

## FORMATION AND USAGE OF HYPOCORISTIC FORMS IN BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE AND LITHUANIAN

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- **ABSTRACT:** This paper presents research into Anthroponomastics, a branch of Onomastics, devoted to the study of personal proper names. This paper is aimed at description and comparison of (1) different morphological processes involved in formation of hypocoristic forms in Brazilian Portuguese and Lithuanian and (2) the usage of hypocoristic forms as official first names in both countries based on the data available on two national institutional websites. The comparative analysis described in the paper shows that the morphological processes of clipping of first names have more similarities than differences in both languages, although equivalent first names may have different hypocoristic forms in each of the languages. In addition, the usage of hypocoristic forms as first names is quite different in each country. According to Brazilian statistical data, their usage is gradually decreasing. On the contrary, according to Lithuanian statistical data, the usage of hypocoristic forms as first names is a contemporary tendency in Lithuania.
- **KEYWORDS:** Onomastics. Comparative Anthroponomastics. Hypocoristic forms. Clipping.

### Introduction

This paper presents research into Anthroponomastics, a branch of Onomastics, devoted to the study of personal proper names. Van Langendonck points out that in order to properly understand the phenomenon of personal proper names, the systematic analysis of typology as well as the in-depth discussion of categorical meaning is required. However, there are few studies about subclassification of proper names and “[...] even if linguists are aware of this gap in the scientific literature, they refrain from tackling the problem.” (VAN LANGENDONCK, 2007, p.183). To solve this issue, Van Langendonck complements traditional classifications of proper names with the one based on their semantic-pragmatic characterization. His classification of personal

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names – referred to in this paper as anthroponyms – employs a binary opposition: ‘official’ vs. ‘unofficial’ and ‘primary’ vs. ‘secondary’ (VAN LANGENDONCK, 2007, p.189).

The aforementioned types of names have their distinguishing features. According to Van Langendonck (2007, p. 189), official names are given by official state or religious institutions, while unofficial names “can be given by anybody”; primary names

[...] fulfil the three main functions of personal names: address (talk to), identification (talk about) and a wide possibility of subcategorization concerning gender and expressivity. (VAN LANGENDONCK, 2007, p.189).

In addition, secondary names are chronologically or functionally subsequent to primary names (VAN LANGENDONCK, 2007).

First names are usually primary and official, while family names are official, but they can be both primary and secondary depending on the usage in a particular context. Unofficial names, such as bynames, pseudonyms and internet chat names are secondary. The place of hypocoristics within Langendonck’s framework is ambiguous. He suggests treating hypocoristics as first names but not as bynames and views hypocoristics solely as names with diminutive semantic component. Amaral’s definition of hypocoristics seems to be more suitable for the purposes of this article:

A hypocoristic form can be understood as a unit formed from a morphological variation (clipping, diminutive, augmentative, etc.) of another anthroponym. It is usually used in familiar contexts. Hypocoristic forms differ from nicknames because they originate from a full form of another proper name. (AMARAL, 2011, p.72, our translation).<sup>1</sup>

This paper is aimed at description and comparison of (1) different morphological processes involved in formation of hypocoristic forms in Brazilian Portuguese (BP) and Lithuanian (LT) and (2) the usage of hypocoristic forms as official first names in both countries based on the data available on two national institutional websites. The Brazilian part of research uses the data from *Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) – The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2010)*, while the Lithuanian data are retrieved from the website of *Valstybinė lietuvių kalbos komisija (VLKK) – State Commission of the Lithuanian Language (LITHUANIA, [201-])*.

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<sup>1</sup> Original: “O hypocorístico pode ser compreendido como um item formado a partir de uma alteração morfológica (abreviação, diminutivo, aumentativo, etc.) de outro antropônimo. É usado geralmente em contextos familiares. Diferencia-se do apelido por ter sua origem em outro nome próprio.” (AMARAL, 2011, p.72).

As the research is of a comparative nature, it follows the paradigm of Comparative Anthroponomastics<sup>2</sup> where two or more anthroponomastic systems are compared in order to

[...] obtain results not only about the origin and development of languages, but also about their features which might be seen either as universal or as peculiar to each language and culture. In a similar manner, contrasting different social norms concerning people's first names can lead to a better comprehension of common and distinct features of names and their usage across languages and cultures. (SEIDE, PETRULIONĖ, 2018, p.1203).

Since the study focuses on clipped first names, it is necessary to give a brief overview of this process. Thereby, clipping or its synonymic term truncation can be defined as a word formation device by means of which shorter counterparts of longer full words are created (JAMET, 2009; BEHERA; MISHRA, 2013). From the morphological point of view, however, the clipped part of the word is usually an incomplete morpheme. In fact, there is a prosodic morphology that rules the word formation process of clipping as “[...] the creation of clipping is not arbitrary but is constrained by phonological restriction having to do with **size and syllable structure.**” (JAMET, 2009, p.22, bold in original).

From the phonological perspective, it is important to find out where the word can be clipped and if there are constraints on the processes of word reduction in one language or across languages. Carter and Clopper's overview of numerous studies on reduced forms in various languages (German, Italian, Spanish, Catalan, Japanese and Hungarian) shows that there is “[...] a strong tendency for adult truncations to result in the maintenance of salient syllables and in well-formed feet regardless of input word length or stress pattern.” (CARTER; CLOPPER, 2002, p.326). Their research results related to the English language reveal that “[...] some systematic patterns, such as a preference for output patterns such as monosyllables and disyllables, have been found repeatedly in both the corpus-based and the experimental-based studies.” (CARTER; CLOPPER, 2002, p.326).

From the semantic point of view, after the creation of a clipped form, the shortened form and the full form of a word do not bear equivalent semantic relation any more. However, as pointed by Plag (2003, p.22), “[...] truncations, in addition to the meaning of the base, signal the familiarity of the speaker with the entity s/he is referring to.” In the long term, clipped forms can be seen as autonomous, “[...] as the unmarked, standard forms [...]: fridge (<<refrigerator>>). Sometimes, the motivation between the full form and the clipped form is lost – a phenomenon known as ‘opacification’: pants (<<pantaloons >>.)” (JAMET, 2009, p.19).

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<sup>2</sup> For more details on this type of anthroponomastic research see Seide (2016).

One more important research into clipping of common nouns is the comparative study between Latvian<sup>3</sup> and English languages by Veisbergs which reveals that

[...] clipping takes a more prominent place in English than in Latvian, where the multimorphemic words are often the result of several affixes which cannot be deleted for grammatical reasons. Also the new clipped form in Latvian is much more complex – while an English word, after losing its elements is “ready” for use, Latvian clipping is still to be supplied with a derivational suffix and inflectional ending. (VEISBERGS, 1999, p.154).

