

WestminsterResearch

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/westminsterresearch>

Illustrations of the IPA: Lyonnais (Francoprovençal)

Kasstan, J.

This journal article has been accepted for publication and will appear in a revised form, subsequent to peer review and/or editorial input by Cambridge University Press in the Journal of the International Phonetic Association.

© Cambridge University Press, 2015

The final definitive version in the online edition of the journal article at Cambridge Journals Online is available at:

<https://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0025100315000250>

The WestminsterResearch online digital archive at the University of Westminster aims to make the research output of the University available to a wider audience. Copyright and Moral Rights remain with the authors and/or copyright owners.

Whilst further distribution of specific materials from within this archive is forbidden, you may freely distribute the URL of WestminsterResearch: (<http://westminsterresearch.wmin.ac.uk/>).

In case of abuse or copyright appearing without permission e-mail repository@westminster.ac.uk

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE IPA – LYONNAIS (FRANCOPROVENÇAL)

JONATHAN RICHARD KASSTAN

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS, SCHOOL OF
EUROPEAN CULTURE AND LANGUAGES, UNIVERSITY OF KENT,
CANTERBURY, KENT, UK, CT27NF

E: J.KASSTAN@KENT.AC.UK

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE IPA

Lyonnais (Francoprovençal)

Jonathan Kasstan

J.Kasstan@kent.ac.uk

Francoprovençal (known locally as *patois*) is the glottonym used as a cover-term for a highly fragmented Romance dialect-grouping. These varieties are spoken in South-eastern France, and neighbouring parts of Switzerland and Italy; diasporic communities are also reported to maintain the use of Francoprovençal in Germany, Canada, and the United States (see Nagy 2011). Francoprovençal enjoys varying levels of status between these states. In France, for example, Francoprovençal was only recognised by the Minister for Culture and Communication in 1999 as a ‘language of France’, but it does not constitute one of the handful of regional languages protected by law that are permitted in the education system. Conversely, in the Aosta Valley (Italy), which enjoys an autonomous status, Francoprovençal is protected under Federal law, and is taught in schools (see Josserand 2003).

The varieties of Francoprovençal are collectively classified as ‘severely endangered’ (Salminen 2007). There is no consensus on remaining speaker numbers, but between 50,000 and 60,000 are thought to remain in France, with roughly 16,000 in Switzerland, and 28,000 in Italy, where the vast majority reside in the Aosta Valley. Generally, estimates range from between 120,000 to 200,000 speakers (cf. Martin 1990; 2002; Tuailon 1993). Intergenerational mother-tongue transmission is no longer reported in all but a minority of cases (cf. Bert *et al.* 2009 in France; Nagy 1996 and Pannatier 1999 in Switzerland in Italy).

A great deal of highly localised phonological variation is characteristic of Francoprovençal, and mutual intelligibility is reported as being problematic (cf. Burger 1979: 262, and, *contra*, Tuailon 1988: 191). Owing to the isolation of certain speech communities, mutual intelligibility is often lacking even between Francoprovençal speakers separated by only a few kilometres. For clarity, the following description is, therefore, based on the Lyonnais variety of Francoprovençal spoken in St. Martin-en-Haut, the largest peri-urban town located in the mountainous region West of the conurbation of Lyons; this region is known locally as *les monts du Lyonnais* ('the Lyonnais mountains'). The data presented below come from both conversation and word list styles, and were collected during two fieldwork expeditions in 2010 and 2012.

Consonants

The consonants of the Lyonnais variety spoken in St. Martin-en-Haut are provided in the following table. Allophones are omitted here and are discussed in detail below.

< TABLE 1 CONSONANTS >

PHONEME	PHONETIC FORM	ORTHOGRAPHIC FORM ¹	ENGLISH GLOSS
/t/	['tu]	tôs	'all'
/d/	['du]	doux	'two'
/n/	['nɔvo]	novo	'new'
/ʒ/	['ʒɔʁno]	jorno	'day'
/m/	['mɔðə]	mâre	'mother'
/f/	['frɔðə]	frâre	'brother'
/s/	['sɔʁ]	seror	'sister'
/j/	['jɔ]	lièt	'bed'
/w/	['wa]	ouè	'yes'
/l/	['la]	la	'the' (SG FEM)
/v/	['vaʃi]	vache	'cow'
/b/	['bɔʃi]	boche	'mouth'
/ʁ/	['ʁɔnə]	Rôno	'Rhône'
/ʃ/	['ʃɔnə]	châno	'chain'
/ɲ/	['ɲolə]	niol	'clouds'
/z/	['zi]	zuéli	'eyes'
/p/	['pi]	pi	'foot'
/k/	['kjɔ]	cllâf	'key'
/g/	['gjɔ]	gllâr	'tolling bell'

The variety of Francoprovençal spoken in St. Martin-en-Haut has a similar consonantal inventory to that of Standard French (henceforth SF), unlike several varieties spoken east of Lyons. This is not surprising, as scholars have reported that Lyons traditionally functioned as the approximate limit of diffusion for linguistic innovations emanating from Paris (Chambon & Greub 2000). Some remarks are, however, necessary.

