

E16 & DEtool

typesetting language data using ConT_EXt

Abstract

This article describes two recent projects in which ConT_EXt was used to typeset language data. The goal of project E16 was to typeset the 16th edition of the *Ethnologue*, an encyclopaedia of the languages of the world. The complexity of the data and the size of the project made this an interesting test case for the use of T_EX and ConT_EXt. The Dictionary Express tool (DEtool) is developed to typeset linguistic data in a dictionary layout. DEtool (which is part of a suite of linguistic software) uses ConT_EXt for the actual typesetting.

Introduction

Some background: SIL is an NGO dedicated to serve the world's minority language communities in a variety of language-related ways. Collecting all sorts of language data is the basis of much of the work. This could be things like the number of speakers of a particular language, relations between different languages, literacy rates and bi- and multilingualism. Much of this data ends up in a huge database, which in turn is used as the source for publications like the *Ethnologue*.¹ which is an encyclopaedia of languages. It consists of four parts, starting with an introductory chapter explaining the scope of the publication and 25 pages of 'Statistical summaries'. Part 1 has 600 pages with language descriptions, describing all the 6909 languages of the world. Part 2 consists of 200 pages with language maps and Part 3 has of 400 pages of indexes, for Language names, Language Codes and Country names.

Typesetting the *Ethnologue*

Data flow and directory structure: All the data is stored in an Oracle database running on a secure web server. The XML output is manipulated using XSLT to serve different 'views'. One output path leads to html (for the website <http://www.ethnologue.com>) and another output path gives T_EX-output of with the codes are defined in ConT_EXt. Once the data is downloaded from the server, it is stored locally in the 'data' directory of the typesetting system. There is also a 'content' directory containing small files that \input the data files (and do some tricky things with catcodes.) All the content-files are loaded using a 'project' file in the root directory. This (slightly complicated) process allows for easy updating of the data and convenient testing of all the different parts, both separately and together. The macro definitions are all stored in a module.

Module

In good ConT_EXt style all the code for this project is placed in a module. A ConT_EXt module starts with a header like this:

```
%D \module
%D [   file=p-ethnologue,
%D     version=2009.01.14
%D     title=\CONTEXT\ User Module,
%D     subtitle=Typesetting Ethnologue 16,
%D     author=Jelle Huisman, SIL International,
%D     date=\currentdate,
%D     copyright=SIL International]
%C Copyright SIL International
```

```
\writestatus{loading}{Context User Module Typesetting Ethnologue 16}
\unprotect
\startmodule[ethnologue]
```

All the macro definitions go here... and the module is closed with:

```
\stopmodule
\protect \endinput
```

With the command `texexec --modu p-ethnologue.tex` it is easy to make a pdf with the module code, comments and even an index.

E16 code examples

A couple of code examples are presented here to give an impression of the project. This is part of the standard page setup for the paper size and the setup of two basic layouts.

```
\definepapersize [ethnologue][width=179mm, height=255mm]

\startmode[book] % basic page layout for the book
\setuppapersize [ethnologue][letter]% paper size for book mode
\setuplayout[backspace=18mm, width=148mm, topspace=7mm, top=0mm,
             header=6mm, footer=7mm, height=232mm]
\stopmode

\startmode[proofreading] % special layout for proofreading mode
\setuppapersize [letter][letter]% paper size for proofreading mode
\setuplayout[backspace=18mm, width=160mm, topspace=7mm, top=0mm,
             header=16mm, footer=6mm, height=250mm]
\stopmode
```

Use of modes: proofreading vs. final output

To facilitate the proofreading a special proofreading ‘mode’ was defined with wider margins, as shown in the code example in the previous section and with a single column layout (not in this code example). The ‘modes’ mechanism is used to switch between different setups. This code:

```
%\enablemode[book]
\enablemode[proofreading]
```

is used in a ‘project setup’ file to switch between the proofreading mode (single column, bigger type) and the book mode showing the layout of the final publication. One other application of modes is the possible publication of separate extracts with e.g. the language descriptions of only one country. This could be published using a Printing on Demand process.

