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 [ʃtefi]) 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

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<tr>
<th>Ótto</th>
<th>Otti</th>
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<td>Ótto</td>
<td>Otti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hans</td>
<td>Hansi</td>
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<td>Dagmar</td>
<td>Daggi *Dagmi</td>
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<td>Edmund</td>
<td>Edi *Edmi</td>
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<td>Heinrich</td>
<td>Heini *Heinri</td>
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<td>Siegfried</td>
<td>Siggi *Sigt(r)i</td>
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<td>Tusnelda</td>
<td>Tussi *Tusni</td>
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<td>Wilhelm</td>
<td>Willi *Wilhi</td>
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<td>Gàbriéle</td>
<td>Gábi</td>
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<td>Éva</td>
<td>Évi</td>
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<td>Wáldemàr</td>
<td>Wáldi</td>
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<td>Stéfanie</td>
<td>Stéffi</td>
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<td>Ótto</td>
<td>Otti</td>
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<td>Úlrich</td>
<td>Úlli</td>
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<td>Hóward</td>
<td>Háui (pop singer Howard Carpendale)</td>
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* Asterisked forms were not analyzed.
• Surnames

Górbatschów  Górbì
Hónecker  Hónni
Schimánsky  Schímmi
Klínsmann  Klínsì
tópperwien  Tóppì (sports reporter)
Schláppner  Schláppì (soccer coach)
Wásmèier  Wási (ski champion)
Stoltenberg  Stoli *Stoli
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’
Sànitä´ter  Sáni ‘paramedic’
Fundamentalist  Fundi *Funni ‘fundamentalist Green Party member’
Knast-insasse  Knasti *Knassi ‘prisoner’ (Knast ‘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: Anti-Impi)
Plastik  Plasti *Plassi ‘McDonald’s type’

• Various

Schátz  Schátzi ‘darling’
Mútter  Mútti ‘mother’
Óma  Ómi ‘grandmother’
Érdkùnde  Érdi ‘geography’ (as a school subject)
Réligion  Réli ‘religion’ (as a school subject)
Trabánt  Trábi (car produced in former East Germany)
Trá´nengàs  Tráni ‘tear gas’
Compuér  Compi *Commi ‘computer’
Gruft  Grufti *Gruffi ‘older person’ (Gruft ‘grave’)
Handarbeite  Handi *Hanni ‘handicraft’ (as a school subject)
Hirn  Hirni *Hirri ‘brain’ (slang for ’stupid person’)
Hunderter  Hundi *Humni ‘100DM bill’
Knoblauch  Knobi *Klobi ‘garlic’