

Russian: alternative explanations

Pavel Iosad

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Russian data

Table 1: Russian consonant inventory

Manner	Labial	Coronal	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar
Stop	p pʲ b bʲ	t tʲ d dʲ			k kʲ g gʲ
Affricate		t͡ɕ	t͡ɕ		
Fricative	f fʲ v vʲ	s sʲ z zʲ	ʂ ʐ ɣ:		x xʲ
Nasal	m mʲ	n nʲ			
Lateral		ɭ ɭʲ			
Rhotic		r rʲ			
Glide				j	

Consonant voicing

_#	_V	_#V	_#[+voi]	_#[-voi]	_#v	Gloss
rok	'rokə	rok i	rog bʲɪt	rok paɫ	rok vʲɪt	'fate'
rok	'rogə	rok i	rog bʲɪt	rok paɫ	rok vʲɪt	'horn'
dup	'dubə	dup i	dub bʲɪt	dup paɫ	dup vʲɪt	'oak'
sup	'supə	sup i	sub bʲɪt	sup paɫ	sup vʲɪt	'soup'
kot	ke'ta	kot i	kod bʲɪt	kot paɫ	kot vʲɪt	'cat'
kot	'kodə	kot i	kod bʲɪt	kot paɫ	kot vʲɪt	'code'
lies	'liesə	lies i	liez bʲɪt	lies paɫ	les vʲɪt	'forest'
vos	'vosə	vos i	voz bʲɪt	vos paɫ	vos vʲɪt	'cart'
u'lof	u'lovə	u'lof i	u'lov bʲɪt	u'lof paɫ	u'lov vʲɪt	'catch'

_#	_V	_#V	_#[+voi]	_#[-voi]	_#v	Gloss
ʂtof	'ʂtofə	ʂtof i	ʂtov bʲɪt	ʂtof pət	ʂtof vʲɪt ¹	'glass'
stoł	stɐ'ła	stoł i	stoł bʲɪt	stoł pət	stoł vʲɪt	'table'
ton	'tonə	ton i	ton bʲɪt	ton pət	ton vʲɪt	'tone'

Questions:

- What happens in final position?
- What triggers assimilation? What undergoes assimilation?
- What's special about [v]?

More on [v]

- Within-word consonant clusters: [tvierj] 'placename' ≠ [dvierj] 'door'
- Assimilation and transparency (Jakobson 1978)

_V	_X[+voi]	_X[-voi]	Gloss
e't oziɪrə	ed tɕu'na	et	

Jakobson, Roman. 1978. Mutual assimilation of Russian voiced and voiceless consonants. *Studia Linguistica* 32(1/2). 107–110. doi:[10.1111/j.1467-9582.1978.tb00332.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9582.1978.tb00332.x).

¹To be revised