

Mennonite Plautdietsch (Canadian Old Colony)

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Mennonite Plautdietsch (ISO 639–3: pdt) is a West Germanic (Indo-European) language belonging to the Low Prussian (*Niederpreußisch*) subgroup of Eastern Low German (*Ostniederdeutsch*), a continuum of closely related varieties spoken in northern Poland until the Second World War (Ziesemer 1924, Mitzka 1930, Thiessen 1963). Although its genetic affiliation with these other, now-moribund Polish varieties is uncontested, Mennonite Plautdietsch represents an exceptional member of this grouping. It was adopted as the language of in-group communication by Mennonites escaping religious persecution in northwestern and central Europe during the mid-sixteenth century, and later accompanied these pacifist Anabaptist Christians over several successive generations of emigration and exile through Poland, Ukraine, and parts of the Russian Empire. As a result of this extensive migration history, Mennonite Plautdietsch is spoken today in diasporic speech communities on four continents and in over a dozen countries by an estimated 300,000 people, primarily descendants of these so-called Russian Mennonites (Epp 1993, Lewis 2009).

Linguistic research on Mennonite Plautdietsch is extensive, spanning the past eight decades. General grammatical descriptions are provided by Quiring (1928) for a 1920s-era Chortitza Colony variety; Baerg (1960) for a single Molochnaya Colony variety spoken in Kansas; Mierau (1964) for several unspecified varieties spoken in western Canada; Avdeev (1965), Kanakin & Wall (1994) and Nieuweboer (1999) for several Altai region varieties spoken in western Siberia; and Siemens (2012) for a diachronically-oriented perspective on the development of Mennonite Plautdietsch more generally. Both Goerzen (1950, 1952) and Lehn (1957) present studies on phonology and phonotactics, focusing on post-1920 Chortitza Colony varieties spoken in western Canada, while Brandt (1992) describes the phonology of several northern Mexican Plautdietsch varieties related historically to Canadian varieties. Perhaps the most detailed studies of Mennonite Plautdietsch phonology and morphology are Jedig (1966) for western Siberia and Buchheit (1978) for Nebraska, the former study tracing the development of the phonology from its Middle Low German roots, the latter concentrating on synchronic phonological and morphological processes. Naiditch (2001, 2005) follows Jedig (1966) in describing the diachronic development of the consonant and vowel systems of an unspecified variety of Mennonite Plautdietsch, while Wiebe (1983, 1993,

a.o.) presents a series of psycholinguistically oriented studies on orthographic representation and phonological knowledge with a community in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Although substantial research from both synchronic and diachronic perspectives addresses phonological organization, the authors are not aware of any phonetic descriptions of any variety of Mennonite Plautdietsch to date.

The present illustration concentrates on one lesser-studied variety of Mennonite Plautdietsch commonly associated with the Old Colony (formerly Reinländer) Mennonites, members of one conservative Mennonite denomination who immigrated to western Canada from present-day Ukraine primarily in the 1870s (see Redekop 1969, Reger & Plett 2001). As a result of repeated rounds of mass emigration on the part of Canadian Old Colony Mennonites to Latin America during the twentieth century, significant Old Colony Mennonite Plautdietsch speech communities exist today in Mexico, Paraguay, Belize, and Bolivia. Other varieties of Mennonite Plautdietsch are attested in Canada, as well, and have received some previous linguistic attention (e.g. Goerzen 1952, Mierau 1964, Moelleken 1972). This description is based on the speech of the second author, born in 1926 in Blumenheim, Saskatchewan. The second author was raised in an Old Colony Mennonite home and acquired Canadian Old Colony Mennonite Plautdietsch as his first language (see Driedger 2011). His translation and production of ‘The North Wind and the Sun’ in Mennonite Plautdietsch is provided below.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d		k ^j g ^j	k g	ʔ
Nasal	m		n		ɲ	ŋ	
Affricate			ts	tʃ			
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ	ç	x ɣ	h
Trill			r				
Approximant					j		
Lateral approximant			l		l ^j		

/p/	/poa/	<i>Poa</i>	‘pair’	/k ^j /	/k ^j oak ^j /	<i>Kjoakj</i>	‘church’
/b/	/boa/	<i>Boa</i>	‘bear’	/g ^j /	/t ^j .g ^j a/	<i>tigja</i>	‘eager’
/m/	/moats/	<i>Moatz</i>	‘March’	/ɲ/	/ʔε.ɲa/	<i>Enja</i>	‘ends’
/f/	/foa/	<i>foah</i>	‘Drive!’	/ç/	/hε.ça/	<i>hecha</i>	‘higher’
/v/	/voa/	<i>woah</i>	‘true’	/j/	/jjoa/	<i>Joah</i>	‘year’
/t/	/jɪ. ¹ toa/	<i>Jitoa</i>	‘guitar’	/k/	/koa/	<i>Koa</i>	‘car’
/d/	/doa/	<i>doa</i>	‘there’	/g/	/goa/	<i>goa</i>	‘cooked’
/n/	/ ¹ noa.nɪç/	<i>noanich</i>	‘nowhere’	/ŋ/	/h ^u .ɲa/	<i>Hunga</i>	‘hunger’
/ts/	/tsol/	<i>Zohl</i>	‘number’	/x/	/pra.xa/	<i>Pracha</i>	‘beggar’
/s/	/ma.sa/	<i>Massa</i>	‘knife’	/ɣ/	/dre.ɣa/	<i>Dröga</i>	‘carrier’
/z/	/zot/	<i>Sot</i>	‘seed’	/tʃ/	/ku.tʃa/	<i>Kutscha</i>	‘chauffeur’
/r/	/roa/	<i>roa</i>	‘Cry!’	/ʃ/	/joap/	<i>schoap</i>	‘sharp’
/l/	/lot/	<i>lot</i>	‘late’	/ʒ/	/bu.ʒa/	<i>Buzha</i>	‘tousled head of hair’
/l ^j /	/bau ^j /	<i>Baulj</i>	‘bellows (N)’	/ʔ/	/ʔoam/	<i>oam</i>	‘poor’
				/h/	/hoa/	<i>Hoa</i>	‘hair’

Mennonite Plautdietsch has 29 phonemic consonants, as illustrated by the above word list. Where available, Mennonite Plautdietsch items were selected to illustrate the consonantal

contrasts before /o/ in a stressed syllable, preferably in word-initial position. In cases when this environment was not available, a non-initial stressed syllable was sought which presented the necessary consonant before a nuclear /o/ (e.g. *Jitoa* /jɪ.'toa/ 'guitar'). If neither of these conditions could be satisfied, items were selected where the relevant consonant preceded /a/ (e.g. /s/ in *Massa* /'ma.sa/ 'knife', /x/ in *Pracha* /'pra.xa/ 'beggar'). These environments were sufficient to demonstrate all consonantal phonemes except /ɸ/, which is only attested word-finally in Canadian Old Colony Mennonite Plautdietsch (e.g. *Baulj* /baʊlʲ/ 'bellows', contrasting with *Baul* /baʊl/ 'ball'). While the glottal stop is treated here as an independent phoneme (see Siemens 2012: 73), this segment appears only as a syllabic onset in lexemes which would otherwise lack one (e.g. *oam* /ʔoam/), and could thus potentially be treated as a phonetic segment, instead.

