

Mordvin

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From Proto-Uralic to Mordvin languages: consonants

- the general trend in Mordvin (Erzya and Moksha) was that the number of consonant phonemes arose significantly through voicing of stops and sibilants ($p, t, k \sim b, d, g$, $s, \acute{s} \acute{\acute{s}} \sim z \acute{z}$)
- palatalization spread to all consonants excluding velars (new phonemes p', t', b', d', l', r' , also \acute{n} ja \acute{s} remained as independent phonemes).
- geminated obstruents were shortened
- some essential tendencies in Mordvin:
- voicing of obstruents next to a sonorant

PU **kanta-* 'carry' > E *kando-* M *kandø-*

PU **lämpi* 'warm' > E *l'embe* M *l'ämbä*

PU **tuŋki-* 'to cram' > E *tongo-* M *tongø-*

PU **śülki-* 'to spit' > E *śel'ge-* M *śөл'gø-*

PU **särki* 'roach' > E *seŕge* M *śärgä*

Mordvin: obstruents

- single stops and sibilants were voiced between vowels:

PU **kota* 'hut' > *kudo* 'house'

PU **käti* 'hand' > E *ked'*, M *käd'*

PU **weti* 'water' > *ved'*

- **k* and **p* changed into semivowels between vowels and certain other positions:

PU **šepä* 'neck' > E *šive* M *šivä* 'collar'

PU **wäki* 'strenght' > E *vij* M *vi*

PU **turpa* > E *torvo* M *tørva* 'lip'

PU **kakti* '2' > E *kavto* M *kafta*

- geminates were shortened to single consonants

PU **säppä* 'bile' > E *sepe* M *šäpä*

Mordvin: palatalization

- usually in Mordvin all consonants preceding a front vowel have been secondarily palatalized, that's why the old opposition between palatal and non-palatal consonants, *ś* ~ *s*, *ń* ~ *n*, is reliably typically only found before back vowels:

PU **śilmä* 'eye', **śata* '100', **süli* 'lap, armful' > E *śel'me*, M *śel'mä*, E *śado*, M *śada*, E *sel'*, M *śel'*

PU *ńomala* 'hare' > E *ńumolo* M *ńumøl*

PU **nüdi* 'shaft' > E M *ńed'* 'shaft' (~ Fi *nysi*)

PU **kuńa-* 'to close one's eyes' > E M *końa-*

PU **künärä* 'elbow' > E *keńeń*, M *keńør*

Mordvin: spirants and affricates

- PU * δ , δ' > *d*, *d'*

PU **wu δ 'i* 'new' > E M *od* (~ Fi *uusi*)

PU **kad'a-* 'to leave' > E *kado-*, M *kad \emptyset -* (~ Fi *kadota*)

PU **š \ddot{u} δ ämi* 'heart' > E *šed'ej*, *šed'enj* M *šed'i*

- PU **č* remains an affricate

PU **woča-* 'to wait' > E *učo-*

PU **pečä* 'pine' E *piče* M *pičä* (Fi *petä-jä*), new affricate from Russian and other loans

Mordvin: nasals

- **ŋ* mostly disappeared from Mordvin dialects (except for Southwestern dialects of Erzya):

PU **kun̄i* 'moon' > E M *kov* (E dial *koŋ*)

PU **pin̄i* 'tooth' > E M *pej* (E dial *pev*, *peŋ*)

PU **šin̄iri* 'mouse' > E *čejer* M *šejer*' (notice the regular word-initial correspondence E *č* ~ M *š*)

PU **jan̄ša-* 'to grind' > E M *jaža-*

- other nasals have remained as such, except for word-final *-m* > *-n*

Shared changes with Finnic?

- loss of word-initial *w- preceding a labial vowel:

PU **woli-* 'to be' > E *ul'e*, M *ul'∅* (~ Fi *ole-*)

PU **wüdimi* 'core' > E *ud'em* (~ Fi *ydin*)

PU **woča-* 'to wait' > E *učo-*

- note that also word-initial *j- often disappears word-initially (remains in some Moksha dialects:

PU **jäsini* > mdE *ežne*, M (*j*)*äžňä*)

- *m* > *-n* word-finally:

PU **sewim* 'I eat' > Md *seven* [~ Fi *syön*], for some reason old genitive marker *-n* was palatalized to *ň* (*modaň* [< *mutan*] 'earth's' (~ Fi *muta*); BUT WHY?

