

# Exercise 5: Basic Transcription

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## 1 Exercise 5: Basic Transcription

### 1.1 Learning Outcomes

When you successfully complete this exercise you should be able to:

- Undertake conversion of a transcription of a document
- Use `<add>`, `<del>` and `<subst>` effectively
- Use `<choice>` with `<abbr>` and `<expan>`
- Use `<unclear>` to note difficult to read passages

### 1.2 Summary

In this exercise you will take a transcription, already partly in TEI but with a bespoke transcription notation, and convert it fully to TEI P5 XML. You'll learn how to use `<add>`, `<del>`, `<subst>`, `<choice>`, `<abbr>`, `<expan>`, and `<unclear>` in both simple and nested manners to indicate some complex transcriptional phenomena.

### 1.3 Starting Up

In this case we're starting with a sample file that we have created for you. We can go back and apply some of these principles to the REED record we have been working with, but it just has some expanded abbreviations marked with `{expansion}`. To be honest, we could search-and-replace those fairly easily. Instead we're going to use a much more modern manuscript, Wilfred Owen's original handwritten copy of his preface to his book of first world war poems. This also gives you experience of working with someone else's TEI P5 XML encoding. The techniques and problems are almost identical to those you'll find in the most complex medieval manuscripts, but this document has the benefit of being in English and having a printed edition we could crib from! Load up the file called: 'preface.xml' in the oXygen XML editor. Check that the file is well-formed and valid. Note that:

- There is a minimal header with an `<msDesc>` element.
- There is a commented-out plain text edition of this preface, edited by J. Stallworthy. (This is just to give you a reading copy of a clean text).
- There is a transcription with a bespoke notation of "(deleted: 'some text')"
- by a transcriber to show what was deleted, added, and other aspects. In some case additions and deletions are nested together as a single act with an extra set of parentheses. In other cases deletions are made inside additions.
- There is an image of the manuscript page both in the 'preface-ms.jpg' file and appended below. Have a look at this, the commented-out edited version, and the transcription of the manuscript.

## 1.4 Using @rend

Note that the <head> inside the division has a content of:

```
<head>(underlined:'Preface:')</head>
```

1. Remove the "(underlined:'" and ")")" so that you are left with just the text.
2. Add a @rend attribute with a value of 'underline'.
3. You should have a <head> that looks something like:

```
<head rend="underline">Preface.</head>
```

## 1.5 Second Paragraph

Let's change some of this transcription notation to real markup in the second paragraph (the first has no transcription notation).

1. Change (added below: 'about glory, honour,') to be:

```
<add place="below">about glory, honour,</add>
```

2. The next is an example of a substitution, a deletion and addition provided as a single act, followed by a deletion. Change ((deleted:'battles, and glory of battles') (added above:'deeds or lands')) (deleted 'or land,') to be:

```
<subst>  
  <del rend="stoked">battles, and glory of battles</del>  
  <add place="above">deeds or lands</add>  
</subst>  
<del rend="stoked">or land,</del>
```

3. Replace ((deleted:'or') (added below:'or anything about')) with:

```
<subst>  
  <del rend="stoked">or</del>  
  <add place="below">or anything about</add>  
</subst>
```

4. The transcriber has marked a passage that was unclear in transcription as (unclear, scribbled: 'majesty'). Replace this with:

```
<unclear reason="scribbled">majesty</unclear>
```

5. The transcriber has recorded an abbreviation with its expansion as domin(ion). This is meant to mean that 'domin' is what it is on the page, but that it should be expanded to 'dominion'. Encode this as:

```
<choice>
  <abbr>domin</abbr>
  <expan>domin<ex>ion</ex>
</expan>
</choice>
```

The <ex> element gives the supplied letters in the expanded form.

6. Replace (deleted: 'whatever') with:

```
<del rend="stoked">whatever</del>
```

7. This concludes your second paragraph, and has given you some experience in marking up <add>, <del>, and wrapping those in <subst>, also using <unclear> and <choice> with <abbr>, <expan> and <ex>. Your paragraph should look something like:

```
<p> Nor is it <add place="below">about glory, honour,</add> about
<subst>
  <del rend="stoked">battles, and glory of battles</del>
  <add place="above">deeds or lands</add>
</subst>
<del rend="stoked">or land,</del>
<subst>
  <del rend="stoked">or</del>
  <add place="below">or anything about</add>
</subst> any might, <unclear reason="scribbled">majesty</unclear>, <choice>
  <abbr>domin</abbr>
  <expan>domin<ex>ion</ex>
</expan>
</choice> or power <lb/>
<del rend="stoked">whatever</del> except War. </p>
```

## 1.6 Third Paragraph

The third paragraph introduces nesting additions/deletions inside additions for when someone has added something, and then changed their mind by adding more, and/or deleting the addition.

