Bangkok FLEx Parser Workshop August 2023

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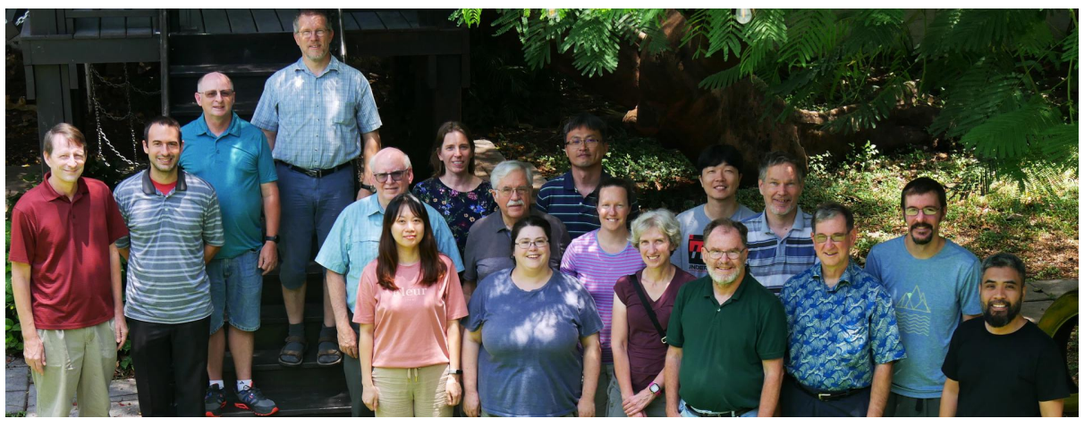
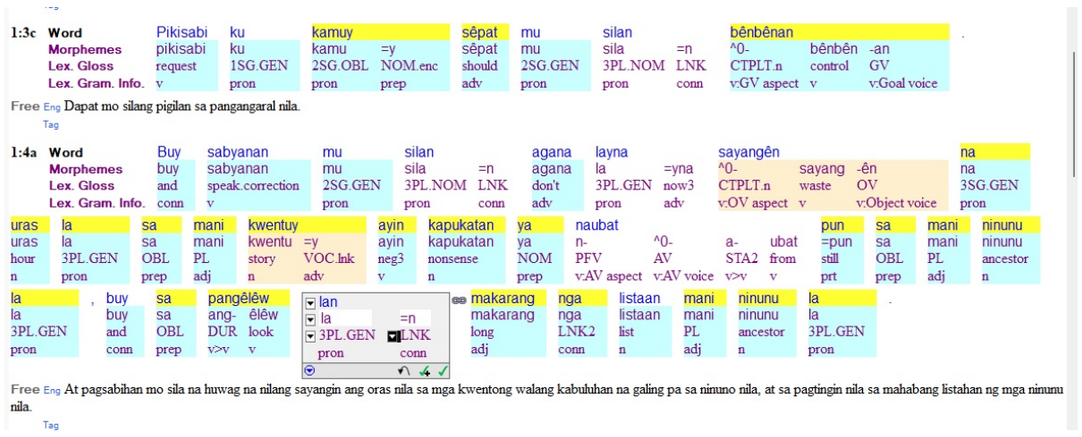
The first-ever FLEx Parser Workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand with eighteen participants meeting for two weeks (07-18 August 2023). They made significant progress using one of the automatic parsers provided by the FLEx software suite. They were supported by six consultants, who are experienced FLEx users and had been successful in getting the parsers to work. Each day began with a classroom session about one of the various systems that make up a parser, but most of the time was spent on working on the databases of the participants.



- Participants were very encouraged by how much progress they made modeling languages that they were analyzing.
- They were excited about how knowledge gained during the workshop will facilitate adaptation to related languages.
- Most of the participants went away with a newly built-up and mostly working database, to which they hopefully can add new forms without encountering too much trouble.
- Others went home with a dramatically improved database that previously had grown into something that they could no longer control.
- One participant in particular, who had been struggling with a huge database in which some words took 20 minutes to parse before the workshop, was very happy to see the same words parse in seconds.



