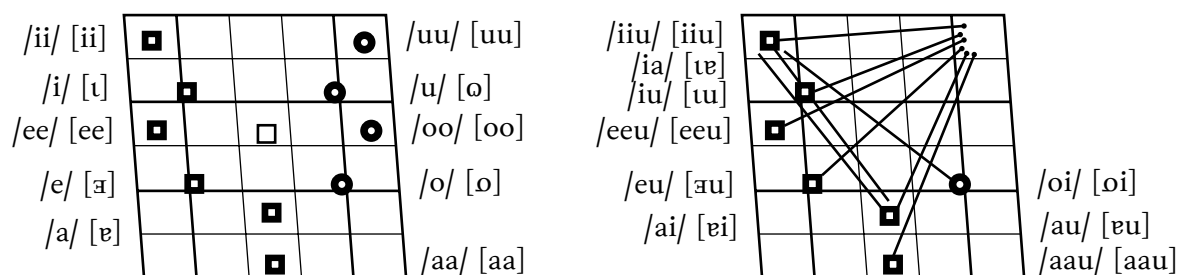


Old Irish Pronunciation

Old Irish (Celtic). Phonemically, it is convenient to consider the position in the syllable (and in the word) an important determining factor for the occurrence of the very many consonant taxophones. Thus, a pre-nuclear or post-nuclear position is relevant, for plain (or unlenited) and lenited /C/, as well.

As in Modern Irish, of course, we have a functional opposition between simple /C/ and /Cj/ clusters. The different consonant taxophones inevitably represent a range of possibilities, with social significance too, between palatalized phones, on the one hand, and more or less non-palatalized ones, on the other hand: [ç, C, Ç, Ć].

Stress was at the beginning of words, except when prefixes were present.



- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| na [n̪a] [na] [na̪] | na [n̪a] [na̪] [na] | [pa] na [n̪a] |
| m [m̪a] [ma] [ma̪] | n [n̪a] [na̪] [na] | [pa] n̪ [n̪a] |
| p b [p̪b] [pb] [p̪b̪] | t d [t̪d] [td] [t̪d̪] | [c̪j] k g [k̪g] |
| f v [f̪v] [fv] [f̪v̪] | θ s ð [θ̪s̪ð̪] [θ̪s̪ð̪] | [ç̪j] x ç [x̪ç̪] |
| | | z-ɾ [z̪-ɾ̪] [z̪-ɾ̪] [z̪-ɾ̪] |
| | | [h̪] j [h̪] [h̪] h |
| | | r-l [r̪-l̪] [r̪-l̪] [r̪-l̪] |

