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Velarization in the Buryat language: Somatic and acoustic data

Abstract

This article presents the results of somatic and acoustic study of consonants velarization in the Buryat language. Previously, velarization in this language was not specifically addressed using experimental phonetic research methods. The material for the study was recorded from four native speakers. As a result, two types of velarization were identified: “soft” and “hard”. “Soft” velarization was found for consonants in soft-order words, and “hard” velarization most often appeared in hard-order words, although for some types of consonants it was identified in soft-order words. Based on the data obtained, velarization can be defined as the articulation of consonant hardness increase. “Hard” velarization was regularly accompanied by radicalization, less often by uvularization both enhancing the “coarseness” of oral speech. Thus, the synergy of parameters is observed when articulating hard consonants in Buryat.

Keywords: Buryat language, consonant system, experimental phonetics, MRI, velarization, radicalization, uvularization

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For citation: Urtegeshev, N. S. (2023). Velyarizatsiya v buryatskom yazyke: po somaticheskim i akusticheskim dannym [Velarization in the Buryat language: Somatic and acoustic data]. *Teoreticheskaya i prikladnaya lingvistika* [Theoretical and Applied Linguistics], 9 (3), 165–181. https://doi.org/10.22250/24107190_2023_9_3_165