

Plautdietsch is a dialect of Low German spoken by Mennonites in the former Soviet Union, parts of Canada and the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, and Paraguay. In Canada, there are about 100,000 Mennonites for whom Plautdietsch is a first language.

The origins of Plautdietsch are in the migrations of the Mennonites in the 16th century. Speaking a Low Saxon Plattdeutsch, they migrated from northern Holland and northwest Germany to West Prussia where they adopted Eastern Low German as their vernacular and High German for the liturgy. From West Prussia they moved to the Ukraine and then to North and South America where they settled in relatively isolated communities.

There are many dialects of Plautdietsch spoken in Canada resulting from migrations from different colonies in the Ukraine, and from migrations at different periods of time. The speaker in this recording is a 48 year-old male whose descendants migrated from the Chortiza colony in the Ukraine to Manitoba in the 1870's.

Consonants Exhibited:

Stops:	p	t		c	k	
	b	f		ç	g	
Fricatives:	f	s	ʃ	ç	x	h
	v	z	ʒ			
Nasals:	m	n		ɲ	ŋ	
Liquids:		r l				
		ɹ ʎ				
Glides:				j	w	

Voiceless consonants are aspirated when they occur alone in the onset of a stressed syllable. Word finally, they are released. When near high front vowels, /c/ is produced slightly further forward (transcribed with the diacritic [̟]). For the most part, it seems, the palatal consonants are allophones of velar consonants that occur in an environment conducive to fronting (ex. near a front vowel) except for [ɲ] as it, along with [ŋ], are allophones of [n]. /l/ manifests two allophones, [l] and [ɭ]. Word internally, /r/ has a tendency to become [ɹ].

Vowels Exhibited:

i	u	
ɪ		ʊ
e	ə	o
ɛ		ɔ
æ	a	

Diphthongs:

iw	iə	uə
ew	əw	oə
eə		ɔj
æj	aj	

Vowels in stressed position are inherently longer.

I. Word List

1.	[p ^h épa]	'pepper'
2.	[jəp ^h útst]	'cleaned'
3.	[ʃpɛt]	'play'
4.	[jəripə]	'catch'
5.	[op]	'ape'
6.	[trɛj]	'back'
7.	[bət ^h ót]	'paid'
8.	[ftɛt]	'still'
9.	[móta]	'mother'
10.	[lajt]	'song'
11.	[k ^h ɔz]	'goat'
12.	[fək ^h ódat]	'ragged'
13.	[bákə]	'to bake'
14.	[óvəbak]	'bake oven'
15.	[c ^h ast]	'wedding'
16.	[c ^h ·int]	'child'
17.	[ric ^h ə]	'smell'
18.	[veəc]	'weeks'
19.	[vólçə]	'clouds'
20.	[bódə]	'bathe'
21.	[oba]	'but'
22.	[hab]	'have'
23.	[drɔzət]	'tangle'
24.	[láda]	'leather'
25.	[zed]	'said'
26.	[gəwt]	'good'
27.	[rɔgəmel]	'rye flour'
28.	[flag]	'flag'
29.	[mɪj]	'mosquito'
30.	[brɪj]	'bridge'
31.	[fɛt]	'much'
32.	[k ^h ɔfə]	'coffee'
33.	[bliv]	'stay'
34.	[fɔwst]	'tight'
35.	[bójsɪç]	'stubborn'
36.	[fɔs]	'fox'
37.	[ʃvin]	'pig'
38.	[vɔwʃ]	'wash'
39.	[draʃ]	'thresh'
40.	[jəʃɪçt]	'story'
41.	[dɛrç]	'through'
42.	[dɔxta]	'daughter'
43.	[krax]	'crash'
44.	[hoz]	'rabbit'
45.	[vuə ^h ɛə]	'from where'
46.	[vɪnta]	'winter'
47.	[éva]	'over'

48.	[bliv]	'stay'
49.	[zajl]	'soul'
50.	[é:zət]	'donkey'
51.	[k ^h ɔz]	'goat'
52.	[ruʒ]	'vibration'
53.	[moəʒ]	'ass'
54.	[jandz]	'geese'
55.	[t ^h iəjət]	'brick'
56.	[frewə]	'ask'
57.	[malc]	'milk'
58.	[himət]	'heaven'
59.	[rum]	'space'
60.	[nez]	'nose'
61.	[janə]	'those'
62.	[nan]	'to name'
63.	[hiŋə]	'behind'
64.	[hɛp]	'hands'
65.	[huŋa]	'hunger'
66.	[lan]	'long'
67.	[flajf]	'lade'
68.	[malcə]	'to milk'
69.	[moʔ]	'times'
70.	[rubət]	'to rub'
71.	[fiə:ə]	'to celebrate'
72.	[iza]	'iron'
73.	[vit]	'distant'
74.	[ʃpri]	'chaff'
75.	[inzət]	'island'
76.	[vit]	'white'
77.	[é:zət]	'donkey'
78.	[red]	'talk'
79.	[ne]	'no'
80.	[éma]	'always'
81.	[mɛnʃa]	'people'
82.	[zɛdə]	'said'
83.	[jənuəx]	'enough'
84.	[aɕ]	'corner'
85.	[bəkə]	'to bake'
86.	[na]	'nah!'
87.	[ul]	'owl'
88.	[ful]	'lazy'
89.	[mul]	'mouth'
90.	[fru]	'woman'
91.	[úna]	'under'
92.	[vut]	'rage'
93.	[op]	'ape'
94.	[hoz]	'rabbit'
95.	[jo]	'yes'
96.	[ɔp]	'on'

97.	[ʃzət]	'idiot'
98.	[iəd]	'earth'
99.	[riət]	'stirs'
100.	[mɛwka]	'to make'
101.	[nɛwktɪç]	'naked'
102.	[jələɔjə]	'opportunity'
103.	[vɛɔc]	'week'
104.	[uərə]	'ears'
105.	[pliwx]	'plough'
106.	[ʃtɔəvə]	'to die'
107.	[hoə]	'hair'
108.	[æj]	'egg'
109.	[vɪt]	'white'
110.	[læj]	'lye'
111.	[k ^h leəvə]	'claws'
112.	[ájgoʃ]	'always'
113.	[haj]	'him'
114.	[əwlt]	'old'
115.	[bləwts]	'bare'
116.	[zəw]	'so'
117.	[ɔwʃ]	'ash'
118.	[vɔwʃ]	'wash'
119.	[ɔjəsɛfa]	'vermin'
120.	[fɔj]	'phuy!'
121.	[sæjç]	'fabric'

II. Spontaneous Speech

References:

Lou, Romi N. 1995. MS Plautdietsch: A Phonetic Description. University of Calgary, Linguistics 421, W95.