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ABSTRACT

THE ENTIRE REPORT IS A LISTING (MADE FROM SCANNING 7,500,000 WORDS OF TEXT FROM 125 BOOKS) OF THE OCCURRENCES OF BRAILLE CONTRACTION SEQUENCES. ATTENTION FOCUSES ON OCCURRENCES IN WHICH SYLLABIFICATION, PRONUNCIATION, AND MEANING DETERMINE THE USE OR NONUSE OF THE CONTRACTION. AN INTRODUCTION EXPLAINS THE PROCEDURE AND PROCESS USED. (JH)

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KEY BRAILLE CONTRACTION CONTEXTS

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

1969

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KEY BRAILLE CONTRACTION CONTEXTS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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DATA PROCESSING DEPARTMENT

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

1969

THIS PROJECT WAS DONE UNDER
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THE LIST WHICH FOLLOWS WAS DERIVED FROM SCANNING APPROXIMATELY 7,500,000 WORDS OF TEXT FROM 125 BOOKS. THE OCCURRENCES OF BRAILLE CONTRACTION SEQUENCES WERE NOTED. A CONTRACTION SEQUENCE IS DEFINED AS A LETTER SERIES WHICH IN GRADE 2 BRAILLE IS USUALLY REPRESENTED BY ONE BRAILLE SIGN, BUT SOMETIMES IS TRANSCRIBED LETTER BY LETTER. THOSE CASES IN WHICH THE POSITION OF THE CONTRACTION SEQUENCE IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORD PROHIBITS USE OF THE SINGLE BRAILLE SIGN WERE ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER STUDY. EXAMPLES OF THIS TYPE OF OCCURRENCE ARE THE SERIES, BB, AT THE END OF A WORD, THE SERIES, DO, AS PART OF A WORD, AND THE SERIES, COM, IN THE MIDDLE OF A WORD. ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED UPON THOSE OCCURRENCES IN WHICH USE OR NON-USE OF THE CONTRACTION DEPENDS UPON SYLLABIFICATION, PRONUNCIATION, AND MEANING. IN THESE INSTANCES, CORRECT BRAILLE TRANSLATION IS DETERMINED BY THE SPECIFIC WORD IN WHICH THE CONTRACTION SEQUENCE OCCURS RATHER THAN BY THE PHYSICAL LOCATION OF THE SEQUENCE IN THE WORD.

AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DISCOVER THE LETTERS ADJACENT TO THE CONTRACTION SEQUENCE WHICH ARE SIGNIFICANT IN INDICATING WHETHER OR NOT THE SEQUENCE IS TO BE CONTRACTED IN BRAILLE. A CONTRACTION SEQUENCE WITH ONE OR MORE SIGNIFICANT ADJACENT LETTERS IS CALLED A KEY CONTEXT.

IN THE LIST, A PLUS SIGN FOLLOWING THE CONTRACTION CONTEXT INDICATES THAT THE CONTRACTED FORM IS TO BE USED. THE MINUS SIGN INDICATES THAT THE CONTRACTION IS NOT TO BE USED. WHERE TWO OR MORE KEY CONTEXTS FOR A GIVEN CONTRACTION OCCUR IN THE SAME WORD, THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY. 1. THE CONTEXT WHOSE FIRST LETTER OCCURS FIRST IN THE WORD TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER THE CONTEXT WHOSE FIRST LETTER BEGINS LATER IN THE WORD. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONTEXT, SUBB -, AND THE CONTEXT, UBB +, BOTH OCCUR IN THE WORD, SUBBASEMENT. THE CONTEXT, SUBB -, TAKES PRECEDENCE. 2. IF TWO CONTEXTS BEGIN WITH THE SAME FIRST LETTER, THE LONGER CONTEXT TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER THE SHORTER. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE WORD, MISTAKE, THE CONTEXT, MIST +, AND THE CONTEXT, MISTA -, BOTH OCCUR. THE CONTEXT, MISTA -, TAKES PRECEDENCE.

FOR THIS PROJECT, DATA WAS ANALYZED USING THE 709 DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM MADE AVAILABLE WITHOUT CHARGE BY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES TO THE AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND FOR BRAILLE TRANSLATION AND BRAILLE RESEARCH.

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