Language description

The biggest part of the publication is the section with the language descriptions. Each language description consists of: a page reference (not printed), the language name, the language code, a short language description and a couple of special ‘items’ like: language class, dialects, use and writing system. This is an example of the raw data for Belarusian:

```
\startLaDes{ % start of Language Description
\pagereference[bel-BY] % used for index
\startLN{Belarusian }\stopLN % LN: Language name
[bel] % ISO 639-3 code for this language
(Belarusian, Belorussian, Bielorrussian, Byelorussian, White Russian,
White Ruthenian). 6,720,000 in Belarus (Johnstone and Mandryk 2001).
Population total all countries: 8,620,000. Ethnic population:
9,051,080. Also in Azerbaijan, Canada, Estonia, Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russian Federation
```

Sine, Dyegueme (Gyegem), Niominka. The Niominka and Serere-Sine dialects mutually inherently intelligible. *Lg Use*: Official language. National language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 1%. Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Arabic script. Latin script. *Other*: 'Sereer' is their name for themselves. Traditional religion, Muslim, Christian. *Map*: 725:28.

Soninke [snk] (Marka, Maraka, Sarahole, Sarakole, Sarangkolle, Sarawule, Serahule, Serahuli, Silabe, Toubakai, Walpre). 250,000 in Senegal (2007 LeClerc). North and south of Bakel along Senegal River. Bakel, Ouaoundé, Moudéri, and Yaféra are principal towns. *Dialects*: Azer (Adjer, Aser), Gadyaga. *Lg Use*: Official language. National language. Also use French, Bambara [bam], or Fula [fub]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 1%. *Other*: The Soninke trace their origins back to the Eastern dialect area of Mali (Kinbakka), whereas the northeastern group in Senegal is part of the Western group of Mali (Xenqenna). Thus, significant differences exist between the dialects of the 2 geographical groups of Soninke in Senegal. Muslim. See main entry under Mali. *Map*: 725:29.

Wamey [cou] (Conhague, Coniagui, Koniagui, Konyagi, Wamei). 18,400 in Senegal (2007), decreasing. Population total all countries: 23,670. Southeast and central along Guinea border, pockets, usually beside Pulaar [fuc]. Also in Guinea. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Eastern Senegal-Guinea, Tenda. *Lg Use*: Neutral attitude. Also use Pulaar [fuc]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 1%. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Konyagi is the ethnic name. Agriculturalists; making wine, beer; weaving bamboo mats. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 725:30.

Wolof [wol] (Ouolof, Volof, Walaf, Waro-Waro, Yalof). 3,930,000 in Senegal (2006). Population total all countries: 3,976,500. West and central, Senegal River left bank to Cape Vert. Also in France, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Wolof. *Dialects*: Baol, Cayor, Dyolof (Djolof, Jolof), Lebou (Lebu), Jander. Different from Wolof of Gambia [wof]. *Lg Use*: Official language. National language. Language of wider communication. Main African language of Senegal. Predominantly urban. Also use French or Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%. Literacy rate in L2: 30%. Radio programs. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1988. *Writing*: Arabic script, Ajami style. Latin script. *Other*: 'Wolof' is their name for themselves. Muslim. *Map*: 725:32.

Xasonga [kao] (Kasonke, Kasso, Kasson, Kassonke, Khasonke, Xaasonga, Xaasongaxango, Xasonke). 9,010 in Senegal (2006). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 1%. *Other*: Muslim. See main entry under Mali (Xaasongaxango).

Seychelles

Republic of Seychelles. 86,000. National or official languages: English, French, Seselwa Creole French. Includes Aldabra, Farquhar, Des Roches; 92 islands. Literacy rate: 62%–80%. Information mainly from D. Bickerton 1988; J. Holm 1989. Blind population: 150 (1982 WCE). The number of individual languages listed for Seychelles is 3. Of those, all are living languages.

