

... Ich hatte noch ein Röckchen an und saß auf einem Schemelchen im Hof, während mein Vater am Immenstock im Garten hantierte.

Albert Schweitzer, *Aus meiner Kindheit und Jugendzeit*

Here the author starts to recall what was going on the other day. Apparently for people who's not yet been well familiar with the German language, they will be fascinated by the frequent use of diminutive suffix "chen" (attention to the pronunciation here! NOT the Chinese word "陈", but, when it's allowed to compare in a seemingly dumb way ☺, it sounds like "西恩", and the phonetic transition between these two Chinese characters must be smooth and quick, anyone who has the least experience with Pinyin should've got the point.), which is fairly common in German and which is pleasantly used by people of all ages on almost all occasions. Just like in English, the suffix "-ling" is added to "duck" to make a "duckling", or "-let" is attached to "book" to change the latter into a "booklet", or "-ette" is glued to "kitchen" to have a "kitchenette", in German, the diminutive suffix "chen" can be added to make much smaller in size, much nearer in relationship, much more colloquial in conversations etc. Here just two beautiful examples: Röckchen (= small skirt) und Schemelchen (= small stool). To top it off, "chen" can also be added to people's name, a famous example is "小汉斯". Anyway, our suggested translation would be: Wearing a small skirt I sat on a small stool in the courtyard when my father was busying himself with the beehive in the garden.