

Specific features of German

In the German language, there are some peculiarities that other languages do not exhibit.

On the one hand, these are the German mutations "ä", "ö" and "ü", as well as their capital letters "Ä", "Ö" and "Ü".

On the other hand, it's the "ß", which does not occur in any other language that does not derive from German. To make matters worse, in today's time, the corresponding keyboard layouts on computers do not have a "ß" for non-German use, or this character can only be displayed by switching to a "DE" layout.

Moreover, there is no capital letter for "ß".

Special features of Suetterlin

a	b	c	d	e	f	g
ɑ	β	ɿ	ɔ	ɛ	ƒ	ɣ
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
ħ	ɨ	ʝ	ƙ	ℓ	ɱ	ɲ
o	p	q	r	s	s	ß
ɔ	Ɔ	ɥ	ʀ	ʃ	ſ	β
t	u	v	w	x	y	z
ɹ	ɯ	ɰ	ɰ	ɣ	ʝ	ʒ
ch	ck	sch	sp	st		
ʃ	ɸ	ʃ	ʃ	ʃ		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
ɑ	β	ɿ	ɔ	ɛ	ƒ	ɣ
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
ħ	ɨ	ʝ	ƙ	ℓ	ɱ	ɲ
O	P	Q	R	S		
ɔ	Ɔ	ɥ	ʀ	ʃ		
T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
ɹ	ɯ	ɰ	ɰ	ɣ	ʝ	ʒ
Ch	Ck	Sch	Sp	St		
ʃ	ɸ	ʃ	ʃ	ʃ		

There are various peculiarities in the Sütterlin script that need to be taken into account during transcription:

1) The letter "s" exists in several forms:

a) The "**long s**" in the middle of the word.

A handwritten example of the 'long s' in Sütterlin script, which is a tall, narrow, slightly curved letter with a small hook at the top and a small tail at the bottom.

b) The "**round s**" at the end of the word.

A handwritten example of the 'round s' in Sütterlin script, which is a simple, rounded, bowl-shaped letter.

c) The "**sharp s**" as "sz"

A handwritten example of the 'sharp s' in Sütterlin script, which is a stylized, sharp letter with a small hook at the top and a small tail at the bottom.

d) In compound words, the "**round s**" at the end of the first word is retained if the following word begins with an "s". This is then written with a "**long s**".

2) For doubling the letters "n" and "m", a horizontal line is used above each respective letter.

3) The large mutations "Ä", "Ö" and "Ü" are sometimes written as "Ae", "Oe" or "Ue".

4) It should be noted that "Suetterlin" was a purely cursive script. The printed Suetterlin texts were created using the "**Fraktur**" font.

Special features of the Diary

Moreover, the diarist used his own, individual style of writing:

- 1) A double "**long s**", which should actually be written as "**ss**", is converted into a "**ß**" (Missionary => Mißionary).
- 2) A diagonally crossed-out "**d**" becomes a "**through**".
- 3) A slanted crossed-out "**long s**" becomes a "**his**".
- 4) The combination of "**d e v u**" becomes "**by one of us**".
- 5) The abbreviation "**Aa**" becomes "**Other ones**".
- 6) When writing names that appear for the first time, it should be noted that these names are written in **Latin** letters instead of Suetterlin script.
- 7) However, no systematics in spelling can be detected when it comes to whether various names or designations are written in English or in German.
- 8) Moreover, it seems that the principle of "**I write as I hear**" was applied.
Peak => Pik
Creek => Krik
Kentish => Kentisch
Rush => Rusch
McDonald => McDonnald, also Macdonnald or Mc Donnald
- 9) A special case are the "individual" spellings of a word, which have different meanings depending on the spelling.
 - a) Thus, the "**Capitain**" is the ship's commander, i.e., the "skipper".
 - b) In contrast, there is the "**Captain**", who corresponds to the rank of a German "Hauptmann".

- c) Unfortunately, the terms are not always used consistently according to the aforementioned scheme. For example, the native "*Kadlitpinna*" is sometimes referred to as "Capitain" and sometimes as "Captain".
- d) It's also inexplicable why one indigenous person is named "King Johann" and the other is named "Captain Jack". Either both in German or both in English, but why one is named in German and the other in English is not really clear. Even if one defines the pronunciation of "ai" as "ä" (writing as heard), then a "Captain" is named, but the question still remains why this "Captain" is then written with a "C" and why the further designation is still "Jack".
For the "Capitain", perhaps an explanation that the French language might play a role here, as in French, the ship's commander is called "Capitaine", where the "e" at the end of the word is not pronounciable, so it's not spoken out loud.

10) Furthermore, there are terms that sound the same in English and German, but can have different meanings.

