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 womenopause? 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:

```
TO HISYLLABLES
OUTPUT [MAN MANS MEN MENS MENT MENTS MEND 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.

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

Don’t be surprised if your trans gender explorers become a bit girlish 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.

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

```
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.

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

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

```
PRINT NEW [LA MEN TA BIE]
```
to which the computer responds:

```
LAWOMENTABLE
```
or,

```
PRINT NEW [PHE NO MEN ON]
```
which is transformed into:

```
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 mentioned that complewomen-
tary examples of chauvinistically feminine words have in-
vaded 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 shepherds? 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 personisfestation 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
PEOPLEST PEOPLED PEOPLEDPS
CHILD CHILDPS S/HE YOUNGSTER YOUNG-
STERS 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 nowomenclature you and your students
select, it is my hope that this person manuscript has, at least, added
an interesting (if not bohemian) dimension to your womenu
of word study activity options.

AcknowledgeWOMENts
and lists. Cambridge, MA: Terrapin, Inc.

Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press. [Note: Graphically
explicit content makes this book inappropriate for use as
a classroom resource.]

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