

ACADEMIA GRAMMATICORUM SALENSIS
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Towards a Practical Accentuation of Lithuanian Nouns

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Lithuanian Noun Accentuation

- free stress (can be fixed or mobile) →
- 4 accentual classes
- short and long syllables:
↓
- 2 types of accent (acute ↘, circumflex ↗)

Lithuanian language in Minsk

- no academic course at any university
(formerly: Belarusian State Pedagogical University;
Minsk State Linguistic University)
- evening language courses for adults
learning Lithuanian with practical
purposes (further migration, frequent visits to
Lithuania, work with partners from Lithuania,
Lithuanian descent)

Adults learning Lithuanian

- are usually highly motivated **but**:
- they are of different education, age and learning abilities,
- come to the courses after work and sometimes have no time to prepare their homework,
- as a rule, have just two 90-minute lessons in a week during 8 or 9 months.
- Lithuanian is difficult for most adult learners due to its rich morphology.

Problems

- teaching books of Lithuanian rarely even try to teach Lithuanian accentuation,
- the noun declension is introduced step by step, and by the end of the course the learners know a lot of nouns but they do not really know how to stress them,
- no system of exercises which could gradually introduce the Lithuanian accentuation and develop linguistic intuition for that.

Special teaching books and resources

- “Lietuvių kalbos bendrinė tartis” by A. Pakerys and A. Pupkis,
- “Ištark” by I. Kruopienė,
- Software “Tadas Blinda”.

but:

- they are hard for adult learners,
- focused mainly on pronunciation,
- it is hard to integrate these resources into “Nė dienos be lietuvių kalbos” or “Po truputį”.

My aim was:

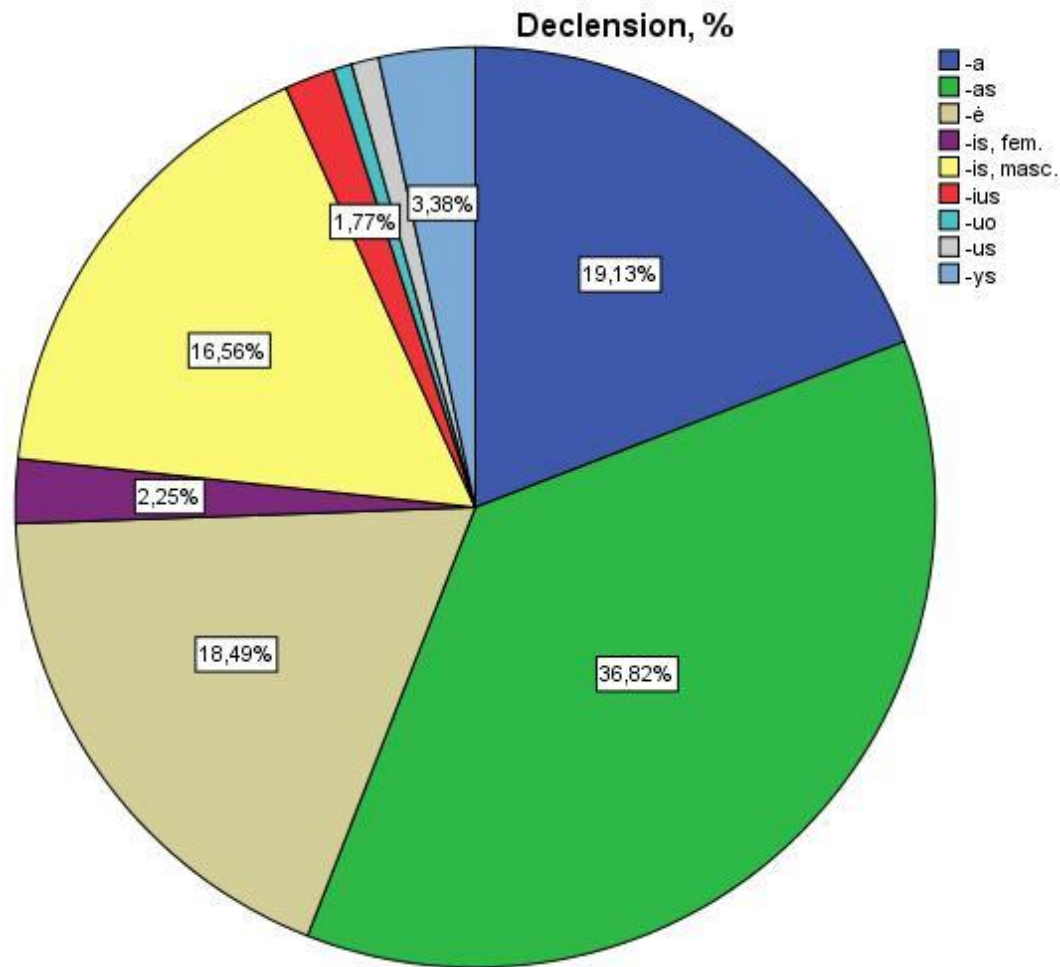
- to find the strategy of teaching Lithuanian accentuation,
- to compose exercises based on the formal features that can be distinguished even by beginners and that could be integrated into “Nė dienos be lietuvių kalbos”.

