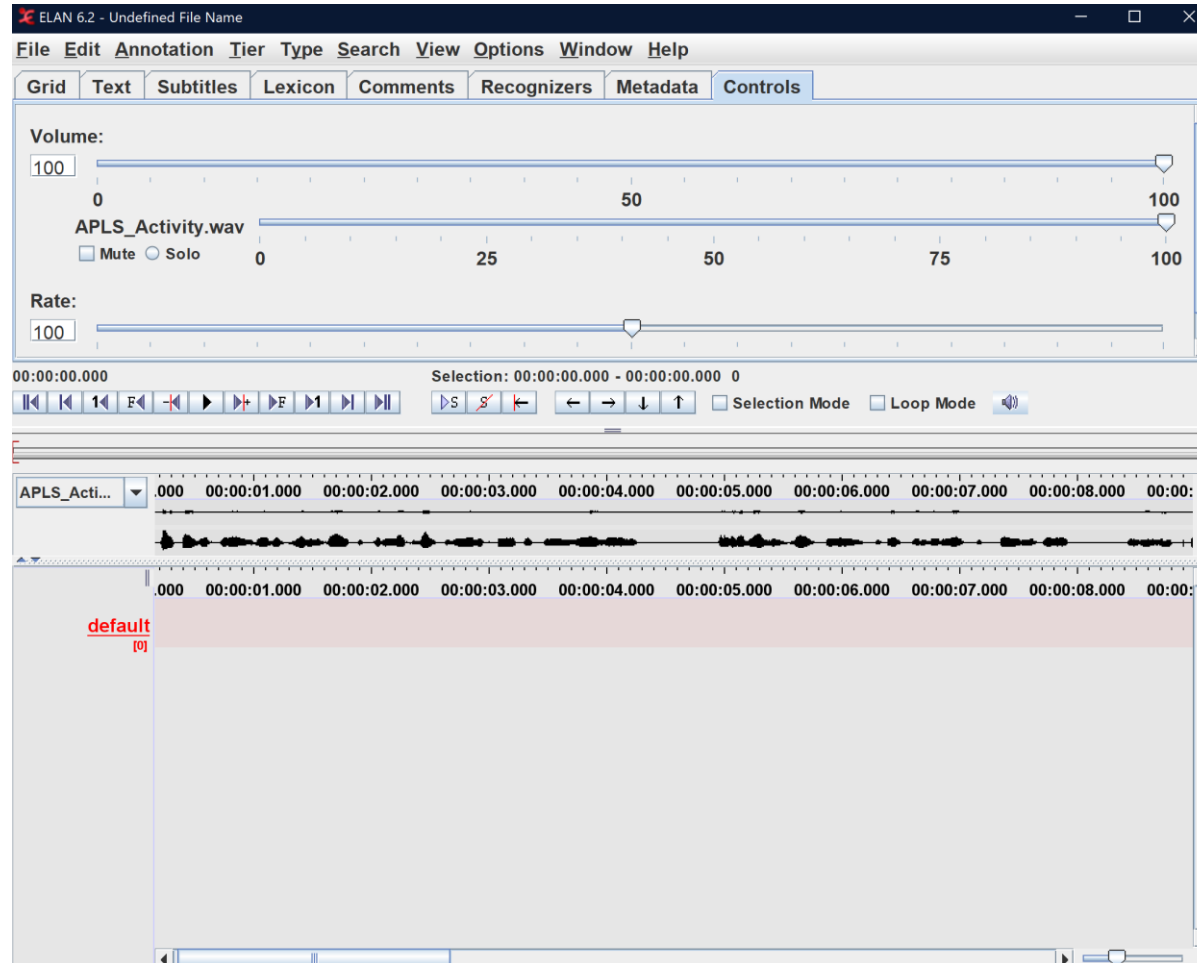
# Setting Up: Importing An Audio File

- ▶ There are multiple different ways to do this, but the easiest way is...
  - ▶ Go to FILE and click NEW
  - ▶ Search for your media file
    - ▶ WINDOWS → Locate your file, click >> (you should see the file in Selected Files), then click OK
    - ▶ MAC → Click Add Media File, locate and select your file, and then click OK



# We Did It!

- ▶ We should end up with something like this:

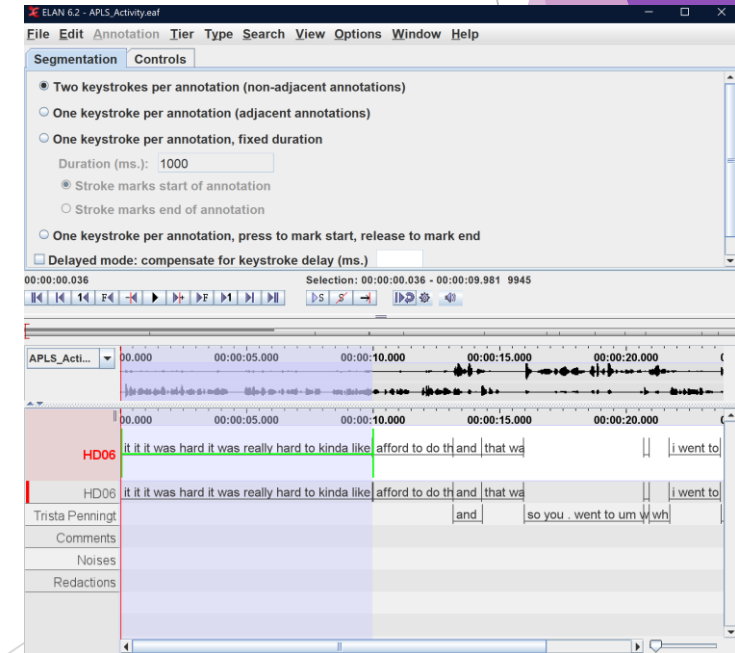
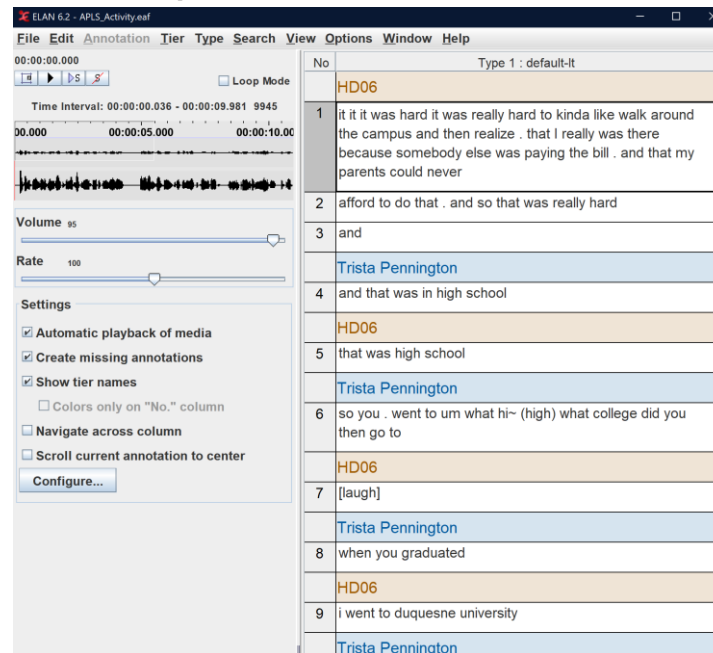
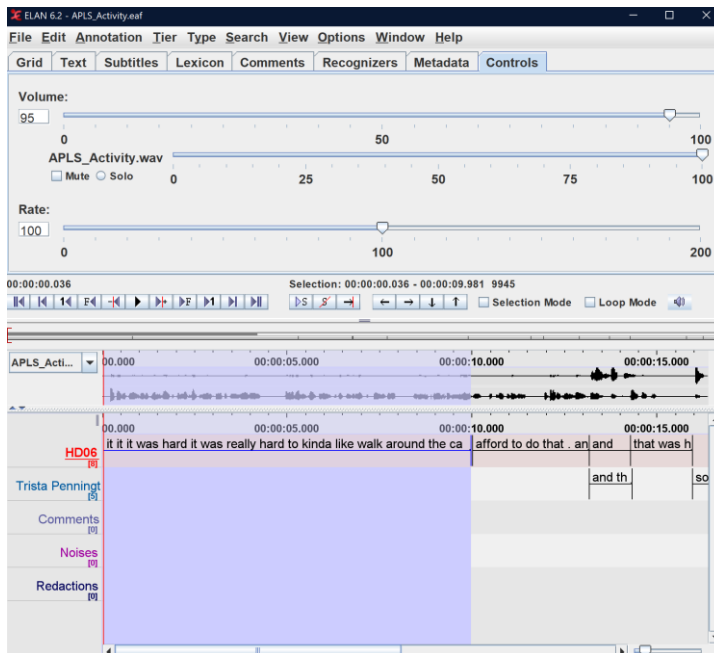


