

Babel support for the German language (traditional orthography)

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Abstract

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

1 Aim and usage

The file `germanb.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 traditional (1901–1996) orthography. For reformed (post-1996) German orthography support, please refer to the complementary `ngermanb.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[german]{babel}`
- `\usepackage[austrian]{babel}`
- `\usepackage[swissgerman]{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. Some of these shorthands address a peculiarity of traditional German spelling: consonantal character combinations that change in the context of

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¹The file `germanb.ldf` started as a re-implementation of the package `german.sty` (v. 2.5b), which was originally developed by Hubert Partl (cf. [3]) and later maintained by Bernd Raichle (cf. [4]). The re-implementation was done by Johannes Braams.

hyphenations. Other shorthands are provided 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 `germanb.ldf`.

Table 1: Shorthands provided by `germanb.ldf`

New feature in v. 2.9!	"a	Umlaut ⟨ä⟩ (shorthand for <code>\a</code>). 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 <code>\ss</code>).
	"z	German ⟨ß⟩ (shorthand for <code>\ss</code>). The difference to "s is the uppercase version.
	"ck	⟨ck⟩, hyphenated as ⟨k-k⟩.
	"ff	⟨ff⟩, hyphenated as ⟨ff-f⟩; this is also implemented for ⟨l⟩, ⟨m⟩, ⟨n⟩, ⟨p⟩, ⟨r⟩ and ⟨t⟩.
	"S	<code>\uppercase{"s}</code> , typeset as ⟨SS⟩ (⟨ß⟩ must be written as ⟨SS⟩ [or ⟨SZ⟩, see below] in uppercase writing).
	"Z	<code>\uppercase{"z}</code> , typeset as ⟨SZ⟩ (⟨ß⟩ must be written as ⟨SZ⟩ [or ⟨SS⟩, see above] in uppercase writing).
	"	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 <code>\-</code>).
	" "	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 <code>-</code>); useful for long compounds.
	"/	A slash that allows for a linebreak. As opposed to <code>\slash</code> , hyphenation at the breakpoints preset in the hyphenation patterns is still allowed.
	"‘	German left 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 `germanb.ldf`.

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

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

3 Implementation

3.1 General settings

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

```
1 \def\bbl@tempa{germanb}
2 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
3   \def\CurrentOption{german}
4   \ifx\l@german\@undefined
5     \@nopatterns{German}
6     \adddialect\l@german0
7   \fi
8   \let\l@germanb\l@german
9   \AtBeginDocument{%
10     \let\captionsgermanb\captionsgerman
11     \let\dategermanb\dategerman
12     \let\extrasgermanb\extrasgerman
13     \let\noextrasgermanb\noextrasgerman
14   }
15 \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.

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

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

```
17 \ifx\l@german\@undefined
18   \@nopatterns{German (trad. orthography)}
19   \adddialect\l@german0
20 \fi
```

We set `austrian` as a dialect of `german`, since the Austrian variety uses the same hyphenation patterns as Germany’s Standard German. If no German patterns are found, we issue a warning.

```
21 \def\bbl@tempa{austrian}
22 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
23   \ifx\l@german\@undefined
24     \@nopatterns{German (trad. orthography), needed by Austrian (trad. orthography)}
25     \adddialect\l@austrian0
26   \else
27     \adddialect\l@austrian\l@german
28   \fi
29 \fi
```

For the Swiss variety, we attempt to load the specific `swissgerman` hyphenation patterns and fall back to `german` if those are not available. If no patterns are found, we issue a warning.

```

30 \def\bbl@tempa{swissgerman}
31 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
32   \ifx\l@swissgerman\@undefined
33     \ifx\l@german\@undefined
34       \nopatterns{Swiss German (trad. orthography) and German (trad. orthography)}
35       \adddialect\l@swissgerman0
36     \else
37       \nopatterns{Swiss German (trad. orthography)}
38       \adddialect\l@swissgerman\l@german
39     \fi
40 \fi
41 \fi

```

3.2 Language-specific strings (captions)

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

`\@captionsgerman` The macro `\@captionsgerman` 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.

