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ABSTRACT

An introduction to the Russian phonemic system leads to a model classification of verb forms derived from the infinitive and present stems of selected verbs. Correspondences between the two sets of verb forms are listed. A brief history of attempts at verb classification concentrates on the theory of Meyer, Berneker, and Bloomfield. A complete list of Russian irregular verbs is included.  
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## ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF RUSSIAN VERBS

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The phonemes of Russian are as follows:

### Consonants:

1. Plain and palatalized counterparts regardless of the following sound:  
p pj b bj m mj f fj v vj  
t tj d dj n nj s sj z zj  
l lj r rj
2. Plain or palatalized depending on the following sound: k g x
3. Plain only:  
c š ž
4. Palatalized only:  
č šč y žj

### Vowels (showing the occurrence of phonemes in various positions):

In stressed syllables:	i e a o u
Initial, unstressed:	i e a u
Final, and pretonic after plain consonant except š ž:	i a u
Non-final after palatal consonant or š ž:	i u
Non-final and non-pretonic after plain consonant except š ž:	a u

Stress also is phonemic: every word, pronounced in isolation, has a stress on one syllable. Russian verbs show three patterns of stress; we call them A, B, and C:

Stress pattern A: stress on the stem of the verb throughout the paradigm.

Stress pattern B: stress on the endings of the verb throughout the paradigm.

Stress pattern C: in the present tense, stress on the ending of the 1st sing. but on the stem in other forms; in gender forms, stress on the ending in the feminine, but on the stem in other forms.

The Russian verb has forms for the infinitive, the present tense, the past tense, the imperative, four verbal adjectives (participles), and two verbal adverbs (gerunds).

Each verb form consists of a stem and an ending. Each verb has two stems, a PRESENT STEM and an INFINITIVE STEM.

From the present stem are formed:<sup>1</sup>

present tense	čítáy.u	'I read'
imperative	čítáy.	'Read!'

<sup>1</sup> In the illustrative examples, a dot separates the constituent parts of the verb form (prefix, stem, preinfinitival, final). The transcription used here is morphophonemic rather than phonemic; vowels are written in their 'full' form, but the actual phonemic value of such symbols as -e- and -o- in unstressed syllables can easily be inferred from the vowel table given above. Where a given verb is defective, the missing forms are supplied from a compound of the same verb.

present active participle (prap)	čítá.y.ušč.oy	'one who is reading'
present gerund (prg)	čítá.y.a	'while reading'
present passive participle (p,pp)	čítá.y.om.oy	'which is being read'
From the infinitive stem are formed:		
infinitive	čítá.tj	'to read'
past tense	čítá.l	'he was reading'
past active participle (pap)	čítá.fš.oy	'one who has been reading'
past gerund (pg)	čítá.f, čítá.fši	'having been reading'
past passive participle (ppp)	pro.číta.n.oy	'which has been read (through)'

ENDINGS: PRESENT SYSTEM. Verb forms of the present system consist of the PRESENT STEM plus PREDESINENTIAL plus FINAL. There are two sets of predesinentials, giving two conjugations in the present.

	PREDESINENTIAL		FINAL	CONJUGATION	
	1	2		1	2
SI	-u-	-Ju <sup>2</sup>	-	njos.ú	govorj.ú <sup>1</sup>
2	-qo <sup>4</sup>	-i-	-š	njosj.ó.š.	govorj.f.š
3	-qo-	-i-	-t	njosj.ó.t	govorj.f.t
P1	-qo-	-i-	-m	njosj.ó.m	govorj.f.m
2	-qo-	-i-	-tji	njosj.ó.tji	govorj.f.tji
3	-u-	-á-, -u <sup>5</sup>	-t	njos.ú.t	govorj.á.t
Imp S	-ji-	-ji-	-	njosj.f	govorj.f
Imp P	-ji-	-ji-	-tji	njosj.f.tji	govorj.f.tji
prap	-u-	-a-	-šč-	njos.ú.šč.oy	govorj.á.šč.oy
prg	-ja-	-ja-	-	njosj.á	govorj.á
prpp	-o-	-i-	-m-	njos.ó.m.oy	ljubj.f.m.oy

<sup>1</sup> The symbol J in this predesinential represents the following alternations:

pj, bj, mj, tj, vj ~ plj, blj, mlj, flj, vlj: ljubj.ú ~ ljúbj.i.t 'I love' ~ 'he loves'

dj, ij ~ l: vož.ú ~ vóžj.i.t 'I lead' ~ 'he leads'

sj ~ k: proš.ú ~ prósj.i.t 'I ask' ~ 'he asks'

tj ~ č: vjintč.ú ~ vjintj.f.t 'I screw' ~ 'he screws'

atj ~ čč: čišč.ú ~ čistj.i.t 'I clean' ~ 'he cleans'

rdj ~ lj: yéžj.u ~ yéžj.i.t 'I travel' ~ 'he travels'

Other alternations, such as tj ~ šč, are treated as irregularities.

<sup>2</sup> Throughout this paper, forms are written with 'full' vowels (cf. fn. 1); thus njos.ú 'I carry' is phonemically /njisú/, and govorj.ú 'I talk' is /gavarjú/. We know the values in these cases from related forms, such as njós 'he carried', góvor 'dialect', razgovór 'conversation'. This applies also to the writing of the predesinential of the first conjugation, where we write e.g. čítá.y.o.t 'he reads', phonemically /čitáyit/. In some ambiguous cases we have arbitrarily assumed a full vowel, as in /bjitú/, written bjor.ú 'I take'.

