

Bulgarian

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The style of speech illustrated is Standard Bulgarian as used by people with an academic background. Historically, the Standard contains elements of western and eastern Bulgarian, but in its present form, it cannot be localized in any particular region.

The speech on the recording is that of a 33-year-old speaker holding a post at the University of Sofia. Bulgarian examples are given in a transliteration from Cyrillic script.

Consonants

	Bilab.	Lab.dent	Dental	Alv.	Postalv.	Retrofl.	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyng.	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d					k g			
Nasal	m		n								
Trill			r								
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ ʒ			x			
Approximant							j				
Lateral			l								

Affricates ts dz tʃ dʒ

p	<i>pija</i>	'I drink'	t	<i>tom</i>	'volume'	k	<i>kol</i>	'pole'
b	<i>bija</i>	'I beat'	d	<i>dom</i>	'home'	g	<i>gol</i>	'naked'
			ts	<i>tsar</i>	'tsar'	tʃ	<i>tʃar</i>	'charm'
			dz	<i>dzift</i>	'tar'	dʒ	<i>dʒob</i>	'pocket'
m	<i>most</i>	'bridge'	n	<i>nos</i>	'nose'	x	<i>halka</i>	'ring'
f	<i>far</i>	'lighthouse'	s	<i>sărna</i>	'roe'	ʃ	<i>ʃal</i>	'scarf'
v	<i>var</i>	'limestone'	z	<i>zărna</i>	'corn' (pl.)	ʒ	<i>ʒal</i>	'pity'
r	<i>roza</i>	'rose'	l	<i>lale</i>	'tulip'	j	<i>jak</i>	'strong'

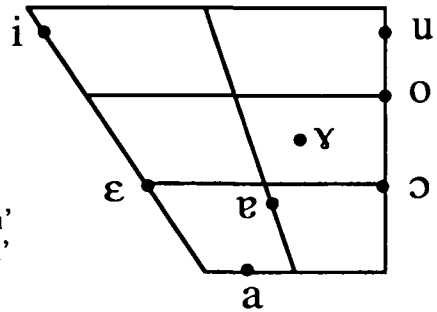
Journal of the International Phonetic Association (1990) 20:1.

The phonemic analysis underlying the present transcription does not assume the existence of palatalized consonants. An alternative analysis postulates the following palatalized consonants: / pʲ, bʲ, tʲ, dʲ, kʲ, gʲ, tsʲ, dzʲ, mʲ, nʲ, rʲ, fʲ, vʲ, sʲ, zʲ, xʲ, lʲ/.

The nature of palatalization in Bulgarian is different from that in Russian. Its occurrence is very restricted. Before front vowels and [j], palatalization does not go beyond the degree that is conditioned by the inevitable play of coarticulation. Before back vowels palatalization may unambiguously be interpreted as C plus [j]. In syllable and word final position it does not occur.

Vowels

i	<i>kit</i>	'whale'
ɛ	<i>pet</i>	'five'
a	<i>mlad</i>	'young'
ɔ	<i>rod</i>	'kin'
u	<i>lud</i>	'crazy'
ɤ	<i>păt</i>	'path'
o (unstressed only)	<i>koga</i>	'when'
ɐ (unstressed only)	<i>duma</i>	'word'



Stress

Stress is distinctive	[ˈpærɐ]	<i>para</i>	'steam'
	[pɐˈra]	<i>para</i>	'coin'

Conventions

/p, t, k/ are unaspirated. /b, d, g/ are fully voiced. /t, d, ts, dz, n, r, s, z, l/ are prealveolar. /r/ is a trill. /x/ has only slight friction. /l/ is velarized [ɫ] before /a, ɔ, u, ɤ, o, ɐ/ as well as in syllable and word final position. /o, ɐ/ may be somewhat more closed than shown in the figure in unstressed syllables after stress.

Transcription of recorded passage.

'severnijet 'vjater i 'slɯntseto se pre'pirexɐ 'koj ɛ 'posilen, ko'gato edin 'pɯtnik, zɐ'vit f 'toɫle 'drexɐ, 'mine pokrej 'tjax. te re'fixɐ tʃɛ 'tozi, 'kojto 'prɯf nɛ'kare 'pɯtnike dɛ si svɛ'li 'drexetɐ, fte se 'stʃite 'posilen od 'drugije. to'gave 'severnijet 'vjater zɐ'pɔʃnɛ dɛ 'duxɐ s 'fsiʃkɐ 'silɛ, no 'kɔlkoto 'posilno 'vjateret 'duxɛʃɛ, 'toɫkove 'pɔpletno 'pɯtniket o'vivɛʃɛ 'drexetɐ okolo 'sebe si. 'naj 'posle 'severnijet 'vjater pre'kɯsnɛ o'silijetɐ si. to'gave 'slɯntseto zɐ'pɔʃnɛ dɛ 'grɛɛ 'silno, i 'pɯtniket ved'nage svɛ'li 'drexetɐ si. i tɛ'ka, 'severnijet 'vjater 'bɛʃɛ pri'nuden dɛ pri'znaɛ, tʃɛ 'slɯntseto ɛ 'posilno ot 'nego.

Северният вятър и слънцето се препираха, кой е по-силен, когато един пътник, завит в топла дреха, мина покрай тях. Те решиха, че този, който пръв накара пътника да си свали дрехата, ще се счита по-силен от другия. Тогава северният вятър започна да духа с всички сила, но колкото по-силно вятърът духаше, толкова по-плътно пътникът увиваше дрехата около себе си. Най-после северният вятър прекъсна усилията си. Тогава слънцето започна да грее силно, и пътникът веднага свали дрехата си. И така, северният вятър беше принуден да признае, че слънцето е по-силно от него.

Acknowledgement

We are grateful to Mohammad-Reza Majidi for help with the computer program used in preparing the original manuscript of this paper.