Initial noun vocabulary

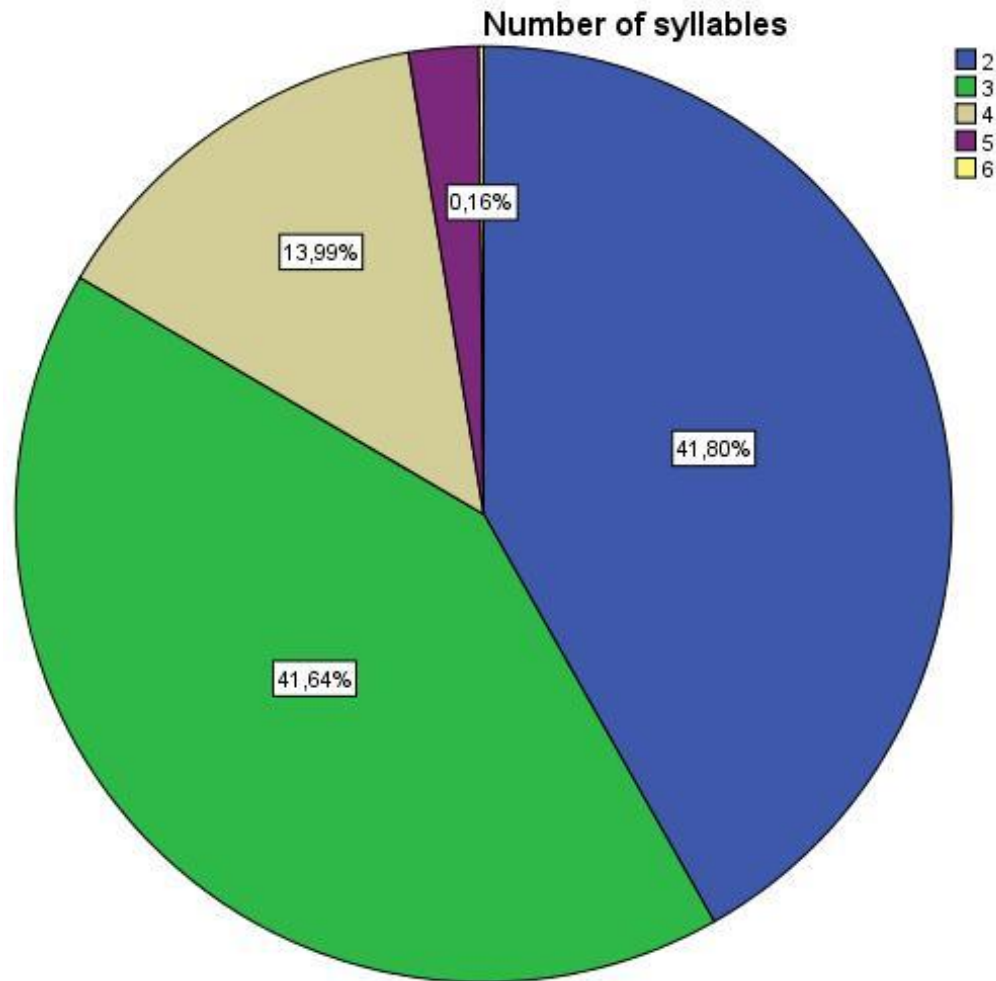


623
nouns

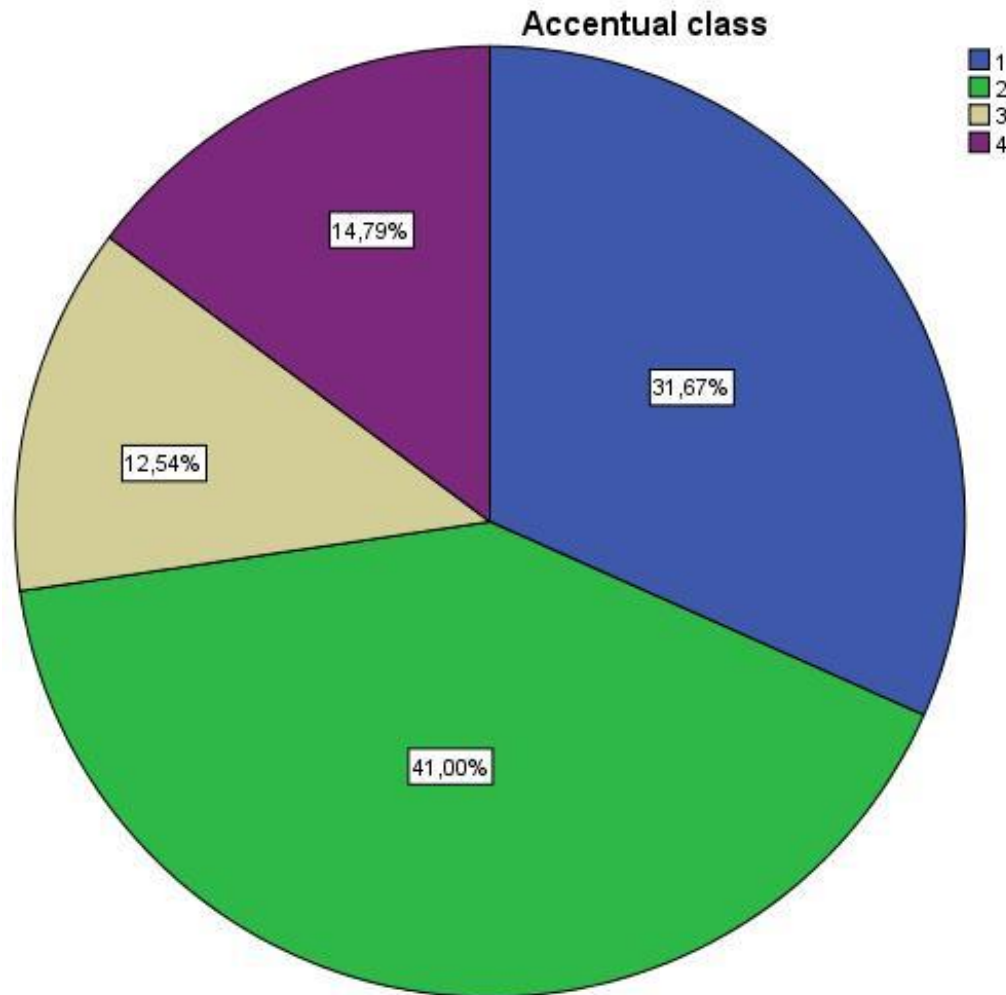
Initial noun vocabulary



Initial noun vocabulary

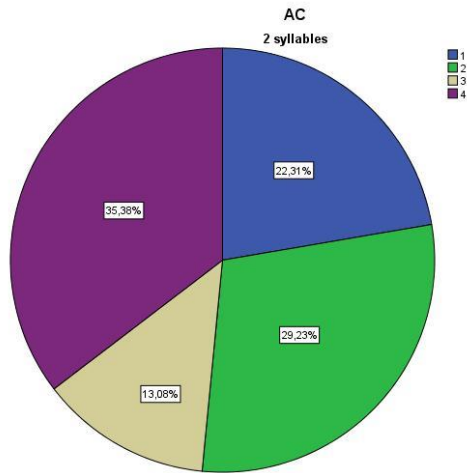


