

"Phonological Typology of Syllable and Word Languages in Theory and Practice"

Workshop at FRIAS

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From *Kristel* to *Christina*, from *Klaus* to *Nico*:

German first names from 1945 to 2005 (2008)

and their relationship with the phonological word

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Typical structures of short words (clippings, acronyms, truncations)

	short words (<i>Limo, Ersti, Abi, Kita</i>)	common nouns (<i>Tag, Leut[ə], Vat[ɐ]</i>)
1)	open syllables	closed syllables
2)	if closed syllables, then word-initially	closed syllables also word- finally
3)	(almost) no ə	ə most frequent vowel
4)	most frequent vowels: <i>o – i – a</i>	most frequent vowels: <i>ə - e – i – a</i>

~ syllable language structures

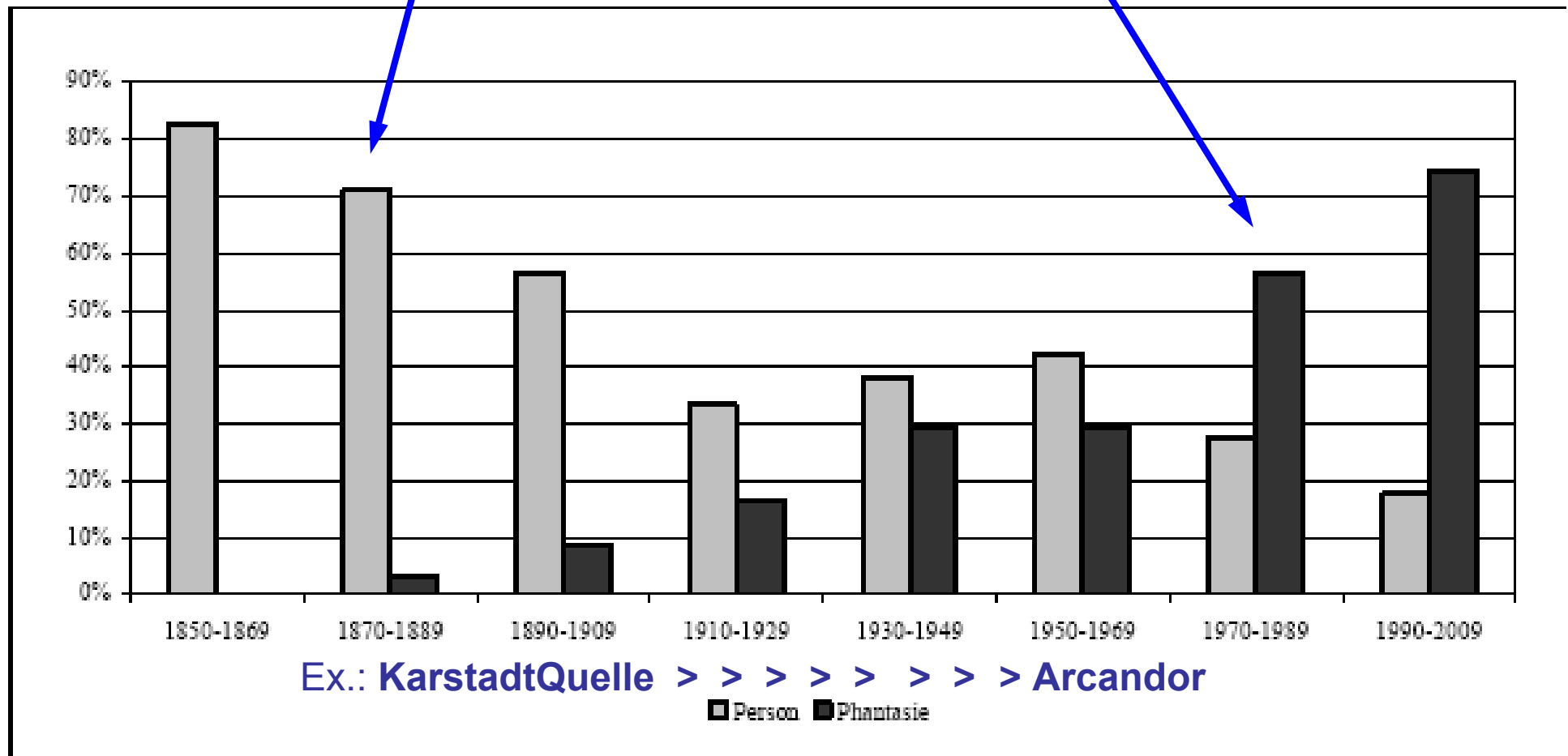
~ word language structures

(Ronneberger-Sibold 1995)

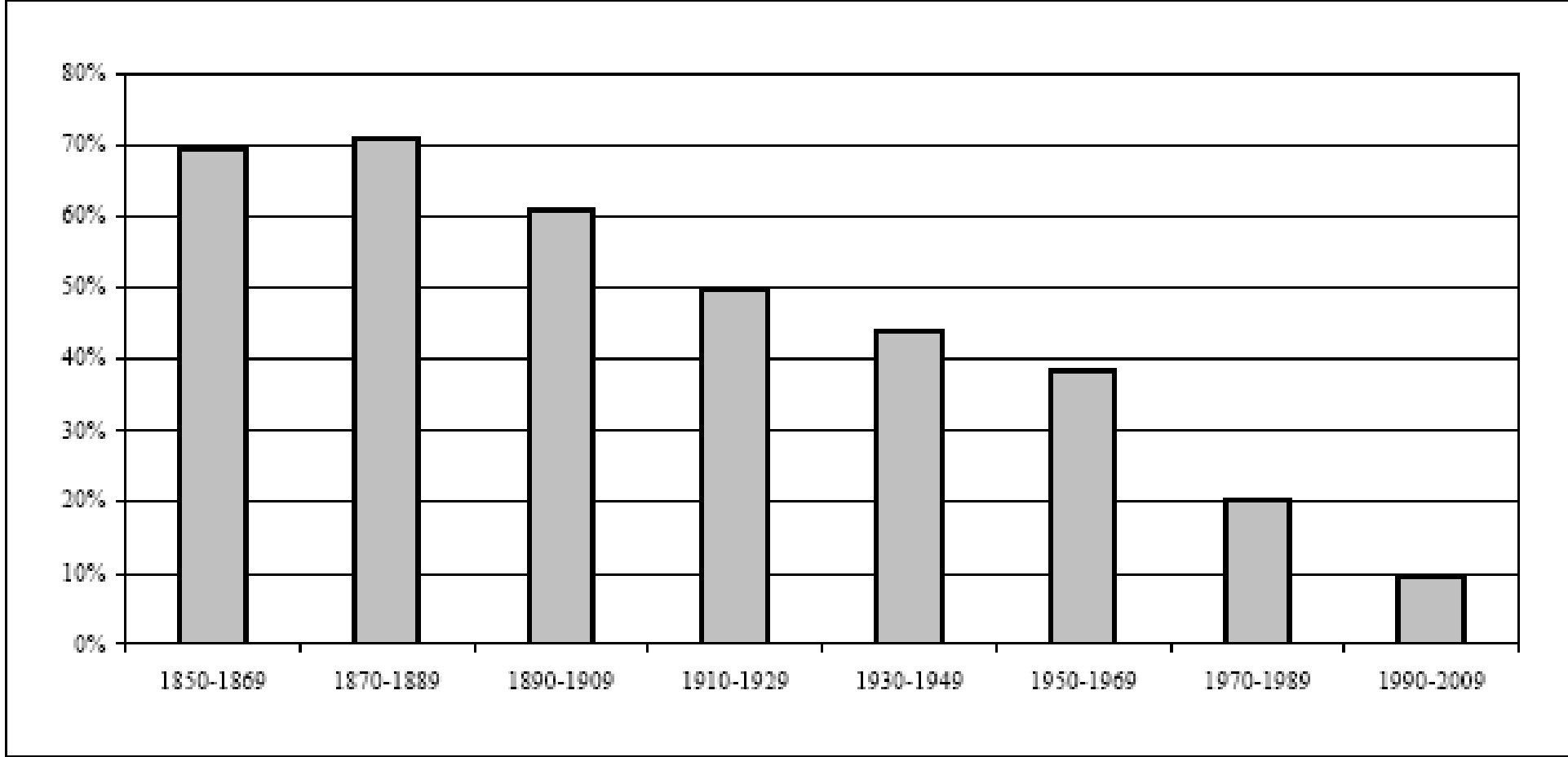
Company names

Base: 456 company names of the 160 most important stock-listed companies (291 renamings); time span: 1850-2009 (Fahlbusch 2009)

► Share of onymic (e.g. surnames) and invented components

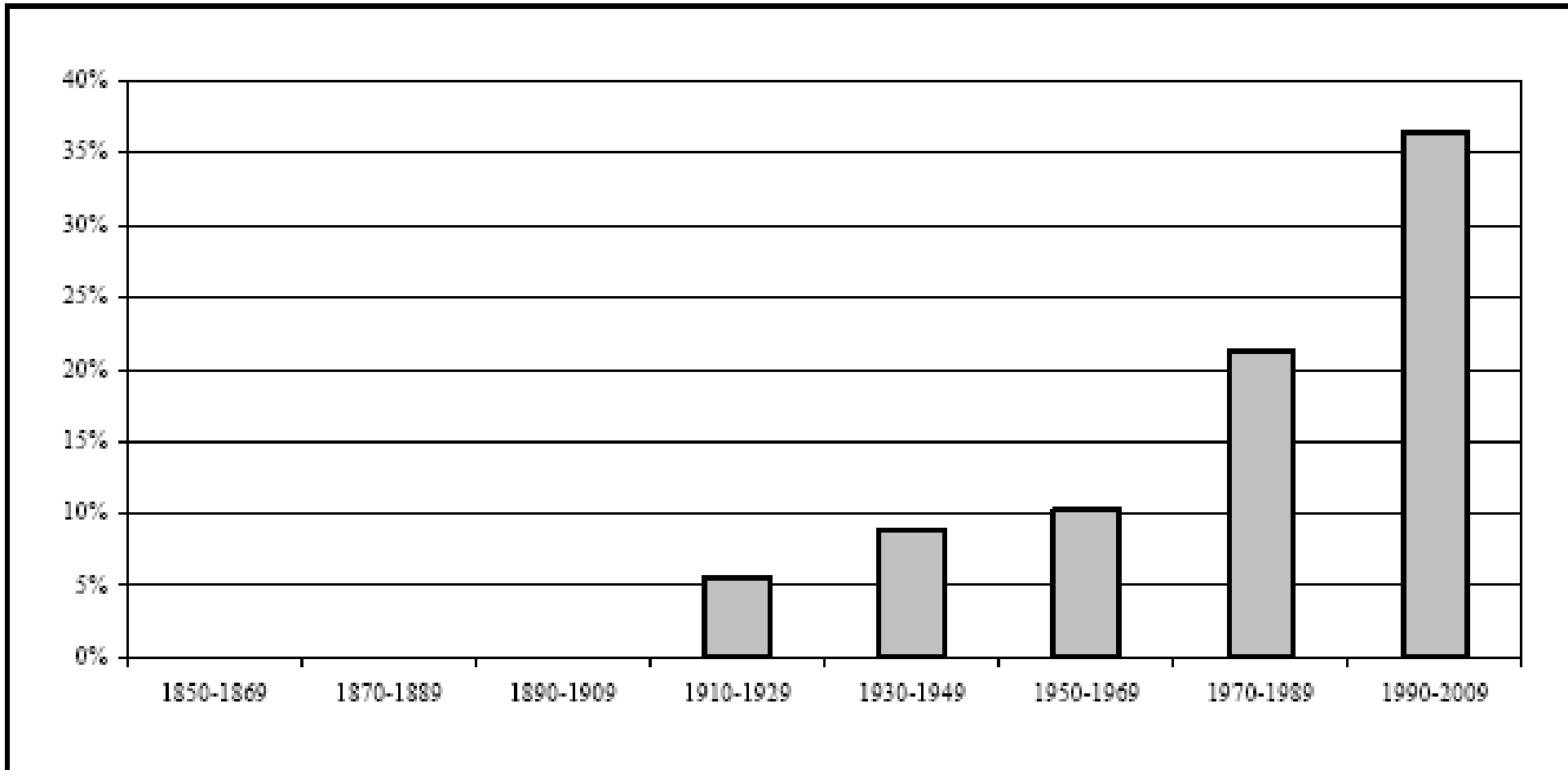


Company names: Share of (lexically) transparent names (Fahlbusch 2009)



Drogerie- und Farbwarenhandlung Gehe & Comp. (>> Celesio AG)

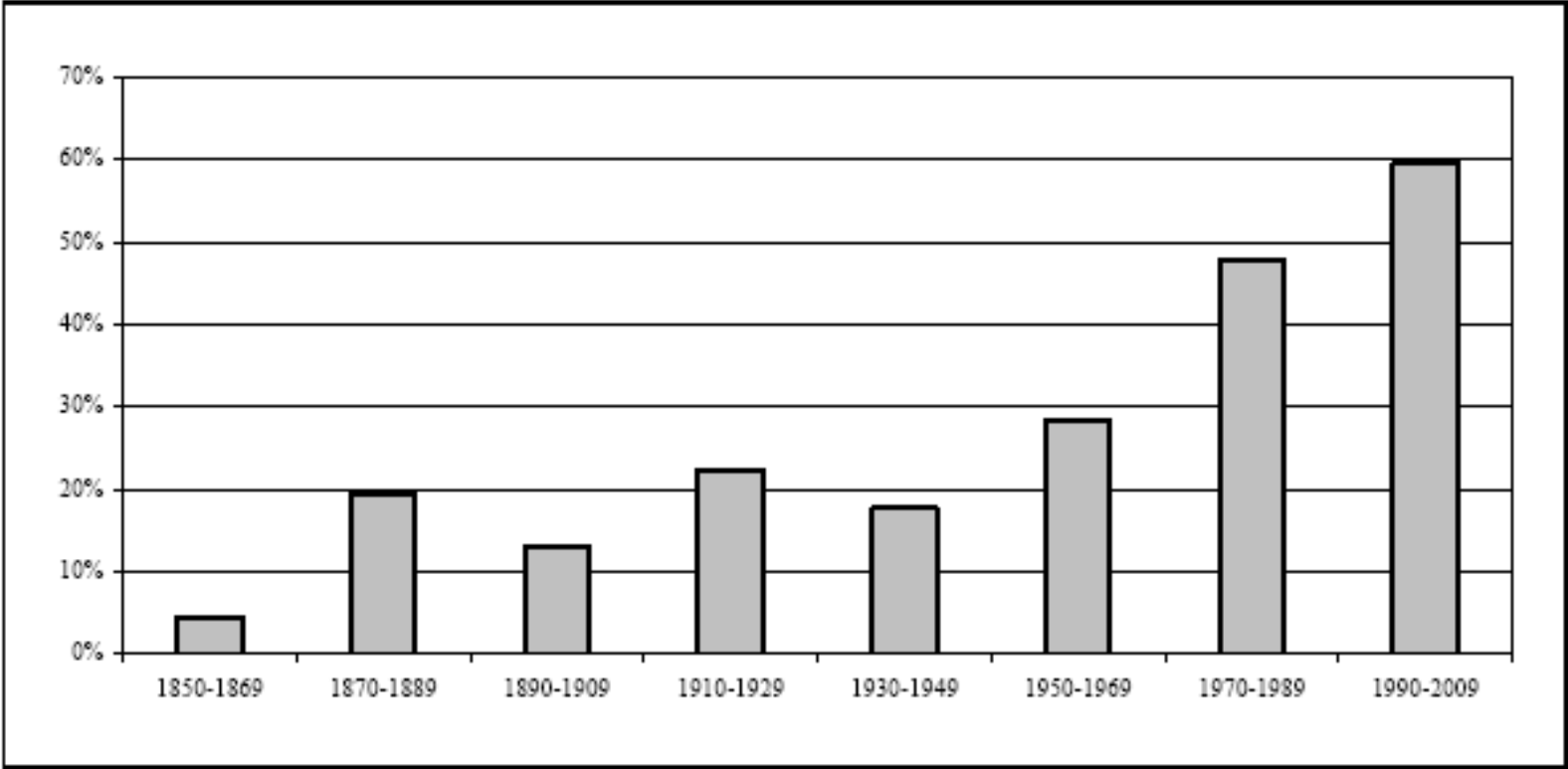
Company names: Share of foreign elements (Fahlbusch 2009)



