Babel support for the German language (new orthography)

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v2.9dev (2016/11/02)

Abstract

This manual documents the babel language definition file `ngermanb.ldf` for German (new orthography). The file is part of the babel-german bundle.

1 Aim and usage

The file `ngermanb.ldf` provides the babel package with all language definition macros (language specific strings and settings) for the German language, including the Austrian and Swiss varieties of German. Furthermore, it assures that the correct hyphenation patterns for the respective language or variety are used.[1] The file adheres to the reformed (1996 ff.) orthography. For traditional (1901–1996) German orthography support, please refer to the complementary `germanb.ldf` file.

In order to use the language definitions provided here, you need to use the babel package and pass the respective language name as an option, either of

- `\usepackage[ngerman]{babel}`
- `\usepackage[naustrian]{babel}`
- `\usepackage[nswissgerman]{babel}`

Please consult the babel manual [2] for details.

2 Shorthands

For all three varieties of German, the character `"` is made active in order to provide some shorthand macros for frequently used special characters as well for better control of hyphenation, line breaks and ligatures. Table 1 provides an overview of the shorthands that are provided by `ngermanb.ldf`.

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[1] The file `ngermanb.ldf` started as a re-implementation of the package `ngerman.sty` by Bernd Raichle (cf. [4]), which itself builds on `german.sty`, originally developed by Hubert Partl (cf. [3]) and later maintained by Bernd Raichle as well. The re-implementation was done by Johannes Braams.

Table 1: The extra definitions made by `ngermanb.ldf`

`"a`	Umlaut ⟨ä⟩ (shorthand for `\"a`). Similar shorthands are available for all other lower- and uppercase vowels (umlauts: `"a`, `"o`, `"u`, `"A`, `"O`, `"U`; tremata: `"e`, `"i`, `"E`, `"I`).
`"s`	German ⟨ß⟩ (shorthand for `\ss{}`).
`"z`	German ⟨ß⟩ (shorthand for `\ss{}`). The difference to `"s` is the uppercase version.
`"S`	`\uppercase{"s}`, typeset as ⟨SS⟩(⟨ß⟩ must be written as ⟨SS⟩ in uppercase writing).
`"Z`	`\uppercase{"z}`, typeset as ⟨SZ⟩. In traditional spelling, ⟨ß⟩ could also be written as ⟨SZ⟩ instead of ⟨SS⟩ in uppercase writing. Note that, with reformed orthography, the ⟨SZ⟩ variant has been deprecated in favour of ⟨SS⟩ only.
`"|`	Disable ligature at this position (e. g., at morpheme boundaries, as in `Auf"|lage`).
`"-`	An additional breakpoint that does still allow for hyphenation at the breakpoints preset in the hyphenation patterns (as opposed to `\-`).
`""`	A breakpoint that does not output a hyphen if the line break is performed (useful for compound words with hyphen, e. g., `(Un-)""Sinn`).
`"~`	An explicit hyphen without a breakpoint. Useful for cases where the hyphen should stick at the following word, e. g., `bergauf und "~ab` .
`"=`	An explicit hyphen with a breakpoint, allowing for hyphenation at the other points preset in the hyphenation patterns (as opposed to plain `-`); useful for long compounds.
New feature in v. 2.9! `"/`	A slash that allows for a linebreak. As opposed to `\slash{}`, hyphenation at the breakpoints preset in the hyphenation patterns is still allowed.
`"‘`	German left double quotes ⟨„⟩.
`"’`	German right double quotes ⟨“⟩.
`"<`	French/Swiss left double quotes ⟨«⟩.
`">`	French/Swiss right double quotes ⟨»⟩.

Table 2 lists some babel macros for quotation marks that might be used as an alternative to the quotation mark shorthands provided by `ngermanb.ldf`.

