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Upper Saxon (*Obersächsisch* /ø:po^si'seksʃ/) refers to a group of dialects spoken by over two million people in the Free State of Saxony in eastern Germany. It is considered one of the eastern branches of Central German (Wiesinger 1983, Lewis 2009), with major phonological, morphological, and lexical differences from Standard German and other regional dialects.

The transcriptions below reflect the speech of middle-aged speakers from Chemnitz, speaking an urban variety of the local *Vorerzgebirgisch* /fo^s:^ra^s:tskəbλ^s:ʃ/ dialect, which is described in Bergmann (1990: 292) as transitional between the Meissen (*Meißnisch*), Vogtland (*Vogtländisch*), and Ore Mountain (*Erzgebirgisch*) dialects. Due to both this transitional nature and a lesser degree of influence from Standard German (*Hochdeutsch*) than what is seen in other urban centers (e.g. Leipzig, Dresden), the Chemnitz dialect is largely intelligible to speakers of other varieties of Upper Saxon while still preserving the most salient phonological and phonetic features recognizable to speakers of other varieties of German as defining characteristics of Upper Saxon.

Of course, as the degree of influence from regional dialects and from Standard German varies greatly across speakers and contexts, this illustration should not be taken to be representative of all speakers in Chemnitz, let alone of all varieties of Upper Saxon. See Bergmann (1965) for a detailed historical description of this *Vorerzgebirgisch* variety, Keller (1960), Bergmann (1990: 312), Kügler (2005: 18; 2007: 11), and Rues et al. (2007: 91–99) for descriptions of and references on other varieties of Upper Saxon, and Kleber (2011) for the pronunciation of Standard German by Upper Saxon speakers. Examples of Standard German are given for comparison of selected forms, and are based on Rues et al.'s (2007) transcription scheme.

Consonants

	Bi-labial	Labio-dental	Dental	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Plosive	p		t			k k ^h		
Nasal	m		n			ŋ		
Fricative		f	s	ʃ			χ	h
Approximant		v			j		ʁ	
Lateral approximant			l					

p	ˈpʌsə	<i>passə</i>	‘(I) pass’	
t	ˈtʌsə	<i>Tasse</i>	‘cup’	
k ^h	ˈk ^h ʌsə	<i>Kasse</i>	‘cash register’	
k	ˈkʌsə	<i>Gasse</i>	‘lane’	
m	tʌm	<i>Damm</i>	‘dam’	
n	tʌn	<i>dann</i>	‘then’	
ŋ	tʌŋ	<i>Tang</i>	‘seaweed’	
f	fæŋ	<i>fein</i>	‘fine’	
s	sæŋ	<i>sein</i>	‘his’	ʋʌs <i>was</i> ‘what’
ʃ	ʃæŋ	<i>Schein</i>	‘shine’, ‘light’	ʋʌʃ <i>wasch</i> ‘Wash!’
χ				ʋʌχ <i>wach</i> ‘awake’
h	hæŋ	<i>Hain</i>	‘grove’	
ʋ	ʋɔː	<i>war</i>	‘was’	
j	jɔː	<i>Jahr</i>	‘year’	
ʁ	ʁaʊ	<i>rau</i>	‘rough’	
l	laʊ	<i>lau</i>	‘lukewarm’	

Voicing and aspiration

Unlike Standard German, Upper Saxon lacks a voicing contrast. Underlyingly, obstruents are voiceless and sonorants are voiced (Becker 1942: 104, 127–128; Bergmann 1965: 43, 1987: 18, 1990: 309–310; Zimmermann 1992: 102–107; Rues et al. 2007: 94; Kleber 2011). Unaspirated stops /p t k/ can be partially or fully voiced [b d g] between sonorants, as in Figure 1 and Figure 3 below; word-finally, they can vary widely from fully voiced stops to voiceless aspirated stops [p^h t^h k^h], as in Figure 2, but are most commonly realized as voiceless unaspirated stops (Bergmann 1965: 43; Albrecht 1983: 11), as in Figure 3. The sole aspiration distinction /k^h k/ is restricted to initial position (Bergmann 1965: 43), e.g. /k^hʌsə/ *Kasse* ‘cash register’ vs. /kʌsə/ *Gasse* ‘lane’ above. Neighboring varieties of Central and Upper German are also described as having a similar lack of a contrast in either voicing or aspiration (i.e. fortis vs. lenis) outside of velars, e.g. Thuringian (Spangenberg 1990: 270), East Franconian (Rowley 1990: 400), and Swabian (Hiller 1995: 34–35).