English [eng]. 1,600 in Seychelles (1971 census). *Lg Use*: Official language. *Other*: Principal language of the schools. See main entry under United Kingdom.

French [fra]. 980 in Seychelles (1971 census). *Lg Use*: Official language. *Other*: Spoken by French settler families, 'grands blancs'. See main entry under France.

Seselwa Creole French [crs] (Creole, Ilois, Kreol, Seychelles Creole French, Seychellois Creole). 72,700

(1998). Ethnic population: 72,700. *Class*: Creole, French based. *Dialects*: Seychelles dialect reportedly used on Chagos Islands. Structural differences with Morisyen [mfe] are relatively minor. Low intelligibility with Réunion Creole [rcf]. *Lg Use*: Official language since 1977. All domains. Positive attitude. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary schools. Radio programs. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2000. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Fishermen. Christian.

Sierra Leone

Republic of Sierra Leone. 5,586,000. National or official language: English. Literacy rate: 15%. Immigrant languages: Greek (700), Yoruba (3,800). Also includes languages of Lebanon, India, Pakistan, Liberia. Information mainly from D. Dalby 1962; TISL 1995. Blind population: 28,000 (1982 WCE). Deaf institutions: 5. The number of individual languages listed for Sierra Leone is 25. Of those, 24 are living languages and 1 is a second language without mother-tongue speakers. See map on page 726.

Bassa [bsq]. 5,730 in Sierra Leone (2006). Freetown. *Other*: Traditional religion. See main entry under Liberia.

Bom [bmf] (Bome, Bomo, Bum). 5,580 (2006), decreasing. Along Bome River. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Bullom-Kissi, Bullom, Northern. *Dialects*: Lexical similarity: 66%–69% with Sherbro [bun] dialects, 34% with Krim [krm]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Mende [men]. *Other*: Traditional religion.

Bullom So [buy] (Bolom, Bulem, Bullin, Bullun, Mandenyi, Mandingi, Mmani, Northern Bullom). 8,350 in Sierra Leone (2006). Coast from Guinea border to Sierra Leone River. Also in Guinea. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Bullom-Kissi, Bullom, Northern. *Dialects*: Mmani, Kafu. Bom is closely related. Little intelligibility with Sherbro, none with Krim. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Themne [tem]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1816. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: The people are intermarried with the Temne and the Susu. Traditional religion. *Map*: 726:1.

English [eng]. *Lg Use*: Official language. Used in administration, law, education, commerce. See main entry under United Kingdom.

Gola [gol] (Gula). 8,000 in Sierra Leone (1989 TISLL). Along the border and inland. *Dialects*: De (Deng), Managobla (Gobla), Kongbaa, Kpo, Senje (Sene), Tee (Tege), Toldil (Toodii). *Lg Use*: Shifting to Mende [men]. *Other*: Different from Gola [mzm] of Nigeria (dialect of Mumuye) or Gola [pbp] (Badyara) of Guinea-Bissau and Guinea. Muslim, Christian. See main entry under Liberia. *Map*: 726:4.

Kisi, Southern [kss] (Gissi, Kisi, Kissien). 85,000 in Sierra Leone (1995). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 3%. *Other*: Different from Northern Kisi [kqs]. Traditional religion, Muslim, Christian. See main entry under Liberia. *Map*: 726:13.

Kissi, Northern [kqs] (Gizi, Kisi, Kisie, Kissien). 40,000 in Sierra Leone (1991 LBT). *Dialects*: Liaro, Kama, Teng, Tung. *Lg Use*: Also use Krio [kri] or Mende [men]. *Other*: Traditional religion. See main entry under Guinea. *Map*: 726:11.

Klao [klu] (Klaoh, Klau, Kroo, Kru). 9,620 in Sierra Leone (2006). Freetown. Originally from Liberia. *Other*: Traditional religion. See main entry under Liberia.

