

Hungarian

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The style of speech illustrated is that of Educated Colloquial Hungarian of the 1990's as spoken in Budapest. Historically, Standard Hungarian is based on the Eastern dialect, which became a supra-dialectal high prestige variety during the 18th century. The speech on the recording is that of a male speaker in his fifties with an academic background, using a somewhat advanced style of speech as spoken in a formal communicative situation.

Consonants

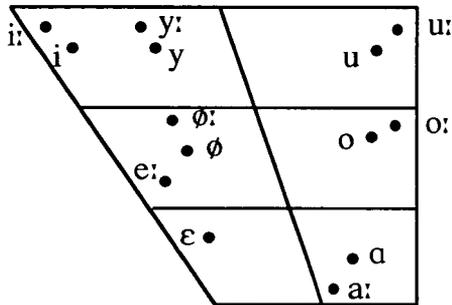
| | Bilabial | Labio-dental | Dental | Post-Alveolar | Palatal | Velar | Glottal |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|--------|---------------|---------|-------|---------|
| Plosive | p b | | t d | | | k g | |
| Affricate | | | ts dz | tʃ dʒ | ç ʃj | | |
| Nasal | m | | n | | ɲ | | |
| Fricative | | f v | s z | ʃ ʒ | | | h |
| Trill | | | r | | | | |
| Approximant | | | | | j | | |
| Lateral Approximant | | | l | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------|--------------|---------|----|-------|----------------|-----------|----|-------|-------------|-----------|
| p | pipa | <i>pipa</i> | 'pipe' | t | tol: | <i>toll</i> | 'feather' | k | ke:p | <i>kép</i> | 'picture' |
| b | bot | <i>bot</i> | 'stock' | d | dob | <i>dob</i> | 'throw' | g | ge:p | <i>gép</i> | 'machine' |
| m | ma | <i>ma</i> | 'today' | n | nem | <i>nem</i> | 'no' | ɲ | ɲa:r | <i>nyár</i> | 'summer' |
| f | fa | <i>fa</i> | 'tree' | s | so: | <i>szó</i> | 'word' | ʃ | ʃo: | <i>só</i> | 'salt' |
| v | va:g | <i>vág</i> | 'cut' | z | zøld | <i>zöld</i> | 'green' | ʒ | ʒeb | <i>zseb</i> | 'pocket' |
| ts | tse:l | <i>cél</i> | 'goal' | tʃ | tʃak | <i>csak</i> | 'only' | ç | ççu:k | <i>tyúk</i> | 'hen' |
| dz | dze:ta | <i>dzéta</i> | 'zeta' | dʒ | dʒes: | <i>dzsessz</i> | 'jazz' | ʃj | ʃja:r | <i>gyár</i> | 'factory' |
| l | lo: | <i>ló</i> | 'horse' | r | ro: | <i>ró</i> | 'carve' | | | | |
| h | ho: | <i>hó</i> | 'snow' | j | jo: | <i>jó</i> | 'good' | | | | |

Consonant length is distinctive in Hungarian, cf. *hal* '(s)he/it is dying' vs. *hall* '(s)he/it hears' and *hal* 'fish' vs. *hall* 'hall'. Short/long opposition extends over the whole system of consonants functioning in (at least a limited number of) word forms. Accordingly, the full system consists of *short C* : *long C* pairs at all positions of the pattern. However,

these long consonants are commonly analyzed as clusters of identical consonants. The phonemic analysis underlying the present chart reflects this second view.

Vowels



| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|------|----------|----|------|-----|----------|
| i | vis | visz | 'carry' | i: | vi:z | víz | 'water' |
| y | yt | üt | 'hit' | y: | ty:z | tűz | 'fire' |
| u | u | ujj | 'finger' | u: | u:t | út | 'road' |
| ε | εz | ez | 'this' | e: | e:l | él | 'live' |
| ø | øl | öl | 'kill' | ø: | lø: | lő | 'shoot' |
| o | ok | ok | 'cause' | o: | to: | tó | 'lake' |
| a | hat | hat | 'six' | a: | va:r | vár | 'castle' |

The seven basic vowel qualities occur in distinctively long and short quantities. Except for the low pair, the short vowels are a little lower and less peripheral than their long counterparts and the same symbol can be used for long and short members of each pair. However, the short vowel corresponding to long /a:/ is higher and backer than its long counterpart. To show its departure from the usual pattern it is transcribed as [ɑ]; in fact, this vowel has some rounding and might be transcribed [ɔ]. As for the e:/ε pair, mid front unrounded long e: is considerably higher and more peripheral than its lower mid front unrounded short counterpart ε.

