

ULTRAFRENCH

Agma Schwa & Ætérnal

20 June 2023

1 Phonology and Evolution from Modern Pseudo-French

	Labial	Coronal	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	b, b ^h	d		k	
Nasal		n			
Fricative	ɸ β, ʋ	s z, θ ð	ɕ z	x	h
Approx.			ɥ ʏ, j	ɰ ʉ	
Lat. Fric.		ʒ	ʃ		

	Front	Back
Close	i ī ĩ ī, y ỹ ỹ ȳ	u ū ũ ʉ
Close-mid	e ē ē̃ ē̄	o ɔ
Mid	ə ⟨e⟩ ɐ	
Open-mid	ɛ ê ē̃ ɛ̄	õ õ̃
Open	a ʌ	ã ã̃

Legend

\tilde{V} = nasalised vowel, \tilde{V} = nasal vowel, V = any vowel (or, in conjunction with \tilde{V}/\tilde{V} , oral vowel)
 N = nasal consonant, \tilde{C} = nasalised consonant (e.g. / \tilde{u} /, but not true nasals), C = any consonant.

Preliminary Changes

1. g, ɣ, w > ɰ ⟨r⟩
2. œ, œ̃, ø > y, ỹ, ʏ
3. ɔ > o
4. y > j / _(#)V
5. V_α > ∅ / _#V_α
6. lj, lɥ > ʎ
7. j > ɥ ⟨y'⟩
8. C > ∅ / #_C
9. C > ∅ / C_#
10. k > x¹ ⟨c'h⟩
11. ʃ, ʒ > ɕ ⟨ç⟩, z ⟨j⟩
12. nt > nθ
13. t > ɖ [d] ('hard /d'/)
14. p > ɸ [b] ('hard /b'/)
15. f, v > ɸ ⟨f⟩, β ⟨b'h⟩

Great Nasal Shift

16. $\tilde{V}l$ > ʉ ⟨w⟩
17. V, \tilde{V} > \tilde{V} , \tilde{V} / _[N \tilde{C} ɰɰ], [N \tilde{C} ɰɰ]_
18. ã, ã̃, ă, ẵ, ȃ, ȃ̃, ȕ > ẽ, ẽ̃, ẵ, ẵ̃, ȕ̃
19. N, \tilde{C} > ∅ / V_#
20. ɲ, ŋ > n
21. V, \tilde{V} > ∅ / N_ N
22. m, l, ʎ > ʋ ⟨v⟩, ʎ̃ ⟨l⟩, ʎ̃̃ ⟨l'⟩

Intervocalic Lenition (/ V_V is implied)

22. x, s > h
23. ɕ, ʎ̃̃, ʎ̃̃̃ > j ⟨ç⟩, ʉ ⟨l⟩, ʉ̃ ⟨l'⟩
24. nθ > n
25. d, ɖ, b, ɸ > ð ⟨d'h⟩, θ ⟨t'h⟩, β, b^h ⟨bh⟩

Late Changes

26. ə > ∅ / C_C
27. V[-nasalised, -nasal] > ʏ / _#

Example

Our example sentence is 'Charles, you bought a fish on the mountain?' or *Charles, tu as acheté un poisson dans la montagne?* The resulting UF sentence is *Çár, y'áçt'he ý ráhó dwávôt'há*. In this simple case, the grammar is more or less the same in PF and UF, so no grammatical changes apply here.

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------|
| PF | ʃaʁl ty a aʃəte œ pwasõ dā la mōtaɲ | (16) | ɕaɰ ɸaɕəðe ỹ ɸasõ dũɸa mōɖaɲ |
| (1) | ʃaʁl ty a aʃəte œ ɸasõ dā la mōtaɲ | (17) | ɕāɰ ɸāɕəðe ỹ ɸāsõ dũɸā mōɖāɲ |
| (2) | ʃaʁl ty a aʃəte ỹ ɸasõ dā la mōtaɲ | (18) | ɕāɰ ɸāɕəðe ỹ ɸāsõ dũɸā mōɖāɲ |
| (4) | ʃaʁl tja aʃəte ỹ ɸasõ dā la mōtaɲ | (19) | ɕāɰ ɸāɕəðe ỹ ɸāsõ dũɸā mōɖā |
| (5) | ʃaʁl tjaʃəte ỹ ɸasõ dā la mōtaɲ | (22) | ɕāɰ ɸāɕəðe ỹ ɸāsõ dũɸā vōɖā |
| (7) | ʃaʁl tɸaʃəte ỹ ɸasõ dā la mōtaɲ | (23) | ɕāɰ ɸāɕəðe ỹ ɸāhõ dũɸā vōɖā |
| (8) | ʃaʁl ɸaʃəte ỹ ɸasõ dā la mōtaɲ | (24) | ɕāɰ ɸājəðe ỹ ɸāhõ dũɸā vōɖā |
| (9) | ʃaɰ ɸaʃəte ỹ ɸasõ dā la mōtaɲ | (26) | ɕāɰ ɸājəðe ỹ ɸāhõ dũɸā vōɖā |
| (11) | ɕaɰ ɸaɕəte ỹ ɸasõ dā la mōtaɲ | (27) | ɕāɰ ɸājəðe ỹ ɸāhõ dũɸā vōɖā |
| (13) | ɕaɰ ɸaɕəðe ỹ ɸasõ dā la mōɖaɲ | (28) | ɕāɰ ɸājəðe ỹ ɸāhõ dũɸā vōɖā |

¹ [χ] around back vowels, [ç] elsewhere.

