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## Forelingual obstruents of the Plautdietsch Mennonite language

## Abstract

This article aims to identify the inventory of forelingual obstruent phonemes in the Plautdietsch Mennonite language, to describe their distinctive and integral features and distribution patterns. In Siberia, Plautdietsch can be heard in villages considered German: Polevoye, Protasovo, Redkaja Dubrava in the Altai Region; Solntsevka, Mirolyubovka, Petrovka in the Omsk Region; in the Novosibirsk Region – the village Neudachino. Plautdietsch doesn't have written form, therefore, its phonetics can be studied only by addressing oral speech. The paper uses the material obtained from 13 native speakers from Neudachino village, Novosibirsk Region. Distributive analysis was used to distinguish the forelingual phonemes in the consonants inventory. Auditive and acoustic methods were used to examine the phonetic patterns of the consonants. As a result, 10 phonemes were identified: stops – /t/, /t'/, /d/, /d'/; forelingual /s/, /z/ with round constriction; forelingual /ʃ/, /ʒ/ with flat constriction, affricates – /tʃ/, /ts/.

Keywords: Plautdietsch, Mennonite language, consonantism, forelingual phonemes, experimental phonetics

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