

STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE

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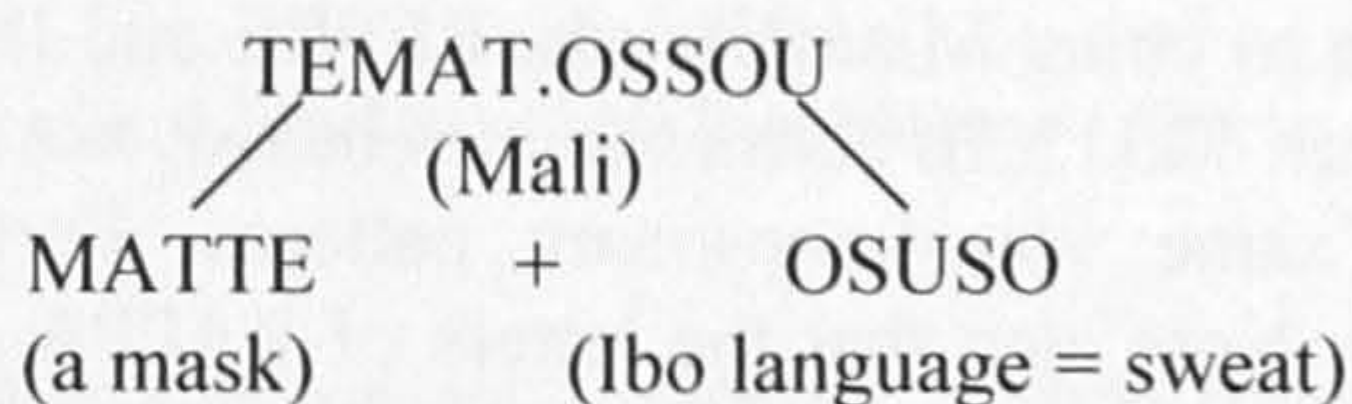
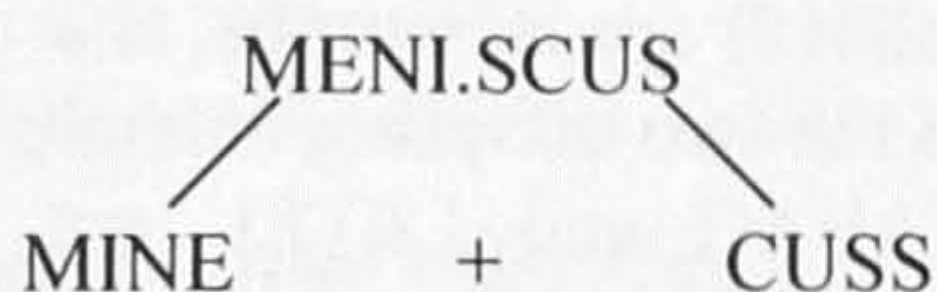
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So sang Bing Crosby. In the current context, however, it describes the chopping of a word into two halves, each half with the same number of letters. Hence only words with an even number of letters can be considered. The letters of the first half and second half, respectively, of a parent word are rearranged to make two new words, the offspring. But not just any words. The two offspring have to be related logologically. For example, one of the offspring may consist of straight line letters whilst the other consists of curved letters; or the two may both be Miami words. This article examines a range of offspring genres. By implication, certain of the parent words are of interest in their own right, for example those in which one half consists of straight line letters and the other half curved letters. Selected examples are given. Most of the unreferenced words can be found in the Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition. Place names are taken from The United States Board on Geographic Names. Locations are populated places unless indicated otherwise. The words offered are categorised according to letter design, letter pattern, letter content, and letter order.