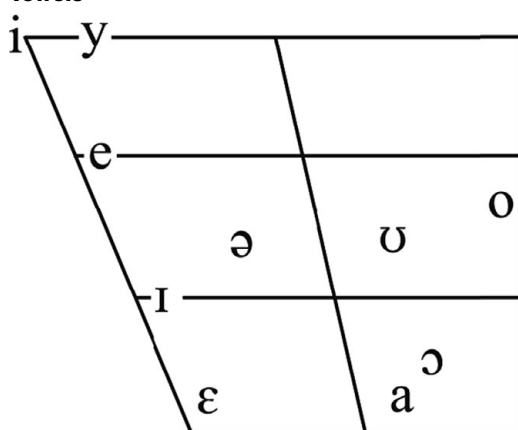
Notably, the phonemic inventory of Canadian Old Colony Mennonite Plautdietsch contrasts palatalized and non-palatalized velar stops, as in *koasch* /koɑʃ/ 'healthy' vs. *Kjoasch* /kʲoɑʃ/ 'cherry', *Hack* /hak/ 'hoe' vs. *Hakj* /hakʲ/ 'hedge'. While /kʲ/ occurs frequently in both syllable-initial and final positions, /gʲ/ is significantly more restricted, rarely occurring outside of syllabic codas and in relatively few lexical items overall. Moreover, /gʲ/ only infrequently provides the basis for any phonemic contrast: the word list provided in Epp (1996) presents only *rikj* /rikʲ/ 'rich' vs. *Rigj* /riɡʲ/ 'back (body part)', and *Akj* /akʲ/ 'corner' and *Agj* /aɡʲ/ 'edge of cloth, fringe' as contrastive pairs. In other varieties of Plautdietsch, these same segments are realized as [ç] and [ʝ] (Siemens 2012: 93–98) or [tʃ] and [dʃ] (Reimer, Reimer & Thiessen 1983: 24), respectively. The presence of these phonemic palatalized velar stops is rarely encountered in related Germanic languages. Siemens (2003, 2012) suggests that these stops are an areal feature indicative of historical membership in the Baltic *Sprachbund*, while Naiditch (2005) and others trace these phonemes' emergence through regular diachronic sound changes, while not ruling out contact influences altogether. Palatalized non-velar stops may also occur when followed by /j/, as in *Eedjen* /ɛɪdʲɛn/ 'gutters', and may be part of a larger palatalization process.

Allophonic variation is reported between an alveolar trill [r], an alveolar tap [ɾ], and a retroflex approximant [ɻ] for /r/ in some varieties of Mennonite Plautdietsch, with the trill and tap occurring in free variation and the retroflex allophone only appearing in non-intervocalic coda position. This variation was first noted for speakers of Mennonite Plautdietsch in Mexico by Moelleken (1966, 1993), who argues on the basis of comparative research on contemporary non-Mennonite varieties of Plautdietsch that the retroflex approximant is not a recent innovation prompted by contact with English. Given the historical relationship between the Mennonite Plautdietsch speech communities in Mexico and their source communities in Canada, it is not surprising to find such variation attested in the Canadian Old Colony Mennonite Plautdietsch represented in the speech of the speaker described here (e.g. *Däaren* [de.əɪn] 'doors', *foahren* [fo.əɪn] 'to drive', *Korn* /kɔɪn/ 'corn, maize'). The [ɻ] allophone is reportedly a sociolinguistically-marked variant associated with this particular variety and is subject to commentary by other Mennonite Plautdietsch speakers in Saskatchewan (Jake Buhler, p.c.).

Unlike several other, related West Germanic languages, word-final obstruents do not demonstrate final devoicing, maintaining phonemic contrasts in this environment; cf. *beed* /bɛɪd/ 'Bid!' (2SG IMPER) vs. *Beet* /bɛɪt/ 'beet', *weed* /wɛɪd/ 'Weed!' (2SG IMPER) vs. *weet* /wɛɪt/ 'knows'.

Mennonite Plautdietsch has 10 phonemic vowels, as illustrated in the vowel chart below and in the F1-F2 vowel space plot in Figure 1. Considerable variation exists between varieties of Mennonite Plautdietsch in their realization of the phonemic vowel inventory, although these distinctions remain poorly documented. The following concentrates on the realization of vowel phonemes in Canadian Old Colony Mennonite Plautdietsch, leaving phonetic comparison with other varieties of Mennonite Plautdietsch as a topic for further research.

Vowels



/i/	/bit/	<i>Biet</i>	'a bite'	/a/	/bat/	<i>bat</i>	'until'
/ɪ/	/brɪ/	<i>bitt</i>	'bites'	/ə/	/bə'dɪt/	<i>bediedt</i>	'means'
/y/	/byt/	<i>buut</i>	'builds'	/ɔ/	/bɔt/	<i>Bott</i>	'bid'
/e/	/bet/	<i>Bät</i>	'a bit'	/o/	/bot/	<i>bodt</i>	'bathes'
/ɛ/	/bet/	<i>Bett</i>	'a tub'	/ʊ/	/butst/	<i>butzt</i>	'bumps'

