

PALATALIZATION handout

Characteristics of Palatalization rules:

1. They apply before front vowels and the front glide [j].
 Front vowels [i ε] and possibly other vowels, depending on the language [ɪ e æ].
2. The triggers as well as the results of Palatalization may be different in different languages. For example, in Polish, Palatalization applies before [i ε j], in Ukrainian we have Palatalization before [j] but not before [ε] and [j]. In English, Palatalization applies before [j], but not before [i ɪ e].
3. There are two kinds of Palatalization: Surface Palatalization and Complex Palatalization.
4. Surface Palatalization merely softens the consonant (i.e. makes it [-back]). In Polish, Surface Palatalization applies before [i] and [j].

Surface Palatalization: $C \rightarrow C' / \text{ — } i j$

Example: //pirat//
 p'irat Surface Palatalization
 [p'irat]

5. Complex Palatalization causes a change in the place of articulation making the consonants postalveolar or palato-alveolar or prepalatal.
6. English Palatalization (phonostylistic)

$t d s z \rightarrow \text{ʃ dʒ ʃ ʒ} / \text{ — } j$

Don't you [dəʊnt ju:] → [dəʊntʃ ju:]
 Did you [dɪd ju:] → [dɪdʒ ju:]
 I miss you [mɪs [ju:] → [mɪʃ [ju:]
 He knows you [nəʊz ju:] → [nəʊz ʒ ju:]

7. Polish Coronal Palatalization (dentals become prepalatals)

$s z t d n \rightarrow \text{ɕ ʑ ʦ ʣ ɲ} / \text{ — } i ε$

Examples

as ‘ace’ –	as+ie [aɛ+ɛ] (loc.sg.)
	as+ik [aɛ+ik] (dimin.)
mróz ‘frost’ –	mroz+ie [mrɔz+ɛ] (loc.sg.)
	mroz+ik [mrɔz+ik] (dimin.)
bat ‘whip’ –	bac+ie [batɛ+ɛ] (loc.sg.)
	bac+ik [batɛ+ik] (dimin.)
lód ‘ice’ –	lodz+ie [lɔdz+ɛ] (loc.sg.)
	lodz+ik [lɔdz+ik] (loc.sg.)
wagon ‘car’ –	wagon+ie [vagɔŋ+ɛ] (loc.sg.)
	wagon+ik [vagɔŋ+ik] (dimin.)

8. Polish First Velar Palatalization (velars become postalveolars)

k g x → č dž š ŋ / — i ɛ

Examples:

bok ‘side’ – bocz+ek [bɔč+ɛk] (dimin.)
 mózg ‘brain’ – móždž+ek [muždž+ɛk]
 dach ‘roof’ – dasz+ek [daš+ɛk]