Table 2: Alternative commands for quotation marks (provided by babel)

`\glqq`	German left double quotes ⟨„⟩.
`\grqq`	German right double quotes ⟨“⟩.
`\glq`	German left single quotes ⟨‚⟩.
`\grq`	German right single quotes ⟨‘⟩.
`\flqq`	French/Swiss left double quotes ⟨«⟩.
`\frqq`	French/Swiss right double quotes ⟨»⟩.
`\flq`	French/Swiss left single quotes ⟨‹⟩.
`\frq`	French/Swiss right single quotes ⟨›⟩.
`\dq`	The straight quotation mark character ⟨"⟩.

3 Implementation

3.1 General settings

If `ngermanb.ldf` is read via the deprecated babel option ngermanb, we make it behave as if ngerman was specified.

```
\def\bbl@tempa{ngermanb}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
  \def\CurrentOption{ngerman}
\fi
```

The macro `\LdfInit` takes care of preventing that this file is loaded more than once with the same option, checking the category code of the `@` sign, etc.

```
\LdfInit\CurrentOption{captions\CurrentOption}
```

If `ngermanb.ldf` is read as an option, i.e., by the `\usepackage` command, `ngerman` could be an 'unknown' language, so we have to make it known. We check for the existence of `\l@ngerman` and issue a warning if it is unknown.

```
\ifx\l@ngerman\@undefined
  \@nopatterns{German (new orthography)}
  \adddialect\l@ngerman0
\fi
```

We set `naustrian` and `nswissgerman` as dialects of `ngerman`, since they use the same hyphenation patterns than `ngerman`. If no `ngerman` patterns are found, we issue a warning.

```
\def\bbl@tempa{naustrian}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
  \ifx\l@ngerman\@undefined
    \@nopatterns{German (new orthography), needed by Austrian (new orthography)}
    \adddialect\l@naustrian0
  \else
    \adddialect\l@naustrian\l@ngerman
  \fi
\fi
\def\bbl@tempa{nswissgerman}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
  \ifx\l@ngerman\@undefined
    \@nopatterns{German (new orthography), needed by Swiss German (new orthography)}
    \adddialect\l@nswissgerman0
  \else
    \adddialect\l@nswissgerman\l@ngerman
  \fi
\fi
```

3.2 Language-specific strings (captions)

The next step consists of defining macros that provide language specific strings and settings.

`\@captionsngerman` The macro `\@captionsngerman` defines all strings used in the four standard document classes provided with LaTeX for German. This is an internal macro that is inherited and modified by the following macros for the respective language varieties.

```
\@namedef{@captionsngerman}{%
  \def\prefacename{Vorwort}%
  \def\refname{Literatur}%
  \def\abstractname{Zusammenfassung}%
  \def\bibname{Literaturverzeichnis}%
  \def\chaptername{Kapitel}%
  \def\appendixname{Anhang}%
  \def\contentsname{Inhaltsverzeichnis}%    % oder nur: Inhalt
  \def\listfigurename{Abbildungsverzeichnis}%
  \def\listtablename{Tabellenverzeichnis}%
  \def\indexname{Index}%
  \def\figurename{Abbildung}%
  \def\tablename{Tabelle}%                  % oder: Tafel
  \def\partname{Teil}%
  \def\enclname{Anlage(n)}%
  \def\ccname{Verteiler}%                   % oder: Kopien an
  \def\headtoname{An}%
  \def\pagename{Seite}%
  \def\seename{siehe}%
  \def\alsoname{siehe auch}%
  \def\proofname{Beweis}%
  \def\glossaryname{Glossar}%
  }
```

`\captionsngerman` The macro `\captionsngerman` is identical to `\@captionsngerman`, but only defined if `ngerman` is requested.

```
\def\bbl@tempa{ngerman}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
  \@namedef{captionsngerman}{%
    \@nameuse{@captionsngerman}%
  }
\fi
```

`\captionsnaustrian` The macro `\captionsnaustrian` builds on `\@captionsngerman`, but redefines some strings following Austrian conventions (for the respective variants, cf. [1]). It is only defined if `naustrian` is requested.

```
\def\bbl@tempa{naustrian}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
  \@namedef{captionsnaustrian}{%
    \@nameuse{@captionsngerman}%
    \def\enclname{Beilage(n)}%
  }
\fi
```

