Structure of Lithuanian
Class 01: The Lithuanian language. The sounds of Lithuanian

1 Introduction

Lithuanian (Lith. lietuvių kalba [lietuvių kalba]) is an Indo-European language spoken by some 3 million people in and around Lithuania. There are also significant Lithuanian-speaking communities in the US, Canada and the UK due to big waves of emigration from Lithuania in the 1940’s and the 1990’s. The closest living relative of Lithuanian is Latvian, although the two languages are not mutually intelligible. Also, there is no dialectal continuum at the border between the two countries (c.f. Ukraine/Poland or Germany/Netherlands), but rather an abrupt switch to a very different variety.

Some basic facts about Lithuanian are listed below:

- Classification: Indo-European → Balto-Slavic → Baltic → East Baltic;
- Lithuanian is a ‘satem’ language: Lt. [j]irdis ‘heart’ vs Gk. [kar]δja ‘heart’;
- Divided into High and Low Lithuanian, with many subdialects. Some of the dialects show only limited mutual intelligibility;
- The standard language is based on central High Lithuanian, as spoken around the city of Kaunas. Its prescriptive norms are strictly regulated by the Lithuanian Language Committee (lietuvių kalbos komisija);
- The system of word accent is very complex and governed by multiple rules and principles. The position of stress in a word frequently changes as it is declined or conjugated;
- Lithuanian is also a pitch-accent language. Accented heavy syllables are divided into two types: falling and rising. Acoustically, intensity, segmental quality, length and F0 levels all play a role in distinguishing the two priegaiðës ‘intonations’;
- Inflectional morphology plays a big role in the grammar of Lithuanian. Nominals inflect for gender, number, case and sometimes definiteness. Verbs have a system of synthetic and periphrastic tense forms. There is subject agreement in person, number and gender (participial forms only);
- The neutral word order in Lithuanian is SVO. However, extensive scrambling is frequently found since nominal case usually helps determine a DP’s role in a sentence;
- Lithuanian is moderately pro-drop, with pronominal subjects surfacing very frequently without additional emphasis, but they can almost always be omitted.
2 Phonetics and Phonology

2.1 The Consonants: an Overview

Table 1 lists the Lithuanian consonant phonemes. Frequently occurring allophones are enclosed in square brackets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Labial</th>
<th>Dental/Alveolar</th>
<th>Post-Alveolar</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plosive</td>
<td>p p̣</td>
<td>t [t̄]</td>
<td>tʃ t̄</td>
<td>k ḳ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b ḅ</td>
<td>d [d̄]</td>
<td></td>
<td>g g̣</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affricate</td>
<td>ts tṣ</td>
<td>tʃ t̄</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal</td>
<td>m ṃ</td>
<td>n ṇ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[ŋ ŋ̣]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fricative</td>
<td>v ṿ</td>
<td>s ṣ</td>
<td>f f̣</td>
<td></td>
<td>(x x̣)</td>
<td>(y ỵ̃)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(F f̣̣)</td>
<td>z ẓ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lateral Appr.</td>
<td>l ḷ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ḷ̣</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Appr.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>j</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>r ṛ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The consonants enclosed in round parentheses occur only in loanwords:

1) fazė [fazə:ɛ] ‘phase’  
   Bachas [ˈbaːxes] ‘Bach’  
   himnas [ˈɪm̩nas] ‘hymn’

The phonemes marked in gray are rare and restricted primarily to dialectal words, toponyms and personal names.

The trills, especially the palatalized one, are often realized as taps in fast speech:

2) geras [ˈɡæːr̩s] ‘good’  
   griūti [ɡेɾ̩t̄i] ‘to collapse’

2.2 Hard and Soft Consonants

Most consonants have phonemic palatalized counterparts:

3) ramu /rəˈmuː/  
   calm.NOM.SG.N ↔ ramiu /rəˈmiuː/  
   calm.INSTR.SG.M  
   kasau /kəˈseʊ/  
   scratch.PRS.1SG ↔ kasiau /kəˈsəuː/  
   scratch.PST.1SG

This contrast applies only to positions before back vowels. In other positions, it is neutralized as follows:
• Before underlyingly front vowels, all consonants are automatically palatalized:

\[(4) \text{mėlynas} /\text{me:li:nas} /\rightarrow [\text{m}j\text{e:l}j\text{i:nas}] \text{‘blue’}\]

• In a C₁C₂ sequence, C₁ inherits the palatal features from C₂:

\[(5) \text{alpstu} /\text{elps’tu} /\rightarrow [\text{e}lps’tu] \text{‘I’m fainting’}\]
\[\text{alksnis} /\text{elksnìs} /\rightarrow [\text{e}lksnìs] \text{‘alder (tree)’}\]

• Word-finally, only non-palatalized consonants are possible:

\[(6) \text{rasiu} [\text{r}5\text{s}j\text{U}] \text{‘I will find’}\]
\[\text{ras} [\text{r}5\text{s}] \text{‘he/they will find’}\]

The (lightly) palatalized consonants [ṫ, ḋ] are not separate phonemes since they only occur after underlyingly front vowels (more on this below):

\[(7) \text{tyras} /\text{ti:r5s} /\rightarrow [\text{tj}i:r5s] \text{‘pure’}\]
\[\text{dėti} /\text{de:tj} /\rightarrow [\text{d}j\text{e:tj}] \text{‘to put’}\]

In case palatalization is phonemic (e.g. triggered by a particular affix), /t/ and /d/ change into /ṫ/ and /ḋ/ respectively:

\[(8) \text{Gyt+io} /\text{gi:t+jO:} /\rightarrow [\text{g}j\text{i:t}j\text{O:}] \text{‘Gytis.gen.sg’}\]

Thus, the palatalized counterparts of both /t, d/ and /ṫ, ḋ/ are – in phonemic terms – /ṫ, ḋ/. Since the non-palatalized consonants /t/, /d/ are rare and practically never appear stem-finally in paradigms where the affixes alternate between such that do trigger phonemic palatalization\(^1\) and such that do not, this asymmetry does not disrupt the phonological system of the language.

Non-palatalized consonants are often velarized. This is especially noticeable in case of /l/ which is realized as [l̩] (like the ‘dark’ [l] in American English):

\[(9) /\text{lup5} /\rightarrow [[\text{l}\text{up}5]] \text{‘lip’}\]  

\[2.3 \text{ Consonantal Processes}\]

Although the morphemic structure of most Lithuanian words restricts word-final consonants to /t/, /s/, /k/, /m/ and /n/, some adverbs and functional words end in other consonants, where one can observe the process of word-final devoicing:

\(^{1}\) Remember that affixes beginning with underlyingly front vowels will trigger palatalization that is phonemically non-significant.
\(^{2}\) Double square brackets will be used to indicate narrow phonetic transcriptions.
Other processes related to laryngeal features include regressive voicing assimilation of obstruents before other obstruents:

(11) \( \text{kas} + \text{dam} + \text{as} \) /\text{kæs+dæm+æs}/ \rightarrow [\text{kæz}dæmæs] ‘while digging’

BUT:

\( \text{kæs} + \text{n} + \text{is} \) /\text{kæs+n+is}/ \rightarrow [\text{kæz}næs], *[\text{kæz}næs] ‘piece’

\( \text{slapt} + \text{as} \) /\text{slæpt+æs}/ \rightarrow [\text{slæptæs}], *[\text{zlarptæs}] ‘secret (adj)’

Dissimilation is triggered when two coronal stops collide:

(12) \( \text{ved} + \text{a} \) /\text{væd+a}/ \rightarrow [\text{vædæ}] ‘he leads’

\( \text{ved} + \text{ti} \) /\text{væd+ti}/ \rightarrow [\text{vædæti}] ‘to lead’

A sequence of the type CsC is simplified as follows:

(13) \( \text{klyd} + \text{st} + \text{a} \) /\text{kli:d+st+æ}/ \rightarrow [\text{k(\( j \))li:stæ}] ‘he makes a mistake’

A coronal non-distributed fricative becomes distributed before a distributed fricative/africate:

(14) \( \text{ves} + \text{čiau} \) /\text{væs+čiu}/ \rightarrow [\text{væsčiu}] ‘I would lead’

A nasal assimilates in its place of articulation to a following plosive:

(15) \( \text{pin} + \text{k} \) /\text{pɪn+k}/ \rightarrow [\text{pɪnk}] ‘weave! (imp)’

\( \text{šla}<\text{n}>\text{p} + \text{a} \) /\text{ʃla<n>p+a}/ \rightarrow [\text{ʃlempa}] ‘it gets wet’

A nasal in a coda position typically deletes before a fricative or a liquid, lengthening the preceding vowel (up until about 100 years ago, these lengthened vowels were also nasalized):

(16) \( \text{siunt} + \text{ti} \) /\text{sɪʊnt+ti}/ \rightarrow [\text{sɪʊntti}] ‘to send’

\( \text{brend} + \text{ti} \) /\text{brend+ti}/ \rightarrow [\text{brendti}] ‘to mature’

BUT:

\( \text{siunt} + \text{ju} \) /\text{sɪʊnt+ju}/ \rightarrow [\text{sɪʊntju}] ‘I am sending’

\( \text{brend} + \text{o} \) /\text{brend+ɔ}/ \rightarrow [\text{brendɔ}] ‘(s)he matured’

As the example above shows, the spirantization of /t/ feeds nasal absorption.

\[^{3}\] The long [æ] will be explained in the next section.
There is no gemination in Lithuanian, and double consonants are never written.