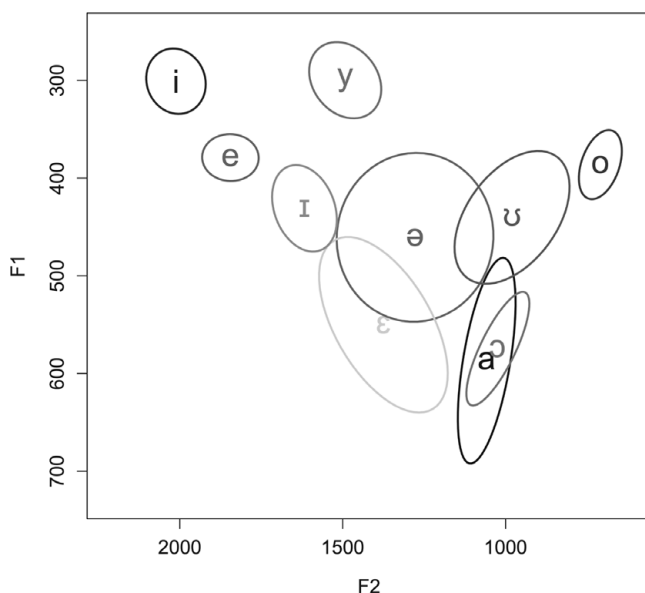


Figure 1 F1-F2 plot of vowels from a combination of words and non-words (approximately 20 tokens per vowel), produced with the phonTools package in R (Barreda 2012).

While the distinction between monophthongs is presented here as being primarily a qualitative one, quantitative differences are also observed, with the mean durations of /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/ and /y/ before /t/ and /d/ in word-initial, stressed syllables all being longer than those of /ə/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɔ/, and /ʊ/ in the speech of the second author. This may suggest that vowel quantity may serve as an additional cue to phonemic identity, in addition to the qualitative differences noted below.

Monophthongs in Canadian Old Colony Mennonite Plautdietsch maintain a contrast in roundness only in the front high vowels (e.g. *Biet* /bit/ ‘a bite’ vs. *buut* /byt/ ‘builds’), with the absence of a corresponding high back rounded vowel phoneme /u/ in this variety explained historically as the result of so-called ‘spontaneous palatalization’ (see Naiditch 2005: 80). Such asymmetry in the inventory is not paralleled among the diphthongs, however, where /u/ is found in items such as *wua* /vua/ ‘where’, and is distinct from /ya/ in items such as *Buua* /bya/ ‘builder’. Monophthongs are also often centralized in unstressed position, as in the reduction of /a/ to [ə] in *romma* /^lrɔ.ma/ [rɔmə] ‘around’ in connected speech.

The realization of several of these vowel phonemes in Canadian Old Colony Mennonite Plautdietsch differs in some respects from what would be anticipated from the IPA symbols used to represent them here. In the speech of the second author, the front vowels /ɪ/ and /ɛ/ have lowered to [ɛ] and [æ], respectively, and /ʊ/ has centralized to [ə], leaving the entire high back vowel space empty of monophthongs. Notably, as seen in Figure 1, no difference in F1 or F2 values for /a/ and /ɔ/ is found in this variety, with these phonemes being realized as [ɐ] or [ɑ]. Instead, this phonological distinction is likely maintained as a difference in length and, to a lesser extent, F3 values. In a small sample of these vowels appearing in stressed, word-initial syllables before /t/ and /d/ ($n = 36$), instances of /a/ demonstrate almost twice the mean duration (291 ms) of instances of /ɔ/ (158 ms). To the authors’ knowledge, a phonemic length cue in any of the Plautdietsch monophthongal vowels has not been reported in the previous literature, although occasional reference is made to the (non-phonemic) length characteristics of /a/ (see Jedij 1966).

Diphthongs

Mennonite Plautdietsch has eleven phonemic diphthongs:

/ia/	/bia/	<i>Bia</i>	‘pillow case’	/ɔɪ/	/bɔɪd/	<i>beed</i>	‘Bid!’
/ya/	/bya/	<i>Buua</i>	‘builder’	/əʊ/	/bəʊd/	<i>Bood</i>	‘shack’
/ei/	/beɪd/	<i>beid</i>	‘both’	/aʊ/	/baʊs/	<i>Bauss</i>	‘boss’
/ea/	/bea/	<i>Bäa</i>	‘berry; pear’	/oa/	/boɑ/	<i>Boa</i>	‘bear; drill’
/eɔ/	/ ^l bɛɔ.ɣən/	<i>Böagen</i>	‘bow’	/ua/	/vua/	<i>wua</i>	‘where’
				/uɪ/	/fuj/	<i>fuj</i>	‘Yuck!’