The studies cited above create a more comprehensive view of the clipping process by addressing semantic, morphological and phonological aspects (BEHERA; MISHRA, 2013; VEISBERGS, 1999; CARTER; CLOPPER, 2002; JAMET, 2009; PLAG, 2003). However, they do not shed light on clipping of personal nouns and many questions regarding the nature of the process as well as its similarities and differences with clipping of common nouns remain unanswered.

From the lexicological point of view, the usage of hypocoristic forms as first names creates new first names. Consequently, this phenomenon can be considered as a linguistics source of anthroponymical neologisms. This issue has been addressed by the Brazilian research project “Todos os Nomes” (All the names) where neological names have been treated as the ones registered in the sample (a collection of students names of Universidade Federal da Bahia (Bahia’s Federal University) drawn in 2007, 2008 and 2009, but not included in Antenor Nascente’s dictionary published in 1950 or not found in the Bible. However, the aim of this article is not to investigate neologisms but to compare the processes which result in the shortened forms of first names and the usage of hypocoristic forms as official first names in Brazil and Lithuania.

The paper detailing this research is organized in seven sections. The first presents hypocoristics as a result of clipping processes; the second defines and compares hypocoristic forms and first names; the third describes the morphological process of clipping of first names in BP and in LT; the fourth analyses the correlation between the number of syllables in full names and their hypocoristic forms; the fifth demonstrates the usage of first names of hypocoristic origin formed by clipping in BP; the sixth describes the usage of first names of hypocoristic origin formed by clipping in LT; the seventh renders a comparative analysis between BP and LT data. Some final remarks are made in the conclusion section.

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<sup>3</sup> Latvian and Lithuanian are the only surviving members of the Baltic branch of the Indo-European language family. The extinct ones are Old Prussian, Sudovian, Selonian, Semigallian and Old Curonian.

## Hypocoristics as a result of clipping processes

The research starts with an investigation whether hypocoristics formed by clipping as well as clipping processes themselves are described in prescriptive grammars of the languages involved: Lithuanian and Brazilian Portuguese.

As for Lithuanian grammars, Ambrasas (1997) does not provide information about hypocoristic forms of first names, while Mathiassen (1996) uses the adjectival form of the term in a section devoted to noun diminutives and relates it to the sense of diminutive forms: “The suffixes labelled diminutive are extremely common and numerous [...]. They mostly have a hypocoristic meaning and express familiarity, emotionality rather than small size.” (MATHIASSEN, 1996, p.55). Mathiassen’s examples include the masculine first name *Jonas* and its hypocoristic form *Jonukas*, and the feminine first name *Alma* and its hypocoristic form *Almutė*. These are cases of hypocoristic forms but they are not made by clipping.

Regarding grammars of Brazilian Portuguese, hypocoristic forms of first names are not mentioned in Cunha and Cintra (CUNHA; CINTRA, 1985), while the definition, explanation and examples are found in the grammar of Almeida. Among the examples, there are some of clipped forms of first names: “In familiar contexts, proper names have endings or special forms; those familiar or childish words are called hypocoristics, especially when a syllable is reduplicated within the name.”<sup>4</sup> (ALMEIDA, 1961, p.119, our translation). This grammar contains almost twenty examples. Some are of clipped first names, including the masculine first names *Domingos - Mingu*, *Joaquim - Quim*, *José - Zé*, and the feminine first names *Aparecida - Cida*, *Carlota - Lota* (ALMEIDA, 1961).

Based on the grammars considered, on the prescriptive level, hypocoristic forms of first names made by clipping were not given much attention (except for Almeida’s grammar). From the point of view of descriptive linguistics, there are some previous studies on the subject.

As for Lithuanian anthroponymic research, there are the studies of Sinkevičiūtė (2006a, 2006b, 2002) who has written a monograph and at least two articles about hypocoristics. In the monograph, she analyses the surnames that originated from the clippings of old Lithuanian double-stemmed personal names (SINKEVIČIŪTĖ, 2006a). In one article, she discusses trends in clipping of dual-stemmed personal names in colloquial speech (SINKEVIČIŪTĖ, 2002), while in the other article, she deals with the analysis of surnames of clipping origin in Vilnius area (SINKEVIČIŪTĖ, 2006b). Although related to hypocoristic processes, Sinkevičiūtė’s studies deal with names from the historical and sociological point of view, but they are not aimed at hypocoristics used as official first names and do not apply a comparative approach.

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<sup>4</sup> Original: “No trato doméstico, os nomes próprios têm desinências ou formas especiais diminutivas; recebem o nome de hipocorísticos esses vocábulos familiares ou infantis, sobretudo quando neles há duplicação de sílabas.” (ALMEIDA, 1961, p.119).

In Brazil, on the contrary, there are studies focusing on how a first name can be clipped resulting in a hypocoristic form. There is Monteiro's investigation in Ceará, a capital city of one state in the northeast region of Brazil. The Brazilian linguist randomly collected 9,000 hypocoristic forms that later constituted the basis for a hypocoristic Brazilian dictionary. He has analyzed the data aiming to discover productive rules for the formation of hypocoristic names in Brazil on the basis of Generative Morphology (MONTEIRO, 1982).

More recent studies still use Monteiro's seminal study as a reference, including the research carried out by da Silva and Silva (2000) whose results confirmed Monteiro's study. Their research involved undergraduate students of Language and Literature of the Federal University of Pernambuco – another capital city of northeast Brazilian region. The researchers collected and analysed 60 first names and their respective 105 hypocoristics. Moreover, Lucini wrote a doctoral dissertation which was based on Monteiro's data and focused on a field research with 160 teenager students of a middle class confessional private school in the city of Porto Alegre, a capital city of south Brazilian region (LUCINI, 2010).

Both studies have corroborated Monteiro's findings, especially on the productive rules and clippings processes which are more frequently observed in formation of hypocoristic first names. Due to corroboration of Monteiro's findings on the one hand, and the lack of specific research about clipping of first names in the Lithuanian language on the other, the point of departure of this research is the productive rules described by the Brazilian researcher.

## **Hypocoristics and first names**

Various specialized reference resources define the term "hypocoristic" rather vaguely and the emphasis often falls on different aspects of the concept (see MATTHEWS, 2007, p.180; BUSSMANN, 2006, p.213; BUTTERFIELD, 2003, p.804; INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ONOMASTICS SCIENCES, [20-]). As stated in the Introduction of this article, Amaral's definition (AMARAL, 2011) of hypocoristics is the most relevant to this research; however, the term still needs to be specified and, for the purpose of this study, it can be defined as a kind of name *which is derived from a full form of first name by means of clipping*. These shortened names can be used as secondary, non-official names or nicknames, and as primary names or official names. The latter ones are of a particular interest for this research.

One more thing which is important to consider within the framework of binary opposition is that one and the same name can be seen as primary or as secondary. For example, an official name *Algis*, which is recorded in one's documents (birth certificate, passport, etc.), is a primary name. However, a person, whose official name is *Algimantas*, can be called *Algis* in various unofficial or semi-official situations, and the latter usage should be treated as secondary.

