

## **A typology of the Slavic sandhi**

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In Slavic languages sandhi is traditionally understood as voicing-devoicing assimilation of obstruents. With regard to this problem the Slavic linguistic area is not homogeneous. Slavic languages differ by: 1. the presence vs. lack of sandhi; 2. the language level by which the sandhi processes are ruled (phonetic vs. morphemic level); 3. form of realization of sandhi (voicing vs. devoicing sandhi); 4. the degree of consistency of the sandhi processes. Generally when sandhi is a phonetic process it is less consistent; when it is a rule violations of general rules are not met. Various kinds of realization of sandhi are due to the replacement of the voiced-voiceless opposition of obstruents by the opposition tense-lax in the history of Slavic languages (Andersen 1986). Apparently such a situation existed in the past on the broad strip of the Slavic area consisting of Lower Sorbian, a small part of Kashubian, South-Western Polish, Slovak, Ukrainian and a part of Byelorussian dialects. The area with non-consistent sandhi (Macedonian) presents a transitional stage between the stage with no sandhi at all (Serbian) and sandhi defined as a set of morphemic rules (the remaining Slavic languages). Certain exceptions or hesitations in realization of general sandhi rules may regard: 1. contexts containing [v] which in a half of Slavic languages changed into an obstruent, but partly retained distributional properties of a sonant; 2. idioms located on the area where also another language, with a different type of sandhi, is in use (as part of Croatian and Kajkavian).

### **References:**

Andersen H. 1986, Sandhi and prosody: reconstruction and typology, w: Sandhi phenomena in the languages of Europe, ed. H.Andersen, Berlin. Mouton de Gruyter, 231-246.