Transgendered Neology

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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 amend­ments to our dictionaries may encourage students to experi­ment with syllabication and new vocabulary words in true Logo fashion.

Syllabic Dimensions

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

```
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 amended as new syllables and their obverses are discovered.

```
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 girlisterous 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 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.

```
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 BLE]
```

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.
Analogous Argument

It certainly should be mentioned that complimentary 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 theirity 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 PEOPLEDTS
CHILD CHILDS 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 nomenclature you and your students select, it is my hope that this personuscript has, at least, added an interesting (if not boshemian) dimension to your womenu of word study activity options.

Acknowledgments


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