# FLEx Session – Introduction

## Overview

FLEx (or Language Explorer, as it is really called) is one program in a suite of programs to help language teams manage language and cultural data, called FieldWorks. Unlike previous programs for these tasks, FieldWorks has built-in knowledge about the kinds of data that linguists need to store. FLEx is designed specifically to help linguists build a dictionary and develop their understanding of the grammar, as they use it to analyse and interlinearize texts.

There is further information about FieldWorks at [www.sil.org/computing/fieldworks/](http://www.sil.org/computing/fieldworks/). Development of FieldWorks is ongoing. These teaching sessions is based upon version 8.

Some key points:

* It is best to have the participants spend part of the workshop working on their own language projects, using the skills they are learning in the teaching session.
* After the participants have done the exercises, it is best to go over the exercises with the participants by having one of them telling what they did and you doing it.
* This material is based upon version 8 of FLEx.

## Objectives

* To be able to create and edit a lexicon.
* To be able to generate a dictionary from the lexicon.
* To be able to interlinearize text.
* To be able to chart interlinearized text.
* To be able to parse text.
* To be able to do collaboration.

## Opening FLEx

To start FLEx, do the following.

* + - 1. On the Desktop, click Language Explorer 8 icon.

The Language Explorer workspace appears.

* + - 1. In the File menu, point to Project Management and click Restore a Project.

The Restore a Project dialog box appears.

* + - 1. In the Backup location area, select Another location and then click Browse. Then navigate to the folder containing the Simple Starting DB backup file and select the file, and click Open. Then click OK.

The Simple project can be found in the Data folder.

The Simple project is loaded and is displayed in the workspace.

* + - 1. In the Backup location area, select Another location and then click Browse. Then navigate to the folder containing the Sena 3 Original backup file and select the file, and click Open. Then click OK.

The Sena 3 project can be found in the Data folder.

The Sena 3 project is loaded and is displayed in the workspace.

* + - 1. These are the two projects that will be used in the course.

From now on FLEx will open the last project you close.

## Areas of FLEx

FLEx is organized in five areas: Lexicon, Texts & Words, Grammar, Notebook and Lists. To access any of the five areas, just click the icon. They are on the left panel of the work space

In each area there is a different list of views. The list of views is displayed on the left panel of the workspace.

## Closing FLEx

To close a FLEx project, do the following.

* + - 1. In the File menu, click Close

## Recommended Teaching Order

LexiconEdit1

LexiconEdit2

Browse

Project Management

Import

LexiconEdit3

Bulk Edit

Word Collection

Interlinearization

Styles

Publication

Parsing & Concordance

Collaboration

Text Charting