# Palatalization and Featural Morphemes in Czech[*]

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In Czech, some suffixes cause dorsal and laryngeal stem-final segments to mutate (e.g. králí/k+ɛk/ → králí[t͡ʃɛk]). Traditionally this change has been analyzed as a phonological process, called Velar Palatalization. I will show this is in fact a morpho-phonological process: Velar Palatalization is caused by morphemes with floating [strident] features. This approach explains why Velar Palatalization is triggered by only a subset of morphemes.

## 1    INTRODUCTION

This article examines right-edge consonant mutation in major place of articulation (hereafter PoA) caused by suffixation in Czech. Examples include králí/k+ɛk/ → králí[t͡ʃɛk] and králí/k+iːx/ → králí[t͡siːx]. This process has commonly been called palatalization. However, I will show that it is in fact primarily assibilation, with coronalization only a side-effect of segments becoming strident. I argue that assibilation is caused by floating strident features associated with particular morphemes, making this a morpho-phonological process. Moreover, I will show that all Czech suffixes are specified for the morphological class of the suffix with a floating [±anterior] feature, which determines the type of palatalization: derivational suffixes can trigger an alternation with a posterior strident, e.g. /k/ → [t͡ʃ], while inflectional suffixes can cause assibilation to an anterior strident, e.g. /k/ → [t͡s].

In Czech, "palatalization" is an overarching term referring to several different morphological processes. Czech palatalization is in fact a change in PoA of the stem-final consonant triggered by affixation itself. Czech has two main types of palatalization, called 'velar' and 'dental' (e.g., Morfill 1899, Sova 1944, de Bray 1951, Harkins 1953, Fischer 1954, Bauernöppel 1957, Kučera 1961, Bidwell 1967, Šmilauer 1971, Channon 1972, Carlton 1991, Palková 1994, Schenker 1996). This article focuses on the former phenomenon, velar palatalization.

Broadly speaking, Czech suffixes can be divided into two types: those that force palatalization and those that do not. Palatalizing suffixes can be further divided into two subgroups: derivational and inflectional. The alternations caused by derivational suffixes, schematized as /k g x ɦ/ → [t͡ʃ ʒ ʃ ʒ], are traditionally called First Velar Palatalization, while those triggered by inflectional suffixes, /k g x ɦ/ → [t͡s z ʃ z], are known as Second Velar Palatalization. Both paradigms trigger assibilation, with the former resulting in a posterior strident and the latter in an anterior strident segment. This is exemplified with the following data.

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