2 Accidence

2.1 Verbal Morphology

Verbs in UF are inflected for person, number, tense, aspect, mood, and voice. Verbal inflexion is mainly done by means of concatenating a vast set of prefixes onto a verb, with the occasional suffix and circumfix making its appearance. This chapter details these affixes, their meanings, uses, forms, and restrictions.

2.1.1 Active/Passive Affixes

UF has a set of active/subject as well as passive/object prefixes which can be used on their own or in combination with one another, though at most one active and one passive prefix may be combined with a verb.² Table 1 below lists those prefixes, two of which are actually circumfixes.

Active	Sg	Pl	Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	<i>j-</i>	<i>ó-/r-/w- -ó</i>	1st	<i>v-</i>	<i>ó-/r-/w-</i>
2nd	<i>d(ə)-</i>	<i>b'h(y)- -é</i>	2nd	<i>d(ə)-</i>	<i>b'h(y)-</i>
3rd m	<i>l(ə)-</i>	<i>l(ə)-</i>	3rd m	<i>y'-</i>	<i>lý-</i>
3rd f	<i>ll(a)-</i>	<i>ll(ə)-</i>	3rd f	<i>y'-</i>	<i>lý-</i>
3rd n	<i>y'-</i>	<i>l-</i>	3rd n	<i>y'-</i>	<i>lý-</i>
Infinitive	<i>də-</i>		Infinitive	<i>à-/h-</i>	

Table 1: Active (left) and passive (right) verbal prefixes and circumfixes.

A great degree of syncretism can be observed in the third-person forms. The gender distinction in the third person singular that diachronically resulted from gendered personal pronouns is almost non-existent in the plural; the reason for this development is that those forms are derived from the old dative forms, which lacked this distinction altogether. Furthermore, the active first and second person plural only distinguished from their passive counterparts by the presence of additional suffixes in the former case.

The first person plural prefix varies depending on the vowel following it; if it is any vowel that is not a variant of 'o', the prefix is realised as *r-* instead, e.g. *ad'hór* 'love' to *rad'hóró* 'we love'. If the vowel is a variant of 'o', the prefix is realised as *w-* instead, e.g. *ob'heír* 'obey' to *wob'heíró* 'we obey'.

The passive infinitive prefix *à-* coalesces with any vowel following it. It becomes *á-* if it is followed by a non-nasal variant of 'a', e.g. *ad'hór* to *ád'hór* 'to be loved'; *â-* if it is followed by a nasal variant of 'a', e.g. *ánvé* 'give life to' to *ânvé* 'to be animated'; and *h-* if it is followed by any other vowel, e.g. *ob'heír* to *hob'heír* 'to be obeyed'.

The parenthesised vowels are used if the prefix is followed by a consonant, e.g. *dír* 'say' to *lledír* 'they (f) say' and *b'hydíré* 'you (pl) say', but *ad'hór* to *llad'hór* 'they (f) love' and *b'had'hóré* 'you (pl) love'. The prefixes *ó-* and *à-* retain their main forms if followed by a consonant, e.g. *dír* 'say' to *ódíró* 'We say' and *àdír* 'to be said'.

When multiple prefixes are used together, active prefixes precede passive prefixes, except that infinitive prefixes always come first, e.g. *ad'hór* 'love' to *jvad'hór* 'I love myself' (not **vjad'hór*) and *b'hyàd'hóré* 'you (pl) love him/her', but *devad'hór* 'to love me' and *àb'had'hóré* 'to be loved by you (pl)'. Recall that at most one infinitive prefix may be used.

By way of illustration, consider the paradigm of the verb *ad'hór* as shown in Table 2 below. Since this word starts with a vowel, the parenthesised vowels in Table 1 above are not used. Furthermore, since it starts with a non-nasal 'a'-like vowel, the *ó-* prefix is realised as *r-* and the *à-* prefix coalesces with the initial 'a' of the stem to form *á*.

²Irrespective of whether they are personal or infinitive prefixes. For instance, it would also be illegal to combine e.g. the active infinitive prefix with the first person active singular prefix.

Active	Sg	Pl	Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	<i>jad'hór</i>	<i>rad'hóró</i>	1st	<i>vad'hór</i>	<i>rad'hór</i>
2nd	<i>ḍad'hór</i>	<i>b'had'hóré</i>	2nd	<i>ḍad'hór</i>	<i>b'had'hór</i>
3rd m	<i>lad'hór</i>	<i>lad'hór</i>	3rd m	<i>y'ad'hór</i>	<i>lýad'hór</i>
3rd f	<i>llad'hór</i>	<i>llad'hór</i>	3rd f	<i>y'ad'hór</i>	<i>lýad'hór</i>
3rd n	<i>y'ad'hór</i>	<i>lad'hór</i>	3rd n	<i>y'ad'hór</i>	<i>lýad'hór</i>
Infinitive	<i>dad'hór</i>		Infinitive	<i>ád'hór</i>	

Table 2: Paradigm of the verb *ad'hór*.

[to be continued]