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# A&H الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية

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دورية علمية محكمة تصدر عن

كلية الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية بجامعة طيبة



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للدخول للموقع الإلكتروني للمجلة والاطلاع على

بمحتكم والبحوث المنشورة، يرجى مسح كود QR

التالي عن طريق أي قارئ لأكواد QR



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# التعريف بمجلة جامعة طيبة للآداب والعلوم الإنسانية

مجلة جامعة طيبة للآداب والعلوم الإنسانية هي مجلة علمية محكمة، تصدر عن كلية الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية، بجامعة طيبة، تنشر البحوث والدراسات الأصيلة، باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية.

## الرؤية

الريادة في نشر البحوث العلمية الأصيلة في الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية

## الرسالة

نشر الأبحاث العلمية المحكمة في مجالات الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية وفق المعايير المعمول بها عالمياً  
للتحكيم ونشر الأبحاث

## الأهداف

- نشر الأبحاث الأصيلة في مجالات الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية التي تسهم في خدمة الإنسان وتقديم المجتمعات.
- تلبية حاجة الباحثين محلياً، وإقليمياً، وعالمياً لنشر الأبحاث الأصيلة في مجالات الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية.
- الإسهام في إيجاد مرجعية علمية محكمة في مجالات الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية.
- العمل على النهوض بعدد الاستشهادات المرجعية بأبحاث المجلة.
- الحصول على معامل تأثير إقليمي ودولي متميز في تخصص الآداب والعلوم الإنسانية.
- إدراج المجلة ضمن شبكة كلابريفيت للعلوم (ISI سابقاً) وكشاف الاستشهادات المرجعية الدولي للمجلات العلمية المصنفة عالمياً.

## قواعد النشر بالمجلة

- البحوث المقدمة للنشر يجب ألا يكون قد سبق نشرها، حتى وإن كان من الباحث نفسه، أو مقدمة للنشر في جهة أخرى، وإذا قبلت للنشر فلا يسمح بنشرها، سواءً باللغة العربية أو بأية لغة أخرى.
- في حال ثبت أن بحثاً تم نشره بالمجلة قد نشر سابقاً في مجلة أخرى - ولو كان ذلك من طرف الباحث نفسه -، فإن للمجلة الحق في اتخاذ الإجراءات القانونية المناسبة ذات العلاقة.
- تمتنع المجلة عن تحكيم البحث الثاني لأي باحث إلا بعد صدور أربعة أعداد من تاريخ نشر بحثه الأول بالمجلة.
- يقدم الباحث طلباً بنشر بحثه متضمناً العناوين التي تمكن من الاتصال به ومراسلته عليها، وتعهده بالملكية الفكرية، ومشفوعاً بسيرته العلمية، والتزاماً بعدم نشر بحثه في أي جهة نشر أخرى وهذه المرفقات يتم تحميلها من الموقع الإلكتروني للمجلة على الرابط التالي) أمسح الكود QR أسفله عن طريق أي قارئ للأكواد للدخول لموقع المجلة)
- يُعدُّ إرسال البحث عبر موقع المجلة الإلكتروني قبولاً من الباحث بقواعد النشر في المجلة.
- لا ترد المجلة على استفسارات الباحثين عن حالة أبحاثهم، إلا بعد انقضاء فترة ستين يوماً (شهرين) من تاريخ وصول البحث للمجلة.
- تعتذر المجلة عن استقبال الأبحاث خلال الإجازات الدراسية في منتصف العام، ونهاية السنة الدراسية، وفق تقويم الدراسة في جامعة طيبة، المعتمد في موقع الجامعة الإلكتروني.
- تخضع الأبحاث المقدمة للمجلة للتحكيم من قِبَل محكمين متخصصين ومعتمدين لدى المجلة، وهئية تحرير المجلة حق تقرير أهلية البحث للتحكيم من عدمه ابتداءً.
- تقدم المواد العلمية والبحوث عن طريق نسخة إلكترونية عبر البريد الإلكتروني للمجلة
- تكتب الآيات القرآنية للبحوث العلمية في العلوم الشرعية وفق مصحف المدينة النبوية للنشر الحاسوبي.
- يشترط ألا يتجاوز عدد كلمات البحث (١٢٠٠٠) كلمة، متضمنةً الملخصين العربي والإنجليزي والكلمات المفتاحية.
- يكون لكل بحث ملخصان: أحدهما باللغة العربية، والآخر باللغة الإنجليزية، على ألا يتجاوز عدد كلمات أي منهما (٣٠٠) كلمة.
- يتم إدراج ما بين (٤-٦) كلمات مفتاحية كحد أقصى وتكتب باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية.
- يكون توثيق النصوص والاقتباسات باستخدام إحدى الطرق العلمية الموحدة في كامل البحث.
- القواعد الخاصة بإعداد قائمة المراجع: -
- تتضمن قائمة المراجع الأعمال التي استشهد فيها في متن البحث وترتب ترتيباً هجائياً.
- رومنة المصادر العربية بالحروف اللاتينية في قائمة مستقلة.
- ما تنشره المجلة يعبر عن وجهة نظر صاحبه، ولا يعبر بالضرورة عن وجهة نظر المجلة.