Via intermediary stages of palatalisation, Latin G + A ultimately gave rise in SF to the voiced post-alveolar fricative, while in Francoprovençal, the resulting phones differ markedly depending on the region. In many areas, /dz/ is a common reflex of word-initial G + A. In St. Martin-en-Haut, however, G + A maintains the reflex /ʃ/ in a small number of lexical items where Latin G remained unvoiced, e.g. CAMBAM > GAMBAM > *jamba* ['ʃãba] 'leg'. The voiced post-alveolar fricative is

maintained word-initially in G + E/I clusters, and is also maintained word-medially, just as in SF, for C + A clusters that underwent subsequent palatalisation, e.g. MANDUCARE² > *mangier* ['mãzi] 'eaten'. The palatalisation of Latin C + A > /ʃ/ in SF is equally a feature of Francoprovençal in *les monts du Lyonnais*, e.g. BUCCAM > *boche* ['bɔʃi] 'mouth'. However, in Eastern Lyonnais, for example, the post-alveolar fricative shifts to a voiceless interdental fricative (see Tuailon 2007 on variation in other regions).

While in SF the affricates [tʃ] and [dʒ] only occur in lexical borrowings, in *les monts du Lyonnais* these allophones result from the tendency to palatalise the stops /t/ and /d/ before /i/ and /e/, e.g. *charcutiér* [ʃaʁky'tʃi] 'pork butcher', *demârs* ['dʒimɔ] 'Tuesday'.

In most varieties of Francoprovençal, /l/-palatalisation in obstruent + lateral onset clusters gives a number of differing reflexes (including [j], [ʎ] and [ɬ]), typically without a palatalising trigger (i.e. where the quality of the following vowel is not a factor in palatalisation). While certain varieties of Francoprovençal palatalise in both velar + lateral and labial + lateral clusters, in the Lyonnais variety of St. Martin-en-Haut, /l/-palatalisation to [j] occurs variably, and only with velars, e.g. *clloche* ['kʎɔʃi] 'bell', *gllar* ['gʎɔ] 'tolling bell'.

Deletion of intervocalic liquid consonants is common in Francoprovençal, e.g. *orâjo* [ɔ'aʒɔ] 'storm'. Moreover, the phone /ʁ/ can shift word-medially to [ð], which only exists as a result of assibilation: *vouètura* [wa'tyða] 'car', *orâjo* [ɔ'ðaʒɔ] 'storm'. This feature is reported in other Romance varieties, such as Jèrriais (see Jones 2001).

Vowels

The variety of Francoprovençal spoken in St. Martin-en-Haut has an inventory of fourteen monophthongs, [i ĩ y e ε ě a ã ø ə u o ɔ õ].

Monophthongs

< FIGURE 1 VOWEL QUADRILATERAL >

PHONEME	PHONETIC FORM	ORTHOGRAPHIC FORM	ENGLISH GLOSS
/ĩ/	[ˈsĩ]	cinq	‘five’
/ã/	[ˈsã]	cent	‘hundred’
/õ/	[ˈʒõ]	J’o	‘I have’
/ě/	[ˈʒě]	gent	‘people’
/i/	[ˈpi]	pied	‘foot’
/o/	[ˈpo]	pas	‘not’
/ε/	[ˈdε]	dêt	‘finger’
/e/	[ˈde]	dé	‘said’ (3 rd person SG)
/a/	[ˈpaji]	payér	‘pay’ (INF)
/y/	[ˈpyzi]	puge	‘flea’
/u/	[ˈnu]	nôf	‘nine’
/ɔ/	[ˈnɔ]	nâs	‘nose’
/ə/	[səˈla]	cela	‘that’
/ø/	[ˈsøla]	sela	‘chair’

< FIGURE 2 MEAN F1/F2 PLOTS >

Figure 1 Mean F₁-F₂ plot of monophthongs from a combination of lexical items.