```

42 \@namedef{@captionsgerman}{%
43   \def\prefacename{Vorwort}%
44   \def\refname{Literatur}%
45   \def\abstractname{Zusammenfassung}%
46   \def\bibname{Literaturverzeichnis}%
47   \def\chaptername{Kapitel}%
48   \def\appendixname{Anhang}%
49   \def\contentsname{Inhaltsverzeichnis}% % oder nur: Inhalt
50   \def\listfigurename{Abbildungsverzeichnis}%
51   \def\listtablename{Tabellenverzeichnis}%
52   \def\indexname{Index}%
53   \def\figurename{Abbildung}%
54   \def\tablename{Tabelle}% % oder: Tafel
55   \def\partname{Teil}%
56   \def\enclname{Anlage(n)}%
57   \def\ccname{Verteiler}% % oder: Kopien an
58   \def\headtoname{An}%
59   \def\pagename{Seite}%
60   \def\seename{siehe}%
61   \def\alsoname{siehe auch}%
62   \def\proofname{Beweis}%
63   \def\glossaryname{Glossar}%
64 }

```

`\captionsgerman` The macro `\captionsgerman` is identical to `\@captionsgerman`, but only defined if `german` is requested.

```

65 \def\bbl@tempa{german}
66 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa

```

```

67 \namedef{captionsgerman}{%
68   \@nameuse{@captionsgerman}%
69 }
70 \fi

```

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

```

71 \def\bbl@tempa{austrian}
72 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
73   \namedef{captionsaustrian}{%
74     \@nameuse{@captionsgerman}%
75     \def\enclname{Beilage(n)}%
76   }
77 \fi

```

`\captionsswissgerman` The macro `\captionsswissgerman` builds on `\@captionsgerman`, but redefines some strings following Swiss conventions (for the respective variants, cf. [1]). It is only defined if `swissgerman` is requested.

```

78 \def\bbl@tempa{swissgerman}
79 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
80   \namedef{captionsswissgerman}{%
81     \@nameuse{@captionsgerman}%
82     \def\enclname{Beilage(n)}%
83   }
84 \fi

```

3.3 Date localizations

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

```

85 \def\month@german{\ifcase\month\or
86   Januar\or Februar\or M"arz\or April\or Mai\or Juni\or
87   Juli\or August\or September\or Oktober\or November\or Dezember\fi}

```

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

```

88 \def\bbl@tempa{german}
89 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
90   \def\dategerman{\def\today{\number\day.\~\month@german
91     \space\number\year}}
92 \fi

```

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

```

93 \def\bbl@tempa{swissgerman}
94 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
95   \def\dateswissgerman{\def\today{\number\day.\~\month@german
96     \space\number\year}}
97 \fi

```

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

```

98 \def\bbl@tempa{austrian}
99 \ifx\CurrentOption\bbl@tempa
100 \def\dateaustrian{\def\today{\number\day.\~\ifnum1=\month
101 J\"anner\else \month@german\fi \space\number\year}}
102 \fi

```

3.4 Extras

`\extrasgerman` The macros `\extrasgerman`, `\extrasaustrian` and `\extrasswissgerman`, respectively, will perform all the extra definitions needed for the German language or the respective variety. The macro `\noextrasgerman` is used to cancel the actions of `\extrasgerman`. `\noextrasaustrian` and `\noextrasswissgerman` behave analogously.

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

`\noextrasgerman`

```

103 \initiate@active@char{"}

```

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

```

104 \@namedef{extras\CurrentOption}{%
105 \languageshorthands{german}}
106 \expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
107 \bbl@activate{}}

```

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

```

108 \expandafter\addto\csname noextras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
109 \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 \TeX book).

```

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

```

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

```

113 \expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
114 \babel@save\ \umlautlow}

115 \expandafter\addto\csname noextras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
116 \umlauthigh}

```

The German hyphenation patterns can be used with `\lefthyphenmin` and `\righthyphenmin` set to 2.

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

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

```
118 \expandafter\addto\csname extras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
119   \bbl@frenchspacing}
120 \expandafter\addto\csname noextras\CurrentOption\endcsname{%
121   \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 `"`.

```
122 \begingroup \catcode"\12
123 \def\x{\endgroup
124   \def\@SS{\mathchar"7019 }
125   \def\dq{"}}
126 \x
```

Now we can define the doublequote shorthands: the umlauts,

```
127 \declare@shorthand{german}{a}{\textormath{\{a\}\allowhyphens}{\ddot a}}
128 \declare@shorthand{german}{o}{\textormath{\{o\}\allowhyphens}{\ddot o}}
129 \declare@shorthand{german}{u}{\textormath{\{u\}\allowhyphens}{\ddot u}}
130 \declare@shorthand{german}{A}{\textormath{\{A\}\allowhyphens}{\ddot A}}
131 \declare@shorthand{german}{O}{\textormath{\{O\}\allowhyphens}{\ddot O}}
132 \declare@shorthand{german}{U}{\textormath{\{U\}\allowhyphens}{\ddot U}}
```

tremata,