1. Change (added left: 'Above all') (deleted: 'Its') ((added above: 'I am') (deleted: 'This book')) to be:

```
<add place="left">Above all </add>
<del rend="stoked">Its </del>
<subst>
  <add place="above">I am </add>
  <del rend="stoked">This book</del>
</subst>
```

2. Modify (added above: '(deleted: '(unclear, unsure: 'center'))') which contains an unclear bit of text that has been deleted, inside an addition, to be something like:

```
<add place="above">
  <del rend="stoked">
    <unclear>center</unclear>
  </del>
</add>
```

3. Modify ((added left: 'My') (deleted: "It's")) (added above: '(deleted: 'The')) which has a substitution with an addition and a deletion as well as an addition which is then deleted.

```
<subst>
  <add place="left">My </add>
  <del rend="stoked">It's </del>
</subst>
<add place="above">
  <del rend="stoked">The </del>
</add>
```

4. Finish up the last couple of deletions in this paragraph and it should look something like:

```
<p>
<add place="left">Above all </add>
<del rend="stoked">Its </del>
<subst>
  <add place="above">I am </add>
  <del rend="stoked">This book</del>
</subst> is <add place="above">
  <del rend="stoked">
    <unclear>center</unclear>
  </del>
</add> not concerned with Poetry. <lb/>
<subst>
  <add place="left">My </add>
  <del rend="stoked">It's </del>
</subst>
<add place="above">
  <del rend="stoked">The </del>
</add> subject <del rend="stoked">of</del> is War, and the pity of
<del rend="stoked">it</del> War. <lb/> The Poetry is in the pity.
</p>
```

## 1.7 Fourth Paragraph

The fourth paragraph has more of the same, but also a deletion with a nested addition with both a substitution and standalone deletion.

1. Change (deleted: 'I have no hesitation in') (deleted: 'making public')  
 (deleted: 'publishing such')  
 ((deleted: 'My') (added above with caret: 'Yet these'))(deleted: 'I have no hesitation in')

(deleted: 'making public')  
 (deleted: 'publishing such')  
 ((deleted: 'My') (added above with caret: 'Yet these')) into:

```
<del rend="stoked">I have no hesitation in </del>
<del rend="stoked">making public</del>
<lb/>
<del rend="stoked">publishing such</del>
<lb/>
<subst>
  <del rend="stoked">My </del>
  <add place="above" rend="caret">Yet these</add>
</subst>
```

2. Change (added above: 'to this (added above: '(deleted: 'past'))') generation') (deleted: 'not further consolation') into:

```
<add place="above">to this <add place="above">
  <del rend="stoked">past </del>
</add> generation </add>
<del rend="stoked">not further consolation</del>
```

3. Change (deleted: 'The') to (deleted: 'this' (added above: '(deleted: 'a') (added above: 'this')) (deleted: 'bereaved')) generation') which is a deletion (of 'this generation') with a nested addition with a substitution and a deletion to:

```
<del rend="stoked">The</del> to <del rend="stoked">this <add place="above">
  <subst>
    <del rend="stoked">a</del>
    <add place="above">this</add>
  </subst>
  <del rend="stoked">bereaved</del>
</add> generation</del>.
```

4. (That is quite complicated in terms of additions and substitutions!) Change the next couple of deletions into markup, and then (deleted: 'used proper names.') (added above: '(All a poet can do today is (added above: '(deleted: 'to')) warn (deleted: 'children'))') into:

```
<del rend="stoked">used proper names.</del>
<add place="above">All a poet can do today is <add place="above">
  <del rend="stoked">to</del>
</add> warn <del rend="stoked">children</del>
</add>
```

5. Mark the last deletion 'War', and then this paragraph should now look something like:

```

<p>
  <del rend="stoked">I have no hesitation in </del>
  <del rend="stoked">making public</del>
  <lb/>
  <del rend="stoked">publishing such</del>
  <lb/>
  <subst>
    <del rend="stoked">My </del>
    <add place="above" rend="caret">Yet these</add>
  </subst> elegies are <add place="above">to this <add place="above">
    <del rend="stoked">past </del>
    </add> generation </add>
  <del rend="stoked">not further consolation</del>
  <lb/> in no sense consolatory <lb/>
  <del rend="stoked">The</del> to <del rend="stoked">this <add place="above">
    <subst>
      <del rend="stoked">a</del>
      <add place="above">this</add>
    </subst>
    <del rend="stoked">bereaved</del>
    </add> generation</del>. They may be to the <lb/> next. <del rend="stoked">If I thought the letter
of this</del>
  <lb/>
  <del rend="stoked">book would last, I now might have </del>
  <lb/>
  <del rend="stoked">used proper names.</del>
  <add place="above">All a poet can do today is <add place="above">
    <del rend="stoked">to</del>
    </add> warn <del rend="stoked">children</del>
  </add>
  <lb/> That is why the true <del rend="stoked">War</del> Poets must be truthful.
<lb/>
</p>

