

«Городской вариант» Аляскинского русского: диалект города Кодьяк On the Kodiak Town variety of Alaskan Russian

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Alaskan Russian (AR)



- Variety of Russian that developed in Alaska at the time of Russian America
- Different from any variety of "Continental Russian"
- Locations:
 - Ninilchik Russian (NR) ~ Kenai Peninsula Russian
 - Kodiak Town Russian (KTR) ~ Kodiak (Afognak, Ouzinkie) Russian
 - *Kenai Town Russian
 - *Pribilof Russian
 - *Aleutians Russian
 - *Sitka Russian
 - ? Interior Alaska Russian
 - ? Nanwalek/Seldovia Russian

Alaskan Russian: places



History: important dates

- 1740s - first visits of Russians to Alaska
- 1792 - St. Paul's Harbor (presently: **Kodiak**) was established as the capital of Russian America
- 1799 - establishment of Russian American Company, a mixed governmental-entrepreneurial formation
- 1840s - **Ninilchik**, **Afognak** and **Ouzinkie** settlements for RAC retirees are established
- 1867 - Alaska sold to the US
- 1900s - fishing industry in Kodiak archipelago
- 1920s - beginning of massive Americanization of Alaska
- 1941 - Kodiak city becomes center for the Navy in Alaska

Vassily (Bill) Hartman (1930-2020): The last speaker of Kodiak Town AR



- Born (1930) and raised in Kodiak
- His mother only spoke Russian to him
- Did not know English before school
- **The last speaker of Kodiak Town Russian**
- Remarkable person and talented consultant



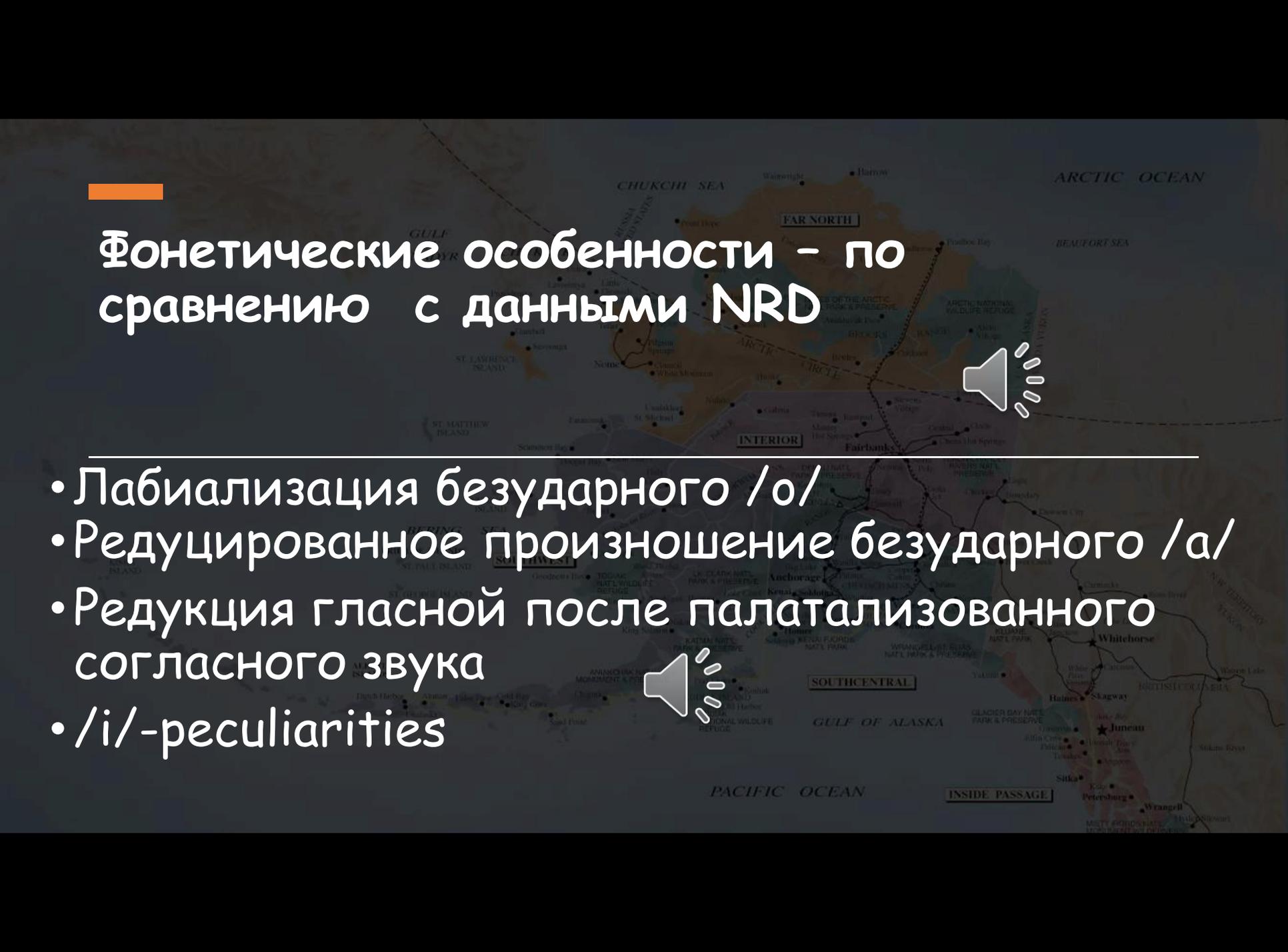
A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair and sunglasses, wearing a dark jacket with a fur-lined hood. He is looking slightly to the left. The background is a blue and white checkered pattern. There are decorative orange and grey bars at the top and bottom of the page.