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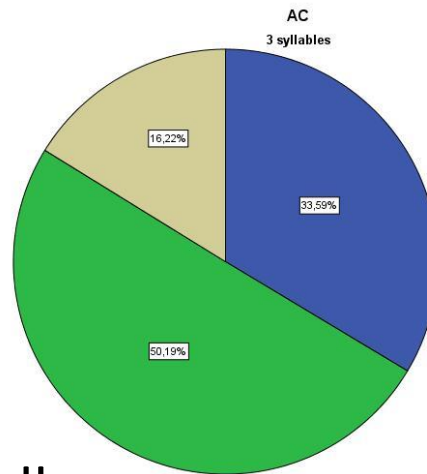


AC vs. number of syllables

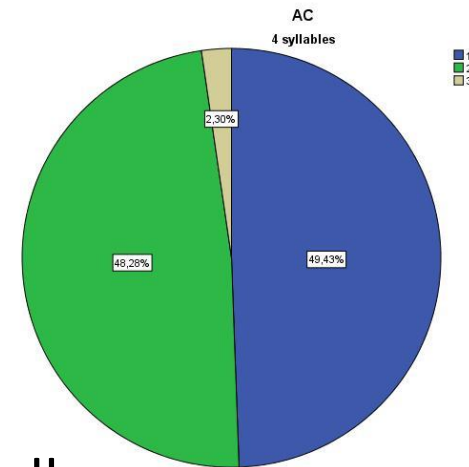
2-syll.



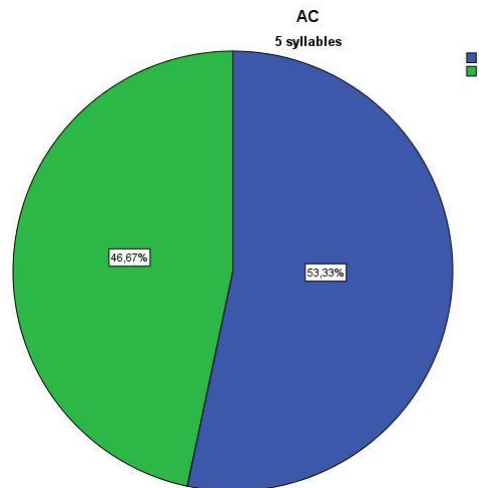
3-syll.



