

ULTRAFRENCH

Agma Schwa & Ætérnal

22 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	ç ʃ, ʒ	x χ	h
Approx.			ɥ ʏ, j	ɰ ʉ	
Lat. Fric.		ʒ	ʃ		

	Front	Back
Close	i ī ĩ, y ŷ ỹ	u ū ũ
Close-mid	e ē ẽ e̥	o õ
Mid	ə ⟨e̥⟩ ɐ	
Open-mid	ɛ ê ẽ ɛ̥	ɔ̃ ɔ̃
Open	a ʌ	ɑ̃ ɑ̃

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, ŷ, ȳ
3. ɔ > o
4. γ > j / _(#)V
5. V_α > ∅ / _#V_α
6. l̥, l̥ > ʌ
7. j > ɥ ⟨y'⟩
8. ɰ > ɥ / _i
9. C > ∅ / #_C
10. C > ∅ / C_#
11. k > x¹ ⟨c'h⟩
12. ʃ, ʒ > ʃ ⟨ç⟩, ʒ ⟨j⟩
13. nt > nθ
14. t > ɖ [d] ('hard /d/')
15. p > ɸ [b] ('hard /b/')
16. f, v > ɸ ⟨f⟩, β ⟨b'h⟩

Great Nasal Shift

16. $\tilde{V}l$ > \tilde{u} ⟨w⟩
17. V, \tilde{V} > \tilde{V} , \tilde{V} / _[N \tilde{C} ɰɰ], [N \tilde{C} ɰɰ]_
18. ă, ẵ, ẵ, ẵ, ẵ, ẵ > ɛ̃, ɛ̃, ẵ, ẵ, ẵ, ẵ
19. N, \tilde{C} > ∅ / V_#
20. ɲ, ɲ > n
21. V, \tilde{V} > ∅ / N _ N
22. m, l, ʌ > ʋ ⟨v⟩, ʒ̃ ⟨l⟩, ʃ̃ ⟨l'⟩

Intervocalic Lenition (/ V_V is implied)

22. x, s, z > h²
23. ʃ, ʒ, ʃ̃ > j̃ ⟨ç̃⟩, ȳ, ȳ
24. nθ > n
25. d, ɖ, b, ɸ > ð ⟨d'h⟩, θ ⟨t'h⟩, β, b^h ⟨bh⟩

Late Changes

26. C[+stop, -alveolar]C_α > C_α
27. h > ∅ / hV_
28. ə > ∅ / C_C
29. V[-nasalised, -nasal] > ɐ / _#

²[χ] around back vowels, [ç] elsewhere.

²[ç] before variants of /i/ and /y/, [h] 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.³ 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(a)-</i>	3rd n	<i>y'-</i>	<i>lý-</i>
Infinitive	<i>d(ə)-</i>		Infinitive	<i>à-/h-</i>	

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

TODO: Change neuter to be derived from 'ce'. TODO: Document coalescence of the first and second person suffixes when a verb ends with a vowel.

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 form, which lacked this distinction altogether. Furthermore, the active first and second person plural are only distinguished from their passive counterparts by the presence of additional suffixes in the former.

The first person plural prefix varies if there is a vowel following it: if it is any vowel that is not a variant of 'ó', the prefix is realised as *r-* instead, e.g. *ad'hór* 'love' to *rad'hóró* 'we love'. If the vowel is a variant of 'ó', the prefix is realised as *w-* instead, e.g. *ob'heír* 'obey' to *wob'heíró* 'we obey'.⁴

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'. The exception to this is that second person plural *b'h(y)-* drops the *y* if followed by a glide, e.g. *y'ír* 'to hear' to *b'hy'íré* 'you (pl) hear' (not **b'hyy'íré*).

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.

³Irrespective 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.

⁴Diachronically, the base form of this prefix is **o-*, whence e.g. **oad'hóró* > *rad'hóró* and **oob'heíró* > *wob'heíró*.

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*.

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*.

For comparison, the paradigm of the verb *vvórihe* 'remember' is shown in Table 3 below. Since it starts with a consonant, the parenthesised vowels in Table 1 are used, and any prefixes that end with a vowel remain unchanged.

Active	Sg	Pl	Passive	Sg	Pl
1st	<i>jvvórihe</i>	<i>óvvórihy'ó</i>	1st	<i>vvvórihe</i>	<i>óvvórihe</i>
2nd	<i>ḍevvórihe</i>	<i>b'hyvvórihê</i>	2nd	<i>ḍevvórihe</i>	<i>b'hyvvórihe</i>
3rd m	<i>lëvvórihe</i>	<i>lëvvórihe</i>	3rd m	<i>y'vvórihe</i>	<i>lývvórihe</i>
3rd f	<i>llavvórihe</i>	<i>llëvvórihe</i>	3rd f	<i>y'vvórihe</i>	<i>lývvórihe</i>
3rd n	<i>y'vvórihe</i>	<i>lavvórihe</i>	3rd n	<i>y'vvórihe</i>	<i>lývvórihe</i>
Infinitive	<i>ḍevvórihe</i>		Infinitive	<i>àvvórihe</i>	

Table 3: Paradigm of the verb *vvórihe*.