Reduction of the /a/ off-glide in diphthongs is occasionally found in closed syllables and in rapid speech, as in *woamen* [vʊəmən] ‘warm:M.SG.ACC’ and *Nuadwind* [nuədʋɪnt] ‘north wind’ (see Buchheit 1978: 40–41). The variety of Canadian Mennonite Plautdietsch considered here does not provide evidence of the phonemic contrast reported in Epp (1996) for other varieties between /iə/ (*Biee* /biə/ ‘bees’; contrast not present in this item in Canadian Old Colony Mennonite Plautdietsch) and /ia/ (*Bia* /bia/ ‘pillow case’). Similarly, differences are reported across varieties of Mennonite Plautdietsch not only in the phonemic composition of the diphthong inventory, but also in their realization, with some varieties noting reduction of /aʊ/ to /ɔ/ or /ɔ/ (see Kanakin & Wall 1994, Moelleken 1966).

The phonemic status of several of these diphthongs deserves closer attention. The distribution of /eɔ/ is predictable in this variety of Canadian Mennonite Plautdietsch, appearing before non-palatalized velar consonants, e.g. *Böagen* /^lbɛɔ.ɣən/ ‘bow’, *möaken* /^lmɛɔkən/ ‘to make’, but *stoakjste* /^lstɔak^lstə/ ‘strongest’. It could thus be seen as an allophone of /oa/, which is consistent with the distribution of [oa] across both prevelar and non-prevelar contexts in other varieties of Plautdietsch where /eɔ/ (or, in varieties with a rounded variant of this phoneme, /œa/) is not attested (see Loewen 1998). Exceptions to this generalization exist, however, as in *Joakob* ‘Jacob’ (although the /eɔ/ variant of this form is also attested, i.e., *Jöakob*), motivating treatment as a separate phoneme. As well, the phoneme /uɪ/ is apparently restricted in this variety to a single lexical item, the interjection *fuj* ‘Yuck!’.

Triphthongs

Little consensus exists between previous analyses of triphthongs, which are often discussed with diphthongs. With one exception noted below, all triphthongs in this variety involve a final off-glide /ɪ/, which some have analyzed as coda /j/.

/əɪə/	/bəɪə/	<i>Beea</i>	‘beer’	/iəɪ/	/viəɪ/	<i>Weaj</i>	‘cradle’
/əʊɪ/	/jəʳəʊɪ/	<i>Jerooj</i>	‘movement’	/aʊɪ/	/pʰaʊɪ/	<i>Pauj</i>	‘paw’
/eəɪ/	/veəɪ/	<i>Wäaj</i>	‘roads’	/oəɪ/	/boəɪ/	<i>Boaj</i>	‘mountains’

Monosyllabic contrasts between diphthongs and purported triphthongs are rare but identifiable, as in *wāa* /vea/ ‘who’ vs. *Wäaj* /veəɪ/ ‘roads’, *wea* /via/ ‘was’ vs. *Weaj* /viəɪ/ ‘cradle’, and *Boa* /boə/ ‘bear’ vs. *Boaj* /boəɪ/ ‘mountains’, as seen in the above wordlist. It is typical for orthographies and phonological analyses of Canadian Mennonite Plautdietsch to recognize at least the triphthong /əɪə/ as distinguishing sets of minimal pairs such as *Beea* /bəɪə/ ‘beer’, *Bia* /bia/ ‘pillow case’, and *Bäa* /bea/ ‘berry’; *vea* /fəɪə/ ‘four’, *Fia* /fia/ ‘fire’, and *vāa* /fea/ ‘before’; and *Heea* /həɪə/ ‘honey (term of endearment)’, *hia* /hia/ ‘here’, and *hāa* /hea/ ‘hither’. For the second author, however, this triphthong is typically perceived as two syllables (e.g. /bəɪ.ə/ *Beea* ‘beer’), as is the case with /oəɪ/, leaving the monosyllabic status of these two vowel sequences in question.