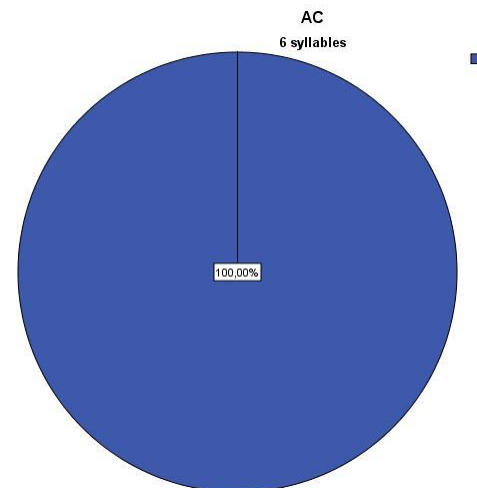
4-syll.



5-syll.



6-syll.



The first group of exercises

Short rules like:

- „ending -as of Nom.sg. is always unstressed“,
- “endings of Nom.pl.fem. are always unstressed“,
- „the first syllable of 2-syllable ending of Loc.sg. is always unstressed“, etc.

The first group of exercises

Types of exercises:

- put nouns to the certain form and stress them,
- choose the right stressed syllable from two offered, explain the choice,
- find the relevant forms in the text and stress them,
- distinguish homographs or use stress as a grammar cue.

The first group of exercises

- Examples (putting nouns to the certain form and stressing them):

list of nouns:

mamà

brólis

tévas

knygà...

the first step:

mãmaą

brólj

tévaą

knỹgaą

the next step:

Mama yra namie.

vs.

Jis turi **mamaą** ir brolj.

The first group of exercises

- Examples (choosing the right syllable from two offered and explaining the choice):

Nuotraukoje tėvėlio tėvų nėra. Čia mamos tėvai.
Seneliai nedirba, jie pensininkai. Senelis mėgsta žiūrėti televizorių. Senelės draugė Filomena skambina kasdien. Jos kalba, kalba, kalba... Po to jos susitinka, eina į kavinę arba į parką.

The first group of exercises

- Examples (choosing the right syllable from two offered and explaining the choice):

Nuotraukoje tėvelio tėvų nėra. Čia mamos tėvai.
Seneliai nedirba, jie pensininkai. Senelis mėgsta žiūrėti
televizoriy. Senelės draugė Filomena skambina kasdien.
Jos kalba, kalba, kalba... Po to jos susitinka, eina į
kavine arba į parką.

The first group of exercises

- Examples (distinguishing homographs):

Kambaryje nėra gražiōs kėdės. Kambaryje stovi grāžios kėdės.	gražios kėdės
Ar nematai čia _____? Po lova gyvena _____.	mažos pelės
Neturiu _____. Po kiemą bėgioja _____.	baltos katės

(all nouns in the exercise are of 2 syllables and 4th AC)

The first group of exercises

- Examples (using stress as a grammar cue):

butas

dešras

dienas

euras

kiemas

knygas

morkas

tėvas

as or -às?

fem. or masc.?

(all fem. nouns in the exercise are of 2 syllables and 2nd or 4th AC)

The first group of exercises

- Examples (using stress as a grammar cue):

butas

dešràs

dienàs

euras

kiemas

knygàs

morkàs

tévas

as or -às?

fem. or masc.?

(all fem. nouns in the exercise are of 2 syllables and 2nd or 4th AC)

The first group of exercises

Additional exercises. Introduction into accentual classes.

Example. *Kas kur dirba?*

biùras (2)

cìrkas (1)

fãbrikas (3)

káimas (1)

komisariãtas (2)

konsulãtas (2)

teãtras (2)

teĩsmas (4)

universitètas (2)...

konsulas

darbininkas

akrobatas

aktorius

dèstytojas

advokatas

policininkas

ūkininkas

direktorius...

2, 3, 4 → -è
1 → -e (no shift)

The first group of exercises

Function:

- to give basic knowledge about Lithuanian accentuation,
- to show there is a system in Lithuanian accentuation,
- to show that the place of stress can distinguish grammar forms.

The second group of exercises

- The second (main) group of exercises helps to determine the noun AC or to stress the noun correctly without knowing of its AC.

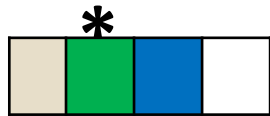
Requirements:

- the learners have the whole picture of Lithuanian declension,
- their vocabulary is rather big,
- they have notion about Lithuanian accentuation, know basic rules, distinguish short and long syllables.

Properties of ACs

1st AC

,

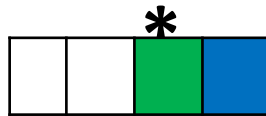


no shift

not -ys, -us,
-is (m.)

2nd AC

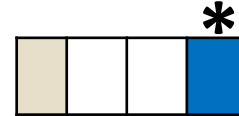
≈ \



not -ys, -is (m.),
-is (f.), -uo

3^d AC

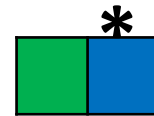
,



not -is, -ius

4th AC

≈ \



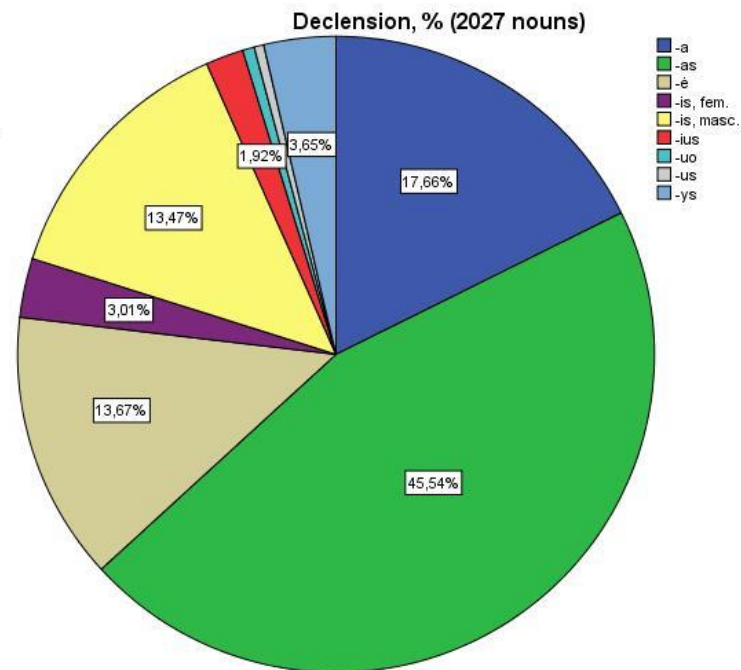
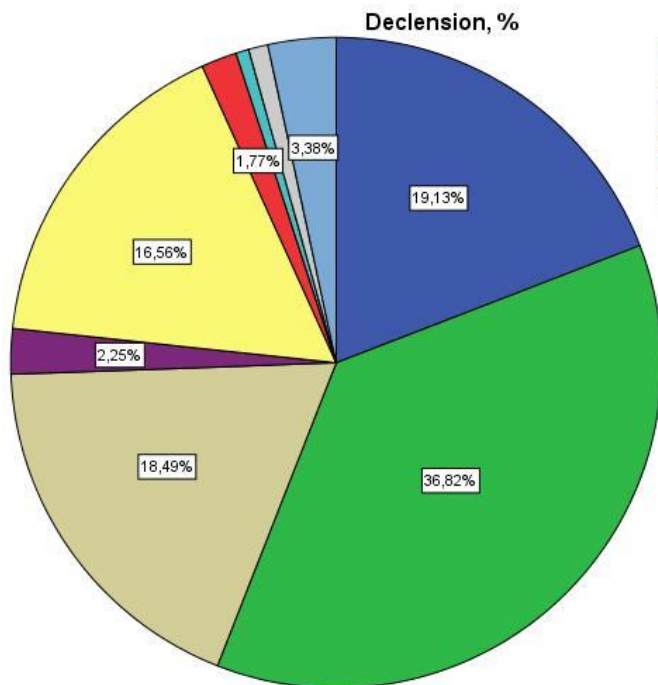
not -is, -ius,
-uo