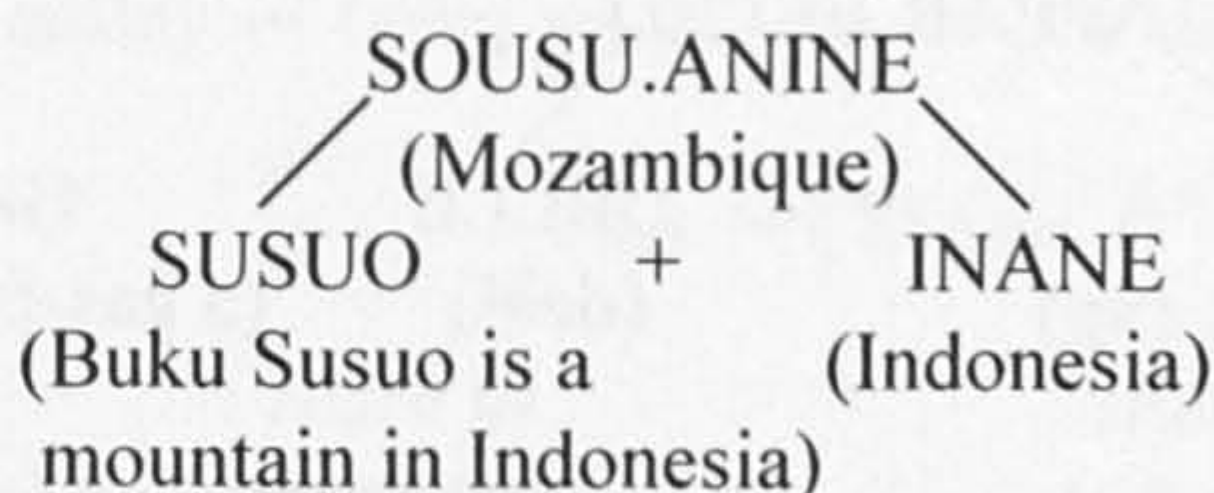
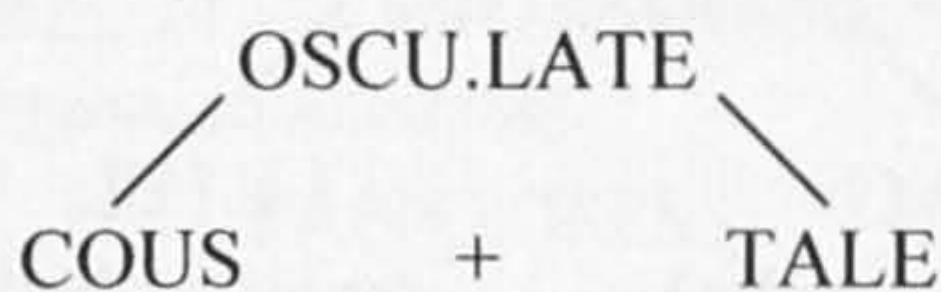
LETTER DESIGN

1. *Straight and Curved offspring*

In each case, one offspring is made from straight line letters and the other from curved letters.