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# Hypocoristic Nicknames in British English Slang: A Morpho-phonological Perspective

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## Abstract

This paper explores the patterns of hypocoristic nicknames in British slang accepting construction morphology (Booij 2010, 2016), truncation, and prosodic templates (Inkelas, 2014). These theories highlight the interface between morphology and phonology and help identify how a particular phonological pattern is imposed on a proper subset of morphological constructions, for example, by shortening the original version adding suffix sounds [j] and [i] to form the hypocorism British nicknames (HBNs). The data were elicited from the video titled *What do British people call McDonald's?* that was posted on the Eat Sleep Dream English YouTube channel by Teacher Tom on 25 January 2023. This video presents some British hypocoristic nicknames, including Maccy D for *MacDonalds*, Vicky P for *Victoria Park*, Panny D for *Pandemic*, and Hundy P for *Hundred Present*. Similar data, including the use of Sanny T for *Sanitizer* and Menty B for *Mental*

*Breakdown*, was discovered on Twitter. The study reveals that the formation of this British hypocorism slang goes through a morpho-phonological process that provides a specific linguistic schema that can be followed for other similar configurations. The available data were also analysed through schemas and second-order schemas as part of the construction morphology theory to examine the form and meaning relation of the BHNs. The data shows that the suffix sounds [j] and [i] convey affection for slang, informality, humour, and jocularity. It can, therefore, be concluded that this morpho-phonological process with regard to meaning indicates a complete theory for BHNs.

**Keywords:** Hypocoristics, Morpho-phonology, Slang, Truncation, Prosodic Templates

الأسماء المستعارة في اللغة الإنجليزية البريطانية العامية: من منظور الصرف الصوتي

## الأسماء المستعارة في اللغة الإنجليزية البريطانية

### العامية: من منظور الصرف الصوتي

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#### المستخلص:

تتناول هذه الدراسة أنماط الأسماء المستعارة في اللغة الإنجليزية العامية التي تقبل التشكل الإنشائي والإقترع ، والقوالب النقطية. تسلط هذه النظريات الضوء على الواجهة بين علم التشكل وعلم الأصوات وتساعد في تحديد كيفية فرض نمط صوتي معين على مجموعة فرعية مناسبة من التركيبات الصرفية. على سبيل المثال ، عن طريق تقصير النسخة الأصلية بإضافة أصوات لاحقة لتشكيل الألقاب في الإنجليزية البريطانية العامية. تم جمع البيانات لهذه الدراسة من مقاطع فيديو تم نشرها على موقع YouTube وتعرض تلك المقاطع بعض الأسماء المستعارة البريطانية ، بما في ذلك Maccy D لـ MacDonalDs و Vicky P لـ Victoria Park و Panny D لـ Pandemic و Hundy P لـ Hundred و Sanny T لـ Sanitizer . تم اكتشاف بيانات مماثلة ، بما في ذلك استخدام Mental Breakdown لـ Menty B و ، على موقع تويتر. توصلت هذه الدراسة أن تشكيل هذه اللغة العامية البريطانية يمر عبر عملية صرفية-صوتية توفر مخططاً لغوياً محدداً يمكن اتباعه لتكوينات أخرى مماثلة. تم تحليل البيانات المتاحة أيضاً من خلال المخططات

كجزء من نظرية مورفولوجيا البناء لفحص علاقة الشكل والمعنى للألقاب. تُظهر البيانات أن الأصوات اللاحقة تنقل العاطفة للغة العامية وغير الرسمية والفكاهة والمرح. لذلك ، يمكن استنتاج أن هذه العملية الصرفية الصوتية فيما يتعلق بالمعنى تشير إلى نظرية كاملة للألقاب في الإنجليزية البريطانية العامية .