It is also important to distinguish hypocoristic names from other types of personal names as first names, bynames, nicknames, pseudonyms, internet chat names etc. The distinction between first names and hypocoristic forms is clear: first names are always primary and official, while the status of hypocoristics may shift depending on certain factors (see the two paragraphs above).

The difference between hypocoristics and bynames or nicknames<sup>5</sup> is not so clearly cut. Pragmatically, bynames

[...] are functionally secondary since they do not necessary serve as a form of address, but rather as a means of further identification and expressivity [...]. Furthermore, bynames are chronologically secondary: they come into use after the given name as an additional naming category. (VAN LANGENDONK, 2007, p.195).

From a historical point of view, bynames were created after first names in anthroponymic systems of various languages. However, Van Langendonk (2007, p.189) claims that “[...] it need not be excluded that this secondary personal name category developed rather early, at first in the realm of diminutive expressive formations (hypocoristics) and later on, in augmentative formations (nicknames).” Based on this statement, the difference between hypocoristics and bynames is in the type of morpheme used: if it is augmentative, the name gains a pejorative meaning and is considered as a nickname, and if the name has a diminutive morpheme, the name gains an affective positive meaning and is considered as a hypocoristic. However, Van Langendonk’s statement is not precise. At least in BP, it is not possible to state that all names with augmentative suffix are always nicknames. If a man named *Paulo* (Paul) is called *Paulão* (big Paul), the usage of augmentative suffix is considered to be positive in Brazilian culture. On the contrary, if a feminine name *Rita* adds the same suffix and becomes *Ritona* (big Rita), the woman bearing this name can be seen as too big, and the usage of the suffix results in a depreciative nickname.

In addition, Van Langendonk’s claim does not cover the cases where a hypocoristic is a clipped form of a first name.<sup>6</sup> Hypocoristics are popular anthroponyms usually given by other people and occur in different social contexts, but they are not used to express a characteristic of the name bearer as is the case of a nickname. Nicknames are different from pseudonyms and internet chat names because the former are given by others while the latter are names that the person gives to himself/herself. However, hypocoristic forms may also function as pseudonyms because nothing/nobody can prevent a person from asking to be addressed by a hypocoristic form of his/her name.

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<sup>5</sup> The terms “byname” and “nickname” are used interchangeably in this article, even though superordination of the former is not questioned. The synonymic usage is consistent with the main semantic component of their definitions, i.e. “additional, informal proper name” (see also INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ONOMASTICS SCIENCES, [20-]; VAN LANGENDONK, 2007, p.118-119; HOUGH, 2016, p.237-238)

<sup>6</sup> Van Langendonck (2007, p.196) claims that hypocoristic forms should not be regarded as bynames.

All things considered, this research focuses on hypocoristics which are (1) derived by clipping first names, and (2) used as primary official first names. Other features assigned to hypocoristics, including diminutive meaning, augmentative morphemes, etc., are disregarded here.

## Formation processes of clipped hypocoristic forms of first names in Brazilian Portuguese and Lithuanian

Before starting the linguistic analysis, some basic information about the languages involved – Portuguese and Lithuanian – should be provided. One of the most important and major differences between the languages is that in Portuguese, “[...] syntactic function is mainly related to word order” while, in Lithuanian, it “is shown by word declension.” (SEIDE; PETRULIONĖ, 2018, p.1204). As distinct from Lithuanian, the word endings of nouns carry information only about grammatical gender and number in Portuguese. The examples below illustrate some important contrastive grammatical information which is relevant to this paper<sup>7</sup>.

### **Pedr - o**<sup>8</sup>

Peter – M.SG  
'Peter '

- (1) Portuguese

### **O Pedr- o**

ART –DEF.M.SG – Peter – M.S.G .  
The Peter  
'Peter '

- (2) Lithuanian

### **Petr-as**

Peter –NOM.SG.

- (3) Portuguese

### **O Pedro me ve**

The Peter- SBJ me-OBJ 1 SG see – PRS.3SG.  
'Peter sees me'

- (4) Lithuanian

### **Petr-as mane mat-o**

Peter- NOM, SG. me – ACC.SG see - PRS.3SG.  
'Peter sees me '

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<sup>7</sup> The examples have been glossed according to the Leipzig Glossing Rules (COMRIE; HASPELMATH; BICKEL, 2015).

<sup>8</sup> In fact, there is no feminine counterpart for the name Pedro, but it is glossed this way just to show different endings of masculine gender in both languages.



(5) Portuguese

**Eu vej-o o Petr-o**

I- SUBJ, 1SG see –PRS.1SG, the Peter - OBJ

'I see Peter '

(6) Lithuanian

**Aš mat-au Petr-ą**

I – NOM.1SG. see - PRS.1SG Peter-ACC.M.SG.

'I see Peter '

(SEIDE; PETRULIONĖ, 2018, p.1204)

The examples above are masculine names. Masculine gender is expressed by the ending – *o* in Portuguese,<sup>9</sup> while Lithuanian masculine names have the inflectional ending – *as*. Those morphemes are prototypical in both languages. But there are the other ones

The most common endings of masculine nouns in the nominative singular are highlighted in bold in the following examples: *darbas* (work), *jaunimas* (youth), *lietuvis* (Lithuanian), *arklys* (horse), *lietus* (rain), *skaičius* (number). (AMBRAZAS, 1997, p.99-100).

In the Portuguese language, masculine gender of the noun is expressed mainly by endings –*o* [...], e.g. *aluno* (student) [...] with certain exceptions<sup>10</sup>. (CUNHA; CINTRA, 1985, p.184).

Generally speaking, nouns which entered the languages by means of lexical borrowing and which share the same etymological stem and meaning differ only by their masculine endings: *bankas* – *banco* (bank), *euras* – *euro* (euro), *telefonas* – *telefone* (telephone), *klubas* – *clube* (club). (SEIDE; PETRULIONĖ, p.1205-1206, 2018).

Regarding feminine nouns, the prototypical examples have endings –*a* in the Portuguese language (CUNHA; CINTRA, 1985). As for feminine personal names, there some names that have endings formed by a variant morpheme –*e* as in the pairs *Adriana* – *Adriane*, *Daniela* – *Daniele*, etc.

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<sup>9</sup> Some Portuguese proper names have both masculine and feminine forms such as *Paulo* (m.) and *Paula* (f.), and others have only the masculine form (*Pedro*) or the feminine form (*Vanessa*).

<sup>10</sup> There are cases when one masculine or feminine noun indicates both masculine and feminine referents such as *borboleta*, fem. noun meaning “butterfly”. In other cases just the article points if reference is made to a male or female person. For example, the word *estudante* means a student. If there is a fem. article before the noun, reference is made to a woman: *a estudante*. On the contrary, if there is a masc. article, reference is made to a man: *o estudante*. There are also a few masculine words that end in “a” as in *poema*, “poem” and some masculine nouns that end in “i” as in *jabuti*, a Brazilian kind of turtle.