*(HOCHTIEF Aktiengesellschaft, Haarmann & Reimer) >> **Symrise AG*** ^e

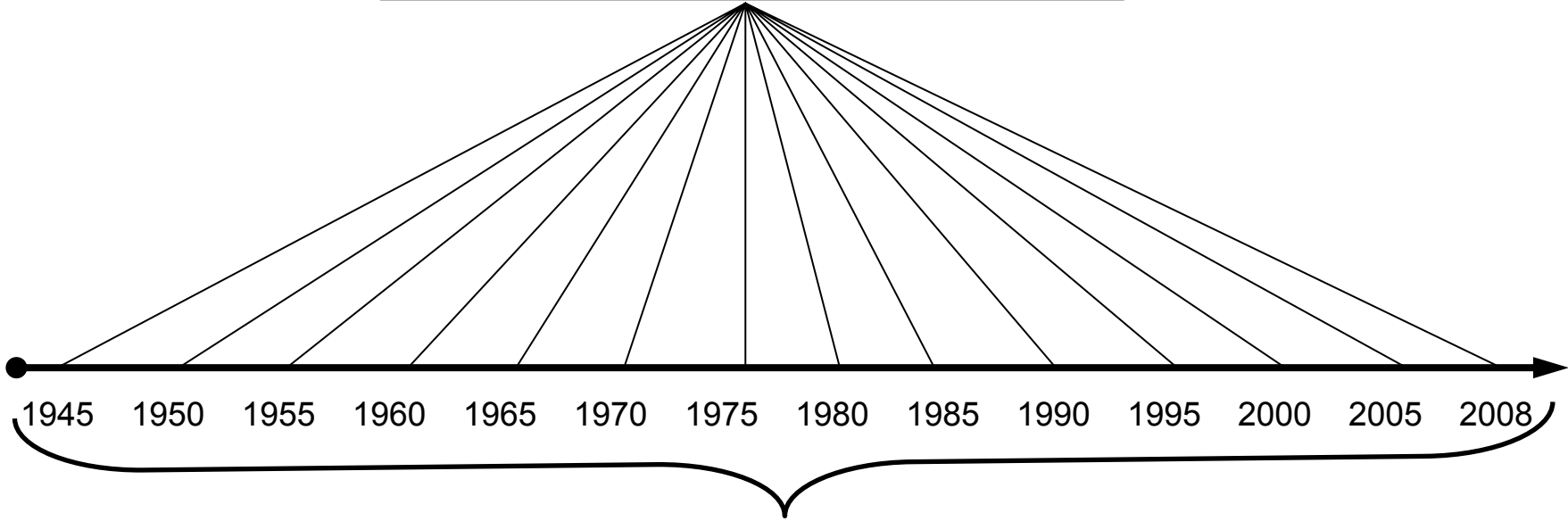
Company names: Share of graphical peculiarities

(Fahlbusch 2009)



C.A.T.oil GmbH (1991)
HeidelbergCement

Corpus:
20 most frequent girl's names
+ 20 most frequent boy's names
= 560 first names



14 subperiods /
time-cuts

Basis of comparison: 40 most frequent common nouns (*Jahr, Tag, Leute, Vater, Zeit ...*) - no diachronic change assumed

The most frequent common nouns

Nr.	Ruoff 1991
1	Jahr
2	Tag
3	Leute
4	Vater
5	Zeit
6	Haus
7	Mann
8	Wald
9	Kind
10	Krieg
11	Bauer
12	Geschäft
13	Sache
14	Mutter
15	Holz
16	Ding
17	Winter
18	Maschine
19	Hand
20	Woche

21	Frau
22	Vieh
23	Mark
24	Stunde
25	Arbeit
26	Hof
27	Geld
28	Schule
29	Stück
30	Bruder
31	Kuh
32	Landwirtschaft
33	Mädchen
34	Sommer
35	Morgen
36	Feld
37	Teil
38	Abend
39	Junge
40	Stall

(according to Ruoff
1991:
Spoken language in
Southwest Germany)

1	Renate	Hans
2	Monika	Peter
3	Karin	Klaus
4	Ursula	Wolfgang
5	Brigitte	Jürgen
6	Bärbel	Uwe
7	Elke	Bernd
8	Ingrid	Karl
9	Helga	Horst
10	Christa	Dieter
11	Gisela	Günther
12	Hannelore	Heinz
13	Jutta	Rainer
14	Barbara	Michael
15	Heike	Manfred
16	Christel	Rolf
17	Marion	Gerhard
18	Erika	Werner
19	Angelika	Gerd
20	Anke	Helmut

Top 20 First Names

1945

1	Sandra	Christian
2	Stephanie	Markus
3	Nicole	Michael
4	Kathrin	Stefan
5	Tanja	Andreas
6	Anja	Thomas
7	Ivonne	Alexander
8	Julia	Sven
9	Claudia	T(h)orsten
10	Melanie	Jan
11	Katja	Matthias
12	Nadine	Frank
13	Silke	Martin
14	Andrea	Jens
15	Sonja	Sebastian
16	Susanne	Marco
17	Bettina	Oliver
18	Daniela	Andre/André
19	Sabine	Mark/Marc
20	Alexandra	Daniel

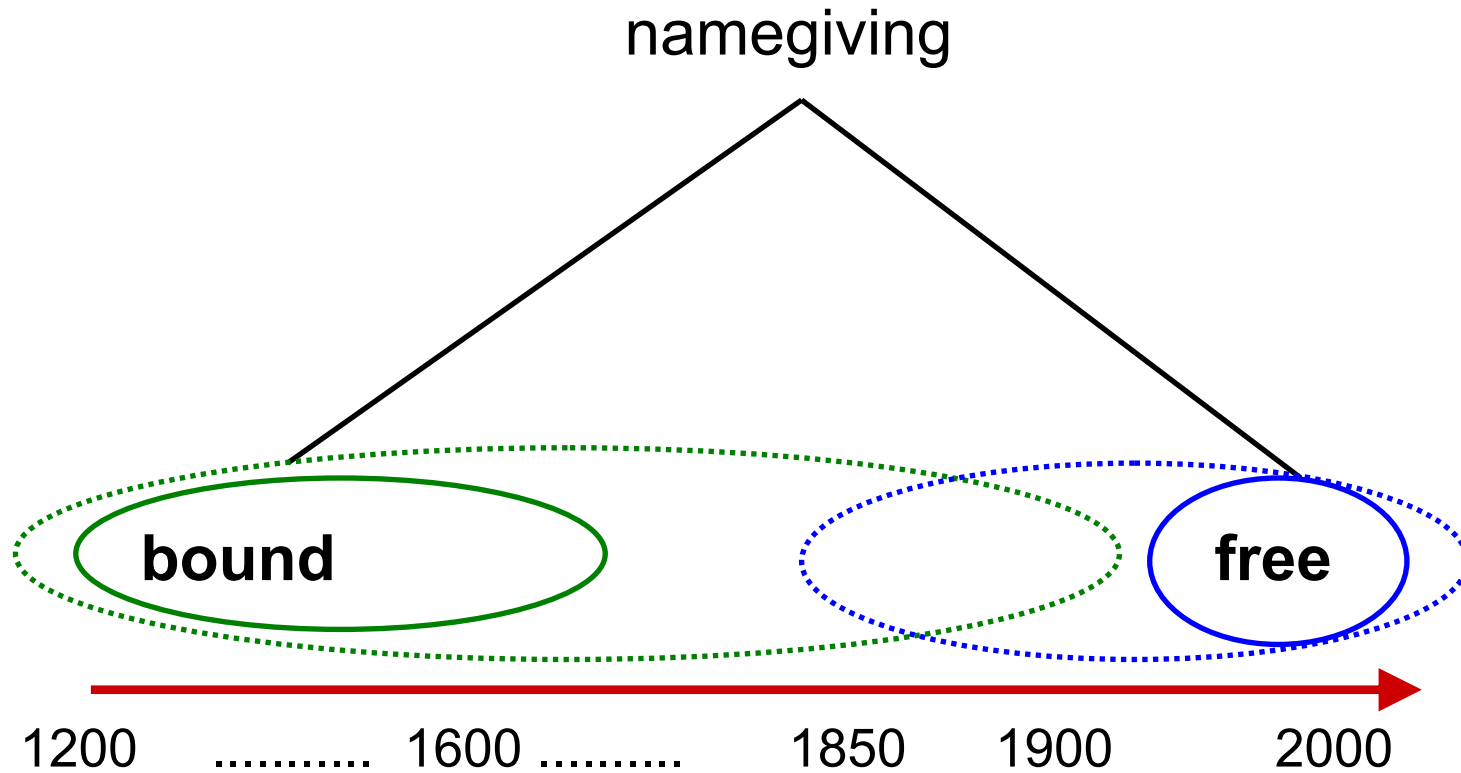
Top 20 First Names

1975

1	Leonie	Leon
2	Hanna(h)	Lukas/Lucas
3	Mia	Luka/Luca
4	Lena	Tim(m)
5	Anna	Finn
6	Lea(h)	Jonas
7	Emily	Felix
8	Lara	Luis
9	Emma	Paul
10	Sara(h)	Maximilian
11	Laura	Julian
12	Lilli	Niclas
13	Lina	Max
14	Marie	Ben
15	Sophie	Elias
16	Ne(e)le	Jan
17	Johanna	Philipp
18	Sofia	Noa(h)
19	Lisa	Jannick
20	Maja	David

Top 20 First Names

2008



bound to:

saints
family members
godparents
monarchs
etc.

euphony

Transgenerational transmission ("Nachbenennung") of first names in Germany 1890–1994 (Gerhards 2003: Die Moderne und ihre Vornamen, p. 91)

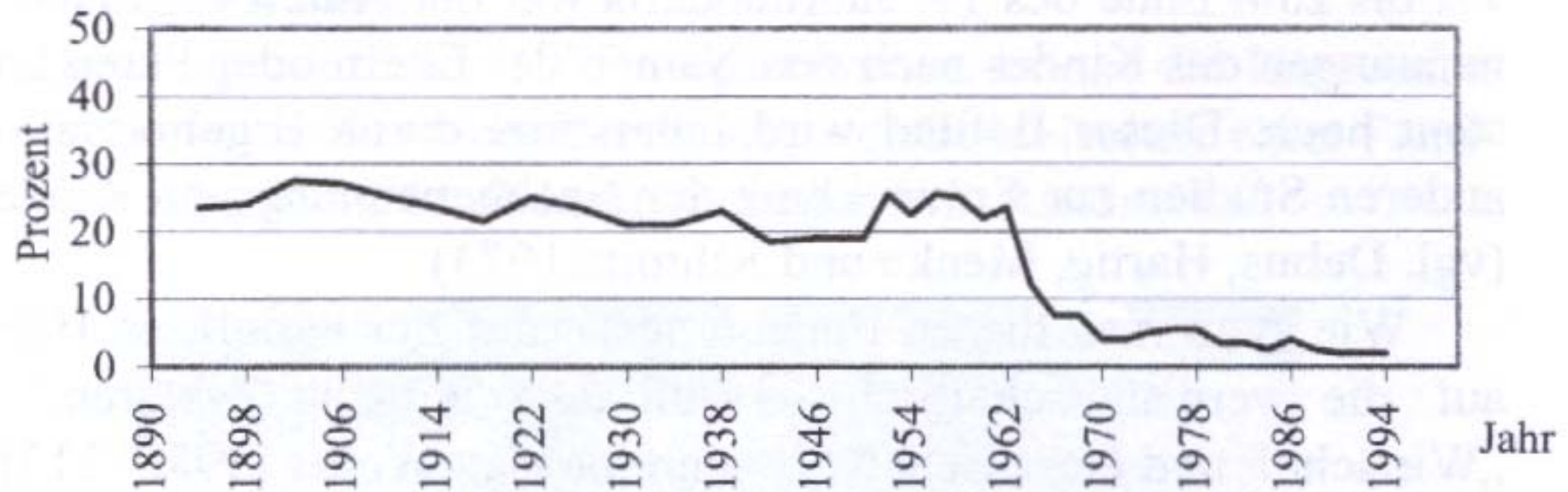


Schaubild 5.1: Weitergabe der elterlichen Vornamen auf den Namen des Kindes

- ▶ Since the seventies, first names are not transmitted anymore within families

Further features of *nachbenennung*:

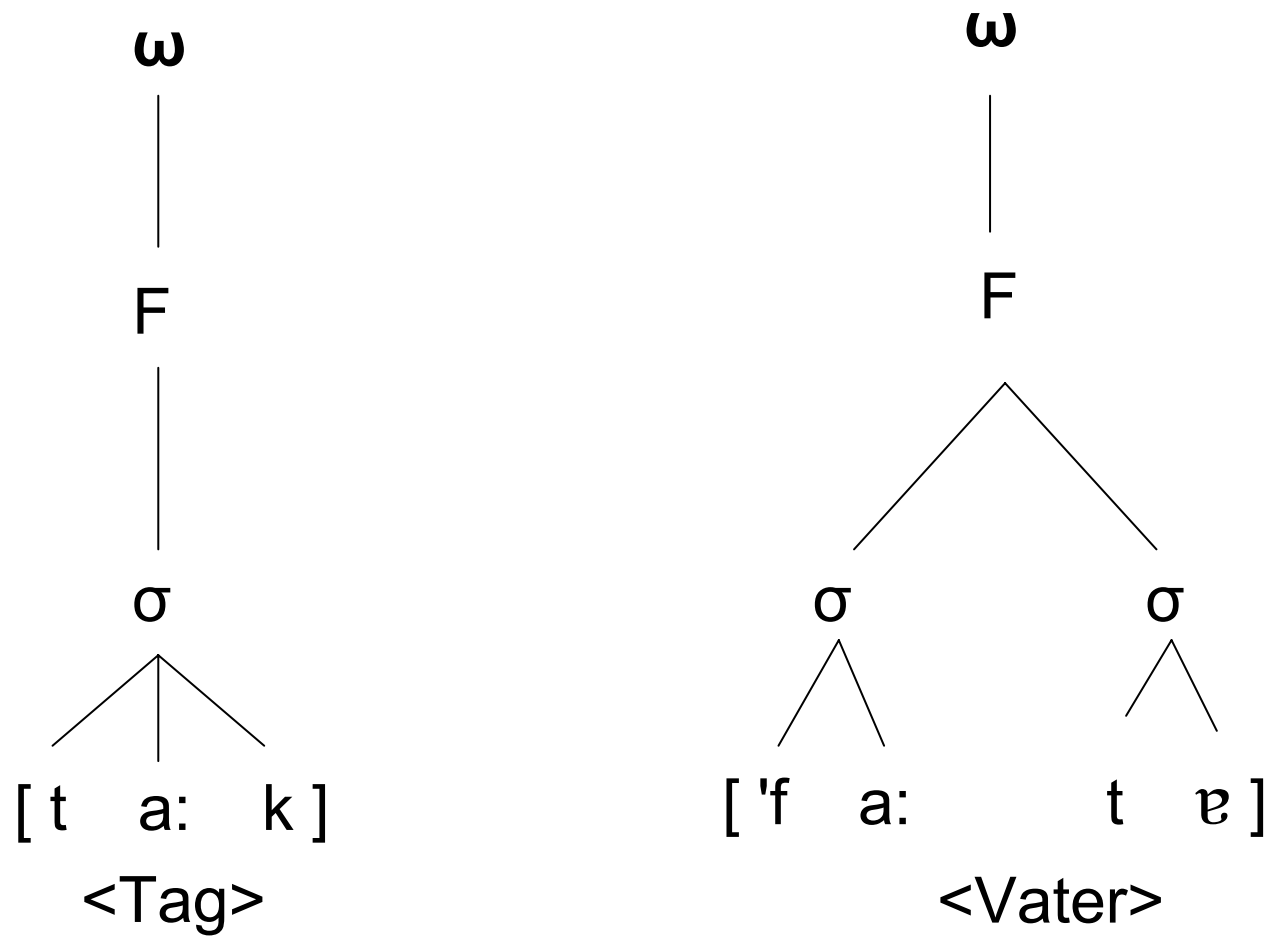
- ▶ more boys than girls
- ▶ more frequently in Southern Germany
- ▶ upper-class phenomenon
- ▶ *nachbenennung* moves from the first to the second part of complex first names, cf. *Leonie Maria*, *Leon Peter*
(Simon 1991 for Westphalia)

Question: Is the decrease of onymic transmission (*nachbenennung*) reflected in the structure of the proper names?

Assumption: Yes.

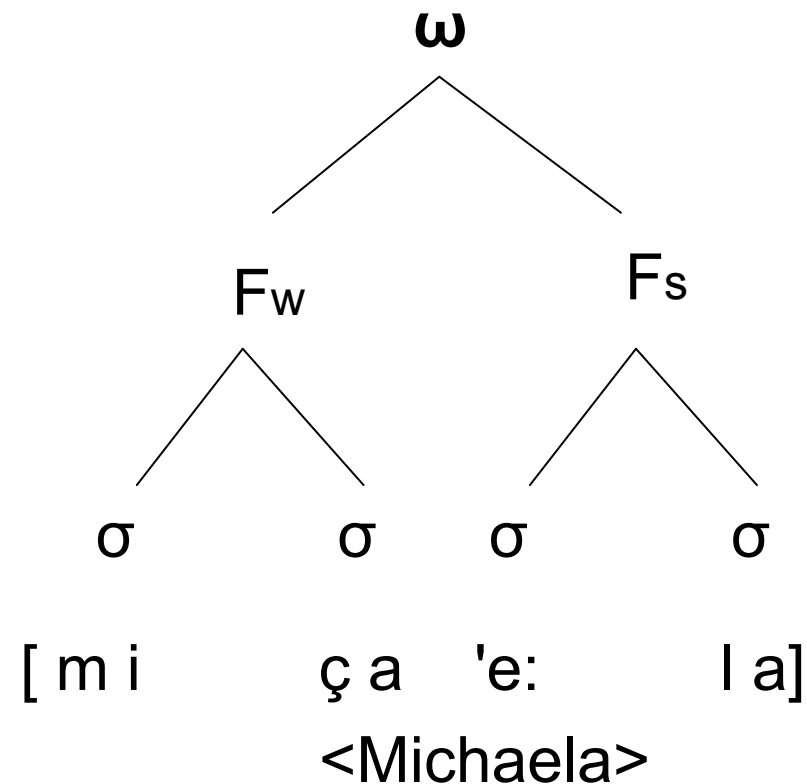
If people are allowed to create (or to borrow) new words, they do not reproduce the usual structures which correspond to word language. The new structures clearly contain more syllable language structures.

Usual structures ...



The prototypical pword in German; inflected words usually are trochaic with reduced syllable (*Tage, spreche, gute ...*)

Unusual (onymic) structures ...



Proper names diverge in many respects from usual structures:

polypedal words → longer words, full vowels in unstressed positions, deviant (non-initial) accent positions, different phonotactics, hiatuses ...

Criteria of investigation:

1. Number of syllables
2. Accent position
3. Consonant clusters
4. Number of hiatuses
5. Number of schwas
6. Number of sonorants (next to vowels)
7. Number of unstressed full vowels ([a, e, i])

The 50 most frequent common nouns in German
(acc. to Ruoff 1991)

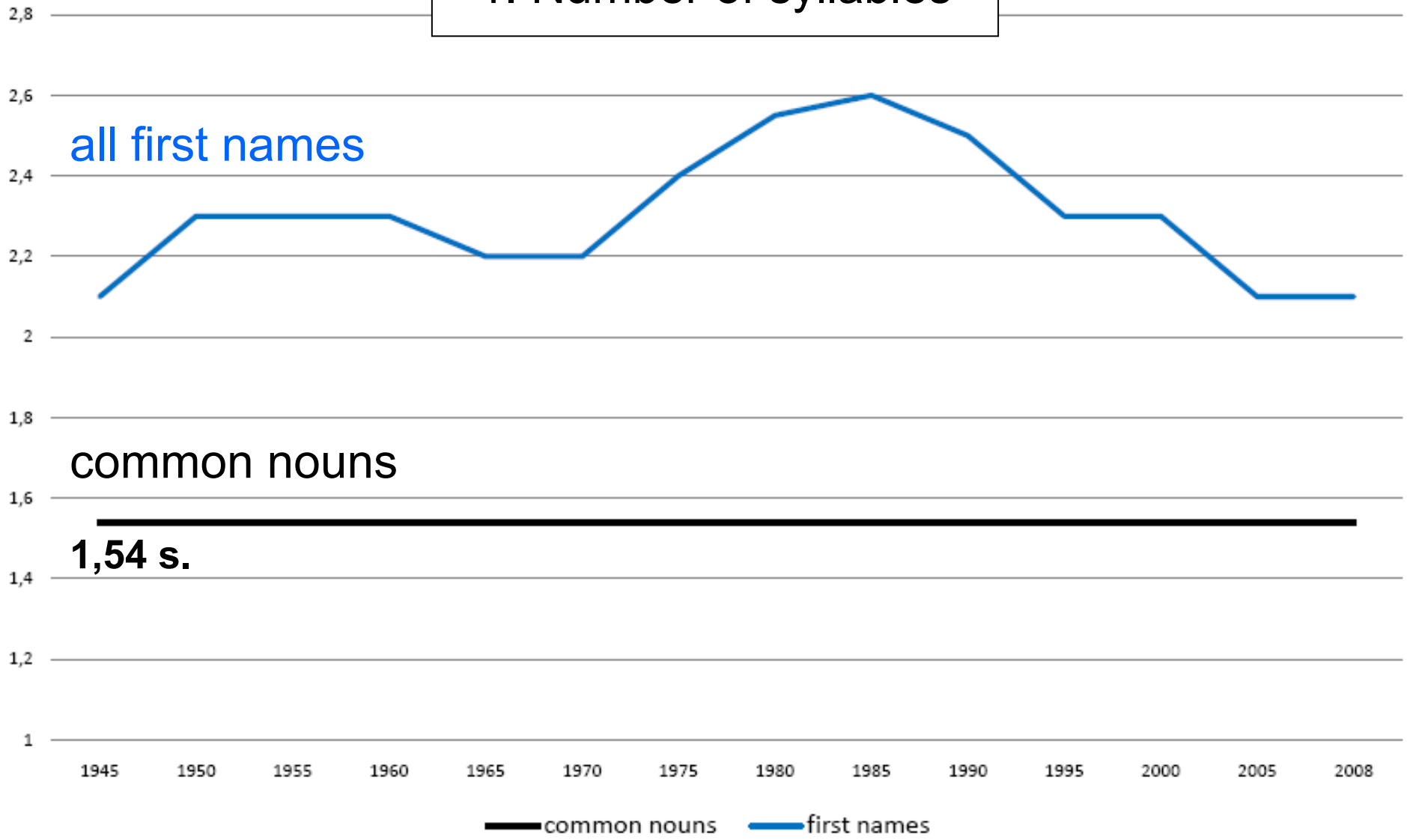
number of syllables	tokens	average:
1	25	1,54 syll.
2	23	
3	2	

1. Number of syllables

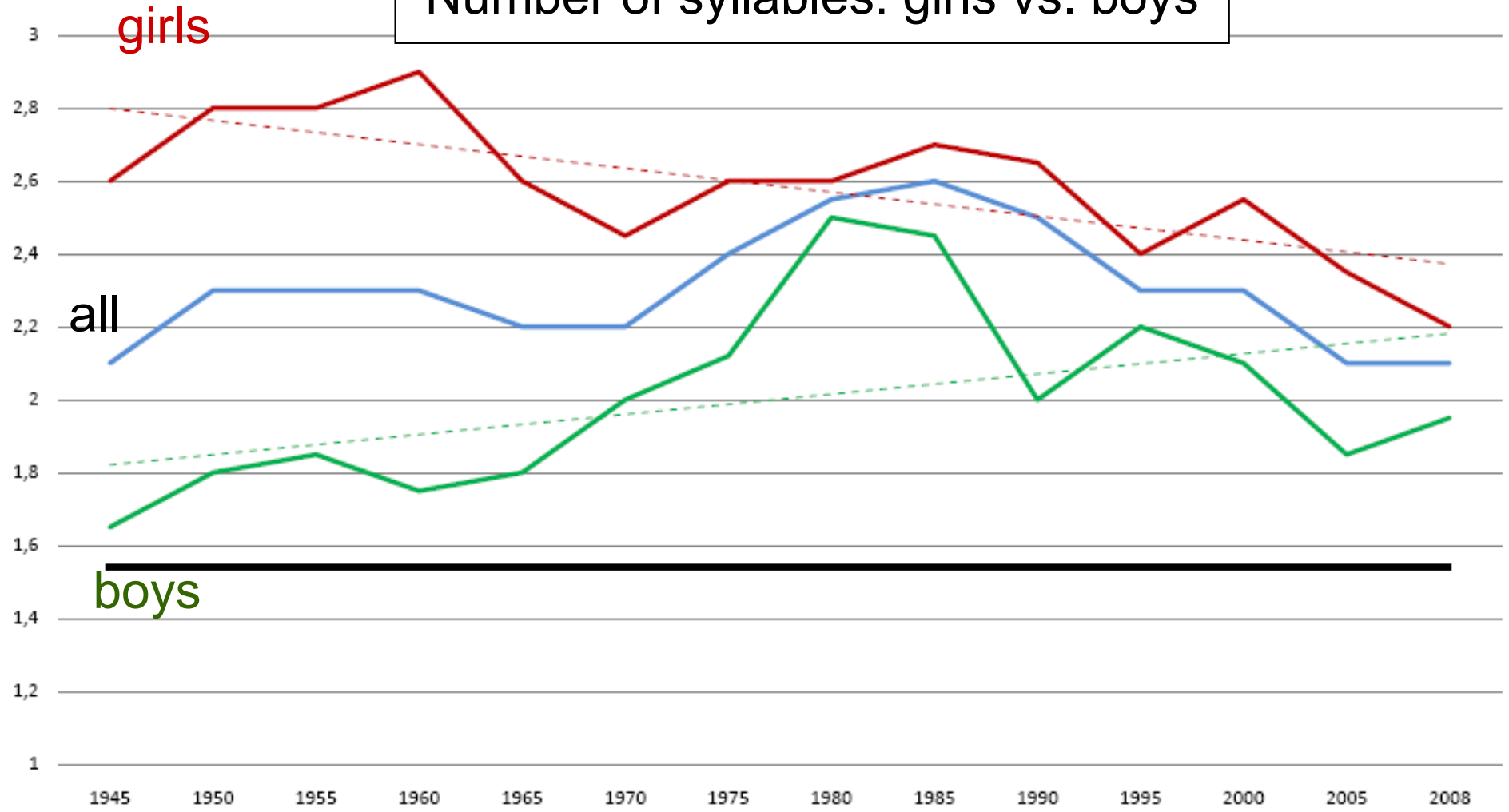
all first names

common nouns

1,54 s.