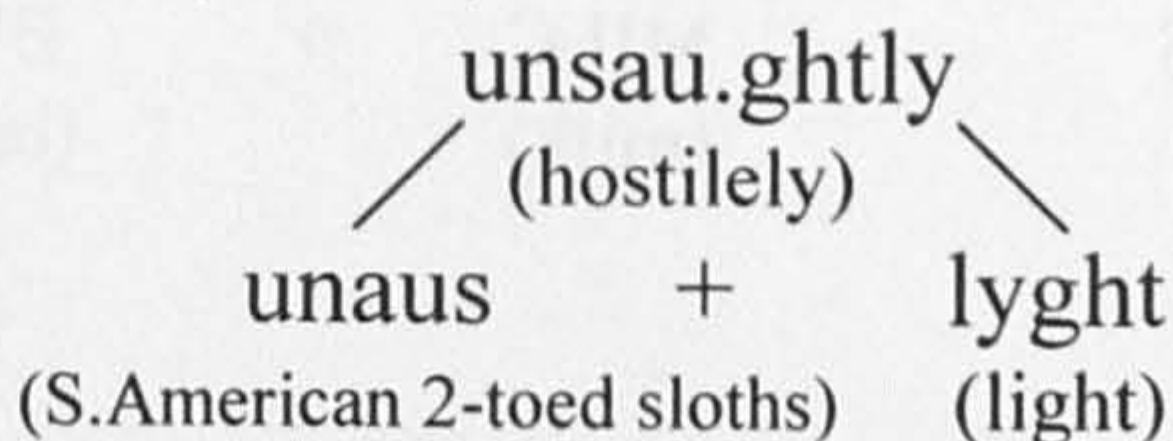
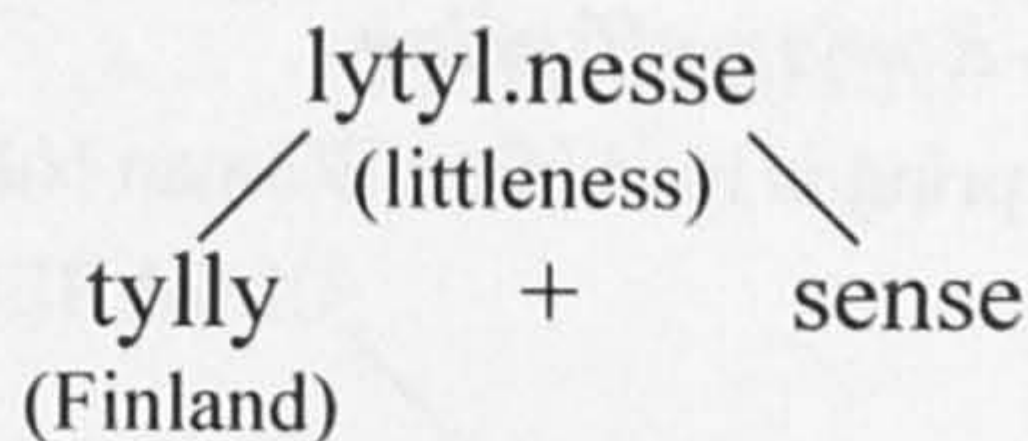
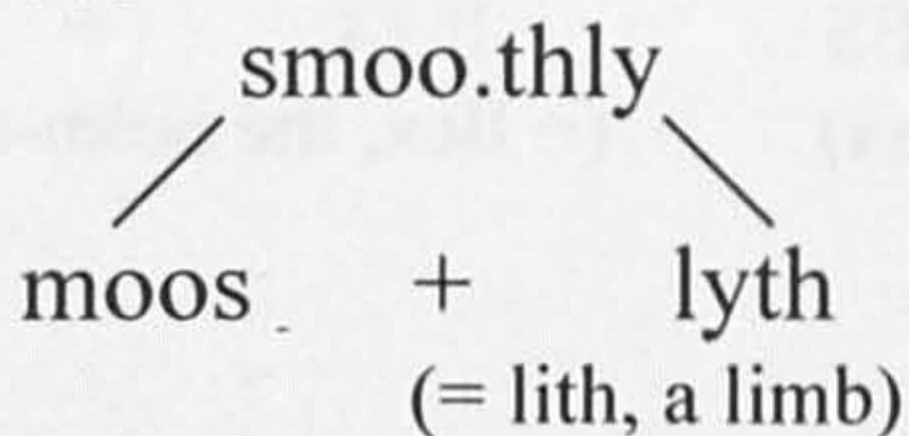
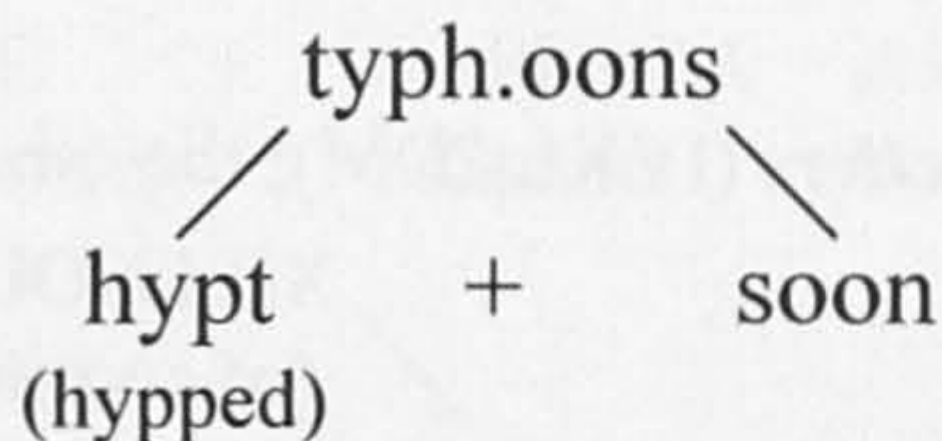


The second example here is an all-locational one, as 'inane' is also a place name.



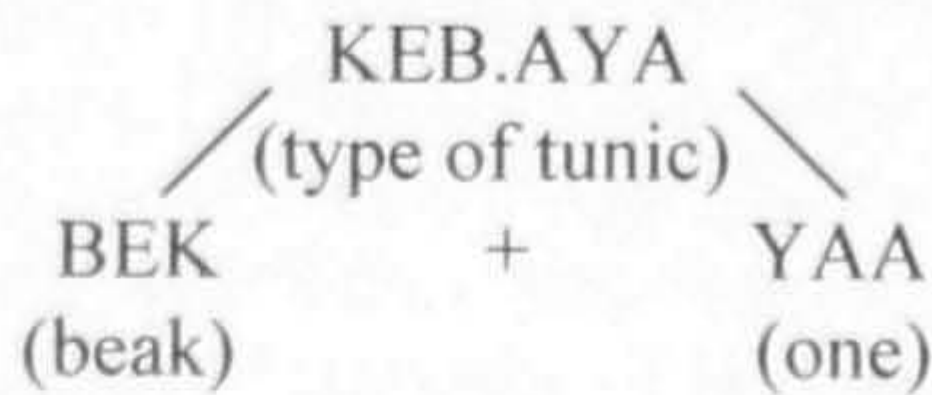
2. *Tall and Narrow offspring*

One of each pair of offspring is made from tall letters (bdfghklpqty) and the other from narrow letters (acemnorsuvwxz). The dotted letters i and j are not admitted in either capacity here.