1:3c	Word	Pikisabi	ku	kamuy		sêpat	mu	silan			bênbênan		
	Morphemes	pikisabi	ku	kamu	=y	sêpat	mu	sila	=n		^0-	bênbên	-an
	Lex. Gloss	request	1SG.GEN	2SG.OBL	NOM.enc	should	2SG.GEN	3PL.NOM	LNK		CTPLT.n	control	GV
	Lex. Gram. Info.	v	pron	pron	prep	adv	pron	pron	conn		v:GV aspect	v	v:Goal voice

Free Eng Dapat mo silang pigilan sa pangangaral nila.

Tag

1:4a	Word	Buy	sabyanan	mu	silan		agana	layna		sayangên			na
	Morphemes	buy	sabyanan	mu	sila	=n	agana	la	=yna	^0-	sayang	-ên	na
	Lex. Gloss	and	speak.correction	2SG.GEN	3PL.NOM	LNK	don't	3PL.GEN	now3	CTPLT.n	waste	OV	3SG.GEN
	Lex. Gram. Info.	conn	v	pron	pron	conn	adv	pron	adv	v:OV aspect	v	v:Object voice	pron

uras	la	sa	mani	kwentuy		ayin	kapukatan	ya	naubat					pun	sa	mani	ninunu	la		buy	sa
uras	la	sa	mani	kwentu	=y	ayin	kapukatan	ya	n-	^0-	a-	ubat		=pun	sa	mani	ninunu	la	,	buy	sa
hour	3PL.GEN	OBL	PL	story	VOC.lnk	neg3	nonsense	NOM	PFV	AV	STA2	from	still	OBL	PL	ancestor					
n	pron	prep	adj	n	adv	v	n	prep	v:AV aspect	v:AV voice	v>v	v	prt	prep	adj	n					
la		buy	sa	pangêlêw		lan		makarang	nga	listaan	mani	ninunu	la								
la	,	buy	sa	ang-	êlêw	la	=n	makarang	nga	listaan	mani	ninunu	la	.							
3PL.GEN		and	OBL	DUR	look	3PL.GEN	LNK	long	LNK2	list	PL	ancestor	3PL.GEN								
pron		conn	prep	v>v	v	pron	conn	adj	conn	n	adj	n	pron								

Free Eng At pagsabihan mo sila na huwag na nilang sayangin ang oras nila sa mga kwentong walang kabuluhan na galing pa sa ninuno nila, at sa pagtingin nila sa mahabang listahan ng mga ninunu nila.

Tag

A surprising number of participants decided during the workshop to switch over to the much more powerful, but also a bit more complex *Hermit Crab* parser, as it was found to be a better fit to the challenges provided by the morphophonology of the languages they are working on. Not only the participants, but all of the consultants gained a much better understanding of how the parser(s) operate, and how asking the right linguistic questions can get you out of a lot of trouble. It was good to have this nice group of very different consultants and participants, who all helped out each other with their experience and knowledge and different strengths.

Indeed, the participants rather benefited from the fact that even the consultants found themselves on the learning end quite often. It tells them that their previous experience with parsing in FLEx is not a reflection of their poor abilities, but rather of the fact that FLEx is an incredibly complex software suit that brings together a great variety of information into a single clockwork, but which is still a little bit volatile - almost everybody will find themselves in need of help and advice once in a while. It is not only okay to ask for this help, but that is the best way to make progress.

Beth Bryson, Matthew Lee, Ron Lockwood, Sara Mason and Kevin Warfel provided an extremely competent team of consultants at the workshop. Furthermore, several of the current participants showed potential to quickly develop into consultants themselves. Hopefully this workshop was not only an opportunity for making significant progress with these individual projects, but also an opportunity for strengthening the FLEx Parser community by developing new ways of helping each other and by identifying future consultants. The new FLEx Parsing List will also hopefully grow into a helpful forum for those using the parsers of FLEx.

Everyone at this workshop expressed the wish for additional future workshops which could take place in various regions of the world. Regional workshops are especially helpful, as we saw that particular traction was gained in this workshop when the participants working in related languages had group sessions in which they compared notes on how they did things, and how different strategies work.