In the Lithuanian language, the prototypical endings of feminine nouns are *-a* and *-ė* in nominative singular. There are also others morphemes, such as *-i*, *-is*, *-uo*, but they are not used in female personal names (AMBRAZAS, 1997). The following feminine common and proper nouns may serve as examples: *teta* (aunt), *duktė* (daughter), *Kristina* and *Adelė*.

Based on Monteiro's research (1982) it is possible to describe seven different processes of clipping of first names. To verify whether the processes described by Monteiro also applies to the Lithuanian language, the data available on VLKK website was analysed. This comparison has enabled to find the evidence about the existence of the same processes in Lithuanian. It is worthy to note that the Lithuanian website provides first names along with their hypocoristic forms, while on IBGE site, there is no information about how the first names can be shortened.

The first process considered is fore-clipping or the drop of the syllable before the stressed syllable in three syllable words. In the following examples, the tonic syllable is in bold letters. In BP, the first name *Fernando* (m.) and *Natália* (f.) can be reduced by dropping the first syllable thus creating hypocoristics which consist of two syllables: *Nando* and *Tália*. This process can be also found in LT as in the example of the hypocoristic *Minas*, a clipping from *Gediminas* (m). However, in the Lithuanian language, not only unstressed syllables, but also the stressed ones can be dropped. Moreover, the latter process seems to be more frequent as evidenced by a great number of examples, including *Mantas* from ***Domantas*** (m.), *Vydas* from ***Tautvydas*** (m.). In addition, there are plenty of feminine Lithuanian names where initial syllables are dropped both before stressed and unstressed syllables, for instance, *Gailė* from ***Ringailė*** (f), *Leta* from ***Violeta*** (f). All things considered, the first process described by Monteiro somewhat differs in the languages under analysis. In Lithuanian, initial clipping does not depend on the word stress, while in Brazilian Portuguese, initial clipping before the stressed syllable is common as in *Zé* from *José*

The second process registered in both languages is back-clipping or the drop of one or two final syllables or their parts. It is the case of *Edu* as the hypocoristic form of *Eduardo* (m.) in PB, which is a process equivalent to *Benas* as the hypocoristic form of *Benediktas*<sup>11</sup> (m.) and *Domas* as a shortened version of *Domantas* (m.) in LT. Feminine anthroponyms can be illustrated with the following examples: *Madá* is a hypocoristic form of *Madalena* (f.) in PB, while *Austė* is a hypocoristic form of *Austėja* (f.) and *Alba* is a hypocoristic form of *Albertina* (f.) in LT. The only difference between the languages is that the final syllables of the whole first name are clipped in Portuguese, while in Lithuanian, the final syllables of the stem (the part of word which is common to all its inflected variants) are dropped. As mentioned earlier, Lithuanian is a richly inflected language with two genders, seven cases and two numbers for nouns, including the proper ones. Consequently, both a full first name and its hypocoristic form must have an inflection.

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<sup>11</sup> In LT, a part of the syllable but not the whole syllable is usually dropped: *Be-ne-dik-tas* – *Be-nas* (*-as* is an inflection).

The name *Albertina* also exists in Brazilian anthroponymy, but, according to Monteiro's data, the hypocoristic forms do not coincide: the name *Albertina* gives *Berta* in BP,<sup>12</sup> and *Alberta* or *Alba* in LT. The same applies to equivalent masculine names *Dominykas* and *Domingos*: the Brazilian counterpart for *Domas* is *Mingu* (ALMEIDA, 1961). Consequently, despite the existence of identical processes in both languages, there is no guarantee that one and the same or an equivalent name will be clipped identically. These examples serve as evidence that equivalent first names may have different hypocoristic forms in each of the languages.

In the case of *Berta* as a hypocoristic of *Albertina*, there is the drop of the first and final syllables or back-and-fore-clipping, and this is the third process which is productive in both languages. For example, *Pita* is a hypocoristic of the first name *Epitácio* (m.) in BP, while *Melė* is a hypocoristic form of *Amelija* (f.) and *Genė* of *Eugenija* (f.) in LT.

The fourth process is middle clipping which also occurs in both languages. In BP, *Quino* is the hypocoristic form of *Quirino* (m.) and *Marla* of *Marcela* (f.); correspondingly, there are *Vilmas* as a clipped form of *Vilhelmas* (m.) and *Nilė* of *Nijolė* (f.) in LT.

The fifth process common to both languages is clipping with the drop of syllable and consonant alteration. The process can be illustrated with the pairs *Murilo* – *Lilo* (m.) and *Francisca*– *Quica* (f.) in PB, in LT, and there is the pair *Domantas*– *Mančius* (m.).

Besides these five processes in common, there are two processes in PB which are not productive in LT and, on the contrary, there is one process which is productive only in LT. For the Lithuanian language, it is the clipping with morphological variation. For example, the first name *Emilija* (f.) has two variants of hypocoristic forms – *Mila* and *Milė* where the different endings correspond to different morphemes of feminine gender. The same happens in the hypocoristic forms of *Danielius* (m.) that has different endings corresponding to different morphemes of masculine gender *Danas*, *Danis*, *Danys*, *Danius*.

A process peculiar to BP is reduplication of syllables with the drop of consonant resulting in a shortened form as in *Augusto* - *Gugu* (m.) and *Glória* - *Gogó* (f.). The next process specific only to BP is the creation of one single hypocoristic form out of a compound name. In such a way, *Cadu* is a hypocoristic form of *Carlos Eduardo* (m.). The first syllable *Ca* comes from the name *Carlos*, while the second syllable *du* comes from the name *Eduardo*. The eight morphological processes of clipping observed in Lithuanian and Brazilian Portuguese are summarised in Table 1<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> Berta can be also related to the first name Roberta.

<sup>13</sup> All tables presented in this article were created by the authors.