Number of syllables: girls vs. boys



girls

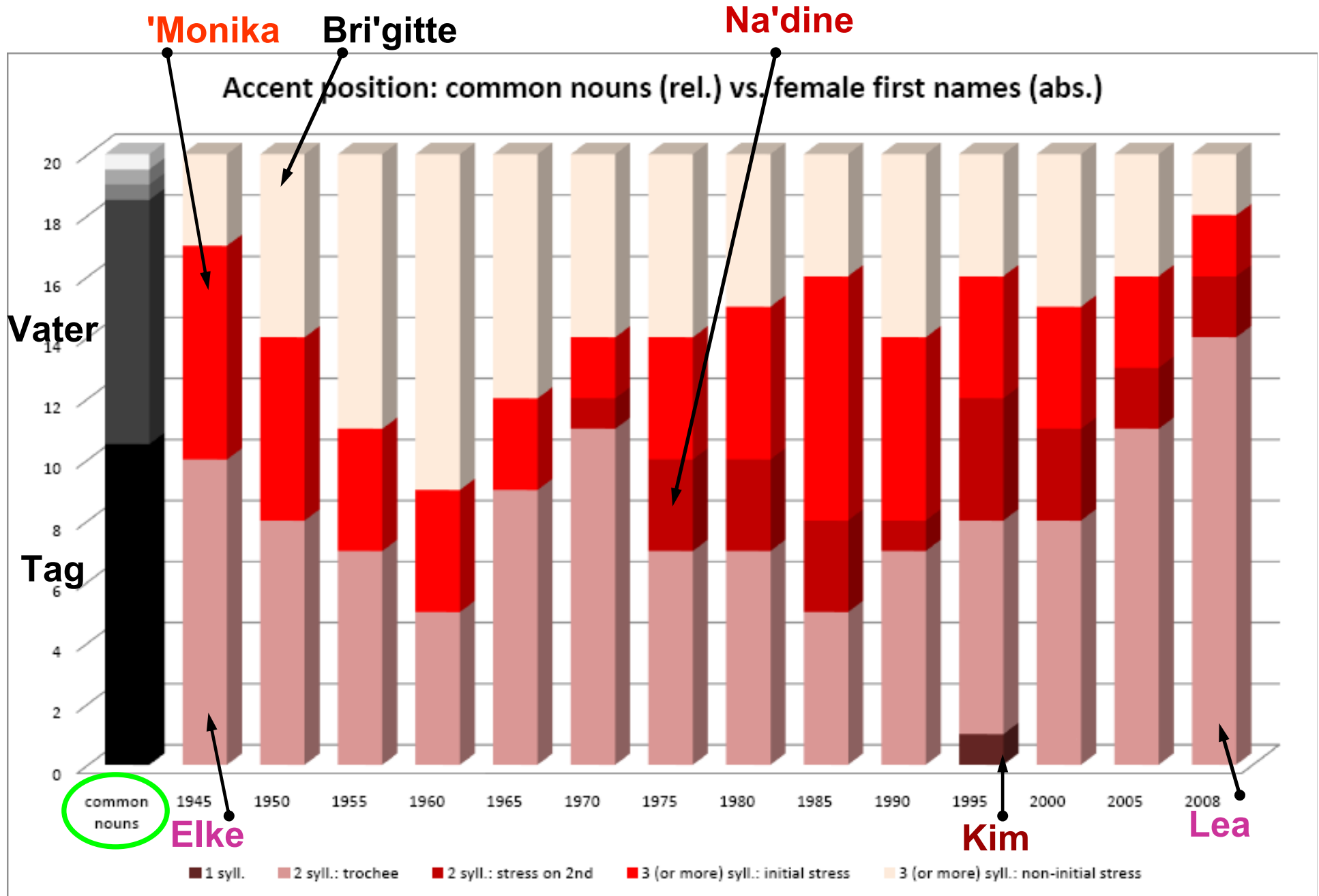
all

boys

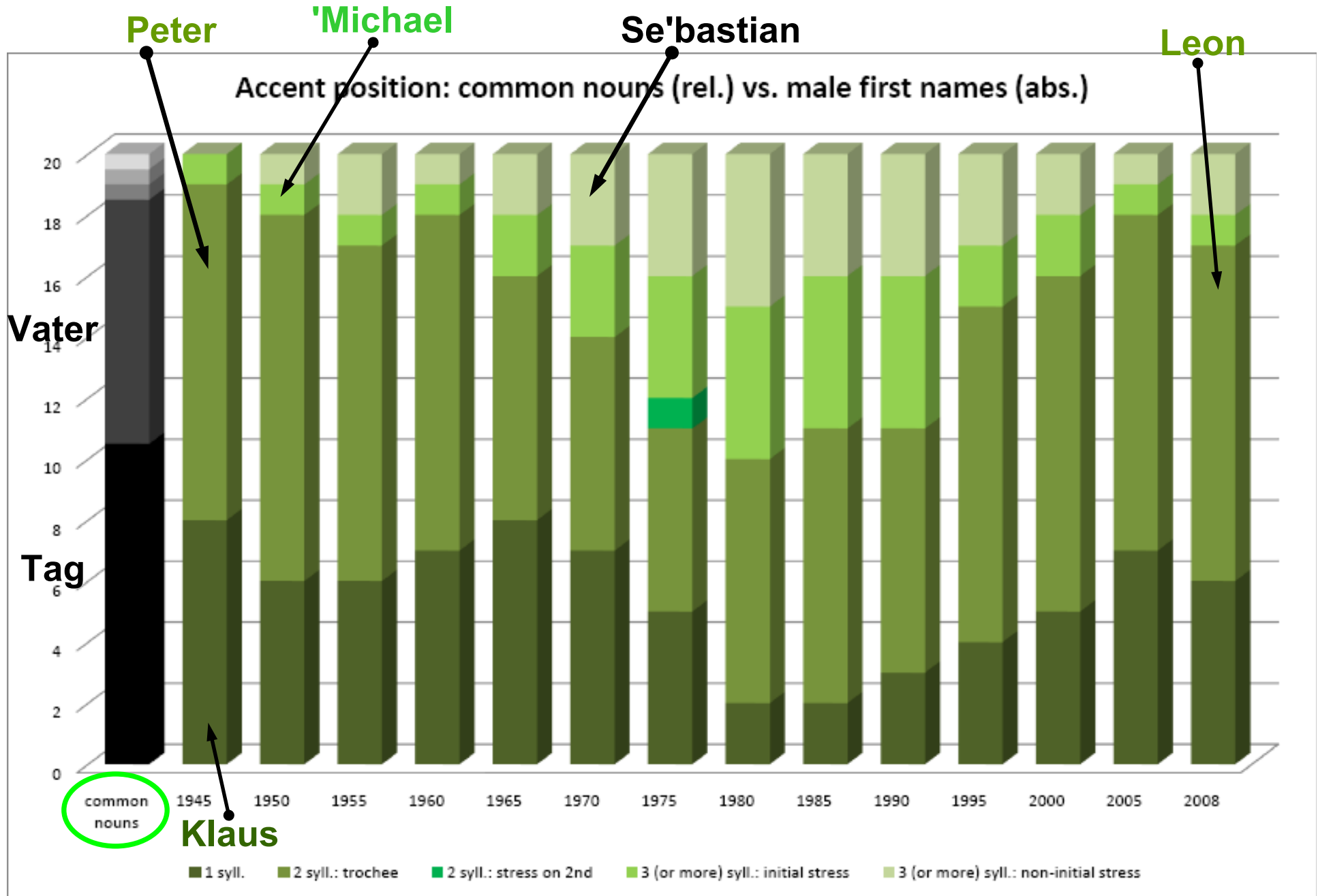
- common nouns
- female first names
- male first names
- first names
- trend female first names
- trend male first names

2. Accent positions:

- girls**
- boys**
- both sexes**



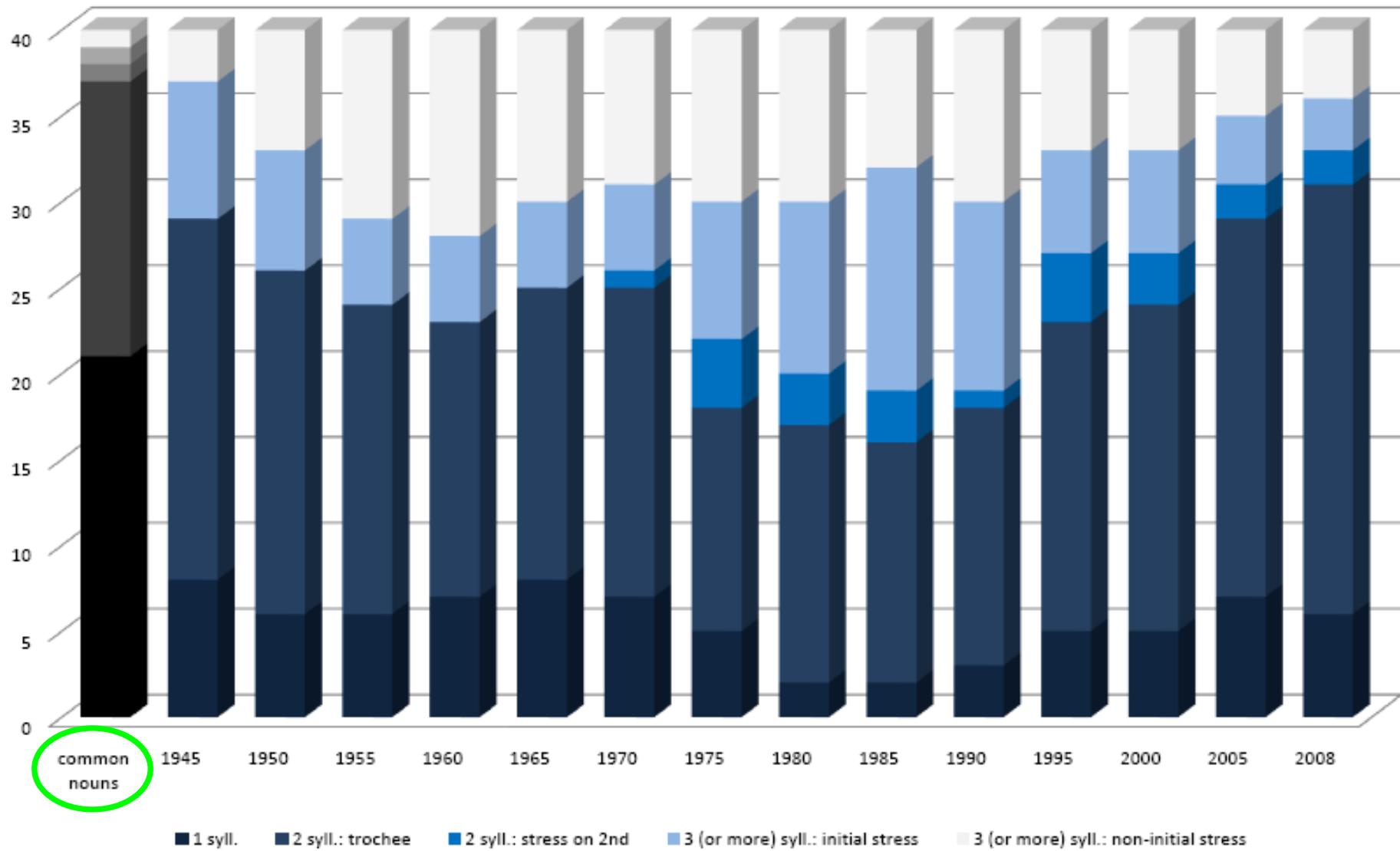
Girls: No monosyllabic names!



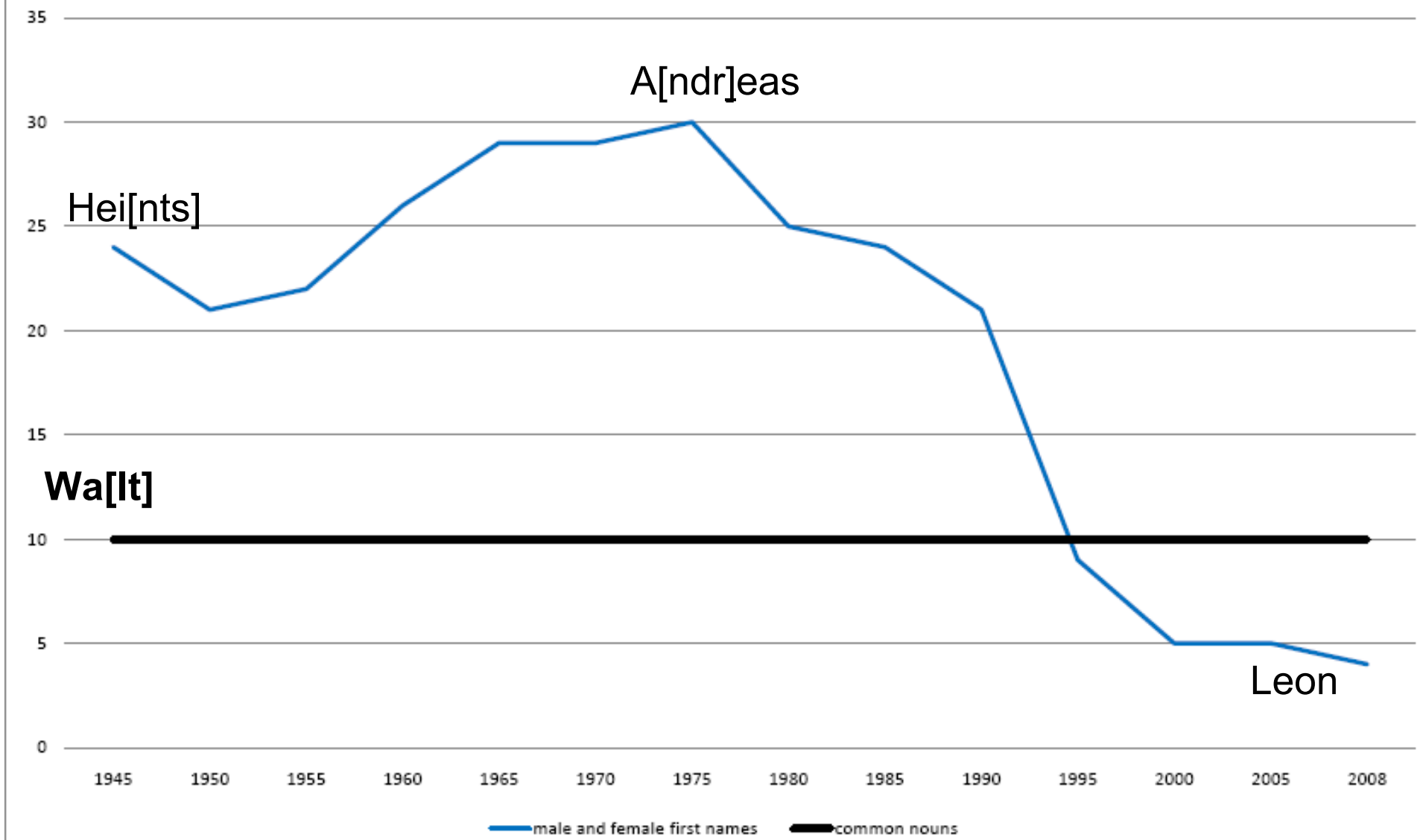
Boys: More similar to common nouns: many monosyllabic and trochaic names

