

Assignment 8, due Wednesday April 5 2005

German hypocoristics (nicknames) are formed by a process exemplified below. Unlike in English, where similar nicknames exist, the German versions are generally impossible without the final vowel [i]: thus *Stefanie* has the nickname *Steffi*, but the simple truncated form *Stef* practically never occurs.

Your task is to develop an OT analysis of German nickname formation. The issue that arises in the course of the analysis is whether an intermediate derivational step is needed, or whether there is some other way to explain the relation between the full forms (*Waldemar*), the non-occurring truncated forms (**Wald*), and the surface truncation-plus-suffixation forms (*Waldi*).

German syllables are similar in their organization to English syllables: you can assume that the final coda composition is identical to that of English. (As in English, doubled consonants are used to indicate that the preceding vowel is short: *Steffi* [ʃtɛfi]) However, German voiced stops are said to be devoiced syllable-finally. Whether they become identical to the underlying voiceless stops is still a matter of controversy: you will need to decide what assumption makes most sense in the context of your analysis.

Your solution should include the following:

- (a) Informal generalizations about the process of forming nicknames in German.
- (b) Constraints that force the nickname to take on the templatic (prosodic) shape it does;
- (c) Constraints and rankings that determine how many base segments (and which ones) are preserved in the nickname
- (d) Constraints and rankings that explain why the voicing of stem-final obstruents is preserved in the nicknames
- (e) In what way does this data show an opacity effect? How does your analysis account for it?

☞ Please feel free to mention and discuss alternatives and why they were not chosen

• First names

Gabrièle	Gábi
Éva	Évi
Wáldemàr	Wáldi
Stéfanie	Stéffi
Ótto	Ótti
Úlrich	Úlli
Hóward	Háui (pop singer Howard Carpendale)
Hans	Hansi
Dagmar	Daggi *Dagmi
Edmund	Edi *Edmi
Heinrich	Heini *Heinri
Siegfried	Siggi *Sigf(r)i
Tusnelda	Tussi *Tusni
Wilhelm	Willi *Wilhi

• **Surnames**

Górbatschòw	Górbi
Hónecker	Hónni
Schimánsky	Schímmi
Klínsmänn	Klínsi
Tópperwien	Tóppi (sports reporter)
Schláppner	Schláppi (soccer coach)
Wásmèier	Wási (ski champion)
Stoltenberg	Stolti *Stolli
Radenkovie	Radi *Rai (well-known former goalkeeper)
Littbarski	Litti *Littbi

• **Professions, ethnicities and other ways to classify people**

Àlkohóliker	Álki 'alcoholic'
Àmerikáner	Ámi 'American'
Àssistént	Ássi 'assistant (professor)'
Pròletárier	Próli 'proletarian'
Pròminénter	Prómi 'VIP'
Sànitáter	Sáni 'paramedic'
Fundamentalist	Fundi *Funni 'fundamentalist Green Party member'
Knast-insasse	Knasti *Knassi 'prisoner' (<i>Knast</i> 'prison')
Sympathisant	Sympi *Symmi 'sympathizer'
Torpedo-maat	Torpi *Torri 'petty officer on a torpedo boat'
Tourist	Touri *Toui 'tourist'
Transvestit	Transi *Tranni, *Transvi 'transvestite'
Imker	Immi *Imki 'beekeeper'
Imperialist	Impi *Immi 'imperialist' (as in: <i>Anti-Impi</i>)
Plastik	Plasti *Plassi 'McDonald's type'

• **Various**

Schátz	Schátzi 'darling'
Múttter	Mútti 'mother'
Óma	Ómi 'grandmother'
Érdkùnde	Érdi 'geography' (as a school subject)
Rèligión	Réli 'religion' (as a school subject)
Trabánt	Trábi (car produced in former East Germany)
Tránengàs	Tráni 'tear gas'
Compúter	Compi *Commi 'computer'
Gruft	Grufti *Gruffi 'older person' (<i>Gruft</i> 'grave')
Handarbeit	Handi *Hanni 'handicraft' (as a school subject)
Hirn	Hirni *Hirri 'brain' (slang for 'stupid person')
Hunderter	Hundi *Hunni '100DM bill'
Knoblauch	Knobi *Knobli 'garlic'