Word-initially

p	pɛln	<i>bellen</i>	‘to bark’	cf. German ˈbɛln
t	tæʃ	<i>Teich</i>	‘pond’	cf. German tæç
k	kʷ:χŋ	<i>Kuchen</i>	‘cake’	cf. German ˈku:χŋ

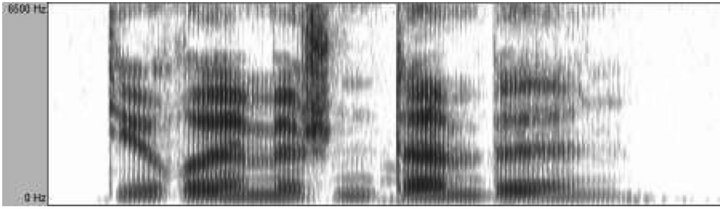
Between sonorants

p	ˈtɛmpʌn	<i>Tempel(n)</i>	‘temples’	cf. German ˈtɛmpʌ ¹
t	ˈlɔʏtə	<i>Leute</i>	‘people’	cf. German ˈlɔʏtə
k	ˈʁɛkə	<i>Röcke</i>	‘skirts’	cf. German ˈʁɛkə

Word-finally

p	koːp	<i>Korb</i>	‘basket’	cf. German kɔʁp
t	laʊt	<i>laut</i>	‘loud’	cf. German laʊt
k	ʁɔk	<i>Rock</i>	‘skirt’	cf. German ʁɔk

¹ The Upper Saxon word *Tempeln* /ˈtɛmpʌn/ is composed of the root *Tempel* plus plural suffix *-(e)n*, while the Standard German equivalent of the word is *Tempel* /ˈtɛmpʌ/, with a null suffix *-Ø* marking the plural.



[t i: 'x œ m ɪ ʃ ŋ 'd ε m b ɫ n]

Figure 1 Spectrogram of the phrase /ti: 'xœmɪʃŋ 'tɛmpɫn/ *die römischen Tempeln* 'the Roman temples', showing full voicing of /t p/ in *Tempeln* /'tɛmpɫn/ (Standard German *Tempel* /'tɛmpɫ/).

Fricatives /f s ʃ χ/ can be partially or fully voiced [v z ʒ x] between sonorants, but remain largely voiceless elsewhere. Fricatives /χ h/ occur in complementary distribution: /h/ occurs as the onset of stressed syllables and word-initially while /χ/ occurs elsewhere.

Word-initially

f	fæŋ	<i>fein</i>	'fine'	cf. German fæŋ
s	sæŋ	<i>sein</i>	'his'	cf. German zaŋ
ʃ	ʃæŋ	<i>schein</i>	'shine'	cf. German ʃæŋ
h	haŋ	<i>Hain</i>	'grove'	cf. German haŋ

Between sonorants

f	'vafə	<i>Waffe</i>	'weapon'	cf. German 'vafə
s	'vaso ^ɕ	<i>Wasser</i>	'water'	cf. German 'vasə
ʃ	'vaʃə	<i>wasche</i>	'(I) wash'	cf. German 'vaʃə
χ	'vaxə	<i>wache</i>	'(I) am awake'	cf. German 'vaxə

Word-finally

f	pəf	<i>Puff</i>	'brothel'	cf. German pəf
s	pəs	<i>Bus</i>	'bus'	cf. German bʊs
ʃ	pəʃ	<i>Busch</i>	'bush'	cf. German buʃ
χ	pə:χ	<i>Buch</i>	'book'	cf. German bu:χ

Due to the lack of a voicing contrast, Upper Saxon has many homophone pairs whose Standard German cognates form minimal pairs, as illustrated in the list below. The only vestige of a voicing distinction in Upper Saxon is the aspiration contrast /k^h k/, which often corresponds to /k g/ in Standard German; however, there are instances of Upper Saxon 'lenis' /k/ corresponding to Standard German 'fortis' /k/ instead of to 'lenis' /g/, e.g. Upper Saxon /ko^ɕ:p/ *Korb* 'basket' and Standard German /kɔp/ ([k^hɔp]). Like most varieties of German, Upper Saxon exhibits only voiceless obstruents word-finally; in Standard German, this is due to final devoicing (Brockhaus 1995), while in Upper Saxon, this is due to the lack of a voicing contrast to begin with.