الكلمات المفتاحية: الألقاب - الصرف الصوتي - العامية - الاقتطاع - القوالب الصوتية

## 1. Introduction:

Cross-linguistically, hypocorisms, also known as clippers, pet names, and diminutives, are linguistic forms using different word-formation processes such as reduction, truncation and shortening (Yule, 2022, p. 65; Imamović 2019, pp 2-8). Hypocorisms are favoured in English dialects and Australian, New Zealand and British English (Yule, 2022, p. 65). To create a hypocorism, a word is shortened to a single syllable and the suffix [j] or [i] is added to the end. Hypocorisms can be applied to the names of people, places, cities, towns, businesses, and brands (Imamović, 2019, p. 8; Bardsley, 2014; Bardsey & Simpson, 2009). For example, Maccy D for *MacDonalds*, Vicky P for *Victoria Park*, Panny D for *Pandemic*, Hundy P for *Hundred Present*, Sanny T for *Sanitizer*, and Menty B for *Mental Breakdown* are hypocoristic nicknames in British English albeit not commonly used ones (Eat Sleep Dream English, 2023).

Slang is the colloquial form of a language that is spoken in informal contexts where everyday conversation occurs (Partadarsana & Mardijono, 2022, p. 550; Gallova, L. 2021; Burov & Vozdvizhenskiy 2017: 5). Due to people's inventiveness and inclination to create practical and straightforward versions of



words, new terminology is created every day (Gallova, 2021, p. 26; Roth-Gordon, 2020; Burov & Vozdvizhenskiy 2017, p.4). However, "...not all new words are considered slang, slang typically conveys a sense of newness" (Roth-Gordon, 2020, p. 3). Speakers play with established sound patterns, rearrange word forms, and break grammatical or discourse constraints to create slang (Roth-Gord, 2020, p.3). Slang employs modern forms in various ways, frequently combining elements from the sound system, word formation processes, and the speakers' cultural knowledge.

Hypocorism can be derived from various registers, particularly slang; people form hypocorisms as variations of slang, to inject humour, or to create pet names (Bardsley & Simpson, 2009). Each language has slang elements. Moreover, groups often have their own slang (Partadarsana & Mardijono, 2022, p. 550). Some slang words are characterised by a change in sound and the shortening or removal of one or more characters from the actual word. For instance, the suffixes that lend themselves to hypocoristic nicknames are the consonant [j] and the vowel [i]. British hypocoristic nicknames are shortened words that end in the vowel [i], such as B [bi] (Eat Sleep Dream English, 2023). These sounds, [j] and [i], have mostly connotative functions and convey diminutive abbreviated slang that expresses jocularly. Bardsley &



Simpson (2009) highlight the fact that, the diminutiveness of hypocoristics has a euphemistic function rather than a pejorative effect. It conveys an affection for informality, humour, and jocular cynicism (Mashaqba, Al-Maani, Huneety & Al-Deaibes, 2023; Gallova, 2021).

Interestingly, new BHNs could easily be created if one were to follow their pattern (cf. Eat Sleep Dream English, 2023). The formation of BHNs requires a morpho-phonological process that provides a linguistic schema that can be followed for similar configurations.

## 2. Theoretical Background of Interference Phonology and Morphology in Hypocorisms:

Morphology and phonology are interconnected, in that morphological generalisations involve sound pattern information and phonological generalisations involve morphological information; this is known as morphologically conditioned phonology (Inkelas 2008, p. 145). Morphologically conditioned phonology is when a specific phonological pattern applies to a particular set of morphological constructions (Inkelas 2014, p.84). This broad overlap sometimes muddles the lines between morphology and phonology. This intersection is extensive and has

multiple approaches; the current study concentrates on two approaches, namely, truncation and prosodic templates. Truncation and templaticity are particularly frequent in the domain of hypocorism (Inkelas, 2014, p. 88).