An acoustic chart of the monophthongs for Saint-Martin-en-Haut is shown in Figure 2 below. This figure is based on the speech of one native male speaker. Mean F₁ and F₂ measurements were taken at the vowel mid point from a combination of lexical items.

Latin tonic free A is retained as /a/ in Francoprovençal, which in SF became /e/ in open syllables, and /ɛ/ in closed syllables. However, in St. Martin-en-Haut, a later development took place, whereby /a/ is typically realised as [ɔ] in tonic free syllables, e.g. NASUM > *nâs* ['nɔ] 'nose': this feature is unique to *les monts du Lyonnais*. Moreover, when Latin tonic free A is preceded by a palatal consonant, in these varieties of Francoprovençal, it is raised to [i], e.g. MANDUCARE > *mangier* ['mĩzi]. Additionally, this lexical item illustrates the presence of nasal /ĩ/ in Francoprovençal generally, which was a feature of Old French, but which lowered to /ẽ/ in Middle French.

Francoprovençal preserves a number of unstressed final vowels. For example, unstressed Latin atonic A is maintained as /a/, e.g. TABULAM > *trâbla* ['tɔbla] 'table', which also undergoes raising to [i] when preceded by a palatal, e.g. VACCAM > *vache* ['vaʃi] 'cow'. A number of Lyonnais varieties have preserved Latin masculine atonic U as /ɔ/, and, moreover, it is common for this to be generalised as a masculine marker to other nouns, e.g. *avoglo* [a'vygɔ] 'blind person'. Despite the variability in final vowels present in Francoprovençal, there is often a reduced vocalic quality in connected speech, and so schwa is also common in unstressed syllables.³

Diphthongs

Diphthongs in St. Martin-en-Haut, as in *les monts du Lyonnais* generally, are formed by the glides /w/ and /j/ + a syllabic nucleus.⁴ Both rising and falling diphthongs are permissible, e.g. *ouè* ['wa] 'yes', *bouètar* [bwe'tajə] 'limp'. However, certain Latin vowels that became rising diphthongs in SF, such as *Ē*, *Ī* and *Ĕ*, typically maintain their medieval monophthongal qualities in *les monts du Lyonnais* (see Duraffour 1932 for details). For example, *Ē*, *Ī* > /wa/ and *Ĕ* > /je/ in SF are realised in St. Martin-en-Haut as /ɛ/ and /i/ respectively, e.g. *pêsson* ['pesɔ̃] 'fish' and *pi* ['pi] 'foot'.

Stress

Owing to the fact that Francoprovençal retains a number of Latin atonic vowels, the stress pattern can vary, and can fall on either paroxytonic or oxytonic syllables (cf. *cela* [sə'la] 'that' and *sela* ['səla] 'chair'). As with the Occitan varieties, this feature differentiates these Lyonnais varieties of Francoprovençal markedly from SF.

Recorded passage

The following reading passage comes from the 18th century Lyonnais story *Le sonneur d'Albigny* (Villefranche 1891: 204), and was read by an older male speaker, native to St. Martin-en-Haut. In reciting the text, the informant produced some false starts, and these are marked in that transcription with [...].

Phonetic transcription

1 ['ɔ fy yna 'taʁibla ʒɔʁ'no [...] pa 'ljɔ̃ 'kø sɛla kɔ dy 'nu ɔk'tɔbʁə | 'mil
 2 sɛt sɑ̃ [...] nɔ'nɑ̃ta tʁɛ | asje'ʒi 'pʁɛ laʁmo də la kɔ̃vɛs'jɔ̃ | sɛla 'bila 'ajə
 3 bata'jo | 'du mɛ 'tɔta sə'lətə | 'nɔ̃ pa la ʁɔʒɔ'to [...] 'mɛ pa la ʁɛpy'blika
 4 le'gala 'kɔ̃tʁa la mɔ̃tʁɑ̃ni [...] 'kajə bətɔ [...] | 'dəʒɔ la 'lʁɛ lə ʒiʁɔ̃'dɛ̃ e
 5 tu lɔ mɔde'ðo e 'kø ɡɔnaʁ'novə pa la 'tɛkœʁ | la 'defɛ̃sa 'nɛʃjə [...] 'ply
 6 'pɔsibla | pa ɛpa'ʃi lɔ myska'dɛ̃ | nɔ̃ [...] ki ba'ʒivɔ̃ [...] yzasje'ʒi də
 7 ʁə'kɔyto də so'doʁə | [...] du vazi'nazɔ la kovɑ̃'sjɔ̃ 'ajə 'fɛ̃ əna ʁɔ'so |
 8 də 'tu lu ʒwe'no də [...] diz'wi a vɛ̃t 'jɑ̃ | e pa ka'so 'tɔ ljɛ̃ | ɛ̃tʁə 'mi lɔ
 9 lijɔ'ne e lɔ fœ'e'zjɛ̃ | [...] 'kə və'jɑ̃ 'ju | ba'ʒi la 'mɑ̃ | lajə kɔ'po pa lɔ mi
 10 'tɑ̃ lɔ dəpaʁtə'mɛ̃ [...] də 'ʁɔn e 'lʁaʁ | 'lə nan a'ʒə fa 'du | 'lɔ ʁɔnə
 11 dina 'pɔʁ e la 'lɛ̃di də lo'tʁa]

