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Old Lithuanian

Phonology – Part 1: Segmental phonology

Roadmap

- Segmental phonemes:
 - Consonants
 - Vowels
 - Diphthongs

Manner of articulation		Place of articulation							
		labial		non-labial					
				apical				non-apical (velar)	
				dental		palato-alveolar			
		voiceless	voiced	voiceless	voiced	voiceless	voiced	voiceless	voiced
non-sonorant	plosive	p p ^j	b b ^j	t (t ^j)	d (d ^j)			k k ^j	g g ^j
	affricate			ʈ ʈ ^j <c>	ɖ ɖ ^j <dz>	ɧ ɧ ^j <č>	ɟ ɟ ^j <dž>		
	fricative	(f) (f ^j)		s s ^j	z z ^j	ʃ ʃ ^j <š>	ʒ ʒ ^j <ž>	(x) (ç) <ch>	(ɣ) (ɣ _j) <h>
sonorant (resonant)	nasal	m m ^j		n n ^j					
	liquid			l l ^j		r r ^j			
	fricative (glide)		v v ^j	j					

Consonants

- The Middle and the Eastern varieties of Old Lithuanian show no softening of /l/ before the front vowel, and before the non-gliding vowel. Instead, they have a “dark” /ɫ/ in all positions

Liquid resonant /l/ before the low front vowel /æ:/ <e>, and the non-gliding vowel /e:/ <è>	
Western (“Prussian”)	Middle (Central, “Žemaitian”), Eastern (“Lithuanian”, “Dzūkian”)
/l/	/ɫ/ <ɮ>
<i>atleisti</i> forgive-INF. <i>aweles, awelès</i> little sheep- NOM.PL.F.	<i>atɫaisti</i> <i>awelɫas</i>

Consonants

- In Eastern Old Lithuanian, the opposition between hard and soft /r, rʲ/ and /ʒ, ʒʲ/ was neutralized:
 - *graytay* ‘fast:ADV’ (SP I 1629 248,10) (= SL *greitai*)
 - *kryžaus* ‘cross:NOM.SG’ (AK 1605 55,18) (= SL *kryžiaus*)

Consonants

Affricates, Dental plosives		
Western ("Prussian")	Middle (Central, "Žemaitian")	Eastern ("Lithuanian", "Dzūkian")
/tʲ/, /dʲ/, /tʃʲ/, /dʒʲ/		/t͡s/, /d͡z/
<i>dienų</i> day:GEN.PL.F. (WP 1573 27v,26) <i>įžodžieis</i> word:INS.PL.M. (VK 1579 49,2)		<i>dženv</i> (DzP) <i>didžiu</i> (SP I 238,20) vs. <i>didžiu</i> (SP I 248,1) great:INS.SG.M.

Vowels

- The inventory of vowels of Lithuanian consists of 12 main phonemes and 1 peripheral phoneme /ɔ/ being used only in recent loanwords

Tone height	Duration			
	short		long	
	front	non-front	front	non-front
high	ɪ	ʊ	i: <j> <y>	u: <u> <ū>
gliding			iɛ <ie>	ʊɑ <uo>
non-gliding		(ɔ)	e: <ė>	o:
low	ɛ	a	æ: <e> <ę>	a: <a> <ą>

Vowels

- Short and long vowels are different phonemes, which build quantitative (short—long) oppositions:
 - *pùsti* ['pusʲ tʲɪ] swell:INF— *pústi* ['pu:sʲ tʲɪ] blow:INF
 - *dúona* ['dʊ̯ɔna] bread:NOM/INS.SG— *dúona* ['dʊ̯ɔna:] ACC.SG
- Vowel length is phonemic and independent of the accent position:
 - *ùpių* ['ʊpʲu:] river:GEN.PL — *krantỹ* [krʌn'tu:] shore:GEN.PL

Vowels

- \bar{o} < PBalt. * \bar{a} : *mótė* ‘mother’:
 - <a>: *įzadi* word:ACC.SG (WP 1573/1574 3r,31) (= SL *žōdj*)
 - <o> in stressed, <a> in unstressed position: *įzodi* (VK 1579 2,13); *įzodzia* GEN.SG (VK 1579 3,17) (= SL *žōdžio*)
- The gliding long vowels are of secondary origin historically:
 - PBalt. * \bar{o} > *uo* [ʊɑ]: *dúoti* ‘give’ (< PBalt. **dō-*)
 - EBalt. * \bar{e} > *ie* [iɛ]: *diėvas* ‘god’ (< PBalt. **dejvas*)
 - The spelling of these secondary diphthongs <ie> and <uo> was introduced by Konstantinas Sirvydas in the 17th century

Vowels

- The inventory of vowels of the Middle variety of Old Lithuanian is similar to Western and differs from the Eastern one

Word initial <i>e-</i> , <i>ei-</i>		
Western ("Prussian")	Middle (Central, "Žemaitian")	Eastern ("Lithuanian", "Dzūkian")
<i>e-</i> , <i>ei-</i>		<i>a-</i> , <i>ai-</i>
<i>eik</i> go:IMP.2SG.		<i>Atayk</i> (LK 1605 36,16) come:IMP.2SG.
<i>éffancziq</i> (DK 1595 24,2) be:PTCP.PRS.ACT. ACC.SG.F. (= SL esančia)		<i>affunčiu</i> (SP II 1644, 243,20) be:PTCP.PRS.ACT. GEN.PL.F./M. (= SL esančiu)