Kono [kno] (Konnoh). 205,000 (2006). Northeast. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mandé, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Vai-Kono. *Dialects*: Northern Kono (Sando), Central Kono (Fiama, Gbane, Gbane Kando, Gbense, Gorama Kono, Kamara, Lei, Mafindo, Nimi Koro, Nimi Yama, Penguia, Soa, Tankoro,

Figure 1. Example of page with language descriptions

```
(Europe), Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United States, Uzbekistan.
\startLDitem{Class: }\stopLDitem % LDitem: Language description item
Indo-European, Slavic, East.
\startLDitem{Dialects: }\stopLDitem Northeast Belarusian (Polots,
Viteb-Mogilev), Southwest Belarusian (Grodnen-Baranovich,
Slutsko-Mozyr, Slutska-Mazyrski), Central Belarusian. Linguistically
between Russian and Ukrainian [ukr], with transitional dialects to both.
\startLDitem{Lg Use: }\stopLDitem National language.
\startLDitem{Lg Dev: }\stopLDitem Fully developed. Bible: 1973.
\startLDitem{Writing: }\stopLDitem Cyrillic script.
\startLDitem{Other: }\stopLDitem Christian, Muslim (Tatar). }
\stopLaDes % end of Language Description
```

The styles for the different elements are defined using start-stop setups. One example is the style for the LDitem (Language Definition item) which was initially coded in this way:

```
\definestartstop % Language Description Item Part 1 % deprecated code!
[LDitem]
[before={\switchtobodyfont[GentiumBookIt,\LDitemfontsize]},
after={\switchtobodyfont[Gentium,\bodyfontpartone]}]
```

Eventually bodyfont switches were replaced by proper ConT_EXt-style typescripts, but the idea remains the same: `\definestartstop[something][code here]` makes it possible to use the pair `\startsomething` and `\stopsomething`.

Dynamic running header

As the example of the page with language descriptions (figure 1) shows the Country name is inserted in the header of the page, using the first country on a left page and the last country on the right page. The code used to do this is based on an example in `page-set.tex` in the ConT_EXt distribution.

```
\definemarking[headercountryname]
\setupheadertexts[\setups{show-headercountryname-marks}]
\startsetups show-headercountryname-first
\getmarking[headercountryname][1][first] % get first marking
\stopsetups
\startsetups show-headercountryname-last
\getmarking[headercountryname][2][last] % get last marking
\stopsetups
\setupheadertexts[]
\setupheadertexts
[\setups{text a}][]
[[][\setups{text b}]] % setup header text (left and right pages)
\startsetups[text a] % setup contents page a
\rlap{Ethnologue}
\hfill
{\pagenumber}
\hfill
\llap{\setups{show-headercountryname-last}}
\stopsetups
\startsetups[text b] % setup contents page b
\rlap{\setups{show-headercountryname-first}}
\hfill
\pagenumber
\hfill
\llap{Ethnologue}
\stopsetups
```

Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in Part I as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’, *alt. dial.* ‘alternate dialect name for’, *dial.* ‘primary dialect name for’, *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’, and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate dialect name for’. The index entry gives the primary name for the language

with which the given name is associated, followed by the unique three-letter language code in square brackets. The numbers identify the pages on which the language entries using the indexed name may be found. If the list of page references includes the entry in the primary country, it is listed first. The entry for a primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

