TEI By Example

TEI by Example. Module 4

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6. Advanced encoding

6.1 Components of the verse line

It is often convenient for various kinds of analysis to encode further subdivisions of verse lines. This can be done using the `<seg>` element which contains any arbitrary phrase-level unit of text (including other `seg` elements).

The third and the fourth stanza of our poem, for instance, contain lines which include two items each, except for line 13. The appropriate encoding could be the following:
6.2 Dedications

If the poem is encoded as an `<lg>`, the TEI doesn't have an "out of the box "solution to deal with dedications which appear under the title of the poem. In the case a dedication needs to be encoded, there are two viable options. The first one is to consider the dedication as a `<head>` and specify its function as dedication for a `@type` attribute:
<lg type="poem">
  <head>Shopping</head>
  <head type="dedication">To my mother</head>
  <lg type="stanza" n="1">
    <l n="1">Poppadom</l>
    <l n="2">Oatmeal</l>
    <l n="3">Bubble gum</l>
    <l n="4">Cut of veal</l>
  </lg>
  <lg type="stanza" n="2">
    <l n="5">Mince for pie</l>
    <l n="6">Frozen peas</l>
    <l n="7">Video for Guy</l>
    <l n="8">Selection of teas</l>
  </lg>
  <lg type="stanza" n="3">
    <l n="9">Paper towels/garbage bags</l>
    <l n="10">Pasta sauce and Parmesan</l>
    <l n="11">Pumpkin seed and olive oil</l>
  </lg>
  <lg type="stanza" n="4">
    <l n="12">Cheesy crisps and favourite mags</l>
    <l n="13">Kidney beans (1 large can)</l>
    <l n="14">Cling film and kitchen foil</l>
  </lg>
</lg>

The second option is to encode the poem as a `<div type="poem">` instead of an `<lg type="poem">`, and consider the title as an anonymous block `<ab>` with a value of `dedication` for its `@type` attribute.
<div type="poem">

<header>Shopping</header>
<dedication>To my mother</dedication>

<stanza n="1">
<p>1 Poppadom</p>
<p>2 Oatmeal</p>
<p>3 Bubble gum</p>
<p>4 Cut of veal</p>
</stanza>

<stanza n="2">
<p>5 Mince for pie</p>
<p>6 Frozen peas</p>
<p>7 Video for Guy</p>
<p>8 Selection of teas</p>
</stanza>

<stanza n="3">
<p>9 Paper towels/garbage bags</p>
<p>10 Pasta sauce and Parmesan</p>
<p>11 Pumpkin seed and olive oil</p>
</stanza>

<stanza n="4">
<p>12 Cheesy crisps and favourite mags</p>
<p>13 Kidney beans (1 large can)</p>
<p>14 Cling film and kitchen foil</p>
</stanza>

</div>

### 6.3 Acrostics

One example of the use of the `<seg>` element for further advanced analysis is the following proposal to signal the presence of an acrostic in a poem. In this poem by an Edgar Allan Poe, entitled 'An Acrostic', the first letters of each line of verse together form the first word of the first line: 'Elizabeth'.
Elizabeth it is in vain you say: L.ove not" - thou sayest it in so sweet a way; I
n vain those words from thee or L.E.L.
Z</seg>antippe's talents had enforced so well:
A</seg>h! if that language from thy heart arise,
B</seg>read it less gently forth - and veil thine
E</seg>ndymion, recollect, when Luna tried
T</seg>o cure his love - was cured of all beside -
H</seg>is follie - pride - and passion - for he died.