

# Adapted Cyrillic for the Polish Language

## Достосована Цирылица для Ђзыка Польского

Gustek

Густэк

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
12 червца 2023 р.

## Contents

Introduction	1
1 Basic Consonants	2
2 Soft and Hard Vowels	2
3 Palatalizing Consonants	3
4 Soft and Hard Signs	4
4.1 Soft Sign . . . . .	4
4.2 Hard Sign . . . . .	4
5 Affricates, Retroflex Fricatives and Velar Plosives	4
6 Orthographic Particularities	4
7 Full Alphabet	5
8 Examples	6

## Introduction

This proposal of a Cyrillic writing system for the Polish language has several motivations:

- a) Polish and other Lechitic languages belong to the family of Western Slavic languages, which is the closest to Eastern Slavic languages, all of which use the Cyrillic script as their writing system. Moreover, all the known ancestors of Slavic languages used Cyrillic (and before that, Glagolitic) as their only writing system.
- b) Changing the writing system to one entirely alien to Western languages forces integration of loan words that are today unintegrated, either by conserving their original orthography or by violating the orthography rules — see for instance *slapstick* or *czip*.

- c) The change of writing system allows for the creation of further distance from Western Europe and the West in general, thus allowing Poland to reinstate its Eastern European and Slavic identity.
- d) The change of writing system is the first step towards purification of the language from Western influence, most notably in terms of un-necessary loanwords — see *akceptować* or *cynamon* — of English, French, Latin, Italian or German origin, and making this purification last in time by preventing the importation of words, and thus of ideas from the decadent Western culture, further stating the Slavic nature of the Polish people, language and culture, as a culture that does not need to borrow words that do not fit neither the history nor the phonology of the Polish language in order to express ideas. Slavic grammar is one of the most advanced grammatical systems in the world, and it becomes almost perfect when combined with purely Slavic lexicon.

The orthography hereby proposed is similar to that of Russian, as a) it is the Slavic language to which Polish is lexically closest; b) the Russian and Polish phonological systems are similar in various respects; c) it is best reflecting the etymological history of authentically Slavic words; d) it strengthens the written mutual intelligibility between the peoples of Russia and Poland.

### 1 Basic Consonants

The basic consonants are the same as in Russian:

IPA	/b/	/t͡s/	t͡ʂ	/f/	/g/	/x/	/k/	/m/	/p/	/s/	/v/	/z/
Latin letter	b	c	cz	f	g	h / ch	k	m	p	sz	w	z
Cyrillic letter	Б б	Ц ц	Ч ч	Ф ф	Г г	Х х	К к	М м	П п	Ш ш	В в	Ж ж

Figure 1: Basic consonants

### 2 Soft and Hard Vowels

Every vowel in Polish has a *hard* and a *soft* (or *iotated*) version. Whereas in Polish the latter is written using a digraph, Cyrillic allows for the exclusive use of monographs for both the hard and soft version of the vowel.

Hard		Soft	
Latin	Cyrillic	Latin	Cyrillic
a	А а	ia, ja	Я я
e	Э э	ie, je	Е е
ę	А а	ię, ję	ІА ІА*
o	О о†	io, jo	Ё ё
ą	Ж ж	ia, ja	ІЖ ІЖ
u	У у	iu, ju	Ю ю
y	Ы ы	i	И и†

Figure 2: Cyrillic hard/soft vowels table

\* when representing an occurrence of *ię/ję* where, in the Russian language, it has been replaced by *я*, using the *yat* (Ѣ/ѣ) instead of the *small iotated yus* (ІА/Іа) is possible and recommended – for instance, the word *język* (Russian: *язык*) can be written either *ъзык* or *ІАзык*.

†the *ó* and *jó* letters are conflated with *o* and *io/jo* given their etymological equivalence and the lack of satisfying graphs in the Cyrillic script to represent the former.

‡the ⟨ji⟩ sequence, almost exclusively used in the genitive inflection of *-cja* ending words, is written ⟨ии⟩.

### 3 Palatalizing Consonants

Some consonants are *palatalizing*, meaning the sound they represent changes depending on whether or not the following vowel is soft or hard. Those consonants are /s/, /t/, /d/, /w/, /n/ and /r/, respectively palatalizing to /ɕ/, /tɕ/, /dɕ/, /ɲ/ and /z/. Whereas in Polish /t/ and /tɕ/, /d/ and /dɕ/ and /r/ and /z/ are represented by different base letters, they are the same in the Cyrillic orthography.

Latin	Cyrillic
s, ś	С с
t, ć	Т т
d, dź	Д д
ł, l	Л л
n, ń	Н н
r, rz	Р р

Figure 3: Palatalizing consonants

The pronunciation of those letters entirely derives from the following vowel or sign, for instance:

- сэлэр – seler / серп – sierp
- тэраз – teraz / Тебе – Ciebie
- даны – dany / дядэк – dziadek
- Лотва – Łotwa / Литва – Litwa
- навэт – nawet / небо – niebo
- ровэр – rower / речь – rzecz

Some consonants – namely ⟨л⟩, ⟨н⟩, ⟨м⟩, ⟨с⟩ and ⟨т⟩ – *transmit* palatalization to the preceding consonant, except if it is ⟨д⟩, thus avoiding un-necessarily verbose soft signs, for instance:

- *ślimak* is written *слимак* and not *сьлимак*
- *śniadanie* is written *снядание* and not *сьнядание*
- *śmierć* is written *смерть* and not *сьмерть*

## 4 Soft and Hard Signs

### 4.1 Soft Sign

The soft sign simulates a soft vowel, thus forcing palatalization of the preceding consonants, often at the end of words but also before other consonants. In Latin Polish, it is analog to the acute accent on top of ⟨ś⟩, ⟨ź⟩, ⟨ń⟩ or ⟨ć⟩ or the *z* in the digraph ⟨rz⟩. For instance, *nosić* becomes *носятъ*, *dość* becomes *достъ* and *sekretarz* becomes *сэкрэтаръ*.