Overall picture: Girls and boys

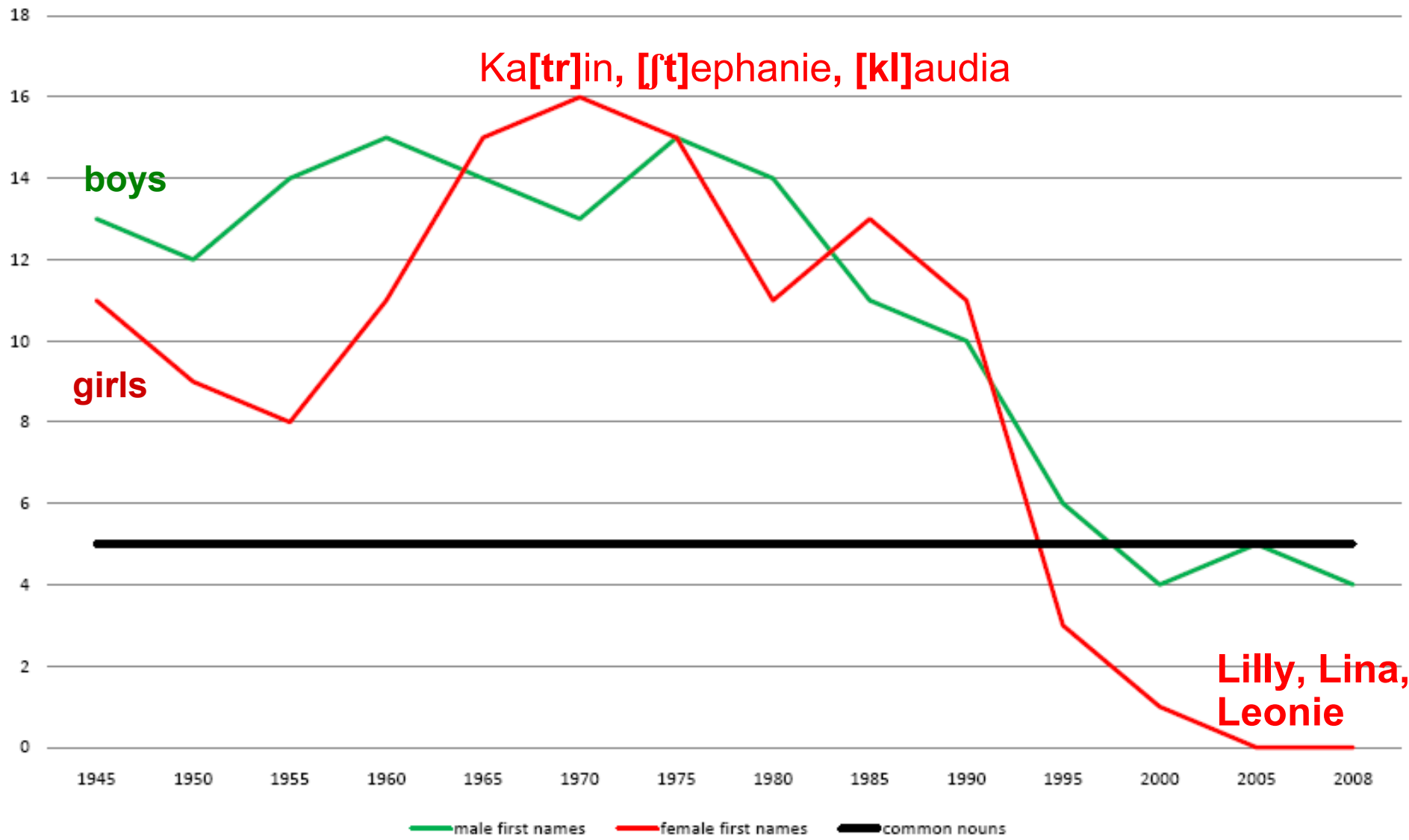
Accent position: common nouns vs. female and male first names



3. Consonant clusters



Consonant clusters



Monosyllabic boy's names:

1945: Hans, Horst, Heinz [nts],
Klaus, Rolf, Bernd



today: Tim, Tom, Ben, Finn,
Jan, Ma[ks]

Disyllabic girl's names:

1945: Christa [kr], Elke,
Anke

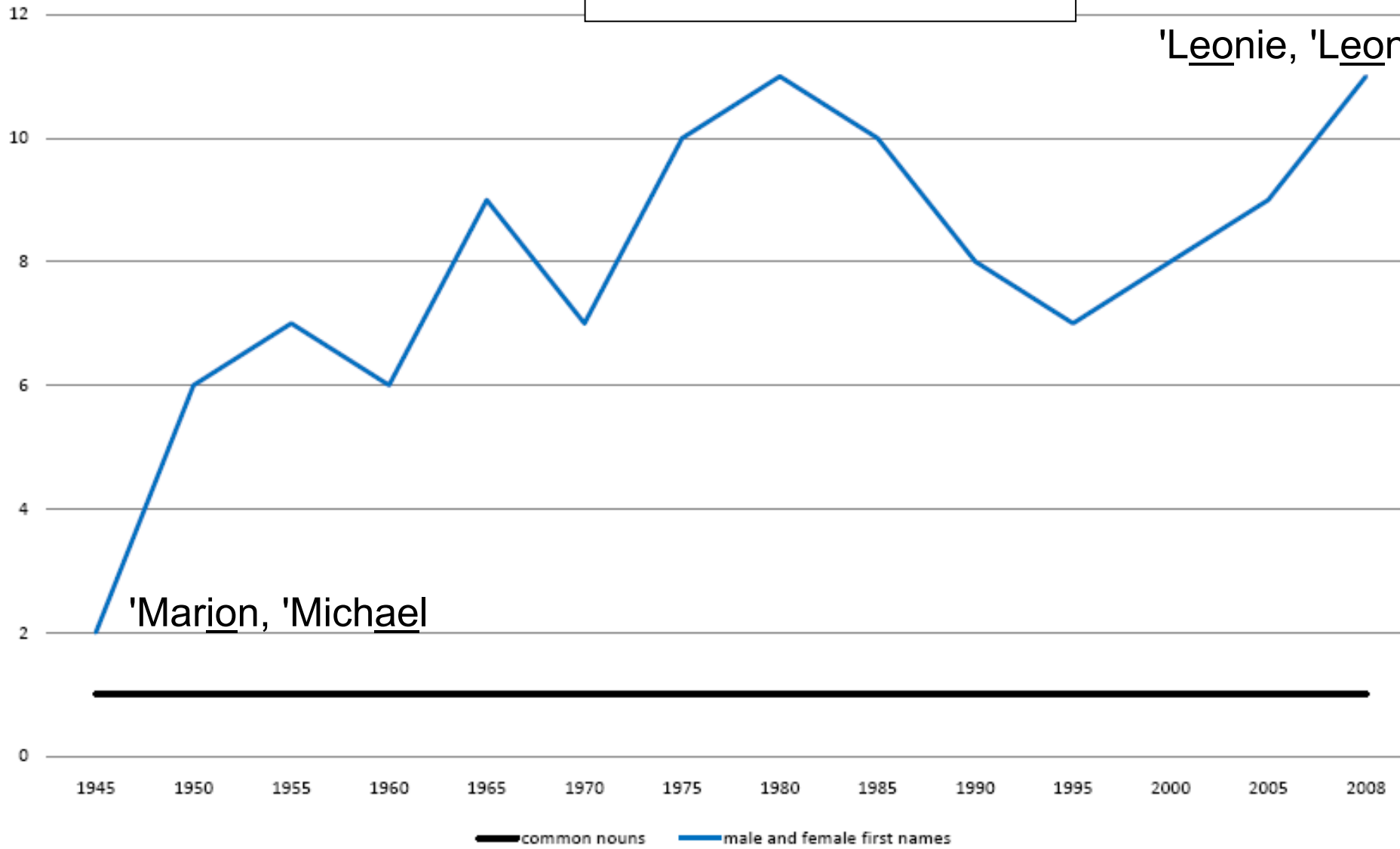


today: Mia, Leonie, Lea,
Lena, Lara, Laura,
Lina, Nele ...

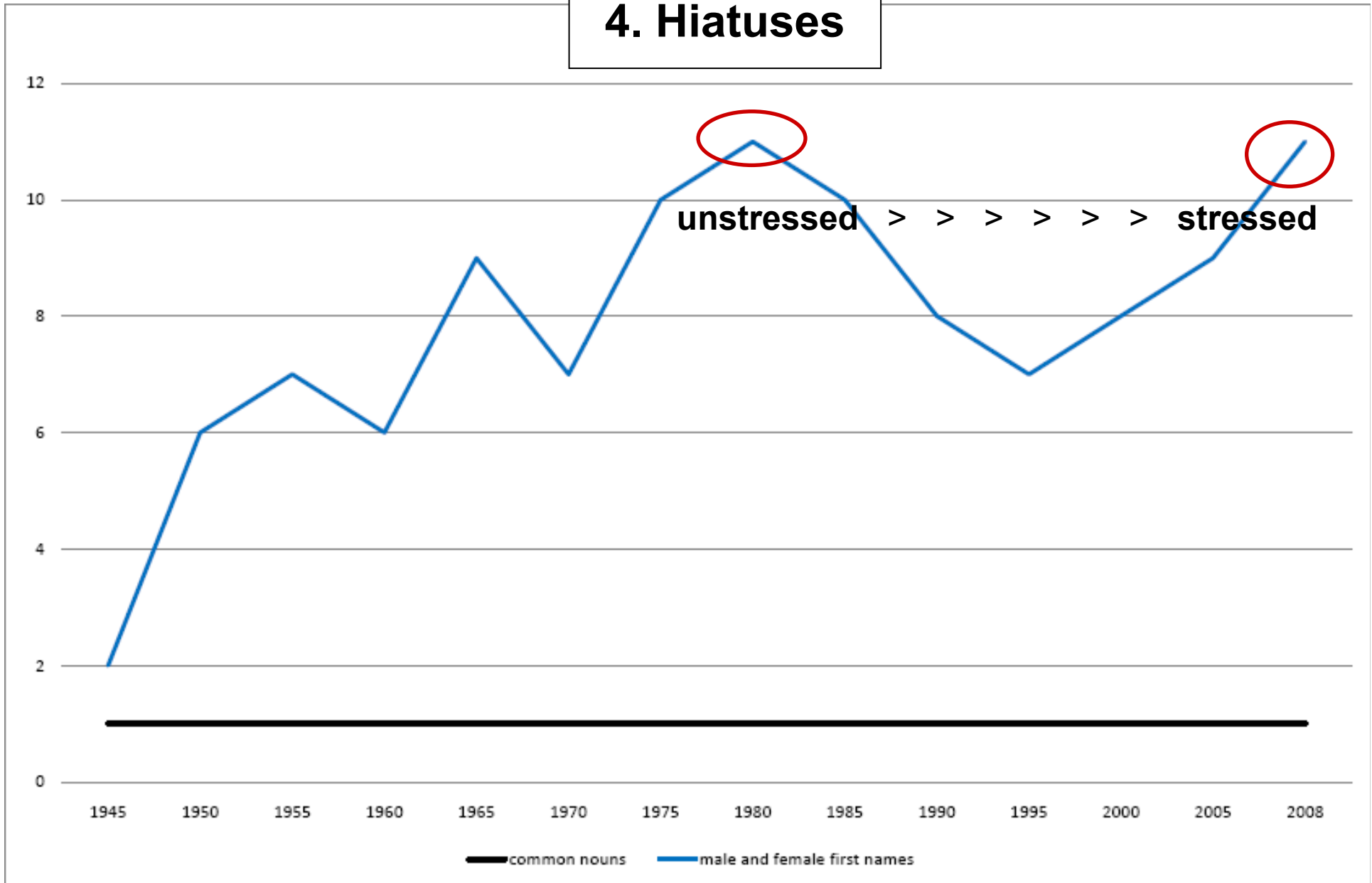
4. Hiatuses (abs.)

