ELAN
annotation tool for multimodality research
a progress report

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- ELAN is a multimedia annotation tool
- freely available, sources available
- written in Java, stores data in XML
- current version 4.3.3

Multiple File operations
reduces repetition of the same manual actions
(mouse clicks, key strokes)

MF tier and type editing
add or remove tiers, edit
tier and type attributes

MF export / conversion
export to several formats;
tab-delimited text, Toolbox,
Praat

MF search, find-and-replace
complex structured search, find and replace with
support for regular expression

MF creation
create eaf files for all media files in a selected set of
folders

MF tier operations
annotations from
overlaps, by merging or
subtraction

Task oriented working modes

Annotation Mode
- the classic, default
mode, allows both
segmentation and
labeling

Segmentation Mode
- rapid creation of
segments while media is
playing
- segments created only
on root tiers and
on “included in” type of
dependent tiers
- keyboard driven
segmentation

Transcription Mode
- the process is cut down to listening/
watching and typing
- displays all annotations on all tiers of a certain type in
one column
- tiers are loaded based on the tier type
- first column can have tiers of any type

Audio and Video recognizers
- manual annotation is
time consuming, 1 hour of
recording can take up to
100 hour transcription
- usage of audio/video
pattern recognition
software can speed up
transcription work
- an extension mechanism
has been implemented for recognizers
- speech/non-speech detection, speaker
clustering, forced alignment, head-hand-arm detection

Media Support
new player for Windows 7 based on Microsoft
Media Foundation adds support for mp4/H.264

http://tla.mpi.nl/tools/tla-tools/elan
The Language Archive - Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands