

## 1. Stress differences in -avaj- and -j-a- stems.

Problem: In some instances, differently stressed, but segmentally identical stem-types, have different conjugations, according to the Jakobsonian system. This is an unnecessary complication, especially for pedagogical purposes. Solutions are discussed which remove stress differences as a factor in using stems to predict verbal paradigms.

A. давай-, -ставай-, -знавай- type.

1. As introduced by Jakobson, implies a stressed -vá- as the environment, in order for this syllable to be deleted in the present tense.

2. Therefore, the stem плавай- is not considered an exception, in spite of ending in the identical segmental -avaj-, and it does not appear in Jakobson's exception list. (The archaic помава́й- is a real exception to Jakobson's system, but is not listed either, perhaps due to its archaic nature or just as an oversight.)

3. Reasons for wanting to change the дава́й- type:

a. The vast majority of basic stems use only segments, not stress as predictors, so this complicates the system for a small number of verbs.

b. The rule specifying the loss of -vá- is isolated and was originally grouped with the "disappearing (nu)" verbs, since both lose a whole syllable. But, -vá- truncation is even less motivated, since it is not even stem-final.

4. The use of stress as a conditioning factor and the loss of the whole syllable -vá- can be eliminated by referring to these stems as: -ava-, i.e. дава-.

5. Analogous to -ova-, -ava- would be a subspecies of -a- stems, which experience the truncation of -a before vowel endings of the present tense. They also form a connected group in that they have the glide mutation of v→j, described in detail by Flier.

6. Note that when the -ov- of an ova- verb is part of the root, a rule specifies that the present tense stress is on the ending (кую́, куёт, etc.). Significantly, the -ava type has -av- as part of the root (dav-a-) and the stress rule is identical (даю́, даёшь, etc.). (It should be noted that Flier, in spite of his use of glide mutation,

retains the rule which deletes the entire -vá- sequence in the present tense, with no commentary as to the stress restrictions on this phenomenon).

If one does consider that the basic stem is дава-, belonging to a separate -ava- group, the major difficulty is the imperative, давай, which could be described either as a stem alternation to davaj- in the imperative, or as the use of an irregular imperative ending -j. Although Laskowski opts for the special -j ending in his version of the Polish one-stem system, I prefer the solution of a different stem in the imperative. Irregular imperative stems also can be found in cases such as сыпъ, капъ, беги, but there is no case for a unique imperative ending. Therefore, I prefer the option of basic дава-, with an irregular imperative. The use of this same irregular stem давай- for the gerund is less of a problem, since -a suffixed verbs do not normally form a gerund from their basic stem in any case, preferring suppletive stems, such as пописывая, in the absence of a gerund from писа-.

B. Stress and irregular -j-a- stems.

1. The major problem here is that of distinguishing the basic stems of Conj. II "ž-a-verbs" and Conj. I "a-verbs." For Jakobson, this was only an issue when the a-suffix received the stress, since he only differentiated Conj. I and II desinences when they were stressed; i.e. an assignment to Conj. II was only necessary when the endings were stressed. However, due to the less standard status of the neutralized 3pl ending (e.g. \*хóдят, instead of хóдят), and the need to teach students the orthography of unstressed present tense endings, modern handbooks correctly seek to assign Conj. I or II even for verbs with constant root-stress, where the endings remain unstressed.

2. Based on the above considerations of stress, Jakobson assigned the stems stojá-/bojá- to Conjugation II. The similar Conj. I stem shape, smejá-, therefore, was considered to be an exception and entered Jakobson's list of exceptional types. The larger number of root stressed verbs with stems in -ja-, such as séja-, lája-, véja-, etc., did not even receive a conjugational assignment, since they used the single neutralized set of unstressed endings in Jakobson's system.

3. However, we can solve this differently, in order to avoid the situation in which the three stems stoja-, smeja-, and seja- are ambiguous in predicting their paradigm. In the first place, smeja- and seja- can predict Conj. I with no accentual information needed for this purpose. We can further observe that stems in oja- are of the Conj. II type, but others in ja- belong to Conj. I. Therefore, I would suggest that stoja- and boja- belong to an oja- type, which is a subtype of the "ž-a" type, analogous to the ova- subtype of the a- type.