Word-initially

p	pɛln	<i>pellen</i>	'to skin'	cf. German 'pɛln
p	pɛln	<i>bellen</i>	'to bark'	cf. German 'bɛln
t	tɪʃ	<i>Tisch</i>	'table'	cf. German tɪʃ
t	tɪʃ	<i>dich</i>	'you'	cf. German dɪç
k ^h	'k ^h ʌsə	<i>Kasse</i>	'cash register'	cf. German 'kasə
k	'kʌsə	<i>Gasse</i>	'lane'	cf. German 'gasə

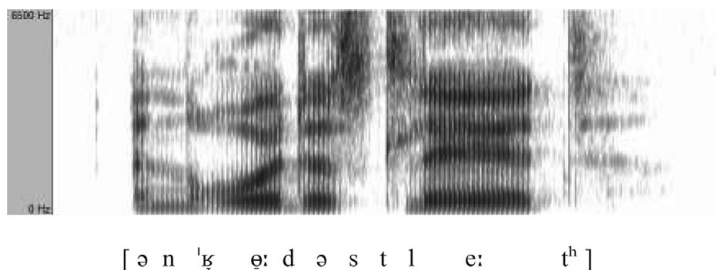


Figure 2 Spectrogram of the phrase /ən 'ɛʁtəs tle:t/ 'ein rotes Kleid' 'a red dress', showing full voicing of /t/ in /'ɛʁtəs/ 'rotes' 'red' and aspiration of the final /t/ in /tle:t/ 'Kleid' 'dress', as well as the coronal articulation of the pre-lateral consonant.

Between sonorants

p	'ɛʁʌpm̩	<i>Rappen</i>	'black horses'	cf. German	'ɛʁapm̩
p	'kʁʌpm̩	<i>Krabben</i>	'shrimps'	cf. German	'kʁabm̩
t	'pɛ:t̩	<i>beten</i>	'to pray'	cf. German	'be:t̩
t	'pɛ:t̩	<i>beiden</i>	'both'	cf. German	'baɛd̩
k	'døkə	<i>Docke</i>	'doll'	cf. German	'døkə
k	'døkə	<i>Dogge</i>	'mastiff'	cf. German	'dɔgə
s	'ɛʁɛsə	<i>reiße</i>	'(I) rip'	cf. German	'ɛʁɛsə
s	'ɛʁɛsə	<i>reise</i>	'(I) travel'	cf. German	'ɛʁɛzə

Word-finally

p	məp	<i>Mopp</i>	'mop'	cf. German	məp
p	məp	<i>Mob</i>	'mob'	cf. German	məp
t	sæt	<i>seit</i>	'since'	cf. German	zæt
t	sæt	<i>seid</i>	'(you PL) are'	cf. German	zæt

Clusters

Neither voicing nor aspiration is contrastive in clusters (Bergmann 1965: 110), even in the velar place of articulation, producing homophones where Standard German has (near-) minimal pairs of voicing as in the examples below. In initial clusters with /l/, stops /t k/ do not contrast and can vary freely, e.g. /klʌ:s/~/tlʌ:s/ *Glas* 'glass' (Goepfert 1878: 25; Sievers 1885: 160; Bergmann 1965: 110; Blevins & Grawunder 2009); the /tl/ variant is a salient marker of Chemnitz speakers (Wallner-Zimmer 1999; Blevins & Grawunder 2009: 271–272), although it is widespread throughout eastern variants of Central German and Upper German.² In Figure 2, the spectrogram of the phrase /ən 'ɛʁtəs tle:t/ 'ein rotes Kleid' 'a red dress' reveals a high-frequency (~5 kHz) concentration of burst energy in the onset of /tle:t/ 'Kleid' 'dress', indicating a coronal articulation. Final /s/, including the suffixes spelled *-ig/-ich/-isch* (e.g. /hɔ̃:-f/ *haarig* 'hairy'), can create clusters not found in Standard German, e.g. /ɛsʃ/ *Essig* 'vinegar', /sɛks-f/ *Sächsisch* 'Saxon', and /sɔnst-f/ *sonstig* 'other' (Bergmann 1965: 115; Albrecht 1983: 19; Gilles 2005: 70).