`\captionsnswissgerman` The macro `\captionsnswissgerman` builds on `\@captionsngerman`, but redefines some

strings following Swiss conventions (for the respective variants, cf. [1]). It is only defined if `nswissgerman` is requested.

```
\def\bbl@tempa{nswissgerman}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
  \@namedef{captionsnswissgerman}{%
    \@nameuse{@captionsngerman}%
    \def\enclname{Beilage(n)}%
  }
\fi
```

3.3 Date localizations

`\month@ngerman` The macro `\month@ngerman` defines German month names for all varieties.

```
\def\month@ngerman{\ifcase\month\or
  Januar\or Februar\or M\"arz\or April\or Mai\or Juni\or
  Juli\or August\or September\or Oktober\or November\or Dezember\fi}
```

`\datengerman` The macro `\datengerman` redefines the command `\today` to produce German dates.

```
\def\bbl@tempa{ngerman}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
  \def\datengerman{\def\today{\number\day.~\month@ngerman
      \space\number\year}}
\fi
```

`\datenswissgerman` The macro `\datenswissgerman` does the same for Swiss German dates. The result is identical to German.

```
\def\bbl@tempa{nswissgerman}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
  \def\datenswissgerman{\def\today{\number\day.~\month@ngerman
      \space\number\year}}
\fi
```

`\datenaustrian` The macro `\datenaustrian` redefines the command `\today` to produce Austrian versions of the German dates. Here, the naming of January („Jänner“) differs from the other German varieties.

```
\def\bbl@tempa{naustrian}
\ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
  \def\datenaustrian{\def\today{\number\day.~\ifnum1=\month
    J\"anner\else \month@ngerman\fi \space\number\year}}
\fi
```

3.4 Extras

`\extrasnaustrian` `\extrasnswissgerman` `\extrasngerman` `\noextrasnaustrian` `\noextrasnswissgerman` `\noextrasngerman` The macros `\extrasngerman`, `\extrasnaustrian` and `\extrasnswissgerman`, respectively, will perform all the extra definitions needed for the German language or the respective variety. The macro `\noextrasngerman` is used to cancel the actions of `\extrasngerman`. `\noextrasnaustrian` and `\noextrasnswissgerman` behave analoguously.

First, the character " is declared active for all German varieties. This is done once, later on its definition may vary.

```
\initiate@active@char{"}
```

Depending on the option with which the language definition file has been loaded, the macro \extrasngerman, \extrasnaustrian or \extrasnswissgerman is defined. Each of those is identical: they load the shorthands defined below and activate the " character.

```
\@namedef{extras\CurrentOption}{%
  \languageshorthands{ngerman}}
\expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
  \bbl@activate{"}}
```

Next, again depending on the option with which the language definition file has been loaded, the macro \noextrasngerman, \noextrasnaustrian or \noextrasnswissgerman is defined. These deactivate the " character and thus turn the shorthands off again outside of the respective variety.

```
\expandafter\addto\csname noextras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
  \bbl@deactivate{"}}
```

In order for TEX to be able to hyphenate German words which contain 'ß' (in the OT1 position ^^Y) we have to give the character a nonzero \lccode (see Appendix H, the TEXbook).

```
\expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
  \babel@savevariable{\lccode25}%
  \lccode25=25}
```

The umlaut accent macro \" is changed to lower the umlaut dots. The redefinition is done with the help of \umlautlow.

```
\expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
  \babel@save\"\umlautlow}

\expandafter\addto\csname noextras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
  \umlauthigh}
```

The current version of the 'new' German hyphenation patterns (dehyphn.tex) is to be used with \lefthyphenmin and \righthyphenmin set to 2.

```
\providehyphenmins{\CurrentOption}{\tw@\tw@}
```

For German texts we need to assure that \frenchspacing is turned on.

```
\expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
  \bbl@frenchspacing}
\expandafter\addto\csname noextras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
  \bbl@nonfrenchspacing}
```

3.5 Active characters, macros & shorthands

The following code is necessary because we need an extra active character. This character is then used as indicated in table 1.