- A Fala de Xálima**, *alt.* Fala [fax], 575
A Fala do Xálima, *alt.* Fala [fax], 575
A Nden, *alt.* Abun [kgr], 427
'A Vo', *alt. dial.* Awa [vwa], 335
'A vo' loi, *alt. dial.* Awa [vwa], 335
A'a Sama, *alt. dial.* Sama, Southern [ssb], 473
Aachterhoeks, *alt.* Achterhoeks [act], 563
Aage, *alt.* Esimbi [ags], 70, 171
Aaimasa, *alt. dial.* Kunama [kun], 121
Aal Murrah, *alt. dial.* Arabic, Najdi Spoken [ars], 523
Aalan, *alt.* Allar [all], 366
Aalawa, *dial.* Ramoovina [rai], 633
Aalawaa, *alt. dial.* Ramoovina [rai], 633
Aaleira, *alt.* Laro [lro], 204
Aantantara, *dial.* Tairora, North [tbg], 637
A'ara, *alt.* Cheke Holo [mrn], 646
Aarai, *alt.* Aari [aiw], 121
Aari [aiw], 121, 699
Aariya [aay], 365
Aasá, *alt.* Aasáx [aas], 207
Aasáx [aas], 207, 731
Aatasaara, *dial.* Tairora, South [omw], 637
AAVE, *alt. dial.* English [eng], 310
Aaye, *alt. dial.* Shua [shg], 58
Aba, *alt.* Amba [utp], 645
alt. Shor [cjs], 522
dial. Tibetan [bod], 404
Abá, *alt.* Avá-Canoeiro [avv], 237
Abaangi, *alt. dial.* Gwamhi-Wuri [bga], 173
Ababda, *dial.* Bedawiyet [bej], 121
Abaca, *alt. dial.* Ilongot [ilk], 511
Abacama, *alt.* Bacama [bcy], 165
Abacha, *alt.* Basa [bzw], 166
Abadani, *dial.* Farsi, Western [pes], 454
Abadhi, *alt.* Awadhi [awa], 484
Abadi [kbt], 600, 877
alt. Awadhi [awa], 367, 484
alt. Tsuvadi [tvd], 187
Abadzakh, *alt. dial.* Adyghe [ady], 567
Abadzeg, *alt. dial.* Adyghe [ady], 567
Abadzex, *dial.* Adyghe [ady], 567
Abaga [abg], 600, 871
Abai, *dial.* Putoh [put], 411
Abai Sungai [abf], 471, 811
Abak, *dial.* Anaang [anw], 165
Abaka, *dial.* Ilongot [ilk], 511
Abakan, *alt.* Kpan [kpk], 178
Abakan Tatar, *alt.* Khakas [kjh], 520, 345
Abakay Spanish, *alt. dial.* Chavacano [cbk], 509
Abaknon, *alt.* Inabaknon [abx], 511
Abaknon Sama, *alt.* Inabaknon [abx], 511
Abakoum, *alt.* Kwakum [kwu], 74
Abakpa, *alt. dial.* Ejagham [etu], 170, 70
Abakum, *alt.* Kwakum [kwu], 74
Abakwariga, *alt.* Hausa [hau], 173
Abaletti, *dial.* Yele [yle], 644
Abam, *dial.* Wipi [gdr], 642
Abancay, *dial.* Quechua, Eastern Apurímac [qve], 300
Abane, *alt.* Baniva [bvv], 320