<sup>3</sup> The symbol q in this predesinential indicates that a preceding plain consonant is replaced by its palatalized counterpart, and that k and g are replaced by č and k respectively: njos.ú ~ njosj.ó.t 'I carry' ~ 'he carries'; pjok.ú ~ pjóč.ó.t 'I bake' ~ 'he bakes'; mog.ú ~ móč.ó.t 'I can' ~ 'he can'.

<sup>4</sup> The P3 predesinential -á- is replaced by -u- when unstressed: govorj.á.t 'they talk', but ljubj.u.t 'they like'.

There are only four verbs that are completely irregular in the present tense. They are *dátj* 'to give', *yestj* 'to eat', *xotjéjtj* 'to want', and *bježátj* 'to run':

dám 'I give'	yém 'I eat'	xočú 'I want'	bježú 'I run'
dáš	yeš	xóčoš	bježiš
dást	yést	xóčot	bježit
dadjím	yedjím	xotjím	bježím
dadjítj	yedjítj	xotjítj	bježítj
dadút	yedjút	xotjút	bježút

ENDINGS: INFINITIVE SYSTEM. Verb forms of the infinitive system consist of the INFINITIVE STEM plus FINAL.

	FINAL	
Infinitive:	-tj, (-tj, -č) <sup>6</sup>	čítá.tj 'to read'
Past:	-l'	čítá.l
pap	-fš- (after vowel)	čítá.fš.iy
	-š- (after consonant)	njós.š.iy
pg	-f, -fš (after vowel)	č'á.f, čítá.fš.i
	-š (after consonant)	njós.š
ppp	-n	pro.čítá.n.(oy)
	-t	u.bjít.t.(oy) 'killed'

The problem of classifying the Russian verb lies in the matching of the present and infinitive stems.<sup>4</sup> In the statement of forms in the preceding paragraphs we have used the verb *čítájtj* 'to read' as our example. In this verb the present stem is longer by /y/ than the infinitive stem: present stem *čítáy-*, infinitive stem *čítá-*. This is only one type of correspondence among many. In order to show the complexity of the problem we give examples of other correspondences in the lists that follow. The first list is arranged by the present stem, the second by the infinitive stem. The list of present stems is so arranged that stems ending in /y/ come first, then stems ending in /n/, finally stems ending in other consonants. We have kept together the examples that have first-conjugation presents and those that have second-conjugation presents (marked with a superior 2).

#### List 1 (Present Stem First)

- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. čítáy.u ~ čítá.tj 'to read'    | 9. dúy.u ~ dú.tj 'to blow'            |
| 2. láy.u ~ láyá.tj 'to bark'      | 10. rjísúy.u ~ rjísová.tj 'to sketch' |
| 3. dáy.ú ~ dává.tj 'to give'      | 11. suy.ú ~ sová.tj 'to thrust'       |
| 4. imjéy.u ~ imjé.tj 'to possess' | 12. bjejú.ú ~ bjít.tj 'to beat'       |
| 5. brjéy.u ~ brjít.tj 'to shave'  | 13. gn.ú ~ gnú.tj 'to bend'           |
| 6. počy.u ~ poč.tj 'to die'       | 14. stán.u ~ stá.tj 'to become'       |
| 7. mójy.u ~ mój.tj 'to wash'      | 15. djén.u ~ djé.tj 'to put'          |
| 8. poy.ú ~ pjé.tj 'to sing'       | 16. sth.u ~ sth.tj 'to get cold'      |

<sup>4</sup>The regular ending of the infinitive is -tj. When it is stressed, the ending appears as -tj (njós.tj 'to carry'); a few verbs with a final guttural in the infinitive stem have the ending -č (pjéč 'to bake', stem pjok-).

<sup>5</sup>The past has different forms for masculine, feminine, and neuter singulars, and for plural (without distinction of gender): čítá.l, fem. čítá.la, neut. čítá.lo, plur. čítá.lji.

<sup>6</sup>We leave the treatment of other irregularities for another place.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 17. kljan.ú ~ kljástj 'to bow'            | 35. id.ú ~ itjí 'to go'             |
| 18. mn.ú ~ mjá.tj 'to tumble'             | 36. žg.ú ~ žéč 'to burn'            |
| 19. na.čn.ú ~ na.čá.tj 'to begin'         | 37. strjig.ú ~ strjéč 'to shear'    |
| 20. žm.ú ~ žá.tj 'to press'               | 38. bĵorjog.ú ~ bĵorjéč 'to guard'  |
| 21. iz.im.í ~ iz.yá.tj 'to confiscate'    | 39. pjok.ú ~ pjéč 'to bake'         |
| 22. pod.nĵim.ú ~ pod.njá.tj 'to raise'    | 40. volok.ú ~ volóč 'to drag'       |
| 23. po.yin.ú ~ po.njá.tj 'to under-stand' | 41. tolk.ú ~ tolóč 'to shove'       |
| 24. vozĵm.ú ~ vzjá.tj 'to take'           | 42. kolj.ú ~ koló.tj 'to stab'      |
| 25. sos.ú ~ sosá.tj 'to suck'             | 43. tr.ú ~ tĵorjé.tj 'to rub'       |
| 26. dĵor.ú ~ drá.tj 'to whip'             | 44. pas.ú ~ pas.tĵj 'to tend, herd' |
| 27. zov.ú ~ zvá.tj 'to call'              | 45. mĵot.ú ~ mĵostĵj 'to sweep'     |
| 28. za.šib.ú ~ za.šibĵ.tj 'to knock'      | 46. žĵv.u ~ žĵ.tj 'to live'         |
| 29. rĵov.u ~ rĵovjé.tj 'to roar'          | 47. vĵoz.ú ~ vĵoz.tĵj 'to cart'     |
| 30. pĵiš.ú ~ pĵišá.tj 'to write'          | 48. darĵ.ú ~ darĵ.tĵj 'to give'     |
| 31. šĵj.ú ~ slá.tj 'to send'              | 49. gorĵ.ú ~ gorĵé.tĵj 'to burn'    |
| 32. grĵob.ú ~ grĵostĵj 'to row'           | 50. zvuč.ú ~ zvučá.tĵj 'to sound'   |
| 33. klad.ú ~ klástj 'to put'              | 51. splĵ.ú ~ spá.tĵj 'to sleep'     |
| 34. yéd.u ~ yéxa.tj 'to ride'             | 52. gonĵ.ú ~ gná.tĵj 'to drive'     |

## List 2 (Infinitive Stem First)

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. čitá.tj ~ čitáy.u 'to read'               | 25. bĵj.tj ~ bĵj.ú 'to beat'         |
| 2. láya.tj ~ láy.u 'to bark'                 | 26. brĵ.tj ~ brĵéy.u 'to shave'      |
| 3. stoyá.tj ~ stoy.ú <sup>2</sup> 'to stand' | 27. počĵ.tj ~ počĵy.u 'to die'       |
| 4. gná.tj ~ gonĵ.ú <sup>2</sup> 'to drive'   | 28. žĵ.tj ~ žĵv.ú 'to live'          |
| 5. drá.tj ~ dĵor.ú 'to whip'                 | 29. za.šibĵ.tj ~ za.šib.ú 'to knock' |
| 6. yéxa.tj ~ yéd.u 'to drive'                | 30. ml.tj ~ móy.u 'to wash'          |
| 7. žá.tj ~ žm.ú 'to press'                   | 31. stf.tj ~ stfn.u 'to get cold'    |
| 8. sosá.tj ~ sos.ú 'to suck'                 | 32. kolč.tj ~ kolĵ.ú 'to stab'       |
| 9. pĵišá.tj ~ pĵiš.ú 'to write'              | 33. dú.tj ~ dúy.u 'to blow'          |
| 10. zvá.tj ~ zov.ú 'to call'                 | 34. gnó.tj ~ gn.ú 'to bend'          |
| 11. na.čá.tj ~ na.čn.ú 'to begin'            | 35. grĵostĵj ~ grĵob.ú 'to row'      |
| 12. slá.tj ~ šĵj.ú 'to send'                 | 36. klástj ~ klad.ú 'to put'         |
| 13. spá.tj ~ splĵ.ú <sup>2</sup> 'to sleep'  | 37. kljástj ~ kljan.ú 'to bow'       |
| 14. stá.tj ~ stá.u 'to become'               | 38. pas.tĵj ~ pas.ú 'to tend, herd'  |
| 15. davá.tj ~ day.ú 'to give'                | 39. mĵostĵj ~ mĵot.ú 'to throw'      |
| 16. rĵisová.tj ~ rĵisúy.u 'to sketch'        | 40. vĵoz.tĵj ~ vĵoz.ú 'to cart'      |
| 17. sová.tj ~ suy.ú 'to suck'                | 41. itĵj ~ id.ú 'to go'              |
| 18. imĵé.tj ~ imĵéy.u 'to possess'           | 42. strĵéč ~ strĵig.ú 'to shear'     |
| 19. gorĵé.tj ~ gorĵ.ú <sup>2</sup> 'to burn' | 43. bĵorjéč ~ bĵorjog.ú 'to guard'   |
| 20. dĵé.tj ~ dĵén.u 'to put'                 | 44. žéč ~ žg.ú 'to burn'             |
| 21. pjé.tj ~ poy.ú 'to sing'                 | 45. pjéč ~ pjok.ú 'to bake'          |
| 22. rĵovjé.tj ~ rĵov.ú 'to howl'             | 46. tolóč ~ tolk.ú 'to shove'        |
| 23. tĵorjé.tj ~ tr.ú 'to wipe'               | 47. volóč ~ volok.ú 'to drag'        |
| 24. darĵ.tj ~ darĵ.ú <sup>2</sup> 'to give'  |                                      |

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 48. mjá.tj ~ mn.ú 'to rumple'             | 50. pod.njá.tj ~ pod.njm.ú 'to raise' |
| 49. po.njá.tj ~ po.yrn.ú 'to under-stand' | 51. vzjá.tj ~ vozjm.ú 'to take'       |
|   | 52. iz.yá.tj ~ izim.ú 'to confiscate' |

The history<sup>9</sup> of attempts to classify the Russian verb show three main traditions: by the present stem, by the infinitive stem, and by a combination of the two.