### 2.1 Truncation:

Truncation generally refers to shortening or omitting parts of a word. A morphophonology process deletes components from the base (Mashaqba et al., 2023; Davis, 2023; Artes, 2014). There are two types of truncation. First, subtractive truncation, which refers to the deletion of some phonological material from the base. Second, templatic truncation, which refers to the output form that has to adapt to a prosodic template (Artes, 2014, p. 3). Alber and Arndt-Lappe (2012) provide representative examples that illustrate the differences between the two types of truncation.

	singular	plural	preserved	deleted
pitáf-fi-n	pít-li-n	σ	VC	'to slice up the middle'
ataká:-li-n	aták-li-n	σσ	VV	'to hang something'
akocofót-li-n	akocóf-fi-n	σσσ	VC	'to jump down'

The data above demonstrates the formation of the plural, pattern I, in the Muskogean language Koasati. The plural form is formed from the singular through subtraction of the stem-final rime, VC, or VV (Alber & Arndt-Lappe, 2012, p.290). Thus, the size of the

material is truncated. On the other hand, Spanish hypocoristics feature different types of truncation, such as the following:

base name	hypocoristic	preserve	deleted
Umbérto	Beto	σσ	σ
Gilebáldo	Balo	σσ	σσ
Aristóbulo	Tobo	σσ	σσσ

The examples above illustrate one of the patterns that produces hypocoristic forms in Spanish using the process of templatic truncation (Alber & Arndt-Lappe, 2012, p. 290–291). Hypocoristic forms in Spanish can be analysed in terms of a higher-level phonological structure. Despite differences in their segmental content, all Spanish hypocoristic forms have the same invariant size. For example, all are disyllabic and have stressed initial syllables. Thus, the output of truncation in Spanish hypocoristics follows a prosodic template.

Consequently, truncation in both types, subtractive and templatic truncation, involves the deletion of components in the derived form (output), as compared to the base form (input) (Alber and Arndt-Lappe; 2012). Nevertheless, although both types differ in terms of the templates' output size the number of syllables, is

predictable. Templaticity, i.e., predictability, restricts the size of the trenched material in subtractive truncation.. Predicting form typically refers to higher-level phonological categories such as the syllable size or number of syllables in both situations.

Templatic truncation, which analyses the size of the hypocorism forms, is primarily discussed in studies on the interference between phonology and morphology or, as it is known, prosodic morphology. Inkelas (2014) describes templatic truncation as a prosodic template.

## **2.2 Prosodic Templates:**

Prosodic templates play a significant role in the morpho-phonological process and the domain of hypocorisms. Prosodic templates are word structures (Alber & Arndt-Lappe (2022, p. 6) that are associated with base-forming and affixation that substantially constrain the derived output phonological shape of a specific linguistic item, such as a hypocorism (Inkelas, 2014, p. 84). Affixation, syllable weight, and mora are the units used to describe prosodic templates' outputs.

Hyman (2019) defines the mora as a phonological unit used to measure and distinguish distinct syllable forms and weight. Every syllable has at least one mora which is derived from the syllable's nucleus. A syllable's weight is classified as light, heavy, or super-

heavy. A light syllable (monomoraic) consists of only one mora, as in CV; a heavy syllable (dimoraic) consists of two moras, CVV or CVC; and, a super-heavy syllable (trimoraic) consists of three or more moras, CVCC, CVVC, or CVVCC.

Syllable weight and moras play a significant role in forming the prosodic templates of BHN formation. After truncating and eliminating parts from the base of BHNs, the consonant [j] is added to the first monosyllabic trenched term, w. In contrast, the vowel [i] is added to the second trenched term. This insertion process affects the BHNs' syllable size and weight. The insertion of morpho-phonological components into the stem is known as affixation; it is known as a prefix when it is left-aligned to the stem and a suffix when it is right-aligned.

Morphological construction includes analysis of the morpho-phonological form and the meaning. In this case, it could be considered a complete theory of British hypocoristic nicknames. The following section shows how, through morphological construction, the produced hypocoristic patterns achieve specific purposes to express informality, humour, and jocularity.

### 2.3 Construction Morphology and Hypocorisms:

Construction morphology is concerned with the analysis of the development of new words (such as hypocorisms) and the demonstration of the various morpho-phonological processes involved in word formation. It is a theory developed by Booij (2010, 2017), who believes that each word is a linguistic sign that pairs form and meaning. The form of a word encompasses two dimensions, the morphological and the phonological structure. The morphological structure refers to lexical organisation and affixes whereas the phonological structure refers to sound segments and prosodic categories such as the syllable, foot, and prosodic word (Booij, 2017, pp. 275-276).

