

TRANSITIONAL SEMI- ALLOPHONIC SPIRANTIZATION IN TIBERIAN HEBREW

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ALLOPHONIC VARIATION

- English allophone /p/ → [p] or [p^h]
 - *pit* ['p^hɪt]
 - *spit* ['spɪt]
- /p, t, k/ → { [p^h, t^h, k^h] / #_ — { [p^h, t^h, k^h] / v_ 'V



בגדכפת BGDKPT

Following a consonant (C_) Allophones Following a vowel (V_)



SPANISH ALLOPHONES

- /b/ → { [β] / V_
 - *brazo* [braso] (“arm”)
 - *abrazo* [aβraso] (“hug”)
- /g/ → { [ɣ] / V_
 - *gorra* [gora] (“cap”)
 - *agarrar* [ayarar] (“to grab”)
 - *una gorra* [una γora] (“a cap”)
 - *dedo* [deðo] (“finger”)
- /d/ → { [ð] / V_
 - *andar* [andar\] (“to go”)
 - *añadir* [anəðir] (“to add”)

BASIC RULES OF ALLOPHONIC SPIRANTIZATION



1. If the consonant in question is immediately preceded by a vowel—including across word boundaries where juncture is present—then it is pronounced as a fricative.
2. In all other cases, it is pronounced as a plosive.

ALLOPHONIC COMPLICATIONS

- Masoretic *shwa*
 - Mobile shwa vs. quiescent shwa vs. shwa medium
 - “There is a rather common circular argument that, since a simple shva followed by a plosive must be quiescent, the Bet in בְּרִכַּת must therefore be preceded by a vocal shva.” (Joüon-Muraoka, §8c, 48)
- *Resh* (ר)
 - [way:aħerðu] (“they trembled,” Gen. 42:28)
 - [kirv̩u] (imperative masculine plural “come near,” Ex. 16:9)
 - [birx̩aθi] (“my blessing,” Lev. 25:21)
 - [wəlirx̩us̩am] (“and for their livestock,” Num. 35:3)
 - [wəxirv̩ivim] (“and like showers,” Deut. 32:2)

ELIDED VOWELS

- **יְהֹרֶדֶת** [way:aħerðu]
 - yeħerədû > yeħerdû
- **קִרְבָּה** [kirvu]
 - qərəbû > qirbû
- **בִּרְכָּתִי** [birxaθi] ("my blessing," Lev. 25:21)
 - bərəkātî > birkātî
- **מַלְכִּים** [malxei] ("kings of," Gen. 17:16)
- **עֲבָדִים** [avðei] ("servants of," Gen. 21:25)
- **בְּכָנָפִים** [bəxanfehem] ("with their wings," Ex. 25:20)
- **אֲלָפִים** [ʔalfei] ("thousands of," Num. 10:36)
- **בָּעָרְבָּת** [bəʕarvoθ] ("in the plains of," Deut. 34:8)

/katabu/ > [kaθvu]

but

/yakatov/ > [yixtov] not *[yixθov]

WITH PREPOSITION OR CONJUNCTION

- וְנִגְעַ [unyoa] (“and to touch,” Ex. 19:12)
 - [wə] + [nəyoa]
- לְצַבָּא [litsvo?] (“to serve,” Num. 4:23)
 - [lə] + [tsəvo?]
- לְסַבֵּב [lisvov] (“to go around,” Num. 21:4)
 - [lə] + [səvov]

MINIMAL PAIRS

English

- /b/ and /v/
 - *bat* [bæt]
 - *vat* [væt]
- /t/ and /θ/
 - *bat* [bæt]
 - *bath* [bæθ]

Hebrew

- /t/ and /θ/
 - לְקַחַת [lakaħat]
 - לְקַחָת [lakaħaθ]

CONCLUSION