The first tradition is seen in the systems of Smotrickij (1619), Lomonosov (1757), Born (1808), and Vater (1809). The first three of these used the second person singular of the present, thereby achieving a division into two conjugations. The statement of the second conjugation was clear, but the first conjugation remained indistinct and included only partial lists of irregularities. Vater used the first person singular as his criterion, with the result that the two conjugations were not clearly distinguished; his classification was by plain and palatalized stem-finals. Schleicher (1852) applied this analysis to the Old Church Slavic verb.

Other writers started from the infinitive stem: Dobrovský (1809) applied this means of classification to the Czech verb, and Puchmayer (1820) adapted it for the Russian verb. Miklošič (1850) classified the Old Church Slavic verb in this tradition, and carried over his classification to the Russian verb (1856).

The third tradition, grouping the forms by means of both stems, starts from Greč (1811), Reiff (1824), Vostokov (1836), and Pavskij (1845). Leskien analyzed the Old Church Slavic verb in this way and achieved a very successful classification, which was applied to the Russian verb by Meyer (1922).

As examples of the results of the earlier period we shall show the classification of Meyer<sup>10</sup> (1923) and of Berncker<sup>11</sup> (1897).

Meyer has five classes: I, present formant -e/-o-; II, present formant -ne/-no-, infinitive formant -nu-; III, present formant -je-; IV, present stem in -i-; V, athematic verbs. In terms of the lists given above, Meyer's classification works out as follows:

Class I

A. Single stem

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| a. consonant final | pas.ú ~ pas.tj |
| b. vowel final     | živ.ú ~ ž.tj   |

B. Infinitive stem in -a-

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| a. consonant final | sas.ú ~ sos.tj |
| b. vowel final     | zov.ú ~ zv.tj  |

Class II

Class III

gn.ú ~ gn.tj

I. Primary

A. Single stem

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| a. consonant final | kolj.ú ~ kol.tj |
| b. vowel final     | dúy.u ~ dú.tj   |

<sup>9</sup> For the older period I rely on the excellent treatment by W. Guilmard, *Des systèmes traditionnels de classement des verbes russes*, Mélanges publiés en l'honneur de M. Paul Boyce 324-33 (Paris, 1925).

<sup>10</sup> Karl H. Meyer, *Historische Grammatik der russischen Sprache* (Bonn, 1923).

<sup>11</sup> Erich Berncker, *Russische Grammatik* (Leipzig, 1897).

- B. Infinitive stem in -a-
- a. consonant final      pjiš.ú ~ pjišá.tj
  - b. vowel final            láy.u ~ láya.tj
2. Secondary
- A. Single stem            djélay.u ~ djéla.tj
  - B. Infinitive stem in -a-
    - a. consonant final      pjiš.ú ~ pjišá.tj
    - b. stem -u-, inf. -ova-   rjisúy.u ~ rjisová.tj
- Class IV
- A. Single stem            darj.ú ~ darjĭ.tj
  - B. Present -i-, inf. -e- or -a-<sup>12</sup>    gorj.ú ~ gorjĕ.tj, stoy.ú ~ stoyá.tj
- Class V                      dám ~ dátj, yém ~ yéstj

Bernecker classifies by the infinitive. He makes his major division into those verbs that have a consonant before the infinitive ending, and those that have a vowel there. In terms of our lists, his system is as follows:

- A. Infinitive in a consonant
1. s, z final: pas.ú ~ pas.tjĭ, vjoz.ú ~ vjoz.tjĭ
  2. t, d final: klad.ú ~ klastjĭ, mjot.ú ~ mjostjĭ
  3. b final: grjob.ú ~ grjostjĭ
  4. k, g final: pjok.ú ~ pjĕĕ, strjig.ú ~ strjĭĕ
  5. r, l final: tr.ú ~ tjojĕĭtj, kolj.ú ~ kolótj
  6. n, m final: na.ĕn.ú ~ na.ĕá.tj, žn.ú ~ žá.tj
- B. Infinitive in a vowel
- I. in -a-
    1. ĕitáy.u ~ ĕitá.tj
    2. pjiš.ú ~ pjišá.tj
    3. sos.ú ~ sosá.tj
    4. splj.ú ~ spá.tj<sup>2</sup>
    5. láy.u ~ láya.tj
    6. day.ú ~ davá.tj
    7. stán.u ~ stá.tj
  - II. in -e-
    1. imjéy.u ~ imjĕ.tj
    2. gorj.ú ~ gorjĕ.tj<sup>2</sup>
    3. rjov.ú ~ rjovĕ.tj
    4. poy.ú ~ pjĕ.tj
    - djén.u ~ djĕĭtj
  - III. in -i- after palatalized consonant
    1. Primary: bji.ú ~ bjĭ.tj
    2. Derived: darj.ú ~ darjĭ.tj<sup>2</sup>  
    za.šib.ú ~ za.šibĭĭ.tj
  - IV. in -i- after plain consonant (Russian yeti)
    - móy.u ~ mĭ.tj
    - živ.ú ~ žĭ.tj
  - V. in -nu-
    - gn.ú ~ gnĭ.tj

<sup>12</sup> The infinitive stem here usually ends in -e-, but in -a- after ĕ, k, ž, and y.