According to the parallel architecture of grammar, the morphological structure of an utterance is connected through: (I) an interrelation between morphology and phonology, and (II) between morphology and semantics (Booij, 2017, p. 281). Inkelas (2014) reached the same conclusion in various studies on the interrelationship between morphology and phonology. He claims that, “each individual morphological construction is associated with its own phonological subgrammar” (p. 45).

Booij (2017) discusses the concept of schemas and second-order schemas to analyse complex utterances that need additional analyses, such as hypocoritics. He analyses the relationships



between complex words, such as (hypocoritics), which cannot be expressed using derivational relationships alone but need to be described with reference to second-order schemas (p. 288).

For instance, nicknames such as Elizabeth > Liz > Lizzy convey endearment which presupposes familiarity with the addressee (Booij, 2017, p. 283). *Liz* is a truncated [= shortened] form of the full name *Elizabeth*. Therefore, the truncated form has less phonological content than the base form. Then, in *Lizzy*, the -y is added to the trenched form *Liz*. This kind of morph-phonology process manipulates the pragmatic and discourse properties of words.

Thus, the analysis of the morph-phonology process of hypocoristics throughout schemas and second-order schemas, which is a part of construction morphology theory, requires a concatenation of elements. Second-order schemas of trenched or shortened forms should be used concerning the full form (Booij, 2017, p. 291). The shortened form is defined by a prosodic output condition: one syllable (a) or a two-syllable-foot that ends in -y (b):

$$a. \langle [xCz]Nn \leftrightarrow [ProperName]n \rangle \approx \langle [(xC)r]Nm \leftrightarrow [Endearment\ of\ n]m \rangle$$



b.  $\langle [xCz]Nn \leftrightarrow [ProperName]n \rangle \approx \langle [(x)r (Ci)r]Nm \leftrightarrow [Endearment\ of\ n]m \rangle$

where x and z refer to one or more phonological segments of the complete word form, while C refers to the consonant that is preserved at the end of the trenched or shortened word before adding the suffix -y. The symbol  $\approx$  indicates a paradigmatic relationship between two constructional schemas. The double arrow  $\leftrightarrow$  refers to the relationship between a particular form and a particular meaning. The variable N stands for the significant lexical category noun. These small lower-case letters are co-indices that specify that pieces of information on the formal level correspond with those on the semantic level. The small n and m specify the correlation between formal information and semantic information, for instance, that a noun has a semantic interpretation as a proper noun or that of an endearment name.

The examples discussed here should be sufficient to convey the overall argument of analysing hypocoristics, even though the actual patterns are more complex, as seen in the hypocoristic forms Liz and Lizzy of Elizabeth (2017, p.291).

This study aims to investigate the British hypocoristic nicknames in the framework of schemas and second-order schemas, which is a part of the aspects of form and meaning in construction morphology (Booij, 2010, 2016). Mashaqba et al. (2023) claim

that construction morphology provides a new avenue for hypocoristic research. They explore the patterns of Ammani-Jordanian hypocoristics through construction morphology. They found that constructional schemas help map the interaction between the form and meaning of hypocoristics in different contexts. This decreases the arbitrary relationship form and meaning. According to this approach, after being exposed to a significant number of hypocoristics, language speakers can figure out the abstract morpho-phonological patterns that they would use later to generate new hypocoristics in a different context (Mashaqba et al. 2023, p. 4). This is precisely what happened when Tom, the presenter of *What do British people call McDonald's?* asked his follower to create new hypocoristics using the pattern of Maccy D for *MacDonalds*, Vicky P for *Victoria Park*, Panny D for *Pandemic*, Hundy P for *Hundred Present*, Sanny T for *Sanitizer*, and Menty B for *Mental Breakdown*. “The beauty is you can make them up yourself” said Tom in his video *What do British people call McDonald's?*. Some examples from the comments were Baky P for *Buckingham Palace* and Sanzy B for *Sainsbury* (the supermarket). People created these words to show informality and convey humor, according to Tom (2023). Thus, construction morphology includes aspects of the form for British

hypocoristic nicknames and meaning relations and could, therefore, provide a complete theory for their structure.

### 3. Method, Materials, and Procedure:

For the purposes and goal of this paper, descriptive qualitative techniques were implemented to investigate and analyse the phonological pattern of the British hypocoristic nicknames as linguistic phenomena. Therefore, the primary purpose of the research is to obtain data from local British speakers. The data collected in this paper went through two stages.

