

**UNIVERZITA PALACKÉHO V OLOMOUCI**

**FILOZOFICKÁ FAKULTA**

**Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky**

**Jana Sochorová**

**studentka anglické filologie – francouzské filologie**

## **English Suffixes and their Productivity**

**Bakalářská práce**

**Vedoucí diplomové práce: Mgr. Michaela Martinková, PhD.**

**OLOMOUC 2009**

Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně na základě uvedených pramenů a literatury.

V Olomouci, dne 29. června 2009

*podpis*

I hereby declare that this bachelor thesis is completely my own work and that I used only the cited sources.

Olomouc, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009

*signature*

**Děkuji paní doktorce Michaele Martinkové za odborné vedení práce, poskytování rad a připomínek k jejímu obsahu. Děkuji za věnovaný čas, ochotu a povzbuzení.**

## **Contents:**

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2. Productivity</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2.1. Degree of productivity</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. Gender</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3.1. Natural gender</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3.1.1. Personal male/female nouns</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>3.1.2. Political correctness</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3.2. Grammatical gender</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4. Suffixes</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>4.1. Suffix –ess</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>4.2. Suffix –ette</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5. Methodology</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.1. Oxford English Dictionary</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.2. British National Corpus</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5.2.1. SARA</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5.3. Downloading data from the BNC</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>6. Data</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6.1. Words with the suffix –ette</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6.2. Words with the suffix –ess</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>7. Conclusion</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>8. Bibliography</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>9. List of abbreviations</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>10. Shrnutí</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Anotace</b>	<b>71</b>

## 1. Introduction

In my bachelor thesis, I will analyse English suffixes expressing feminine gender. More specifically, I will deal with two Roman suffixes *-ette* and *-ess* and their productivity in English.

The work consists of two parts. In the first part of this thesis I am going to provide the theoretical preliminaries.

First, I will be concerned with productivity in general. Then I will deal with the category of gender. Next, I will introduce suffixes *-ette* and *-ess*. I will mention etymology of these suffixes and words that contain them. Furthermore, this part contains some information about the main sources I used: Oxford English Dictionary online (OED) and British National Corpus (BNC).

In the practical part I will present data of my work: the list of selected words with feminine suffixes *-ette* and *-ess* which I downloaded from the corpus and their etymology found in the OED. I will mention when the word was first used in English and if it exists in French. I will add examples of quotations that I have found in the BNC.

The goal of this thesis is to prove whether selected suffixes are still productive in English or not.

## 2. Productivity

Human language is a continuous process which still evolves. It is characterized by so called flexible stability: it resists the unexpected changes, but reflects the evolution and development of human society. As new situations arise and new objects have to be described, the language-users deal with their linguistic sources and possibilities to create new expressions, new words or sentences. New words are continually being created in all languages.

“Productivity (or “creativity”, or “open-endedness”) is the property of human language to produce new expressions. It is an aspect of language which is linked to the fact that the potential number of utterances in any human language is infinite.” (Yule 1996: 22-23)

On the other hand, non-human languages (animal signaling) appeared to have little flexibility. Animals have a finite amount of signals and, according to experiments, it seems impossible for them to create new signals to communicate new experiences. According to Yule, animal signals have so called fixed reference: each signal is related to a particular object or situation. That means that this signal is fixed to special reference and cannot be manipulated. On the contrary, it is not much problem for human being to produce a new “signal” for new situation. (Yule 1996: 23)

Productivity can be also defined as an availability for use in the creation of new words. If a certain morphological process, or a particular affix, is found still productive, it means that it is still available for the creation of new words. (Huddleston 2002: 1629)

According to Huddleston, the process of combining two nouns into a compound noun that was used in the Old English period to form the source of *husband*<sup>1</sup> is still productive, enabling us to create new words such as *housemate*. \**Pick-basket* is ungrammatical because the type of verb + noun compounding process that gave us *pickpocket* with the meaning “person who picks pockets” is not productive any more. (Huddleston 2002: 1629)

---

<sup>1</sup> O.E. *husbonda* “male head of a household,” probably from O.N. *husbondi* “master of the house,” from *hus* “house” + *bondi* “householder, dweller, freeholder, peasant.”

## 2.1. Degree of productivity

If a morphological process is still productive, it is useful to consider its degree of productivity. It indicates how promptly words can be formed by means of the process. It is largely determined by the size of the class of bases available to the process.

“We can illustrate this concept by comparing the suffixes *–ness* and *–ity*. Both can be added to adjectives to form nouns. Some bases allow either: *porousness* and *porosity*, for example, are both established words. Other bases allow or strongly prefer just one: *bearded* can only take *–ness* (*beardedness*, not *\*beardedity*), while *linear* strongly prefers *–ity* (*linearity*, but hardly *?linearness*). But overall *–ness* is used more widely than *–ity*, and there is evidence that speakers today forming new words strongly prefer those in *–ness*: we say then that *–ness* has higher degree of productivity than *–ity*.” (Huddleston 2002: 1630)

Majority of the words created by the most productive processes rarely become listed as entries in dictionaries. It would be impractical for a dictionary to attempt to list all words formed on particular pattern (for example *blue-eyed*, *chocolate-coated*, *three-bedroomed*, *cheese-like*, *dog-like*...). There is no need to list *green-eyed* in the dictionary any more than to list *with green eyes*. (Huddleston 2002: 1630)

Linguists usually work with broad categories such as “highly productive”, “of low productivity”, or they tend to say that one process is more productive than another. (Huddleston 2002: 1630)

### 3. Gender

“The grammatical category of gender applies in the first instance to a system of noun classes differentiated by the agreement patterns they enter into with associated words.” (Huddleston 2002: 484)

Quirk says that gender is a grammatical classification of nouns, pronouns, or other words in the noun phrase, according to certain meaning-related distinctions, especially a distinction related to the sex of the referent (Quirk 1985: 314)

We can basically differentiate grammatical and semantic gender.

#### 3.1. Semantic gender

Semantic gender is also called natural or psychological. According to Běliček, in Old English, masculine, feminine and neuter gender formed a grammatical category independent of natural sex. Nowadays, English has only semantic gender.

“In Modern English gender is a dead category without productive markers. Its loss may be attributed to the reduction and omission of silent –e in unstressed syllables. ... As early as the twelfth century the north of Britain abandoned gender distinctions and within a few decades this omission became general all over Britain. The south-western and Kentish dialect were the last to perform it in the last decades of the fourteenth century.” (Běliček 1994: 41)

In English, nouns, determiners, and adjectives have no inflectionally-marked gender distinctions. “However, some 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronouns and *wh*-pronouns do express natural gender distinctions:” (Quirk 1985: 314)

<i>it, which, etc</i>	[NONPERSONAL] contrasts with the following:
<i>who, whom, etc</i>	[PERSONAL]
<i>he, himself, etc</i>	[MASCULINE, chiefly PERSONAL]
<i>she, herself, etc</i>	[FEMININE, chiefly PERSONAL]

“Gender in English nouns may be described as ‘notional’ or ‘covert’ in contrast to the ‘grammatical’ or ‘overt’ gender of nouns in languages such as French, German, and Russian; that is, nouns are classified not grammatically, but semantically, according to their coreferential relations with personal, reflexive, and *wh*-pronouns. We use the terms MALE or FEMALE in reference to the ‘covert’ gender of nouns, as distinct from the ‘overt’ gender of pronouns.” (Quirk 1985: 314)

### 3.1.1. Personal male/female nouns

Personal male nouns have pronoun coreference with *he* and female nouns with *she*. These nouns can be morphologically marked or unmarked for gender.

a) Morphologically unmarked between male and female (gender is determined by lexical meaning of the word):

brother - sister	boy - girl	monk - nun
father - mother	king - queen	nephew - niece
uncle - aunt	man - woman	Mr - Mrs, Miss, Ms

b) Personal dual gender. This class of nouns has both *he* or *she* pronoun coreference:

artist	cook	doctor
foreigner	friend	guest
professor	parent	person
student	writer	enemy

“It is felt desirable to give information on the sex of the person, a gender marker may be added, such as *male student/female student*. The dual class is on the increase, but the expectation that a given activity is largely male or female dictates the frequent use of gender markers: thus a *nurse*, but a *male nurse*; an *engineer*, but a *woman engineer*. “ (Quirk 1985: 316)

c) Morphologically marked for gender:

host - hostess	usher - usherette	bachelor - bachelorette
prince - princess	waiter - waitress	executor - executrix
steward - stewardess	hero - heroine	aviator - aviatrix

In the following two pairs, it is the male noun that is marked:

bridegroom - bride	widower – widow
--------------------	-----------------

Gender-marking suffixes (suffixes denoting female gender) are:

- *ette*
- *ess*
- *ine*
- *trix*

According to Quirk, these derivational suffixes are not productive, some forms are even ungrammatical: “The derivational suffixes are not productive, however. We cannot, except jocularly, for example, form *clerk* - \**clerkess* on the *host* - *hostess* pattern. ... Some optional female forms (*poetess*, *authoress*, etc.) are no longer in normal use, being replaced by the dual gender forms (*poet*, *author*, etc.).” (Quirk 1985: 315)

In the following chapters, I will focus on female suffixes –*ess* and –*ette*.

### 3.1.2. Political correctness

“Gender is morphologically marked in nouns denoting females, human or animal, much more than in nouns denoting males. For this reason gender-marking is widely perceived as one of the areas where the language displays a sexist bias, and campaigns for linguistic reform from around the 1970s have certainly brought a change in attitudes and usage, so that – especially with nouns denoting human occupations – many speakers now to a large extent avoid the use of gender-marked human nouns in favour of ones that are gender-neutral.” (Huddleston 2002: 1680)

Examples of sex-neutral forms:

s/he <i>for</i> she and he	wo/man <i>for</i> woman and man
fisher <i>for</i> fisherman	mail carrier <i>for</i> mailman
supervisor <i>for</i> foreman	usher <i>for</i> usherette
firefighter <i>for</i> fireman	homemaker <i>for</i> housewife
chair(person) <i>for</i> chairman	spokesperson <i>for</i> spokesman
member of Congress <i>for</i> congressman	

### 3.2. Grammatical gender

Grammatical gender is also called formal gender. “Formal gender is based on the similarity of the form (the ending) with the Animate.” (Veselovská 2005: 73) Latin and most other Indo-European languages (also Czech) have grammatical gender. In these languages, gender is primarily a grammatical category.

Czech has a rich system of declensions and gender is used to express a declension type of a noun. Every noun must belong to one of the noun classes. In order to correctly decline any noun and any modifier or other type of word modifying the noun, one must identify whether the noun is feminine, masculine or neuter.

Gender of nouns depends on their grammatical form – that means derivational suffix and/or belonging to the declension type.

All sentence members which are syntactically dependent on the noun must agree with that noun. Example:

*Hana měla na sobě nové šaty, které jí velmi slušely.*

## 4. Suffixes

### 4.1. Suffix – ess

It is a suffix forming distinctively feminine nouns and it usually occurs in French borrowings.

“Since at least the 14th century, English has both borrowed feminine nouns in -ESS from French (-esse in French and in some early English forms) and applied the French ending to native or naturalized words, most frequently agent nouns in -er or -or.” (<<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/-ess>>)

Nowadays, many of these feminine nouns are disappearing and being replaced by sexually neutral words in order to be “politically correct.”

“Many people feel that sexist connotations may be implicit in the use of the suffix -ess to indicate a female, as found in words like *sculptress*, *waitress*, *stewardess*, and *actress*. According to this view, the sexism lies in the nonparallel use of terms to designate men or women: the ending for men, -er or -or, seems neutral or unmarked in a word like *sculptor*, and *sculptress* by comparison seems to be marked for gender, suggesting that a man in that role is what is expected and a woman is somehow unexpected or different.”

(The American Heritage® Book of English Usage. A Practical and Authoritative Guide to Contemporary English. 1996. 174-175)

#### 4.2. Suffix – *ette*

This noun suffix originally occurred in loanwords from French. In French, it is the feminine form of the diminutive suffix – *et*.

In English, it is used:

- 1) to form nouns meaning a smaller version of something (*kitchenette*, *novelette*)
- 2) to form nouns meaning a female (*bachelorette*, *suffragette*)
- 3) to form nouns meaning an imitation of something (*leatherette*, *flanelette*)

“In the 20th century, *-ette* became fairly productive as an English diminutive in inanimate nouns, as in *kitchenette*, *laundrette*, *luncheonette*, and *novelette*.

But the use of *-ette* to form nouns referring to women is a separate development that probably comes from its use in French to form feminine versions of masculine names, as in *Antoinette* and *Paulette*. The suffix was first applied in this sense to an English common noun in *suffragette*, which became the recognized term for women involved in the suffrage movement in England. *Suffragette* was always considered insulting by the suffragists in the United States. Nonetheless, *suffragette* served as the model for a number of words that referred to women who occupied positions once reserved for men, such as *chaufferette* and *sailorette*, but of these only *usherette* and *drum majorette* have survived.” (The American Heritage Book of English Usage 1996: 175)

## 5. Methodology

### 5.1. Oxford English Dictionary

The OED is a comprehensive dictionary published by the Oxford University Press. It records the development of English from approximately 1150 AD up to the present day.

“The *Oxford English Dictionary* is the accepted authority on the evolution of the English language over the last millennium. It is an unsurpassed guide to the meaning, history, and pronunciation of over half a million words, both present and past. It traces the usage of words through 2.5 million quotations from a wide range of international English language sources, from classic literature and specialist periodicals to film scripts and cookery books.

The OED covers words from across the English-speaking world, from North America to South Africa, from Australia and New Zealand to the Caribbean. It also offers the best in etymological analysis and in listing of variant spellings, and it shows pronunciation using the International Phonetic Alphabet.” (<http://www.oed.com/about/>)

For each word, it provides a very detailed etymology which I found useful for the purposes of my thesis.

The Second Edition of the OED is currently available as a 20-volume print edition, on CD-ROM, and now also online.

For my research, I was using the online version.

### 5.2. British National Corpus

“The British National Corpus (BNC) is a 100 million word collection of samples of written and spoken language from a wide range of sources, designed to represent a wide cross-section of British English from the later part of the 20th century, both spoken and written.

The **written part** of the BNC (90%) includes, for example, extracts from regional and national newspapers, specialist periodicals and journals for all ages and interests, academic books and popular fiction, published and unpublished

letters and memoranda, school and university essays, among many other kinds of text.

The **spoken part** (10%) consists of orthographic transcriptions of unscripted informal conversations (recorded by volunteers selected from different age, region and social classes in a demographically balanced way) and spoken language collected in different contexts, ranging from formal business or government meetings to radio shows and phone-ins.

The latest edition is the *BNC XML Edition*, released in 2007.

### 5. 2. 1. SARA

“The BNC can be used with different kinds of search tools. SARA is such a tool. What makes SARA different from many other corpus tools is that it allows users to search the corpus not only for words and phrases but also for other kinds of information, such as the information about the corpus texts included in the header. By using SARA with the BNC users can easily restrict the search to texts of a particular category, such as spoken data, material found in books only, or texts from a certain domain.” (<<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/tools/index.xml>>)

**SARA** (SGML Aware Retrieval Application) was developed specifically for access to the BNC in a Microsoft Windows environment. It is freely available to all BNC licensees and also for registered users of the BNC Subscription service hosted by the British Library. A copy of SARA was delivered with every copy of the BNC World corpus.

### 5.3. Downloading data from the BNC

To look up a word ending in a particular suffix in the BNC, it is useful to employ a Word query with a pattern checked. If the **Pattern** checkbox to the right of the window is checked, whatever you type will be interpreted as a *pattern*.

“A *pattern* is a string of characters which is used as a template to match words in the SARA index. The characters making up a pattern can be:

- *literal* characters, such as A, B or C, which simply match occurrences of the same character; pattern-matching is never case-sensitive, so a and A are equivalent;

- *special characters* are characters which behave in a special way within patterns: these are the dot and the hyphen, the square brackets, [ and ], the parentheses ( and ), the caret ^, the repetition operators ?, \* and +, and the disjunction symbol |. If any of these characters is to be used within a pattern but interpreted as if it were a literal, it must be escaped using the backslash character.”  
(<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/tools/chapter4.xml.ID=FIMNU#CQL>)

The *dot* . is a special character which matches any single character. The star \* is a special character which can follow either a single character or a bracketed sequence of characters, to indicate that the character is optionally repeatable.

