

Re: Why don't we spell cat with a K?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2004-06/1480.html>

From: Keith Edgerley (*edgerley.kj_at_bluewin.ch*)

Date: 06/19/04

Date: Sat, 19 Jun 2004 10:49:14 +0200

"Brian M. Scott" <b.scott@csuohio.edu> wrote in message
news:1fjgrwvx0ei8n.1g7dtozfs7r8c.dlg@40tude.net...
> *On Fri, 18 Jun 2004 11:55:36 -0400 "Harlan Messinger"*
> *<h.messinger@comcast.net> wrote in*
> *<news:2jghjpF10ttftU1@uni-berlin.de> in sci.lang:*
>
> > *"Keith Edgerley" <edgerley.kj@bluewin.ch> wrote in message*
> > *news:40d2fb37_3@news.bluewin.ch...*
>
> > > *"Harlan Messinger" <hmessinger.removethis@comcast.net> wrote in message*
> > > *news:fqj5d0dkjdgota9gio5vjib8sg4ee9ecgt@4ax.com...*
>
> > > > *"Keith Edgerley" <edgerley.kj@bluewin.ch> wrote:*
>
> > > > *[...]*
>
> > > > > *Tell that to my Swiss German friend Kathy Kurth, short for*
Katharina..
>
> > > > > *It's a borrowing from English, no? The diminutive "-y" is an English*
> > > > > *one. German ordinarily uses "-i".*
>
> > > *No. Why on earth should she use an English spelling here in*
Switzerland?
> > > *I was careful to say Swiss German.*
>
> > *Possibility 1: For the same reason people anywhere choose to give their*
> > *children a name or nickname from another culture?*
>
> > *Possibility 2: I didn't specify that it would have to have been a*
personal
> > *choice by your Kathy in particular. Without actually knowing the*
situation,
> > *it's conceivable that the name "Kathy" is in regular use in Switzerland,*
and
> > *that it was adopted from English.*
>

sci.lang: Re: Why don't we spell cat with a K?

> *Keith is half right.*

That's very kind of you. Perhaps we might remember that I am Swiss.

<Kat(h)i> ['kati] is a pretty common
> *Upper German pet form of <Katherina>, but the spelling*
> *<Kathy> is evidently influenced by the English pet form.*

This is weird.

It's true that when I first met Kathy, I assumed her name was spelt Kathi.
But it's not.

Why on earth should a Swiss German peasant girl – her parents' are farmers
in a really out of the way village – use an English spelling of her
abbreviated first name. Talk about ethnocentric!

I know "-i" is used: example "Köbi" (= "Jim") I have only ever seen that
way, but Willy, for instance seems to be written that way just as often as
Willi. Even for people born 100 years ago.

--
Keith Edgerley
owe war sint verswunden
alliu miniu jar