# Setting Up: Defining Tiers

- ▶ One of the best features of ELAN is multi-tier annotation capabilities
- ▶ In the project I did with ELAN, we had the following tiers:
  - ▶ 1 tier for each participant (named for that participant!)
  - ▶ 1 tier for comments
  - ▶ 1 tier for noises
  - ▶ 1 tier for redactions
- ▶ In order to add tiers...
  - ▶ Go to TIER → ADD NEW TIER → Edit all the info you need to → ADD
- ▶ In order to edit a tier...
  - ▶ Go to TIER → CHANGE TIER ATTRIBUTES → Edit all the info you need to → CHANGE

# Switching Between Modes

- ▶ ELAN has several different annotation modes, but the ones I used the most (and the ones that you will likely use the most if you use ELAN) are
  - ▶ Annotation Mode → used to create annotation segments
  - ▶ Transcription Mode → listen to your annotations one by one
  - ▶ Segmentation Mode → change the length/position of your segments
- ▶ To switch between them, click on the Options menu!



# Common Transcription Conventions: Turns

- ▶ Turns (at talk) are segmented based on breath groups
  - ▶ Typically, no longer than ten seconds even if it's the same person speaking for a long stretch of time!
- ▶ Overlapped speech must get transcribed differently:
  - ▶ The overlapped portion must be a separate turn on each of the speakers' tiers
  - ▶ This was especially important for my project, as we used a phonetic force-aligner that we didn't want to take overlapped speech into account



Disclaimer: Please note that this slide is not exhaustive! Different projects or different institutions may warrant different transcription guidelines; make sure you check with who you're working with to make sure you've got the right idea

# Common Transcription Conventions: Punctuation

- ▶ There are (usually, see disclaimer at bottom of slide) four allowable punctuation marks
  - ▶ Apostrophes (between words) → use them as you would in standard writing
  - ▶ Periods → used for short pauses
  - ▶ Hyphens → used for longer pauses
  - ▶ Question marks (between words) → use if it isn't clear that what was said is a question just by grammatical structure
- ▶ Use spaces between letters and punctuation (except for apostrophes)
- ▶ NEVER use quotation marks

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# Common Transcription Conventions: Spelling

- ▶ Use conventional spelling; if you need to, look it up
  - ▶ NO EYE-DIALECT!!!
  - ▶ Certain colloquial spellings are allowed (gonna, cause, wanna, gotta, sorta, kinda, etc.); check with whoever you need to with regards to these, though, they may vary
- ▶ Don't "clean up" the speech. Leave in repetitions, fillers, errors, mean sentiments, etc.
  - ▶ The transcribed speech **MUST** be as true to the recording as possible
- ▶ The only times that capital letters should be used is in the case of proper nouns and "I" → NOT at the beginning of sentences!
- ▶ Write out numbers in full with spaces instead of hyphens (twenty two, not twenty-two)
- ▶ With abbreviations, use capital letters with spaces in between each letter if the letters are said separately; otherwise, capitals with no spaces or a specification of the pronunciation of the abbreviation are used

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# Common Transcription Conventions: Unfinished Words

- ▶ Depending on whether you use a force aligner (like LaBB-CAT or something similar) to, say, assign phonemes to your transcription, you'll want to denote unfinished words
  - ▶ In the case of the word “hesitate” being stopped after the first two syllables...
    - ▶ hesi-[hEz@] ← pronounce code
    - ▶ hesi-(hesitate) ← lexical code
    - ▶ hesi~
  - ▶ (the incomplete word with a tilde at the end with a “pronounce”/”lexical” code
  - ▶ Depending on how incomplete the word is, you may not need a code
- ▶ Use a pronounce code if there's something like a made-up word

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# Common Transcription Conventions: Comments, Noise, and Redactions

- ▶ Noise tier → transcribe non-speech noises between square brackets
  - ▶ Noises produced by individuals are transcribed on that speaker's tier
  - ▶ General noises appear on the noise tier
- ▶ Comments tier → comments about speech (or in general) are between curly brackets
  - ▶ Comments about individuals' speech/behavior are transcribed on that speaker's tier
  - ▶ General comments are placed on the comment tier
- ▶ Redactions → redact any personal identifiable information that your speaker may give (first/last name, family members' names, address, etc.)
  - ▶ On the speaker's tier, enter REDACT
  - ▶ On the Redactions tier, give a description of why you're redacting that speech
  - ▶ Make your redactions as short as possible to avoid deleting more information than necessary

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The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of purple and magenta, primarily concentrated on the right side of the frame. The shapes include triangles and polygons of different sizes and orientations, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central area is a plain white space.

Questions?