Bill Hartman

Russian language in his life

Artamonov Alexander | Nedayhleb Polina |
Reshetnikova Anastasia

Project by students of the *MP Language
Policy in the super-diversity contexts*, NRU
HSE



Фонетические особенности – по сравнению с данными NRD

- Лабиализация безударного /o/
- Редуцированное произношение безударного /a/
- Редукция гласной после палатализованного согласного звука
- /i/-peculiarities



2. Редукция гласных после палатализованных согласных

- [sʲɛ] → [sʲə]: balawáls'a, bayáls'a
- [wʲ] → [wʲ]: déw'it'



3. /i/-peculiarities

- Nawirhú - w'ílka, sin - s'istrá, kárti - zdrástvuyt'I
 - как в КР
- KTR rababút'si" vs NR "rababúts
- KTR rukawít'si" vs NR "rakawítsi
- Палатализованные смычные vs аффрикаты
[tʃ] → [tʃ]:
rib'it'íshk'i ~ rib'ichíshk'i, t'izhólaya ~ chizhólaya



Kodiak Town Russian: Other speakers ?

- Iver Malutin (1931-2014) -recordings by E. V. Golovko (2009)
- From Iver's interview in 2009: "I was born at Kodiak, Alaska, on June 30, 1931. My mother's name was Pelegay A. (Lehktonin) Malutin. She was born at Afognak, Alaska, in 1892. Her grandfather was Jacob Lehktonin, manager for the Russian American company. He was in charge of all sea otter hunters.
My dad was Senafowt Malutin, born at Afognak in 1890. His grandfather was from Kiev, Russia. His grandfather and his grandfather's brother came with Baranof in 1794. Both Lehktonin and Malutin married native women from Afognak. My dad was reading and writing the Aleut language fluently in 1931 (according to Dr. Lydia Black). His only schooling was at Afognak Russian School.
My dad, mother and three children moved to Kodiak in 1917 to work with the Russian Church of which my dad was a choir director and robed reader."
 - Kodiak Daily Mirror (AK) - Wednesday, July 16, 2014



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■ A



■ B



■ C





■ A BH



■ B IM



■ C SC



Raisa Baldwin

- Born (1931) and raised in Kodiak
- Rememberer of Kodiak Town Russian
- Enlightened person with interest in language



Raisa Baldwin



- Kodiak Town Russian words
 - *arábak* 'black person' - also Iver Malutin
 - *chúchila* 'monument'
- Surprisingly exact and specific knowledge of preserved formulaic expressions
 - *a pusháy*
 - *s bógam*

Kodiak Town Russian

- Minor differences from NR
- Special articulatory setting
- Special phonetic realization of palatalized consonants
 - Especially /r/, /w/, /n/
- Variation within an individual idiolect 
 - [v] ~ [w], [h] ~ [x], [r] ~ [R]
- In KTR
 - Phonetic realization of /s/ and /r/ in front of /e/ is softer than in NR.
 - Phonetic realization of /d'/ and /n'/ in front of /e/ is harder than in NR
- In KTR the labialized copula *bul* has an optional pronunciation as *b'il*.
- Also optional is the retention of unstressed /o/.

Kodiak Town Russian



- New lexical items
 - *sól'its*, cf. *сольца*
 - *l'it'éts* and *l'itúchka*- clear 20th century neologisms for 'airplane'
 - *chayknút'* - rare dialectal relict
- Alutiiq words not attested in NR
 - *tamúk* 'yukola', *pag'ílk'i* 'driftwood'
- Grammar:
 - Polite 2Pl forms and patronymics
 - The case system is reduced to a higher degree than in NR
 - *Ya hachú parézhit' éta dóska.*
 - The same is true of gender agreement and tenses
 - To the contrary, verbal aspect differences are more articulated.



Conclusions

- AR is a unique postcolonial variety of Russian
 - In fact, several varieties with minor differences
- Kodiak Town Russian is a distinct and new (cf. Krauss 1996) dialect
 - The majority of population was speaking Russian as their first language in 1867 and up to 1920s (Daly, October 1985 report, Malutin 2009)
- KTR has features of more profound creolization.
- At the same time, it had a relatively long history of use in the urban setting, where AR was spoken in a broader set of functional domains compared to the Ninilchik village.
 - Creoles, residents of Kodiak town, were bilingual, or even trilingual in Alaskan Russian, Alutiiq, and eventually, English, and could write in these languages (Oleksa 1990).
- Factors that sped up its loss
 - Fishing industry, WWII, 1964 earthquake
 - Competition with Alutiiq, at least for some families

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Thank you for your
attention!