```
133 \declare@shorthand{german}{e}{\textormath{\{e\}\ddot e}}
134 \declare@shorthand{german}{E}{\textormath{\{E\}\ddot E}}
135 \declare@shorthand{german}{i}{\textormath{\{i\}%
136   {\ddot\imath}}}
137 \declare@shorthand{german}{I}{\textormath{\{I\}\ddot I}}
```

German ß,

```
138 \declare@shorthand{german}{s}{\textormath{\ss}{\@SS{}}}
139 \declare@shorthand{german}{S}{\SS}
140 \declare@shorthand{german}{z}{\textormath{\ss}{\@SS{}}}
141 \declare@shorthand{german}{Z}{SZ}
```

German and French/Swiss quotation marks,

```
142 \declare@shorthand{german}{" '}{\glqq}
143 \declare@shorthand{german}{" '}{\grqq}
```

```

144 \declare@shorthand{german}{"<"}{\flqq}
145 \declare@shorthand{german}{">"}{\frqq}

discretionary commands

146 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc ck}{c}}
147 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc CK}{C}}
148 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc F{FF}}{F}}
149 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc l{ll}}{l}}
150 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc L{LL}}{L}}
151 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc m{mm}}{m}}
152 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc M{MM}}{M}}
153 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc n{nn}}{n}}
154 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc N{NN}}{N}}
155 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc p{pp}}{p}}
156 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc P{PP}}{P}}
157 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc r{rr}}{r}}
158 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc R{RR}}{R}}
159 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc t{tt}}{t}}
160 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@disc T{TT}}{T}}

(we need to treat "f a bit differently in order to preserve the ff-ligature)

161 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\bbl@discff}{f}}
162 \def\bbl@discff{\penalty\M
163 \afterassignment\bbl@insertff \let\bbl@nextff= }
164 \def\bbl@insertff{%
165 \if f\bbl@nextff
166 \expandafter\@firstoftwo\else\expandafter\@secondoftwo\fi
167 {\relax\discretionary{ff}{f}{ff}\allowhyphens}{f\bbl@nextff}}
168 \let\bbl@nextff=f

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

169 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\nobreak\-\bbl@allowhyphens}
170 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{|}%
171 \textormath{\penalty\M\discretionary{-}{-}{\kern.03em}%
172 \allowhyphens}{}}
173 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\hskip\z@skip}
174 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{\textormath{\leavevmode\hbox{-}}{-}}
175 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{=\penalty\M-\hskip\z@skip}
176 \declare@shorthand{german}{"}{/}\textormath
177 {\bbl@allowhyphens\discretionary{/}{/}\bbl@allowhyphens}{}}

```

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

```

\ck
178 \def\mdqon{\shorthandon{}}
179 \def\mdqoff{\shorthandoff{}}
180 \def\ck{\allowhyphens\discretionary{k-}{k}{ck}\allowhyphens}

```

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.

```

181 \ldf@finish\CurrentOption

```


3.6 austrian.ldf, german.ldf and swissgerman.ldf

Babel expects a $\langle lang \rangle$.ldf file for each $\langle lang \rangle$. So we create portmanteau ldf files for austrian, german and swissgerman.² These files themselves only load germanb.ldf, which does the real work:

```
182 \input germanb.ldf\relax
```

Change History

Version 1.0a	der Meer 1
General: Incorporated Nico's	Version 2.2
comments 1	\@captionsgerman: \pagename should
Version 1.0b	be \headpagename 4
General: fixed typo in definition for	Removed \global definitions 4
austrian language found by	\extrasgerman: Save all redefined
Werenfried Spit nspit@fys.ruu.nl . 1	macros 6
Version 1.0c	\noextrasgerman: Try to restore
General: Fixed some typos 1	everything to its former state 6
Version 1.1	General: Removed global assignments,
\noextrasgerman: Added \dieresis . . 6	brought uptodate with german.tex
General: When using PostScript fonts	v2.3d 1
with the Adobe fontencoding, the	Version 2.2a
dieresis-accent is located	General: Renamed babel.sty in
elsewhere, modified germanb 1	babel.com 1
Version 1.1a	Version 2.2d
General: Modified the documentation	General: Removed use of
somewhat 1	\@ifundefined 3
Version 2.0	Version 2.3
General: Modified for babel 3.0 1	General: Rewritten parts of the code to
Now use \adddialect for austrian . . 3	use the new features of babel
Now use \adddialect if language	version 3.1 1
undefined 3	Version 2.3e
Version 2.0a	\@captionsgerman: Added
General: Removed some problems in	\prefacename, \seename and
change log 1	\alsoname 4
Version 2.0b	\month@german: Added \month@german . . 5
\extrasgerman: added some comment	General: Added \save@sf@q macro and
chars to prevent white space 6	rewrote all quote macros to use it . 7
\noextrasgerman: added some	Added warning, if no german
comment chars to prevent white	patterns loaded 3
space 6	Brought up-to-date with german.tex
Version 2.1	v2.3e (plus some bug fixes) [br] . . . 1
General: Removed bug found by van	

²For some austrian and german, this is not strictly necessary, since babel provides aliases for these languages (pointing to germanb). 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.

Version 2.3h	General: Moved the definition of \atcatcode right to the beginning. . . 1 Now use \ldf@finish to wrap up . . . 8 Now use \LdfInit to perform initial checks 3 Replaced \undefined with \@undefined and \empty with \@empty for consistency with \LaTeX . 1
Version 2.4	Version 2.6f
\@captionsgerman: \headpagename should be \pagename 4	\ck: Now use \shorthandon and \shorthandoff 8
Version 2.5	\dateaustrian: use \def instead of \edef 6
General: Update or \LaTeX 2 ϵ 1	Use \edef to define \today to save memory 6
Version 2.5c	\dategerman: use \def instead of \edef . 5
General: Now use \@nopatterns to produce the warning 3	Use \edef to define \today to save memory 5
Removed the use of \filedate and moved the identification after the loading of babel.def 1	General: Copied the coding for "f from german.dtx version 2.5d 8
Version 2.6a	use \SS instead of SS, removed braces after \ss 7
\@noextragerman: All the code to handle the active double quote has been moved to babel.def 6	Version 2.6i
Removed \3 as it is no longer in germanb.ldf 6	\@noextragerman: Deactivate shorthands outside of German. . . . 6
use \germanhyphenmins to store the correct values 7	Version 2.6j
General: \umlautlow and \umlauthigh moved to glyphs.dtx, as well as \newumlaut (now \lower@umlaut . . 7	\@captionsgerman: Added \glossaryname 4
Moved all quotation characters to glyphs.dtx 7	\@noextragerman: Now use \providehyphenmins to provide a default value 7
Moved the identification to the top of the file 1	Version 2.6k
Rewrote the code that handles the active double quote character 1	\@noextragerman: Turn frenchspacing on, as in german.sty 7
Use \ddot instead of \@MATHUMLAUT . 7	Version 2.6l
Version 2.6b	General: Making germanb behave like german needs some more work besides defining \CurrentOption . . 3
\@captionsgerman: Added \proofname for AMS- \LaTeX 4	Version 2.6m
Version 2.6c	General: Corrected a typo 3
\@noextragerman: Use decimal number instead of hat-notation as the hat may be activated 6	Version 2.7
General: added the \allowhyphens . . . 7	\@captionsgerman: Changed \enclname in austrian to <i>Beilage(n)</i> 4
Moved \german@dq@disc to babel.def, calling it \bbl@disc 7	Split \captionsgerman from \captionsaustrian and \captionsswissgerman. 4
Version 2.6d	\@dateswissgerman: Added \dateswissgerman. 5
\@captionsgerman: Construct control sequence on the fly 4	\@extrasswissgerman: Added \extrasswissgerman. 6
\@noextragerman: Construct control sequence \extragerman or \extrasaustrian on the fly 6	

\noextrasgerman: Deactivate shorthands also outside of austrian and swissgerman.	6	the varieties	4
Do not use \@namedef when \noextras is already defined and should not be overwritten.	6	\captionsaustrian: Only define \captionsaustrian if austrian is requested.	5
\noextrasswissgerman: Added \noextrasswissgerman.	6	\captionsgerman: Only define \captionsgerman if german is requested.	4
General: Added support for variety swissgerman.	1	\captionsswissgerman: Only define \captionsswissgerman if swissgerman is requested.	5
Generate portmanteau files austrian.ldf, german.ldf and swissgerman.ldf.	9	\dateaustrian: Only define \dateaustrian if austrian is requested.	6
Revised austrian support.	1	\dategerman: Only define \dategerman if german is requested.	5
Revised documentation: Turn the babel manual chapter into a self-enclosed manual.	1	\dateswissgerman: Only define \dateswissgerman if swissgerman is requested.	5
Version 2.7b		General: Only add Austrian dialect if austrian is loaded	3
General: Do not warn about missing swissgerman patterns if swissgerman is not loaded	3	Version 2.9	
Version 2.8		General: Add "/" shortcut for breakable slash (taken from dutch.ldf)	8
\@captionsgerman: Define trans-variational base captions which are loaded and modified by		Do not attempt to load \l@austrian, which does not exist	3

References

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