

HISTORICAL CHANGES IN THE SOUNDS OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

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Keywords: *phonetic change, accent, syllable, Middle Ages, south, pronunciation, vowels*

As long as there are humans on earth, the languages that are the means of communication between them will always continue to develop. The interrelationships between discourses that are evident to humans also determine the level of development. As an example, we consider changes in French vowels and accents.

The phonetic changes that have occurred in modern French are not numerous, but some of them have a sufficiently general meaning to change the entire face of the language. These changes took place mainly during the so-called Middle Ages. This period is between 1300 and 1400. Moreover, from the XVII century, serious differences appeared between certain categories of words in the language. This happened under the influence of theorists and phonography. This often distorted or destroyed the natural evolution of sounds.

The accent is placed as it is on a syllable of Old French or Latin. However, in conversational language, it is observed that the tendency to emphasize not individual words, but a combination of words has increased. For example, the compound **les grands hommes** "great people" has only one accent, but the compound **les hommes grand** "grand (great) people" has two accents. **Il y avait | une fois | un vieux roi | qui n'avait pas | d'enfants |** "As long as there is, as long as there is not, as long as there is an old king who has no children" - the sentence actually only has 5 accents, but the words make up fourteen of them. Another factor influencing the appearance of the language is the establishment of pronunciation (mainly typical of Parisian pronunciation), which is still preserved in some regions of France under the influence of ancient dialects.

Which can only be determined under the accent, that is to say that the duration of pronunciation of vowels is also not the same everywhere: in the south, it is on average one seventh of a second and to the north, by a fifth.

Here are the significant changes in sound quality that these vowels experience in different situations.

a) Since the end of the Middle Ages, vowels have undergone a change in the following case: before "s" + consonant. In this case, ê became even longer. The word "**tęste**" became "**tęte**", that is, "head" in Uzbek and others. The sound ɔ in front of the tongue transformed into its rear ɔ̃ and required a long pronunciation. .

Let's look at the examples: the words **pasta**, **asne**, **cęste** began to be pronounced as **pęte** "dough", **ęne** "donkey", **sęte** "shore". Although not reflected in the writing, "a" and "ɔ" underwent such changes in the two previous positions in the middle of the word and before the reduced position at the end of the word. We can use word case as an example. In Old French, the vowels in the words "**gras**", "**os**" and "**foss**" were pronounced **fęsse**. , The same thing happened in the case of ɔ before z. The dialect pronunciation of shouse took root in the dialects found in the east and west, even at court, and almost became dominant by the 16th century. It is not necessary to conclude that the above pronunciations are common throughout France.

In Normandy, even in Paris, we often hear "head" instead of "head". In the south, there is only one "a", which is pronounced between the front and the back. does not distinguish well between paths such as **patte** ("paw") and **pęté** ("dough"); In Requin, Lyon and Paris, it is customary to use "**ę**" instead of "**a**" in the following words: **table** ("**table**"), **flęte** ("**flame**"), **orage** ("thunder"), these words are pronounced there like **tęble**, **flęte**, **oręge**.

It can be observed that the southern French still pronounce the sound "o" before the "z" and the double (doubled) consonants "s" in open and short pronunciation in words such as **chęse**, **ręse**, **fęsse**, **gręsse** - "big", "thick". Often, following observation, the sound "ɔ" in the following words: other "autre", shoulder "**ępaule**", these words can be heard pronounced "**ɔtre**", "**ępęle**", or vice versa, they pronounce the word "**rębe**" like "**rębe**".

b) The changes in normal pronunciation that took place in the 16th century were gradually established, which happened in relation to "e": the diphthong "ę" was replaced by "ie" and "ɔ" by the new "ę" sound. Vowels that were always in an open syllable closed in direct final position or before voiceless consonants, but became open before voiced consonants.

We can conclude that over the years, centuries and certain periods up to the present day, we can expect great changes in language, especially between sounds. This indicates that language is always moving, changing and developing.

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