### 2.4 The Vowels: an Overview

#### Table 2: The vowels of Lithuanian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Front</th>
<th>Back</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High [+ATR]</td>
<td>i:</td>
<td>u:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High [-ATR]</td>
<td>u'</td>
<td>u'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid [+ATR]</td>
<td>e: (e)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid [-ATR]</td>
<td>a: (a)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low (near-open)</td>
<td>æ</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low (open)</td>
<td>æ:</td>
<td>a:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The vowels /æ:/ and /æ/ are phonetically central. Phonologically, they are simply [+back] and pattern with the rest of the back vowels;
- The front mid vowel is phonetically tense, while the back mid vowel is lax. This is merely a phonetic difference;
- The short back vowel /ɔ/ is used only in loanwords and a couple of interjections:

(17) policija [pɔˈlits̪jɔ] police

- The short vowel /æ/ is phonetically often a (lowered) mid vowel – [ɛ] – but it patterns with low vowels phonologically, hence its location in the chart;
- Many Lithuanians have a short /e/ (which may be somewhat lower than its long counterpart) in addition to /æ/, which they use in loanwords, such as telefonas [tɛləˈfɔnas] ‘telephone’. However, for many speakers, the distinction does not exist and only /æ/ is used;
- The two vowels with off-glides – /u' / and /u' / – behave as single phonemes and are therefore included in the chart. All other diphthongs are bi-phonemic (see below).

### 2.5 Vocalic Processes

The [+back] distinction is neutralized in low vowels in non-initial positions. After non-palatalized consonants, /æ:/ and /e/ are used. Otherwise, it’s always [æ:] and [ɛ]:

(18) /sʲʊnt̪+j+v+mæ/ → [sʲʊnt̪fæm̩æ] ‘we send’

4 Further notated as simply /ɛ/ and /ɔ/ without superscripting.
Normally, a surface sequence of the type \([C\text{æ}]\) can be traced back to one of two possible underlying representations: \(/C\text{æ}/\) (underlying front vowel, automatic palatalization) and \(/Cj\)/ or \(/Cj\)/ (underlying back low vowel fronted due to underlingly palatalized consonant). In case the consonant is a coronal stop, there is going to be a surface difference. After an underlingly front vowel, \(/t/\) and \(/d/\) will palatalize but will not turn into affricates. In case they are palatalized underlingly, \([t\text{ß}]\) and \([d\text{ß}]\) will appear on the surface:

(19) \([t\text{æ}] ← /\text{ta}/\)
\([t\text{ß}æ] ← /t\text{v}/, /t+jv/\)

As was mentioned before, in a word-initial position, the front-back distinction is sound:

(20) ažuolas \(['\text{a}:\text{Z}\text{u}o\text{l}:e:s]‘oak tree’\)
ežeras \(['\text{æ}:\text{Z}\text{e}:r\text{e}:s]‘lake’\)

Back vowels other than \(/a:/\) and \(/e:/\) are phonetically somewhat fronted after palatalized consonants, but they never become fully front vowels:

(21) \(/s\text{u}:\text{sti}/ → [s\text{l}:\text{s}:\text{t}i], *[s\text{l}:\text{y}:\text{s}:\text{t}i]\)

Unstressed long vowels may be somewhat shortened (although the prescriptive norm prefers them to remain fully long), but they always retain their quality (esp. \([+\text{ATR}]\) in high vowels):

(22) pelkė \(['p\text{l}:\text{æ}:\text{l}\text{k}:e:]‘swamp (Nom.Sg)’\)
žąsi \(['\text{z}:\text{s}:\text{i}:\text{i}]‘goose (Acc.Sg)’\)
sūnų \(['\text{s}:\text{u}:\text{nu}:\text{u}]‘son (Acc.Sg)’\)
upę \(['\text{u}:\text{p}:\text{æ}]‘river (Acc.Sg)’\)

Significant shortening and/or quality reduction in unstressed syllables (esp. inflectional endings) is typical for many dialects, but not the standard language. Some speakers of urban vernaculars do it under the influence of Russian.

