Portuguese

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Family Overview & History

- Portuguese is an Italic language
- Classical Latin
  - First attested in 7th century BCE
  - Spoken in Latium
  - Used for scholarship
- Vulgar Latin
  - Language of the (conquered) people
- Romance languages
  - Descendants of Vulgar Latin
  - Spoken all over the world: South America, Asia, Africa; many creoles have come out of them
**Phonological system of Latin**

### Vowels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classical Latin</th>
<th>Vulgar Latin</th>
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<tbody>
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### Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonants</th>
<th>labial</th>
<th>labio-dental</th>
<th>dental</th>
<th>alveolar</th>
<th>velar</th>
<th>labio-velar</th>
<th>glottal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>plosive</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>kw (g̊)</td>
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<td>fricative</td>
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<td>s</td>
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**Vulgar Latin Consonantal Features**

- v became [v] not [w]
- Silent: [h], final [m]
- Monosyllabic [m] became [n]
- Final [t] and [d] fell
## Phonological system of Portuguese: Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PVM Chart: Standard European Portuguese</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LABIAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>MANNER</td>
<td>VOICING</td>
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<td>Stop</td>
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<td>Voiceless</td>
<td>p</td>
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<td>Voiced</td>
<td>b</td>
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<td>Flap</td>
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<td>Glide</td>
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<td>Voiced</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Phonological system of Portuguese: Vowels

Vowels

Diphthongs

Nasalized Diphthongs

Triphthongs

uai
uei
uou
uiu
iai
iei
iou
Significant sound changes between Latin & Portuguese

Vowels

- Portuguese has all the vowels Latin had
- Many, many more diphthongs in Portuguese than in Latin; presence of triphthongs
- Nasalized vowels

Consonants

- Portuguese developed voiced fricatives ([v], [z], [ʒ]); Latin had none
- Presence of [ʃ], [ɾ], [ɾ], [ɲ]
- Portuguese lost [kʷ] and [gʷ]
Grammatical features

● Similar to grammar of other Romance languages
● Two genders (masculine, feminine); two numbers (singular, plural)
● Three tenses (past, present, future)
● Synthetic, fusional language
  ○ Uses one morpheme to convey multiple features
  ○ Ex. Falo → -o is present, singular, first person
● Mesoclis: insertion of a clitic pronoun between the stem and suffix
  ○ Only used in future and conditional forms
  ○ Very formal; not even used in Brazilian Portuguese
  ○ Ex. avisar-vos-emos
Dialect Overview

- European Portuguese
  - Açoreano
  - Alentejano
  - Algarvio
  - Alto-Minho
  - Baixo-Beirão
  - Beirão
  - Estremenho
    - Lisboa
    - Coimbra
  - Madeirense
  - Nortenho
  - Transmontano

- Brazilian Portuguese
  - Caipira
  - Carioca
  - Cearense
  - Baiano
  - Fluminense
  - Espírito Santo
  - Gaúcho
  - Mineiro
  - Candango/Brasileiro
  - Nordestino
  - Nortista
  - Paulistano
  - Sertanejo
  - Sulista

- African varieties
  - Angola
    - Benguelense
    - Luandense
    - Sulista
  - Moçambicano
  - Caboverdiano
  - Guineense
  - Santomense

- Asia
  - Macaense (Macau, China)
  - Kristang (East Timor)
  - Damaense (India)
  - Goês (Goa, India)
Treaty of Tordesillas

- 1494, Treaty between Spain and Portugal aimed at settling conflicts over lands newly discovered by Christopher Columbus.
- Drew a line in the Atlantic Ocean west of Cape Verde islands
General Brazilian Dialectal Map
General Dialectal Features

- Distinct from European Portuguese (EP) in several respects:
  - Accents
    - Open vowel sounds
    - Said to sound clearer than EP
  - Formal vs. informal speech
    - EP: tu vs. você
    - BP: você
  - Grammar and spelling
    - Nouns → verbs
      - E.g. To congratulate, EP: Dar os parabéns, BP: parabenizar
  - Vocabulary
    - Ice cream: EP: gelado BP: sorvete
Some Brazilian Dialectal Features

- **Caipira dialect**
  - State of São Paulo
  - Morphology: não ‘no’ has distinct strong and weak forms não [nɐ̃o] for short replies and num [nô] for negative phrases.

- **Florianopolitan dialect**
  - Inhabitants of Florianópolis of Azorean descent
  - Retains form of address that are obsolete elsewhere in Brazil. Tú you, is used to address people of the same or lesser age, social or professional status, to show intimacy, between relatives or friends. Você -you - is reserved for outsiders or to people of lesser status to stress lack of intimacy.

- **Uruguayan Portuguese**
  - Fronteiriço - Northern Uruguay, near Brazil border, influences from Spanish
  - Phonetically: use of trill /r/ instead of uvular /R/
  - Lexically: heavy presence of Spanish loans
Contact-induced change

- Contact with: Amerindian languages (Língua Geral), African languages
- Lexicon changes/additions in Brazilian Portuguese beginning in the 16th century due to contact with indigenous languages, primarily Tupinamba at first in coastal mestizo settlements, and African languages from slaves
  - Indigenous languages: local plants, animals, place names
    - Ipanema
    - Jacaré
    - Abacaxi
  - African languages: food, religion, music
    - Samba
    - Moqueca (fish stew)
Sources

2010, udel.edu/~dlarsen/ling203/Slides/History of Romance Languages.pdf.


Carvalho, Ana Maria. “I Speak like the Guys on TV: Palatalization and Urbanization in Northern Uruguay.”


