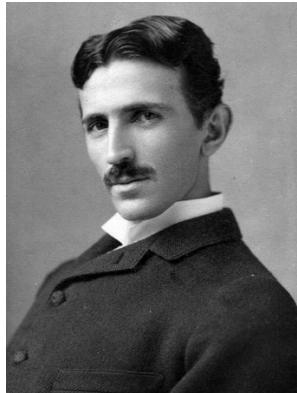


## Class 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> half: How to develop a rule analysis

### 1. Developing a rule analysis

- In real life, you are probably not starting with transcribed, simplified, arranged data like this
  - You may be starting from a reference grammar, or elicitation notes/recordings (your own or someone else's), or the ability to ask a speaker questions about their language, or your intuitions about your own language
- So, we are cheating quite a bit by starting with a “problem set”!
  - If you want to make things more interesting, take Ling 210A/B, Field Methods
- Data: Adjectives and verbs in “Serbo-Croatian,” a concept that has become politically outdated
  - Now more often called Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian or BCMS
  - Or Bosnian, Croatian, etc. are now talked about as separate languages
  - “Serbo-Croatian” referred to the main language spoken in what was then Yugoslavia
  - Indo-European, about 16 million speakers
  - English words that may be from BCMS: *cravat* (via French), *dinar*, *paprika*, *hussar* (both via Hungarian), *slivovitz* (via German and Bulgarian), *vampire* (via French and Hungarian)

Nikola Tesla, inventor



Novak Djokovic, tennis player



Marina Abramovich, artist



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- K&K explain various ways that these data are simplified
- **Non-IPA alert:** the ' mark shows that a vowel is “accented” (falling or rising pitch)
  - We can call these [+accent], just for today
  - This is the aspect of the data is the most simplified
  - We’re told not to worry about accent in the words that don’t have one marked

### Our procedure

- We’ll start from the top row, make a guess, then test our guess against the next row
- Whenever we have to make an analytic choice, we’ll keep track of it in a **decision tree**

<sup>1</sup> Wikimedia commons: Tesla\_circa\_1890.jpeg, Novak\_Djokovic\_(35488012711).jpg, Marina\_Abramović.jpg

Here's our data, from the Kenstowicz & Kisseeberth 1977 textbook, p. 74. I'll give you some extra paper for working on your analysis. The top row and left column are for writing underlying forms.

|  | <i>masc</i> | <i>fem.</i> | <i>neuter</i> | <i>plural</i> |          |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
|  | bogat       | bogata      | bogato        | bogati        | 'rich'   |
|  | mlád        | mladá       | mladó         | mladí         | 'young'  |
|  | púst        | pustá       | pustó         | pustí         | 'empty'  |
|  | béo         | belá        | beló          | belí          | 'white'  |
|  | míó         | milá        | miló          | milí          | 'dear'   |
|  | zelén       | zelená      | zelenó        | zelení        | 'green'  |
|  | križan      | križana     | križano       | križani       | 'cross'  |
|  | jásan       | jasná       | jasnó         | jasní         | 'clear'  |
|  | ledan       | ledna       | ledno         | ledni         | 'frozen' |
|  | dóbar       | dobrá       | dobró         | dobrí         | 'kind'   |
|  | bodar       | bodra       | bodro         | bodri         | 'kind'   |
|  | veseo       | vesela      | veselo        | veseli        | 'gay'    |
|  | ustao       | ustala      | ustalo        | ustali        | 'tired'  |
|  | múkao       | muklá       | mukló         | muklí         | 'hoarse' |

|  | <i>1<sup>st</sup> person<br/>singular present</i> | <i>feminine<br/>past</i> | <i>neuter<br/>past</i> | <i>masc</i> |          |
|--|---|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|----------|
|  | tepém   | teplá                    | tepló                  | tépao       | 'wander' |
|  | skubém  | skublá                   | skubló                 | skúba       | 'tear'   |
|  | tresém  | treslá                   | tresló                 | trésao      | 'shake'  |
|  | vezém   | vezlá                    | vezló                  | vézao       | 'lead'   |
|  | pletém  | plelá                    | pleló                  | pléo        | 'plait'  |
|  | kradém  | kralá                    | kraló                  | kráo        | 'steal'  |
|  | metém   | melá                     | meló                   | méo         | 'sweep'  |
|  | vedém   | velá                     | veló                   | véo         | 'lead'   |

## References

Kenstowicz, Michael & Charles Kisseeberth. 1977. *Topics in Phonological Theory*. New York: Academic Press.