The short low vowels \(/e/\) and \(/æ/\) are usually lengthened in non-final stressed syllables:

(23) \(/k\text{w}e:\text{so}/ → [k\text{w}\text{e}:\text{so}]‘I dig’\)
\(/k\text{ese}/ → [k\text{æ}:\text{s}:\text{e}]‘he digs’\)

But:
\(/r\text{e}:n\text{k}e/ → [r\text{e}:\text{ŋ}\text{k}e]‘hand’\)

There are some notable morpho-syntactic contexts in which this lengthening rule cannot apply. These will be discussed later in the course.
In addition to the process described above, some vowels change quantitatively and qualitatively depending on the syllable intonation (rising or falling). This will be discussed next week in the class on Lithuanian prosody.

Two short vowels without a consonant in between usually form a diphthong:

(24) /ˈd̪əʊ̯̞ɔ:`/ → [ˈd̪əʊ̯̞ɔ:] ‘he breaks’

Otherwise, the hiatus will be resolved via an epenthetic glide:

(25) /m̩ɜ̯̞+`e:+v/ → [m̩ɜ̯̞`e:jæ] ‘it shrinks’

The diphthongs occurring in native Lithuanian words include the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>laikas [l̩eik̩əs] ‘time’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ui]</td>
<td>laukas [l̩u̯̞k̩əs] ‘field’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[uy]</td>
<td>meile [m̩i̯̞`el̩e] ‘love’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[æi]</td>
<td>muilas [m̩i̯̞<code>i̯̞</code>e] ‘soap’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The so-called ‘semi-diphthongs’ (combinations of a nuclear vowel with a moraic sonorant in the coda position) will be treated in the prosody class.

The approximant /u/ is often vocalized in a coda position, fusing with the preceding vowel. The alternation is visible when a word is morphologically inflected:

(27) /b̩uv+ti/ → [b̩u:t̩i] ‘to be’
    /b̩uv+ɔ:/ → [b̩u:ɔ] ‘was’

3 Palatalization: Summary

The are three sources of palatalization in Lithuanian:

- In lexical roots, there are often underlingly palatalized consonants before back vowels. This contrast is phonemically distinctive. This palatalization is therefore lexical and inherent.

  (28) /ski`ɔg-/ ‘grasshopper’
      /`but-:/ ‘lion’

- Morphological concatenation often produces strings of the type [Cj[–cons, +back]]. In this case, the segment /-j-/ is absorbed into the preceding consonant, producing a palatalized one. The consonant is not underlingly palatalized, but it becomes palatalized during the derivation.
Before underlyingly front vowels, all consonants are automatically palatalized (see above).

In a handful of nominal and verbal roots, the sequence [CjV] is preserved without absorbing the glide into the preceding consonant:

(30) pjauti [ˈpjaʊ̯tɪ] ‘to cut’
    bjaurus [ˈbjaurus] ‘ugly, nasty’

4 The Spelling System

Lithuanian spelling is partly phonemic and partly etymological. The absorptions of nasals in coda positions in front of other consonants and word-finally had led historically to the existence of nasal vowels, which were later de-nasalized and merged with the corresponding long vowels. Therefore, the letters in the pairs į ∼ y and ū ∼ ū represent identical vowels:

(31) būtų [ˈbuːtuː] ‘it would be’
    įdomybė [ˈiːdومةbʲeː] ‘something interesting’

The underlyingly short vowels /u/ and /æ/ may be lengthened in certain configurations (see above), in which case they are indistinguishable from the formerly nasal vowels represented by the letters į and ū:

(32) rasą [ˈraːsąː] ‘dew (Acc.Sg)’
    rasas [ˈrastes] ‘wooden log’
    leša [ˈleːsa] ‘it pecks’
    skęsta [ˈskęstęː] ‘it sinks’

In Table 3, the Lithuanian alphabet is listed. For consonants, only the main realization is listed. Palatalized consonants are handled under the letter Į. Voicing/devoicing, as well as other consonantal processes, are ignored in the table.