**Table 1** – Comparison of morphological processes of clipping in BP and LT

Clipping process	Examples in BP	Examples in LT
1. Fore-clipping: 1.1. before the tonic	<b><i>Fernando</i></b> - <i>Nando</i> <sup>14</sup> <i>Natália</i> - <i>Tália</i>	<b><i>Gediminas</i></b> - <i>Minas</i> <b><i>Augustas</i></b> - <i>Gustas</i> <b><i>Ringailė</i></b> - <i>Gailė</i> ,
1.2. when the word stress has no impact	_____	<b><i>Violeta</i></b> - <i>Leta</i> <b><i>Domantas</i></b> - <i>Mantas</i>
2. Back-clipping	<i>Eduardo</i> - <i>Edu</i> <i>Madalena</i> - <i>Madá</i>	<i>Benediktas</i> - <i>Benas</i> <i>Austėja</i> - <i>Austė</i> <i>Albertina</i> - <i>Alba</i>
3. Back-and fore-clipping	<b><i>Epitácio</i></b> - <i>Pita</i> ; <b><i>Albertina</i></b> - <i>Berta</i>	<b><i>Amelija</i></b> - <i>Melė</i> <b><i>Eugenija</i></b> - <i>Genė</i>
4. Middle clipping	<i>Quirino</i> - <i>Quino</i> <i>Marcela</i> - <i>Marla</i>	<b><i>Vilhelmas</i></b> - <i>Vilmas</i> <b><i>Nijolė</i></b> - <i>Nilė</i>
5. Clipping with consonant alteration	<i>Murilo</i> - <i>Lilo</i> ; <b><i>Francisca</i></b> - <i>Quica</i>	<b><i>Domantas</i></b> - <i>Mančius</i> <b><i>Martynas</i></b> - <i>Marčius</i>
6. Clipping with morphological variation	_____	<b><i>Emilija</i></b> - <i>Mila</i> , <i>Milė</i> <b><i>Danielius</i></b> - <i>Danas</i> , <i>Danis</i> , <i>Danys</i> , <i>Danius</i> <b><i>Vaclovas</i></b> - <i>Vacius</i> , <i>Vacys</i>
7. Reduplication and drop of a consonant	<i>Augusto</i> - <i>Gugu</i> <b><i>Glória</i></b> - <i>Gogó</i>	_____
8. Clipping of parts of a compound name	<b><i>Carlos Eduardo</i></b> - <i>Cadu</i> <b><i>Maria Isabel</i></b> - <i>Mabel</i>	_____

**Source:** Author's elaboration.

As evidenced by the results shown in Table 1, the morphological processes of clipping of first names have more similarities than differences in both languages, although equivalent first names may have different hypocoristic forms in each language. For example, *Augustas* (LT) and *Augusto* (BP) are equivalent masculine names, but Lithuanian hypocoristic is *Gustas*, and its Portuguese counterparts are *Gugu* and *Guto*. *Gustas* and *Guto* are formed by fore-clipping, while reduplication and drop of a consonant is employed in *Gugu*.

### **Correlation between the number of syllables in full names and their hypocoristic forms**

In an attempt to correlate the number of syllables of a full first name and the existence of a clipped form, lists of full names and their hypocoristic forms have

<sup>14</sup> Stressed syllables are underlined, while the dropped or altered parts are in bold.

been analysed in BP and LT. As mentioned earlier, clipping is the process of forming a hypocoristic (or a new word in general) by dropping one or more syllables from a polysyllabic name (or word). If a name has two syllables, the hypocoristic form would have just one, if it has three syllables, the hypocoristic form can have one or two and so on. Consequently, in the given languages, there can be a tendency or preference to form hypocoristic forms from names with a certain number of syllables.

To form a list of hypocoristic forms in BP, 36 first names collected by Silva and da Silva have been used (DA SILVA; SILVA, 2000). This list contains only 6 two-syllable names, but there are 15 three-syllable names and 14 four-syllable names (e.g. *José - Zé*; *Cristina - Cris*; *Adriana - Adri*). The data analysis has shown that in BP, there is a preference to shorten names which have more than two syllables.

The analysis of the 23 most popular names mentioned on *Vardai* site (a subsite of VLKK) has exhibited slightly different tendencies in the Lithuanian language. There are no clipped forms for two-syllable names. Only 3 names out of the total 14 three-syllable names have no reduced forms, while all four-syllable names have their hypocoristic forms. These results are shown in Table 2 below.

**Table 2** – Correlation between the number of syllables of full names and their clipped forms in LT

Two-syllable first names without clipped forms	Three-syllable first names and their clipped forms	More than three syllable first names and their clipped forms
<i>Jonas</i>	<i>Adomas - Adas, Adis, Adžius</i>	<i>Dominykas - Domas</i>
<i>Joris</i>	<i>Augustas - Augas, Augis, Augius, Augys, Gustas, Gustis</i>	<i>Amelija - Ama, Amalė, Amelė, Malė, Melė</i>
<i>Kajus</i>	<i>Domantas - Domas, Mančius, Mantas, Mantis</i>	
<i>Ieva</i>	<i>Danielius - Danas, Danis, Danius, Danys</i>	
<i>Lėja</i>	<i>Dovydas - Dovas, Dovis</i>	
<i>Liepa</i>	<i>Gabrielius - Gabrys</i>	
<i>Luknė</i>	<i>Emilis - Emas, Emis, Milas, Milius</i>	
<i>Ugnė</i>	<i>Austėja - Austė, Austa</i>	
<i>Urtė</i>	<i>Gabija - Gabė</i>	
<i>Viltė</i>	<i>Gabrielė - Gabrė, Gabė</i>	
	<i>Kamilė - no clipped form</i>	
	<i>Jokūbas - no clipped form</i>	
	<i>Rugilė - no clipped form</i>	

**Source:** Author's elaboration.

These results shed some light on possible morphological constraints on the productive rules for clipping of names in LT. Table 2 contains many two-syllable names, especially the feminine ones, which have no hypocoristic forms, for instance, *Urtė* (f.), *Viltė* (f.), *Nojus* (m.). This is a very natural phenomenon, because Lithuanian is a highly inflected language (as opposed to Portuguese) and two-syllable names cannot be reduced to one syllable since the final syllable is always an inflection with syntactic function. On the contrary, when a Lithuanian name has more than two syllables, it is possible to clip the name as in *Gabija* – *Gabė* (f.), or *Emilija* – *Ema* (f.). However, some three-syllable names have no hypocoristic forms, for instance, the names *Jokūbas* (m.), *Kamilė* (f.), *Sofija* (f.). As mentioned earlier, the tonicity of the syllable is not a constraint on Lithuanian productive rules for forming hypocoristic names.

### **The usage of hypocoristic forms as first names in Brazilian Portuguese**

In Monteiro's (1982) study, hypocoristic forms used as first names were analysed. As his data was limited in terms of location (the city of Ceará) and time (the beginning of the 1980s), the usage of those forms as first names has been verified with IBGE data considering the period from 1980 to 2009. It is important to note that IBGE data has been collected from interviews of residents in Brazil and each of the names is assigned to a particular decade according a respondent's date of birth. For example, if a person was born in 1983, his/her name was registered in the 1980's.

The official Brazilian website also contains quantitative information about the usage of first names. When it is statistically relevant, information on how many times the name was used in a particular decade is provided, and when the name is statistically insignificant, the total number of occurrences for the whole period covered by IBGE (1930-2009) is given. Thereby in this research, the first names had their usage measured by occurrences in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.