'Leonie, 'Leon

'Marion, 'Michael



4. Hiatuses



Further observation: Hiatuses move from unstressed to stressed position over the time (increase in salience):

unstressed > > > > > > > > stressed

1945: 'Mar**ion**, 'Mich**ael**

--

1980: 'Jul**ia**, 'Claud**ia**,
'Christ**ian**, Se'b**astian**,
'Mich**ael**, 'Dan**iel**,
'Flor**ian**

Dani'**e**la
Ma't**thias**, An'd**reas**
To'**bias**

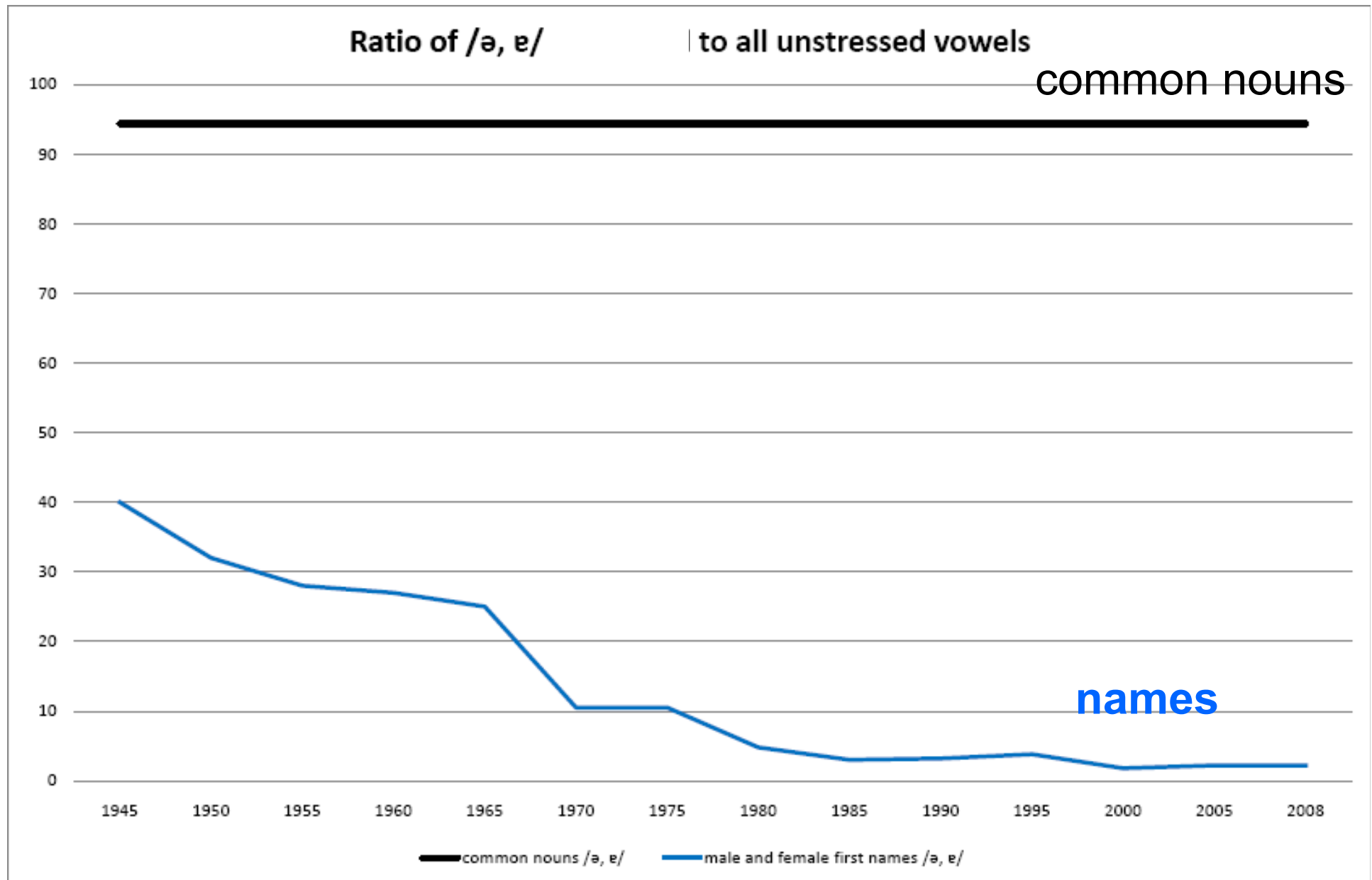
2008: E'm**ilie**

Maxi'm**ilian**, 'Jul**ian**

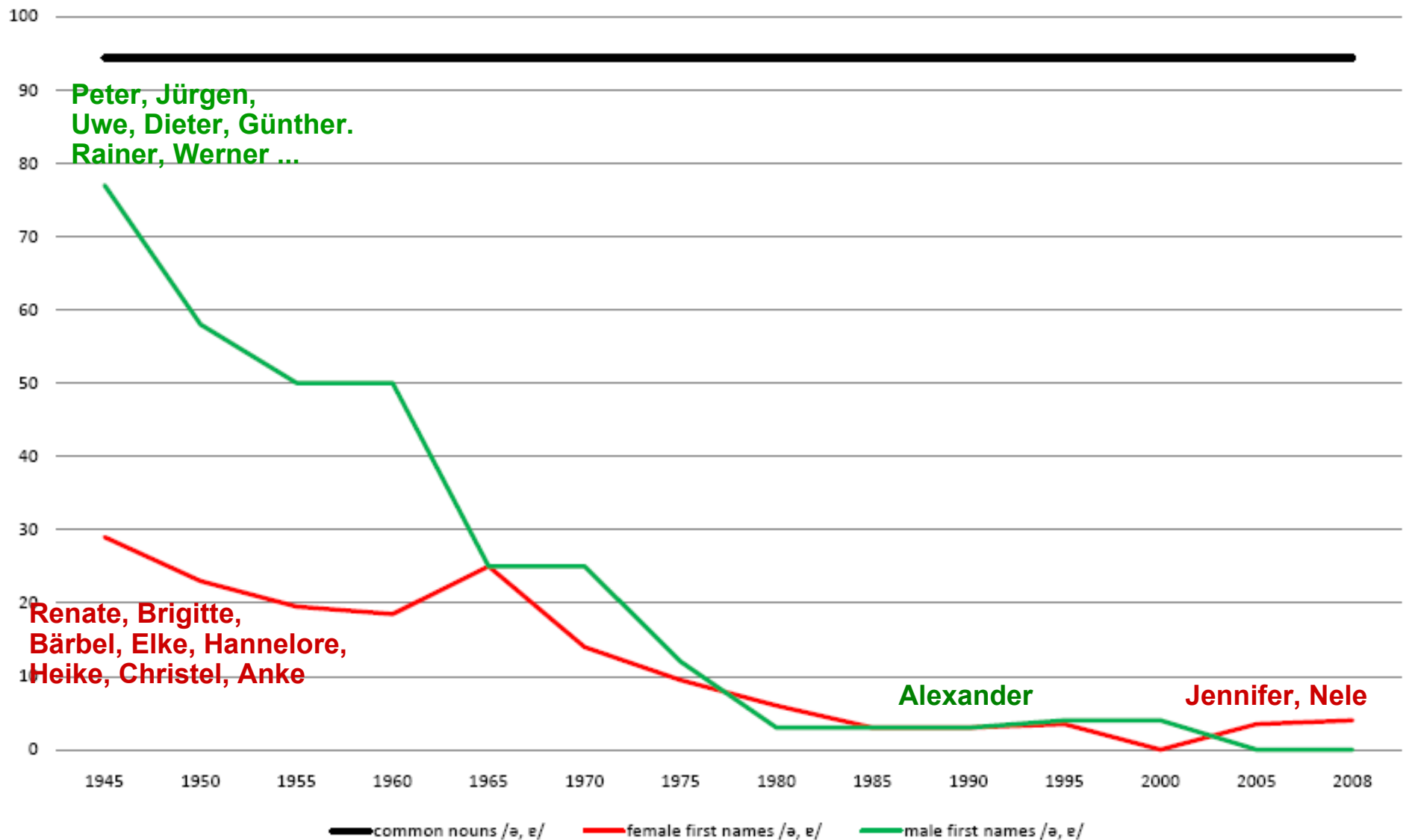
'L**eonie**, 'M**ia**,
'L**ea**, So'**fia**
'N**oah**, 'L**eon**,
'L**uis**, E'**lias**



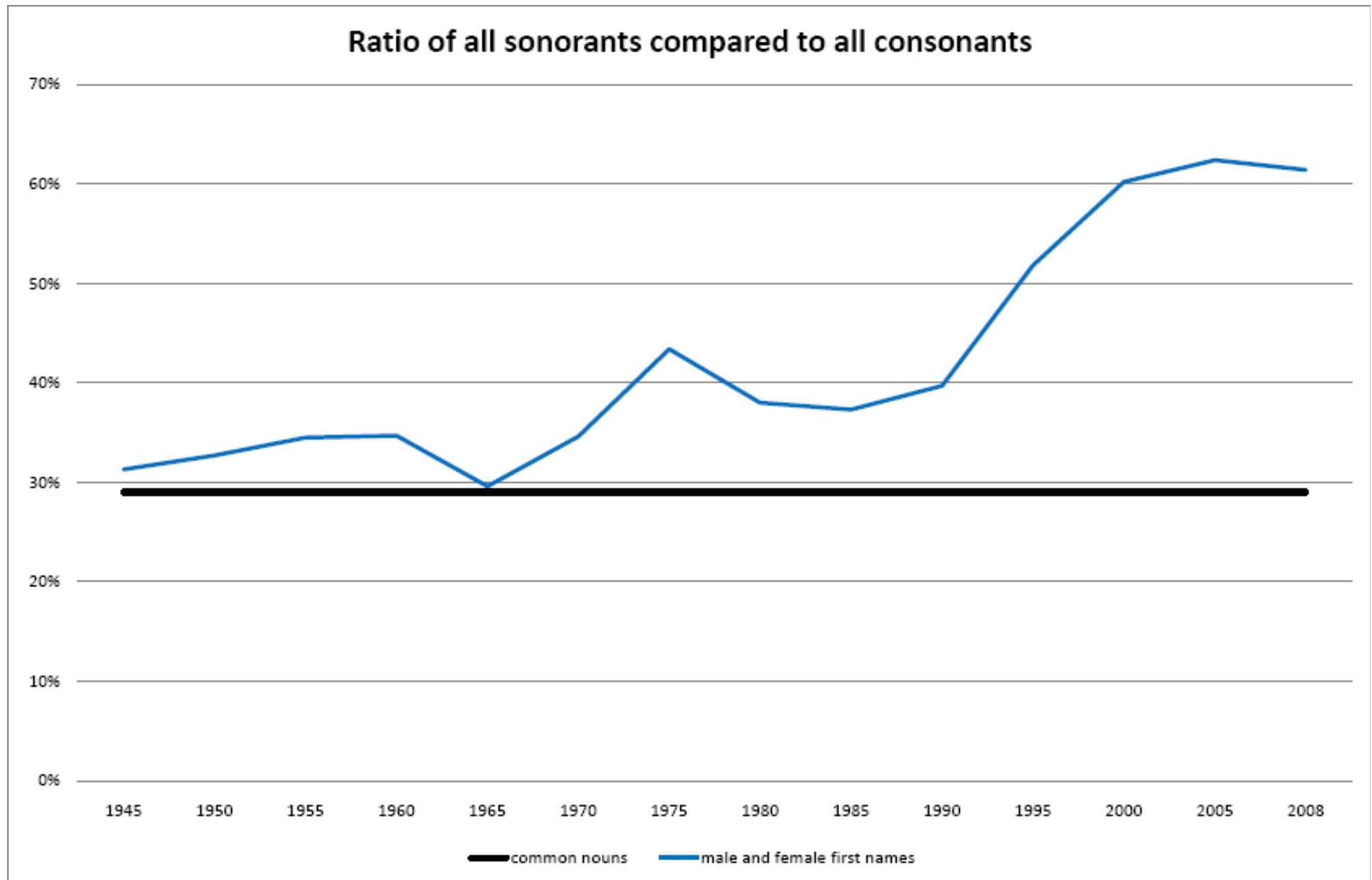
5. The decrease and disappearance of schwa



Ratio of /ə, e/ | to all unstressed vowels



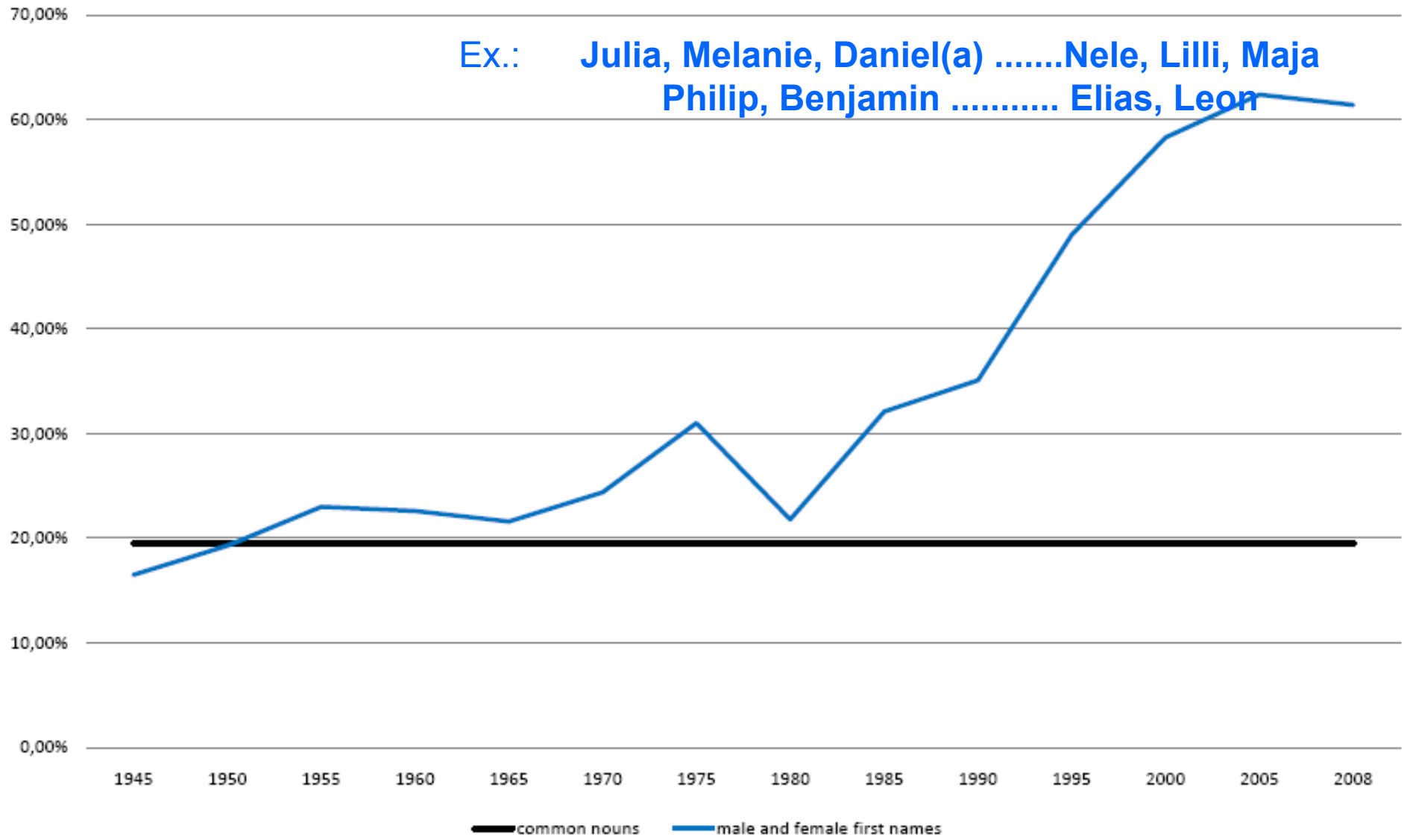
6. The increase of sonorants (and sonority)



