

Major differences between Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian

This appendix gives you a brief overview of the major differences between Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian. This is obviously useful when you are working with Old Church Slavonic texts, but it also enables you to identify slavonicisms (Church Slavic elements) in Old Russian and Modern Russian texts. For more information and examples, see Galinskaja (1997: 6–8).

A2.1 Morphology: nouns, pronouns and adjectives

| | OCS: | Old Russian: |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| G sg, ā-decl. (soft) | -ѧ (землѧ) | -Ѣ (землѢ) |
| A pl, ǫ-decl. (soft) | -ѧ (конѧ) | -Ѣ (конѢ) |
| I sg, ǫ-decl. (hard) | -омь (родомь) | -ѣмь (родѣмь) |
| I sg, ǫ-decl. (soft) | -емь (конемь) | -ѣмь (конѣмь) |
| D/L sg, personal pronoun: | тебѣ | тобѣ |
| D/L sg, reflexive pronoun: | себѣ | собѣ |
| G sg masc./neut., adjectives (long form) | -аѣго (добраѣго) -ааго (добрааго) -аго (добраго) | -ого (доброго) |
| D sg masc./neut., adjectives (long form) | -уѣму (добрѣму) -ууму (добрѣуму) -уму (добрѣму) | -ому (доброму) |
| L sg masc./neut., adjectives (long form) | -ѣѣмь (добрѣѣмь) -ѣѣмь (добрѣѣмь) -ѣмь (добрѣмь) | -омь (добрѣмь) |
| G sg fem., adjectives (long form) | -ыѧ (добрѣыѧ) | -ыѣ, -оѣ (добрѣыѣ, добрѣоѣ) |

Table 1: Differences between Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian nouns, pronouns and adjectives

NB! The difference between -ѧ and -Ѣ is also relevant for short forms of adjectives (which are inflected like nouns), as well as for demonstrative and possessive pronouns. For pronouns, Old Church Slavonic genitive singular forms include *сеѧ, тоѧ, оноѧ, моеѧ, нашеѧ*, and *вьсеѧ*, while the corresponding Old Russian forms are *сеѣ, тоѣ, оноѣ, моеѣ, нашеѣ*, and *вьсеѣ*. The Old Church Slavonic accusative plural forms *сиѧ, моѧ, нашиѧ*, and *вьсиѧ* correspond to Old Russian *сиѣ, моѣ, нашѣ*, and *вьсѣ*.

See sections 4.2 for more information about the declension of nouns, while sections 5.1–5.5 provide more details about pronouns. The long forms of adjectives are discussed in section 6.3.

A2.2 Morphology: verbs

| | OCS: | Old Russian: |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 3 sg present tense | -тъ (несетъ) | -тъ (несетъ) |
| 3 pl present tense | -тъ (несѣтъ) | -тъ (несутъ) |
| Present active participle (N sg masc./neut.) | -ы (несы) | -а (неса) |

Table 2: Differences between Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian verbs

See sections 8.2 and 8.8 for more information.

A2.3 Syntax: the dative absolute construction

The dative absolute construction is an example of an Old Church Slavonic construction that is attested in Old Russian texts that show some degree of Church Slavonic influence. For examples, see section 9.9.

A2.4 Phonology: Liquid diphthongs

| Proto-Slavic: | OCS: | Old Russian: |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| CORC | CRAC (градъ, metathesis) | COROC (городъ, pleophony) |
| ORC, circumflex (falling tone) | RAC (работа, metathesis) | ROC (робота, metathesis) |
| СЪRC | СРЪС (връхъ) | СЪRC (връхъ) |

Table 3: Liquid diphthongs in Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian

You find more information about liquid diphthongs in section 10.8.

A2.5 Phonology: Prothetic consonants in word-initial position

| Proto-Slavic: | OCS: | Old Russian: |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| /ā/ | /a/ (азъ) | /ja/ (язъ) |
| /eu/ | /ju/ (юнъ) | /u/ (унъ) |
| /ě/ | /je/ (језеро) | /o/ (озеро) |
| /ē/ | /ja/ (јухати) | /jě/ (ѣхати) |

Table 4: Prothetic consonants in Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian

For more about prothetic consonants, see section 10.9.

A2.6 Phonology: J-palatalization and consonant groups + front vowels

| Proto-Slavic: | OCS: | Old Russian: |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| /tj/ | /š't'/ (свѣшта) | /č'/ (свѣча) |
| /stj/ | /š't'/ (тъшта) | /š'č'/ (тъшча) |
| /skj/ | /š't'/ (пуштѣ) | /š'č'/ (пушчу) |
| /kt/ + front V | /š't'/ (ноштъ) | /č'/ (ночь) |
| /gt/ + front V | /š't'/ (мошти) | /č'/ (мочи) |
| /dj/ | /ž'd'/ (межда) | /ž'/ (межа) |
| /zdj/ | /ž'd'/ (ѣждѣ) | /ž'dž'/ (ѣзжу) |
| /zgj/ | /ž'd'/ (дѣждѣ) | /ž'dž'/ (дѣждѣ) |

Table 5: J-palatalization in Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian

NB! Although it is customary to assume that Proto-Slavic /zdj/ and /zgj/ were pronounced differently in Old Church Slavonic and Old Russian, the same letter combination жд were used in both languages, as illustrated by дѣждѣ 'rain'. For more information about j-palatalization, see sections 11.6 and 12.6.