In the first stage, observation and documentation methods were used to collect the nicknames from a video on YouTube. Collecting data through YouTube Channels is time efficient. The researchers can watch all the videos anywhere and anytime (Her et al., 2022). The data gathered for the purposes of this research was taken from a video titled *What do British people call McDonald's?* presented on the Eat Sleep Dream English YouTube channel by Teacher Tom on 25 January 2023. This channel presents videos featuring British English conversation, including slang, to help people learn to speak English like a local. In the selected video, Tom (2023) talks about some British hypocoristic nicknames, including Maccy D, Vicky P, Panny D, and Hundy P. In the second data collection stage, I searched for similar nicknames in social media applications, particularly Twitter and

Instagram, and found similar hypocoristic nicknames, including Sanny T and Menty B.

#### 4. Data Analysis, Discussion, and Results:

The representative data in Table 1 illustrates one pervasive morpho-phonological pattern of hypocoristic nicknames in British English slang. These BHNs consist of two separate utterances: the first is disyllabic, while the second is monosyllabic, with the shape: CVC [j] + CV. The first utterance of the BHN consists of a disyllable. The first heavy syllable contains two moras  $CV\mu C\mu$ , and the second is a light syllable consisting of one mora [j] $\mu$ . The second utterance of the BHN consists of a light monosyllable that consists of one mora  $CV\mu$  presented by the vowel [i].

Table 1: An analysis of the British hypocoristic nicknames that were initially one term.

Utterances	Phonetic transcriptions	The number of syllables	Hypocoristic nicknames	Phonetic transcriptions	The number of syllables
McDonald's	[mæk. 'dɒn. əldz]	One word - 3 Syllables	Maccy D	[mæk.j di]	Two utterances: First = disyllables Second= Monosyllable

Pandemic	[pæn. 'dem.ɪk]	One word - 3 Syllables	Panny D	[pæn.j di]	
Sanitizer	[sæn.i. 'tai.zər]	One word - 4 Syllables	Sanny T	[sæn.j ti]	

Table 1 shows that the first syllable should be preserved if BHN were initially derived from one utterance, such as McDonald's, Pandemic, and Sanitizer. All the first syllables in the collected BHN were originally CVC in the actual utterances, such as [mæk] in McDonald's, [pæn] in Pandemic, and [sæn] in Sanitizers. Then, to form the hypocoristic nicknames from the one utterance, the CVC is changed to CVCV by adding the voiced palatal semi-vowel glide [j] as a monosyllable. So, [pæn] becomes [pæn.j], [sæn] becomes [sæn.j] and [mæk] becomes [mæk.j]. The vowel in [mæk.j] is influenced by phonological changes known as fronting, in which a vowel is pronounced farther to the front of the vocal tract.

Then and there, to form the second utterance of BHNs that was initially one word, the first consonant in the stressed syllable from the original word is pronounced as the complete sound of the letter of the alphabet. For example, the stressed syllable in McDonald's

is the second syllable ['dɒn]. So, [d] will be added to [mæk.j], and [d] should be pronounced [di] as in the alphabetical letter D. The same process is followed to form the BHNs of Pandemic and Sanitizer. The stressed syllable in Pandemic is the second syllable [dɛm]. Thus, [d] is added to [pæn.j], and [d] should be pronounced [di] as in the alphabetical letter D. Finally, the stressed syllable in Sanitizer is the third syllable [taɪ]. Therefore, [t] will be added to [sæn.j] as an independent utterance, and [t] should be pronounced [ti] as in the alphabetical letter T.

The general phonological schema I for these forms, which are the British hypocoristic nicknames that were initially one term, are as follows:

$$\langle \sigma\sigma+ \rangle > \langle \sigma.\sigma\_ \sigma \rangle = \langle CV[+front]C.[j]\_ C[i] \rangle$$

In the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA),  $\langle \sigma \rangle$  indicates a syllable, the tie bar  $\langle \_ \rangle$  can be used to show the space between = words, while the dot (.) is used to separate the syllables within the same utterance. The schema above shows that, in forming British hypocoristic nicknames, if a word consists of more than two syllables  $\langle \sigma\sigma+ \rangle$ , it becomes two utterances; the first utterance is disyllabic, while the second is monosyllabic  $\langle \sigma.\sigma\_ \sigma \rangle$ . The second syllable of these BHN consists of the semi-vowel [j], and the

second utterance consists of one syllable with a consonant and the vowel [i]. The vowel in the first CVC syllable should be in front. It should go through a phonological fronting if it were not a front vowel in the original term.