In order to be able to define the function of ", we first define a couple of 'support' macros.

\dq We save the original double quotation mark character in \dq to keep it available, the math accent \" can now be typed as ".

```
\begingroup \catcode`\"12
\def\x{\endgroup
  \def\@SS{\mathchar"7019 }
  \def\dq{"}}
\x
```

Now we can define the doublequote shorthands: the umlauts,

```
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"a}{\textormath{\"{a}\allowhyphens}{\ddot a}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"o}{\textormath{\"{o}\allowhyphens}{\ddot o}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"u}{\textormath{\"{u}\allowhyphens}{\ddot u}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"A}{\textormath{\"{A}\allowhyphens}{\ddot A}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"O}{\textormath{\"{O}\allowhyphens}{\ddot O}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"U}{\textormath{\"{U}\allowhyphens}{\ddot U}}
```

tremata,

```
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"e}{\textormath{\"{e}}{\ddot e}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"E}{\textormath{\"{E}}{\ddot E}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"i}{\textormath{\"{\i}}%
                                {\ddot\imath}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"I}{\textormath{\"{I}}{\ddot I}}
```

German ß,

```
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"s}{\textormath{\ss}{\@SS{}}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"S}{\SS}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"z}{\textormath{\ss}{\@SS{}}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"Z}{SZ}
```

German and French/Swiss quotation marks,

```
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"`}{\glqq}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"'}{\grqq}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"<}{\flqq}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{">}{\frqq}
```

and some additional commands (hyphenation, line breaking and ligature control):

```
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"-}{\nobreak\-\bbl@allowhyphens}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"|}{%
  \textormath{\penalty\@M\discretionary{-}{}{\kern.03em}%
              \allowhyphens}{}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{""}{\hskip\z@skip}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"~}{\textormath{\leavevmode\hbox{-}}{-}}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"=}{\penalty\@M-\hskip\z@skip}
\declare@shorthand{ngerman}{"/}{\textormath
  {\bbl@allowhyphens\discretionary{/}{}{/}\bbl@allowhyphens}{}}
```

\mdqon \mdqoff All that's left to do now is to define a couple of commands for reasons of compatibility with german.sty.

```
\def\mdqon{\shorthandon{"}}
\def\mdqoff{\shorthandoff{"}}
```

The macro `\ldf@finish` takes care of looking for a configuration file, setting the main language to be switched on at `\begin{document}` and resetting the category code of `@` to its original value.

```
143 \ldf@finish\CurrentOption
```

3.6 `naustrian.ldf`, `ngerman.ldf` and `nswissgerman.ldf`

Babel expects a ⟨*lang*⟩`.ldf` file for each ⟨*lang*⟩. So we create portmanteau ldf files for `naustrian`, `ngerman` and `nswissgerman`.[2] These files themselves only load `ngermanb.ldf`, which does the real work:

```
144 \input ngermanb.ldf\relax
```

Change History

[2] For some `naustrian` and `ngerman`, this is not strictly necessary, since babel provides aliases for these languages (pointing to `ngermanb`). However, since babel does not officially support these aliases anymore after the language definition files have been separated from the core, we provide the whole range of ldf files for the sake of completeness.

References

[1] Ammon, Ulrich et al.: *Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen. Die Standardsprache in Österreich, der Schweiz und Deutschland sowie in Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Ostbelgien und Südtirol.* Berlin, New York: De Gruyter.

[2] Braams, Johannes and Bezos, Javier: *Babel.* http://www.ctan.org/pkg/babel.

[3] Partl, Hubert: *German TEX*, *TUGboat* 9/1 (1988), p. 70–72.

[4] Raichle, Bernd: *German.* http://www.ctan.org/pkg/german.