## VI. in -ova-

rjisúy.u ~ rjisová.tj

## C. Defective and athematic verbs: bí.tj, dátj, yéstj, yéxatj

The systems of both Meyer and Berneker are clear and complete. But in spite of this, they obscure an issue that was to be brought to the fore in a new tradition, which has still to win general acceptance.

In 1922 Karcevski published in *Slavia*<sup>13</sup> a purely descriptive classification of the verb. For the first time the verb was described in terms of productive and non-productive types. He marked out five productive classes as the central types, and relegated the remaining verbs to a subordinate position in subclasses according to their infinitive vowel. This was a great step in the direction of pure description, and gave a clear pattern of the system of the verb. Karcevski's productive classes, in terms of our lists, were the following:

I. čítá.y.u ~ čítá.tj 'to read'

II. imjé.y.u ~ imjé.tj 'to possess'

III. rjisú.y.u ~ rjisová.tj 'to sketch'

IV. darj.ú ~ darj.tj 'to give'

V. gn.ú ~ gn.tj 'to press'

In 1915 Bloomfield restated the classification of the verb in a way that resembles the results of Karcevski but is differently based.<sup>14</sup> Bloomfield sets up four classes of regular verbs, of which the first three belong to the first conjugation and the fourth to the second conjugation. The present stems of all regular verbs end in a consonant; the first two groups end in vowel plus -y-, the third group ends in -n-, the fourth group ends in a palatalized consonant or -š- or -ž-. Class I has a present stem ending in vowel plus -y- and an infinitive stem that lacks the -y-: čítá.y.u, čítá.tj 'to read'; imjé.y.u, imjé.tj 'to possess'; počí.y.u, počí.tj 'to die'; dú.y.u, dú.tj 'to blow'. Class II has a present stem ending in -uy- and an infinitive stem ending in -ova-: rjisú.y.u, rjisová.tj. Class III has a present stem ending in -n- and an infinitive stem ending in -nú-: gn.ú, gn.tj 'to bend'. Class IV (all second conjugation) has a present stem ending in a palatalized consonant or -š- or -ž- and an infinitive stem ending in -i-: darj.ú, darj.tj 'to give'.

The pattern of stress is as follows. Class I verbs have the stress on the same syllable of the stem throughout (accent A); only verbs in stressed -š- have the stress drawn back in the ppp: čítá.tj, čítá.y.u, pro.čítan. Class II verbs have accent A, and verbs with stress -ová- in the infinitive stem have the stress -úy- in the present stem and draw back the stress in the ppp: rjisová.tj 'to sketch', rjisú.y.u, rjisóvan. Class III verbs whose infinitive stem has stressed -nú- have accent on the present endings (accent B), and draw back the stress in the ppp:

<sup>13</sup> Serge Karcevski, *Études sur le système verbal du russe contemporain*, *Slavia* 1.212-68 (Prague, 1922). Excellent adaptations of Karcevski's classification appear in Vinogradov, *Sovremennij russkij jazyk* 2.351-9 (Moskva, 1938), and Whitfield, *A Russian reference grammar* (Cambridge, 1911).

<sup>14</sup> Published in two books prepared under the auspices of the U. S. Armed Forces Institute: *Dictionary of spoken Russian* 230-3 (War Department TM 30-211, 1945); *Spoken Russian* 2.629-36 (War Department TM 325, 1945).

vjornú.tj 'to return', vjorn.ú, vjornj.ó.t, ppp po.vjornut.oy. A few verbs of this class have accent C: tjanú.tj 'to pull', tjan.ú, tjanj.o.t. Class IV verbs whose infinitive stem has stressed -i- have accent B or accent C.

Because of the nature of the books in which Bloomfield published this classification, it was unnecessary to treat there the subclasses within his major divisions—the 'linguistic dust', as Vinogradoff describes them. It is our purpose here to show in full the classification of Russian verbs, both regular and irregular. In the following table, Bloomfield's four productive classes (numbered I to IV) are followed by a separate listing of the four large irregular classes (lettered A to D), all but one with subdivisions. Each class and subclass is characterized by the alternation between the present stem and the infinitive stem of the verbs that are grouped in it; the following special symbols are used to denote these alternations: V = vowel, C = plain consonant, Cj = palatalized consonant, CJ = consonant replaced in alternation as shown in fn. 2. Finally, each class and subclass is illustrated by one verb; a number in parentheses indicates the total number of verbs that belong to each of the irregular subclasses.

## REGULAR VERBS:

- Class I. Vy ~ V: čítá.y.u ~ čítá.tj 'to read'  
 Class II. uy ~ ova: rjísú.y.u ~ rjísová.tj 'to sketch'  
 Class III. n ~ nu: gnú.ú ~ gnú.tj 'to bend'  
 Class IV. Cj ~ Cji: darj.ú ~ darjt.tj 'to give'

## IRREGULAR VERBS:

Class A. Present stem in -y-, infinitive stem in vowel

1. Vy ~ V<sub>2</sub>: mój.y.u ~ mjt.tj 'to wash' (7)
2. ay ~ ava: dav.ú ~ davá.tj 'to give' (3)
3. Cjy ~ Cji: bjj.ú ~ bjj.tj 'to beat' (5)
4. y ~ ya: ká.y.u ~ ká.ya.tj 'to bark' (17)
5. uy ~ ova: sú.y.ú ~ sová.tj 'to thrust' (7)
- 5a. uy ~ a: živopjjísú.y.u ~ živopjjísá.tj 'to paint' (2)

