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**Language resource management —  
Linguistic annotation framework (LAF)**

*Gestion des ressources langagières — Cadre d'annotation linguistique  
(LAF)*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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## Introduction

Effective creation, encoding, processing and management of language resources is facilitated by a single high-level data model that supports analysis and design of both annotation schemes and representation formats. This International Standard is designed to support the development and use of computer applications relying on linguistically annotated resources and the exchange of these resources among different applications.



# Language resource management — Linguistic annotation framework (LAF)

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a linguistic annotation framework (LAF) for representing linguistic annotations of language data such as corpora, speech signal and video. The framework includes an abstract data model and an XML serialization of that model for representing annotations of primary data. The serialization serves as a pivot format to allow annotations expressed in one representation format to be mapped onto another.

NOTE Standardization of linguistic data categories that provide annotation content is provided by ISO 12620 and other related International Standards.

## 2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 2.1

#### **primary data**

electronic representation of language data

EXAMPLE Text, image, speech signal.

Note to entry: Typically, primary data objects are addressed by “locations” in an electronic file, for example, the span of characters comprising a sentence or word, or a point at which a given temporal event begins or ends (as in speech annotation). More complex data objects may consist of a list or set of contiguous or non-contiguous locations in primary data.

### 2.2

#### **annotate**, verb

process of adding linguistic information to *primary data* (2.1)

### 2.3

#### **annotation**, noun

linguistic information added to *primary data* (2.1), independent of its representation

### 2.4

#### **representation**

format in which the *annotation* (2.3) is rendered, independent of its content

EXAMPLE XML, list or bracketed format, tab-delimited text.

### 2.5

#### **segmentation annotation**

*annotation* (2.3) that delimits linguistic elements that appear in the *primary data* (2.1)

Note to entry: These elements include (1) continuous segments (appearing contiguously in the primary data), (2) super- and sub-segments, where groups of segments will comprise the parts of a larger segment (e.g. contiguous word segment typically comprise a sentence segment), (3) discontinuous segments (linking continuous segments), and (4) landmarks