C. Thus, in order to avoid the need to consider stress as a factor which differentiates verbal stem-types, I would include the following:

Conj. I

1. **a-** pisa-, seja-, smeja- (sja)
2. **ova-**type: trebova-, kova-
3. **ava-**type: dava-, -stava-, -znava- (irregular imperative and gerund in **-aj**)

Conj. II

1. **ža-**type: derža-, dyša-
2. **oja-**type: stoja-, boja- (sja)

## II. Regular properties of exceptional verb stems.

Jakobson divides exceptional stems into two types:

a. A less regular type, in which a secondary stem is used in a somewhat haphazard number of forms that is hard to classify. E.g. **бег-** in 1sg, 3pl, and impv.; **бежа-** otherwise.

b. A second type of "regular irregulars," in which there are two stems, with one used before vocalic endings and the other before consonantal.

Some of the regular properties of the second type can be incorporated in listings of verbs, rather than just listing them as exceptional. All such verbs can be divided into two types:

1. Those with unexpected (or reversed) mutation: if the basic form predicts any present tense mutation, there is none; if the basic form predicts no mutation, there is constant mutation in all present and imperative forms. These stems can be represented by indicating "(M)" after the basic stem. For example, basic stems **stona-** (M) and **reve-** (M) both predict at least some present tense mutation, but the "M" means that the mutation is reversed and there is none in the present. Conversely, **st/la-** (M) and **sla-** (M) have basic stems with non-syllabic roots that predict no mutation, but the "M" means that full mutation does occur in the present tense (in the case of **sla-** the mutation is of the Church Slavonic type, **sl→šl'**).

2. Those with a switch in the first vowel of the basic stem. If the basic stem ends in a vowel, the primary basic stem occurs before consonantal endings and the "switched" stem occurs before vowel endings; conversely, if the basic stem ends in a consonant, the primary stem occurs before vowel endings and the "switched" stem occurs before consonant endings.

Examples:

Primary Basic Stem	E.g.	Secondary Stem With Switched Vowel	E.g.
моло- (е)	моло-л моло-ть	мело-	мело-у→мелю́
пой- (е)	пой-у (пою)	пей-	пей-л→пел, пей-ть→петь
сяд- (е)	сяд-у	сед-	сед-ла→села, сед-ть→сесть
брей- (и)	брей-у (брею)	брий-	брий-ть→брить
спа- (и)	спа-л спа-ть	спи-	спи-у→сплю
г/на- (и)	гна-л гна-ть	г/о/ни-	г/о/ни-ат→гонят

(In the anomalous буд-, the secondary stem changes not only the vowel, but consonant to zero as well: буд- (ы-).)

Thus, exceptional verbs could be presented as follows: **sosa-** (M), **reve-** (M), **poj-** (e), **spa-** (i), etc.

## Russian Verb Summary

### I. Simple Non-Suffixed (All Conj. I)

A. Resonant в/н/й	жив- <u>ут</u>	жи__-ть	жи__-л
	де <u>н</u> - <u>ут</u>	де__-ть	де__-л
	ду <u>й</u> - <u>ут</u> (ду <u>ю</u> т)	ду__-ть	ду__-л

\*This type regularly drops the stem-final v/n/j before a consonant ending; i.e. its C-C behavior is regular.

The following "Obstruent" types all have special C-C behavior, other than simple loss of the first C.

B. Obstruent б/ц/з	греб- <u>у</u> т	грес- <u>т</u> и	грёб-__, греб- <u>л</u> а
	нес- <u>у</u> т	нес- <u>т</u> и	нёс-__, нес- <u>л</u> а
	грыз- <u>у</u> т	грыз- <u>т</u> ь	грыз-__, грыз- <u>л</u> а

\*The б/ц/з do not drop before consonant ending; but -л drops in masculine past.

C. Obstruent т/д	мет- <u>у</u> т	мес- <u>т</u> и	мё__-л, ме__- <u>л</u> а
	вед- <u>у</u> т	вес- <u>т</u> и	вё__-л, ве__- <u>л</u> а

\*The т/д change to с- before infinitive -ть and DROP before past-tense -л.

D. Obstruent к/г	пек- <u>у</u> т	печь	пёк-__, пек- <u>л</u> а
	мог- <u>у</u> т	мочь	мог-__, мог- <u>л</u> а

\*The к/г combine with -ть to give -ч (spelled -чь); they act like б/ц/з before past -л.

Velars к/г mutate to ч/ж before the -е- (-ё-) endings of the present tense: печ-ёт, мож-ет.

### II. Suffixed

A. Conj. II Suffixed: All share First Person Sing. Mutation if the presuffixal consonant can mutate. All have stems ending in **soft (or historically soft) consonant plus a single vowel suffix**.