Francoprovençal has no written standard, and most speakers in *les monts du Lyonnais*, who do produce dialectal texts, will opt for their own individual phonetic spelling system (see Tuailon 2004). The transcription presented below and throughout is, therefore, based on a proposed multidialectal orthography, termed *Orthographe de référence B* or 'Reference Orthography B' (ORB) (Stich *et al.* 2003). As a result, orthographic forms can be dissimilar from transcribed forms. However, while speakers are now beginning to produce texts in ORB, it should be stressed that this orthography is yet to be accepted by the majority of dialect-speaking communities (cf. Matthey & Meune, 2012; Kasstan 2014). As it would be impossible to transcribe recordings using every available phonetic-spelling system, ORB has been chosen here

in line with Martin's (2006) dialect reference manual for the Lyonnais region. The speaker who provided the recording of the story was familiar with ORB, and was able to read the passage of text without any problems.

Orthographic transcription with free translation

1 O fut 'na tèrribla jornâ por Liyon que cela-que du nôf octobro mile
 2 sèpt cent nonanta trèze. Assiègiêe per l'armâ de la Convèncion, ceta vela aviève
 3 batalyê doux mês tota solèta, nan por la Royôtât, mas por la Rèpublica
 4 légâle, contra la Montagne qu'aviève betâ dehôr la louè los Girondins et
 5 tôs los moderâs, et que govèrnâve per la tèrror. La dèfensa n'ètâve ples
 6 possibla. Por empachiér los Muscadins (niom qu'ils balyêvont ux assiègiês) de
 7 recrutar des sordâts de lo vesinâjo, la Convèncion aviève fêt 'na rossâ
 8 de tôs los jouenos de dix-et-huét a vengt ans, et por cassar tôs liems entre-mié los
 9 Liyonês et los Forêziens que voliêvont lyors y balyér la man, el aviève copâ
 10 per lo méten lo dèpartement de Rhône-et-Loire ; el nen aviève fât doux : Lo Rôno
 11 d'una pârt et la Lère de l'ôtra.

1 It was a terrible day for Lyon the ninth of October
 2 seventeen hundred and ninety three. Besieged by the Convention army, this city had
 3 fought alone for two months, not for the Monarchy, but for the lawful
 4 Republic, against The Mountain who had placed beyond the law the Girondists and
 5 all moderates, and who governed through terror. Defending the city was no longer
 6 possible. To stop the Muscadins (the name given to the besieged) from
 7 recruiting soldiers in the vicinity, the Convention ordered a draft

8 of all young men between eighteen and twenty years old and to cut all ties between
 9 the Lyonnais, and the Foréziens who wanted to help, the Convention divided right
 10 down the middle the department of Rhône-et-Loire, forming two: the Rhône
 11 on one side and the Loire on the other.

Acknowledgements

The author thanks Amalia Arvaniti, Damien Hall, Mark Jones, Marzena Zygis, and two anonymous *JIPA* reviewers for their valuable input, and Stéphane Girard for his work in transcribing the story using Reference Orthography B.

References

- Bert, Michel, James Costa & Jean-Baptiste Martin. 2009. *Étude FORA : Francoprovençal et occitan en Rhône-Alpes. Étude Pilotée par l'Institut Pierre Gardette*. Université catholique de Lyon.
- Burger, Michel. 1979. La tradition linguistique vernaculaire en Suisse romande : les patois. In: Albert Valdman (ed.), *Le français hors de France*. Paris: Honoré Champion, 259–269.
- Chambon, Jean-Pierre & Yan Greub. 2000. Données nouvelles pour la linguistique galloromane: Les légendes monétaires mérovingiennes, *Bulletin de la Société de linguistique de Paris* 95, 147–181.
- Duraffour, Antoine. 1932. Phénomènes généraux d'évolution phonétique dans les parlers franco-provençaux d'après le parler de Vaux-en-Bugey (Ain), *Revue de Linguistique Romane* 8, 1–354.
- Jones, Mari C. 2001. *Jersey Norman French. A Linguistic Study of an Obsolescent Dialect*. Oxford: Blackwell.

