

Toward the Interoperability of Language Resources

July 13-15, in conjunction with the 2007 LSA Summer Institute



Position Paper

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I am bothered about the burden on the Field Linguist, who has to be conversant with new technologies and standards. Most of the tools are not user friendly, and they are not interoperable. It is difficult to relate and integrate phases of linguistic work. The technologies require a self training and a serious commitment on the part of the Linguist.

Can we not explore the possibility of developing a tool that can do many things like transcription, production of archival alignment files, and ultimately produce user friendly language products. Even for this final products we have for instance Flash, HTML, XSLT, etc. The tools are too many, and even more are still being developed.

The burden on the individual, especially the Field Linguist is overwhelming. Since the individual tools must be learnt thoroughly so that they can become meaningful, working in a society where utilities are most epileptic, this is quite a challenge.

Is there no way we can reduce the number of new tools by building rather on the old ones and improving them?

Is there a way to design a suite of tools that can perform many functions that can be easy to learn and make it easy for transfer of files, with clear manuals to help beginners?

Is it possible to develop a kind of generic structure for database program in which we can enter, update and share data?

