

Orthography supporting sound changes?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-01/msg00308.html>

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 - Date: Fri, 06 Jan 2006 09:28:57 +0100
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In principle, It appears not to be impossible to me that reversals of lossy sound changes could happen if the old pronunciation is preserved by writing. I'm thinking of a reversal of a sound merger, or re-appearance of a lost sound.

Are there any reported examples of such sound change reversals having happened, where it can be demonstrated (or at least is strongly believed by many) that the orthography was the only preserver of the old situation (so it was not also preserved by maybe regional or social variants of spoken language)?

Or are there strong arguments that this is impossible?

Joachim

- **Follow-Ups:**
 - ◆ **[Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?](#)**
◇ From: Prai Jei
 - ◆ **[Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?](#)**
◇ From: Helmut Richter
 - ◆ **[Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?](#)**
◇ From: Aidan Kehoe
 - ◆ **[Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?](#)**
◇ From: benlizross
 - ◆ **[Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?](#)**
◇ From: Barbara Need
 - ◆ **[Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?](#)**
◇ From: Peter T. Daniels
- Prev by Date: **[Re: Foreign is foreign, right?](#)**
- Next by Date: **[Re: Do Children Learn Languages at Different Rates?](#)**
- Previous by thread: **[yus](#)**
- Next by thread: **[Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?](#)**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **[Date](#)**
 - ◆ **[Thread](#)**