Vowels

- The opposition between the vowels /a/ and /ɛ/ after soft (palatalized) consonants was neutralized in Old Lithuanian. In the Middle and Eastern varieties, palatalization was more distinct

Middle (Central, “Žemaitian”)	Eastern (“Lithuanian”, “Dzūkian”)
/æ:/ <ia>, <ė̃>, <ea>	/æ:/ <ia>, <ea>, <ie>
<i>giaras</i> good:NOM.SG.M. (= SL geras) <i>giwė̃no</i> live:3PST. (= SL gyveno) <i>cžea</i> here:ADV. (= SL čia) (DP 1599)	<i>žiames</i> earth:GEN.SG.F. (= SL žemės) <i>Peatras</i> Peter:NOM.SG.M. <i>gieri</i> good:NOM.PL.M. (SP I 1629, II 1644)

Vowels

- The main difference between Modern Lithuanian and Western Old Lithuanian is the maintenance of the four nasal long vowels in Western Old Lithuanian. The process of denasalization affected the high nasals /i:ⁿ, u:ⁿ/ <į>, <ų> earlier than the low ones /æ:ⁿ, a:ⁿ/ <ę>, <ą>

Tone height	Duration			
	short		long	
	front	non-front	front	non-front
high	ɪ	ʊ	i: i: ⁿ	u: u: ⁿ
gliding			<u>i</u> ɛ	ʊ <u>ɑ</u>
non-gliding			e:	o:
low	ɛ	a	æ: æ: ⁿ	a: a: ⁿ

Vowels

- In Eastern Old Lithuanian, denasalization took place already in the preliterate period

/a:/ <a>, /æ:/ <ę>, /am/, /an/, /em/, /en/		
Western ("Prussian")	Middle (Central, "Žemaitian")	Eastern ("Lithuanian", "Dzūkian")
/a:/ <a>, /æ:/ <ę>, /am/, /an/, /em/, /en/		/u:/, /i:/, /um/, /un/, /im/, /in/
<i>žqsis</i> goose:NOM.SG.F.		<i>žūsis</i>
<i>tęsia</i> distend:3PRS. <i>lengvas</i> light:NOM.SG.M.		<i>tysia</i> <i>tyngwas</i>
<i>kampas</i> corner:NOM.SG.M.		<i>kumpas</i>
<i>ranka</i> hand,arm:NOM.SG.F.		<i>runka</i>
<i>tempia</i> stretch:3PRS.		<i>timpia</i>
<i>penki</i> five:NOM.PL.M.		<i>pinki</i>

Diphthongs

- Vowel diphthongs: *ai*, *ei*, *au*, *iau* (=eu)
- PBalt. **eĭ* > stressed: *diēvas* ‘god’ / unstressed: *deivē* ‘goddess’
- Dewas* ‘god’ (= SL *diēvas*) / *deiwifte* ‘deity’ (= SL *dievỹstė*), but *deiwifchkas* ‘divine’ (= SL *diēviškas*)

PIE	PBalt.		(O)Lt.
*e _i	*e _i / *a _i	(> *ē >)	ie, ei, ai
*o _i , *a _i	*a _i		ai, ei, ie
*ou _i , *au _i	*au _i		au
*eu _i	*’au _i (> EBalt. *iau)		iau

- No phonetic contrast between *ai* and *ei* after palatalized consonants in Western Old Lithuanian: *broleis* brother:INS.PL (= SL *broliais*)

Nasal and liquid diphthongs

- Nasal and liquid sonorants (resonants) build tautosyllabic sequences:
 - liquid diphthongs: /il/, /ul/, /el/, /al/, /ir/, /ur/, /er/, /ar/
 - nasal diphthongs: /im/, /um/, /em/, /am/, /in/, /un/, /en/, /an/
- Liquid diphthongs are stable. There are two exceptions, when, at the end of the Old Lithuanian period, the nasal disappeared and caused nasalization of the preceding vowel:
 - nasal diphthongs /in/, /un/, /en/, /an/ stand before a fricative: **-an-S-* > *-q-S-*
 - nasal diphthongs /in/, /un/, /en/, /an/ stand in word-final position: **-an* > *-q*

Nasal diphthongs

- Nasalization in Western Old Lithuanian was strong until the 18th c.:

*dr**an**fei* bravely

(WP 1573/1574 5r,12) (= SL *drąsiai*)

*paſchw**ę**ftų, paſchw**en**ftų* hallow:3COND

(WP 183v,8; 258r,27)

*paſchw**ę**nftu*

(VK 1579 51,13) (= SL *pašvęstų*)

im	<i>gĩmti</i> born:INF.
um	<i>kũmpti</i> warp:INF.
em	<i>kremsl̃ė</i> cartilage:NOM.SG.F.
am	<i>ámžius</i> age:NOM.SG.M.
in, j	<i>devĩntas</i> ninth:NOM.SG.M. <i>gr̃žti</i> come back:INF. <i>šùnj</i> dog:ACC.SG.M.
un, ų	<i>jùngas</i> yoke:NOM.SG.M. <i>siũsti</i> send:INF. <i>mėdų</i> honey:ACC.SG.M.
en, ę	<i>penkì</i> five:NOM.PL.M. <i>kęsti</i> suffer:INF. (cf. <i>kẽntė</i> 3PST.) <i>žėmę</i> earth:ACC.SG.F.
an, ą	<i>rankà</i> hand,arm:NOM.SG.F. <i>žq̃sìs</i> goose:NOM.SG.F. <i>rañkq</i> hand,arm:ACC.SG.F.