In the following examples, Booij's (2017) schemas and the second-order schemas aspect which is a part of construction morphology theory will be employed to analyse the BHNs that were initially one term.

a.  $\langle [xCz]\sigma^+ Nn \leftrightarrow [BHNs]n \rangle \approx \langle [(xC)\sigma (C)\sigma]Nm \leftrightarrow [\text{slang and jocular of } n]m \rangle$

b.  $\langle [xCz]\sigma^+ Nn \leftrightarrow [BHNs]n \rangle \approx \langle [(xC)\sigma (j)\sigma + (C[i])\sigma]Nm \leftrightarrow [\text{slang and jocular of } n]m \rangle$

The schemas above show that x and z refer to one or more phonological segments of the complete word form. The symbol  $\sigma^+$  shows that the original utterances have more than one syllable. The C refers to the consonant preserved at the end of the shortened word before adding the morpho-phonological suffix  $-[j]$  and  $-[i]$ . The schemas indicate that pieces of information on the formal level correspond with information on the semantic level. As the results of this study show, the addition of the suffixes  $-[j]$  and  $-[i]$  to form BHNs indicates slang, humour, and jocularity (see the introduction).



While Table 1 above shows the analysis of the BHN that were initially one term, Table 2 below analyses the British hypocoristic nicknames that were initially phrases of two words.

Table 2: An analysis of the British hypocoristic nicknames that were initially two-term.

Utterances	Phonetic transcriptions	The number of syllables	Hypocoristic nicknames	Phonetic transcriptions	The number of syllables
Mental breakdown	[,mɛn.təl 'breɪk.daʊn]	two words, the first one consists of 2 syllables	Menty B	[mɛnt.j bi]	Two utterances: First = disyllables Second= Monosyllable
Hundred percent	[,hʌn.drəd 'pɜ'sɛnt]		Hundy P	[hænd.j pi]	
Victoria Park	[,vɪk.'tɔ:.ri.ə pɑ:k]		Vicky P	[vɪk.j pi]	

Table 2 indicates that the BHNs were initially derived from a phrase of two utterances, such as mental breakdown, hundred present, and Victoria Park. The first syllable in mental, hundred, and Victoria should be preserved following the process used in the first type of BHNs derived from one utterance. The phonotactic of the first syllable in mental and hundred is CVCC, and in Victoria

is CVC; that is, [mɛnt] in mental, [hʌnd] in hundred, and [vɪk] in Victoria.

If the first utterances were originally two syllables, as in mental and hundred, the first part of the HBNs would be CVCC.[j]. The vowel in [hændy] is like the vowel in [mæk.j]; both are fronted and both are mid-central unrounded vowels that became near-low front unrounded vowels [æ]. On the other hand, if the first utterances were originally more than two syllables, like Victoria, which has four syllables, the first part of the BHNs will be formed as CVC [j] so that [vɪk] becomes [vɪk.j]. The high front unrounded vowel in [vɪk] is preserved in the BHN version [vɪk.j]. On the basis of the data above, it can be concluded that, in forming the BHNs, the more the sound is pronounced in the front of the vocal tract, the more likely it is that it is kept and will not be influenced by phonological changes.

To form the second utterance of BHNs initially derived from the two word phrase, the first consonant in the second word is pronounced as the letter in the alphabet. For example, the [b] in breakdown will be pronounced [bi] and the [p] in percent and park will be pronounced [pi].

In terms of syllable weight structures, BHNs that were initially phrases of two words have two phonotactic types: (I) CVC. [j] + CV and (II) CVCC. [j] + CV. In (I), the first utterance is disyllabic.

The first heavy syllable contains two moras  $CV_\mu C_\mu$  and the second is a light syllable consisting of one mora  $[j]_\mu$ . The second utterance of the BHN consists of a light monosyllable that consists of one mora  $CV_\mu$  presented by the vowel  $[i]$ . In addition, in (II), the first syllable is super-heavy and contains three moras  $CV_\mu C_\mu C_\mu$ , while the second is a light syllable that consists of one mora  $[j]_\mu$ . The second utterance of the BHN consists of a light monosyllable that consists of one mora  $CV_\mu$  presented by the vowel  $[i]$ .