Monteiro's examples of hypocoristics used as official first names are the following: *Álber* from *Alberto*, *Ari* from *Aristeu*, *Celina* from *Marcelina*, *Délio* from *Cordélio*, *Érico* from *Américo*, *Gil* from *Gilberto*, *Gildo* from *Agildo*, *Lia* from *Amália*, *Nilo* from *Danilo*, *Oto* from *Otoniel*, *Tânia* from *Betânia*, and *Valdo* from *Oswaldo* (MONTEIRO, 1982). All these names have been confirmed by IBGE data, although the hypocoristic names can correlate with full forms of first names, i.e. first names of hypocoristic origin can be homonymic to other first names. In other words, there is no guarantee whether a name is an original first name or an original hypocoristic form. Consequently, statistical information on homonymic names has not been considered. For example, that is the case for the three feminine names from Monteiro's list *Celina*, *Lia* and *Tânia*. All of them are homonymous to full names, and it is difficult to find out whether the full name or the hypocoristic form of the full name has been used. Table 3 presents some hypocoristic forms mentioned by Monteiro which are used as official first names in BP according to IBGE data.

**Table 3** – The usage of hypocoristic forms adopted as first names in BP

Monteiro's data (1982)	IBGE data: 1980-2009	IBGE data		
		1980s	1990s	2000s
<i>Álber</i>	registered	148	116	86
<i>Ari</i>	registered	3,316	1,620	867
<i>Délio</i>	registered	482	180	87
<i>Gil</i>	registered	2,345	1,063	549
<i>Gildo</i>	registered	2,942	1,239	468
<i>Gino</i>	registered	293	220	77
<i>Nilo</i>	registered	1,514	1,000	561

**Source:** Author's elaboration.

As shown in Table 3, the usage of non-homonymic hypocoristic forms used as official first names decreased in the 2000s if compared to their usage in the 1980s and 1990s.

The next step is related to the comparison of the usage of first names and their hypocoristic forms in BP. Table 4 presents the results of the comparison.

**Table 4** – Comparison of the usage of first names and their hypocoristics in BP

Full first names	Occurrences	Hypocoristic as a first name	Occurrences in total
<i>Agildo</i>	413	<i>Gildo</i>	4,652
<i>Alberto</i>	17,868	<i>Álber</i>	350
<i>Aristeu</i>	1,071	<i>Ari</i>	5,824
<i>Cordélio</i>	38 <sup>15</sup>	<i>Délio</i>	746
<i>Danilo</i>	211,683	<i>Nilo</i>	3,075
<i>Higino</i>	223	<i>Gino</i>	590
<i>Gilberto</i>	60,843	<i>Gil</i>	3,957

**Source:** Author's elaboration.

When the usage of first names is compared to the usage of hypocoristic names (see Table 4), the clipped form is more often used just in the cases when the full name is not a frequent name in Brazil, i.e. the number of occurrences for the three decades hardly exceeds 400. These names include *Agildo/Gildo*, *Higino/Gino* and *Cordélio/Nélio*. The popularity of the hypocoristic *Ari* can be explained that it is a clipping not only of *Aristeu*, but also of *Ariovaldo*. On the contrary, when the full first name is

<sup>15</sup> The whole period covered by IBGE, i.e. 1930-2009.

frequent (the number of occurrences ranges from approximately 18 to 61 thousand), it is much more often used than its clipped form. This result indicates that the usage of hypocoristic forms as first names in Brazil is a part of the first name attribution process in Brazil. Nevertheless, none of the clipped names mentioned by Monteiro are among the most popular names according to IBGE.<sup>16</sup>

Having in mind the above considerations and the fact that Monteiro’s data was generated 30 years ago, it was investigated (1) whether more popular first names derived from hypocoristic forms have the same tendency of being less used nowadays, and (2) whether the full names are also preferred to their shortened forms. For this purpose, the hypocoristic forms *Beto*, *Zé* and *Cida*, and their full names (*Roberto* and *Gilberto*, *José*, and *Aparecida*, respectively) have been chosen. Table 5 presents the comparison of the usage of first names and their hypocoristics in BP for the whole period covered by IBGE data, while Table 6 shows in which decades, i.e. 1980s, 1990s or 2000s, the hypocoristic forms were used as first names. The data about the usage of popular names (see Table 5) corroborate the analysis of Monteiro’s data on the preference of full names when compared to their hypocoristic forms. Moreover, the decreasing tendency of the usage of the hypocoristic forms during the decades under analysis (see Table 6) has been also confirmed.

**Table 5** – Comparison of the usage of popular first names and their hypocoristics in BP

Full first names	Occurrences	Hypocoristic as a first name	Occurrences
<i>Gilberto</i>	213,266	<i>Beto</i>	3,774
<i>Roberto</i>	437,288	<i>Beto</i>	3,774
<i>Aparecida</i>	304,024	<i>Cida</i>	5,538
<i>José</i>	5,754,529	<i>Zé</i>	112,799

Source: Author’s elaboration.

**Table 6** – The usage of hypocoristic forms of popular names adopted as first names in BP

Names	IBGE data		
	1980s	1990s	2000s
<i>Beto</i>	1,030	441	283
<i>Cida</i>	873	264	095
<i>Zé</i>	1,867	951	456

Source: Author’s elaboration.

<sup>16</sup> The full list of the most frequent masculine names can be found at <https://censo2010.ibge.gov.br/nomes/#/ranking> and also in Seide and Petrulionè (2018).



## The usage of hypocoristic forms as first names in the Lithuanian language

To obtain similar data about the usage of hypocoristic forms as official first names in Lithuania, other procedures have been applied. First, based on the lists of the most popular first names given to the newborns from 2006 to 2017,<sup>17</sup> a list of 16 feminine and 17 masculine names has been compiled. Among the other names, the list includes 7 hypocoristic forms which are officially used as first names, 8 out of 17 masculine names and 4 out of 16 feminine names have hypocoristic forms, even though they are not among the most popular official names. It should be noted that the phenomenon of homonymy also exists between Lithuanian first names and hypocoristic forms. Table 7 presents the data on the most popular first names in Lithuania and provides their hypocoristic forms (if such exist).

**Table 7** – Most popular first names and their hypocoristic forms according to VLKK data

Masculine names and hypocoristic forms	Feminine names and hypocoristic forms
<i>Adomas - Adas, Adis, Adžius</i>	<i>Amelija - Ama, Amalė, Amelė, Malė, Melė</i>
<i>Augustas - Augas, Augis, Augius, Augys, Gustas, Gustis</i>	<i>Austėja - Austė, Austa</i>
<i>Benas (it is a hypocoristic form)</i>	<i>Gabija - Gabė</i>
<i>Danielius - Danas, Danis, Danius, Danys</i>	<i>Gabrielė - Gabrė, Gabė</i>
<i>Domantas - Domas, Mančius, Mantas, Mantis</i>	<i>Emilija - Ema, Emila, Emilė, Mila, Milė</i>
<i>Domas (it is a hypocoristic form)</i>	<i>Ema (it is a hypocoristic form)</i>
<i>Dominykas - Domas</i>	<i>Ieva</i>
<i>Dovydas - Dovas, Dovis</i>	<i>Kamilė</i>
<i>Emilis<sup>18</sup> - Emas, Emis, Milas, Milius</i>	<i>Lėja</i>
<i>Gabrielius - Gabrys</i>	<i>Liepa</i>
<i>Jokūbas</i>	<i>Luknė</i>
<i>Jonas</i>	<i>Ugnė</i>
<i>Joris (it is a hypocoristic form)</i>	<i>Urtė (it is a hypocoristic form)</i>
<i>Kajus (it is a hypocoristic form)</i>	<i>Sofija</i>
<i>Lukas (it is a hypocoristic form)</i>	<i>Rugilė</i>
<i>Matas (it is a hypocoristic form)</i>	<i>Viltė (it is a hypocoristic form)</i>
<i>Nojus</i>	-----

**Source:** Author's elaboration.

<sup>17</sup> For more information see Seide and Petruionė (2018).