3. Horizontally, and Vertically, Symmetrical offspring

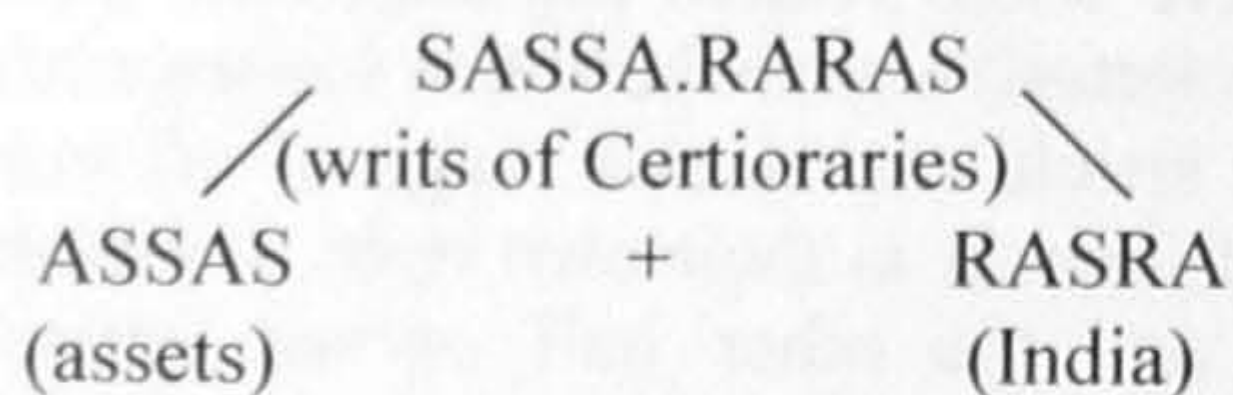
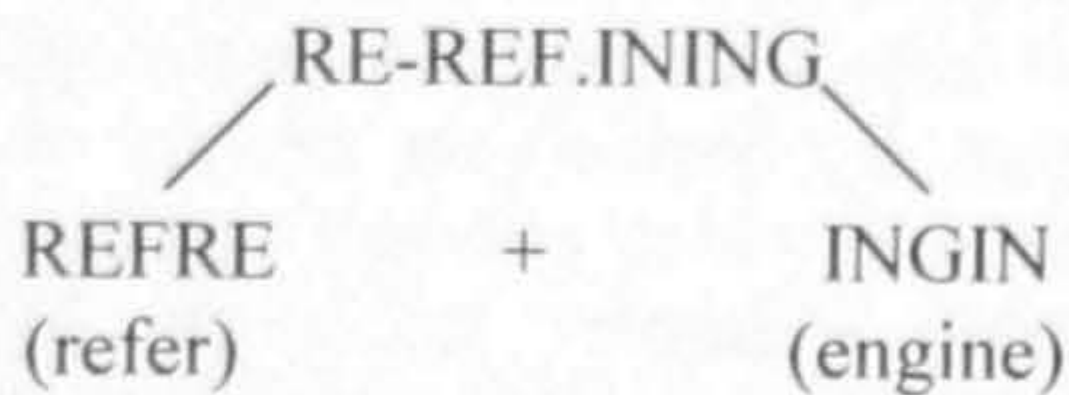
One offspring in each case is made from letters which exhibit horizontal symmetry (BCDEK) and one from letters which exhibit vertical symmetry (AMTUVWY). Letters which exhibit both of these types of symmetry (HIOX) are not admitted.



