Transgendered Neology

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Transgendered Neology
by Judi Harris

Have you ever wondered why more men don't get manicures, or why women go through menopause? Might it be more appropriate for women to get womanicures and go through womanopause? Perhaps some playful awomendments to our dictionaries may encourage students to experiment with syllabication and new vocabulary words in true Logo fashion.

Syllabic Diwomensions

Which English syllables seem to specify gender? Your students will probably enjoy making lists of words with seemingly masculine and feminine parts. <groan> From these, you can code a HISYLLABLES procedure:

```logo
TO HISYLLABLES
OUTPUT [MAN MANS MEN MENS MENT MENDS LAD LADS HE BOY BOYS HIM HIS MALE]
END
```

A corresponding HERSYLLABLES procedure should then be defined, which outputs an ordered list of the feminine syllabic complements of HISYLLABLES output. Both procedures can easily be awomended as new syllables and their obverses are discovered.

```logo
TO HERSYLLABLES
OUTPUT [WOMAN WOMANS WOMEN WOMENS WOMENT WOMENDS LASS LASSES SHE GIRL GIRLS HER HERS FEMALE]
END
```

Don't be surprised if your transgender explorers become a bit girlsterous during this activity.

Creating a Neological EnvironWOMENt

To transpose words with male syllables into their feminine counterparts, three Logo tools are needed. The procedure SUBSTITUTE searches user input for matches in HISYLLABLES' syllable list, then outputs corresponding HERSYLLABLES elements.

```logo
TO SUBSTITUTE :WORD.PART
IFELSE MEMBER? :WORD.PART HISYLLABLES [OUTPUT ITEM (ELEWOMENT :WORD.PART HISYLLABLES) HERSYLLABLES] [OUTPUT :WORD.PART]
END
```

SUBSTITUTE was written with Allison Birch's ELEMENT used as a subprocedure. We will, of course, rename the tool ELEWOMENT for obvious reasons.

```logo
TO ELEWOMENT :ITEM :OBJECT
IF EQUAL? :ITEM (FIRST :OBJECT) [OUTPUT 1] OUTPUT 1 + ELEWOMENT :ITEM BUTFIRST :OBJECT
END
```

The third tool, a superprocedure called NEW, accepts a list of syllables that comprise a word, and modifies it to reflect a more feminine dimension.

```logo
TO NEW :LIST
IF EMPTY? [OUTPUT "] OUTPUT WORD (SUBSTITUTE FIRST :LIST) NEW BUTFIRST :LIST
END
```

User Involvewomenw

To wield these neoteric tools, the user types (for example):

```logo
PRINT NEW [LA MEN TA BLE]
```

to which the computer responds:

```logo
LAWOMENTABLE
```

or,

```logo
PRINT NEW [PHE NO MEN ON]
```

which is transformed into:

```logo
PHENOWOMENON
```

It is up to you and your students to decide if this is an amusing and instructive supplement to traditional syllabication practice and vocabulary study, or merely (as the computer printed) a lamentable phenomenon.
Analagous Arguwomenis

It certainly should be womenionted that complewomen­tary examples of chauvinistically feminine words have in­vaded our language. Is it logical that most of the heroic patients who suffer from hernias between hospital sheets are male? Although sheep seem aptly named, especially when they travel in herds, must all of their human attendants be shepards? Male hermit crabs must also find this dimension of the language quite unmanageable (unless, of course, they live in manhattan). Yet, with a subtle amendment to the SUBSTITUTE procedure, gender management becomes a simple accomplishment.

TO SUBSTITUTE :WORD.PART
IFELSE MEMBER? :WORD.PART
HERSYLLABLES [OUTPUT ITEM
(Element :WORD.PART HERSYLLABLES)
HISYLLABLES] [OUTPUT :WORD.PART]
END

PRINT [WOMAN I ZER]

MAnizer

Perhaps it is even more desirable to childcott this bifurcated personification of lingual theirtory by suggesting that your students liberate lexicographic entries with a THEIRSYLLABLES procedure to add to their Logo transgender toolkit.

TO THEIRSYLLABLES
OUTPUT [PERSON PERSONS PEOPLE PEOPLES
PEOPLETS PEOPLED PEOPLES
CHILD CHILD S/HE YOUNGSTER YOUNG­STERS THEM THEIRS UNSPECIFIED]
END

TO SUBSTITUTE :WORD.PART
IFELSE MEMBER? :WORD.PART HISYLLABLES
[OUTPUT ITEM (ELEMENT :WORD.PART
HISYLLABLES) THEIRSYLLABLES]
[OUTPUT :WORD.PART]
END

No matter which nowomensclature you and your students select, it is my hope that this person uscript has, at least, added an interesting (if not boshemian) dimension to your womenu of word study activity options.

AcknowledeWOMENts


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