Abangba, *alt.* Bangba [bbe], 106
Abanliku, *alt.* Obanliku [bzy], 183
Abanyai, *alt. dial.* Kalanga [kck], 227
Abanyom [abm], 164, 724
Abanyum, *alt.* Abanyom [abm], 164
Abar [mij], 65, 685
Abarambo, *alt.* Barambu [brm], 106
Abasakur, *alt.* Pal [abw], 632
Abathwa, *alt.* Xegwi [xeg], 198
Abatonga, *alt. dial.* Ndauid [ndc], 228
Abatsa, *alt.* Basa [bzw], 166
Abau [aau], 601, 866
Abaw, *alt.* Bankon [abb], 67
Abawa, *dial.* Gupa-Abawa [gpa], 173
Abayongo, *dial.* Agwagwune [yay], 164
Abaza [abq], 567, 533, 849
Abazin, *alt.* Abaza [abq], 567, 533
Abazintsy, *alt.* Abaza [abq], 567, 533
Abbé, *alt.* Abé [aba], 100
Abbey, *alt.* Abé [aba], 100
Abbey-Ve, *dial.* Abé [aba], 100
Abbruzzesi, *dial.* Romani, Sinte [rmo], 572
'Abd Al-Kuri, *dial.* Soqotri [sq], 543
Abdal, *alt.* Ainu [aib], 335
Abdedal, *alt.* Gagadu [gbu], 584
Abe, *dial.* Anyin [any], 100
Abé [aba], 100, 692
Abedju-Azaki, *dial.* Lugbara [lgg], 112
Àbéélé, *alt.* Beele [bxq], 166
Abefang, *alt. dial.* Befang [bby], 68
Abelam, *alt.* Ambulas [abt], 602
Abellen Ayta, *see* Ayta, Abellen [abp], 507
Abenaki, *alt.* Abnaki, Eastern [aaq], 306
alt. Abnaki, Western [abe], 247
Abenaqui, *alt.* Abnaki, Western [abe], 247
Abendago, *alt.* Yali, Pass Valley [yac], 441
Abeng, *dial.* Garo [grt], 329
A'beng, *dial.* Garo [grt], 375
A'bengya, *alt. dial.* Garo [grt], 375
Abenlen, *alt.* Ayta, Abellen [abp], 507
Aberu, *dial.* Mangbetu [mdj], 113
Abewa, *alt.* Asu [aum], 165
Abgue, *dial.* Birgit [btf], 88
Abhor, *alt.* Adi [adi], 365
Abi, *alt.* Abé [aba], 100
Abia, *alt.* Aneme Wake [aby], 602
Abiddul, *alt.* Gagadu [gbu], 584
Abidji [abi], 100, 692
Abie, *alt.* Aneme Wake [aby], 602
Abiem, *dial.* Dinka, Southwestern [dik], 201
Abigar, *alt. dial.* Nuer [nus], 126
dial. Nuer [nus], 205
Abigira, *alt.* Abishira [ash], 295
Abiji, *alt.* Abidji [abi], 100
Abiliang, *dial.* Dinka, Northeastern [dip], 201
Abini, *dial.* Agwagwune [yay], 164
Abinomn [bsa], 427, 797
Abinsi, *alt.* Wannu [jub], 188
Abipon [axb], 231
Abiquira, *alt.* Abishira [ash], 295
Abira, *alt.* E'ñapa Woromaipu [pbh], 320
Abiri, *alt.* Mararit [mgb], 92