<sup>18</sup> *Emilis* is a hypocoristic of *Emilijus*, but their relation will not be considered here because the research is based on the most popular names, and *Emilis* is the one in the list with its own hypocoristics *Emas, Emis, Milas, Milius*.

To find out about the usage of hypocoristic forms as official first names in LT, all the hypocoristic forms listed in Table 7 have been entered into VLKK database and checked if and how often they were used during the period from 1980 to 2009, i.e. for the same period as the data from IBGE has been collected. It is important to note that VLKK data comes from the totality of birth records and the total number of occurrences can be retrieved for a pre-selected period. The results for masculine anthroponyms are provided in Table 8 and for feminine anthroponyms in Table 9.

**Table 8** – The usage of hypocoristic forms of the most popular masculine first names in LT

Masculine hypocoristic forms	VLKK data: 1980-2009	VLKK data		
		1980s	1990s	2000s
<i>Adas (Adomas)</i>	registered	97	106	212
<i>Adis</i>	registered	2	0	3
<i>Adžius</i>	not registered	not registered	not registered	not registered
<i>Augas (Augustas)</i>	not registered	not registered	not registered	not registered
<i>Augis</i>	registered	16	22	11
<i>Augius</i>	registered	1	1	2
<i>Augys</i>	not registered	not registered	not registered	not registered
<i>Gustas</i>	registered	8	120	1014
<i>Gustis</i>	registered	0	1	9
<i>Danius (Danielius)</i>	registered	48	20	15
<i>Danys</i>	registered	1	0	0
<i>Danis</i>	registered	0	1	5
<i>Danas</i>	registered	223	151	236
<i>Domas (Domantas or Dominykas)</i>	registered	418	550	1,074
<i>Mančius</i>	registered	0	1	0
<i>Mantas</i>	registered	6,252	7,197	3,353
<i>Mantis</i>	registered	0	0	1
<i>Dovas (Dovydas)</i>	registered	1	3	41
<i>Dovis</i>	registered	0	2	3
<i>Emas (Emilis)</i>	registered	0	3	8
<i>Emis</i>	registered	0	0	1
<i>Milas</i>	registered	0	1	0
<i>Milius</i>	registered	0	1	8
<i>Gabrys (Gabrielius)</i>	registered	0	1	0

**Source:** Author's elaboration.

**Table 9** – The usage of hypocoristic forms of the most popular feminine first names in LT

Feminine hypocoristic forms	VLKK data: 1980-2009	VLKK data		
		1980s	1990s	2000s
<i>Ama (Amelija)</i>	not registered	not registered	not registered	not registered
<i>Amalė</i>	not registered	not registered	not registered	not registered
<i>Amelė</i>	not registered	not registered	not registered	not registered
<i>Malė</i>	not registered	not registered	not registered	not registered
<i>Melė</i>	not registered	not registered	not registered	not registered
<i>Emila (Emilija)</i>	registered	0	1	2
<i>Emilė</i>	registered	9	114	328
<i>Mila</i>	registered	1	4	74
<i>Milė</i>	registered	1	2	11
<i>Gabė (Gabija or Gabrielė)</i>	registered	0	0	1
<i>Austė (Austėja)</i>	registered	69	149	125
<i>Austa</i>	registered	1	1	0

**Source:** Author's elaboration.

The numbers in Table 8 show that if a masculine name has more than one hypocoristic form, just one is preferred as a first name. For example, *Adas*, a reduced form of *Adomas*, is much more frequent than *Adis*. The same applies to *Gustas* (from *Augustas*), *Danas* (from *Danielius*), *Dovas* (from *Dovydas*), and *Emas* (from *Emilis*). Moreover, only 3 hypocoristic forms out of 22 included into VLKK database have not been used as first names at all.

The hypocoristic forms *Domas*, *Mančius*, *Mantas* and *Mantis* deserve a more detailed analysis, because the phenomenon of homonyms arises once again at this point of the research. The first hypocoristic coincides with two first names – *Dominykas* and *Domantas*; therefore, it is not possible to find out which of the two names this hypocoristic form is related to. According to VLKK data, the other three hypocoristic forms, i.e. *Mančius*, *Mantas* and *Mantis*, can be related to several first names which end in *-mantas*, for instance *Rimantas* and *Algimantas*. However, in contemporary Lithuanian, *Rimantas* is usually shortened as *Rimas*, and *Algimantas* has a recognized hypocoristic *Algis* (KUZAVINIS; SAVUKYNAS, 2007).

The number of occurrences of the hypocoristic forms used as official first names indicates that during the three decades under analysis, their usage gradually increased. In the 1990s, they were used more often than in the 1980s, but most masculine hypocoristic names have their peaks of usage in the 2000s.

As the results in Table 9 indicate, the usage of hypocoristic forms as feminine first names are the following: 5 reduced forms out of 9 mentioned on VLKK website have not been used as first names at all and just two names *Austė* and *Emilė* have been frequently used. However, the numbers evidence an increasing usage of feminine hypocoristics (except for *Austa*) during the period under analysis.

As can be seen in Tables 8 and 9, the majority of hypocoristic forms have been found in VLKK database. Just 3 out of 24 masculine names and 5 out of 12 feminine names have not been registered as first names, although the number of registered occurrences varies.

To find out if hypocoristic forms have been preferred to original first names, the comparative analysis of the usage of each of the names during the period from 1980 to 2009 has been performed. When there was more than one hypocoristic form of a name, all forms have been considered and counted as the total number of occurrences. Homonyms have not been included into the analysis following the same procedures as in the analysis of Brazilian data. The comparison of the usage of Lithuanian first names and their hypocoristics is shown in Table 10.