Ratio of sonorants next to vowels

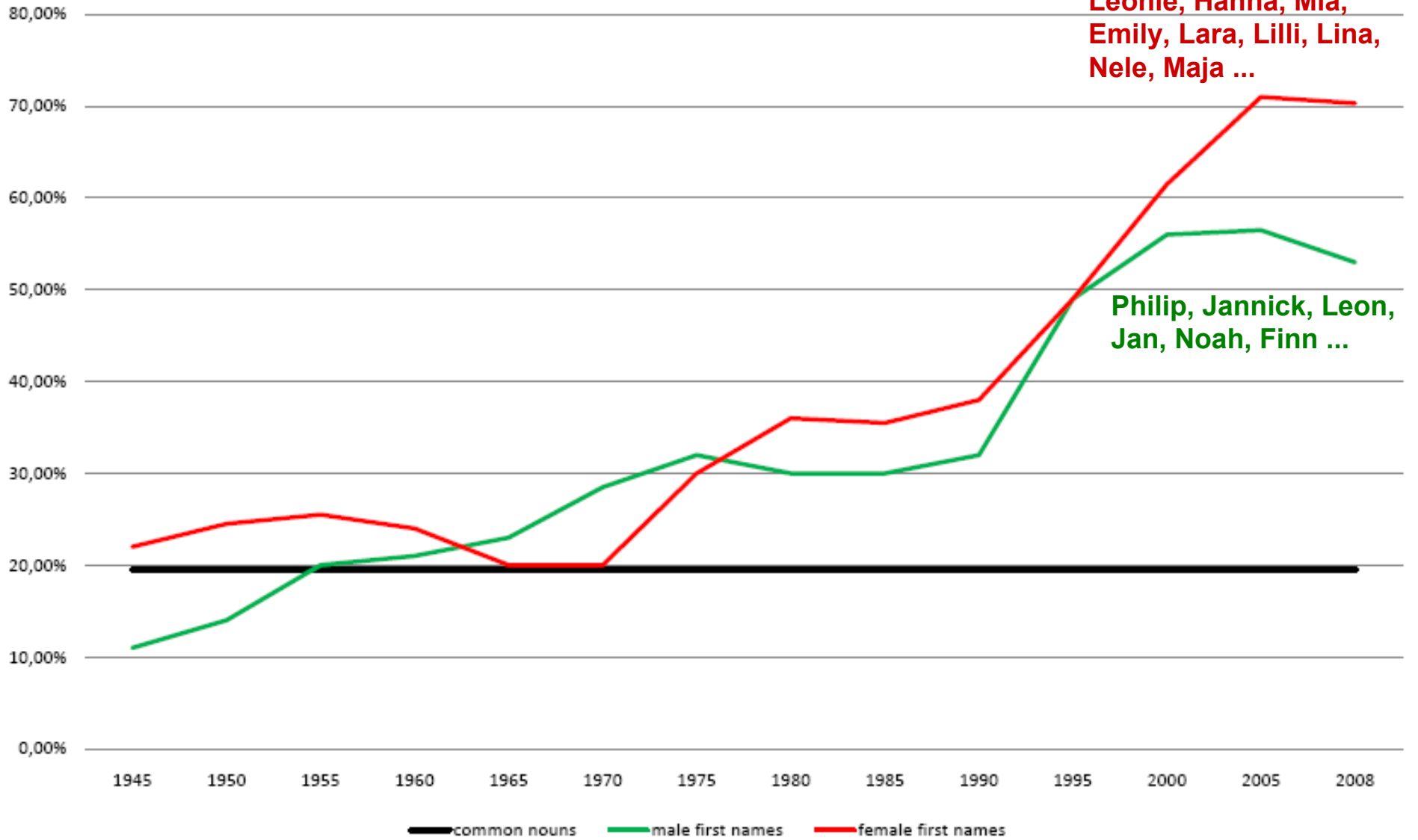
to all consonants

Ex.: Julia, Melanie, Daniel(a) Nele, Lilli, Maja
Philip, Benjamin Elias, Leon

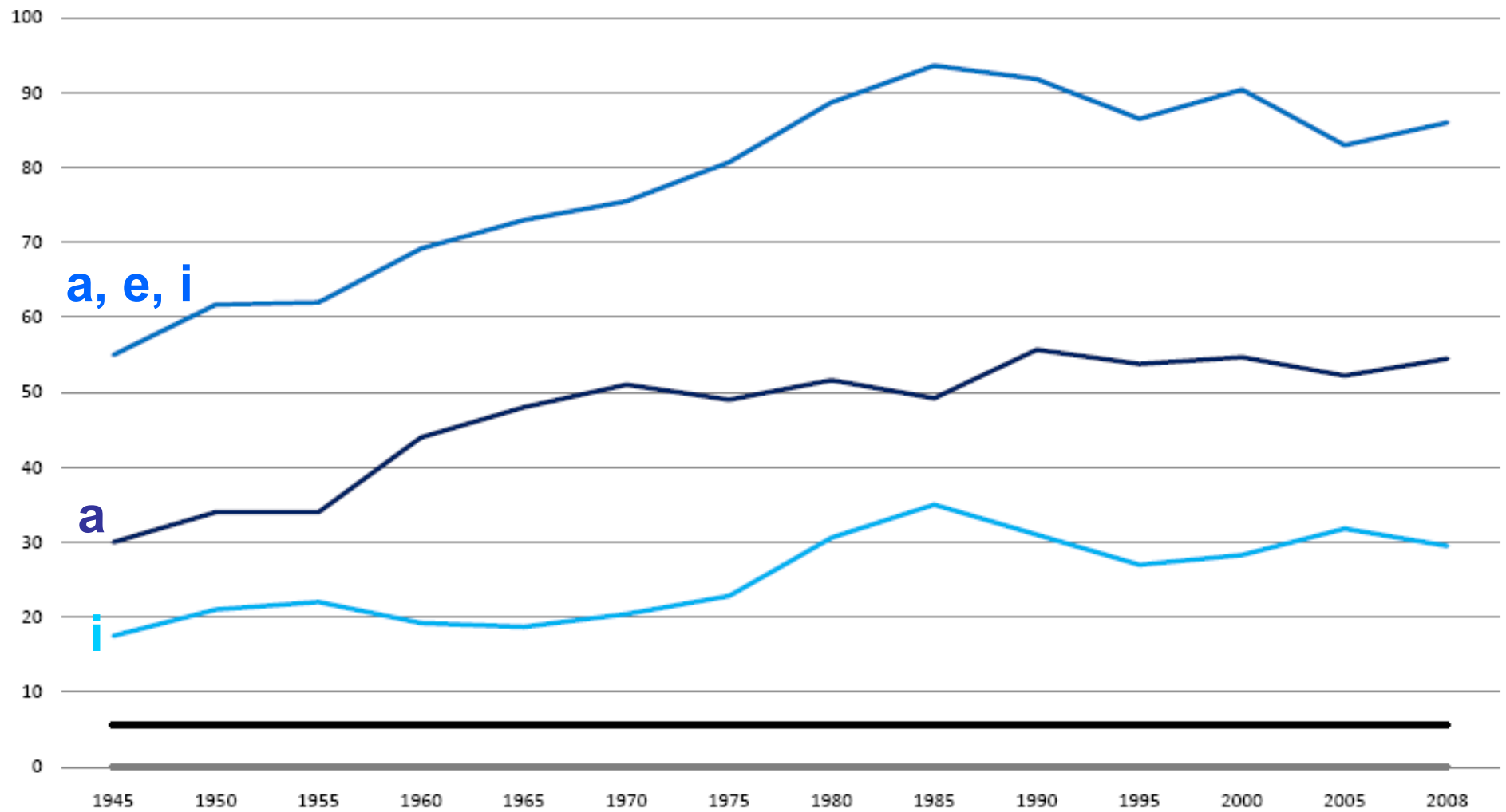


Ratio of sonorants next to vowels

to all consonants

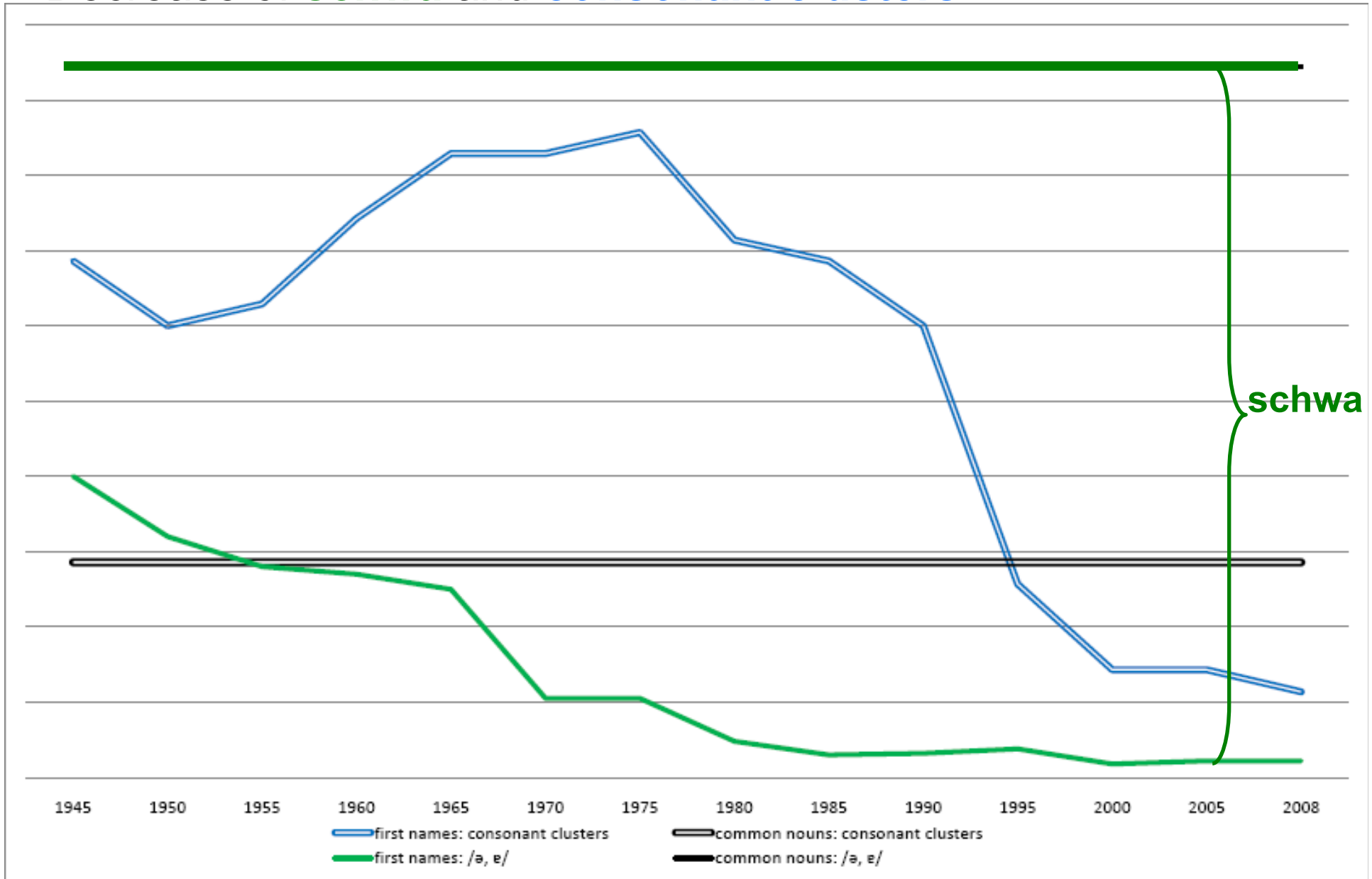


Ratio of unrounded unstressed vowels to all unstressed vowels

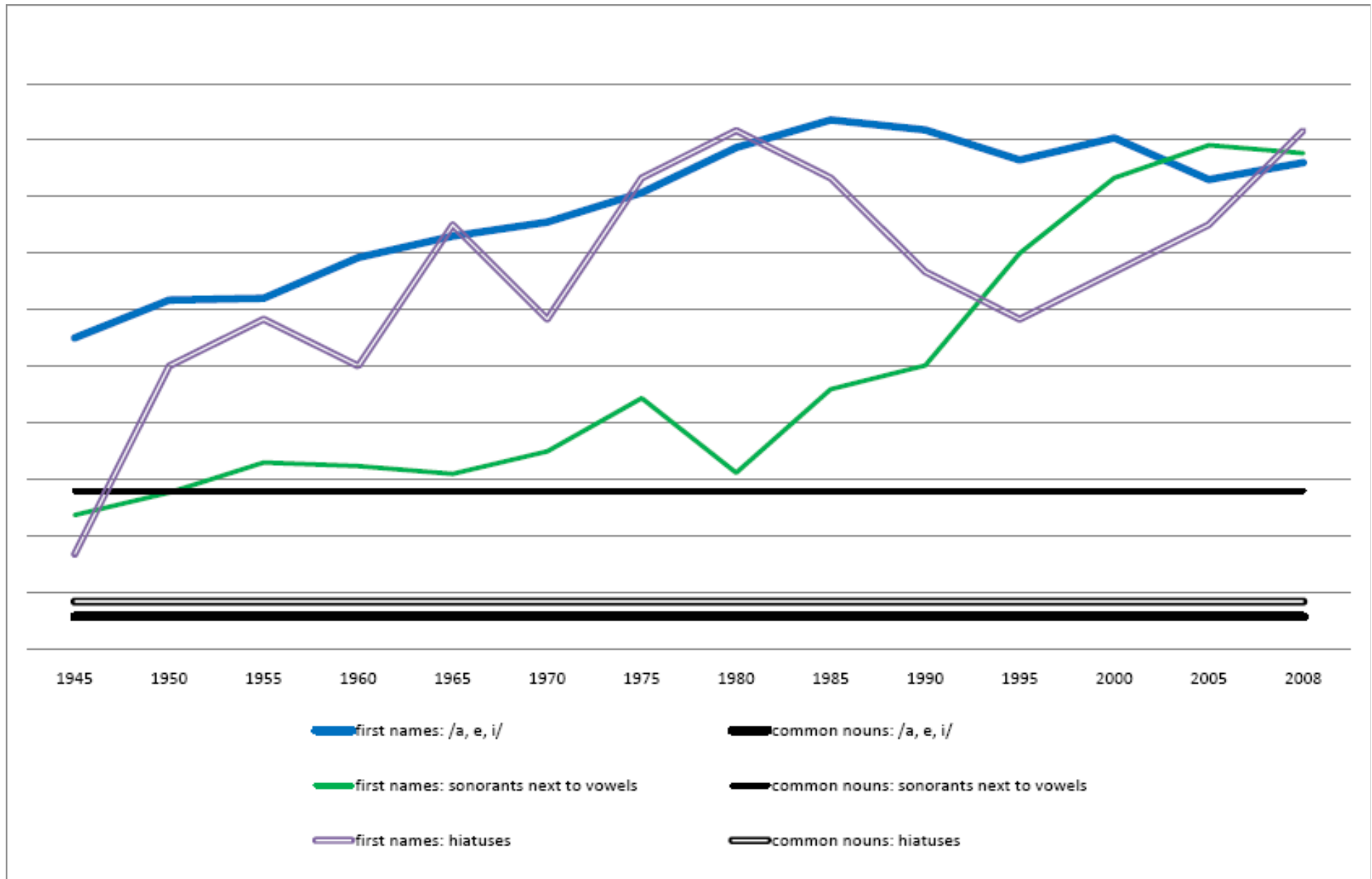


common nouns /a/
 common nouns /e, i/
 male and female first names /a/
 male and female first names /a, e, i/
 male and female first names /i/