Class B. Present stem in consonant other than -y-, infinitive stem in vowel

1. C ~ CV: sos.ú ~ sosá.tj 'to suck' (15)
2. CJ ~ CV: pjjsú.ú ~ pjjsá.tj 'to write' (73)
3. Cn/m ~ Ca: načn.ú ~ načá.tj 'to begin' (9)
4. Vn ~ V: stán.u ~ stá.tj 'to become' (5)

Class C. Present stem in consonant other than -y-, infinitive stem in same consonant

- C ~ C: pas.ú ~ pas.tj 'to tend, herd' (53)

Class D. Present stem in palatalized consonant or š or ž, infinitive stem in vowel other than -i- (all 2d conjugation)

1. Cj ~ Cje: gorj.ú ~ gorjé.tj 'to burn' (10)
2. Cj ~ Cja: stoy.ú ~ stoyá.tj 'to stand' (30)
3. CJ ~ Ca: spjj.ú ~ spjá.tj 'to sleep' (2)

To this listing we may add Class E, consisting of the four anomalous verbs dá.tj, yč.tj, xotč.tj, and bježátj mentioned earlier in the paper.

We append here a complete list of Russian irregular verbs, based on Ušakov, *Tolkovyj slovar' russkogo yazyka I-IV* (Moskva, 1934-40).<sup>15</sup>

CLASS A. PRESENT STEM IN -y-, INFINITIVE STEM IN VOWEL

Class A1. Present stem in vowel plus -y-, infinitive stem in different vowel; accent A except as noted

móy.u ml.tj wash	vóy.u vi.tj howl
króy.u krí.tj cover	brjéy.u brjít.tj shave
nóy.u ní.tj whine	řny.ú pjé.tj B sing
róy.u rí.tj dig	

Class A2. Present stem in -ay-, infinitive stem in -ava-; accent B in present

day.ú davá.tj give
ustay.ú ustavá.tj tire
uznay.ú uznavá.tj recognize

Class A3. Present stem in consonant plus -y-, infinitive stem in same consonant plus -i-; accent B in present

bjy.ú bjít.tj beat	řy.ú řít.tj sew
ljy.ú ljít.tj pour	vjy.ú vjít.tj howl
pjy.ú pjít.tj drink	

Class A4. Present stem in -y-, infinitive stem in -ya-; accent A except as noted

báy.u báya.tj talk	bljéy.ú bljéyá.tj A/B bleat
káy.u.s káya.t.ca repent	smjcy.ú.s smjcyá.t.ca B laugh
láy.u láya.tj bark	řjéy.u řjéya.tj float, soar
máy.u.s máya.t.ca pine	řjéy.u řjéya.tj row
čáy.u čáya.tj expect, hope for	zatjéy.u zatjéya.tj undertake
táy.u táya.tj thaw	vjéy.u vjéya.tj blow softly
xáy.u xáya.tj blame, find fault	čúy.u čúya.tj smell, scent
nadjéy.u.s nadjéya.t.ca hope	vopjij.ú vopjijá.tj B bewail (obs.)
ljeljéy.u ljeljéya.tj foster, nurse	

Class A5. Present stem in -uy-, infinitive stem in -ova-;

accent B in present, otherwise identical with Class II regular

bljuy.ú bljová.tj vomit	snuy.ú snová.tj scurry, poke about
kuy.ú ková.tj forge	suy.ú sová.tj push in
kljuy.ú kljová.tj peck	čuy.ú čová.tj chew
pljuy.ú pljová.tj spit	

Class A5a. Present stem in -uy-, infinitive stem in -a-; accent A in present

živopjísúy.u živopjísá.tj paint
prjítjazúy.u prjítjazá.tj lay claim to

CLASS B. PRESENT STEM IN CONSONANT OTHER THAN -y-, INFINITIVE STEM IN VOWEL

Class B1. Present stem in plain consonant; accent B in present except as noted

lg.ú lgá.tj lie	říd.u řída.tj A hunger, thirst
rv.ú rvá.tj tear, vomit	řd.ú řdá.tj wait
řl.ú řlá.tj neigh	řr.ú řrá.tj eat
řos.ú řosá.tj suck	bjor.ú brá.tj take <sup>16</sup>
řton.ú řtoná.tj C groan	djor.ú drá.tj travel <sup>16</sup>
řk.ú řká.tj weave	řov.ú řvá.tj call <sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Some verbs in this list are shown in the reflexive form. The reflexive suffix, added to certain verbs in various meanings, has the following shapes: -s after vowels (uč.ú.s 'I study', uč.t.tj.ej 'you study'), -sa after consonants other than t or tj (uč.i.m.sa 'we study'), -ca after t and tj, the latter being replaced before this suffix by t (uč.t.t.ca 'he studies', uč.t.t.ca 'to study'). Some verbs occur only in the reflexive form, e.g. ošibjy.u.s 'I am mistaken'.

