

Re: The monumental stupidity of PIE theorists further illustrated

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Nikolaj wrote:

Paul J Kriha pravi:

Nikolaj wrote:

Anyway, I certainly can not answer those questions. It seems there is "srnka" (roe deer) in Czech (in Slovene "srnka" would be a nonstandard diminutive of srna),

In Czech, "srnka" is also a diminutive of "srna", but unlike Slovene "srnka", it's perfectly standard. It is a straight semantical diminutive as well as a morphological one.

In Slovene the correct diminutive would be "srnica" (-ica ending). I am not sure when exactly the "-ka" ending is used – maybe: if the feminine noun ends in a consonant (pot – potka "path") and when the noun already ends on "-ca" (raca – ra ka "duck", ptica – pti ka "bird"), but there might be other cases as well.

but it seems that a sh-sound combined a syllabic r doesn't exist, at least not in Slovene and Croatian. So I tried taking the word "aank" and changing the "a" into a syllabic r – and indeed it is very difficult.

I don't think there are any -arC- words in Czech either. However, I wouldn't find -arC- any more difficult than -srC-. For example, a two syllable word "arna" (or "arnka") would be just as unremarkable as "srna" (or "srnka").

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The "n" in "srna" (or "arna") is not a velar nasal, it's a dental. Is the "n" in "arnka" a velar or is it a dental? Can you say the "r" in the usual way (for instance as in "prst"), even when the "n" in –nk– is distinctly pronounced as a velar nasal?

Oh yes, the "n" in Cz "srna" is also dental and the "n" in "srnka" also sounds quite different, it's a velar nasal, I suppose. The nasalization isn't phonemic in Czech so it doesn't get much attention drawn to it in primary/secondary schools.

Re your second question, it seems that the "r"–trill in "srnka" is not formed by the very tip of the tongue like "r" in "prst". But the sound difference is only a minor one. The thing one is likely to notice first is the difference in fundamental frequency. When I say "prst" and "srnka" in the same declarative sentence, the "r" in "srnka" tends to be about four or five semitones lower than in the "r" in "prst".

However, when I say "trnka" (diminutive of sloe), the "r" is the same as in "prst" (finger), while "r" in "krk" (throat) is like the one in "srnka". It seems that the vocalization of "r" is more influenced by leading consonants than following nasals.

pjk

Frk: str drn, trn, prst skrz krk srnky!
That's eight syllabic "r"s in an eight word sentence :-)

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