A basic course in using Lexique Pro

FOR COMMUNITY LANGUAGE WORKERS
BY
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Introduction

• Hello and thank you for the opportunity to present information on the introduction course on Lexique Pro.
• I can’t be with you today so Virginia Westwood will speak on my behalf.
• I am a community linguist with 12 years experience working at grassroots level to help speakers develop resources for language teaching and maintenance.
Experience

- I have conducted workshops in language collection using Lexique Pro to different groups at:
  - Beenleigh (Qld)
  - Cunnamulla (Qld)
  - Mitchell (Qld)
  - Fitzroy Crossing (WA)
  - Derby (WA)
  - Stradbroke Island (Qld)

Lexique Pro Course

The Lexique Pro Course grew out of these workshops. It:

- responds to the community desire for access to heritage language in a simple format.
- recognises skills and knowledge of community members.
- offers the opportunity to learn new skills like editing photos and recording audio – which also add to employability and may lead to career opportunities.
- is self-correcting and self-paced – students move on when they are ready.
- is not accredited and therefore not subject to time constraints.
Observations

- Because they are relevant to the task, people pick up the skills quickly.
- Additional language information is offered resulting in richer entries.
- People feel empowered and maintain interest.
- There is a sense of ownership and pride in results.
- Improved employability due to improved computer skills and better Standard English.
- Improvement in self confidence in participants.

Can we formalise this?

- After various approaches and enquiries, Kimberley TAFE at Broome agreed to trial an online course in Lexique Pro if I wrote it.
- Course became available 2nd semester 2010.
- Two students enrolled, non linguists, non language speakers.
- Both performed at above 80%.
- Insufficient enrolments so TAFE terminated the course.
- Yugambeh Museum are keen to offer course with some amendments. Amendments will take time.
- Original course can be made available on CD now, revised course should be available early in 2012.
How is course structured?

Under instruction the student:
- Installs basic database of 59 entries on their PC (samples from three languages).
- Explores interface – both screens.
- Begins changing entries, then adding entries, adding images, sound files, more detail.
- Finishes with 120 entries in three categories.
- Is guided through export process, assembly, proofing and printing dictionary.

Result: sample dictionary in print and interactive formats.

What does the course cover?

The course covers:
- Familiarity with the interface.
- Application and results of using backslash codes: \lx, \ge, \sd, \xv, \xe, \ng, \sn, \cf, \re, \pc, \sc, \sf, \sfx, \ph, \nt, \mr and \ps.
- Emphasis on checking data and consistency of presentation.
- Exporting three versions to Word (Alpha list, Categories list and English Finder list).
- Suggestions on formatting printed document.
- Proofing printed document before sending to printer.
What the course does NOT cover

The course does not cover:
- Advice on collection of language data.
- Deciding on an orthography.
- Instruction on linguistic concepts.
- Manipulating setup of the database (e.g., changing fonts, creating categories – these aspects will be dealt with if an advanced course is developed).
- Instruction on using Word.

Finally

- The course was written to raise the skills level and understanding of people in community groups who want to document their heritage language.
- It is NOT envisaged that individuals will all go away and make their own dictionaries for the same language though this might occur initially.
- If a number of individual dictionaries are created by people doing the course, this should be seen as part of the learning process. Those people could be encouraged to join forces in a wider process once they feel confident of their skills.
Lesson 1

Learning about Lexique Pro
A course for community language workers

Lesson One
Detail Lexique Pro from CD-ROM

In this lesson you will install the Lexique Pro program onto your computer. You will then have all the necessary information on your computer to enable you to build full lessons.

General Instructions:
- Click once you click the left mouse button once.
- Double click means you click the left mouse button twice.
- Icon means a little picture that represents a program or your computer.
- (any other instructions can be found here)

To begin:
- Insert the CD into your computer
- If CD doesn't start automatically, go to START, MY COMPUTER and click for your CD
- Choose Detailed-LexiquePro Setup

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