<sup>16</sup> The present stem has an inserted vowel.

rjov.ú rjovjé.tj roar<sup>17</sup>zašib.ú zašibjt.tj C knock<sup>17</sup>zjžd.u.s zjždjt.t.ca A repose on<sup>17</sup>

Class B2. Present stem in consonant plus J (see fn. 2), infinitive stem in consonant plus -a-; accent C in present when last vowel of infinitive is stressed

koljéblj.u koljébdá.tj A move

ziblj.u (zibá.tj/zibjt.tj)(inf. not used) rock

glož.ú glodá.tj gnaw

skač.ú skaká.tj jump

pláč.u pláka.tj weep

mič.u mika.tj hackle

kljě.u kljěka.tj call

plješč.ú plješčé.tj splatter

išč.ú išká.tj search

pološč.ú poloská.tj gargle

dremlj.ú drjemá.tj doze

trjěplj.ú trjěpdá.tj pull about, peel

šěčplj.ú šěčpdá.tj splinter

šěčplj.ú šěčpdá.tj pinch

siplj.u sipa.tj center

opoyaš.ú opoyasá.tj girdle

pljaš.ú pljasá.tj dance

češ.ú češá.tj comb

tješ.ú tješá.tj cut, hew

pjěš.ú pjěšá.tj write

prjáč.u prjáčta.tj hide

šěčbjěč.ú šěčbjěčá.tj warble

šěčkoč.ú šěčkotá.tj tickle

bormoč.ú bormotá.tj mutter

xlopoč.ú xlopotá.tj hustle about

klokoč.ú klokotá.tj gurgle

ljepjěč.ú ljepjěčá.tj stammer

strjekoč.ú strjekotá.tj chirp

rokoč.ú rokotá.tj roll, rear

groxoč.ú groxotá.tj crash, rumble

xoxoč.ú xoxotá.tj guffaw

šepč.ú šeptá.tj whisper

topt.ú toptá.tj tread upon

kvoxč.ú kvostá.tj cluck

trjepjěč.ú trjepjěčá.tj palpitate, throb

kljevješč.ú kljevjěčá.tj slander

skrježeč.ú skrježečá.tj grind the teeth

ropč.ú roptá.tj grumble

xlješč.ú xljěšá.tj whip

svjěšč.ú svjěšá.tj whistle

xlišč.ú xlišá.tj whip

brješč.ú brjěšá.tj bark

páš.u páša.tj plow

objaž.ú objažá.tj be required

skaž.ú skazá.tj say

máž.u máža.tj smear

vjáz.u vjáža.tj bind

rjěž.u rjěža.tj cut

ljž.u ljžá.tj lick

njž.u njžá.tj string

orj.ú orá.tj plow

šlj.ú šlž.tj B send

stjelj.ú stžá.tj spread<sup>18</sup>

The following verbs of Class B2 are also inflected according to Class I of the regular verbs.

The order of the present stems is that of Ušakov.

dvjlgay.u/dvjlgjt.u dvjlgá.tj move

brjžjt.u/brjžgaj.u brjžga.tj sprinkle

murlič.u/murlikaj.u murlika.tj purr

xnič.u/xnikaj.u xnika.tj whimper

álč.u A / alkáj.u alká.tj hunger, desire

tlě.u/tikaj.u tika.tj poke, thrust

riskaj.u/rščč.u rška.tj run about

xromjaj.u/xromlj.u A xromá.tj limp

plješč.ú/plješčaj.u plješčá.tj splatter

kápjlj.u/kápaj.u kápa.tj trickle, drip

krápaj.u/kráplj.ú A and C krápa.tj drip, spot

kljevplj.ú/kljevpy.u kljevšá.tj slander; rivet

mjěč.ú/mjěčaj.u mjěčá.tj throw; baste

kudáxč.u/kudáxaj.u kudáxá.tj cluck

kolixaj.u/kolix.u kolixa.tj sway

maxaj.u/maxá.ú maxá.tj bandish

stráđaj.u/stráđjt.u stráđá.tj suffer

Class B3. Present stem in consonant plus -m- or -n-, infinitive stem in consonant plus a

načn.ú načá.tj begin

fn.ú fňá.tj reap

fn.ú fňá.tj press

mn.ú mňá.tj rumple

raspn.ú raspjá.tj crucify

najm.ú najšá.tj hire

izim.ú izyá.tj confiscate

obnjim.ú obnjá.tj embrace

vozmj.ú vzjá.tj take

Class B4. Present stem in vowel plus -n-, infinitive stem in vowel without -n-

stán.u stá.tj become, begin

zastriján.u zastrijá.tj stick

džen.u djé.tj put

stín.u stl.tj get cold

klján.u klj'štj curse<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> The infinitive is irregular.

