YELTSIN

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Introduction

Boris Yeltsin has achieved world prominence in the last year or so, especially because of the part he played in the events surrounding the Russian coup in August 1991 and his presidency of Russia. Of course, the student of logology interested in world affairs is able to pursue biographical and historical information on Mr Yeltsin in the relevant authoritative sources. However, logological perspectives involving the name of YELTSIN are brought together here for the first time anywhere.

YELTSIN is a collection of seven letters which can be viewed as a basis for transposition and transaddition. Our best finds are presented here. If you have a YEN to expand on the LIST here, please send your additions to the editor.

Transposals of YELTSIN

I have unearthed five transposals of YELTSIN, taken from a variety of sources. Details follow:

INSTYLE (Webster's Third)   This appears in Webster's Third as an obsolete verb, meaning "to call or denominate".

STYLINE (OED)   The Oxford English Dictionary gives this as an adjective, "pertaining to the style". Although **style** has several meanings, I suspect that the required sense is the biological one, as in a stalk.

TILNEYS (Dictionary of Universal Biography)   Albert Hyamson's Dictionary of Universal Biography (Second Edition, 1966) lists a number of Tilneys: Chas Tilney, an English conspirator, Edmond (or Edmund) Tilney, an English writer, and John Tilney, another English writer.

TINLEYS (OED)   The OED gives **Tinley** as a variant form of Tindle. The definition indicates that the word is usually used in the plural: Tinleys (or Tindles) are small fires lit out of doors in May and November.

TINSLEY (Dictionary of Universal Biography)   Hyamson's Dictionary of Universal Biography lists one William Tinsley, an English publisher. This is obviously a widespread surname still, for the latest edition of the London telephone directory lists 22 people with Tinsley as their surname.

Transadditions of YELTSIN

As for transadditions of YELTSIN, I have been able to find four-

teen different words and terms, for twelve different letters added. Anyone add any more?

+A = SAINT-LYE (The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia, Atlas) This is the name of a town in France. My copy of this atlas in which the actual spelling appears is dated 1897. None of my other more recent geographical sources spells it quite like this. The Times Index Gazetteer (1965) abbreviates all Saint placenames to just St, so actually shows it as St Lye – without a hyphen, either. On the other hand, Webster's Geographical Dictionary spells out all Saint placenames in full. If the place were listed by Webster's Geographical Dictionary, it would certainly appear as Saint Lye. But since it doesn't include the town at all, there is no Saint Lye listed. Can anyone find a more recent source for Saint-Lye?

+B = TENSIBLY (Webster's Third) This is simply the adverb derived from tensible, capable of being extended. It is worth noting that this word also appears in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, one of very few words in this article which is listed in that Scrabble player's bible. This is additionally interesting as it is a transposal of B YELTSIN, a shortened form of Boris Yeltsin.

+C = SYNTELIC (OED) This is an adjective appearing in a long list of words at syn- in the Oxford Dictionary. The definition seems to be something along the lines of "pertaining to shared customs".

+D = INSTYLED (Webster's Third) The past tense of the obsolete verb instyle, meaning "called, denominated".

+G = STEYLING (OED) The OED lists steyl and steyle as obsolete spellings of steal, more specifically as obsolete 14-16th Scots variants of the verb steal. As far as I can see, none of the illustrative quotations under steal actually shows the form above, but I could be wrong. Anyone care to double-check? Or find it in print elsewhere?

+H = ETHINYLS (Webster's Third) This is simply the plural form of ethinyl, a chemical radical derived from acetylene. This is one of the few words which also appear in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary.

+I = SENILITY An easy word, requiring no definition or dictionary source. This appears in the most abridged of dictionaries. It appears in both The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary and the British equivalent, Official Scrabble Words. This makes it available to English language Scrabble players all over the world!

+L = SILENTLY This is an even easier word, also requiring no definition or dictionary source. This appears in both The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary and Official Scrabble Words. This must rank as the commonest, most everyday word used in this article.

+L = SYNTILLE (OED) This is listed in the Oxford English Dictionary, where it is defined as a spark. The word is related to scintill and scintilla.

+L = TINSELLY (Webster's Third)   Obviously derived from tinsel and meaning "showily pretentious", it appears in both the US and UK Scrabble bibles.

+M = LYMNITES (OED)   This is the plural of lymnite, a variant of limnite, a type of bog iron ore.

+O = INTOYLES (OED)   If you look up the verb entoil in the OED, you will find the variant spellings entoyle and intoyl. Read on until you come to an illustrative quotation dated 1621: "None more The chace affected, or t'intoyle the Bore". I would venture that intoyle is a valid variant of entoil. Simple addition of an —s gives us a further YELTSIN transaddition.

+R = TINSELRY (Webster's Third)   This word, meaning "a pretentious display", is available to British Scrabble players as it is given in Official Scrabble Words. US players have to make do without it, since it doesn't appear in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary.

+S = INSTYLES (Webster's Third)   A straightforward form of the obsolete verb instyle, meaning "calls, denominates".

Postscript

After writing this article, I managed to uncover another YELTSIN transposition of sorts. I had to attend a meeting at work, and went to a department I hadn't visited before. I found the person I was supposed to be meeting, but was amazed to see the name-plate above the desk of one of her colleagues: SARAH TILNEY. As far as I was concerned, the colleague was not Sarah Tilney, but was S TILNEY!

This set me thinking. Perhaps I could use first-name initials to help plug some of the gaps in my collection. I had already established that Tinsley was a valid surname, with 22 in the London Telephone Directory. Why not fill in the 14 transaddition gaps with a succession of real and imaginary folk: E TINSLEY, F TINSLEY, ... , Y TINSLEY, Z TINSLEY? Nothing simpler!