

Groups & Links

This new functionality in ELAN-Corpa 4.8.0 is an attempt to respond to a limitation of ELAN that does not allow creating a dependant tier where annotations would span on annotations of another tier. And secondly, there is no way in ELAN to create annotations on a dependent tier that would cover non-contiguous annotations of the parent tier.

Then a new module has been added accessible by the new *Link* tab.

Once you enter this tab, you will have the upper part of the main screen presenting a sub-menu with two items : Table and Parameters, and below it a twofold area for displaying 2 tables : a Group Table and a Link Table.

Groups Table

A group is a way to bundle a set of annotations, not necessarily contiguous, selected from the annotation area.

A *Group* table is a 4 columns table in which each line will have an identifier, a list of annotations, a *Type* and a *Name*. The identifier is attributed by the program to identify a group by a unique number. The list of annotations of the group is given by the user by selecting one by one the desired annotations from the annotations area. The *Type* serves to give the group a label from a taxonomy, and the *Name* to give the group a name to identify it with an explicit value.

To create a Group Table, go to the menu item *Table*, then choose *New Table*, select the checkbox *Group* and give the table a name in the *Title of the table*. This name should reflect the type of grouping you are planning.

Create a group

Once the table is created, to create a new group of annotations (i.e a line in the table):

- from the annotation area, select the first annotation by clicking the annotation while maintaining the *Alt* key pressed (a colored rectangle will surround the selected annotation).
- then continue selecting the other annotations you want to group, one by one, in the same way. (To unselect a selected annotation, click on it with thee *Alt* key pressed)

Once the annotations to group have been selected,

- type 'C' keyboard key to *clear* an eventual selection of a line in the Group table,
- then type 'G' keyboard key to add a line in the Group table.

(Rem : if a line is selected in the Group table before you type 'G', the actual selected annotations will be added to the ones of the group selected).

Now you can give the new group a Type and a Name.

Controlled Vocabularies

The Type can be selected through from a controlled vocabulary (CV) list, if this list has been created and associated to the tType column. To create a CV list :

- Edit, Edit Controlled Vocabulaires, give this list a name in *CVName*, then Add
- Enter one by one the different values for the Type list in Entry value, then Add
- When you finish the list, Close

To affect the CV list to the *Type* field of the Group Table, go too the Links menu

- Parameters, Use Controlled Vocabulary
- For the Group Table, choose the CV, then OK

Now to affect a *Type* to the a group, click the Type cell of the line corresponding to the group, then choose the desired value in the dropdown list.

The *Name* of a group can be any value that could identify tihs group from another one of the same type for example.

Grouping groups

Existing groups can be merged into a new group by selecting them (with Ctrl or Cap key), then right-click on the selection, then Merge Group.

Deleting a group

To delete a group, right-click on the corresponding line, then choose Delete the current group

Sorting a table par Type or byr Name

By clicking the header of a table column, the table will be sorted on this column. This can be used to group the types by name and to count the number of occurencies for example.

By clicking the Id header, the groups are listed in the order of creation.

Links Table

Link is a way to associate an annotation or a group of annotations to another annotation or group of annotations and to give this association a Type and a Name.

A *Link* table is a 5 columns table in which each line will have an identifier, a list of annotations as Source, a list of annotations as Target, a Type and a Name. The identifier is attributed by the program to identify a group by a unique number. As for the Group table, the identifier is attributed by the program to identify a *link* by a unique number. The lists of annotations of the Source and the Target are given by the user by selecting one by one the desired annotations from the annotations area. The *Type* serves to give the link a label from a taxonomy, and the *Name* to give the link a name to identify it with an explicit value.

Source and *Target* represent the two ends of a relation, without preconceived meaning or direction, it's up to you to choose what you will put in Source and what in Target, just try to be consistent through the annotation. The Type value can be used to give a desired directionnality to the relation for example.

You can create a link between annotations already bundled in a group of the Group Table or directly from annotations selected in the annotations area, or a mixed of them.

To create a Link Table, go to the menu item *Table*, then *New Table*, select the checkbox *Link* and give the table a name in the *Title of the table*. This name should reflect the type of linking you are planning (references, information structure, syntaxe...).

Once the table is created, to create a new link between groups or annotations (i.e a line in the table):

- First of all, be aware no lines are selected in the Link Table (to unselect a line, click on it while pressing the Ctrl key).