The consonants [x] and [dʒ] do not have their own letters and use the digraphs ch and dz:

(33) choras [ˈχoraːs] ‘choir’
    dzīugu [dʒiˈgu] ‘happy’
Table 3: The Lithuanian alphabet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Context / Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A a</td>
<td>[a]</td>
<td>kada ['ka:de] ‘when’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[a:]</td>
<td>under the lengthening condition, i.e. in stressed non-final syllables: kasa ['ka:sa] ‘he dig’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aą</td>
<td>[ą:]</td>
<td>(indicates an absorbed nasal) ažuola ['azu:la] ‘oak’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B b</td>
<td>[b]</td>
<td>bokštas ['bo:ks:tas] ‘tower’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C c</td>
<td>[ts]</td>
<td>caksėti ['ts:s:j:t:j] ‘to tick (clock)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Č č</td>
<td>[tS]</td>
<td>čiuoįti ['tS:UO:&lt;S:j:t:j] ‘to skate (on ice)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D d</td>
<td>[d]</td>
<td>dūmai ['du:m:i] ‘smoke’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E e</td>
<td>[æ]</td>
<td>nešk ['næ:s:k] ‘carry! (imp.)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[æ:]</td>
<td>under the lengthening condition, i.e. in stressed non-final syllables: nešė ['næ:s:e:j] ‘he carried’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ė ė</td>
<td>[e:]</td>
<td>gėlė ['gæ:l:j:e:] ‘flower’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G g</td>
<td>[g]</td>
<td>gauti ['gæ:ut:i] ‘to get’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I i</td>
<td>[i]</td>
<td>kisti ['kæ:sti] ‘to change’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[C]</td>
<td>indicates palatalization of a consonant before a back vowel: brolio ['bro:li:o:] ‘brother (Gen.Sg)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Į į</td>
<td>[i:]</td>
<td>(indicates an absorbed nasal) įdomus ['i:dO:&lt;mUs] ‘interesting’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y y</td>
<td>[i:]</td>
<td>yda ['i:da] ‘flaw’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J j</td>
<td>[j]</td>
<td>joti ['jo:ti] ‘to ride (a horse)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K k</td>
<td>[k]</td>
<td>kąsti ['ka:sti] ‘to bite’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M m</td>
<td>[m]</td>
<td>motoris ['mo:t:a:ri:s] ‘woman’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O o</td>
<td>[o:]</td>
<td>oda ['ɔ:da] ‘skin’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ɔ:]</td>
<td>in loanwords: bosas ['bɔ:s:as] ‘boss’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R r</td>
<td>[r]</td>
<td>randu ['ran:du] ‘I find’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S s</td>
<td>[s]</td>
<td>saunas ['sæ:nu:s] ‘dry’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Š š</td>
<td>[ʃ]</td>
<td>šala ['ʃæ:la] ‘it gets cold’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T t</td>
<td>[t]</td>
<td>tauta ['tɔ:tu:a] ‘nation’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U u</td>
<td>[u]</td>
<td>butas ['botas] ‘apartment’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ū ū</td>
<td>[u:]</td>
<td>(indicates an absorbed nasal) vyru ['vʊ:r:u:] ‘men (Gen.Pl)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uų</td>
<td>[u:]</td>
<td>rūkas ['rʊ:kas] ‘smoke, fog’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V v</td>
<td>[v]</td>
<td>voras ['vo:ras] ‘spider’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z z</td>
<td>[z]</td>
<td>zylė ['zil:j:e:] ‘tit (bird, DE. Meise)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ž ž</td>
<td>[ʒ]</td>
<td>žiūrkė ['ʒi:ʊrk:e:] ‘rat’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 Basic Expressions

Labà dienà! [lɐˈbe dʲeˈnʲa], coll. [lɐˈbeˈdʲeˈnʲa] – Good afternoon! Hello! (formal)
Làbas rỳtas! [lɐˈbas ˈɾỳtsas] – Good morning!
Làbas våkàras! [lɐˈbas ˈvaːkərəs] – Good evening!
Làbas! [lɐˈbas] – Hello! Hi!

Sudìë(v)! [suˈdʲe(ʊ)] – Goodbye! (formal)
Iki pasimàtymo! [iˈki pesimaːtjimo] – Goodbye!
Iki! [iˈki] – Bye!
Labânaktis! [lɐˈbaːnəkʲis] – Good night!

Mâno vârđas ... [ˈmeːnɔ ˈvârðas] – My name is ...
Kóks tâvo vârđas? [kɔks ˈtəːvɔ ˈvârðas] – What is your name?
Kuõ tû vardû? [kʊɔ ˈtʊ vərdʊ] – What is your name?

Labâ malonû (susipaį́nti)! [lɐˈbe mɐlɔˈnu susɐ̌pɐˈjʊ̃nti] – It is nice to meet you!
lit. ‘Very pleasant.NEUT to-meet-each-other!’

Bibliography