Whereas other Canadian and American varieties have maintained a distinction between /əɪə/ and /ia/ consistently, the variety of Old Colony Canadian Mennonite Plautdietsch considered here preserves the contrast only in a limited number of lexical items, following an earlier merger of **eea* and **ia* to /ia/. This merger appears characteristic not only of the present variety, but also of most varieties spoken by descendants of the earliest Mennonite emigrants to the Americas from the Chortitza and Bergthal colonies, as is apparent in the absence of this contrast from the phonemic inventory of Mexican Old Colony Mennonite Plautdietsch found in Moelleken (1966). Phonemic descriptions of contrasting non-merged Canadian and American varieties are found in Goerzen (1950), Baerg (1960), Reimer et al. (1983), Epp (1996), Loewen (1998), and Neufeld (2000). Unlike several of these non-merged Canadian varieties, the variety considered here lacks the triphthong /əʊə/ altogether (see Loewen 1998: 136–137).

Stress and intonation

Primary stress is generally predictable based on the morphological structure of the item, falling on the first non-prefix syllable. Verbs ending in *-earen* represent an exception, with the penultimate syllable receiving primary stress, e.g. *passearen* /pə.ˈsia.rən/ ‘to happen’, *opperearen* /ɔ.pə.ˈria.rən/ ‘to operate’. Similarly, some borrowed lexemes show non-morphologically determined stress patterns, such as *Perischkie* /pə.rɪʃ.ˈki/ ‘pirozhki, fruit-filled pastries’ (< Rus. пирожки, Ukr. пиріжки) and *Warenikje* /və.ˈrɛ.nɪ.kʲə/ ‘perogies’ (< Ukr./Rus. вареники); as do occasional items in the native Plautdietsch lexicon, such as (*han*) *kefoojen* /kə.ˈfəʊ.jən/ ‘to throw down forcefully’ and *unjarenaunda* /ɪ.ʊ.nə.rəˈnaʊn.da/ ‘amongst, amidst, mixed’. Stress may be contrastive, as in the following examples:

<i>unjastohnen</i>	/ɪ.ʊ.nə.ˈʃto.nən/	‘to determine, check out’
<i>unjastohnen</i>	/ɪ.ʊ.nə.ʃto.nən/	‘to stand under’
<i>wadaholen</i>	/ɪ.və.da.ˈho.lən/	‘to repeat’
<i>wadaholen</i>	/ɪ.və.da.ˌho.lən/	‘to fetch again’

While stress is comparatively well documented in existing Mennonite Plautdietsch dictionaries and grammatical sketches, intonation remains without any detailed analytical treatment to date. Baerg (1960: 68–87) offers an impressionistic description of the intonation

system of Mennonite Plautdietsch, providing hand-illustrated intonation contours for several sentence types (e.g. information and polar questions) and focus conditions. Mierau (1964: 26–28) likewise briefly notes distinctive intonation contours correlating with declarative, interrogative, and imperative modes, though acknowledging that this characterization is ‘admittedly an oversimplification’ (p. 28) and that intonation in Mennonite Plautdietsch represents an area for further dedicated research. The sentences listed below, all variations of *Jehaun haud ‘en oolet Peat* ‘John had an old horse’ and *Haud Jehaun ‘en oolet Peat?* ‘Did John have an old horse?’, illustrate the prosodic contours commonly associated with neutral declarative statements (falling intonation), contrastive focus (pitch peak on contrasts), and clarification and polar questions (falling intonation with rise on last syllable).