Decrease of **schwa** and **consonant clusters**



Increase of /a, e, i/, hiatuses, and sonorants



Conclusion:

- ▶ At the beginning, male names more often corresponded to common nouns. They later diverged.
- ▶ Female names were already different at the beginning (1945) but also diverged later
- ▶ general convergence of names of both sexes since the seventies (with male names converging more to female names than vice versa)
- ▶ Strong tendency towards more syllable language structures: Loss of schwa, decrease of consonant clusters, tendency towards CV-structures, increase of hiatuses and of full unstressed vowels, tendency to non-initial accent positions, to long, polypedal words etc.:

Word language type

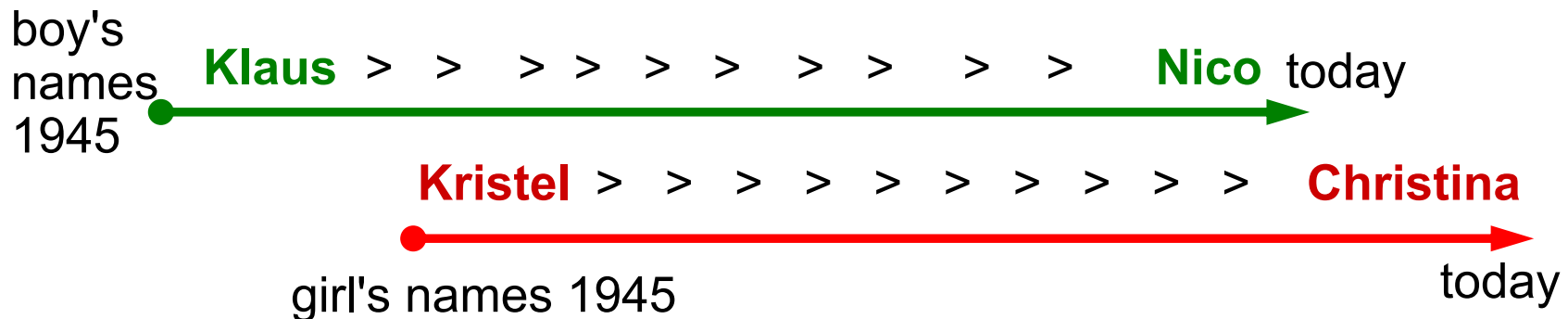
Some features of common nouns in German:

- initial stress
- monopedal words
- (disyllabic) trochees with
- reduced syllable (schwa)
- no hiatuses
- strengthened word edges
(many clusters)

Syllable language type

Some features of contemporary first names:

- variable stress
- polypedal words
- many syllables with
- full unstressed vowels
- hiatuses
- CV structures
(few clusters)



- ▶ This typological change of first names corresponds to the non-linguistic fact of the decrease of *nachbenennung*:

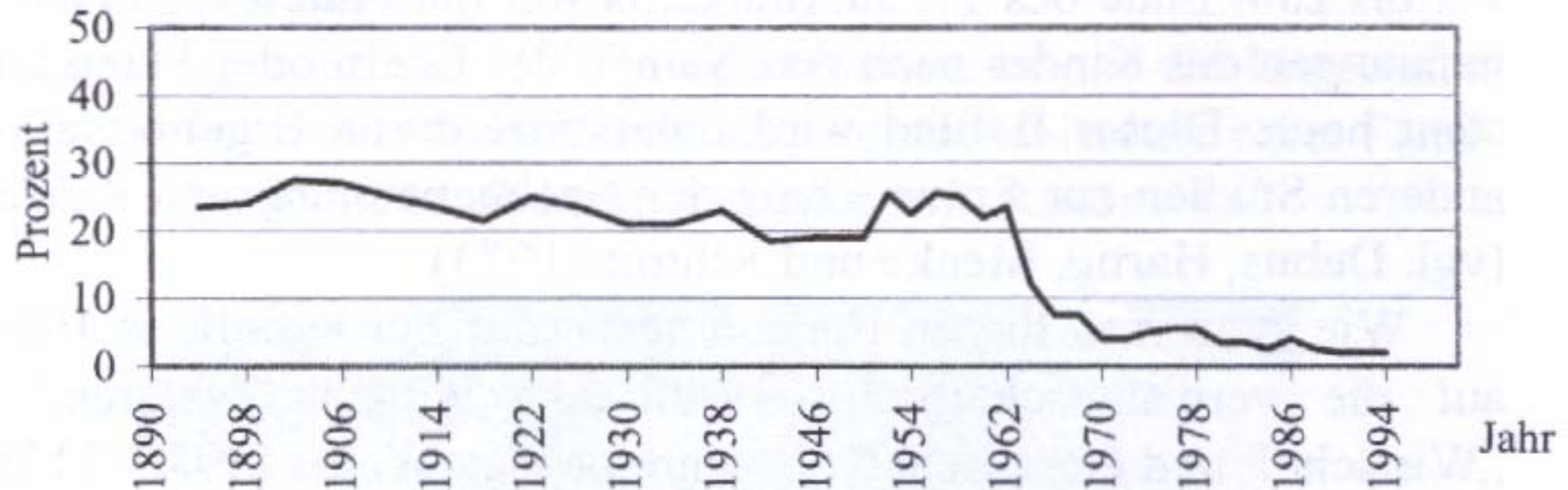


Schaubild 5.1: Weitergabe der elterlichen Vornamen auf den Namen des Kindes

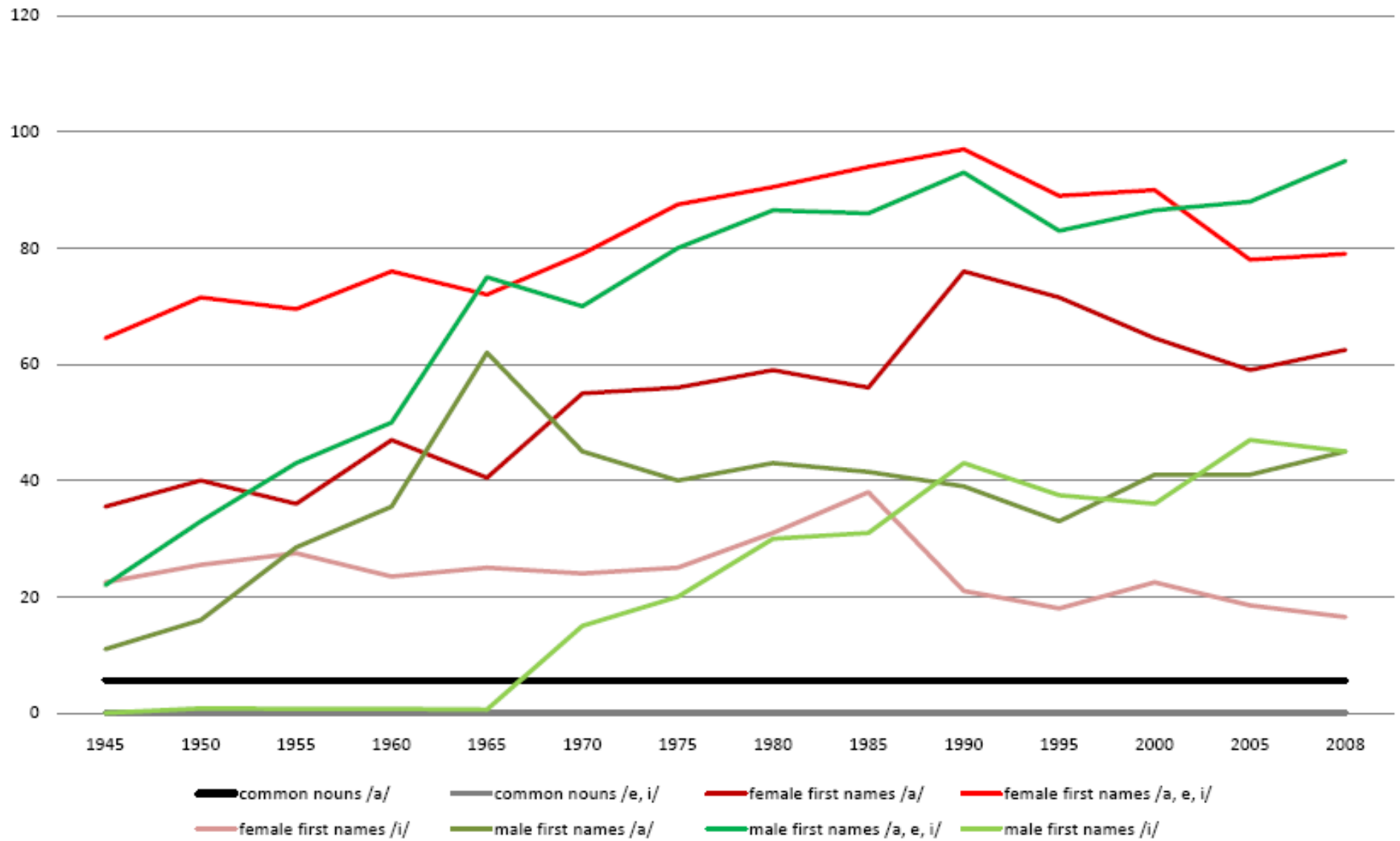
- ▶ First names reflect social changes
- ▶ Decrease of *nachbenennung* leads to dissociation of common nouns and first names which adopt features of syllable languages
- ▶ Foreign names as a pool of diverging structures

Thank you for your attention

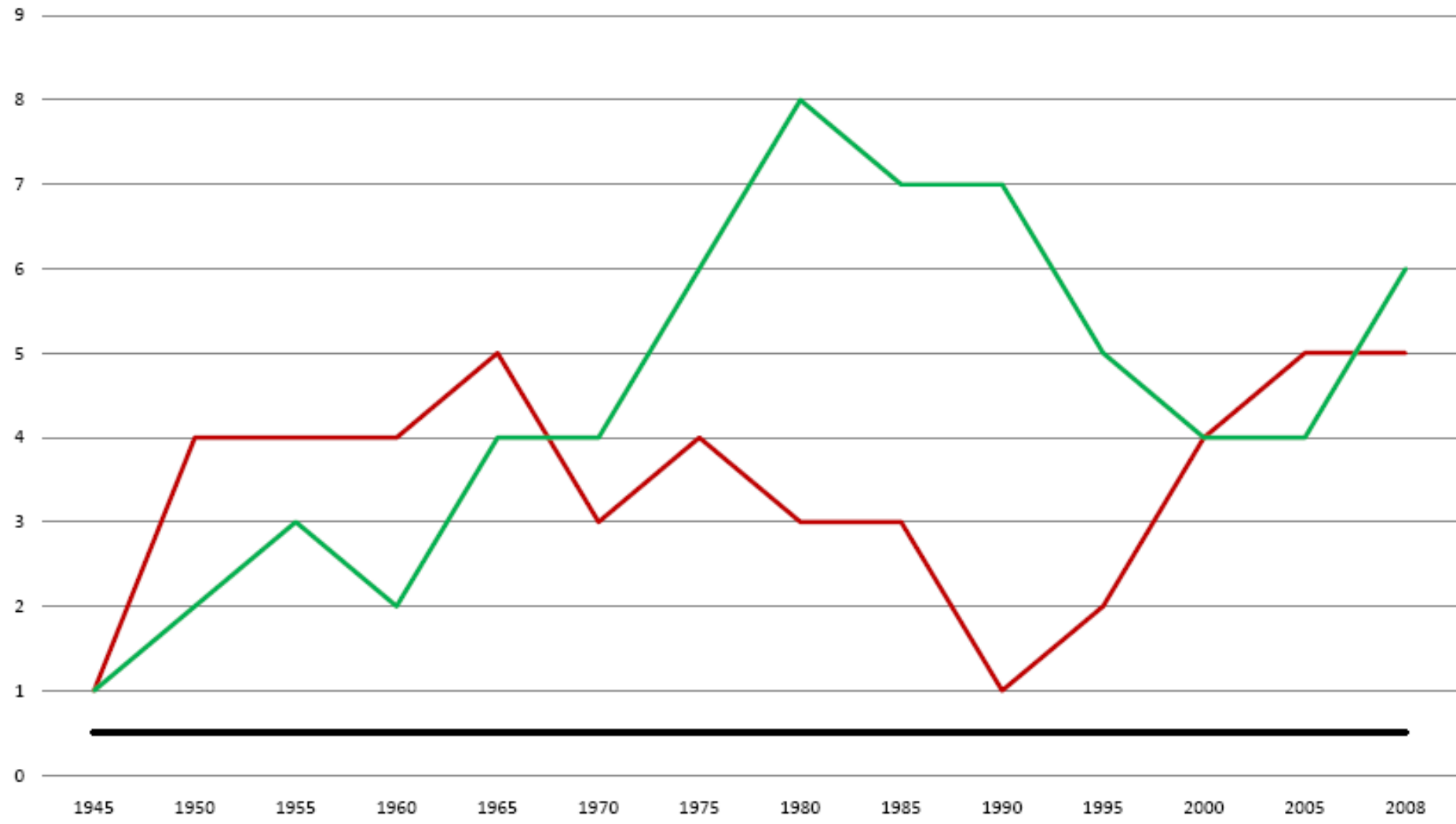
References:

- Fahlbusch, Fabian (2009): "Von *KarstadtQuelle* zu *Arcandor*, von *MTU Friedrichshafen* zu *Tognum*. Prinzipien des diachronen Wandels von Unternehmensnamen". (Thesis Mainz).
- Ronneberger-Sibold, Elke (1995): Die Optimierung von Lautgestalten durch synchrone Wortkürzung und durch langfristigen Sprachwandel. In: Boretzky, Norbert et al. (eds.): *Natürlichkeitstheorie und Sprachwandel*. Bochum.

Ratio of unrounded unstressed vowels compared to all unstressed vowels



Hiatuses



— common nouns — female first names — male first names

Inge (1940) > Ingrid (1945)

Christel

- Sabine > Sabrina
- Anna > Antje > Anni(c)ka

1945 Christel/Kristel, Christa >

1950 Christa >

1960 Christine >

1965 Christine / Kerstin / Kirsten >

1970 Kerstin / Christina >

1980 Christina >

1985 Christina / Kristin >

1990: Christina