

Re: permissible syllable codas in major world languages)?

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- *From:* "Paul J Kriha" <paul.nospam.kriha@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 15 Dec 2006 17:31:46 +1300
-

Peter T. Daniels <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:1166105295.645029.94090@xx>

Paul J Kriha wrote:

Peter T. Daniels <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:1166053118.040197.164750@xx>

Brian M. Scott wrote:

On 13 Dec 2006 11:01:45 -0800, "Peter T. Daniels"
<grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
<<news:1166036505.695456.216050@xx>>
in sci.lang:

Colin Fine wrote:

Peter T.
Daniels
wrote:

Paul
J
Kriha
wrote:

P.S.
I
remember
watching
an
interview
with
Navrátilová

Re: permissible syllable codas in major world languages)?

in
the
early
years
of
her
career.
She
corrected
the
interviewer:
"I
am
not
Russian,
my
name
is
Navrátilová,
not
Navratilóva"
The
sports
reporter
didn't
understand
what
she
was
talking
about,
he
probably
couldn't
hear
any
difference
between
those
two
names,
let
alone
understand
why
would
one
be
Russian
and
the

Re: permissible syllable codas in major world languages)?

other
Czech.

"And
my
name
is
Martina,
not
Martýna!"
:-)))

[...]

If
it
was
an
interview
in
English,
the
interviewer
would
indeed
have
understood
the
difference
between
English
nav-ra-ti-LO-va
and
Czech
na-VRA-ti-lo-va,
because
stress
is
phonemic
in
English
as
in
Russian,
but
would
have

Re: permissible syllable codas in major world languages)?

had
difficulty
pronouncing
the
native
form
because
of
its
unfamiliarity.
(E.g
pav-LO-va
is
a
familiar
name).

Err ... no.

The
difference is
between
nav-ra-ti-LO-va
and
NAV-rah-ti-lo-vah.

That's not what Paul wrote.

Paul didn't indicate stress at all: the Czech
name, so far
as I can discover, is <Navrátilová>
['navra:tilova:].

Then what are the acutes doing on both the Russian and the
Czech
versions?

Because Martina is(was then) Czech and doesn't speak Russian. :-)

In the sentence
"I am not Russian, my name is Navrátilová, not Navratilóva",
did you want me to type the last word in cyrillic?

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No, I wanted the same symbol (acute accent) to have the same denotation in both the Czech and the Russian example! And since I know that length isn't phonemic in Russian but stress is, why wouldn't it be stress that you were marking in Russian?

I understand your point of view, I commented re this in another leg of this thread.

Keeping to the same orthography I hoped to make it clear what she was objecting to. From her point of view it was the vowel lengths moving around corrupting her name into a complete gobbledygook.

We have a very nice symbol for that, and you don't even have to depart from ASCII: <:>.

Well, indeed, I may have used the [] notation the way Brian did.

Perhaps one of the reasons why I didn't was to show that the long Cz syllables are always formally represented in written text (with c^a'rka or krouz^ek). You may say to that that wasn't the main point of the paragraph and you'd be right.

(Actually, I believe that it's ['navra:,tilo,va:], but I'm not sure how strong the secondary stresses are.).

Thanks, Brian, that's exactly right. I commented on the secondary stress in another note. It is more likely to be present in slow formal speech.

And I gather that <Martina> is actually ['mart^ina], which she was presumably contrasting with [mar'ti:n@].

Quite.

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If I remember it right she may have been happy with
['martina] with [t] instead of palatalized [t^] as the wrong
syllabic lengths sound noticeably more annoying.

The American interviewer, of course, wouldn't have the slightest
awareness of differing syllabic lengths. Perhaps a British interviewer
would! (If length is in fact the important differandum in BrE vowel
phonology.)

The various celebrities with Cz or Sk names are usually not
that fussy about the short and long vowels. There is, however,
much greater likelihood that incorrect palatalisations, wrong
vowels, diphthongs and consonants make a good old and
respected family name sound like something unacceptably
crude, or even rude.

pjk

.