The general phonological schema II for these forms, which are the BHNs that were initially two-terms, are as follows:

$$1. \langle \sigma.\sigma \_ \sigma^+ \rangle > \langle \sigma \_ \sigma \rangle = \langle CV[+front]CC.[j] \_ C[i] \rangle$$

The schema above shows that the original phrase contains two words. The first word consists of two syllables and the second word consists of one syllable  $\langle \sigma.\sigma \_ \sigma^+ \rangle$ . This phrase becomes a phrase of two utterances that consist of the same number of syllables with a change in the syllable weight in the second syllable  $\langle \sigma.\sigma \_ \sigma \rangle$ . The second syllable of the first utterance of these BHNs contains one semi-vowel that represents one mora  $[j]$ . In addition, the vowel in the first syllable in the first utterance should be at the front.

$$2. \langle \sigma\sigma+ \_ \sigma+ \rangle > \langle \sigma.\sigma\_ \sigma \rangle = \langle CV[+front]C.[j]\_ C[i] \rangle$$

The schema above shows that the original phrase contains two words in which the first word consists of more than two syllables and the second word consists of one or more syllables  $\langle \sigma\sigma+ \_ \sigma+ \rangle$ . This phrase becomes a phrase of two utterances. The first utterance consists of two syllables, while the second utterance consists of one syllable  $\langle \sigma.\sigma\_ \sigma \rangle$ . The first syllable of these BHNs contains one vowel in the nucleus and one consonant in the coda, and the second syllable consists of the semi-vowel [j]. The vowel in the first syllable should be at the front. The second utterance consists of one syllable that contains a consonant and the vowel [i].

Similar schemas and second-order schemas aspects developed by Booij (2017) were edemployed to analyse the BHNs that were initially one term and BHNs that were initially two terms. The only difference between the schemas used to analyse the BHNs that were initially two terms and the BHNs that were initially one term is that the first part of the one below consists of representations of two terms. The tie bar  $\langle \_ \rangle$  is used to indicate space between the utterances.

$$c. \langle [(xCz)\sigma+ \_ (xCz)\sigma+] Nn \leftrightarrow [BHNs]n \rangle \approx \langle [(xC)\sigma(C)\sigma]Nm \leftrightarrow [slang \text{ and } jocular \text{ of } n]m \rangle$$

d.  $\langle [(xCz)\sigma + \_ (xCz)\sigma +] Nn \leftrightarrow [BHNs]n \rangle \approx \langle [(xC)\sigma (j)\sigma + (C[i])\sigma]Nm \leftrightarrow [slang \text{ and } jocular \text{ of } n]m \rangle$

However, according to the parallel architecture of grammar, all the schemas - a, b, c, and d - show the morpho-phonological structure of the BHNs based on the interrelation between morphology and phonology on the one hand and the interrelation between morphology and semantics on the other hand (Booij, 2017). All four schemas would result in similar BHN formation processes and all indicate informality of slang, humour, and jocularity.

## 5. Conclusion:

This study provides a descriptive analysis of the patterns of hypocoristic nicknames in British slang, such as Maccy D for *MacDonalds*, Vicky P for *Victoria Park*, Panny D for *Pandemic*, Hundy P for *Hundred Present*, Sanny T for *Sanitizer* and Menty B for *Mental Breakdown*. These hypocoristic nicknames were elicited from the video titled *What do British people call McDonald's?* that was presented on the [Eat Sleep Dream English](#) YouTube channel by Teacher Tom on 25 January 2023 and from Twitter. The findings show that the hypocoristic nickname formation used by the British includes some morpho-phonological

processes such as truncation and affixation and includes two separate utterances. The first utterance consists of the first syllable in the original word after the truncation. The second syllable of these BHNs consists of the affixation of the semi-vowel [j]. The second utterance contains one syllable that consists of the first consonant of the stressed syllable in the original term/s and the affixation of the vowel [i].

A significant contribution of this study is that it studies the BHNs in light of schemas and second-order schemas that for part of Booij's (2017) construction morphology framework which encompasses both the morpho-phonological form and meaning of hypocoristics. In this case, a complete theory of hypocoristics could be developed on the basis of the interrelation between morphology and phonology from one side and morphology and semantics on the other. The morpho-phonological suffixes presented by the sounds [j] and [i] that are related to the hypocoristic nicknames indicate informality, humour, and jocularity in the British slang vernacular.

This study's findings open new directions for future research regarding the practical knowledge of hypocoristics across cultures, and their functionality in performing different meanings. Future work could usefully investigate the different patterns of hypocoristics in languages other than British English.

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