

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

	Bilabial		Labio-dental		Alveolar		Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	
Plosive	p	b			t	d			k	g
Nasal		m				n				
Fricative			f	v	s	z	ʃ	ʒ		x
Affricate					ts	dz	tʃ	dʒ		
Trill						r				
Approximant								j		
Lateral Approximant						l				

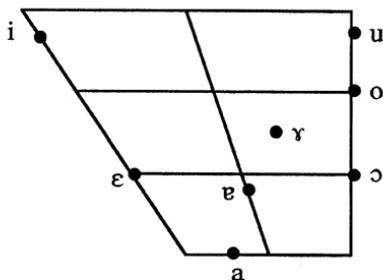
p <i>pija</i> 'I drink'	t <i>tom</i> 'volume'	k <i>kol</i> 'pole'
b <i>bija</i> 'I beat'	d <i>dom</i> 'home'	g <i>gol</i> 'naked'
	ts <i>tsar</i> 'tsar'	tʃ <i>tʃar</i> 'charm'
	dz <i>dzift</i> 'tar'	dʒ <i>dʒob</i> 'pocket'
m <i>most</i> 'bridge'	n <i>nos</i> 'nose'	x <i>halka</i> 'ring'
f <i>far</i> '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'

The phonemic analysis underlying the present transcription does not assume the existence of palatalized consonants. An alternative analysis postulates the following palatalized consonants: / p^j, b^j, t^j, d^j, k^j, g^j, ts^j, dz^j, m^j, n^j, r^j, f^j, v^j, s^j, z^j, x^j, l^j /.

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>pāt</i>	'path'
[o] (unstressed only)		
[kɔ'ga]	<i>koga</i>	'when'
[ɐ] (unstressed only)		
['dumɐ]	<i>duma</i>	'word'



[o] is a neutralization of /u/ and /ɔ/, [ɛ] is a neutralization of /a/ and /ɤ/, both in unstressed syllables.

Stress

Stress is distinctive:	[ˈparɐ]	<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 'vjatɛr i 'slɯntseto se pre'pɪrɛxɛ 'kɔj ɛ 'pɔsilɛn, kɔ'gato ɛdin
 'pɯtnɪk, zɛ'vit f 'tɔplɛ 'dɛrɛxɛ, 'mɪnɛ pokɾɛj 'tjɑx. tɛ rɛ'fɪxɛ tʃɛ 'tɔzi, 'kɔjto
 'pɯf nɛ'kɑrɛ 'pɯtnɪkɛ dɛ si svɛ'li 'dɛrɛxɛtɛ, 'stɛ sɛ 'stʃɪtɛ 'pɔsilɛn od 'drugɪjɛ.
 to'gavɛ 'severnijet 'vjatɛr zɛ'pɔtʃnɛ dɛ 'dɯxɛ s 'fsɪtʃkɛ 'sɪlɛ, no 'kɔkɔto
 'pɔsilno 'vjatɛrɛt 'dɯxɛʃɛ, 'tɔlkɔvɛ 'pɔplɛtno 'pɯtnɪkɛt o'vɪvɛʃɛ 'dɛrɛxɛtɛ
 okolo 'sebe si. 'naj 'pɔslɛ 'severnijet 'vjatɛr pre'kɯsɲɛ o'sɪlɪjɛtɛ si. to'gavɛ
 'slɯntseto zɛ'pɔtʃnɛ dɛ 'grɛɛ 'sɪlno, i 'pɯtnɪkɛt ved'nagɛ svɛ'li 'dɛrɛxɛtɛ si. i
 tɛ'kɑ, 'severnijet 'vjatɛr 'bɛʃɛ pɾɪ'nudɛn dɛ pɾɪ'znɑɛ, tʃɛ 'slɯntseto ɛ 'pɔsilno
 ot 'nego.

Orthographic Version

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-плътнo 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.

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Handbook of the International Phonetic Association :
A Guide to the Use of the International Phonetic Alphabet
International Phonetic Association, July 1999.