CLASS C. PRESENT STEM IN CONSONANT OTHER THAN -Y-, INFINITIVE STEM IN SAME CONSONANT<sup>11</sup>

b ~ s	njos.ú njos.tj BB carry
grjob.ú grjos.tj BB row	pas.ú pas.tj BB tend, herd
skrjob.ú skrjos.tj BB scrape	trjos.ú trjos.tj BB shake, jolt
d ~ s	trjas.ú trjas.tj
klad.ú klás.tj BA put	t ~ s
krad.ú krás.tj BA steal	gnjot.ú gnjos.tj BB press
pad.ú pás.tj BA fall	mjot.ú mjos.tj BB sweep
prjad.ú prjás.tj BC spin	izobrojot.ú izobrojot.tj BB invent
brjod.ú brjos.tj BB wander	pljot.ú pljos.tj BB plait
vjod.ú vjos.tj BB conduct	cvjot.ú cvjos.tj BB bloom
bljud.ú bljus.tj BB observe	pročt.ú pročestj BB read (through) <sup>12</sup>
sjád.u sjés.tj AA sit down <sup>12</sup>	rost.ú rastj BB grow <sup>12</sup>
id.ú itj BB go <sup>12</sup> (suppl. past stem éd.)	z ~ z
yéd.u yéxa.tj AA ride <sup>12</sup>	ljéz.u ljéz.tj AA climb
g ~ č	griz.ú griz.tj BA gnaw
bjorjog.ú bjorjčč BB take care of	polz.ú polz.tj BB crawl
prjenjčbrjog.ú -brjčč BB neglect	vjoz.ú vjoz.tj BB convey, cart
stjorjog.ú stjorjčč BB guard	v ~ o
zaprjog.ú zaprjčč BB harness	pliv.ú pliv.tj BC swim
strjig.ú strjč BB shear	sliv.ú sliv.tj BC be reputed
ljág.u ljčč AA lie down	tiv.ú tiv.tj BC live
mog.ú móč CB be able -	Vlj, Vrz ~ olo, oro
žg.ú žčč BB burn <sup>12</sup>	kolj.ú kolč.tj CA stab
k ~ č	polj.ú polč.tj CA weed
vljok.ú vljčč BB involve, attract	porj.ú porč.tj CA rip, flog
pjok.ú pjčč BB lake	borj.ú.s borč.t.ca CA struggle
izrjok.ú izrjčč BA BB speak	njelj.ú molč.tj CA grind
tjok.ú tjčč BB flow	r ~ orje (past reg. with inserted vowel)
ejk.ú ejčč BA chop	tr.ú ttorjč.tj BA (past ttor) rub
volok.ú volčč BB drag	umr.ú umjorjč.tj BC (past umjorč, umjorčš, umjorlo) die
tolk.ú tolčč BB shove (with inserted vowel)	pr.ú pporjč.tj BA (past ppor) trudge
s ~ s	

CLASS D. PRESENT STEM IN PALATALIZED CONSONANT OR Š OR Ž, INFINITIVE STEM IN VOWEL OTHER THAN -i-; ALL 2d CONJUGATION

(VERBS ARE CITED IN THE INFINITIVE ONLY.)

CLASS D1. PRESENT STEM IN PALATALIZED CONSONANT OTHER THAN č, čč, žj, y, INFINITIVE STEM IN SAME CONSONANT PLUS -e-; ACCENT B IN PRESENT EXCEPT AS NOTED

bdjč.tj be wakeful (S1 lacking)	gudjč.tj drone
bljestjč.tj glitter	grjemjč.tj thunder
boljč.tj hurt (S3, P3 only)	ravjlsjč.tj A depend
vjeltjč.tj order	zvjenjč.tj jingle
vjettjč.tj B and C turn	zrjč.tj see (cf. class I zryjč.u zryč.tj ripen)
vjčdč.tj A see	rudjč.tj itch
vjčjč.tj haug	kijčjč.tj cook
galdjč.tj make a racket (S1 lacking)	kišč.tj teen
čjadjč.tj look at	koptjč.tj work hard (cf. class I koptjčj.u
zoryč.tj burn	koptjčj.tj smoke)

<sup>11</sup> The replacement of the stem-final consonant before the phoneme tj of the infinitive ending is indicated before each subgroup of verbs within this class. The symbols BB, BA, BC, AA, etc. refer to the accent of the present and of the past respectively.

korpjé.tj work hard	smotrijé.tj C look at
krjajtjé.tj groan	sopjé.tj wheeze
ljotjé.tj fly	tarajtjé.tj creak
objédje.tj A insult	tjerpjé.tj C suffer
pixtjé.tj pant, puff	xrapjé.tj snore
svjorbjé.tj itch	xrjipjé.tj be hoarse
sjidjé.tj sit	xrustjé.tj crunch
skorbjé.tj grieve	šipjé.tj hiss
skrjipjé.tj creak	šumjé.tj be noisy
smjerdjé.tj stink	

Class D2. Present stem in -ě-, -šš-, -j-, or -y-, infinitive stem in same consonant plus -a-; accent B in present except as noted

brienč.á.tj jingle	šiš.á.tj A hear
brjužj.á.tj grumble	stoj.á.tj stand
burč.á.tj grumble	stuč.á.tj knock
djorž.á.tj C hold	šurš.á.tj rustle
drjebježj.á.tj jar	torč.á.tj protrude
drož.á.tj tremble	trješč.á.tj crackle
diš.á.tj C breathe	urč.á.tj runable
krijč.á.tj cry out	vjerježj.á.tj } whimper, squeal
ľož.á.tj lie	vjerješč.á.tj }
molč.á.tj be silent	vorč.á.tj grumble
mč.á.tj whirl along	zvuč.á.tj sound
mič.á.tj moo, low	lušj.á.tj hum, buzz
pjišč.á.tj squeak, scream	šurč.á.tj ripple, purr
rič.á.tj growl, snarl	

Class D3. Present stem in palatalized consonant, infinitive stem in plain consonant plus -a-

spij.á spá.tj BC sleep

gonj.á gná.tj CC drive<sup>14</sup>

CLASS E. ANOMALOUS VERBS

dá.tj give xotjé.tj want

bježá.tj run yés.tj eat