2.1.2 The Conjugation of *ed* 'to be'

	Sg	Pl
1st	<i>vy'í</i>	<i>ósó</i>
2nd	<i>ḍe</i>	<i>b'heḍ</i>
3rd m	<i>le</i>	<i>leşó</i>
3rd f	<i>lle</i>	<i>lleşó</i>
3rd n	<i>y'e</i>	<i>lasó</i>
Infinitive	<i>éd</i>	

Table 4: Paradigm of the verb *ed*.

2.2 Noun Morphology

UF has 4 declensions. A definite and indefinite vocalic declension, and a definite and indefinite consonantal declension. As their names might suggest, the former two are used for nouns that start with a vowel, and the latter two for nouns that start with a consonant. UF has no morphologically separate articles; rather, the old PF articles have been incorporated into the declensions. Furthermore, UF no longer has a gender distinction in nouns.

2.2.1 Declension

The table below shows the affixes of the definite and indefinite declensions. The declensions are mostly identical, except that, as with the conjugation of verbs, the consonantal prefixes often end in a vowel (marked below with parentheses), which are not present in the vocalic declension.

Definite	Sg	Pl	Indefinite	Sg	Pl
Nominative	<i>lá^{-L}</i>	<i>lé^{-L}</i>	Nominative	<i>ýn^{-N}</i>	<i>ý^{-L}</i>
Vocative	<i>∅^{-L}</i>	<i>∅^{-L}</i>	Vocative	/	/
Partitive	<i>dy^{-L}</i>	<i>dē^{-L}</i>	Partitive	<i>dýn^{-N}</i>	<i>dý^{-L}</i>
Accusative	<i>y'i^{-L}</i>	<i>sý^{-L}</i>	Accusative	<i>s^{-L}</i>	<i>s-</i>
...					
Inessive	<i>dwá-</i>	<i>dwé-</i>	Inessive	<i>dáhýn-</i>	<i>dáhý-</i>

Table 5: UF Declension.

Most of these forms cause lenition in the initial consonant of the noun, e.g. *ḍalə* ‘table’ to DEF ACC SG *s'thalə*; this lenition is blocked in the INDEF ACC PL due to the presence of a hypercorrected ‘s’ in PF *ces, e.g. *s'ḍalə* ‘the tables (ACC)’ (not *s'thalə*, which is the singular), as well as in less commonly used forms such as the DEF inessive *dwáḍalə* ‘on the table’.

The INDEF NOM SG *ýn-* prefix and some other forms nasalise nouns; as a reminder, this means that in nouns starting with *ḍ*, the *ḍ* is deleted, e.g. *ýnalə* ‘a table’; it causes nasalisation in words that start with a vowel e.g. *ehyó* ‘shield’ to *ýnéhyó* ‘a shield’. The indefinite vocative does not exist, as that would make little sense. As lenition, nasalisation too is blocked in rarer forms, e.g. INDEF inessive *dáhýnḍalə* ‘on a table’.

The diachrony of these forms is mostly from the PF definite and indefinite pronouns, though some forms, such as the accusative, are borrowed from demonstratives instead (DEF from PF *celui and INDEF from PF *ce); the definite partitive forms are from the PF partitive article, and the indefinite forms are formed with an additional *d-* by analogy to the definite forms. The locative cases are combinations of the articles and PF prepositions.

Definite	Sg	Pl	Indefinite	Sg	Pl
Nominative	<i>lát'halə</i>	<i>lét'halə</i>	Nominative	<i>ýnalə</i>	<i>ýt'halə</i>
Vocative	<i>t'halə</i>	<i>t'halə</i>	Vocative	/	/
Partitive	<i>dýt'halə</i>	<i>dēt'halə</i>	Partitive	<i>dýnalə</i>	<i>dýt'halə</i>
Accusative	<i>y'it'halə</i>	<i>sýt'halə</i>	Accusative	<i>st'halə</i>	<i>sḍalə</i>
...					
Inessive	<i>dwáḍalə</i>	<i>dwéḍalə</i>	Inessive	<i>dáhýnḍalə</i>	<i>dáhýḍalə</i>

Table 6: Consonantal declension of *ḍalə*.

3 Examples

As an example, the sentence below is the UF translation of ‘Charles, you bought a fish on the mountain?’.

4 Dictionary

açt'he *v. tr.* [PF *acheter*] To buy.

ad'hór *v. tr.* [PF *adore*] To love, adore.

ánvé *v. tr.* [PF *animer*] To bring to life, animate.

b'heđ → *eđ*.

Çár *n.* [PF *Charles*] Charles (name).

ḁale *n.* [PF *tableau*] Table.

ḁe → *eđ*.

ḁír *v. tr.* [PF *dire*] To say, tell.

éđ → *eđ*.

eđ *v. intr. irreg.* [PF *être*] FORMS: *active only* SG *vy'í, ḁe, le, lle, ý'e*; PL *ósó, b'heđ, lẹsó, lleşó, lasó*; INF *eđ*.

To be.

ehyó *n.* [PF *écusson*] Shield.

lasó → *eđ*.

le → *eđ*.

lẹsó → *eđ*.

lle → *eđ*.

lleşó → *eđ*.

ob'heír *v. (in)tr.* [PF *obéir*] To obey.

ósó → *eđ*.

ráhó *n.* [PF *poisson*] Fish.

vôt'há *n.* [PF *montagne*] Mountain.

vvórihe *v. (in)tr.* [PF *mémoriser*] To remember.

vy'í → *eđ*.

ý'e → *eđ*.

y'ír *v. (in)tr.* [PF *ouïr*] To hear, understand, listen.