- from the Group Table, select the desired group by clicking the corresponding line, then click on Source button (a new line is created). You can select multiple lines from the Group table (with Ctrl or Cap) before clicking Source

To create a Link directly from the annotations area

- from the annotation area, select the first annotation by clicking the annotation while maintaining the *Alt* key pressed (a colored rectangle will surround the selected annotation).
- then continue selecting the other annotations you want to group, one by one, in the same way. (To unselect a selected annotation, click on it with the *Alt* key pressed)

Once the bundle of annotations is selected,

- type 'C' keyboard key to *clear* an eventual selection of lines in the Group or Link tables,
- then type 'S' keyboard key to add a new line with Source field filled with the selected annotations

To add a Target to that new link, leave it selected

- Select from the annotation area (in the same way as above) the set of annotations desired for the Target, then type 'T' keyboard key to fill the Target field of the selected link with the selected items.

You can add annotations in a Group, Source or Target, one by one (for example if they are remote from each other) by simply typing 'G', 'S' or 'T' while the line of the group or link is selected (for this reason, you should be aware a line in the Group or Link table is not improperly selected when you type 'G', 'S' or 'T'. You can 'clear' the selections of both tables with the 'C' keyboard key)

Type and Name work the same way in Group and Link tables.

Editing a Group

To correct the content of a Group, double-click on the corresponding line to display the relevant annotations, then add or take an annotation off by clicking on it while pressing Alt key, then right-click on the selection, Replace in the selected Group.

If a Group is involved in a Link, modifying the content of the Group will be reflected into the Link.

Displaying annotations belonging to a link or group

Double-clicking a line in Group table will select and highlight the annotations belonging to that group in the annotations area, with a blue rectangle surrounding these annotations.

Double-clicking a line in Link table will select and highlight both the annotations belonging to the Source (in red) and the Target (in blue) of the corresponding link

Reversely, to find if an annotation from the annotation area is concerned by a group or a link, select that annotation while pressing 'Alt' key, then type 'V' keyboard key. All the lines (groups) in which that annotation is involved will be selected.

Displaying the Links by Type or Name

In the case of Links created from Groups (general usage), it's possible to choose to display the contents of the Link table by annotation Values or Type or Name of the Groups involved in the link : Parameters, Display Settings, then choose Value or Types or Names. In the last 2 choices, the values will be replaced by the Type or the Name of the Groups involved in the link, each into curly brackets.

Removing a group or a link from a table

Right-click on the line corresponding to the group, or link to delete, Delete current Group/Link

Exporting a table in CSV

A table can be exported in CSV (comma separated value) : right-click in the table to export : Export Table. Then this CSV file can be opened in a spreadsheet software (Excel)

Exporting tables in XML

The table contents are saved into the ELAN-CorpA file. As this was not originally planned, a new schema for ELAN has been created. Thus if an ELAN-CorpA file containing G&L tables is opened in original MPI ELAN, these tables will be discarded. If saved, they will be lost. To prevent this, it's possible to export the table contents in an XML file : Table, Export Table.

Importing tables in XML

If tables were saved before being lost in an ELAN file, they can be reloaded into the file : Table, Import Table. Be aware that if the ELAN file has been edited after the tables were saved, there can be inconsistencies in the Groups and Links.

Exporting Groups & Links Tables in XML

Groups and Links tables are saved into the ELAN-CorpA files. As this was not originally planned, a new schema for ELAN files has been created. Thus if you open an ELAN-CorpA file containing Group & Link tables into original MPI ELAN, this tables will be discarded. For this reason, it is possible to export Group & Link tables outside ELAN to be able to reload them later if necessary.

Menu Tables, Export Table, all the tables created for this file will be exported in an XML file.

Importing Groups & Links Tables

If the tables associated to an ELAN-CorpA file has been discarded, you can reload them if an export file exists for this file. Be aware that if the annotations in the ELAN file have been modified since the last export, there may be inconsistency in the groups and links.

Menu Table, Import Tables

Filtering a query by Groups & Links

Groups and Links can be used in the *Corpa Multiple Files Search* (Search) by choosing Exist in Group/Source/Target, (or not Exist in Group/Source/Target) in the last layer, and giving a Type or Name value. A hit of the query that does not agree the constraint will be discarded.