

## Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-01/msg00476.html>

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- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <[grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 07 Jan 2006 17:33:25 GMT
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Aidan Kehoe wrote:

>  
> Ar an seachtú lá de mí Eanáir, scríobh Peter T. Daniels:  
>  
>>> In article <dp1987\$gin\$01\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Joachim Pense wrote:  
>>>>  
>>>>> 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)?  
>>  
>> [...]  
>>  
>> You left out the most relevant point: children would have to learn to  
>> spell before they learned to talk.  
>  
> Because children are the only vectors of sound change?

Pretty much.

—  
Peter T. Daniels [grammatim@xxxxxxx](mailto:grammatim@xxxxxxx)

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- *Follow-Ups:*
    - ◆ **[Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?](#)**  
◇ *From:* Aidan Kehoe
  - *References:*
    - ◆ **[Orthography supporting sound changes?](#)**  
◇ *From:* Joachim Pense
    - ◆ **[Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?](#)**

Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?

◇ *From:* Helmut Richter

◆ **Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?**

◇ *From:* Peter T. Daniels

◆ **Re: Orthography supporting sound changes?**

◇ *From:* Aidan Kehoe

• Prev by Date: **Re: Do Children Learn Languag**