ON RECONSTRUCTING PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND PATTERNS OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

In reconstructing phonological systems of Common Slavic dialects two types must be posited: one with the DF of palatalization, the other with the enriched palatal series. Eastern Slavic dialects belonged to the second type. The correlation of palatalized and non-palatalized consonants emerged there as a result of the secondary palatalization of consonants. This development characterized the system on which the Rostov-Suздal' dialect was based and constituted the starting point of later phonetic processes. An archaic system was preserved in the Old Novgorodian dialect and its descendants. Relative and absolute chronology of these changes and of connected processes is discussed and some general assumptions concerning the reconstruction of phonological systems and the evaluation of its results are tested in this framework.

"In reconstructing... the basic linguistic patterns that must, in principle, correspond to..." [1]... is in the initial common language there arises certain methodological problems. The priority of these reconstructions, the degree to which they conform to the system that actually existed in time and space and was the ancestor of the group of related dialects...[2]. To resolve this methodological problem comparatively approach the number of details on the level of linguistic particular importance in preparing universality courses in comparative and historical linguistics. In character of proto-level reconstructions phonologists have not been able to discover the changes of these courses in the present time because the results of such courses will define the standards of the higher philological education in the near future.

Exécuting phonological reconstructions I proceeded from the general assumption that phonemes as units of the phonological system are represented by sets of distinctive (DF) and non-distinctive (non-DF) features which are realized in the configurative features of phonetic units (speech). At the same time, sounds of speech contain configurative features conditioned by phonetic features that are imposed in their realization upon the phonetic features.

Phonological features combine in different ways according to universals: significant patterns of combinability. In this way, the system is diachronically variant and diachronically variant is its diachronia variant. The course of its development in the basis of the historical and descriptive dialectology is the evolution of each Russian language. There is a considerable progress in the study of the phonological system of the contemporaneous Russian written sources. In the analysis of Old Russian written sources there reveals the phonological structures of the oral language. In constructing models of the Common Slavic phonological system, nevertheless, the following observations must be kept in account: the character of historical Slavic language phonology, the system to describe the first place the results of Slavic palatalizations of consonants. The importance of palatalization in the system of consonants is to raise the tone in the palatal region. This is one of the main features and is subject to the first level of articulation (4).

Functically, the results of the three palatalizations and of the palatalization through jotaization are generally treated as a replacement by two sounds of the palatal series represented before the palatalizations only by [j] ([5]). On the phonetic, phonological, and morphological level these results greatly vary. A critical survey of different solutions that may be found in the literature is not the purpose of this paper.

It is justified, I think, in rejecting solutions based on the introduction of additional (besides the jota) phoneme. The series deal with Proto-Slavic syllabic structure, they reflect the existence of intrinsically ill-balanced harmony but they have nothing to do with as a result of the Proto-Slavic phonological system which is constituted (irrespective of concept of period solely by means of phonemes as sets of relevant features. These theories are not in accord with the idea of the limited autonomy of phonological system as a system of interdependence of phonemes and morphemes. The fact that the words of Proto-Slavic morphomorphemes points to one phoneme on the phoneme.

In considering the Later Common Slavic phonological system and its diachronic changes it is important to determine the phonological system of palatalizing consonants, to realize what role the phoneme played in the development of the system. During the proto-slavic period this domain of the phonological system represented by jotaization, primarily in respect of the quality of the jota (labial or lingual). In the system of later Common Slavic were palatalized labialized [l]'s emerged as a result of labialization of... [6]. The outcome of these changes was a system within which the labialization of the proto-slavic jota [l] could not preserve DF of palatalization... The consonants [l, x, z]^2, [l, z] and [l, w]^2, [l, w] found new places in the system of Common Slavic. The timbre-correlation of the vocalic system lost its in a complex phoneme /.../ were displaced in the phome /.../ as its positional realization.

In these Common Slavic dialects where labials are supplied as a result of jotaization but are limited phonetically to the initial positions, in the newly acquired palatal consonants... In the system of palatalization of consonants... In the system of palatalization the palatal consonants /t/ and /b/ develop a timbre-correlation of palatalized and non-palatalized consonants differing in the timbre correlation... The timbre correlation of palatalized and non-palatalized consonants differs in the timbre correlation... The jota of... the jota preserved in the system of palatalization and... The displacement of the jota preserved in the...
chronic character since reconstructed elements take part in the sequence of phonetic changes and phonological transformations.