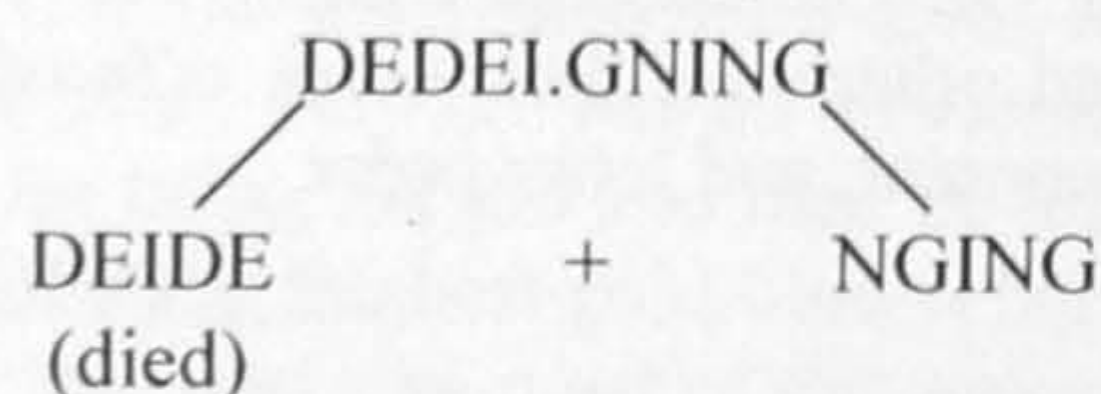
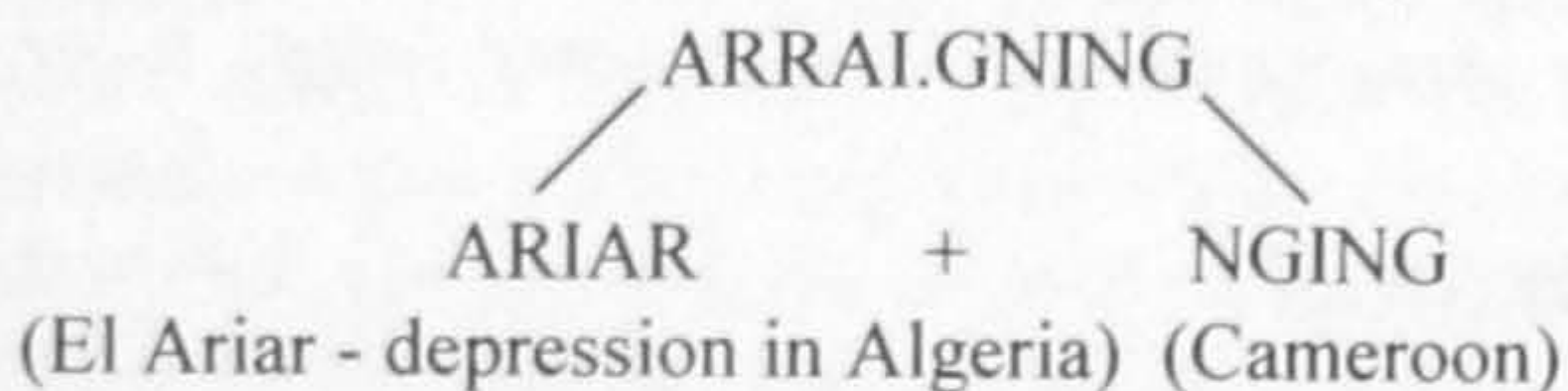
LETTER PATTERN

1. Miami offspring

Each member of the four pairs of offspring conforms to the Miami letter pattern 12?12.

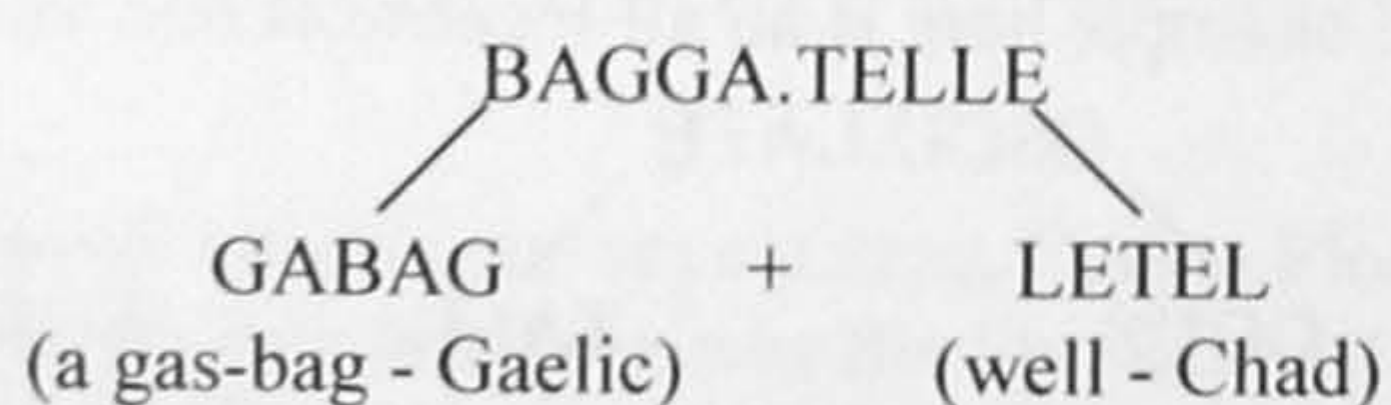
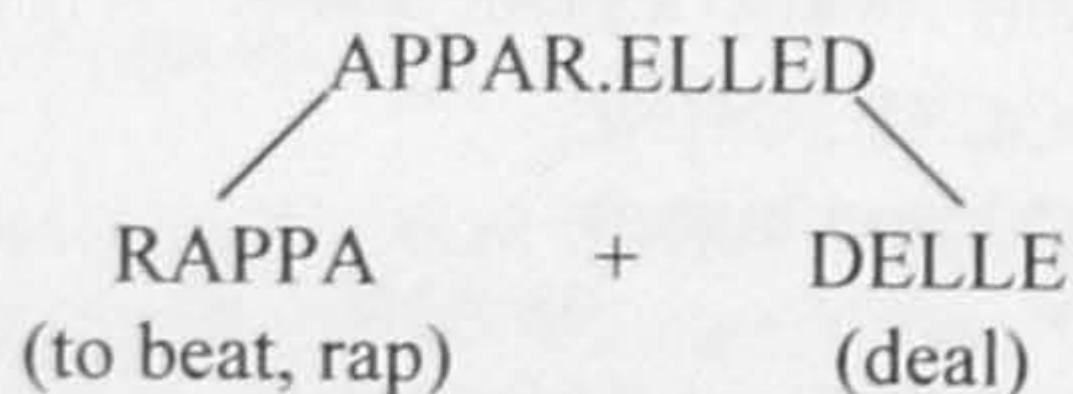