The second group of exercises

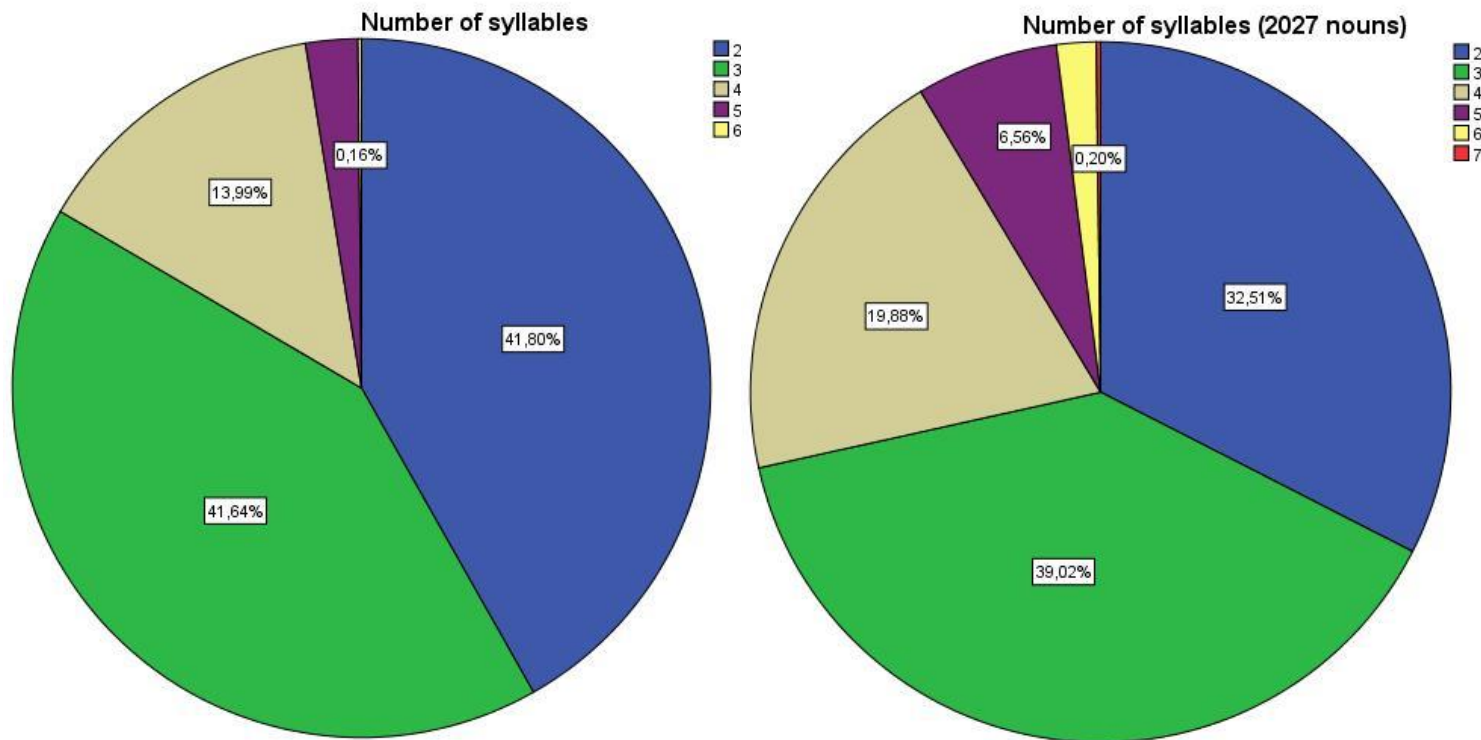
Material:

- 623 nouns from “Nė dienos be lietuvių kalbos”,
- the data from “Dažninis lietuvių kalbos morfemikos žodynas” (nouns with frequency 5 and above, in total 2027 nouns).