<i>Jehaun haud ‘en oolet Peat.</i>	(neutral declarative)
<i>Jehaun haud ‘en oolet Peat.</i>	(contrastive focus: ‘JOHN, not George’)
<i>Jehaun haud ‘en oolet Peat.</i>	(contrastive focus: ‘HAD, not has’)
<i>Jehaun haud een oolet Peat.</i>	(contrastive focus: ‘ONE, not two’)
<i>Jehaun haud ‘en oolet Peat.</i>	(contrastive focus: ‘OLD, not young’)
<i>Jehaun haud ‘en oolet Peat.</i>	(contrastive focus: ‘HORSE, not cow’)
<i>Jehaun haud ‘en oolet Peat?</i>	(clarification: ‘What did you say?’)
<i>Haud Jehaun (e’mol) ‘en oolet Peat?</i>	(polar question)

Transcription of recorded passage

There is no single, standardized orthography for Mennonite Plautdietsch at present with general acceptance across all diasporic speech communities. Several distinct standard orthographies have been proposed, and appear to have converged in many respects upon similar conventions for representing phonemic contrasts common to most varieties (Reimer 1982, Reimer et al. 1983, Epp 1996, Loewen 1998, a.o.; see Nieuweboer (1999: Chapter 6) for an overview of Plautdietsch orthographies). In the absence of an accepted orthographic standard for this variety, however, and in light of the sometimes controversial nature of orthographic choices in Mennonite Plautdietsch speech communities (see Cox 2011), the passage from the ‘North Wind and the Sun’ is presented below in both the orthography originally chosen by the second author, as well as in the Plautdietsch adaptation of the Sass orthography outlined in Epp (1996).

/de 'nuədʋɪnt en de zɔn 'ʃtrɔɪdn̩ zɪkʲ | vɛə daʊt 'ʃtoəkʲstə vɪə | əʊs əm 'fəʊtʃɛnə
 mɛt ən 'voəmən 'maʊntl̩ | 'ɛnjə_i vɛkəlt 'ʔaʊnkʲɛɪm | zɛɪ bə'zɔnən zɪkʰ | daʊt dɛɪ
 | vɛə dem 'fəʊtʃɛnə daʊt 'iəʃtə vʊd 'kʲɛnən zɪn 'maʊntl̩ ʔytrəkʲən 'mɛlkən |
 daʊt 'ʃtoəkʲstə vʊd 'zɛnən | dən pɪst de 'nuədʋɪnt zə 'zɛɪə əʊs hɛɪ kʊn | obə jə
 'dɔlə hɛɪ pɪst | jə 'dɔlə 'vɛkɛld de 'fəʊtʃɛnə zɪn 'maʊntl̩ 'rɔmə zɪkʲ | 'ɛntliç jəɪf
 de 'nuədʋɪnt nɔ | dən ʃəm de zɔn voəm | ɛn fuəts trək de 'fəʊtʃɛnə zɪkʲ den
 'maʊntl̩ yt | ɔn zəʊ must dɛɪ 'nuədʋɪnt 'təʊʃtɔ'nən daʊt de zɔn dət 'ʃtoəkʲstə
 'vɪə/

Original orthography (Driedger 2011)

Dee nuad Wint onn dee Sonn streeden sikj, wää daut stoakste wia, auss een Footjänga met een woamen Mauntel enjewelkjet aun kjeem. Sie besonnen sikj, daut dee, wää däm Footjänja daut ieschta wud kjennen sien Mauntel üttrakjen mäaken, daut stoakste wud sennen. Donn püst dee nuad Wint soo seea auss hee kun, oba je dolla hee püst, je dolla wekjeld dee Footjänga sien Mauntel romma sikj. Entlijch jeef dee nuad Wint no. Donn scheen dee Sonn woam, onn

fuats trock dee Footjänga sikj dän Mauntel üt, onn so musst dee nuad Wint too stonen, daut dee Sonn daut stoakste wia.

Sass orthography (Epp 1996)

De Nuadwind un de Sonn streden sikj, wää daut stoakjste wea, aus een Footjänga met een woamen Mauntel enjewekjelt aunkjeem. Se besonnen sikj, daut dee, wää däm Footjänga daut easchte wudd kjennen sien Mauntel uttraikjen möaken, daut stoakjste wudd sennen. Donn puust de Nuadwind soo sea aus he kunn, oba je dolla he puust, je dolla wekjeld de Footjänga sien Mauntel ‘romma sikj. Endlich jeef de Nuadwind noh. Donn scheen de Sonn woam, un fuats trock de Footjänga sikj dän Mauntel ut, un soo musst de Nuadwind toostohnen, daut de Sonn daut stoakjste wea.

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