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Vilnius Polish, a dialect of Eastern Polish

Text and Diagnostics

Standard Polish

/l'itfɔ / ɔjčiznɔ mɔja / ti jɛstɛɛ jag zdrɔv'jɛ /
 ilɛ tɛɛw̃ tʂɛba tʂɛnitɛ / tɛn tɪlkɔ ɛɛw̃ dɔv'jɛ /
 ktɔ tɛɛw̃ strɛciw / dʒiɛ / p'jɛŋknɔɛtɛ tfɔw̃ /
 f tsawɛj ɔzdɔb'jɛ / v'idzɛw̃ i ɔp'isuɛw̃ /
 bɔ tɛw̃skɲɛw̃ pɔ tɔb'jɛ /

Vilnius Polish

/l'itvɔ / ɔjčiznɔ mɔja / ti jɛstɛs' jag zdrɔv'ɛ /
 ilɛ ts'a tʂɛba tʂɛn'its' / tɛn tɪl'kɔ s'a dɔv'ɛ /
 ktɔ ts'a strɛts'it / dz'is' / p'ɛŋknɔs'ts' tvɔ /
 f tsɛɛj ɔzdɔb'ɛ / v'idza i ɔp'isuja /
 bɔ tɛskɲa pɔ tɔb'ɛ /

Diagnostics:

1. No Progressive Devoicing $v \rightarrow f$ after a voiceless obstruent, so Vilnius [l'itvɔ] while other dialects say [l'itfɔ].

2. Palatalized dentals [s' z' ts' dz'] instead of prepalatals [ɕ z̥ tɕ dʑ],

dziś [dz'is']

zima [z'ima]

cicho [ts'ixɔ] (note: [x] is a voiceless velar fricative)

dziwny [dz'ivni]

Explanation:

Prepalatals are the sounds written *ś* [ɕ], *ź* [z̥], *ć* [tɕ], and *dź* [dʑ].

Note [s' z' ts' dz'] exist marginally in Standard Polish in borrowings: *sinus*, *Zanzibar*, *na cito*.

3. The lateral is either palatalized [l'] or dark-*l* [ɫ], as in [tɨl'kɔ] and [strats'iɫ].

4. Word-final *-q* is pronounced [ɔ], as in *twq* [tvɔ].

5. No Labial Decomposition, so [zdrɔv'ɛ], not [zdrɔv'jɛ].

Labial Decomposition occurs in Central Polish, so in our dialect. The rule says that soft (that is palatalized) labials are decomposed (that is, split)

into two segments: a labial consonant and [j]. The labial remains palatalized, which is marked by an apostrophe.

Labial Decomposition /p' b' f' v' m'/ → [p'j b'j f'j v'j m'j]

Examples:

	<i>Central Polish</i>	<i>Eastern Polish</i>
piasek 'sand'	[p'jasek]	[p'asek]
biodro 'hip'	[b'jodrɔ]	[b'odrɔ]
trafiony 'hit'	[traf'jɔni]	[traf'ɔni]
wiadro 'bucke'	[v'jadrɔ]	[v'adrɔ]
miasto 'town'	[m'jastɔ]	[m'astɔ]

Labial Decomposition does not exist in Eastern Polish.