From this point of view, it is important to de-
cide whether the concept of palatalization of non-
primary peripheral dialects has been clearly demonstra-
ted by the study of the Russian phonological lan-
duze. (9) Initially, in Russian linguistics the concept of palatalization has been associated with the notion of "enclitic" dialects. Later historical and dialectological research has provided evidence that phonological systems of peripheral dialects are of the vocalic type and differ from the central dialect. The system of peripheral dialects is characterized by a seven-member vowel set, by the possibility of the vocalic of "frontness" being changed to "backness" by the presence of palatal conso-
ants. The opposition in (certain dialects) of tense and lax consonants that makes the vocalic voiceless distinction a redundant phonetic feature, by vocalic elements of phonetic order in these cases.

The formation of the consonant system with DF "palatalized" -- non-palatalized" excludes the possibility of the opposition of front and back vowels in the same phonological system. Vowels differentiated by frontness became allophones of one and the same phoneme. At first, all phonetic re-
lations took shape for /a/ and for /e/ ([a]/[e]) in and for /i/ ([i]/[i]) in and for /u/ ([u]/[u]) in /i/ and /a/ do not merge but are vocalized in differ-
ent ways: /a/ -- /e/, /e/ -- /e/.

The phonetic change /a/ -- /e/ and the analo-
getic formation of syllables of the type /a/ and /e/ created the possibility of a new phonemic structure: /a/ and /e/ with a new DF "palatalized" -- non-palatalized" arose.

This DF is easily combined with a consonantal DF "palatalized" -- non-palatalized.

The emergence of the binary opposition of pa-
latalization and non-palatalization of consonants of the vocalic system /i/ -- /e/ gives rise to the following situation: for /i/ into /e/ and of /e/ into /i/, i.e. for the formation of a seven-
member vocalic system into a five-member one. This development characterized the Futov-Sudal dialect which was the main component of the Central dialectal area and later the source of the Standard Russian pronunciation norm (based on the Central dialectal system). The phonological system of the dialects of the ancient Russian groups has been studied in detail by A.A. Zelinskij (8). In retrac-
ing its historical development it is important to take into account modern Northern Russian and particu-
larly Northern-Eastern Russian peripheral dia-
lects which still retain archaic phonetic fea-
tures. The validity of the opposition of central and peripheral dialects has been clearly demonstrated by the study of the Russian phonological lan-
duze. (9) Initially, in Russian linguistics the concept of palatalization has been associated with the notion of "enclitic" dialects. Later historical and dialectological research has provided evidence that phonological systems of peripheral dialects are of the vocalic type and differ from the central dialect which is consonantal. The system of peripheral dialects is characterized by a seven-member vowel set, by the possibility of the vocalic of "frontness" being changed to "backness" by the presence of palatal cons-
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Studies of the historical development of phon-
ological systems demonstrate their relative sta-
B. The fact that constant elements per-
men changing ones at every stage of develop-
tment of a phonological system. It is to be noted that a single phonological system can serve as a means of expression for semantic units for many gen-
erations of people that use the respective lan-
guages in their communication. One must see that important changes in phonological system occur as a result of the interaction between dif-
ferent languages and cultures.

History of phonological systems as well as their reconstructions deals with the notion of rela-
tive chronology (linguistic time proper). A lar-
gue historian can raise the problem of relative chronology only after establishing a relative one. This transition from relative to absolute chrono-
logy requires special methods and in some cases cannot be carried out. At the same time, it is not always clear what methodologists establish relative reconstructions of absolute one. Thus, if one takes into account the secondary palatalization of consonants the latter process may be dated from the 16th or 17th century; if, however, the relative chronology of these two processes is reversed the secondary palatalization of consonants must be postulated before the 9th century.

In the Futov-Sudal dialect, the change of /i/ into /e/ ceased to occur at the turn of the 16th cen-
tury. This event may be dated on the basis of the change of /e/ into /a/ and of /e/ into /i/, i.e. of the formation of a seven-
member vocalic system into a five-member one, presupposes as a necessary condition the closer position of the /a/ change and the subsequent phonologization of */e* of distinction; it is respons-
able therefore to attribute this transformation to the late 16th or the early 17th century. The corresponding chronology of peripheral phonological systems and their evaluation apply both to the pre-literates and later periods.

References
1. A.S. Zelinskij, "Some Features of the Northern Russian Dialects," in "Some Features of Northern Russian Dialects," 1, Bel


