

The prosodic system of Proto-Slavic

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TRADITIONAL SYSTEM: EXAMPLES, 1

Common Slavic **voda*

OCS *voda*

Russian *вода*

Bulgarian *вода*

Polish *woda*

Common Slavic **ženy*

OCS *ženy*

Russian *жѣны*

Bulgarian *жени*

Polish *żony*

TRADITIONAL SYSTEM: EXAMPLES, 2

Common Slavic *zima

OCS zima

Russian зима

Bulgarian зима

Polish zima

Common Slavic *pišq

OCS pišq

Russian пишу

Bulgarian пиша

Polish piżę

TRADITIONAL PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEM

CONSONANTS

VELAR	k g		x				
PALATAL		č	š ž				j
DENTAL/ALV.	t d	(c dz)	s z	n	r	l	
BILABIAL	p b			m			v

VOWELS

FRONT	ь i	e ě		(no oral diphthongs)
BACK	ъ u	o a	y	

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM: EXAMPLES, 1

Common Slavic *voda

Proto-Slavic *ǰadā

OCS voda

Russian вода

Bulgarian вода

Polish woda

Common Slavic *ženy

Proto-Slavic *genū

OCS ženy

Russian жёны

Bulgarian жени

Polish żony

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM: EXAMPLES, 2

Common Slavic *zima

Proto-Slavic *zejmā

OCS zima

Russian зима

Bulgarian зима

Polish zima

Common Slavic *pišq

Proto-Slavic *pejsiān

OCS pišq

Russian пишу

Bulgarian пиша

Polish piszę

ALTERNATIVE PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEM

CONSONANTS

VELAR	k g		x				
PALATAL		č	š ž				j (i)
DENTAL/ALV.	t d	(c dz)	s z	n	r	l	
BILABIAL	p b			m			v (u)

VOWELS

FRONT	ɨ i	e ě	
BACK	ɤ u	o a	ɣ
FRONT	i ī	e ē	
BACK	u ū	a ā	

oral diphthongs:

/e ē a ā/ + /i̇ u̇/

TRADITIONAL PROSODIC SYSTEM

stress: one per word

quantity: long vs. short syllables

tone: rising vs. falling vs. neoacute

– yields the following “accents” (x = any vowel)

ḿ – long rising

ḡ – long falling

ḥ – short falling

ḏ – long neoacute

ḑ – short neoacute

x – unaccented

“Ein akzentuierter Vokal duldet keinen weiteren im selben Wort, es konnte aber mehr als einen akutierten im Wort geben [reference to Garde 1976: 4, 194]. Akutierte Kurzvokale traten nur vor tautosyllabischen Sonanten auf.”

Holzer 2003: 34

PROSODIC FEATURES

TRADITIONAL SYSTEM

1 accented vs. unaccented

***stôrnq** vs. ***stornà**

***vòdq** vs. ***vodà**

2 long vs. short

***travà** vs. ***dvorà**

3 rising vs. falling vs.
neoacute

***kôrvq** vs. ***stôrnq** vs.
čьrnъ

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM

1 accented vs. unaccented
(vs. pretonic)

***|starnan** vs. ***star|nā**

***|uadan** vs. ***u|dā**

***|kārūā** vs. ***|starnān** vs.
***kir|nu**

2 long vs. short

***trā|ūā** vs. ***dūa|rā**

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM: CHRONOLOGY

- segments: before the monophthongisation of oral diphthongs
- prosody: after Dybo's law, before Stang's law

Dybo's law: advancement of the accent from an accented short syllable to the following syllable

Stang's law: retraction of the accent from a reduced vowel (*u or *i) or a medial short diphthong to the preceding syllable, which receives neoacute tone

WORDS WITH MORE THAN TWO SYLLABLES

- 1 PS m.loc.pl. ***du**a**rai**xu (CS ***dvòrě**x**ъ**)
- 2 PS ipv. 2.pl. ***be**rā**i**te (CS ***berě**te)
- 3 PS prs. 3.sg. ***na**se**i**ti (CS ***nòs**it**ь**)
- 4 PS f.instr.pl. * **ge**nā**mī** (CS ***ženā**mi)
- 5 PS m.nom.sg. ***ga**ta**u** (CS ***gotò**v**ъ**)

DIFFICULT STRUCTURES

Russian **пíсарь, пíсаря**

< Proto-Slavic ***pej̑sārju** ?

or ***pej̑sārju** ?

Posavian **pītān**

< Proto-Slavic ***pū'tānu** ?

or ***pū'tāenu** ?