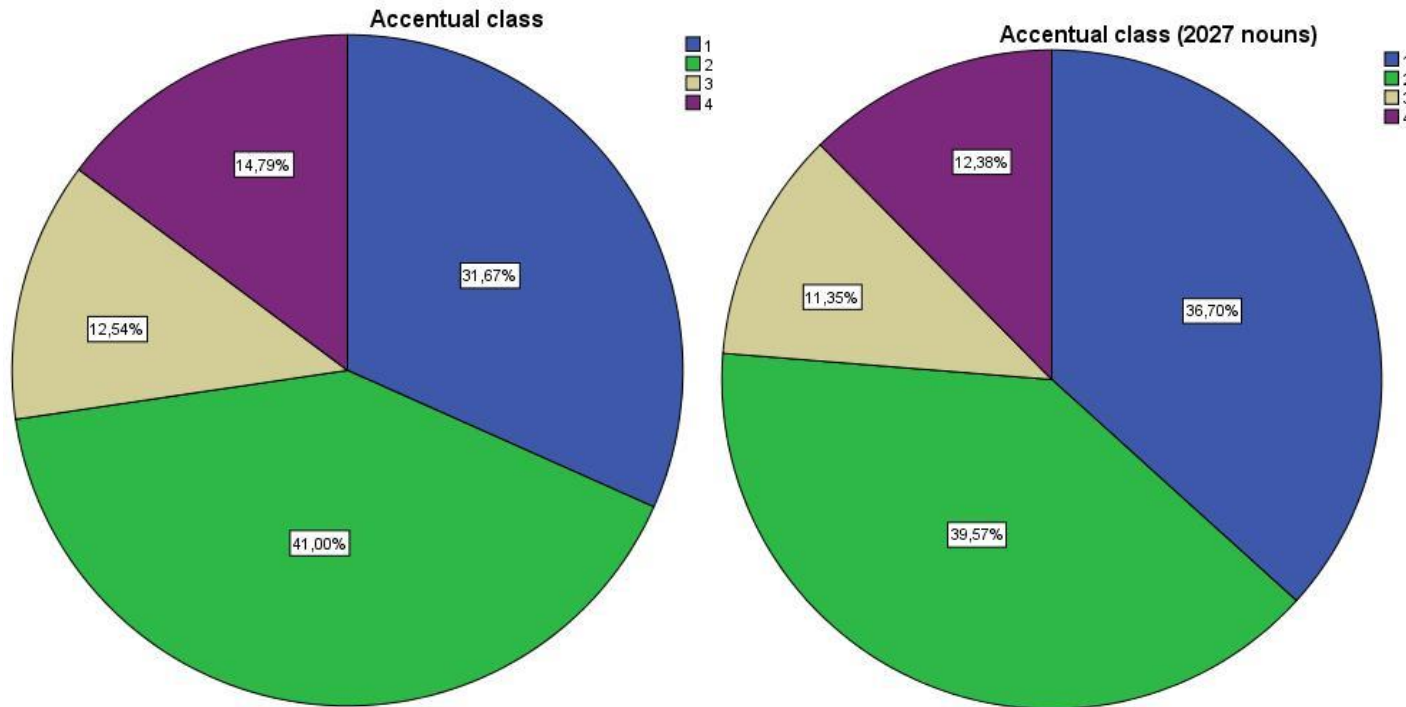
Initial data vs. further data



Initial data vs. further data



Initial data vs. further data



The second group of exercises

Formal factors:

- declension,
- number of syllables in Nom.sg.,
- place of stress in Nom.sg.
- type of accent (in the penultimate syllable).

The second group of exercises

- Factors vs. rules (examples)

factors	rules	examples
declension + place of stress	if in -a decl. not the last syllable is stressed then the AC is the 1 st (otherwise the AC can be any but the 1 st)	dúona, nùgara, iškasena, garstýčia, tradìcija
declension + place of stress + number of syllables	if the first (but not the penultimate) syllable is stressed then the AC is the 1 st (not for -as decl.)	bùtelis, ãktorius, nùgara; júrininkas, sásiuvinis
place of stress + type of accent	if the penultimate syllable is stressed and the accent is not acute, then in Instr.sg., Loc.sg. and Acc.pl. the stress shifts to the single syllable ending (and remains on the stem in case of 2-syllable ending or acute)	agrãstas – agrastù, agrastè, agrastùs; bandělé – bandelè, banděleje, bandelès; kalendõrius – kalendõriumi, kalendõriuje, kalendoriùs; daržóvé – daržóve, daržóveje, daržóves

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Exercises.

Find all the nouns of the 1st AC. Compose sentences with some nouns of the 1st AC using them in different cases.

algà

arbatà

blakstíena

citrinà

dúona

grãfika

grąžà...

20-25 nouns

The second group of exercises

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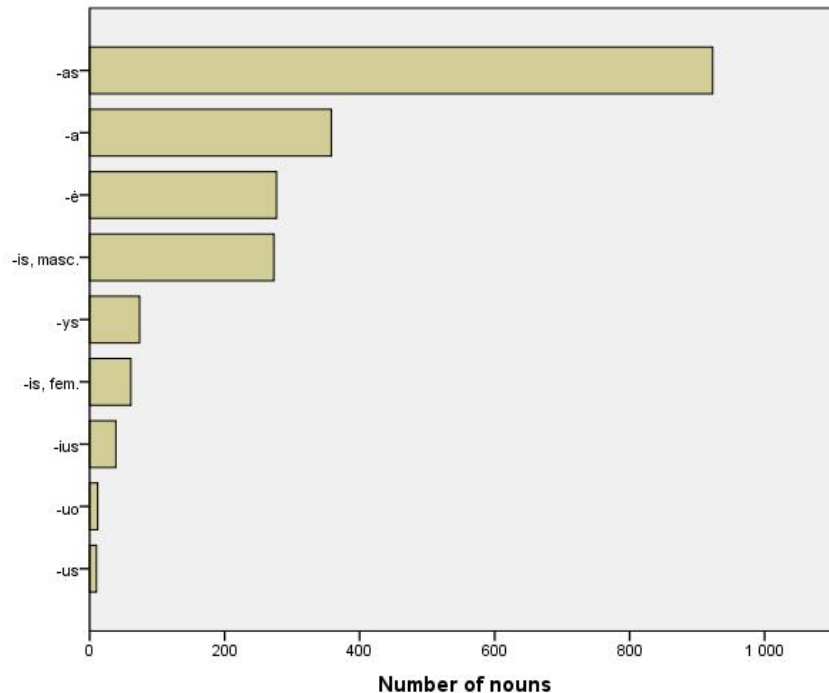
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39,9% of -a decl. nouns
7% of all nouns

The second group of exercises

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not for -as declension

3+ syllable nouns

the first syllable is stressed

The second group of exercises

not for -as declension
3+ syllable nouns
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Find all the nouns that match the rule.

ãdresas
ãktorius
apýrankè
ámpulè
ãplankas
aňtakis
aňtklodè
árka...

The second group of exercises

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Exercises.

Work with dictionary, find out ACs. Formulate the rule for -as decl. nouns.

ážuolas
ẽžeras
fùtbolds
giñtaras
klìmatas
prìncipas ...