² Even within the Upper Saxon dialect region, there is wide variation in the use of /tl/ instead of /kl/, with strongest usage in Chemnitz and the Ore Mountains (*Erzgebirge*). Blevins & Grawunder (2009) report that 'though the TL-region includes . . . Riesa, Meißen, Plauen, and Zwickau, it is not a general feature of speech in Leipzig, Borna, or Altenburg' (p. 270), and that '[i]ndividuals from Chemnitz, Dresden, and Leipzig show evidence of the KL > TL sound change, with the highest rates . . . in speakers from Chemnitz' (p. 271).

p	p̥ɾæɐ̯	<i>Brei</i>	‘porridge’	cf. German b̥ɾæɐ̯
p	p̥ɾæɐ̯s	<i>Preis</i>	‘price’	cf. German p̥ɾæɐ̯s
t	t̥ɾø:χə	<i>Droge</i>	‘drug’	cf. German t̥d̥ɾo:gə
t	t̥ɾø:χ	<i>Trog</i>	‘trough’	cf. German t̥ɾo:k
k	k̥ɾi:s	<i>Grieß</i>	‘semolina’	cf. German k̥ɾi:s
k	k̥ɾi:f	<i>Krieg</i>	‘war’	cf. German k̥ɾi:k

Rhotic

As in Standard German (Kohler 1999: 87–88), the rhotic /ɾ/ occurs only in onsets. In Upper Saxon, it freely varies between a voiced approximant [ɾ], a voiced fricative [ʁ], a devoiced fricative [ɻ] or trill [ʀ], and a voiceless unaspirated uvular stop [q], e.g. /ɾɔk/ [ʀɔk^h] *Rock* ‘skirt’, /ɾəm/ [ʁəm]~[ɻəm] *Rum* ‘rum’, and /ɾaʁ/ [ɻaʁ]~[qaʁ] *rau* ‘rough’. What was historically its coda counterpart only surfaces in Upper Saxon as pharyngealization on the preceding vowel, e.g. /maː:ɾəɟə/ [lɔχtə/ *mehrere Leute* ‘more people’ vs. /ɪʃ ke: niʃ maː: tsə: ʃwɛlə/ *ich gehe nicht mehr zu Schule* ‘I don’t go to school anymore’; in other German varieties known to exhibit pharyngealization, such as Swabian, the coda rhotic is treated as either a pharyngeal approximant [ʕ] or pharyngealization on the preceding vowel [ʕ̥] (Frey 1975: 15–16; Hiller 1995: 35; Rues et al. 2007: 95–98), but consistently as a surface realization of an underlying consonant /ɾ/. See section ‘Vowels and diphthongs’ below for details of pharyngealization.

Syllabic consonants

As in other colloquial varieties of German, final nasals and laterals can be produced as syllabic /m̩ n̩ ŋ̩ l̩/ following a stop or fricative (Albrecht 1983: 19), e.g. /ɔːpaɐ̯tn̩/ *arbeiten* ‘to work’, /m̩antl̩/ *Mantel* ‘cloak’. Syllabic nasals share the same place of articulation as the preceding consonant, e.g. /helfm̩/ *helfen* ‘to help’, /tɔkŋ̩/ *ducken* ‘to duck’, and /m̩aχŋ̩/ [m̩aχŋ̩] *machen* ‘to make’. Due to this obligatory assimilation, syllabic nasals can be considered underlyingly underspecified for place. When the syllabic nasal is preceded by another nasal, the two are produced as a single consonant, sometimes with lengthening (Bergmann 1965: 102), e.g. /kəˈkɔmm̩/ *gekommen* ‘come’, /kəˈʊənn̩/ *gewonnen* ‘won’, and /kəˈkʌŋ̩/ *gegangen* ‘gone’. When the vowel before the two final consonants is long, it is common for the oral consonant to be deleted, e.g. /p̥ɛ:pm̩/ *beben* ‘to shake’ pronounced [p̥ɛ:m̩]. Similar phenomena are also described in colloquial Standard German (Lemke 1998; Rues et al. 2007: 72).

Glottal stop

As in Standard German (Kohler 1999: 86; Rues et al. 2007: 37), a glottal stop [ʔ] is typically inserted before stressed onset-less vowels both within words, e.g. /teːˈʔa:toː/ [teːˈʔa:toː] *Theater* ‘theater’, /foːˈʔaːtskəp̥aːʃ/ [foːˈʔeːp̥tskəp̥iːp̥ʃ] *Vorerzgebirgisch*, and word-initially regardless of stress, e.g. /ʌm ɔ:mt ʊʌːt ʔə:mp̥ɔ:t kəˈkɛsŋ̩/ [ʔʌm ʔə:mt ʊʌːt ʔə:mp̥ɔ:t kəˈkɛzŋ̩] *Am Abend wird Abendbrot gegessen* ‘Supper is eaten in the evening’.

Sibilants

Due to various mergers, Upper Saxon /ʃ/ can correspond to Standard German /k g ʃ ç/, e.g. /ʊaːʃ/ *Werk* ‘work’, /tsuaːʃ/ *Zwerg* ‘dwarf’, /tɪʃ/ *Tisch* ‘table’, and /tɪʃ/ *dich* ‘you’, cf. Standard German /vɛɣk/, /tsvɛɣk/ (underlyingly final /g/, cf. plural /tsvɛɣg-ə/ *Zwerge*), /tɪʃ/, and /dɪç/ (Spangenberg 1990: 274). Its retracted articulation carries over into a following /t/, audible in words such as /ʊʊːʃt/ [ʊʊːʃt] *Wurst* ‘sausage’. In Figure 3, the spectrogram of the word /ɾɛʃt/ *Recht* ‘right’ reveals the lower-frequency burst energy (< 3 kHz) of the /t/ following /ʃ/.

Vowels and diphthongs

Upper Saxon has six long non-pharyngealized vowels /i: e: ɛ: ɔ: ʌ:/. The vowel chart reflects mean formant values collected via spectrographic analysis.

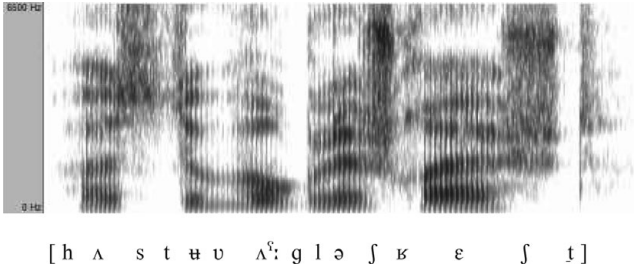
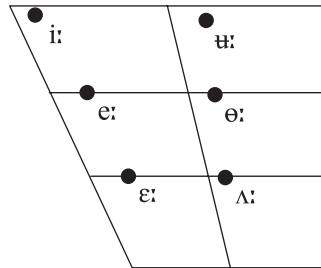


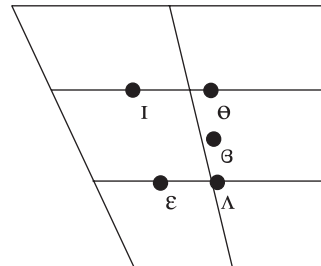
Figure 3 Spectrogram of the phrase /hʌst tʌ: 'bʌʃ:kʌʃ ʁɛʃt/ *hast du wirklich Recht* 'do you think you're really right?', showing full voicing of /k/ in /'bʌʃ:kʌʃ/ *wirklich* 'really' and retraction of the final /t/ in /ʁɛʃt/ *Recht* 'right' due to the preceding /ʃ/.

i:	'pi:tŋ	<i>bieten</i>	'to offer'
e:	'pe:tŋ	<i>beiden</i>	'both'
ɛ:	'pɛ:tŋ	<i>bäten</i>	'(if they) requested'
ʌ:	'pʌ:tŋ	<i>Buden</i>	'booths'
ø:	'pø:tŋ	<i>Boden</i>	'floor'
ʌ:	'pʌ:tŋ	<i>baten</i>	'(they) requested'



There are also five short non-pharyngealized vowels /ɪ ɛ ɐ ɔ ʌ/. When unstressed, these vowels optionally reduce to [ə]. Because of the varied formant values reduced vowels can take, no attempt is made in assessing their phonemic quality; all reduced vowels are simply transcribed /ə/. Utterance-final /ə/ is often fronted (e.g. /'tɪkə fɪʒə/ *dicke Frau* 'fat woman' vs. /'tɪkə/ *dicke* 'fat'). The vowel chart reflects mean formant values collected via spectrographic analysis.

ɪ	ʊnt	<i>Wind</i>	'wind'
ɛ	ʊɛn	<i>wenn</i>	'when', 'if'
ɐ	'ʊɛn(t)ɔʃ	<i>Wunder</i>	'wonder'
ɔ	'ʊɔnə	<i>Wonne</i>	'bliss'
ʌ	'ʊʌnə	<i>Wanne</i>	'tub'

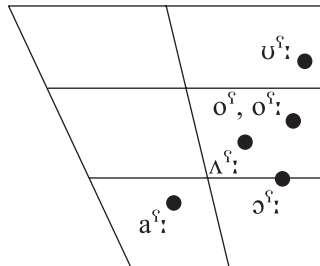


Pharyngealization is described in various regional dialects of German (e.g. Swabian, see Frey 1975: 15–16; Hiller 1995) as well as in variants of Standard German (Lodge 2003). Upper Saxon has six pharyngealized vowels, five of which are long /aʃ: ʌʃ: ʊʃ: ɔʃ: ɔʃ:/ and often pronounced as pharyngealized diphthongs [ɛʁʃ: ɪʁʃ: ʊʁʃ: ɔʁʃ: ɔʁʃ:] in careful speech; compare /aʃ:/ [ɛʁʃ:] *er* 'he' in isolation versus in the phrase /jə maʃ: aʃ: 'pʌ:stətə/ [jə mɛʁʃ: ʔaʃ: 'pʌ:stətə] *je mehr er pustete* 'the more he blew'.³ The monophthongal pronunciation is common in

³ Diphthongal pronunciation [ɛʁʃ: ɪʁʃ: ʊʁʃ: ɔʁʃ: ɔʁʃ:], which more closely resembles Standard German [ɛɪ ɪɔ ʊɔ ɔɔ ɔɔ], may be associated with upper class speech (Bergmann 1965: 54), and has become the dominant pronunciation in the urban centers of Leipzig and Dresden (Rues et al. 2007: 98), e.g. [fiʁʃ:] *hier* 'here'.

vowels optionally shortened before coda clusters (see Swabian, Hiller 1995); compare /fa^ɕ:t/ [fɛ:^ɕt] *fährt* ‘goes’ with /fa^ɕ:tʃ/ [fa^ɕ:tʃ] *fertig* ‘ready’. The remaining pharyngealized vowel is short unstressed /o^ɕ/, which can be variously analyzed as pharyngealized high-mid rounded vowel /ø^ɕ/, pharyngealized schwa /ə^ɕ/, a sequence of a schwa-like vowel and the rhotic /əɣ/ (/ɔr/ in Bergmann 1965), or a syllabic rhotic /ɣ/ (vocalic /r/ in Bremer 1968: 171).⁴ This is the counterpart of the Standard German lower-mid central vowel /ɐ/. Acoustically, pharyngealization in Upper Saxon is characterized by a significantly lowered F2 frequency and a slightly raised F3 frequency, similar to pharyngealization in other languages, such as Arabic (Obrecht 1968, Laufer & Baer 1988, McCarthy 1994, Yeou 2001, Al-Masri & Jongman 2003, among others), Hebrew (Laufer & Baer 1988), and Hongyan Qiang (Evans 2006).⁵ The vowel chart reflects mean formant values collected via spectrographic analysis.

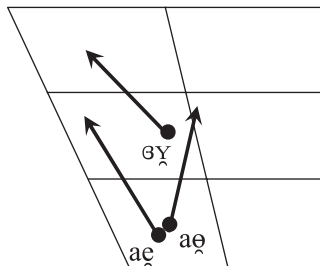
a ^ɕ :	ʃta ^ɕ :m	<i>sterben</i>	‘to die’
ʌ ^ɕ :	ʃʌ ^ɕ :m	<i>Schirm</i>	‘umbrella’
ʊ ^ɕ :	ʃʊ ^ɕ :f	<i>Schurf</i>	‘blight’
o ^ɕ :	ʃo ^ɕ :f	<i>Schorf</i>	‘scab’
ɔ ^ɕ :	ʃɔ ^ɕ :f	<i>scharf</i>	‘sharp’



As in analyses of the Dresden variety of Upper Saxon (Rues et al. 2007: 92–99), Swabian (Frey 1975: 15–16; Hiller 1995), and Standard German (Lodge 2003), these vowels can alternatively be analyzed as sequences of non-pharyngealized vowels followed by a rhotic consonant (Bergmann 1965) of either uvular /ɛ:ɣ i:ɣ ʊ:ɣ ɔ:ɣ ʌ:ɣ/ or pharyngeal /ɛ:ɣ̠ i:ɣ̠ ʊ:ɣ̠ ɔ:ɣ̠ ʌ:ɣ̠/ articulation. The latter analysis follows that of the pharyngealized short vowels of Swabian [ɛɣ̠ øɣ̠ ʊɣ̠ ɔɣ̠ ʌɣ̠], which are interpreted as surface realizations of underlying sequences /ɛɣ̠~ɛɣ̠ iɣ̠ uɣ̠ oɣ̠ ʌɣ̠/ (Hiller 1995: 45–46). While the current description of Upper Saxon treats pharyngealization as a vocalic feature, it can be easily reinterpreted as the realization of an underlying consonant following German linguistic tradition.