Mordvin: vowel changes I

- Erzya and Moksha vowel systems differ quite considerably: the former has a vowel system consisting of 5 vowels (*u, i, e, o, a*), in addition to these the latter has 2 reduced vowels (allophones of each other?) and *ä*. In many cases the PU vowel system has been better preserved in Moksha. Main vowel changes are:

- PU **a(-a)*, **ë* > Md *a*

PU **kala* 'fish' > E M *kal*

PU **panča-* 'to open' > E *panžo-*

PU **mëksa* 'liver' > E *makso*, M *maksa*

PU **ńëli* 'arrow' > E M *nal*

PU **sëni* 'sinew, vein' > E M *san*

- PU **e-ä* > Md *i*

PU **enä* > E *ińe*, M *ińä* 'big' (~ Fi *enä*, SaN *eatni*)

PU **kesä* 'summer' > E *kize* M *kizä* (~ Fi *kesä*, SaN *geassi*)

PU **lešmä* > E *l'išme* M *l'išmä* 'horse' (~ Fi *lehmä* 'cow')

Mordvin: vowel changes II

- PU **i, *ü, *e-i* > Md *e*

PU **keri* ‘skin, bark’ > E M *keř*

PU **meti* ‘mead’ > E M *med’*

PU **šilmä* ‘eye’ > E *šel’me*, M *šel’mä* (Fi *silmä*, SaN *čalbmi*)

PU **kiwi* ‘stone, rock’ > E M *kev* (~ Fi *kivi*)

PU **külmä* ‘cold’ > E *kel’me*, M *kel’mä*

- PU **u* > E M *o* (cf. same change in Saami)

PU **sula* ‘thaw’ > E M *sola* (~ Fi *sula*)

PU **kuḏa-* ‘to weave’ > E M *koda-* (~ Fi *kuto(a)* SaN *godđi-*)

PU **tuli* ‘fire’ > E M *tol* (~ Fi *tuli*, SaN *dolla*)

Mordvin: vowel changes III

- PU *o, *a-i > M E u

PU *kota 'hut' > E *kudo* M *kud* (~ Fi *kota*, SaN *goahti*)

PU *sođka 'common goldeneye' > E *sulgo* M *sulga* (~ Fi *sotka*, SaN *čoađgi*)

PU *orja 'slave' > E *urē*, M *urä* (~ Fi *orja*, SaN *oarji*)

PU *kali- 'to die' > E M *kulo-*

PU *šali 'gut' > E *šulo*, M *šula*

- PU *o > u blocked by velar nasal

PU *jon̄si 'bow' > E *jonks*

- PU *ä > E e, M ä

PU *käli 'language, tongue' > E *kel'*, M *käl'*

PU *käti 'hand' > E *ked'*, M *käd'*

PU *pälä 'half' > E *pel'*, M *päl'*

Mordvin: vowel changes IV

- 2nd syllable *i* disappeared following a single consonant and a cluster ending in a sibilant:

PU **weti* ‘water’ > E M *ved*’

PU **uni* ‘sleep’ > E M *on*

PU **suksi* ‘ski’ > E M *soks*

PU **joŋsi* ‘arrow’ > E *jonks* (~ Fi *jousi*, SaN *juoksa*)

- after consonant clusters and geminates, 2nd syllable **i* was reduced. Proto-Mordvin reduced vowel is reflected by different full vowels in Erzya and Moksha, in oblique cases the original Proto-Mordvin reduced vowel appears in Moksha

PU **pučki* ‘hollow tube’ > E *počko* M *počka* (**počkøń*)

Mordvin: vowel changes V

- 2nd syllable *a* has remained as such following a close vowel in the first syllable

PU **muda* > E M *moda* 'earth' (~ Fi *muta*)

- after open and mid vowels the 2nd syllable *a* was reduced

PU **śata* '100' > E *śado* M *śada* (: *śadøń*)

PU **kalma* > E *kalmo* M *kalma* (: *kalmøn*)

There are exceptions to this reduction: PU **kala* > E M *kal* (also PU **wala* 'song' > E M *val* 'word')

- reduction also in 2nd syllable *ä*

PU **śilmä* 'eye' > E *śel'me* M *śel'mä* (: *sel'møń*)

PU **säppä* 'bile' > E *sepe* M *säpä* (: *säpøń*) ~ Fi *sappi*

Exercise

To what PU protoform the words below can reflect. In many cases there are several possibilities. Try to reconstruct them all.

<i>alku</i>	<i>ala</i>	<i>puoli</i>	<i>kieli</i>	<i>kusi</i>	<i>kyntä-</i>	<i>kato-</i>	<i>suomi</i>
<i>kuusi</i>	<i>siili</i>	<i>työ</i>	<i>jänne</i>	<i>kynä</i>	<i>kaari</i>	<i>ääri</i>	<i>lähde</i>
<i>tähti</i>	<i>tunke-</i>	<i>täi</i>	<i>koi</i>	<i>lämmin</i>	<i>ampua</i>	<i>ui-</i>	<i>yö</i>
<i>syö</i>							