These two parent words are both pair isograms (2 of each different letter).



2. Isomorphic offspring

In addition to being Miami words, REFRE and INGIN (above) are isomorphs, sharing the same letter pattern 12312. In both examples below, not only are the two offspring isomorphs, they also have the same vowel-consonant patterns. Further, GABAG and LETEL are palindromic isomorphs. Note also that the letters of RAPPA and DELLE are in the reverse order in which they occur in the parent word APPAR.ELLED.

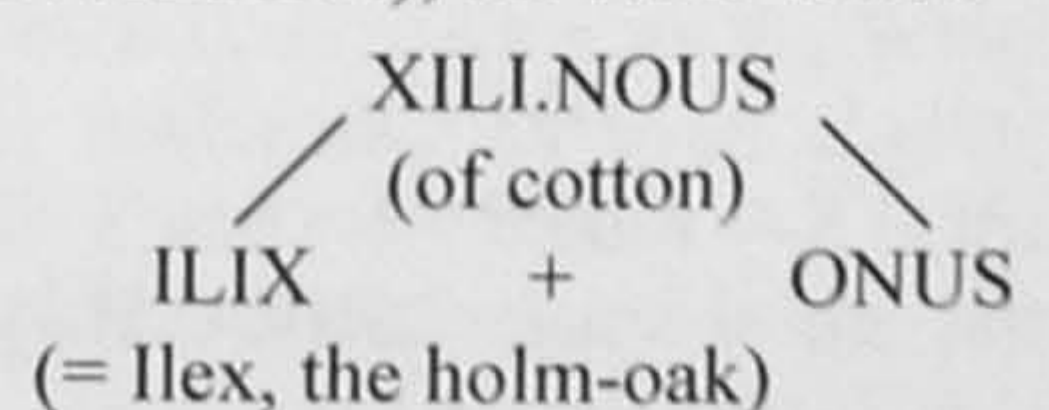
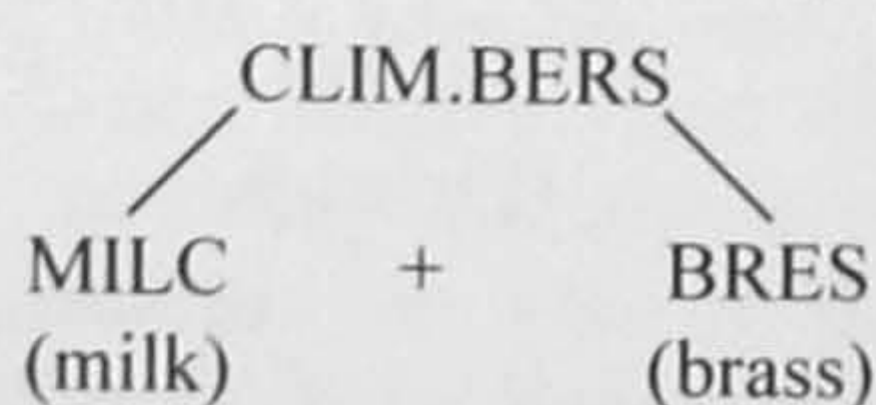
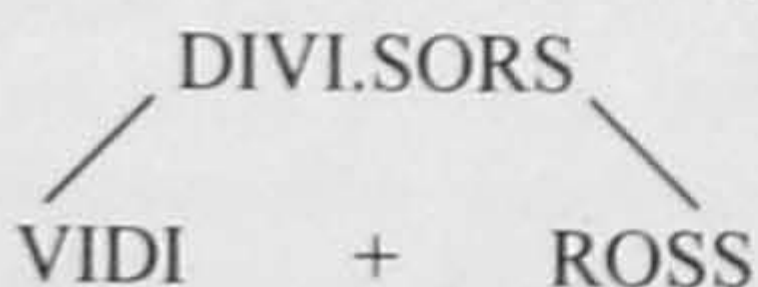