Index

Since all the data for this publication comes from a database it was easy to compile a list of index items from that data. Page numbers were resolved using ConT_EXt's internal referencing system. The data contains references using three letter ISO code for language and a two letter country code like this:

```
\pagereference[bel-BY] % ISO code - country code
```

In the file with the index data this reference is linked to an index item:

```
Belarusan [bel], \at[bel-BY]
```

The code [bel-BY] is automatically replaced by the right page number(s) producing the correct entry in the index:

```
Belarusan [bel], 32, 224
```

Since the language name index (the biggest index) contains more than 100.000 references it can be imagined that typesetting this publication in one run was pushing the limits of T_EX. This is the first time that ConT_EXt is used to typesetting this publication. The previous version was produced using Ventura but when that program was replaced by InDesign there were some questions about the way in which InDesign works with the automatically generated data. T_EX seemed to be the right tool to use for this project and it sparked renewed interest in the use of T_EX for other data-intensive publications like dictionaries.

Exploring language

Counting languages is not the only way to collect language data: many linguists move into a language group and take a closer look at the different parts of the actual languages. Some linguists focus on the sounds of a language, others analyse the sentence structure or the way in which language is used in specific communication processes. The collected data is stored in a special database program called FieldWorks. FieldWorks runs on Windows only (though a Linux port is work in progress) and it is a free download from the SIL website². FieldWorks is actually a suite of programs consisting of Data Notebook, Language Explorer and WorldPad. FieldWorks Data Notebook is used for anthropological observations. FieldWorks WorldPad is a 'world ready' text editor with some special script support (including Graphite³). FieldWorks Language Explorer (FLE_x) is used to store all sorts of language related data. It is basically a complex database program with a couple of linguistics related tools. FLE_x contains a lexicon for storing data related to words, meaning(s), grammatical information about words and translations in other languages. Another part of FLE_x is the interlinear tool which makes it possible to take a text in one language and to give a 'word for word translation' in another language, for example as a way to discover grammatical structures. FLE_x comes with a grammar tool to facilitate the analysis and description of the grammar of a language. Since all language data is stored in the same database there are some interesting possibilities to integrate the language data and analysis tools.

Dictionaries

Once a field linguist has collected a certain amount of data he can start to think about the production of a word list or a real dictionary. To facilitate this a team of programmers has made tool called 'Dictionary Express'. This tool allows for the easy production of dictionaries based on data available in the FLE_x database. The user of FLE_x gets a menu option 'Print dictionary' and is presented with small window to enter some layout options. Behind the scenes one of two output paths is used: one is based on the use of an OpenOffice document template and another one uses X_YT_EX and ConT_EXt to typeset the dictionary. X_YT_EX was chosen because of the requirement to facilitate the

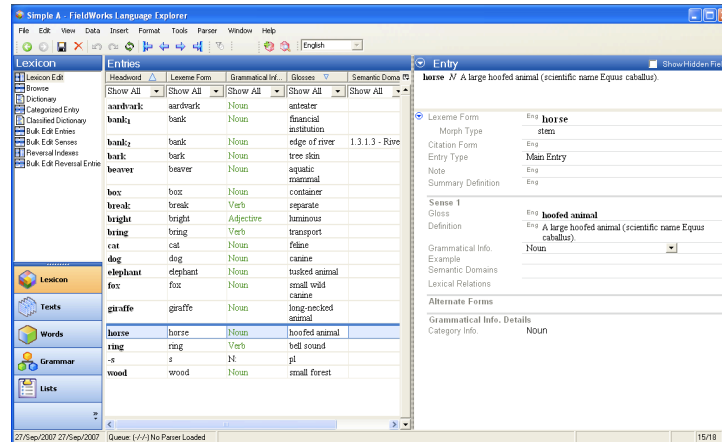


Figure 3. FieldWorks Language Explorer main window

use of the Graphite smart font technology used for the correct rendering of complex non-roman script fonts in use in some parts of the world (see footnote 2). The use of X_qTeX does of course mean that we use ConT_EXt MkII.

All data is available in an XML format and converted (using a purpose built converter) to a simple T_EX-tagged format. A typical dictionary entry looks like this:

```

\Bentry
\Bhw{abel}\Ehw
\marking[guidewords]{abel}
\Bpr{a.imbɛl}\Epr
\Bps{noun(al)}\Eps
\Bl{Eng}\Elt
\Bde{line, row}\Ede
\Bl{Pdg}\Elt
\Bde{lain}\Ede
\Bps{noun(al)}\Eps
\Bl{Eng}\Elt
\Bde{pole, the lowest of the three horizontal poles to which a fence is
tied and which form the main horizontal framework for the fence. This
is the biggest of the three}\Ede
\Eentry

```

The tags used in this data file include:

- headword (hw): this is the word that this particular entry is about,
- pronunciation (pr): the proper pronunciation of the word written using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA),
- part of speech (ps): the grammatical function of the word,
- language tag (lt): the language of the definition or example,
- definition (de): meaning of the headword,
- example (ex): example of the word used in a sentence.
- \marking[guidewords]{}: is used to put the correct guideword at the top of each page. (The code used here is inspired by the code used to put country name in the headers in the Ethnologue project.)

Currently most of the required features are implemented. This includes: font selection (including the use of Graphite fonts), basic dictionary layout and picture support. Some of these features are strait-forward and easy to implement. Other features such as picture support required more work e.g. page wide pictures keep floating to the next