**Table 10** – Comparison of the usage of first names and their hypocoristics in LT

Full first names	Occurrences	Hypocoristic as a first name	Occurrences in total
<i>Adomas</i>	1,606	<i>Adas, Adis</i>	416
<i>Augustas</i>	2,037	<i>Augis, Augius</i>	49
<i>Danielius</i>	1,964	<i>Danas, Danis, Danius, Danyš</i>	699
<i>Domantas</i>	3,080	<i>Domas (hom.), Mančius, Mantas, Mantis</i>	18,846
<i>Dominykas</i>	4,276	<i>Domas (hom.)</i>	2,042
<i>Dovydas</i>	6,450	<i>Dovas</i>	045
<i>Emilis</i>	1,525	<i>Emas, Emis, Milas, Milius</i>	022
<i>Gabrielius</i>	1,536	<i>Gabrys</i>	001
<i>Gabija</i>	7,102	<i>Gabė</i>	001
<i>Austėja</i>	3,796	<i>Austė, Austa</i>	345
<i>Emilja</i>	2	<i>Emila, Emilė, Mila, Mile</i>	547

**Source:** Author's elaboration.

The comparison between 11 pairs or sets of full and hypocoristic forms of first names shows that 2 complete names (*Gabija* and *Gabrielius*) are much more frequently

used than their reduced forms, while the usage of reduced forms of other names, such as *Adomas*, *Danielius* and *Austėja*, is relatively frequent, although it does not exceed the usage of full forms of names. On the other hand, there are two first names, *Emilja* (f.) and *Domantas* (m.), which are much more rarely used than their hypocoristic forms.

Moreover, the number of occurrences of hypocoristic forms of the first name *Domantas* is considerably higher than of other hypocoristics and even of the initial full form. It could be related to the fact that *Domas* is a homonym of the reduced form of full name *Dominykas*, and hypocoristics *Mantas*, *Mantis* and *Mančius* are also related to other first names with *-antas* ending as in *Rimantas* and *Algimantas*. This polysemy can lead to a weaker relationship between a hypocoristic form and its possible correlates which results in transformation of the name statute. In such a way, the name *Mantas* can be perceived as a new first name by native speakers and not as a hypocoristic form of another name. If it is the case, the opacification and autonomization of clipped common nouns in the English language pointed out by Jamet (2009) also applies to proper nouns, at least in LT.

The numbers in Tables 8, 9, 10 show that the usage of hypocoristic forms as first names is more common for masculine anthroponyms rather than feminine. Altogether, the usage of hypocoristic forms as official first names is significant in Lithuania and this phenomenon can be treated as a contemporary tendency.

## Comparative Analysis

Morphological processes of clipping of proper names are rather similar in Brazilian Portuguese and Lithuanian languages (see Table 1): 5 out of 8 morphological processes described in this paper are equivalent in both languages, while 2 processes are specific only to BP and 1 process is observed only in LT. Nevertheless, equivalent full names can be clipped by applying different processes. For example, the hypocoristic forms of the feminine first name *Alberta* is *Alba* in LT and *Berta* in BP. The former is formed by back-clipping, while the latter by fore-clipping.

Monteiro's findings about hypocoristic forms used as first names are confirmed by IBGE data as all the hypocoristic forms were registered as official first names in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s (see Table 3). The number of occurrences (see Tables 4, 5 and 6) demonstrates that hypocoristic names are less used if compared to full forms of names. Besides, according to IBGE, hypocoristic names are not popular as none is mentioned among the most popular first names. Moreover, Monteiro's list contains only three feminine names but all of them are homonymous to full first names. Consequently, it is impossible to find out whether there are any differences between the usage of feminine and masculine hypocoristic forms.

LT data for the same period have shown that 21 out of 24 hypocoristic forms of the most popular masculine names have been used as official first names (see Table 8). Moreover, 5 hypocoristic forms have been included into the list of the most popular

masculine first names. In terms of feminine anthroponyms, 7 out of 12 hypocoristic forms of the most popular feminine names have been used as official first names, and two of them have been used more frequently (see Table 9). In addition, the list of the most popular feminine first names includes three names of a hypocoristic origin.

The next stage of the comparative analysis focuses on the period when the hypocoristic forms were used as first names. According to IBGE data, the usage of hypocoristics was gradually decreasing during the period from 1980 to 2009 (see Table 3), while VLKK data demonstrates the increasing usage of most hypocoristic names during the three decades (see Tables 8 and 9). The comparative analysis has shown that the usage of hypocoristic forms as first names is quite different in each country. Monteiro's data and the analysis of the usage of hypocoristic forms of most popular first names have shown that hypocoristic forms are used less and less each year, while the usage of hypocoristics as first names is a contemporary tendency in Lithuania.

However, there is one analytical problem that is common to both systems of personal names. It is not clear how to deal with homonyms, a phenomenon that occur a) between first names and hypocoristic names (*Domas* in LT and *Lia* in BP) and b) between hypocoristic forms (*Beto* for *Roberto* and *Alberto* in BP and *Mantas* for *Rimantas* and *Domantas* in LT).

## Conclusions

In this research, the formation and usage of hypocoristic forms in Brazilian Portuguese and Lithuanian have been compared on the basis of statistical data available in each country and the previous study about Brazilian hypocoristic forms carried out by Monteiro in 1982.

Despite the fact that there are common morphological processes in LT and BP, clipping of first names may undergo them differently in each of the languages. First, due to the more inflectional nature of the Lithuanian language, a two-syllable first names cannot be shortened, while this constraint does not exist in the Portuguese language. Secondly, the languages may have a different hypocoristic form of an equivalent full name, i.e. hypocoristic forms of the name are formed by applying different morphological processes.

The analysis of the usage of hypocoristic forms during the period from 1980 to 2009 has shown that in Brazil, the usage of hypocoristics as official first names is currently decreasing, while it is a contemporary tendency in Lithuania. Moreover, in the latter country, some hypocoristic forms have gained a considerable popularity and are recorded as the most popular official first names.

These results suggest that, on the one hand, clipping of first names tend to be a linguistic resource shared by both languages, BP and LT. On the other hand, the usage and popularity of hypocoristic forms used as official first names may differ.

SEIDE, M.; PETRULIONĖ, L. Formação e usos de nomes hipocorísticos no Português do Brasil e no idioma lituano. **Alfa**, São Paulo, v.64, 2020.

- **RESUMO:** *Este artigo apresenta uma pesquisa em Antroponomástica, um ramo da Onomástica dedicado ao estudo dos nomes próprios de pessoa. O foco desse artigo é a descrição e comparação (1) dos diferentes processos morfológicos envolvidos na formação de hipocorísticos no Português do Brasil e no idioma lituano e (2) dos usos de nomes hipocorísticos como prenomes oficiais em ambos os países de acordo com dados disponíveis em dois websites institucionais nacionais. A análise comparativa descrita ao longo do artigo mostra que os processos morfológicos de abreviação de prenomes de cada língua apresentam entre si mais similaridades do que diferenças. Apesar dessas semelhanças, os usos de hipocorístico como prenome são bem diferentes em cada país. De acordo com os dados estatísticos brasileiros, atualmente, tem diminuído o uso de hipocorísticos como prenome. Ao contrário, segundo os dados estatísticos lituanos, o uso de hipocorísticos como prenome é uma tendência contemporânea na Lituânia.*
- **PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** *Onomástica. Antroponomástica comparada. Nomes. Hipocorísticos. Abreviação.*

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