In addition to the pharyngealized diphthongs, Upper Saxon has three non-pharyngealized diphthongs /əɣ̠ aɣ̠ əɣ̠/. The vowel chart reflects mean formant values collected via spectrographic analysis.

əɣ̠	l'əɣ̠t̪n	<i>leuten</i>	‘to ring’
aɣ̠	l'aɣ̠t̪n	<i>leiten</i>	‘to lead’
əɣ̠	l'aəɣ̠t̪n	<i>lauten</i>	‘to be’, ‘to read’



⁴ On page 171, Bremer (1968) notes that ‘man zB in Thüringen-Obersachsen neuerdings ein silbisches, vokalisches (also nicht gerolltes) Zäpfchen-r spricht, ohne vorhergehenden Vokal’ [‘for example, currently in Thuringia and Upper Saxony, a syllabic, vocalic (and thus not trilled) uvular r is produced, without a preceding vowel’ – our translation]

⁵ Many languages show changes in F1 as well as F2 due to pharyngealization, but the direction of F1 effects is strongly affected by underlying vowel height. The effect of pharyngealization on F3 is more variable across languages.

Anticipatory pharyngealization and retraction

Vowels are allophonically pharyngealized when the vowel in the following syllable is underlyingly pharyngealized /a^ʕ: ʌ^ʕ: u^ʕ: o^ʕ: ɔ^ʕ/; Rues et al. (2007: 97–98) transcribes the Dresden variety with pharyngealization spreading in both directions onto consonants and vowels alike (e.g. [fʊ^ʕʰʱo^ʕn^ʕ] *verloren* ‘lost’, [ʏ^ʕɔ^ʕdn̩^ʕ] *worden* ‘been’, [ʃ^ʕb̥^ʕo^ʕd̥^ʕ] *Sport* ‘sports’). In a separate but superficially similar process, vowels are somewhat retracted when followed by dorsals /k k^h ŋ χ ʁ/, with strongest retraction preceding uvulars. Contrastive pharyngealization, allophonic pharyngealization, and allophonic retraction are illustrated in the list below. Some retraction is also seen in vowels following dorsal consonants (e.g. /n̩^ʕ: [n̩^ʕ] *nun* ‘now’ vs. /k^h̩^ʕ: [k^h̩^ʕ] *Kuh* ‘cow’), with the strongest such retraction seen following /ʁ/ (e.g. /ʁ̩^ʕ:m/ [ʁ̩^ʕ:m] *Ruhm* ‘glory’).

Contrastive pharyngealization

ʌ:	ʃʌ:f	<i>Schaf</i>	‘sheep’	cf. German ʃa:f
ʌ ^ʕ :	ʃʌ ^ʕ :m	<i>Schirm</i>	‘umbrella’	cf. German ʃɪʁm
ø:	tø:f	<i>doof</i>	‘stupid’	cf. German dɔ:f
o ^ʕ :	to ^ʕ :f	<i>Dorf</i>	‘village’	cf. German dɔʁf
ɔ ^ʕ :	tɔ ^ʕ :f	<i>darf</i>	‘may’	cf. German daʁf

Allophonic pharyngealization

ʌ	ʋʌs	<i>was</i>	‘what’	cf. German vas
ʌ	ʋʌso ^ʕ	<i>Wasser</i>	‘water’	cf. German ʋasɐ
ɜ	ʰsɛnə	<i>Sonne</i>	‘sun’	cf. German ʰzɔnə
ɜ	ʰsɛnto ^ʕ n	<i>sondern</i>	‘except’	cf. German ʰzɔndɐn