In addition to the seven basic vowel pairs three additional length/quality combinations, shown below, are phonemically distinctive in a limited number of minimal pairs only, for example /ɑ:/ A 'the letter A' as opposed to /ɑ/ a (definite article). The marginal existence of both a long /ɑ:/ and a short /ɑ/ in the sound pattern of Hungarian provide further reason for transcribing /ɑ/ and /ɑ:/ differently. The third marginal vowel, here written /ε:/ is similar to a lengthened version of the short vowel /ε/.

| | | | |
|------|------|-------|--------------------------|
| (ε:) | ε: | E | (name of the letter 'E') |
| (a) | pas: | passz | 'no bid' (in cards) |
| (ɑ:) | ɑ: | A | (name of the letter 'A') |

Hungarian has two co-existent vowel systems, one of which does not distinguish two different heights among its mid front unrounded short vowels. However, a major segment (some 50 %) of the Hungarian speaking population uses a vowel system with the distinction of *e* and *ɛ*. In this Regional Standard version of Hungarian, orthographic *mentek* — i.e. Budapest Standard [mentek] — represents four different words: [mentek] ‘go (Pl 2, Pres.)’, [mentek] ‘go (Pl 3, Past)’, [mentek] ‘save (Sg 1, Pres.)’, or [mentek] ‘to be exempt from (Pl 3, Pres.)’.

Stress

Word-level stress is nondistinctive, and is fixed on the first syllable of the morpheme.

Conventions

/p, t, k/ are unaspirated, /b, d, g/ are fully voiced. /t, d, n, l, r/ are laminal dental, /s, z, ts, dz/ are laminal dentalalveolar, /ʃ, ʒ/ are laminal postalveolar, /tʃ, dʒ/ are predorsal and postalveolar, and /tɕ, dʒ/ are mediodorsal and palatal. In formal style /çç, ʒʒ/ are realized mostly as palatal stops, i.e. [ç] and [ʒ].

/r/ is a trill. /h/ is voiced [ɦ] in intervocalic position, [ç] in syllable-final position after front vowels, and [x] word-finally after back rounded vowels; word-final /h/ is often deleted.

Short vowels are to some extent reduced (lax) in unstressed position, their long counterparts are realized as full (tense) vowels. Long vowels, especially high ones, shorten in unstressed syllables with a consonant in the coda. The resulting vowel can be half-long or as short as a short vowel. A postvocalic /n/ usually nasalizes the preceding vowel and deletes before a following consonant, especially a continuant. (When the following consonant is a nasal, this process can be viewed as a coalescence of the two nasals).

Transcription of recorded passage

ˌɛts:ɛr az ˈɛ:saki ˈse:l eːʃ a ˌnap ˈvetelket:ɛk hoʒj ˈmeʒikyk az ˈɛrø:ʃɛb: || ˈɛp: a:ra jøt: ɛʒj ˈvã:dor ˌvaʃtak ˌkøpønegbe burkoloˈdzva || az ˈɛ:saki ˈse:l eːʃ a ˌnap ˈɲombã ˈmeʒɛʒj:ɛstek hoʒj ˈaz les: a ˈʒjø:stɛʃ aki ˈfiamarab ˌra:birja a ˌvã:dort hoʒj ˈleveʒjɛ a ˌkøpønegɛt || ak:ɔr az ˈɛ:saki ˈse:l ˌɛ:kezdɛt ˈʃyvøltɛni ˌaɦioʃ:ak ˈbi:rt || de a ˌvã:dor ˈan:a:l ˈsorofab:amj vøta ˌmaga køreː a ˌkøpeɲt ˌmine:l ˈɛrø:ʃɛb:emj ˌfujt || ˌi:ʒj astan az ˈɛ:saki ˈse:l ˌɛl iʃ ˈvesitet:ɛ a ˌverʃɛɲt || a ˌnap meg ˌɛ:kɛstɛ ˈøtani ˈty:zø ˌʒugarait ˌmire a ˌvã:dor ˈɛts:ɛribɛ ˈkibujt a ˌkøpønegeˌbøl || az ˈɛ:saki ˈse:l ˈkeˑntɛlɛ vot ˈmegadni hoʒj ˌbizon a ˌnap az ˌɛrø:ʃɛb:

Orthographic version

Egyszer az északi szél és a nap vetélkedtek, hogy melyikük az erősebb. Épp arra jött egy vándor, vastag köpönyegbe burkolódzva. Az északi szél és a nap nyomban megegyeztek, hogy az lesz a győztes, aki hamarabb rábírja a vándort, hogy levegye a köpönyegét. Akkor az északi szél elkezdett süvölteni, ahogy csak bírt. De a vándor annál szorosabban vonta maga köré a köpenyt, minél erősebben fújt. Így aztán az északi szél el is veszítette a versenyt. A nap meg elkezdte ontani tűző sugarait, mire a vándor egyszeriben kibújt a köpönyegéből. Az északi szél tehát kénytelen volt megadni, hogy bizony a nap az erősebb.