1. -и-	плати-ть	плач__-у	плат__-ят
2. -е-	виде-ть	виж__-у	вид__-ят
3. -жа-/о-йа	держа-ть	держ__-у	держ__-ат
	стоя-ть	стой__-у	стой__-ат
	(стоя-ть)	(стою)	(стоят)

B. Conjugation I Suffixed: Split between ай/ей/ну suffixes which do NOT cause mutation, and а/ова/ава/о, which DO. Note that the non-mutating suffixes contain two segments, while the mutating type has one or three.

The following types (with VC or CV suffixes) do not have mutation in the present.

1. ай/ей	делай- <u>ут</u> (дел <u>а</u> ют)	дела__-ть	дела__-л
	имей- <u>ут</u> (име <u>ю</u> т)	име__-ть	име__-л
2. ну/(ну)	прыгн- <u>ут</u>	прыгну-ть	прыгну-л
	ослабн- <u>ут</u>	ослабну-ть	ослаб__-__

Parenthesized (ну) refers to the subtype which loses the whole suffix in the past tense. When that happens, the verb acts like an a non-suffixed verb with whatever consonant preceded (ну).

The following four types (all ending in non-high, non-front а, о) have mutation in all present forms, if possible.

3. а	пиш- <u>ут</u>	писа-ть	писа-л
4. ова	требуй- <u>ут</u>	требова-ть	требова-л
	(-ов- mutates to -уй- throughout present tense)		
5. ава	дай- <u>ут</u> (да <u>ю</u> т)	дава-ть	дава-л
(-ав- mutates to -ай- throughout present tense; but imperative and gerund use stem -авай)			
6. о	ко́ль- <u>ут</u> (ко́лют)	ко́ло-ть	ко́ло-л

### III. Stems with vowel complications (mutation of stem vowels or zero-vowel are in the basic stem).

1. ой-	ой > ы before consonant	мо́й- <u>ут</u> (мо́ют)	мы__-ть	мы__-л
2. Сь/й-	<b>Inserted -И-</b> before cons. ending. <b>inserted -Е-</b> in imperative: пей!	пь/й- <u>ут</u> (п <u>ь</u> ют)	пи__-ть	пи__-л
3. С/р-	<b>Two inserted -Е-</b> vowels in infin. <b>One inserted -Е-</b> (-ё-) in past plus obstruent type behavior of -р-л.	т/р- <u>ут</u>	тере-ть	тёр-__ тёр-ла

#### 4. C/Н-, C/М-

Inserted **-А-** before consonants, with softening of previous consonant, if possible.

м/н- <u>ут</u>	мя__-ть	мя__-ла
нач/н- <u>ут</u>	нача__-ть	нача__-ла

Nasal n/m appear intact before a vowel ending. Before a consonant, the nasal drops and -а- is inserted, together with softening of preceding consonant (looks like inserted -я-).

#### 5. Ё/М, НИМ

In the special case of -Ё/М- (after vowels) and -НИМ- (after consonants), the sequence -НЯ- is used when the stem-final nasal is lost.

пой/м- <u>ут</u>	поня__-ть	поня__-ла
сним- <u>ут</u>	сня__-ть	сня__-ла

#### 6. CC-а (Sometimes called ns-a.)

бер- <u>у</u> т	бра-ть	бра-л
зов- <u>у</u> т	зва-ть	зва-л
жд- <u>у</u> т	жда-ть	жда-л

Lacks the present tense mutation of a-suffixed verbs. If a slash appears in the basic stem (б/ра-, з/ва-, д/ра-), a vowel inserted in the present tense system (present and imperative), i.e. before vowel endings.

#### 7. C/C obstruent stems:

ж/г-:	жг- <u>у</u> , жж- <u>ешь</u> , жг- <u>ут</u>
	ж/ё/г, ж/г- <u>ла</u> ; жёчь
-ч/т-:	учт- <u>у</u> , учт-ёшь, учт- <u>ут</u>
	уч/ё/__-л, уч/__-ла; учёсть

#### 8. Exceptions:

a. Unexpected present mutation:	стона- (М), ст/ла- (М), реве- (М)
b. "Switch" of first stem vowel:	моло- (е), пой- (е), брей- (и), спа- (и), г/на- (и).
c. Isolated exceptions:	бежа- (бег- 1sg, 3pl, impv.) хоте- (хота- Sing.) сы́па- (сы́пи- impv.) ка́па- (ка́пи- impv.)
d. Anomalous	ид- (и- inf.)