To look up all words ending in *–ette* I entered the figure “**.\*ette**” into the Word query and checked the Pattern checkbox.

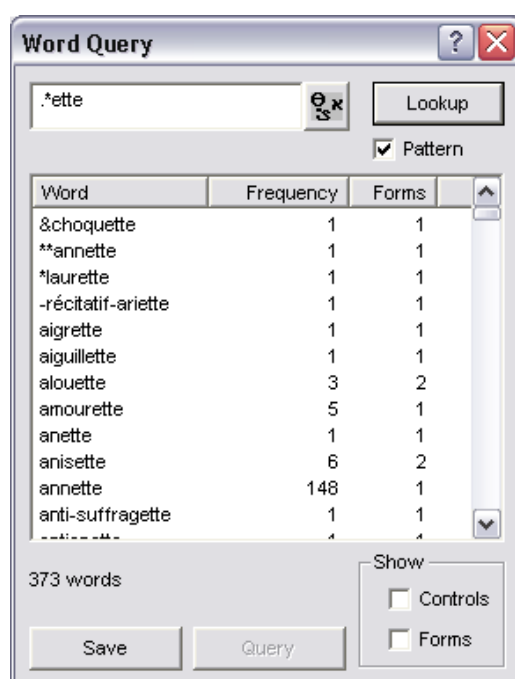


Fig.1: Looking up words ending in *–ette* using Word query

In the corpus, I found 373 words ending in *–ette*. Then I checked all these words in the Oxford English Dictionary and selected only the words in which *–ette* is a feminine suffix. It was an uneasy and time-consuming activity. I found out that

many of 373 words signify things (*cassette, bicyclette, anisette*), i.e. *–ette* is either a diminutive suffix, or it means an imitation, or – surprisingly – it is a part of a surname (*Lafayette, Maurette, Morrisette, Spilette, Tourette*), as I discovered with the help of Google.

Only about 50 words of 373 are somehow connected with gender. 39 of them are **female first names** :

*Anette Annette Antoinette Bernadette Bridgette Charolette Claudette Jeanette Colette Colleenette Collette Georgette Gerardette Harriette Henriette Huguette Janette Jeanette Jeannette Josette Juliette Justinette Laurette Linette Lizabette Lynette Lynnette Lysette Margarette Marie-Antoinette Nicolette Nicollette Odette Paulette Shirnette Suzette Sylvette Violette Yvette*

Only 14 of 373 words are nouns denoting females.

To look up all words ending in *–ess* I entered the figure “**.\*ess**” into the Word query and checked the Pattern checkbox. But there are too many words ending in *–ess* in the corpus and SARA was not able to show all of them, so I had to look up the words in parts, that means to search in smaller units of alphabet. For example, when I wanted to look up the words from “a” to “c”, I entered the figure “**[a-c].\*ess**” into the Word query.

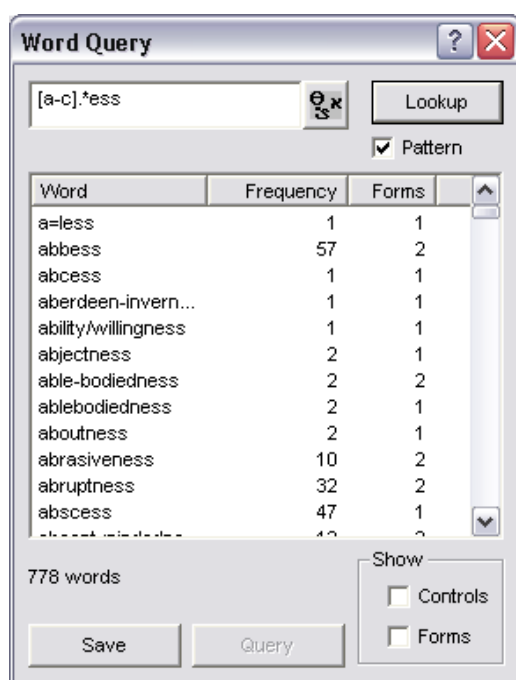


Fig. 2: Looking up words ending in *–ess* using Word query

It was even more difficult to sort out the words connected with gender, because in total, I found 4150 words ending in –ess in the corpus. Only about 70 of 4150 words are related to gender.

Word	Number of tokens	Word	Number of tokens	Word	Number of tokens
<i>bachelorette</i>	0	<i>countess</i>	499	<i>paintress</i>	2
<i>bimbette</i>	1	<i>dauphiness</i>	2	<i>patroness</i>	28
<i>brunette</i>	56	<i>demoness</i>	1	<i>peeress</i>	3
<i>cadette</i>	6	<i>directress</i>	1	<i>poetess</i>	23
<i>coquette</i>	10	<i>duchess</i>	788	<i>preceptress</i>	2
<i>daemonette</i>	8	<i>editress</i>	3	<i>priestess</i>	66
<i>farmette</i>	0	<i>electress</i>	9	<i>princess</i>	2853
<i>grisette</i>	1	<i>enchantress</i>	15	<i>prioress</i>	98
<i>(drum)majorette</i>	8	<i>exactress</i>	0	<i>procuress</i>	4
<i>nymphette</i>	2	<i>faïress</i>	1	<i>progenitress</i>	1
<i>pierette</i>	4	<i>foundress</i>	4	<i>prophetess</i>	10
<i>soubrette</i>	5	<i>goddess</i>	569	<i>protectress</i>	6
<i>suffragette</i>	47	<i>governess</i>	171	<i>sculptress</i>	11
<i>usherette</i>	18	<i>heiress</i>	185	<i>seamstress</i>	26
		<i>hermitess</i>	1	<i>seductress</i>	6
<i>abbess</i>	57	<i>hostess</i>	381	<i>seeress</i>	1
<i>actress</i>	1064	<i>huntress</i>	7	<i>shepherdess</i>	20
<i>adulteress</i>	14	<i>instructress</i>	6	<i>songstress</i>	7
<i>adventuress</i>	6	<i>inventress</i>	1	<i>sorceress</i>	39
<i>ambassadress</i>	1	<i>laundress</i>	9	<i>stewardess</i>	65
<i>ancestress</i>	9	<i>leopardess</i>	3	<i>tailoress</i>	4
<i>anchoress</i>	17	<i>lioness</i>	48	<i>temptress</i>	40
<i>auditress</i>	0	<i>manageress</i>	98	<i>tigress</i>	47
<i>authoress</i>	22	<i>marchioness</i>	66	<i>traitress</i>	0
<i>baroness</i>	239	<i>mayoress</i>	70	<i>trampess</i>	1
<i>benefactress</i>	4	<i>millionairess</i>	14	<i>villainess</i>	9
<i>billionairess</i>	2	<i>mistress</i>	1083	<i>waitress</i>	280
<i>clerkess</i>	14	<i>murderess</i>	33		
<i>composeress</i>	1	<i>negress</i>	17		
<i>conductress</i>	10	<i>ogress</i>	2		

## 6. Data

### 6.1. Words with the suffix *-ette*

#### **bachelorette**

This word is originally from French. It is used to express a bachelor girl (an unmarried woman) or a flat or apartment for a bachelor girl. According to the OED, the expression was first used in 1935 and is originally and chiefly used in Canada and America. The traditional term for a woman who has never married is a *spinster*. The more commonly used term for the legal status of a young person (male or female) who has never been married is "single" or "never married".

When I googled the word, I found 8 270 000 links. There is a song by Icelandic musician Björk called "Bachelorette", which was released as the second single from her album *Homogenic* in 1997. I also found out that "The Bachelorette" is a spin-off of the American competitive reality dating game show, "The Bachelor." The first season started in 2003. One bachelorette was offered the opportunity to choose a husband among 25 bachelors. The fifth season is scheduled to premiere on May 18, 2009.

The word *bachelorette* was uttered also in the film *Shrek*, a computer-animated American comedy released in 2001.

*Magic mirror: So, just sit back and relax, my lord, because it's time for you to meet today's eligible **bachelorettes**.*

*And here they are!*

***Bachelorette** number one is a mentally abused shut-in from a kingdom far, faraway. She likes sushi and hot tubbing any time. Her hobbies include cooking and cleaning for her two evil sisters.*

*Please welcome Cinderella!*

***Bachelorette** number two is a cape-wearing girl from the land of fancy. Although she lives with seven other men, she's not easy. Just kiss her dead, frozen lips and find out what a live wire she is.*

*Come on. Give it up for Snow White!*

And last, but certainly not least, **bachelorette** number three is a fiery redhead from a dragon-guarded castle surrounded by hot boiling lava! But don't let that cool you off. She's a loaded pistol who likes pina coladas and getting caught in the rain.

Yours for the rescuing, Princess Fiona!

So will it be **bachelorette** number one, **bachelorette** number two or **bachelorette** number three?

(from Shrek, the scene where Lord Farquaad is choosing his bride)

In the corpus, I found only three tokens of the noun *bachelor-girl*, no result for *bachelorette*:

- 1) "Diana's three best pals are the women who shared her **bachelor-girl** pad in in Knightsbridge before she was married." [CBF 8888]<sup>2</sup>
- 2) "Viscount Linley's latest love SERENA STANHOPE is an eligible **bachelor-girl** with a personal hoard of £4.8 million - at the age of just 22." [Ch1 7108]<sup>3</sup>
- 3) "You - with all your chat about your full social life, your glamorous, eventful **bachelor-girl** programme, the get-up-and-go philosophy which you expounded so vividly the other evening in your flat?" [HA7 2748]<sup>4</sup>

## **bimbette**

This word refers to "a young woman or adolescent girl, especially one regarded as sexually attractive but thought to lack intelligence or distinctive personality; in other words - a *bimbo*, or a diminutive form of the word *bimbo*." (OED) *Bimbo* is originally from Italian variant of *bambino* "baby". According to the OED, it was first used in 1982.

In the BNC, I got one result for *bimbette*:

- 4) "JUST ANOTHER **BIMBETTE**?" [ADR 468]<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Today. News Group Newspapers Ltd, London (1992-12)

<sup>3</sup> The Daily Mirror. Mirror Group Newspapers, London (1992-08/1992-10)

<sup>4</sup> A warning of magic. Kingston, Kate, Mills Boon, Richmond, Surrey (1993)

<sup>5</sup> Kylie Minogue: the superstar next door. Stone, Sasha, Omnibus Press, London (1989), 4-96

## brunette

This expression has its origin in the French word *brunette* meaning 'a nut-brown girl'. It is a feminine of *brunet*, diminutive of *brun* "brown". (OED) It refers to a girl or woman of a dark complexion or with brown hair. *Brunette* is also used as a surname. According to the OED, it was first used in 1713.

In the corpus, there are 56 tokens of the word *brunette*. Examples:

- 5) *"Even prettier was the petite **brunette** of about seventeen who showed me to my room."* [AE8 451]<sup>6</sup>
- 6) *"I thought his a fascinating colour, but personally preferred dark-haired men, even though myself a **brunette**."* [CK0 238]<sup>7</sup>
- 7) *"She was a pretty and vivacious **brunette**, who had been trained as a dancer."* [EDA 1156]<sup>8</sup>

## cadette

The word is originally from French, it is a female equivalent of *cadet*. Its meaning is "a younger daughter or sister". (OED) It can be also a first name for girl. According to the OED, this word was first used in 1679. It can also signify a member of the division of the Girl Scouts for girls twelve to fourteen years of age.

In the British National Corpus, I got six tokens of the noun *cadette*. Mostly it serves as a surname. Examples:

- 8) *"Finally **Cadette** stepped in with two goals to round off a marvellous display."* [CH7 3873]<sup>9</sup>
- 9) *"Coming up, the Horge **Cadette** double which sank Celtic and Benito Carbonne's almost single handed demolition of Aberdeen."* [J1M 1939]<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> Roads that move. Perrie, Walter, Mainstream Publishing Company Ltd, Edinburgh (1991)

<sup>7</sup> Hospital circles. Andrews, Lucilla, Severn House, Wallington, Surrey (1986), 8-134

<sup>8</sup> Hitler's Englishman. Selwyn, F, Routledge Kegan Paul plc, London (1987), 3-94

<sup>9</sup> The Daily Mirror. Mirror Group Newspapers, London (1992-08/1992-10)

<sup>10</sup> Scottish TV -- news scripts.u.p..

## coquette

The word *coquette* is originally from French. (OED) It is a feminine form of *coquet* – a flirtatious man. “It was formerly spelt *coquet*, like the masculine: so found even in 19th century, but *coquette* was occasional before 1720, and usual after 1740.” (OED) According to the OED, it is defined as a woman (more or less young) who uses arts to gain the admiration and affection of men, merely for the gratification of vanity or from a desire of conquest, and without any intention of responding to the feelings aroused; a woman who habitually trifles with the affections of men; a flirt. The first mention of the word is from 1611.

In the corpus, there are 10 tokens of the word *coquette*. Examples:

10) “The demeanour of a virgin can be converted into that of a **coquette**.” [ADX 396]<sup>11</sup>

11) “She was not a **coquette**, he had decided.” [GUD 2024]<sup>12</sup>

12) “And she knew that she wasn't helping matters by playing the **coquette** with André, but suddenly she didn't care.” [H8H 2362]<sup>13</sup>

## daemonette

The usual expression for a female demon is *demoness*. (OED) But I found out that *daemonette* also refers to a kind of female demon, usually in some computer games. “*Daemonettes* are the daemonic servants of Slaanesh, the Chaos god of pleasure. They are disturbingly alluring, lavishing their unearthly charm upon mortal hearts before dispatching them to their dark master with a spiteful embrace of their chitinous scythe-like claws. In combat, *Daemonettes* exude a hypnotic musk that causes men to be even more susceptible to their otherworldly charms. The hardest warriors can fall victim. Some have been known to lay down their weapons and surrender, only to be gutted like fish upon the blades of the Daemon women. Only a warrior of uncommon willpower can withstand the temptations presented by a *Daemonette*.”

(<<http://warhammeronline.wikia.com/wiki/Daemonette>>)

In the BNC, I found 8 examples, all taken from the same source.

---

<sup>11</sup> Logic and design. Barratt, Krome, The Herbert Press Ltd, London (1989)

<sup>12</sup> A clubbable woman. Hill, Reginald, Grafton Books, London (1987), 83-250

<sup>13</sup> A French encounter. Williams, Cathy, Mills, Boon, Richmond, Surrey (1992)

13) “Chained to the chair is a **Daemonette** of unusually human and attractive appearance (although it has a normal profile), captured as a concubine by Drachenfels long ago.” [CLK 1286]<sup>14</sup>

### farmerette

I did not find this word in the corpus, but it is listed in the OED. *Farmerette* is derived from *farmer* and it has its origin from French *fermier* and *fermer* (Britton). (OED) It refers to “a woman or girl who farms land; a *farmeress*.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1918.

### grisette

The word *grisette* is derived from French gris “grey”. (OED) According to the OED, it means “a French girl or young woman of the working class, especially one employed as a shop assistant or a seamstress.”

I entered the word into Google and found 292,000 links. Many of them refer to definitions of the word in different dictionaries. I also found some essays about grisettes and their role in bohemia, in art and poetry. “Grisettes were in many ways female bohemians. They were integral and prominent participants in bohemian society; they fit perfectly into the lifestyle and spirit of bohemia and were also necessary to its survival.”

(<<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/rschwart/hist255s01/boheme/grisete.html>>)

One of the first authors using *grisette* in English was Jonathan Swift in 1723. (OED)

*The smutty wainscot full of crackts:*

*And half the chairs with broken backs:*

*Her quarter's out at Lady-day;*

*She vows she will no longer stay*

*In lodgings like a poor **Grisette**,*

*While there are houses to be let.*

(Swift 1723: *Stella at Wood-Park* 59)

---

<sup>14</sup> Castle Drachenfels. Sargent, Carl, Games Workshop, Nottingham (1992), 2-62

In the corpus, there is one token of the noun *grisette*:

14) "He stood, at least, for honesty in sexual dealings: hence his preference for the prostitute over the **grisette**." [G1A 1914]<sup>15</sup>

### **(drum)majorette**

The word refers to "a female *drum-major*, a girl who leads or takes part in a parade or the like, twirling a baton, etc." (OED) It is originally from French. The expression first appeared around 1938. (OED)

In the corpus, I got eight tokens of the word *majorette*. Examples:

15) "Her voice had the pubescent innocence of a junior high school **majorette**." [ASV 1256]<sup>16</sup>

16) "Along with the **majorette**, whom she saw being helped away from the fire by the kids." [CH0 1480]<sup>17</sup>

17) "He made the flowers a cane and twirled it like a **drum majorette**." [FP7 2512]<sup>18</sup>

### **nymphette**

The word is derived from "from O.Fr. *nimphe*, from L. *nympha* 'nymph, bride'." (<<http://www.etymonline.com>>) *Nymph* means "a beautiful maiden living in mountains, forests, trees, and waters" or "a larva of an insect with incomplete metamorphosis." (OED) According to the OED, *nymphette* existed in French by 1512 in sense "a young or small nymph." (OED)

*Nymphette* signifies a sexually attractive or sexually mature young girl. With this meaning, it was first used by Vladimir Nabokov in his famous novel *Lolita* published in 1955.

*"Between the age limits of nine and fourteen there occur maidens who, to certain bewitched travellers, twice or many times older than they, reveal their true nature which is*

---

<sup>15</sup> Flaubert's parrot. Barnes, J, Picador, London (1985), 49-159

<sup>16</sup> Walking on Water. Martin, Andy, John Murray (Publishers) Ltd, London (1991), 60-163

<sup>17</sup> Krokodil tears. Yeovil, Jack, GW Books Ltd, Brighton (1990), 9-152

<sup>18</sup> Conjure me. Curtis, J, Corgi Books, London (1993), 203-331

not human, but nymphic (that is, demoniac); and these chosen creatures I propose to designate as '**nymphets**'. ( Nabokov 1955: *Lolita* I. v. 23)

Nowadays, *nymphette* exists in French with the meaning "young girl, lolita", but it is usually not listed in dictionaries; *nymphé* is more frequent.

In the BNC, there are two tokens of the noun *nymphette*:

18) "Jimmy Dean, that hoary old Fifties icon, became a necrophiliac fantasy for 14-year-old Malteser chompers everywhere as some bobby soxed **nymphette** did a gravity-defying dance with a Dean look-no-a-bit-like in a recreated picture palace." [ACP 528]<sup>19</sup>

19) "She was a veteran **nymphette** who had been kicked out of Shangri-la for seducing the monks." [ASV 1260]<sup>20</sup>

### **pierrette, pierrette**

*Pierrette* refers to a woman dressed like a pierrot. According to the OED, the word has its origin in French *pierrette*, feminine form corresponding to *pierrot* – initially diminutive of *Pierre* Peter (meaning a rock) meaning a comic character of old French pantomime (usually having a whitened face and wearing loose white clothes). According to the OED, it was first employed around 1726. *Pierrette* is also used as a first name.

In the corpus, I got four tokens of *pierrette* and six of *pierrette*. All the 4 words *pierette* and 4 *pierrette* refer to the painting by Pablo Picasso "Les Noces de Pierette". Examples:

20) "Les Noces de **Pierette**, which is more than 6ft wide, dates from 1905." [A2A 430]<sup>21</sup>

21) "Tomonori Tsurumaki, Japanese industrialist who bought Picasso's 'Les Noces de **Pierette**' for £33.1 million (\$51.6 million) at auction in Paris in 1989, is rumoured to be burdened with heavy debts." [EBW 1939]<sup>22</sup>

22) "But to Western critics of newly-confident Japan it sounds distinctly over-the-top, especially when you add the extra ingredient of Picasso's Les Noces de **Pierette** ." [ED9 2385]<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>19</sup> The Face. Nick Logan, London (1990-19-19)

<sup>20</sup> Walking on Water. Martin, Andy, John Murray (Publishers) Ltd, London (1991), 60-163

<sup>21</sup> Independent, electronic edition of 1989-10-04: Home news pages. Newspaper Publishing plc, London (1989-19-19)

<sup>22</sup> The Art Newspaper. Umberto Allemandi Company, London (1992-19-19)

<sup>23</sup> Harpers Queen. The National Magazine Company Ltd, London

## soubrette

The word is originally from French, more specifically from Provençal (Romance language of several dialects in southern France) *soubreto* "affected, conceited," feminine form of *soubret* "coy, reserved," from *soubra* "to set aside," originally "to exceed." (<<http://www.etymonline.com>>)

It is an expression for "a maid-servant or lady's maid as a character in a play or opera, usually one of a pert, coquettish, or intriguing character; an actress or singer taking such a part. In extended use, a woman playing a role or roles in light entertainment, e.g. on television or at a seaside variety show, with implications of pertness, coquetry, intrigue, etc." (OED) With this meaning, *soubrette* was first used in 1753. (OED) It can be also used in the meaning of a lady's maid; a maid-servant; first employed in 1824. (OED)

In the BNC, there are five tokens of the noun *soubrette*. Examples:

23) "After years of blatant unfaithfulness, Mangon formed a serious relationship with a **soubrette** in the show." [B34 1920]<sup>24</sup>

24) "The quick-witted Despina is a delightful character, the archetypal **soubrette**, just like Adèle in *Die Fledermaus*." [CEW 868]<sup>25</sup>

25) "Supposing the audience laughed at her playing a **soubrette** role." [J19 2068]<sup>26</sup>

## suffragette

The word is derived from the French word *souffrage* meaning "a vote". It means "a female supporter of the cause of women's political enfranchisement, especially one of a violent or 'militant' type." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1906.

In the corpus, I got 47 tokens of the word *suffragette*. Examples:

26) "During her too short life she never ceased to be Anglican; but she was a Socialist, and a **suffragette**, and religion for her came to mean, not so much creed or piety, as having a lively social conscience." [A68 62]<sup>27</sup>

---

<sup>24</sup> Tiller's girls. Vernon, Doremy, Robson Books Ltd, London (1988), 9-127

<sup>25</sup> Mozart: a bicentennial tribute. Thompson, Wendy, Quintet Publishing Ltd, London (1989), 6-115

<sup>26</sup> Voices of summer. Pearson, Diane, Corgi Books, London (1993), 133-298

<sup>27</sup> Michael Ramsey: a life. Chadwick, Owen, Oxford University Press, Oxford (1991)

27) "It was also during this decade that women first became entitled to vote in elections in Britain, but not before they led a very militant, **suffragette** campaign to get the right." [BM9 924]<sup>28</sup>

28) "She became treasurer to the Women's Social and Political Union, and with her husband's support soon became a key figure in the **suffragette** movement." [GSY 618]<sup>29</sup>

### **usherette**

The word is originally from Anglo-French *usser* (12c.), from Old French (h)*ussier* "doorman," from Vulgar Latin *ustiarus* "doorkeeper," from Latin *ostiarius* "door-keeper," from *ostium* "door, entrance," related to *os* "mouth." (<<http://www.etymonline.com>>)

It denotes a female usher - a girl or woman employed to escort people to their seats in a cinema or theatre. According to the OED, the feminine form *usherette* is attested from 1925. In French, the form *usherette* was **not** used; *ouvreuse*, *placeuse* or *introducitrice* is employed to indicate a female usher (*ouvrir* = open, *place* = place, position, *introduire* = introduce). A male usher is *ouvreur*, *placeur* or *introduceur*.

In the BNC, there are 18 tokens of the noun *usherette*. Examples:

29) "I'm supposed to be an usher - or an **usherette** in my case, I suppose." [A0F 2441]<sup>30</sup>

30) "She was **usherette** at the Essoldo cinema, showing people to their seats." [AC5 2081]<sup>31</sup>

31) "The **usherette** assured me that the manager would do something about it but he was busy just then with the projectionist, so she would pass on my complaint when he came down." [A6C 1304]<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>28</sup> Britain's deaf heritage. Jackson, Peter, British Deaf Association, Haddington, E. Lothian (1990), 67-265

<sup>29</sup> The Dictionary of National Biography: Missing persons. Nicholls, C S (ed.), Oxford University Press, Oxford (1993)

<sup>30</sup> Part of the furniture. Falk, Michael, Bellew Publishing Company Ltd, London (1991), 1-146

<sup>31</sup> Paper faces. Anderson, Rachel, Oxford University Press, Oxford (1991), 1-116

<sup>32</sup> Seeing in the dark. Breakwell, Ian, Hammond, Paul (eds.), Serpent's Tail, London (1990)

## 6.2. Words with the suffix -ess

### abbess

According to the OED, it is originally from Old French *abbesse*, *abesse*, earlier *abeësse*. It is a feminine form of abbot. It means “the female superior of a nunnery or convent of women, having the same authority over nuns that an abbot has over monks.” (OED) The earliest known usage of *abbess* in English dates from the 13th century.

In the British National Corpus, there are 57 tokens of the noun *abbess*. Examples:

32) “Although this has a militant reputation, the **abbess** is a Chinese appointee and nuns have been known to climb out of windows to take part in the demonstrations.” [A7V 365]<sup>33</sup>

33) “St Agnes introduced the Poor Clares into the Convent of St Saviour and became their first **abbess** in 1235.” [APT 1738]<sup>34</sup>

34) “The **Abbess** of Barking complained that her wood of Alderfen, belonging to her manor of Tollesbury, had been recalled into the Forest of Essex, ‘although she says the wood is not in the forest and ought not to be’.” [AE9 773]<sup>35</sup>

### actress

According to the OED, *actress* was probably formed independently of Fr. *actrice*, which is occasionally found instead. Masculine equivalent *actor* is presumably from Latin. The word *actress* signifies a female actor or doer. With this meaning, it was first used around 1600. (OED) The second meaning of *actress* is a female player on the stage (*actor* was at first used for both sexes). This meaning is from 1700. (OED)

The noun is quite frequent - in the BNC, there are 1064 tokens of *actress*. Examples:

35) “Yet she was pardoned, because she was an internationally famous **actress**.” [A03 1040]<sup>36</sup>

---

<sup>33</sup> The Guardian, electronic edition of 1989-11-08: Foreign news pages. Guardian Newspapers Ltd, London (1989-19-19)

<sup>34</sup> Prague. Abel-Smith, Lucy and Kotalik, Jiri, John Murray (Publishers) Ltd, London (1991), 28-137

<sup>35</sup> The royal forests of England. Grant, Raymond, Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd, Gloucester (1991)

36) *"A film producer tries to persuade a famous **actress** back to the screen."* [A0E 821]<sup>37</sup>

37) *"I'm an **actress**, if it is right I will do it."* [ADR 970]<sup>38</sup>

### **adulteress**

According to the OED, the word is originally from Old French *avotresse*, *avoutresse* from *avoutre*. Current French expression for adulteress is *adultère*. It is formally the feminine of *adulter*, not of the later *adulter-er*. *Adulteress* means a woman that commits adultery. It was first used around 1380. (OED)

In the corpus, I found 14 tokens of the word *adulteress*. Examples:

38) *"Should we not ask ourselves whether the **adulteress** had a bad family upbringing, lacking in love, that she reacts in this way?"* [B1J 1336]<sup>39</sup>

39) *"Andrew Jackson won the presidency in 1828 in spite of his pipe-smoking wife Rachel being branded '**adulteress**' and 'whore' for purportedly marrying before she was divorced."* [CAT 710]<sup>40</sup>

40) *"Besides not being a proper wife to Bernard, you are also an **adulteress**."* [HGJ 2633]<sup>41</sup>

### **adventuress**

This word is derived from *adventurer* "from French *aventurier*, from Old French *aventure* (adventure)". (OED) Current French expression for *adventuress* is *aventurière*. It means "a female adventurer or a woman on the look-out for a position." (OED) *Adventuress* is also used for "a woman who seeks social and financial advancement by unscrupulous means."

(<<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/adventuress>>)

According to the OED, it was first used in 1754.

In the National British Corpus, there are six tokens of the word *adventuress*. Examples:

---

<sup>36</sup> Amnesty. Amnesty International, London (1991-06)

<sup>37</sup> The seventh Birmingham International Film, TV Festival. Enterprise Magazines Ltd, Birmingham (1991)

<sup>38</sup> Kylie Minogue: the superstar next door. Stone, Sasha, Omnibus Press, London (1989), 4-96

<sup>39</sup> In good faith. Lamont, Stewart, St Andrew Press, Edinburgh (1989), 3-89

<sup>40</sup> Punch. Punch Publications Ltd, London (1992-01-29/1992-04-08)

<sup>41</sup> Darcy's Utopia. Weldon, Fay, Flamingo, London (1991)

41) "She had not entirely lost the gipsy look of her earlier manifestations, but now, more ambitiously attired, appeared more like some sort of stage character, a dressed-up Bohemian, an artist's model, or an **adventuress** in disguise." [APM 988]<sup>42</sup>

42) "She was an **adventuress** and she soon turned to ferrying." [GOL 715]<sup>43</sup>

43) "As John Parker put it, in the King of Fools, he had it all, wealth, charm, good looks, and he threw it all away on an American divorcee, who even his closest advisers considered an **adventuress**." [KGP 312]<sup>44</sup>

### **ambadress**

It is a feminine form of *ambassador*.

"The actual *ambassador*, -our, is a. Fr. *ambassadeur* (15th c. also *ambaxadeur*).." (OED) It signifies "a female ambassador or messenger or the wife of an ambassador." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In the BNC, there is one token of the noun *ambadress*:

44) "So do you see yourself as a cultural **ambadress** for Italy?" [CKW 674]<sup>45</sup>

### **ancestress**

"From *ancestor* *n.* + -ESS; of Eng. formation, there being no analogous word in French." (OED) *Ancestor* is from Old French *ancestre*. *Ancestress* refers to "a female ancestor." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1580.

There are nine tokens of the word in the corpus. Examples:

45) "Above, a portrait of the Electress Sophia of Hanover, mother of George I and **ancestress** of the House of Windsor, by A. S. Cope." [ChP 418]<sup>46</sup>

46) "A week later they settled on 'Diana Frances', after the infant's mother and a Spencer **ancestress**." [ECM 145]<sup>47</sup>

47) "They are descended from a common **ancestress** through female links only and they have been nurtured on food which derives from a common parcel of land." [H10 1611]<sup>48</sup>

---

<sup>42</sup> The message to the planet. Murdoch, Iris, Chatto, Windus Ltd, London (1989), 112-198

<sup>43</sup> The Lucy ghosts. Shah, Eddy, Corgi Books, London (1993), 321-452

<sup>44</sup> Spoken language. Black sheep of the family: seminar. Speaker: 60, 'Joyce', student, female

<sup>45</sup> The Art Newspaper. Umberto Allemandi Company, London (1993-19-19)

<sup>46</sup> Queen Mary's dolls' house. Stewart-Wilson, Mary, The Bodley Head, London (1989), 10-190

<sup>47</sup> Diana: her true story. Morton, A, Michael O'Mara, London (1993), 1-90

<sup>48</sup> Social anthropology. Leach, Edmund, Fontana Press, London (1986), 55-203

## anchoress

“From *ancre*, anchor, with French feminine ending -esse, -ess. In ME. *ancre* was used for both sexes. A rarer fem. was *anchoritess*.” (OED) “Anchor is derived from OE. *ancra*, *oncra*, for *ancora*, \**ancoro*, shortened f. L. \**anchoreta*, *anachoreta*. (OED) The word means a female anchorite, a nun.

In the BNC, I found 17 tokens of the word *anchoress*. Examples:

48) “She was an **anchoress**, one of the many recluses of the period who shut herself away from the world to pray in solitude: we can still see the foundations of her anchorage next to the church which is now called St Julian's in Norwich.” [CD4 448]<sup>49</sup>

49) “In so far as the **anchoress** is seeking Christ lost in the soul, she is like the disciples in the boat on the sea of Galilee lost in the storm (Matthew 13:44) who woke the sleeping Jesus to save them from destruction: But underlying the cry of the **anchoress** is the constant calling of God which alone enables her cry: ‘oure lord and all whilk wilen herken to hym’.” [HY6 1132]<sup>50</sup>

50) “Between 1233 and 1238 he had charge of royal building work at the great hall of Winchester Castle, besides supervising the installation of windows and pavements at Clarendon Palace, helping to construct a tomb used for the burial of Queen Joan of Scotland [q.v.], and being sent to direct the enclosure of an **anchoress** in Britford.” [GT0 269]<sup>51</sup>

## auditress

I did not find this word in the corpus, but it is listed in the OED. It means a female hearer or auditor. According to the OED, it was first used in 1667. Auditor is from French *auditeur* from Latin *audtor*. (OED)

---

<sup>49</sup> The English mystics of the 14th century. Armstrong, Karen (ed.), Kyle Cathie Ltd, London (1991)

<sup>50</sup> English medieval mystics: games of faith. Glasscoe, Marion, Longman Group UK Ltd, Harlow (1993), 1-159

<sup>51</sup> The Dictionary of National Biography: Missing persons. Nicholls, C S (ed.), Oxford University Press, Oxford (1993)

## authoress

According to the OED, it is derived from *author* (from Old French *autor*, later *auteur*). *Authoress* is “not in Fr. The 15-16th c. *auctorice*, *auctrice*, ad. L. *auctrix*, -*tricem*, is strictly a distinct formation.” (OED) The word refers to “a female author: **a.** an originator, causer; **b.** a leader; **c.** a mother, creatress; **d.** esp. a female literary composer. (Now used only when sex is purposely emphasized; otherwise, in all the senses, and especially the last, *author* is now used of both sexes.)” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1478.

In the British National Corpus, I got 22 tokens of *authoress*. Examples:

51) “Somewhere in the smoky crowd the **authoress** and photographer, Jill Freedman from New York, was holding court.” [ADM 2152]<sup>52</sup>

52) “It was as if Madame had deliberately placed this story underneath the story of the **authoress's** life.” [AR2 852]<sup>53</sup>

53) “For instance, the distinction between *author* and **authoress** may carry more expressive than propositional meaning: **authoress** tends to have derogatory overtones, with *author* being the unmarked form for both sexes.” [FRL 150]<sup>54</sup>

54) “Suffice to say that the young medic concerned must have wished he'd picked on any person in the history of Equity rather than your hyper-ventilating **authoress**.” [H9Y 1306]<sup>55</sup>

## baroness

According to the OED, the word is from Old French *barnesse*, -*onnesse*, in med. Latin *baronissa*. It means the wife of a baron or a lady holding a baronial title ‘in her own right.’ (OED) It was first used cca 1420. (OED)

In the BNC, there are 239 tokens of the word. Examples:

55) “Sir Donald intervened after journalists at a Department of Health press conference questioned the veracity of remarks attributed to **Baroness** Hooper.” [ADW 184]<sup>56</sup>

56) “The wild card is **Baroness** Mallalieu.” [AHF 1153]<sup>57</sup>

---

<sup>52</sup> Jaunting through Ireland. Kerridge, Roy, Michael Joseph Ltd, London (1991)

<sup>53</sup> Ready to catch him should he fall. Bartlett, Neil, Serpent's Tail, London (1990), 9-114

<sup>54</sup> In other words: a coursebook on translation. Baker, M, Routledge, Kegan Paul plc, London (1992)

<sup>55</sup> Thank you for having me. Lipman, Maureen, Robson Books Ltd, London (1990), 57-188

<sup>56</sup> The Guardian, electronic edition of 1989-12-13: Home news pages. Guardian Newspapers Ltd, London (1989-19-19)

<sup>57</sup> Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 1992-04-04: Foreign news pages. The Daily Telegraph plc, London (1992-19-19)

57) “The **baroness** had her jail term cut for good behaviour.” [CH6 7312]<sup>58</sup>

### benefactress

The word is derived from Latin *benefactor*, from *benefacere* benefit. It means a female *benefactor*. (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1711.

In the BNC, I got four tokens of the noun *benefactress*:

58) “Since early days, the castle has been laid waste and rebuilt many times before being inherited by the great **benefactress**, Lady Anne Clifford, who restored it in 1660.” [ASU 109]<sup>59</sup>

59) “He stayed in most evenings now, spending some time in his study and some time chatting to his **benefactress**.” [HWE 2471]<sup>60</sup>

60) “In 1873 she met Barbara Bodichon [q.v.], a wealthy woman interested in the women's suffrage movement, and one of the founders of Girton College, Cambridge, who remained her lifelong friend and **benefactress**.” [GT0 1392]<sup>61</sup>

### billionairess

It is a feminine form of *billionaire* (not found in the OED). It is originally from French billion, purposely formed in 16th c. to denote the second power of a million. Billionaire is “the possessor of property worth a billion or more of the recognized standard coin of the realm.” (OED)

I found two examples in the corpus:

61) “Lyn Wyatt, the blonde Texan **billionairess**, is a Monte Carlo intimate.” [ED9 2076]<sup>62</sup>

62) “She was by no means a **billionairess** when she and IBJ began their relationship, but she did own a couple of restaurants in Osaka; and IBJ was desperate to expand operations in that area.” [G28 366]<sup>63</sup>

---

<sup>58</sup> The Daily Mirror. Mirror Group Newspapers, London (1992-08/1992-10)

<sup>59</sup> Wainwright in the limestone dales. Wainwright, Alfred, Michael Joseph Ltd, London (1991), 1-122

<sup>60</sup> The house of women. Cookson, Catherine, Corgi Books, London (1993), 181-320

<sup>61</sup> The Dictionary of National Biography: Missing persons. Nicholls, C S (ed.), Oxford University Press, Oxford (1993)

<sup>62</sup> Harpers Queen. The National Magazine Company Ltd, London (?)

<sup>63</sup> Credit Management. Institute of Credit Management, Stamford, Lincs (1992-19-19)

## clerkess

The word is derived from *clerk*, meaning a female clerk.

“OE. had *cleric*, *clerec*, *clerc*, immed. from Latin; the last of these forms coincided with OF. *clerc*: Romanic type \**clerco*: L. *cleric-us*, -*um*. ... The original sense was ‘man in a religious order, cleric, clergyman’. As the scholarship of the Middle Ages was practically limited to the clergy, and these performed all the writing, notarial, and secretarial work of the time, the name ‘clerk’ came to be equivalent to ‘scholar’, and specially applicable to a notary, secretary, recorder, accountant, or penman. The last has now come to be the ordinary sense, all the others being either archaic, historical, formal, or contextual.” (OED) According to the OED, the feminine form was first used in 1923.

In the British National Corpus, I found 14 tokens of the word. Examples:

63) “You never saw a secretary or a typist or a **clerkess** eating there.” [HD7 2108]<sup>64</sup>

64) “She is now employed as a **clerkess** in Management Accounts section.” [HRY 533]<sup>65</sup>

65) “We have a part-time rep on the Orkney mainland, and we are getting more and more work from there,’ says Hardcastle, a part-time **clerkess** at the local school.” [K5M 1098]<sup>66</sup>

## composeress

It is a feminine form of *composer* (not found in the OED). *Compose* is from Anglo-French *composer*, from Latin *componere*. (<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/compose>>) Current French form for *composeress* is *compositrice*. It signifies “one who puts together or combines into a whole; one who composes a literary work; an author or writer; one who composes music (the usual sense, when used without defining additions)” (OED)

In the BNC, I found one example:

66) “*Emilie Candeille, opera singer, grande tragedienne and **composeress**, is represented by the first performance in 199 years of her Piano Concerto in D, Op2.*” [A2R 95]<sup>67</sup>

---

<sup>64</sup> [Creative writing: prose]. Robertson, Angela, u.p., 1-89

<sup>65</sup> Glenpatrick News. u.p..

<sup>66</sup> The Scotsman: Foreign news pages. u.p..

## conductress

It is a feminine form of *conductor*, “from ME. *conduitour*, from OF. *conduitor*, -our, -eur: L. *conductor-em*.” (OED) *Conducteresse* existed in French in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The word signifies a female conductor, leader, or guide. A female manager or director. Formerly, also, a woman who conducted the education and ‘breeding’ of any one, a governess. (OED) It was first used in 1624. “*Be my **conductress**: I’ll fly this place in secret.*” (OED. Ford, John: *Sun’s Darling* IV.)

In the BNC, I found 10 tokens of the noun *conductress*. Examples:

67) “*At the same time, our cleaning lady, an ex-bus **conductress** and union member, tried to join the same Streatham branch and was turned away because they were ‘too busy’.*” [AA8 623]<sup>68</sup>

68) “*When the **conductress** and the girl turned and began their precarious stiff-armed run along the platform back to the wrought-iron steps of carriage No 3, it was the signal for a dozen others to do likewise.*” [ARB 2094]<sup>69</sup>

69) “*She was dressed in her bus **conductress’s** uniform.*” [BNC 197]<sup>70</sup>

## countess

This word is originally “from Old French *cuntesse*, *contesse*: late L. *comitissa*, fem. of *comes*, *comit-em*. In 13th c. F. partially assimilated to L. as *comtesse*; the same influence produced the occasional 15th c. Eng. *comytiss*, *cometas*.” (OED) *Countess* means “the feminine form of *count*, the wife or widow of a count and a lady holding a position in her own right equal to that of a count or earl. In the peerage of Great Britain and Ireland, it means the wife or widow of an earl.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1154.

In the corpus, I found 499 tokens of the word *countess*. Examples:

---

<sup>67</sup> Independent, electronic edition of 1989-10-05: Listings section. Newspaper Publishing plc, London (1989-19-19)

<sup>68</sup> The Guardian, electronic edition of 1989-12-20: Foreign news pages. Guardian Newspapers Ltd, London (1989-19-19)

<sup>69</sup> The best of Sunday Times travel. Girling, Richard (ed.), David Charles Publishers plc, Newton Abbot, Devon (1988), 9-124

<sup>70</sup> It might have been Jerusalem. Healy, Thomas, Polygon Books, Edinburgh (1991), 1-81

70) “The wife of an earl is a **countess**, and if that earl dies his wife becomes the Dowager Lady Blank.” [A0D 131]<sup>71</sup>

71) “When **Countess** Spencer died in 1972, it was another loss for Diana to cope with.” [A7H 192]<sup>72</sup>

72) “The German **countess** then began to speak, but I was at this point, for some reason I do not recollect, obliged to leave the drawing room for an extended period.” [AR3 1269]<sup>73</sup>

### dauphiness

It is derived “from French *dauphin* (earlier *daulphin*, in 15th c. also *doffin*).” (OED) “Dauphin is the eldest son of a king of France, used as a title from 1349 to 1830.” (<<http://dictionary.reference.com/search?q=dauphin&db=luna>>) The French title (for woman) is *dauphine*. (OED) The word means the wife of the dauphin. According to the OED, it was first used in 1548.

In the BNC, I found two examples from the same source:

73) “Mary as **dauphiness** of France.” [AE4 826]<sup>74</sup>

74) “Ivory and gilded copper cup (*hanape*) showing Mary and her first husband Francis (the future Francis II, 1559-60) as dauphin and **dauphiness** of France, 1558.” [AE4 827]<sup>75</sup>

### demoness

It is “a feminine form of *demon*, derived from Latin *dæmon* “spirit”, “evil spirit”, from Greek *daimon* “divinity, genius, tutelary deity.” (OED) The word refers to a female *demon*; a she-devil. According to the OED, it was first used around 1638.

In the corpus, I found one solution for *demoness*:

75) “You are not a priestess, you are a **demoness!**” [GW2 2319]<sup>76</sup>

---

<sup>71</sup> A classic English crime. Heald, Tim, Pavilion Books Ltd, London (1990), 96-216

<sup>72</sup> Charles and Diana. Junor, Penny, Headline Book Publishing plc, London (1991)

<sup>73</sup> The remains of the day. Ishiguro, Kazuo, Faber, Faber Ltd, London (1989), 1-110

<sup>74</sup> Mary Queen of Scots. Wormald, Jenny, Collins Brown Ltd, London (1991)

<sup>75</sup> Mary Queen of Scots. Wormald, Jenny, Collins Brown Ltd, London (1991)

<sup>76</sup> Sign for the sacred. Storm, Constantine, Headline Book Publishing plc, London (1993), 127-236

## directress

*Directress* is a feminine form of *director*. It is derived from “Anglo-French *directour* = French *directeur*.” (OED) It means a female who directs. According to the OED, it was first used in 1580.

In the BNC, I got one token of *directress*:

76) “The reference to the ‘friend’ had to do with my association with the Speech Institute, where I was giving a course of lectures on what the **Directress**, Miss Marjorie Gullan, liked to call ‘Modernist Poetry’ (for it was still considered that ‘poetry’ ended with the Georgians, whom we had all studied at school, and that Pound and Eliot were advanced experimenters).” [H9X 675]<sup>77</sup>

## duchess

“From French *duchesse* (12th c. in Hatz.-Darm.) ad. late or med.L. *ducissa*. The spelling *dutchess* was usual till 1810.” (OED) It signifies “the wife or widow of a duke, or a lady holding in her own right a position equal to that of duke.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 14<sup>th</sup> century. It is also used in slang, as “a woman of imposing demeanour or showy appearance.” (OED) With this meaning, it was first used around 1700. (OED)

In the British National Corpus, I got 788 tokens of *duchess*. Examples:

77) “One daughter, a grand **duchess** of Russia, even gained a footnote in history by introducing an unknown monk, Rasputin, to the Russian Tsarina Alexandra.” [A1G 424]<sup>78</sup>

78) “The **Duchess** of Finchley's Light Infantry was trapped behind enemy lines, but it was digging in.” [A9F 916]<sup>79</sup>

79) “It was, as the **Duchess** said in her speech, an exciting event because Derbyshire had so few smaller manor houses of this type open to the public - and what made it all the more special was the fact that Eyam Hall is still the family home of the Wrights, who built (or rather rebuilt) it, a few years after the plague, in 1671.” [AHC 1141]<sup>80</sup>

---

<sup>77</sup> T S Eliot: a friendship. Tomlin, Frederick, Routledge, Kegan Paul plc, London (1988), 50-174

<sup>78</sup> Independent, electronic edition of 1989-10-02: Foreign news pages. Newspaper Publishing plc, London (1989-19-19)

<sup>79</sup> The Guardian, electronic edition of 1989-12-10: Home news pages. Guardian Newspapers Ltd, London (1989-19-19)

<sup>80</sup> Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 1992-04-04: Leisure pages. The Daily Telegraph plc, London (1992-19-19)

## **editress**

It is a feminine form of *editor*, derived from Latin *editor*. (OED) It means “a female editor.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1799.

In the corpus, I found three tokens of *editress*:

80) “Think how Miss X [an author whom, in jest, we feared as our **editress**] would like to edit the whole correspondence if we predecease her.” [CA6 297]<sup>81</sup>

81) “Editorials regularly refer to the magazine being produced by an all-women team, from the **Editress** and her fair, brilliant and chivalrous staff, down to the merry-faced ruddy-cheeked little lassie that in quainter and ruder hives of literature would be represented by a grim-visaged imp in paper-cap and corduroys yclept a' Printer's (This was typical of its style.)” [EVJ 134]<sup>82</sup>

82) “However, she was ‘**editress**’ of the EDM and was involved in the upmarket weekly, the Queen, which was launched in 1861.” [GTA 1201]<sup>83</sup>

## **electress**

It is a feminine form of *elector*, derived from Latin *elector*. (OED) It signifies “a female elector; a woman having a vote. *rare*.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1609. Historically, it means also “the wife of a German elector. Chiefly as a title.” (OED)

In the British National Corpus, I found nine tokens of the word *electress*. Examples:

83) “Floline may again prove just too good for **Electress** in the Members.” [AJY 319]<sup>84</sup>

84) “Article II laid down that if Queen Anne failed to leave an heir the succession should pass to a relatively distant claimant, ‘the most excellent Princess Sophia, **electress** and duchess dowager of Hanover, and the heirs of her body being protestants’.” [BNB 210]<sup>85</sup>

85) “With the impending publication of his Violin Sonatas (K.301-K.306 - his first mature works to be printed) which were dedicated to the **Electress**, Mozart was keen to stop at Munich in order to present them to her himself.” [ANJ 659]<sup>86</sup>

---

<sup>81</sup> Elizabeth and Ivy. Liddell, Robert, Peter Owen Publishers, London (1986), 15-111

<sup>82</sup> Britannica's typesetters. Reynolds, Sian, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh (1989), 23-112

<sup>83</sup> The Dictionary of National Biography: Missing persons. Nicholls, C S (ed.), Oxford University Press, Oxford (1993)

<sup>84</sup> Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 1992-04-11: Leisure pages. The Daily Telegraph plc, London (1992-19-19)

<sup>85</sup> Island fortress. Longmate, Norman, Hutchinson, London (1991), 115-200

## empress

“From Middle English *emperesse*, from Old French *emperesse*, fem. of *emperere* emperor (late Latin type *\*imperatorissa*).” (OED) It means “the consort of an emperor. Also, a female sovereign having the rank equivalent to that of an emperor.”(OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1154. It is also used with the meaning “a female potentate exercising supreme or absolute power. Chiefly *transf.* and *fig.*” (OED) With this meaning, *empress* was first applied around 1300. (OED)

In the corpus, I got 382 tokens of *empress*. Examples:

86) “*The discovery that otherwise enigmatic denarii struck in the name of a deified **empress** called Domitilla contain the higher level of silver has shown that her coins were struck in this period and not in the reign of the previous emperor, Titus.*” [ADH 190]<sup>87</sup>

87) “*I’m talking about the **Empress**,’ Jamie growled.*” [ALL 67]<sup>88</sup>

88) “*The **Empress** was in great beauty ... the Emperor also looked very impressive, and when after the ceremony he held up the child in his arms to present him to the multitude, the enthusiasm was genuine and great.*” [ANR 426]<sup>89</sup>

## enchantress

“From Old French *enchanteresse*, feminine of *enchantere*, -*eor* enchanter.” (OED) It indicates “a female enchanter; a female who employs magic; a witch, sorceress.” (OED) Also used for a charming or bewitching woman. According to the OED, it was first used cca 1374.

In the British National Corpus, I found 15 tokens of *enchantress*. Examples:

89) “*A famed **enchantress**, known also as Morgaine le Fee, or Morgana the Fairy.*” [CAC 2289]<sup>90</sup>

---

<sup>86</sup> Mozart: prodigy of nature. Rigbie Turner, J and Banks, C A, British Library, London/New York (1991), 14-51

<sup>87</sup> Interpreting the past: coins. Burnett, Andrew, British Museum Press, London (1991)

<sup>88</sup> Bell in the tree. Chisnall, Edward, Mainstream Publishing Company Ltd, Edinburgh (1989). The Glasgow story

<sup>89</sup> Napoleon III. Smith, William H C, Collins, Brown Ltd, London (1991), 6-104

<sup>90</sup> Myths, gods and fantasy: a sourcebook. Allardice, Pamela, Prism Press, Bridport, Dorset (1990), 30-155

90) “The other becomes a witch, an evil **enchantress**, with amazing powers to seduce the innocent.” [GOT 304]<sup>91</sup>

91) “Each story explores an aspect of woman as demon, be she **enchantress**, temptress or sorceress, and cunningly reworks the negative male weave of such images into a pattern that is more positive, or at least potentially so.” [HSI 646]<sup>92</sup>

### **exactress**

It is a feminine form of *exactor*. The word is derived from Latin *exactus*. (OED) It means “she that exacts, a female exactor.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1611.

I did not find *exactress* in the corpus.

### **faïress**

The word is derived from *fairy*, from “Old French *faerie*, *faïerie* (modern French *féerie*), from Old French *fae* (modern French *fée*).” (OED) It signifies a female fairy. According to the OED, it was first used 1674. “A **Faïress**, or a white witch.” (Brevint, Daniel: *Saul and Samuel at Endor* 163)

In the corpus, I found 781 tokens of the word *fairy*, only 1 example with *faïress*, but with a different meaning. It is probably a typing error in *fairness*.

92) “Mr Isles says ‘legal officials in south Oxfordshire have already expressed an interest’, and Home Office Minister, John Patten agrees the **faïress** of the system is something that should be envied.” [KRT 3146]<sup>93</sup>

### **foundress**

The word means “a female *founder*, esp. a woman who founds or endows an institution, etc.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used cca 1430. It is derived “from French *founder* from Latin *fundre* “foundation”.” (OED) Current French expression is *fondatrice*.

---

<sup>91</sup> Ceremony of innocence. Carmichael, K, Macmillan Publishers Ltd, Basingstoke (1991)

<sup>92</sup> Spare Rib. Spare Rib Ltd, UK (1989-04)

<sup>93</sup> [spoken language] Fox FM News: radio programme.

In the corpus, there are four tokens of the noun *foundress*. Examples:

93) “Referring to falling numbers in the League, she reiterated the words of our **foundress**, Margaret Fletcher, saying that we were still ‘a force to be reckoned with.’” [C8H 515]<sup>94</sup>

94) “They went through a side door; there was a smell of baking, a warm kitchen smell through the corridors, then a smell of polish on the big stairway, and the wide dark hall hung with pictures of Mother **Foundress** and Our Lady, and lit only by the Sacred Heart lamp.” [CCM 1165]<sup>95</sup>

95) “In those species where almost all broods are initiated by one **foundress**, he found that parasitism had no detectable effect on fitness.” [EAK 931]<sup>96</sup>

### **goddess**

This is one of the words of Anglo-Saxon origin. It is a feminine form of *god*. *Goddess* signifies “a female deity in polytheistic systems of religion”. (OED) It can be also applied to a woman. *God* is originally from Old English “*god* (masc. in sing.; pl. *godu*, *godo* neut., *godas* masc.) corresponds to OFris., OS., Du. *god* masc., OHG. *got*, *cot* masc., ON. *go*, *gu* neut. and masc., Goth. *gu..*” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

In the corpus, there are 569 tokens of the word. Examples:

96) “Thank the **Goddess!**” [AD9 707]<sup>97</sup>

97) “Also known as Bastet, this was the daughter of ISIS and the supreme fertility **goddess** of Egypt.” [CAC 93]<sup>98</sup>

98) “Venus is named after the Roman **goddess** of love.” [GW6 5]<sup>99</sup>

### **governess**

It is a shortened form of *governeress*, derived from “OF *gouverneresse*, fem. of *gouverneur* governor.” (OED) It means “a woman who governs (e.g. a

---

<sup>94</sup> Middlesbrough Diocesan Catholic Voice. Catholic Voice Publications Ltd, Liverpool (1992-11)

<sup>95</sup> Circle of friends. Binchy, Maeve, Coronet Books, London (1991)

<sup>96</sup> Nature. Macmillan Magazines Ltd, London (1993-19-19), 481-510

<sup>97</sup> Hermetech. Constantine, Storm, Headline Book Publishing plc, London (1991)

<sup>98</sup> Myths, gods and fantasy: a sourcebook. Allardice, Pamela, Prism Press, Bridport, Dorset (1990), 30-155

<sup>99</sup> The solar system. Jones, Barrie William, Pergamon Press, Oxford (1984)

kingdom, province, a community, religious institution); a female governor or ruler.” (OED) It is applied also to “a female teacher; an instructress; now chiefly, one so employed in a private household.” (OED) The word was first used in 1483.

In the BNC, I found 171 tokens of the word. Examples:

99) “The **governess** here, Miss Lambert, has kindly taught me a little.” [AE0 1234]<sup>100</sup>

100) “I’m to be **governess** to a little boy in Edinburgh, and you’re to take charge of an antique loony in Penzance.” [BMU 627]<sup>101</sup>

101) “I thought I was marrying a fellow immoralist; scratch her and it’s a New England **Governess**.” [F9R 693]<sup>102</sup>

### heiress

The word means a female *heir*. *Heir* is derived from “OF. *eir*, *heir*. late L. *hrem* (found beside *hrdem*) from nom. *hres* heir.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1659.

In the British National Corpus, there are 185 tokens of the noun *heiress*. Examples:

102) “He then married Mary Hallam, the **heiress** of Tollesbury in Essex.” [AB4 880]<sup>103</sup>

103) “As an attractive young **heiress** Karen might quickly become the target of unscrupulous bounty hunters.” [BMR 1791]<sup>104</sup>

104) “Tell me, Uncle Orrin, shall I always be regarded as my father’s **heiress**, never seen for what I truly am?” [HGE 2585]<sup>105</sup>

### hermitess

The word refers to a female *hermit*. It is derived from “ME. *hermite*, *ermite*, from OF. (h)*ermite*, L. *ermta* (med.L. also *hermta*)..” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1633.

In the corpus, I found one token of the word:

---

<sup>100</sup> Lying together. Thomas, D M, Victor Gollancz Ltd, London (1990)

<sup>101</sup> The distance enchanted. Gervaise, Mary, John Goodchild Publishers, Wendover, Bucks (1983), 1-109

<sup>102</sup> A compass error. Bedford, S, Virago Press Ltd, London (1993), 53-168

<sup>103</sup> The perfect English country house. Lycett Green, Candida, Pavilion Books Ltd, London (1991)

<sup>104</sup> Dirty tricks. Dibdin, Michael, Faber & Faber Ltd, London (1991), 5-142

<sup>105</sup> An American princess. Marshall, Paula, Mills & Boon, Richmond, Surrey (1993)

105) *"I cannot forget the visits I paid to Norwich and sat quietly in the reconstructed cell of Julian the **hermitess** of Norwich, meditating on the Sixteen Shewings of Divine Love which she received in May 1373."* [CDC 698]<sup>106</sup>

### hostess

*Hostess* means "a woman that lodges and entertains guests." (OED) It is derived from French "OF. *ostesse* (12th c. in Littré), mod.F. *hôtesse*, from (*h*)*oste* host." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used cca 1385. It can be also used in air-hostess (meaning stewardess) or in a derogatory sense as "a woman employed to entertain customers at a night-club, etc; a prostitute." (OED)

In the BNC, there are 381 tokens of the word. Examples:

106) *"I really don't see why any **hostess** should be pleased to see a total stranger arrive at her dinner party."* [A0D 2520]<sup>107</sup>

107) *"The eternal enigma for the cocktail party host or **hostess** is what to give the guests that is different and can preferably be eaten in one bite."* [ABB 2458]<sup>108</sup>

108) *"Florence, the financial wizard, subsequently worked as a **hostess** in clubs in London."* [B34 1755]<sup>109</sup>

### huntress

Again, *huntress* is one of the words of Anglo-Saxon origin. It means a female *hunter*. *Hunter* is derived "from Old English *huntian*." (OED) *Huntress* refers to "a woman (or goddess) who hunts or engages in the chase." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1386.

In the BNC, there are seven tokens of the noun *huntress*. Examples:

109) *"The Roman counterpart of ARTEMIS, a goddess of the moon, a virgin and a **huntress**, Diana was also the patroness of women and assisted mothers in childbirth."* [CAC 661]<sup>110</sup>

110) *"She was like a **huntress** - in pursuit, in charge."* [CEY 140]<sup>111</sup>

---

<sup>106</sup> Unfinished: George Appleton remembers and reflects. Appleton, George, Collins, UK (1990), 5-117

<sup>107</sup> A classic English crime. Heald, Tim, Pavilion Books Ltd, London (1990), 96-216

<sup>108</sup> Delicatessen: a celebration and cookbook. Moon, Rosemary, David - Charles Publishers plc, Newton Abbot, Devon (1989).

<sup>109</sup> Tiller's girls. Vernon, Doremy, Robson Books Ltd, London (1988), 9-127

<sup>110</sup> Myths, gods and fantasy: a sourcebook. Allardice, Pamela, Prism Press, Bridport, Dorset (1990), 30-155

111) “*Atalanta was a mythical **huntress** and athlete.*” [K1R 3345]<sup>112</sup>

### **instructress**

It refers to a female *instructor*. According to the OED, it was first used in 1630. *Instructor* is from Latin *instructor*. (OED)

In the BNC, I got six tokens of the word. Examples:

112) “*But the ski **instructress** died trying to fulfill her biggest ambition - to visit the Everest base camp.*” [CH2 9981]<sup>113</sup>

113) “*Oh I'll let it be known that your mother is a very good **instructress**.*” [G4K 1441]<sup>114</sup>

114) “*Her aunt, Jane Burden, becomes chief **instructress** at The Royal School of Needlework, from which the Embroiderer's Guild later evolves.*” [J1K 307]<sup>115</sup>

### **inventress**

This word means a female *inventor*. *Inventor* is from Latin *inventor*. (OED) According to the OED, *inventress* was first used in 1586.

In the corpus, there is one token of the word:

115) “*Isis is thought to have invented spinning and weaving and was the tutelary patron of childbirth, meting out the fate of mortals as they entered the world. Erasmus Darwin referred to her domestic powers in his Loves of the Plants (1789): **Inventress** of the woof, fair flax flings.*” [CAC 1725]<sup>116</sup>

### **laundress**

It refers to “a woman whose occupation it is to wash and ‘get up’ linen.” (OED) *Laundress* is derived from *launder*, which is from Old French *lavandier*. (OED) Current French expression for *laundress* is *lavandière*. According to the OED, *laundress* was first used in 1550.

---

<sup>111</sup> A woman of style. McDowell, Colin, Rowan (Arrow), London (1991), 7-133

<sup>112</sup> [Central television news scripts]. Boileau, John (ed.), Central TV, Abingdon (1993)

<sup>113</sup> The Daily Mirror. Mirror Group Newspapers, London (1992-08/1992-10)

<sup>114</sup> [Spoken language] Word-processing tutorial.

<sup>115</sup> Women's Art. Townsend, S (ed.), Women artists slide library, London (1991-19-19)

<sup>116</sup> Myths, gods and fantasy: a sourcebook. Allardice, Pamela, Prism Press, Bridport, Dorset (1990), 30-155

In the British National Corpus, I found nine tokens of the word. Examples:

116) “The **laundress**, a tough and saintly old German sister, would give out the rosary as we worked.” [ACL 1468]<sup>117</sup>

117) “Davide had seen the priests, who had shrugged and thrown up their hands indolently at the **laundress's** problem.” [GUX 1431]<sup>118</sup>

118) “So the **laundress** was grateful; she had killed a rooster for him.” [GUX 1439]<sup>119</sup>

### leopardess

The word means the female of the *leopard*. *Leopard* is from “ME. *leopard*, also *lebard*, *lubard*, *leupard*, etc., from OF. *leopard*, *lebard*, *leupard*, etc., from late L. *leopardus*.” (OED) According to the OED, *leopardess* was first used in 1567.

In the corpus, there are three tokens of the noun *leopardess*, all taken from the same source. Example:

119) “A **leopardess** heavy with young is at an obvious disadvantage when it comes to hunting, so nature compensates for this by making her pregnancy a short one of 90-105 days.” [CK2 421]<sup>120</sup>

### lioness

The word means the female of the *lion*. It is derived from “OF. *lion(n)esse*, *leonesse* (now superseded by *lionne*).” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used around 1300.

In the BNC, there are 48 tokens of the word. Examples:

120) “But that is only an expression of how the **lioness** is feeling within herself.” [BMY 109]<sup>121</sup>

121) “A **lioness**, having caught a gazelle, may not kill it but drag it back alive to her cubs and give it to them so that, crippled though it is, the cubs may have a little practice in how to bring it down.” [F9F 603]<sup>122</sup>

---

<sup>117</sup> Through the devil's gateway. Archer, L J, Joseph, A, et al, Byrne, L and Gombrich, S G, SPCK, London (1990)

<sup>118</sup> The lost father. Warner, Marina, Picador, London (1989), 42-126

<sup>119</sup> The lost father. Warner, Marina, Picador, London (1989), 42-126

<sup>120</sup> Kingdoms of the East. Willock, Colin, Boxtree, London (1991), 24-185

<sup>121</sup> Natural creation - the formative mind. Davidson, John, Element Books Ltd, Shaftesbury, Dorset (1991), 44-141

122) “When fully grown, a lion is bigger than a **lioness**.” [FAC 1534]<sup>123</sup>

### manageress

The word refers to a female *manager*. According to the OED, it was first used in 1797. *Manageress* is derived “from *manager* from *manage*, which is from Italian *maneggiare* “to handle”, “to manage”.” (OED) *Mano* “hand” is from Latin *manus*. (OED)

In the corpus, I got 98 solutions for *manageress*. Examples:

123) “Because for the time being you’re apparently enjoying your new little game of **manageress**.” [JY5 1850]<sup>124</sup>

124) “A McDONALD’S **manageress** was led weeping to jail yesterday for using a bomb hoax to empty a rival restaurant.” [CBF 5993]<sup>125</sup>

125) “I was promoted to assistant **manageress** in the clothes shop, and worked a further eight months before leaving to have my first child.” [CDK 987]<sup>126</sup>

### marchioness

It is a word used for “the wife or widow of a marquess; a woman holding the rank of marquess in her own right. Also used to render etymologically similar titles of female nobility in other European languages.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1533. *Marchioness* is derived from “post-classical Latin *marchionissa* wife of a margrave.” (OED)

In the BNC, there are 66 tokens of the noun *marchioness*. Examples:

126) “Extracts from an official report on last summer’s **Marchioness** riverboat disaster were released by the member of Parliament in whose constituency the accident happened.” [ABF 2069]<sup>127</sup>

127) “Conscious of their responsibilities as landlords the Marquis and **Marchioness** of Londonderry determined to provide assistance for the people of the area.” [B29 412]<sup>128</sup>

---

<sup>122</sup> The trials of life. Attenborough, David, David Collins - sons, London (1990), 1-161

<sup>123</sup> Lexical semantics. Cruse, D A, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (1991), 1-124

<sup>124</sup> Lover’s charade. Elliot, Rachel, Mills + 0026 Boon, Richmond, Surrey (1992)

<sup>125</sup> Today. News Group Newspapers Ltd, London (1992-12)

<sup>126</sup> Having it all. Stoker, Linda, Bloomsbury Publishing Ltd, London (1991), 13-148

<sup>127</sup> The Economist. The Economist Newspaper Ltd, London (1990-19-19)

<sup>128</sup> [Northern Ireland tourist information]. u.p..

128) “The **Marchioness** is in intensive care after a fall from her horse.” [K1G 3907]<sup>129</sup>

### mayoress

*Mayoress* is derived “from *mayor*, from French *maire* (in Old French also *maior*, *maor*, *maieur*; 1789 in sense ‘elected chief municipal officer’) from post-classical Latin *maior* mayor.” (OED) The word refers to “the wife of a mayor; (also) a woman nominated to fulfil the ceremonial duties of a mayor's wife. (The only established use until the late 19th cent.).” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used around 1525. Especially in the U.S., it can be also used for “a woman holding mayoral office; a female mayor.” (OED) With this meaning, the word was first used in 1863.

In the corpus, I found 70 tokens of the word. Examples:

129) “He usually chose a different person to be ‘Lady **Mayoress**’ each year.” [BPK 1060]<sup>130</sup>

130) “GRAN Dot Ransom, former **mayoress** of Warwick, has passed her driving test at the first attempt - at the age of 70.” [CH6 8786]<sup>131</sup>

131) “The Town Station shop was officially opened by the **Mayoress** of Ripley, Margaret Kent, on Thursday, October 22.” [CKK 102]<sup>132</sup>

### millionairess

It is a female *millionaire*. According to the OED, it was first used in 1878. *Millionaire* is from French *millionnaire*. (OED) In French, *millionnaire* is used both for male and female.

In the BNC, there are 14 tokens of the noun *millionairess*. Examples:

132) “A **millionairess** with a taste for adventure is facing the biggest challenge of her life.” [K1R 2754]<sup>133</sup>

---

<sup>129</sup> [Central television news scripts]. u.p..

<sup>130</sup> Fairs, feasts and frolics. Smith, Julia, Smith Settle Ltd, Otley, West Yorks (1989), 22-129

<sup>131</sup> The Daily Mirror. Mirror Group Newspapers, London (1992-08/1992-10)

<sup>132</sup> Steam Railway News. 10A Birkdale Trading Estate, Southport (1992-19-19)

<sup>133</sup> [Central television news scripts]. Boileau, John (ed.), Central TV, Abingdon (1993)

133) “JENNIFER CAPRIATI, the 13-year-old American prodigy, is joining the professional ranks on a contract almost certain to make her the youngest **millionairess** in the sport.” [AAE 17]<sup>134</sup>

134) “Kylie will never forget the major role PWL played in changing her life, making a **millionairess** out of a minor TV star, and is prepared to defend them to the hilt.” [ADR 2048]<sup>135</sup>

### **mistress**

The word refers to “a woman having control or authority, the female head of a family, household, or other establishment or a female teacher.” (OED) Nowadays often used for “a woman other than his wife with whom a man has a long-lasting sexual relationship.” (OED) It is from Anglo-Norman and Middle French *maistresse*, *mestresse*. (OED) According to the OED, it was first used around 1300.

In the corpus, there are 1083 tokens of the word. Examples:

135) “Then there's master and **mistress**.” [A0D 2276]<sup>136</sup>

136) “I have split with my **mistress** today, my wife gave me an ultimatum - and now this.” [A4C 69]<sup>137</sup>

137) “If... if everyone had their rights I should be legal **mistress** of this place now.” [CFY 925]<sup>138</sup>

### **murderess**

*Murderess* means “a woman who commits murder; a female murderer.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used around 1393. *Murderess* is from “Old French, Middle French *mourderesse*, *mourderresse*, *morderresse*, *meurdresse*, *moeurdresse*.” (OED) Current French expression for *murderess* is *meurtrière* or *tueuse*.

---

<sup>134</sup> The Guardian, electronic edition of 1989-12-21: Sport section. Guardian Newspapers Ltd, London (1989-19-19)

<sup>135</sup> Kylie Minogue: the superstar next door. Stone, Sasha, Omnibus Press, London (1989), 4-96

<sup>136</sup> A classic English crime. Heald, Tim, Pavilion Books Ltd, London (1990), 96-216

<sup>137</sup> Independent, electronic edition of 1989-10-10: Frontpages. Newspaper Publishing plc, London (1989-19-19)

<sup>138</sup> My beloved son. Cookson, Catherine, Corgi Books, London (1992), 85-221

In the British National Corpus, there are 33 tokens of the word. Examples:

138) “Louise Müller, or whatever her name was, was a treacherous schemer and **murderess**, as much a public danger in her way as Fedorov.” [B20 2677]<sup>139</sup>

139) “So, the murderer or **murderess** must have been an outsider?” [H9C 2680]<sup>140</sup>

140) “It’s about a Danish prince who finds out his mother is a **murderess** and spends his time lolling around, mooning about it.” [HH5 2019]<sup>141</sup>

## **negress**

The word means a black woman (it is used offensively). According to the OED, it was first used in 1734. It is derived from French *nègre*, *négresse*. (OED)

In the corpus, I found 17 tokens of the word. 7 tokens are taken from the same source. In many cases, *negress* is used in very offensive way. Examples:

141) “She’s got lips like a **negress** .” [EEW 983]<sup>142</sup>

142) “One morning, on his way to work as a young reporter on the *Gazette de Liege*, his eye was caught by a magnificent **negress** in a brothel window.” [AK4 373]<sup>143</sup>

143) “It was the tall **negress**.” [BNC 1791]<sup>144</sup>

## **ogress**

The word refers to “a female ogre; (in extended use) a cruel or terrifying woman.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1713. It is from French *ogresse* (1697 in Perrault; also *hogresse*). (OED)

In the corpus, there are two tokens of the noun *ogress*:

144) “He used his handsome appearance to seduce an **ogress** who bore him three dreadful children, *FENRIR the Wolf*, the *Midgard Snake* and *HEL*, all of whom caused travail to the other gods.” [CAC 2034]<sup>145</sup>

---

<sup>139</sup> Look about and die. Butters, Roger, The Book Guild Ltd, Lewes, East Sussex (1991), 45-167

<sup>140</sup> The prince of darkness. Doherty, P C, Headline Book Publishing plc, London (1992)

<sup>141</sup> The poisoned chalice. Clynes, Michael, Headline Book Publishing plc, London (1993), 1-144

<sup>142</sup> In sunshine or in shadow. Bingham, C, Bantam (Corgi), London (1992), 11-103

<sup>143</sup> Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 1992-04-12: Arts section. The Daily Telegraph plc, London (1992-19-19)

<sup>144</sup> It might have been Jerusalem. Healy, Thomas, Polygon Books, Edinburgh (1991), 1-81

<sup>145</sup> Myths, gods and fantasy: a sourcebook. Allardice, Pamela, Prism Press, Bridport, Dorset (1990), 30-155

145) “Secondly, we had the early misfortune of booking Emma for ski lessons with a French ski school whose woman teacher was an **ogress**.” [CBC 11303]<sup>146</sup>

### paintress

The word is from “Middle French *peintresse* (1313 in Old French as *paintresse*), feminine form corresponding to *peintre* painter.” (OED) It refers to “a woman who paints pictures; a female artist who works with paint.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used cca 1450.

In the BNC, there are two tokens of the word:

146) “Mercury Gallery introduces Joan Eardley, a Scottish **paintress** of splodgy landscapes and slum children (opens Wednesday).” [AHR 115]<sup>147</sup>

147) “Our picture, courtesy of the Evening Sentinel, shows trainee **paintress** Amanda Moore of Mason's Ironstone giving demonstrations to visitors to the Wedgwood stand.” [HBC 641]<sup>148</sup>

### patroness

The word refers to “a woman who is a sponsor or supporter of a person, cause, institution, activity, etc.; a female *patron*, a female patron saint or a goddess who serves as a guardian or protector of a person, place, occupation, etc.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used around 1425. *Patroness* is derived from “post-classical Latin *patronissa* female patron, female holder of an advowson.” (OED)

In the corpus, there are 28 tokens of the noun *patroness*. Examples:

148) “The Roman counterpart of ARTEMIS, a goddess of the moon, a virgin and a huntress, Diana was also the **patroness** of women and assisted mothers in childbirth.” [CAC 661]<sup>149</sup>

149) “In this role she is the **patroness** of Spoleto, a town in Italy.” [GOT 1530]<sup>150</sup>

---

<sup>146</sup> Today. News Group Newspapers Ltd, London (1992-12)

<sup>147</sup> Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 1992-04-06: Arts section. The Daily Telegraph plc, London (1992-19-19)

<sup>148</sup> Newline for the Wedgwood Group. u.p..

<sup>149</sup> Myths, gods and fantasy: a sourcebook. Allardice, Pamela, Prism Press, Bridport, Dorset (1990), 30-155

<sup>150</sup> Ceremony of innocence. Carmichael, K, Macmillan Publishers Ltd, Basingstoke (1991).

150) "He is inexplicably nasty about the Met's greatest **patroness**, Jayne Wrightsman, characterising her as an 'American geisha' and 'cardboard thin - moving through life by rote', unkind considering that she funded many of his major triumphs." [CKY 895]<sup>151</sup>

### peeress

The word refers to "the wife or widow of a *peer*. In later use also (more fully *peeress in her own right*): a woman holding the rank of a peer by creation or descent." (OED) Peer is from Anglo-Norman *per* (*paar, paer, paire, peer, pere, perre, piere*) from Old French *per* (French *pair*) from classical Latin *par* "equal". (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1688.

In the corpus, there are three tokens of the word:

151) "Three of the first Lord Glenconner's sisters married Lords, another married Henry Asquith the Prime Minister, and the youngest, Katherine, the widow of Walter Elliot, a Secretary of State for Scotland, is still on the front bench of the House of Lords in her own right as the Life **Peeress**, Baroness Elliot of Harwood." [BM6 273]<sup>152</sup>

152) "No Labour MP matched the Tories' views as put by, for example, Tory **peeress** Baroness Strange, or Tory MP Nicholas Bennett." [C9S 969]<sup>153</sup>

153) "One day he will, and proceed to create from her the perfect dish of a wife and **peeress**." [H8A 1999]<sup>154</sup>

### poetess

The word means "a female *poet*; a woman who composes poetry." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1530. *Poet* is derived "from Old French *poete* (12c.), from Latin *poeta* "poet, author". (OED)

In the British National Corpus, I got 23 tokens of the word. Examples:

154) "He paused in his writing only to listen to a rather attractive Finnish **poetess** reading a sequence about her marital problems." [AE0 461]<sup>155</sup>

---

<sup>151</sup> The Art Newspaper. Umberto Allemandi - Company, London (1992-19-19)

<sup>152</sup> Ayrshire heritage. Boyle, Andrew, Alloway Publishing Ltd, Darvel, Ayrshire (1990), 17-94

<sup>153</sup> High risk lives. Lincoln, Paul, Kaufmann, Tara (eds.), Prism Press, Bridport, Dorset (1991), 126-248

<sup>154</sup> Murder makes an entre. Myers, Amy, Headline Book Publishing plc, London (1992), 63-215

<sup>155</sup> Lying together. Thomas, D M, Victor Gollancz Ltd, London (1990)

155) *"The fond feelings of the Indian people for the Cobra are perhaps nowhere better expressed than in the words of Sarojini Naidu, an Indian **poetess**."* [CB9 321]<sup>156</sup>

156) *"Similarly, you should avoid terms such as ' **poetess**', 'actress', 'lady novelist', etc., which are all asymmetrical with the male-counterpart term ('poet', 'actor', etc.)."* [HXH 1301]<sup>157</sup>

### **preceptress**

It describes "a female *preceptor*, a teacher." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used around 1688. *Preceptor* is derived "from classical Latin *praeceptor* teacher, instructor." (OED)

In the corpus, there are two tokens of the noun *preceptress*:

157) *"Yes, thank you, Mama,' murmured the **preceptress**, and they echoed her."* [CD2 2433]<sup>158</sup>

158) *"My excellent **preceptress** always used to say, When in doubt take an extreme case."* [FRA 387]<sup>159</sup>

### **priestess**

It denotes "a female *priest*, a woman who holds the position and performs the functions of a priest." (OED) *Priest* is "ultimately from post-classical Latin *presbyter* presbyter n., although the phonology is difficult to explain." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1656.

In the corpus, there are 66 tokens of the word. Examples:

159) *"Amongst your past lives you were a High **Priestess** of Merlin, and you have the power of all magicians."* [ARJ 2121]<sup>160</sup>

160) *"Probably a **priestess** took on the role of Artemis and became the epiphany of the goddess."* [CM9 1259]<sup>161</sup>

161) *"A new **priestess** is to be initiated."* [ED9 2857]<sup>162</sup>

---

<sup>156</sup> The sign of the serpent. Balfour, Mark, Prism Press, Bridport, Dorset (1990), 11-168

<sup>157</sup> How to write essays, dissertations - theses in literary studies. Fabb, Nigel and Durant, Alan, Longman Group UK Ltd, Harlow (1993), 9-140

<sup>158</sup> A dark star passing. Hill, Pamela, Robert Hale Ltd, London (1990), 7-113

<sup>159</sup> Learning the law. Williams, G, Stevens - son, London (1982), 97-218

<sup>160</sup> She magazine. The National Magazine Company Ltd, London (1989-10)

<sup>161</sup> Minoans. Castleden, Rodney, Routledge - Kegan Paul plc, London (1993), 68-157

## princess

The word means “a female member of a royal family; or the wife of a prince.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used cca 1385. The word was borrowed from French *princesse*. (OED)

In the BNC, I found 2853 tokens of the noun *princess*. Many of the tokens refer to Princess Diana, because the texts in the corpus are taken from British newspapers and other materials about Britain. Examples:

162) “**PRINCESS** Diana will spend this Christmas wracked with heartache, separated from everyone she loves best in the world.” [CBF 2112]<sup>163</sup>

163) “The **Princess** was a childhood friend of the Queen and a firm favourite with King George V.” [CHP 13]<sup>164</sup>

164) “One of the duties of a **Princess** of Wales is to produce an heir.” [G2E 1825]<sup>165</sup>

## prioress

*Prioress* is from “Old French *prioressse*.. from Latin *priorissa*.” (OED) It means “a superior nun holding a position subordinate to an abbess, similar to a claustral *prior*. Also: a superior nun governing her own religious house like a conventual *prior*.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used cca 1300.

In the corpus, there are 98 tokens of the word. Examples:

165) “The **prioress**, lips pursed tight, hurried out and we followed.” [HU0 841]<sup>166</sup>

166) “I stayed in my house until Lady Arrogance, the **Prioress**, sent for me.” [H9C 97]<sup>167</sup>

167) “Rusper, founded for twelve nuns and a **prioress** in the twelfth century, was down to two by the sixteenth century, both of whom were very aged.” [CB6 337]<sup>168</sup>

---

<sup>162</sup> Harpers - Queen. The National Magazine Company Ltd, London (?)

<sup>163</sup> Today. News Group Newspapers Ltd, London (1992-12)

<sup>164</sup> Queen Mary's dolls' house. Stewart-Wilson, Mary, The Bodley Head, London (1989), 10-190

<sup>165</sup> Harpers - Queen. The National Magazine Company Ltd, London (1990-04)

<sup>166</sup> The white rose murder. Clynes, Michael, Headline Book Publishing plc, London (1992), 73-209.

<sup>167</sup> The prince of darkness. Doherty, P C, Headline Book Publishing plc, London (1992)

<sup>168</sup> A short history of Sussex. Lowerson, John, William Dawson & Sons Ltd, Folkestone, Kent (1980), 29-140

## procuress

The word refers to “a woman who procures people, usually women, as prostitutes or illicit sexual partners for others.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1638. *Procure* is from French *procurer* from Latin *procurare* “to look after”. (OED)

In the corpus, there are four tokens of *procuress*. Examples:

168) “Margery, in her swift change of attitude abandoning her loyalty to her absent husband in favour of a sexual liaison with Wilekin, is a parallel to the woman in *Cele qui se fist foutre sur la fosse de son mari*; and as an elderly **procuress**, operating through feigning grief and gaining sympathy, Dame Sirith finds a parallel in *Auberee...*” [HXS 633]<sup>169</sup>

169) “But one cannot overlook the point that all other known medieval European versions of this tale, written in or translated from Latin prose, present it as a moral example; it can be allegorized, with the housewife as the Christian soul, the absent husband Christ, the lover worldly vanity, the **procuress** the Devil.” [HXS 705]<sup>170</sup>

## progenitress

It means “a female ancestor or parent.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1611. *Progenitor* is from Latin *progenitor* ancestor. (OED)

In the BNC, there is one token of the word:

170) “The **progenitress** of the Stewart line with Robert was his first wife, Elizabeth Mure of Rowallan, a member of another ancient Ayrshire family.” [BM6 858]<sup>171</sup>

## prophetess

According to the OED, it was first used cca 1350. It refers to “a woman who prophesies, a female *prophet*; a woman who foretells the future, or claims to do so; a sibyl.” (OED) It is from “post-classical Latin *prophetissa* female prophet.” (OED)

In the corpus, there are 10 tokens of the word. Examples:

---

<sup>169</sup> The fabliau in English. Hines, John, Longman Group UK Ltd, Harlow (1993), 1-139

<sup>170</sup> The fabliau in English. Hines, John, Longman Group UK Ltd, Harlow (1993), 1-139

<sup>171</sup> Ayrshire heritage. Boyle, Andrew, Alloway Publishing Ltd, Darvel, Ayrshire (1990), 17-94

171) "Mother Shipton is England's most famous **Prophetess**." [B3K 2107]<sup>172</sup>

172) "Cassandra Willmott... my fascinating little **prophetess**." [G1S 792]<sup>173</sup>

173) "Similarly, the mid-seventeenth-century **prophetess**, Anna Trapnel stresses that her discourse is that of God, gathered from Scripture and not her own." [HH4 673]<sup>174</sup>

### proprietress

It means a female *proprietor*. (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1692. *Proprietress* is derived "from *proprietor* from *proprietary* from Latin *proprietrus* (owner)." (OED)

In the BNC, I found 27 tokens of the noun *proprietress*. Examples:

174) "Cathy Parker, **proprietress** of the Castang hotel in the Dordogne, says she refuses them because of a Ff38 (£3.80) transaction fee." [AHB 332]<sup>175</sup>

175) "Standing in their midst, beaming out at the camera, her arms linked with two guests, was the plump figure of Madame Melasse, the former **proprietress**." [FEM 136]<sup>176</sup>

176) "She was now the **proprietress** of the Rose Bowl." [H8S 3914]<sup>177</sup>

### protectress

It denotes "a female *protector* or guardian; a patroness" or "a female protector or regent of a kingdom or state." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1570. It is derived from *protector* from Latin *protector* "person (or god) who protects." (OED)

In the corpus, I found six tokens of the word. Examples:

177) "Hera was also the **protectress** of the home and domestic industry." [CAC 1518]<sup>178</sup>

178) "At the top of its high cliffs is the sanctuary of the goddess Sampanena, **protectress** of mariners." [FEP 1340]<sup>179</sup>

---

<sup>172</sup> [Tourist information: York]. u.p..

<sup>173</sup> Strawberries and wine. Nash, E, New Author Publications, Cheltenham (1993), 181-280

<sup>174</sup> New latitudes. Healy, Thomas, Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, Sevenoaks, Kent (1992), 7-124

<sup>175</sup> Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 1992-04-04: Business section. The Daily Telegraph plc, London (1992-19-19)

<sup>176</sup> Old serpent Nile. Stewart, Stanley, John Murray (Publishers) Ltd, London (1991), 3-120

<sup>177</sup> Hunter's harem. Rees, Eleanor, Mills & Boon, Richmond, Surrey (1992)

<sup>178</sup> Myths, gods and fantasy: a sourcebook. Allardice, Pamela, Prism Press, Bridport, Dorset (1990), 30-155

<sup>179</sup> Ring of fire. Blair, Lorne, Bantam (Corgi), London (1988), 9-127

179) *"Hector, distressed, gave a whimper and hid himself in the skirts of his chosen **protectress**."* [HGV 2974]<sup>180</sup>

### **sculptress**

The word means a female *sculptor*. (OED) It is from Latin *sculptor*. (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1662.

In the British National Corpus, there are 11 tokens *sculptress*. Examples:

180) *"One of my daughters is a **sculptress**, and one was a model but now she's retired and has a baby - whatever makes them happy."* [CH8 972]<sup>181</sup>

181) *"Corinne Mercardier, photographer, draughtswoman and **sculptress**, who in recent years has concentrated on landscape, continues her explorations in scenes from her everyday life."* [EBX 2125]<sup>182</sup>

182) *"Promising young Persian **sculptress**, Houshiary, whose 'The Earth and the Angel', a recent acquisition by the Tate Gallery, looks particularly handsome in the museum's New Displays, has created three new sculptures and a suite of large drawings for this exhibition."* [EBT 2683]<sup>183</sup>

### **seamstress**

Also *seamstress* is one of the words of Anglo-Saxon origin. It refers to "a woman who seams or sews; a needlewoman whose occupation is plain sewing as distinguished from dress or mantle-making, decorative embroidery, etc." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1644. It is originally from "OE. *séamestre*, fem. formation corresponding to *séamere* (tailor)." (OED)

In the corpus, there are 26 tokens of the noun *seamstress*. Examples:

183) *"Sarah is 33 and a gifted **seamstress**."* [A7D 1780]<sup>184</sup>

184) *"One farmer's wife had a 52-week job as a **seamstress**, with an average of 24 hours per week."* [ALC 526]<sup>185</sup>

---

<sup>180</sup> Hidden flame. Bailey, Elizabeth, Mills - Boon, Richmond, Surrey (1993)

<sup>181</sup> In good company. Aspel, Michael, Robson Books Ltd, London (1989), 13-134

<sup>182</sup> The Art Newspaper. Umberto Allemandi - Company, London (1992-19-19)

<sup>183</sup> The Art Newspaper. Umberto Allemandi - Company, London (1992-19-19)

<sup>184</sup> Country Living. The National Magazine Company Ltd, London (1991-19-19)

<sup>185</sup> Effective training for family and part-time farmers. Birkbeck, David, The Arkleton Trust, Langholm, Dumfriesshire (1985), 9-96

185) *"My mother worked as a **seamstress** at the Fabra and Coats factory."* [GON 3982]<sup>186</sup>

### **seductress**

The word refers to "a female *seducer* - one who seduces, a misleader, seducer." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1803. *Seducer* is "from OF. *seducteur* from L. *seductor*." (OED)

In the BNC, there are six tokens of the word. Examples:

186) *"Women felt they were being asked to fulfil two contradictory roles, that of the homemaker and the **seductress**, simultaneously."* [ACS 833]<sup>187</sup>

187) *"They look for femme fatale, a Mata Hari of world finance, a **seductress**."* [HGJ 525]<sup>188</sup>

188) *"Perhaps that foul **seductress** had developed a way of doing it absolutely noiselessly, and without movement."* [HA0 2417]<sup>189</sup>

### **seeress**

Seeress is one of the words of Anglo-Saxon origin. It means "a female seer." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1845. See is from OE. *séon*. (OED)

In the corpus, I got one result for seeress:

189) *"To everyone's surprise, Aenarion took another wife, the strange, mysterious and beautiful **seeress** Morathi whom he had rescued from a band of Slaanesh worshippers."* [CM1 568]<sup>190</sup>

---

<sup>186</sup> Hand in glove. Goddard, Robert, Corgi Books, London (1993), 267-404

<sup>187</sup> The fifties: portrait of an age. Lewis, Peter, The Herbert Press Ltd, London (1989)

<sup>188</sup> Darcy's Utopia. Weldon, Fay, Flamingo, London (1991)

<sup>189</sup> A tupolev too far. Aldiss, Brian, HarperCollins, London (1993), 35-159

<sup>190</sup> High elves. King, Bill and Chambers, Andy, Games Workshop, Nottingham (1993), 4-81

## shepherdess

Again, *shepherdess* is one of the words of Anglo-Saxon origin. The word refers to “a female *shepherd*; a woman or girl who tends sheep; also *fig.* in pastoral poetry.” (OED) *Shepherd* is from OE. *scéaphirde*. (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1387-8.

In the British National Corpus, there are 20 tokens of the word. Examples:

190) “They could hear his rapid speech and then the fat **shepherdess's** delighted scream of laughter.” [CJX 480]<sup>191</sup>

191) “In real life she'd been a poor **shepherdess** who lived in a dungeon and had asthma.” [GUK 1343]<sup>192</sup>

192) “One day, as the giant and Wolf head were hunting in the dale, they came upon a **shepherdess** called Gunda who was minding her flocks.” [EWB 384]<sup>193</sup>

## songstress

Also *songstress* is one of the words of Anglo-Saxon origin. *Songstress* refers to “a female singer; a poetess” or “a female singing-bird.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1703. *Songstress* is derived from *songster* from OE. *sangystre*. (OED)

In the BNC, there are seven tokens of the word. Examples:

193) “The Scottish stand-off, who was among the Lions replacements, was forced to parade, bouquet in hand, from behind one set of posts to the red carpet on the half-wayline as chaperone to Mireille Mathieu, the French **songstress** who had just rendered all three verses of the Marseillaise (with the chorus repeated each time).” [A3L 141]<sup>194</sup>

194) “Whenever a female singer reached a high A, the cat would reach out and close the **songstress's** mouth with her paw.” [BMG 43]<sup>195</sup>

195) “In America, Turner shares management with Greenwich Village **songstress** Suzanne Vega, a factor which he feels has not entirely been in his favour.” [ED7 2700]<sup>196</sup>

---

<sup>191</sup> Death in springtime. Nabb, Magdalen, Collins, UK (1989), 13-146

<sup>192</sup> Daughters of the house. Roberts, Michele, Virago Press Ltd, London (1993), 30-153

<sup>193</sup> Walking the Dales. Harding, Mike, Michael Joseph Ltd, London (1989), 51-129

<sup>194</sup> Independent, electronic edition of 1989-10-07: Sport pages. Newspaper Publishing plc, London (1989-19-19)

<sup>195</sup> Catlore. Morris, Desmond, Cape, London (1989), 5-114

<sup>196</sup> Hot Press. Hot Press, Dublin, Ireland (1991-11)

## sorceress

The word denotes “a female *sorcerer*; a witch.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used cca 1384. *Sorceress* is “from AF. *sorceresse*, -*esce*, *sorcer* is from OF. *sorcier*.” (OED) “*Sorceress* (c.1384) is attested much earlier than *sorcerer* (1526).” (<<http://www.etymonline.com/>>)

In the BNC, I found 39 tokens of *sorceress*. Examples:

196) “The daughter of a sea-NYMPH and HELIOS the sun god, Circe was a powerful **sorceress** who despised men and would poison and trick them whenever she could.” [CAC 494]<sup>197</sup>

197) “The **sorceress** could see into the future, and she could see how her curse might again fall on us.” [G10 1222]<sup>198</sup>

198) “A beautiful **sorceress**,’ he muttered, and then he was kissing her - on her face, on her throat, in her hair, on her mouth.” [JY9 1329]<sup>199</sup>

## stewardess

*Stewardess*, too, is one of the words of Anglo-Saxon origin. The word refers to “a female who performs the duties of a *steward*.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1631. It is also used as “a female attendant on a passenger aircraft who attends to the needs and comfort of the passengers; = *air hostess*.” (OED) With this meaning, it was first used in 1931. (OED) *Stewardess* is derived from *steward* from “O.E. *stiward*, *stigweard* house guardian, from *stig* hall, pen + *weard* guard.” (<<http://www.etymonline.com/>>)

In the corpus, there are 65 tokens of the word. Examples:

199) “Mrs Lynn Hooper, aged 25, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, the British Airways **stewardess** alleged to have sold champagne to passengers, is to leave BA and accept £9,500 compensation.” [A7W 219]<sup>200</sup>

200) “Then a **stewardess** said they had another passenger with stomach pains.” [CBE 2141]<sup>201</sup>

---

<sup>197</sup> Myths, gods and fantasy: a sourcebook. Allardice, Pamela, Prism Press, Bridport, Dorset (1990), 30-155

<sup>198</sup> The lost prince. Wood, B, Headline Book Publishing plc, London (1992)

<sup>199</sup> Sudden fire. Oldfield, Elizabeth, Mills <sup>1</sup> 0026 Boon, Richmond, Surrey (1993)

<sup>200</sup> The Guardian, electronic edition of 1989-11-08: Home news pages. Guardian Newspapers Ltd, London (1989-19-19).

<sup>201</sup> Today. News Group Newspapers Ltd, London (1992-12)

201) "It's all part of the training every Delta **Stewardess** goes through." [CFV 997]<sup>202</sup>

### **tailoress**

The word is derived from *tailor* from "AF. *taillour* = OF. *tailleur*, -eur (oblique case of *tailler(r)e*); in mod.F. *tailleur*." (OED) It means "a woman who works as a tailor; a woman tailor. One whose business is to make clothes." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1654.

In the BNC, there are four tokens of *tailoress*. Examples:

202) "She worked as a **tailoress** with the Tailoring Guild for many years and had made lots of good friends amongst her work-mates." [BN3 1410]<sup>203</sup>

203) "The only thing is, I didn't really want to be a **tailoress**, I wanted to be a nurse, but hadn't much choice, then." [FY3 105]<sup>204</sup>

### **temptress**

The word refers to "a female *tempter*." (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1594. *Temptress* is derived from *tempter* from "O.Fr. *tempter* (12c.), from L. *temptare* (to feel, try out, attempt to influence, test)."