LETTER CONTENT

In 1, 2 and 3 below, all the letters of the offspring are pertinent; in 4, 5 and 6 this only applies to some of the letters.

1. Roman and Non-Roman offspring

In each case, one offspring is made from Roman Numeral letters (IVXLCDM); the other is not.



MILLI.STERE
 LIMIL + TREES
 (a brand of hydrated lime)

DILLI.NGTON
 (hamlet - Cambs. UK)
 LLIDI + NTONG
 (Carn Llidi - a hill in UK) (Gabon)

HERA.LDIC
 HEAR + CILD
 (chill)

SABE.LLID
 (annelid worm)
 BASE + DILL

STRAO.ILLIM
 (Irish: to trail)
 ROAST + LILIM
 (island - Papua NG)

2. First and Second Halves of the Alphabet offspring

One offspring is made from the letters A - M, and the other from the letters N - Z.

DILA.TORY
 LAID + TROY

FALC.ONRY
 CALF + YRON
 (iron)

GLAB.ROUS
 BLAG + SOUR
 (theft)

HELEB.OROUS
 (the plant Helleborus)
 BHEEL + SOROU
 (= Bhil, a Central Indian people) (sorrow)

DECEI.UOURS
 (deceivers)
 DE-ICE + SORUU
 (sorrow)

3. Odd and Even Letters of the Alphabet offspring

These words are scarce because all the vowels occupy odd number positions in the alphabet.

YEA.RTH
 (earth)
 AYE + HRT
 (ridge - Bosnia Herzegovina)

THR.ICE
 RHT + IEC
 (wadi - Oman) (= yeke, the cuckoo)

BRNJ.ACKO
 (mount.-Yugoslavia)
 BJRN + OCAK
 (Kafr Bjrn Suliman - Egypt) (Turkey)

4. Monoconsonantal offspring

Both these parent words are inferred. Pappoose is a genuine variant of papoose, a North American Indian young child. If the child is a girl, perhaps she could be called a pappoosess. Nounness is defined as 'the quality or nature of a noun'. Sweetness, 'the quality of being sweet' can be pluralised to sweetnesses; hence, by inference, nounnesses.

PAPPO.OSESS
 POPPA + SOSSE
 (papa) (= soss, a call to pigs)

NOUNN.ESSSES
 NUNON + SESES
 (presently) (siezes)

5. Monovocalic offspring

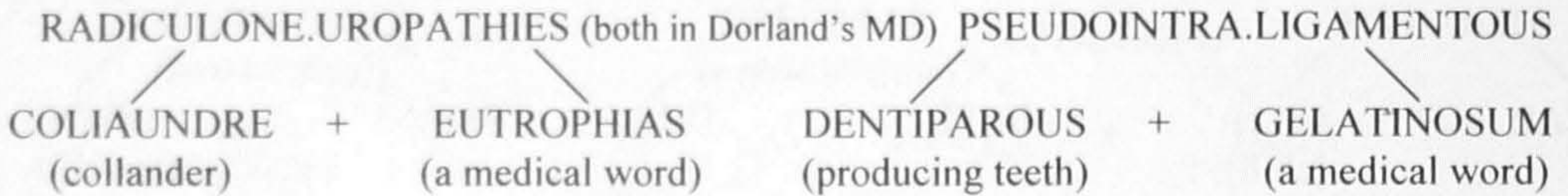
TELEMET.ACARPAL
 MELETTE + CAPRALA
 (peak - France) (Spain)

QARAA.JEELE
 (spring - Somalia)
 ARAQA + ELEJE
 (West Bank) (Nigeria)

IRIMIN.NAGAMA
 (Sri Lanka)
 RIMINI + GAMANA
 (Italy) (river - Cameroon)