Allophonic retraction

ʌ	ʋʌn	<i>wann</i>	‘when’	cf. German van
ʌ	ʋʌχ	<i>wach</i>	‘awake’	cf. German vax

Front rounded vowels

As is also reported in other Central German varieties such as those of Berlin (Peters 2004: 209) and Thuringia (Spangenberg 1990: 270), as well as in Upper German varieties (Chambers & Trudgill 1998: 168) such as Swabian (Frey 1975: 47; Russ 1990a: 346–347; Hiller 1995: 36–40), the Upper Saxon counterparts of Standard German front rounded vowels /y: ø: ɤ/ historically merged with the unrounded vowels /i: e: ɪ ɛ/, e.g. /^ʰfe:ʃl/ *Vögel* ‘birds’, /^ʰki:ə/ *Kühe* ‘cows’, cf. Standard German /^ʰfø:ʒl/, /^ʰky:ə/ (Bergmann 1965: 57–64, 1990: 309; Albrecht 1983: 7–8; Zimmermann 1992: 103–104; Rues et al. 2007: 93). However, Upper Saxon speakers fluent in Standard German occasionally produce front rounded /y: ɤ: ø: ɤ/ in cognates of particular Standard German words, e.g. /^ʰpʁy:to^ʕ/~/^ʰpʁi:to^ʕ/ *Brüder* ‘brothers’, contrasting them with central rounded vowels /ʉ: ø: ɔ/, e.g. /^ʰlø:fm̩/ *Löwen* ‘lions’ vs. /^ʰlø:fm̩/ *laufen* ‘to walk’, /tʏn̩/ *dünn* ‘thin’ vs. /tɛns̩l̩/ *Dunsel* ‘idiot’, cf. Standard German /^ʰbʁy:dø:/, /^ʰlø:v̩n̩/, /^ʰlao̩f̩n̩/, /dʏn̩/, /^ʰdunz̩l̩/.

Stress

As in Standard German (Kohler 1999: 87), stress in native roots can be considered primarily initial or penultimate (see Wiese 1996: Section 8), while borrowed and polymorphemic words can exhibit other stress patterns. Because of this potential for ambiguity, stress is transcribed in all polysyllabic examples in this entry. For a detailed account of how stress interacts with intonation in other varieties of Upper Saxon, see Kügler (2005, 2007) for the Leipzig dialect and Selting (2002a, b), Peters (2004), and Gilles (2005) for the Dresden dialect.

Transcription of recorded passage

Broad transcription

'e:nəs 'tA:χəs hAmf to^ς 'no^ς:tuɪnt ɔnt tə 'sənə kə'tsʌŋt, vɑ^ς: fən 'pe:tŋ ten nɜ: to^ς 'fta^ς:kɜə ɪs, ɛls ə 'vʌntχo^ς mit nəm 'vɔ^ς:mən 'mʌntl̩ ʌn fo^ς'pe:k^hʌ:m. to^ς 'no^ς:tuɪnt ɔnt tə 'sənə vɔ^ς:nʃ æŋf tAs to^ς 'fta^ς:kɜə fən 'pe:tŋ ten 'mʌntl̩ fəm 'vʌntχo^ς 'kɜ:i:ʃn səl. to^ς 'no^ς:tuɪnt 'pɜ:stətə vʌs tAs tsəχʃ hi:lt 'ʌ:po^ς jə mɑ^ς: a^ς: 'pɜ:stətə ɔm sɜ: mɑ^ς: fo^ς'kɜ:i:ʃtə sɪʃ to^ς 'vʌntχo^ς ɪn 'sænn̩ 'mʌntl̩. to^ς 'no^ς:tuɪnt kʌ:p ɔf. tʌn hʌts tə 'sənə ɔ:χ fo^ς'sɜ:χt mit ʌ^ς:n 'vɔ^ς:mm̩ 'sənn̩ʃtɜ:ɔ^ς:l̩n. ɔnt ɪm nɜ: ʃmɪs to^ς 'vʌntχo^ς 'sænn̩ 'mʌntl̩ vɛʃ. tɔ^ς: 'mɛstə to^ς 'no^ς:tuɪnt 'tsɜ:kɜ:p̩m tAs tə 'sənə to^ς 'fta^ς:kɜə fənn̩ 'pe:tŋ ɪs.

Orthographic version (Standard German)

Eines Tages haben sich der Nordwind und die Sonne gezankt, wer von den beiden denn nun der Stärkere ist, als ein Wanderer mit einem warmen Mantel an, vorbeikam. Der Nordwind und die Sonne waren sich einig, dass der Stärkere von den beiden den Mantel vom Wanderer kriegen soll. Der Nordwind pustete was das Zeug hielt, aber je mehr er pustete, um so mehr verkriechte sich der Wanderer in seinen Mantel. Der Nordwind gab auf. Dann hat es die Sonne auch versucht mit ihren warmen Sonnenstrahlen. Und im Nu schmiss der Wanderer seinen Mantel weg. Da musste der Nordwind zugeben, dass die Sonne die Stärkere von den beiden ist.

English translation

One day the North Wind and the Sun were disputing which of the two is the stronger, when a traveler came along in a warm cloak. The North Wind and the Sun agreed that the stronger of the two should take away the cloak from the traveler. The North Wind blew as hard as he could, but the more he blew, the more the traveler held onto his cloak. The North Wind gave up. Then the Sun tried it with her warm rays. And in an instant the traveler took off his cloak. Thus the North Wind had to concede that the Sun is the stronger of the two.

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