- a) Thus, the "**Tonne**" is, on the one hand, a unit of weight (today it is 1,000 kg) in Germany; at that time, depending on the region where this term was used, it ranged between 250 kg and 675 kg).
- b) The "Tonne" as a vessel for transporting other goods that could not be bundled or otherwise packaged, so-called bulk goods. (Pork, beef, herring, flour, peas, sugar, fuel oil, beans, plums, semolina, vinegar, etc.; see #8, page 41, list of provisions for the journey)

In this context, it should be noted that South Australia was not an agricultural country at that time, so all things necessary for daily survival had to be transported by ship across the open sea. Hence, the 'packaging' in tons or barrels to protect the goods and enable better storage.

11) Depending on the "state of mind" when recording the events and writing them down, the diarist sometimes omitted the rank and/or title of his conversation partners. Thus, the missionary Teichelmann

is sometimes referred to without the "Br.", Dr. Harvey is not mentioned with his doctoral title, and Protector Moorhouse's job title is omitted when things weren't going well between them or when the other party held a different opinion than his own.

- 12) It was already mentioned above about the doubling of the letters "m" and "n". The diarist also applies this to other letters, for example, in the case of a double "a" in a designation of a certain area by the indigenous people (*Ngaaralatta*).
- 13) This is a diary in which one or more events that happened on a particular day are recorded. However, this does not mean that these entries were also recorded chronologically on the day they occurred. This can be seen, for example, in entries that are consecutive in the monthly sequence, but are later revised with a different month name. This is particularly noticeable in the visit of Schürmann to the ship "Zebra", registered on November 17, 1839, during which Pastor Kavel is said to have been on board. The chronological data do not indicate such a meeting: P. Kavel only arrived on November 18 on the "Prince George", and the "Zebra" under Captain Hahn did not anchor in South Australia until December 28. Therefore, it can be assumed that the entries in the diary were made when time permitted, and not necessarily on the day of the events.
- 14) In parallel to the entries in the diary, the events of individual days were also sent by letter to the society in Dresden, where it's not always clear which "version" is now supposed to be the official one. Also, there's always the thought that the diary might just be a thought aid and not intended for publication.

Translations in general

When it comes to translations into a foreign language, in this case English, the first question that arises is whether the translation should be "**word for word**" or "**according to the meaning**".

- 1) If one uses the English term "Dictionary" for translating the German „Woerterbuch“, undesirable results will inevitably occur, at the latest during the "word-for-word translation", regarding the last letter.

There are also a few things to note regarding the peculiarities of the German language compared to English:

- 1) The German language assigns a specific gender to every noun. The noun is either masculine (*m*), feminine (*f*), or neuter (*n*). Accordingly, there are three definite articles in German (**der Mann**, **die Frau**, **das Kind**) - (**the man**, **the woman**, **the child**).
- 2) Furthermore, the adjectives are '**declined**' according to the gender of the noun in the respective cases: [a red hat (*m*), a blue pair of trousers (*f*), a green dress (*n*)]. In this respect, a German 'rotes Hund' can indeed become a 'red dog' in English, as in English there is only one definite article '**the**' and no declension of the adjective takes place. Either 'red' is incorrect, or 'dog' has not been transcribed correctly.
- 3) Another point arises from the letter "**ß**", which is not present in the English language. In many cases, the "**ß**" can indeed be replaced with an "**ss**", but not generally. "Dimensions" has a different meaning than "Mass".
- 4) Furthermore, it's worth noting in the present diary the attempted "Germanization" of English names and terms. Thus, the English poet "Young" becomes the German "Jung". Such reinterpretations are still relatively easy to recognize, but what about a Mr. "Jell"? Did he really spell it that way, or was it actually a Mr. "Yell", or even a German Mr. "Schrei", who was "anglicized"?

- 5) In this context, it should also be noted that the initial letter 'Y' was changed to 'J' in the pronunciation, although it's not clear whether this 'speaking as hearing' has also found its way into the spelling.
- 6) It's also surprising that many of the names in the diary that begin with 'J' are surprisingly few in the book with the vocabulary of the natives, namely, there are no words beginning with the letter 'J', in stark contrast to those that begin with 'Y'. This can certainly be attributed to the fact that the work 'Vocabulary and Phraseology' was printed in English.
- 7) It's understandable that only a few people can still read the old script 'Suetterlin' today. Accordingly, it's important to check the templates for a translation for possible reading or interpretation errors.
- 8) A multitude of terms that were commonly in use at that time have now disappeared from the language or have taken on a completely different interpretation.
The "**Nothdurft**" used to mean "what is necessary for life", which included not only food but also clothing, housing, and other essential living conditions. Today, it is understood in a completely different way, if it is even still known at all.
Similar is the case with the remuneration for work performed, which was called a "**Gehalt**" (**m**) [salary] in the past and is still called a "**Gehalt**" (**f**) today. However, the meaning of "**Gehalt**" (**m**) in German today has a completely different connotation.