

Sample assignment 5
Nicknames and child language

Many researchers have observed that the phonological processes used to form nicknames are also displayed by young children acquiring their native language. Your task is to consider the data sets below, which come from children's speech in several different languages, and find examples of linguistic processes that resemble those that are used to form nicknames in English and French.

For each set of data, **describe what process(es)** has/have taken place to create the child-language form from the adult-language form, and **compare and contrast** with the processes of nickname formation we have seen in lecture.

Each data set has the adult-language form (transcribed in IPA when it comes from a language other than English) and the child-language form. Data are from Johnson & Reimers (2010).

	<u>Language</u>	<u>Adult-language form</u>	<u>Child-language form</u>
(a)	English	<i>bike</i> <i>book</i> <i>cheese</i> <i>basket</i>	[bai] [bʊ] [tʃi] [bæ]
(b)	English	<i>bread</i> <i>play</i> <i>blue</i> <i>clean</i> <i>green</i> <i>please</i> <i>friend</i>	[bɛd] [peɪ] [bu] [kin] [gin] [piz] [fen]
(c)	English	<i>tomato</i> <i>away</i> <i>banana</i>	['me.to] [weɪ] ['næ.nə]
	Portuguese	<i>sapato</i> [sa'pa.tu] 'shoe'	['pa.tu]
(d)	English	<i>cat</i>	['kæ.kæ]
	French	<i>bouche</i> [buʃ] 'mouth' <i>vache</i> [vaʃ] 'cow'	[bu'bu] [va'va]
(e)	English	<i>water</i> <i>noodle</i> <i>basket</i>	['wa.wa] ['nu.nu] ['bæ.bæ]
	French	<i>au revoir</i> [o rə'vwar] 'goodbye' <i>enfant</i> [ɑ̃'fɑ̃] 'child' <i>auto</i> [o'to] 'car' <i>donner</i> [do'ne] 'give' <i>grandmère</i> [grɑ̃'mɛʀ] 'grandmother' <i>gâteau</i> [ga'to] 'cake' <i>voilà</i> [vwa'la] 'there it is'	[wa'war] [fɑ̃'fɑ̃] [to'to] [ne'ne] [me'me] [to'to] [la'la]
(f)	Czech	<i>díra</i> ['di.ra] 'hole'	[dija], [dila]
	English	<i>rain</i> <i>rice</i> <i>giraffe</i> <i>all right</i>	[lem] [waɪs], [baɪs] ['æf.æf] ['aɪ.aɪ]

References

Johnson, Wyn, and Paula Reimers. 2010. *Patterns in Child Phonology*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

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