

FLEx Session– Inflectional Features

Objectives

- To be able to assign inflectional features (in this case noun class) to noun roots/stems already in the lexicon.
- To be able to assign inflectional features (in this case noun class) to noun roots/stems as they are being entered into the lexicon.

Why?

Up until now we have configured the noun class prefixes for their inflectional features, but we have not marked the noun roots/stems as to which inflectional feature they should have. The prefixes only go with certain inflectional feature groups. The parser needs this information to put the correct prefix on each noun stem. (However, sometimes more steps may need to be taken to constrain the parser so that it matches the affixes with the correct stems.)

How to assign inflectional features to a noun already in the lexicon

1. Open the project: **Nyangatom**, and go to the **Lexicon Edit View** if it does not open there.
2. Click on the **Grammatical Info** column and filter for **Noun**, with the **Anywhere** radio button activated. (You should have only noun stems listed; they should be in alphabetical order starting with **aberu**.)
3. Click on the box next to **Show Hidden Fields** in the upper right hand corner. (All of the possible data fields will now be visible.)
4. Scroll down until the **Inflectional Features** field is visible. Right click on **Inflectional Features**, and for **Field Visibility** choose **Always visible**.
5. Scroll back up to the top and uncheck the **Show Hidden Fields** box.
6. Click on the white space next to **Inflectional Features**. Then click on the button with the three dots. The **Choose Inflectional Features Window** will appear. (Notice that only those inflectional features that have already been used will be listed.) Click on **feminine gender** and **human class**, then click **OK**. (You should see **[ngr:[gen:f class: hum]]** as the inflectional feature.
7. Click on the next entry in the lexicon: **amae**. Give it the inflectional features: **inanimate**.
8. Click on the next entry in the lexicon: **apese**. Give it the inflectional features: **feminine human**.

*Some grammatical information to be assigned to roots/stems, such as Inflectional Features or Inflectional Class, is not available in the **New Entry** window and must be added in a separate step as we are doing here.*

FLEx – Nouns Inflectional Features

9. Click on the next entry in the lexicon: **ekilye**. Give it the inflectional features: **masculine human**.

Exercise

1. Have participants mark the following nine nouns for their inflectional features using the noun class prefix tables below as a guide. (These noun stems should already be in the lexicon.)

esapat	itwoo	napupu
iingwoku	lokutu	naludo
ikoku	lomanang	tula

<i>Type 1 (Human) Noun prefixes</i>		
	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
<i>masculine</i>	<i>e-</i>	<i>ngi-/ngu-</i>
<i>neuter</i>	<i>i-</i>	<i>ngi-/ngu-</i>
<i>feminine</i>	<i>a-</i>	<i>nga-</i>

<i>Type 2 (Animate) Noun prefixes</i>		
	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
<i>masculine</i>	<i>lo-</i>	<i>talo-</i>
<i>feminine</i>	<i>na-</i>	<i>tana-</i>

<i>Type 3 (Inanimate) Noun prefixes</i>		
	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
<i>no gender</i>	<i>∅-</i>	<i>ta-</i>

How to assign inflectional features to a noun as you enter it into the lexicon

1. In the Lexicon edit view insert a new entry: e-tuko/ngu-tuko with the gloss of “zebra”. Assign the inflectional features: **masculine human**.
2. In the Lexicon edit view insert a new entry: a-kine/nga-kine with the gloss of “goat/sheep”. Assign the inflectional features: **feminine human**.

Exercise

1. Have participants create new entries for the follow nouns marking each with the appropriate inflectional features. (Refer to the three noun class prefix charts above, if needed.)

Singular	Plural	Gloss	Inflectional Features
egete	ngigete	gazelle	
akime	ngakime	fire	
akiti	ngaki	ear	
akani	ngakani	hand	
itoooni	ngutooni	person	