6. AEIOU offspring

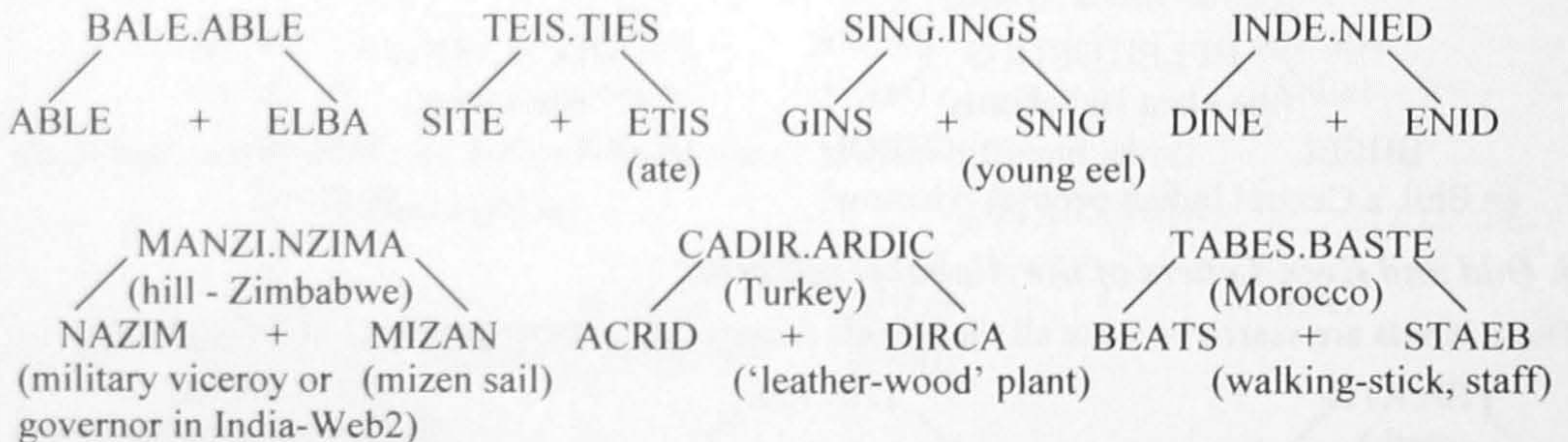
An AEIOU word is one in which each of the five major vowels occurs just once, in any order. The following two double AEIOU parent words house one AEIOU set in each half of the word so that each offspring is an AEIOU word.



LETTER ORDER

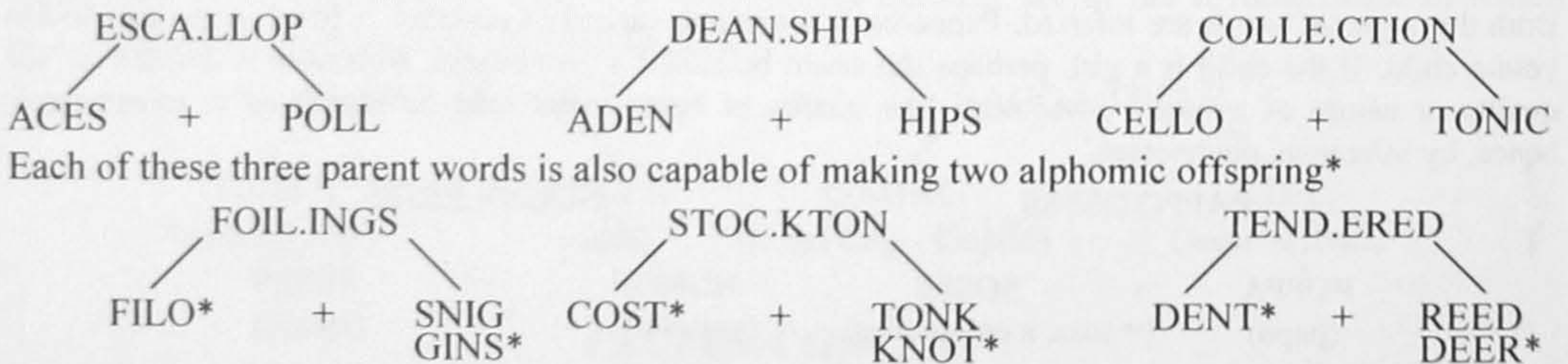
1. Pair Isograms make Reversal offspring

These four parent words are pair isograms. Specifically, they are split pair isograms with the letters of the first half of the word rearranged to make the second half of the word. Each parent gives rise to two offspring which are reversals.



2. Alphomic, and Reverse Alphomic, offspring

In each example below, the first offspring is an alphomic word (letters in alphabetical order), and the second is a reverse alphomic word (letters in reverse alphabetical order).



An alternative to the 'straight done the middle' concept is to divide a parent word into three parts, each with the same number of letters. Then, as before, rearrange each set of letters to make a word according to some specification.. For example, each of the offspring below is monovocalic.