The soft sign is also placed behind feminine words ending with a consonant to indicate their gender when written, although it has no influence on pronunciation. For instance, *noc* is written *ноуць* and *rzecz* is written *речъ*. This a) reinforces orthographic similarity with Russian and b) makes possible to distinguish between *moc* (*моуць* – “force”) and *móc* (*моу* – “to be able to”).

### 4.2 Hard Sign

The hard sign, on the contrary, is used to *prevent* palatalization where it would normally occur. For instance, the perfective *zjeść* is written as *зѣсть* and not as *зестъ*, because the latter would be pronounced *zieść* /zɛɕtɕ/, which is incorrect. It also cancels palatalization with the following word: for instance, „z Jarosława” can be written as «зъ Ярославъ».

## 5 Affricates, Retroflex Fricatives and Velar Plosives

⟨e⟩ and ⟨y⟩, when in front of all affricates – ⟨cz⟩, ⟨c⟩ and ⟨dź⟩ – retroflex fricatives – ⟨sz⟩ and ⟨ż⟩ – and velar plosives – ⟨k⟩ and ⟨g⟩ – are written in their *soft* form, namely ⟨e⟩ and ⟨и⟩, although the latter, except in front of ⟨k⟩ and ⟨g⟩, is pronounced as ⟨ы⟩ /i/ and not as ⟨и⟩ /i/.

## 6 Orthographic Particularities

The ⟨szcz⟩ digraph can be written in two different ways:

- ⟨сч⟩ when in front of a word, as in *счѣсте* (*szczęście*)
- ⟨щ⟩ when inside or at the end of a word, as in *ещѣ* (*jeszcze*)

It is possible to add an unpronounced ⟨й⟩ at the end of adjectives – for instance, *dobry* can be written *добрый* and *bliski* can be written *блискый*.

*-cja* endings are to be written *-циѧ* in order to preserve a phonetically correct singular genitive ending in *-циѧ*, thus pronounced /tɕji/ instead of /tɕi/ – for instance, *organizacja* is written *организаѧиѧ*.

*-nie* endings are to be written *-ниѧ* in order to preserve etymology – for instance, *oczyszczenie* is written *очищѧение*.

In some occasions, ⟨h⟩ is transcribed to ⟨г⟩, such as *hymn* becoming *гимн* or *herb* becoming *герб*, to follow the Russian orthography. It can also be applied to the cyrillization of German names, such as *Hamburg*, transliterated *Гамбург*.

Ordinal numbers written with digits, for instance in dates, are to be written suffixed by a hyphen followed by the last syllable of the written-out-in-full form.

Latin	Cyrillic	Abridged Cyrillic
pierwszy	перв <sup>ш</sup> ий	1-ш <sup>й</sup>
drugi	дру <sup>г</sup> ий	2-г <sup>й</sup>
trzeci	тре <sup>т</sup> ий	3-т <sup>й</sup>
czwarty	чвар <sup>т</sup> ый	4-т <sup>й</sup>
...	...	...
setny	сэт <sup>н</sup> ый	100-н <sup>й</sup>

Figure 4: Ordinal numbers endings

When the number is inflected, the inflectional suffix is used instead of the last syllable, for instance, „pierwszego” would become «1-шего».

## 7 Full Alphabet

А а    Б б    В в    Г г    Д д    Е е    Ё ё    Ж ж    З з    И и  
 Й й    Ъ ъ    К к    Л л    М м    Н н    О о    П п    Р р    С с  
 Т т    У у    Ф ф    Х х    Ц ц    Ч ч    Ш ш    Щ щ    Ъ ъ    Ы ы  
       Ь ь    Э э    Ю ю    Я я    Ѧ ѧ    Ѩ ѩ    Ѫ ѫ    Ѭ ѭ

Figure 5: Full alphabet, in order

## 8 Examples

### **Hymn Polski** *Mazurek Dąbrowskiego*

Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła,  
Kiedy my żyjemy.  
Co nam obca przemoc wzięła,  
Szablą odbierzemy.

Marsz, marsz, Dąbrowski,  
Z ziemi włoskiej do Polski.  
Za twoim przewodem,  
Złączym się z narodem.

Przejdziem Wisłę, przejdziem Wartę,  
Będziem Polakami.  
Dał nam przykład Bonaparte,  
Jak zwyciężać mamy.

Marsz, marsz, Dąbrowski...

Jak Czarniecki do Poznania,  
Po szwedzkim zaborze.  
Dla ojczyzny ratowania,  
Wrócim się przez morze.

Marsz, marsz, Dąbrowski...

### **Гимн Польски** *Мазурэк Джбровского*

Еще Польша не згинала,  
Кеды мы жиемы  
Цо нам обца премоць взъла,  
Шабльж одберемы.

Марш, марш, Джбровски(й),  
З земи włoskiej до Польски.  
За твоим преводэм,  
Злжчим сь з народэм.

Прейдем Висль, преидем Варта,  
Вадем Поляками.  
Дал нам приклад Бонапартэ,  
Як звытжжать мамы.

Марш, марш, Джбровски(й)...

Як Чарнецки(й) до Познаня,  
По шведзким заборе.  
Для ойчизны ратования,  
Вротим сь през море.

Марш, марш, Джбровски(й)...

Figure 6: Polish national anthem