(<<http://www.etymonline.com/>>)

In the BNC, I found 40 tokens of the noun *temptress*. Examples:

204) "The idealized goddess and the erotic **temptress** were realized in the persons of different women." [ACS 835]<sup>205</sup>

205) "Lilith appears in the guise of a seductive **temptress** to lure men to their peril." [HRP 714]<sup>206</sup>

206) "That is the mouth of a **temptress**, a seductress." [JXS 425]<sup>207</sup>

---

<sup>202</sup> [Advertising Standards Authority]. u.p..

<sup>203</sup> Memories of the Gorbals. Caplan, Jack, The Pentland Press Ltd, Durham (1991), 1-97

<sup>204</sup> Nottingham Oral History Project: interview

<sup>205</sup> The fifties: portrait of an age. Lewis, Peter, The Herbert Press Ltd, London (1989)

<sup>206</sup> Women's Art. Townsend, S, Women artists slide library, London (1992-19-19)

<sup>207</sup> Battle for love. Howard, Stephanie, Mills <sup>1</sup> 0026 Boon, Richmond, Surrey (1991)

## **tigress**

It refers to “a female *tiger*” or “a fierce, cruel, or tiger-like woman; a vulgarly or obtrusively overdressed woman.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1611. *Tiger* is from Latin *tigris*. (OED)

In the corpus, there are 47 tokens of *tigress*. Examples:

207) “Brig Ramsey fought like a **tigress** to save the WRAC’s cap badge.” [AJU 1256]<sup>208</sup>

208) “A **tigress** with cubs is on her own.” [CK2 129]<sup>209</sup>

209) “Give a madwoman the strength of a **tigress**?” [CM4 2746]<sup>210</sup>

## **traitress**

It is a female equivalent of *traitor*. I did not find the word in the corpus, but it is listed in the OED. It is originally from French *traîtresse*. (OED) *Traitress* means “a female *traitor*; a traitorous or treacherous woman (or being personified as a woman). Sometimes in an attenuated or playful sense.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1369.

## **trampess**

*Trampess* is one of the words of Anglo-Saxon origin. OED only lists it in the entry on *tramp*. (OED) In slang, *tramp* is also used for “a sexually promiscuous woman.” (OED) *Tramp* is from “ME. *trampe-n* = Ger., LG. *trampen*.” (OED)

In the corpus, I got one result for *trampess*:

210) “Do you want to rescue these horrible garments, these symbols of pettiness and giggling, for Daniel to give to some **trampess**?” [FET 755]<sup>211</sup>

---

<sup>208</sup> Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 1992-04-10: Foreign news pages. The Daily Telegraph plc, London (1992-19-19)

<sup>209</sup> Kingdoms of the East. Willock, Colin, Boxtree, London (1991), 24-185

<sup>210</sup> Inquisitor. Watson, Ian, Boxtree, London (1993), 7-159

<sup>211</sup> Still life. Byatt, A S, Penguin Group, London (1988), 1-84

## villainess

The word refers to a female *villain*. (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1586. *Villain* is from “AF. and OF. *vilein*, *vilain*, *villain* from L. *villanus*.” (OED)

In the corpus, there are nine tokens of the noun villainess. Examples:

211) “The older woman is the **villainess** of the piece and true love triumphs in the end.” [C9U 570]<sup>212</sup>

212) “She was cast as the selfish **villainess** of the drama, her husband the innocent injured party.” [ECM 277]<sup>213</sup>

213) “Kid must want to be a Disney cartoon **villainess** when she grows up.” [CH0 1603]<sup>214</sup>

## waitress

It is a female equivalent of *waiter*. The word has its origin in “AF. *\*waitour*, OF. *weitteor*, *gaiteor*.” (OED) It means “a woman who waits upon the guests at a hotel, restaurant, etc. Also one hired for a similar purpose on special occasions to supplement the staff of a private household.” (OED) According to the OED, it was first used in 1834.

In the BNC, I got 280 tokens of the word. Examples:

214) “At breakfast, a dozy **waitress** brings the wrong things.” [AHC 1204]<sup>215</sup>

215) “I worked part-time as a **waitress** and office cleaner;” [CA9 1089]<sup>216</sup>

216) “A teenage **waitress** has been left a £300,000 tip by a man who used to dine at her restaurant.” [CBF 3471]<sup>217</sup>

---

<sup>212</sup> Dustin Hoffman. Bergan, Ronald, Virgin, London (1991), 43-136

<sup>213</sup> Diana: her true story. Morton, A, Michael O'Mara, London (1993), 1-90

<sup>214</sup> Krokodil tears. Yeovil, Jack, GW Books Ltd, Brighton (1990), 9-152

<sup>215</sup> Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 1992-04-04: Leisure pages. The Daily Telegraph plc, London (1992-19-19).

<sup>216</sup> A coward's chronicles. Caine, Marti, Century Hutchinson, London (1990), 1-139

<sup>217</sup> Today. News Group Newspapers Ltd, London (1992-12)

## 7. Conclusion

In this work, I concentrated on English suffixes and their productivity. I especially focused on the productivity of feminine suffixes *-ess* and *-ette* borrowed from French.

In the first part I concentrated on the theoretical background of the productivity and the phenomenon of gender in English and Czech. Gender in English is primarily semantic whereas in Czech the feature of gender is highly grammaticalized. I also mentioned the topic of political correctness in language. Then I described how the suffixes *-ess* and *-ette* are used in English. The suffix *-ess* is employed to create distinctively feminine nouns. In addition to form nouns denoting females, the suffix *-ette* is used also in words meaning a smaller version or an imitation of something. Finally I introduced the sources I had used for my research: the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and the British National Corpus (BNC).

In the second part I presented the data of my research. I listed the words with suffixes *-ette* and *-ess* denoting female gender, which I had found in the BNC. I found out their etymology in the OED. I also stated what each word means and when it was first used. Most of the words are borrowed from French or directly from Latin (a detailed study of etymology is beyond the scope of this thesis). Only 8 words have English origin, that means that the Roman suffix *-ess* is added to Old English or more specifically Anglo-Saxon stem: *goddess*, *huntress*, *seamstress*, *seeress*, *shepherdess*, *songstress*, *stewardess* and *trampess*.

*Goddess* means a female deity in polytheistic systems of religion. It is a word from 14<sup>th</sup> century. The stem '*god*' or '*go*' appears also in Old Frisian, Old Saxon, Dutch, Old German or Old Norse.

*Huntress* is also from 14<sup>th</sup> century. It denotes a woman (or goddess) who hunts or engages in the chase. The stem is originally from Old English *huntian*.

*Seamstress* refers to a woman who seams or sews. The word was first used in 1644. The stem is originally from Old English *séamestre*. According to the OED, in Old English *-estre* was freely used to form feminine agent-nouns. "In northern Middle English, however, perhaps owing to the frequent adoption by men of trades like weaving, baking, tailoring, etc., the suffix came very early to be used as an agential ending irrespective of gender. ... From the 16th century onwards the older words in *-ster*, so far as they survived, have been regarded as masculines, and several of them have given rise to feminines in *-ess*, as *backstress*, *seamstress*, *songstress*, *huckstress*." (OED)

*Seeress* means a female *seer* (= a person of supposed supernatural insight who sees visions of the future). It was first used in 1845. The stem *see* is formed from Old English *séon*.

*Shepherdess* denotes a woman or girl who tends sheep. The stem *shepherd* is from Old English *scéaphirde*. *Shepherdess* was first used at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

*Songstress* refers to a female *singer* or a *poetess*. It was first used in 1703 and the stem is derived from *songster* from Old English *sangystre*.

*Stewardess* is originally a female who performs the duties of a *steward*. With this meaning it was first attested in 1631. *Stewardess* is derived from *steward* from Old English *stiward*, *stigweard* (house guardian).

*Trampess* is listed in the OED in the entry on *tramp*. The stem is from Middle English *trampe-n*.

Due to the examples from the British National Corpus I found out that a group of expressions linked in coordination often tends to reflect gender: “*Corinne Mercardier, photographer, **draughtswoman** and **sculptress**, who in recent years has concentrated on landscape, continues her explorations in scenes from her everyday life.*” [EBX 2125]<sup>218</sup>

Words in the group denoting rank or title (*ambadress, baroness, countess, duchess, marchioness, mayoress, peeress, princess*) are also used to refer to the wife of a man who holds the mentioned position.

Arguably, many of the feminine nouns with suffix –ess seem to be considered as derogatory, offensive or politically incorrect (e. g. *negress, trampess*). Unfortunately, a detailed analysis of all the contexts goes far beyond the scope of this thesis.

The result of my bachelor thesis is that the Roman suffixes –ess and –ette do not seem to be productive in English (there are only 8 words originally from Old English) and new words containing these suffixes are not being created (with exception of the word *bachelorette* which came to English in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is chiefly used in Canada and America). The words with suffixes denoting gender seem to be progressively disappearing from everyday language because of political correctness.

---

<sup>218</sup> The Art Newspaper. Umberto Allemandi - Company, London (1992-19-19)

## 8. Bibliography

Bělíček, Pavel. *Modern English Grammar*. Prague: Urania Publishers, 1994.

Crystal, David. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Dušková, Libuše. *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny*. Praha: Academia, 2003.

Fromkin, V., Rodman, R. *An introduction to language*. Boston: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1998.

Huddleston, Rodney. *The Cambridge grammar of the English language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Pepřík, Jaroslav. *English Lexicology*. FF UP Olomouc, 2001.

Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., Svartvik, J. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. London: Longman, 1985.

Veselovská, Ludmila. *English Morphology and Morphosyntax*. FF UP Olomouc, 2005.

Yule, George. *The Study of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

*The American Heritage Book of English Usage*. Boston: Houghton, 1996.

*Oxford English Dictionary*  
<<http://www.oed.com/>>

*British National Corpus: BNC World Edition 2001*  
<<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk>>

*Online Etymology Dictionary*  
<<http://www.etymonline.com>>

*Merriam & Webster Dictionary*  
<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>>

*Dictionary.com*  
<<http://dictionary.reference.com>>

*The Free Dictionary*  
<[www.thefreedictionary.com](http://www.thefreedictionary.com)>

## 9. List of abbreviations

ad.	adaptation of
AF.	Anglo-French
c.	century
c., cca	circa
Du.	Dutch
e.g.	exempli gratia, 'for example'
Eng.	English
esp.	especially
f.	from
fem.	feminine
fig.	figurative(ly)
Fr.	French
Ger., LG.	German, Low German
Goth.	Gothic
immed.	immediately
L.	Latin
masc.	masculine
ME.	Middle English
med.	medieval
MF.	Middle French
mod.	modern
neut.	neuter
n., nom.	noun, nominative
OE., O.E.	Old English
OF., OFr.	Old French
OFris.	Old Frisian
OHG.	Old High German
ON.	Old Norse
OS.	Old Saxon
pl.	plural
sing.	singular

## 10. Shrnutí

Ve své práci jsem se zaměřila na vybrané sufixy románského původu a jejich produktivitu v angličtině.

V první části se zabývám teoretickým základem problému produktivity. Lidský jazyk je proces, který se neustále vyvíjí. Je charakteristický tzv. pružnou stabilitou: odolává náhlým změnám, ale zároveň odráží vývoj lidské společnosti. Neustále se objevují nové předměty a situace, které je nutno pojmenovat. Nová slova vznikají průběžně ve všech jazycích. Produktivitou nazýváme právě schopnost jazyka vytvářet nové výrazy. Produktivita může být také dostupnost určitého výrazu pro tvoření nových slov. Říkáme-li, že určitý afix je stále produktivní, znamená to, že se při tvoření slov stále uplatňuje. Můžeme brát v úvahu také stupeň produktivity, tedy zda je daný proces produktivní více či méně než jiný.

Dále se zaměřuji na kategorii rodu v češtině a v angličtině. V anglickém jazyce se uplatňuje především rod přirozený, sémantický, který je založený na rozdílech mezi pohlavími a mezi osobami a neosobami. Vyskytuje se jen relativně malé množství slov, ve kterých je rod označen morfologicky. V češtině je rod především kategorií gramatickou. Čeština jako jazyk má bohatý systém skloňování a rod se projevuje příslušností podstatného jména k určitému deklinačnímu typu. Rod tedy závisí na gramatické formě slova.

V následující části pojednávám o sufixech *-ess* a *-ette* a jejich využití v angličtině. Obě přípony slouží k vytváření podstatných jmen vyjadřujících ženský rod. Přípona *-ette* je využívána také k tvoření slov označujících zdrobnělinu nebo napodobeninu něčeho.

Dále představuji zdroje, které jsem využívala při psaní této práce: slovník Oxford English Dictionary (OED) a korpus British National Corpus (BNC). OED je komplexní výkladový slovník zaznamenávající vývoj angličtiny přibližně od roku 1150 až do dnešní doby. Ke každému slovu poskytuje velmi obsáhlou etymologii, což jsem využila pro potřeby své práce. BNC je soubor textů z různých zdrojů. Obsahuje 100 milionů slov, 90 % tvoří texty psané, 10 % jsou transkripce mluveného slova. Pro vyhledávání v korpusu jsem používala program SARA.

V praktické části prezentuji výsledky své práce. S pomocí korpusu a slovníku OED jsem vyhledala 53 podstatných jmen (z toho 39 vlastních ženských jmen) vyjadřujících ženský rod s příponou *-ette* a 72 s příponou *-ess*. Ve slovníku OED jsem vyhledávala etymologii těchto slov a dobu, kdy přibližně byla poprvé použita v angličtině. V práci uvádím také příklady vět z BNC. Většina slov je francouzského, případně latinského původu; ačkoli se mi podařilo zjistit, že některá v dané podobě se sufixem *-ette* či *-ess* existují pouze v angličtině a ve francouzštině nikoliv. Jen v 8 případech byl sufix *-ess* přidán k základu původem ze staré angličtiny: *goddess*, *huntress*, *seamstress*, *seeress*, *shepherdess*, *songstress*, *stewardess* a *trampess*. V ostatních případech bylo slovo celé přejato z francouzštiny (případně latiny) nebo byla přípona *-ette* či *-ess* přidána později k již dříve přejatému základu slova.

Na základě tohoto průzkumu jsem došla k závěru, že přípony *-ette* a *-ess* se v anglickém jazyce nezdají být produktivní. Používání slov obsahující přípony označující ženský rod bude v budoucnu pravděpodobně nadále omezováno z důvodu politické korektnosti v jazyce.

## Anotace

<b>Příjmení a jméno autora</b>	Jana Sochorová
<b>Název katedry a fakulty</b>	Filozofická fakulta UP, Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky
<b>Název bakalářské práce</b>	English Suffixes and their Productivity
<b>Vedoucí bakalářské práce</b>	Mgr. Michaela Martinková, PhD.
<b>Počet znaků</b>	98 742
<b>Počet stran</b>	70
<b>Počet příloh</b>	0
<b>Počet titulů použité literatury</b>	16
<b>Rok obhajoby</b>	2009
<b>Klíčová slova</b>	Suffix, suffix –ess, suffix –ette, productivity, degree of productivity, gender, natural gender, grammatical gender, political correctness, Oxford English Dictionary, British National Corpus, SARA, etymology
<b>Jazyk práce</b>	angličtina
<b>Charakteristika</b>	Práce se zabývá vybranými sufíxy románského původu a zkoumá jejich produktivitu v angličtině.

<b>Author</b>	Jana Sochorová
<b>Department</b>	Filozofická fakulta UP, Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky
<b>Title</b>	English Suffixes and their Productivity
<b>Supervisor</b>	Mgr. Michaela Martinková, PhD.
<b>Number of characters</b>	98 742
<b>Number of pages</b>	70
<b>Number of appendices</b>	0
<b>Number of titles of used literature</b>	16
<b>Year of presentation</b>	2009
<b>Key words</b>	Suffix, suffix –ess, suffix –ette, productivity, degree of productivity, gender, natural gender, grammatical gender, political correctness, Oxford English Dictionary, British National Corpus, SARA, etymology
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Charakteristika</b>	This bachelor thesis deals with selected Roman suffixes and their productivity in English.