```

## 1.8 Final Paragraph

The final paragraph doesn't really introduce anything new that you don't know already, so finish it off quickly! It should end up looking something like:

```

<p>[If I thought the letter of this book would last, I <lb/>
  <del rend="stoked">wo </del> might have used proper names; but if the spirit of
<lb/> it <add place="above">survives</add> - survives Prussia - <subst>
  <del rend="stoked">I </del>
  <add>my ambition</add>
</subst> and those names will <lb/>
  <del rend="stoked">be</del>
  <del rend="stoked">content</del> have achieved <del rend="stoked">themselves</del>
  <lb/>
  <del>ourselves</del> fresher fields than Flanders, <lb/> for he, not of war,
would he <lb/> sing
</p>

```

## 1.9 Transcription Comparison

Compare your transcription to the image in 'preface-ms.jpg'.

1. Is there anything you haven't noted that you think is important?
2. Are there any mistakes in the transcription that you should correct?
3. Are there things you might have marked up differently?

## 1.10 Saving Your Work

Let's save our work:

- Is your work well-formed? Do you have a happy green square or an angry red one?
- Have you formatted and indented your work automatically?
- From the 'File' menu select 'Save' or click on the Save icon (looks like an old-style 3.5" disk).
- Or if you prefer use the 'File' then 'Save As' menu item to save the file using the name 'exercise05.xml' or another name of your choice.

## 1.11 Applying this to the REED transcription

If you have time you might apply this to the transcription we had been working on previously. However, there we don't have additions and deletions but expansions. We usually wrap the `<expan>` element around words which are expanded forms and provide the expanded text with `<ex>`. It is possible to automate the wrapping of the `<expan>`, so let's just search and replace the expanded bits of text with `<ex>`.

1. Load up the 'exercise04.xml' file you finished previously, or if you didn't finish there is an 'exercise-04.xml' in the spoilers directory.
2. Use 'find/replace' (control-f) to search for any '{' character and replace it with a '<ex>' tag, ensure you don't add any whitespace. Then use the same method to find and replace '}' with a closing '</ex>' tag.
3. You could also add a @rend attribute to the `<signed>` with a value of 'right' (since it was printed that way in the REED volume, I've not checked the original).
4. As long as you have a happy green square, save your file as 'exercise05a.xml'.

## 1.12 Self-Assessment

Check if you understand some of the core principles of this exercise by answering the following questions:

- If you want to indicate that an abbreviation and expansion (or correction and error) are linked, what element do you wrap them in?
- If you want to indicate that an addition and deletion are one editorial act, what do you surround them with?
- How do you show that an addition is subsequently deleted?

## 1.13 Further Reading

- Look up the reference pages for each of the new elements you've used.
  
- What we haven't covered in this exercise is the genetic encoding, using `<sourceDoc>` and linking transcriptions to the `<facsimile>` element. Read some of the chapter on Representation of Primary Sources: <http://www.tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/en/html/PH.html>.
  
- At the bottom of that chapter you can find a list of elements added by the 'transcr' module. It is interesting to note how many of the elements we used appear in the 'core' module at: <http://www.tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/en/html/CO.html>.



## 1.15 Stallworthy's Edition

### PREFACE

This book is not about heroes. English poetry is not yet fit to speak of them.

1 Nor is it about deeds, or lands, nor anything about glory, honour, might, majesty, dominion, or power, except War.

Above all I am not concerned with Poetry.

My subject is War, and the pity of War.

The Poetry is in the pity.

2 Yet these elegies are to this generation in no sense consolatory. They may be to the next. All a poet can do today is warn. That is why the true Poets must be truthful.

(If I thought the letter of this book would last, I might have used proper names; but if the spirit of it survives—survives Prussia—my ambition and those names will have achieved fresher fields than Flanders. . . .)

At Ripon, probably in May 1918, WO began this draft Preface for a collection of war poems that he hoped to publish in 1919 (WO, 265–6).

1 Cp. the General Epistle of Jude 25, 'To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.'

2 WO had considered – and decided against – calling his book *English Elegies*.

CP&F, 535