

The distribution of N(A)pl -á among monosyllabic stems focuses on the prototypical shape of CVmidRC/CRVmidC, where C indicates a consonant or consonant cluster, Vmid mid vowel, and R liquid (*r* or *l*); i.e., nouns arising from *türt/trüt* groups and their look-alikes. I conducted a modest study of the stems listed in Švedova *et al.* 1982 and major dictionaries as common examples of monosyllabic nouns that do exhibit this ending and of similar nouns with the requisite stress pattern (stem stress in singular, but end stress in plural) that do not. The following table combines information on both types of nouns, listing the number of nouns for which N(A)pl -á is standard or acceptable in the literary language, as well as the acceptability of this ending with words for which it has not been codified as literary. The first measure is given in parentheses; the second, given in percentages, has two sources. First I checked to see if Ivanova 1967 had an attestation of each word, and then I asked two native speakers of Russian (both of them language instructors) to determine whether they had ever heard Russians use such a form or believed that they would. The first percentage, therefore, is the percentage of forms of a given shape attested in Ivanova 1967, the second is the percentage deemed acceptable by the first native consultant, and the third by the second consultant. The top of the table gives results for nouns conforming to the prototype, the middle for nouns deviating in one way from the prototype, and the bottom section for those deviating in two ways.

the prototype:		CVmidRC		
		CRVmidC		
in lit lang:		(8 nouns have á, 4 nouns have -á/-y)		
acceptability:		100% / 50% / 50%		
type of deviation:	remove initial C	remove liquid	make V non-mid	remove final C
products:	RVmidC	CVmidC	CVnon-midC CRVnon-midC	CVmidR
in lit lang:	(3 have -á)	(12 -á, 5 -á/-y)	(2 have -á)	(0)
acceptability:	67% / 0% / 33%	67% / 17% / 6%	50% / 42% / 54%	67% / 33% / 33%
type of deviation:	make V non-mid	make V non-mid	remove liquid	make V non-mid
products:	RVnon-midC		CVnon-midC	CVnon-midR
in lit lang:	(1 has -á)		(0)	(0)
acceptability:	67% / 17% / 50%		44% / 38% / 18%	33% / 33% / 12%

This is not intended as a statistically exhaustive study, but rather as an attempt to show the hierarchical structure within the category of monosyllabic nouns that actually or potentially realize N(A)pl -á. Indeed, the structure observed here parallels and thereby confirms the structure suggested by Worth (1983) for longer stems. Of course there are many factors other than stem shape that come into play in motivating the use of N(A)pl -á: former association with paired items, foreign vs. native origin, possible association of noun with technical jargon, affect, likelihood that the noun will be used in the plural, possible clash with homonyms (especially the Gsg of another masculine noun, or the Nsg of a feminine noun). Still, the central role of *türt/trüt* groups and their look-alikes is clear, resulting in a decline both in the number of nouns with N(A)pl -á in the literary language, and in the acceptability of N(A)pl -á for nouns for which this ending has not been codified, as we progress through deviations from the prototype.