- Josserand, Jérôme-Frédéric. 2003. Conquête, survie et disparition: Italien, français et francoprovençal en Vallée d'Aoste, *Studia Romanica Upsaliensia*, 68. Sweden: Uppsala Universitet.
- Kasstan, Jonathan R. 2014. Quelle orthographe pour les patois ?, *Revue l'Amis du Patois* 158(2), 23–28.
- Martin, Jean-Baptiste. 1990. Frankoprovenzalish – Francoprovençal, *Lexikon der Romanistischen Linguistik* 1, 671–685.
- Martin, Jean-Baptiste. 2002. Graphie du francoprovençal : bref état des lieux. In: Dominique Caubet, Salem Chaker & Jean Sibille (eds.), *Codification des langues de France. Actes du Colloque « Les langues de France et leur codification » Ecrits divers – Ecrits ouverts* (Paris – Inalco : 29 – 31 mai 2000). Paris : L'Harmattan, 77–83.
- Martin, Jean-Baptiste. 2006. *Le Lyonnais de poche*. Chennevières-sur-Marne: Assimil.
- Matthey, Marinette & Manuel Meune. 2012. Anthologie de textes romands en francoprovençal, *Revue transatlantique d'études suisses* 2, 107–122.
- Nagy, Naomi. 1996. Language contact and language change in the Faetar speech community. University of Pennsylvania: IRCS.
- Nagy, Naomi. 2011. Lexical change and language contact: Faetar in Italy and Canada. *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 15(3), 366–382.
- Pannatier, Gisèle. 1999. Par-dessus les Alpes: le patois, facteur d'identité culturelle, *Histoire des Alpes – Storia delle Alpi – Geschichte der Alpen* 4, 155–165.
- Salminen, Tapani. 2007. Europe and North Asia. In: Christopher Moseley (ed.), *Encyclopaedia of the World's Endangered Languages*. London: Routledge, 211–282.

- Stich, Dominique, Xavier Gouvert & Alain Favre. 2003. *Dictionnaire des mots de base du francoprovençal. Orthographe ORB supradialectale standardisée*. Thonon-Les-Bains: Éditions Le Carré.
- Tuaillon, Gaston. 1967. Principes pour distinguer français et francoprovençal, *Revue de Linguistique Romane* 31, 292–296.
- Tuaillon, Gaston. 1988. Le francoprovençal. Langue oubliée. In: Geneviève Vermes (ed.), *Vingt-cinq communautés linguistiques de la France, Tome 1*. Paris: L’Harmattan, 188–207.
- Tuaillon, Gaston. 1993. Faut-il, dans l’ensemble Gallo-Roman, distinguer une famille linguistique pour le francoprovençal ? In: Hervé Guillourel and Jean Sibille (eds.), *Langues, dialectes et écriture (Les langues romanes de France)*, Actes du Colloque de Nanterre des 16, 17 et 18 avril 1992. Paris: I.E.O. : I.P.I.E, 142–149.
- Tuaillon, Gaston. 2004. Une orthographe pour les patois ?, *Nouvelles du Centre d’Études Francoprovençales René Willien* 49, 7–10.
- Tuaillon, Gaston. 2007. *Le francoprovençal. Tome Premier*. Aosta Valley: Musumeci Éditeur.
- Villefranche, Jean-Melchior. 1891. *Essai de grammaire du patois Lyonnais*. Bourg: Imprimerie J.-M. Villefranche.
-
- ¹ Orthographic forms can be dissimilar to transcribed forms; see section on ‘phonetic transcription’.
- ² Historically, Latin C intervocalically voiced to G in Gallo-Romance, i.e. MANDUCARE > *mangier*.
- ³ In the Lyonnais varieties of Francoprovençal, the final vowel is reduced to [ə] in the plurals of feminine singular nouns where a singular ends in /i/ (*clloche* [‘kjɔʃi] ‘bell’ and *clloches* [‘kjɔʃə] ‘bells’).

⁴ The author acknowledges that these are CV units, strictly speaking, but adheres to the tradition that they are considered diphthongs in the Romance linguistics literature.