The second group of exercises

not for -as declension
3+ syllable nouns
the first syllable is stressed

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The second group of exercises

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Exercises.

Which nouns can not belong to the 2 AC?

hòdingas
agresyvùmas
algoritmas
iņkaras
kãtinas
amoniãkas
anũkas ...

The second group of exercises

not for -as declension
3+ syllable nouns
the first syllable is stressed

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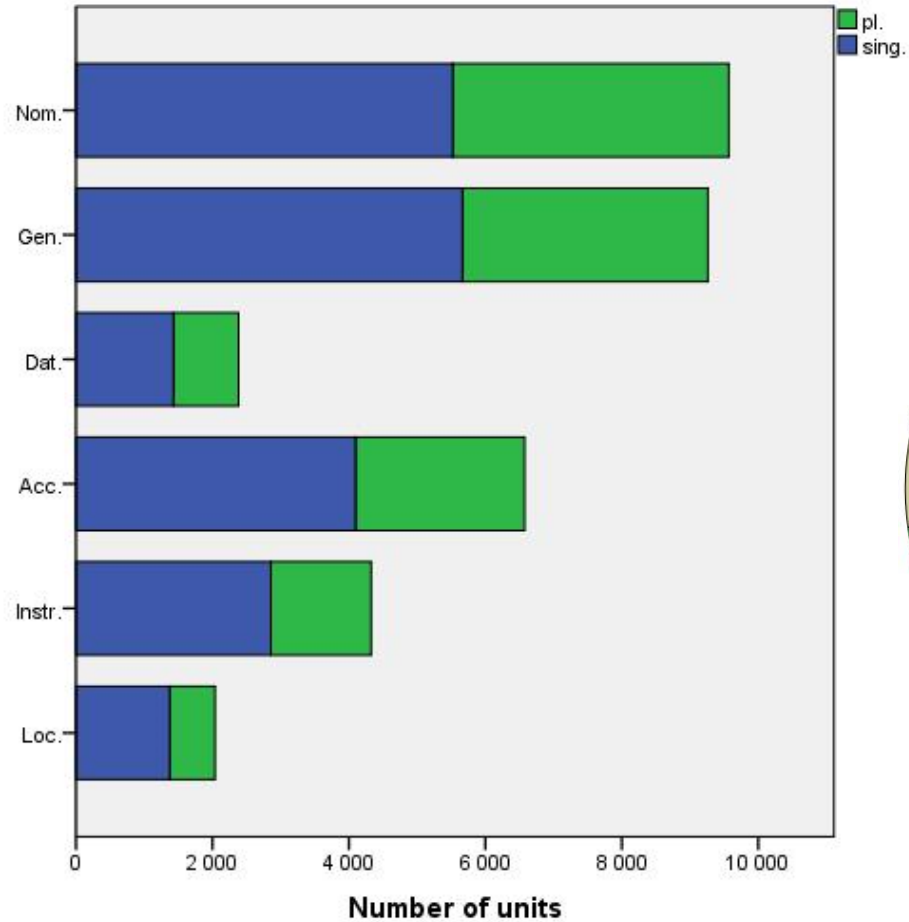
+ 5% of all nouns

The second group of exercises

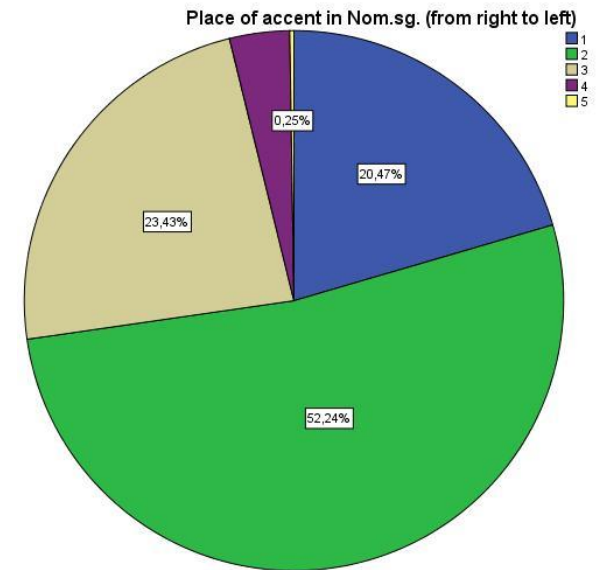
- Factors vs. rules (examples)

factors	rules	examples
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Some statistics



34,156 forms



The second group of exercises

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phonetic cues

morphological cues

pronunciation cues

The second group of exercises

- Factors vs. rules (examples)

if the penultimate syllable is stressed and the type of accent is not acute, then in Instr.sg., Loc.sg. and Acc.pl. the stress shifts to the single syllable ending (and remains on the stem in case of 2-syllable ending or acute)

phonetic cues

single a, e, i, u → not acute

Exercises.

Which nouns match the rule?

agrastas	darželis
antis	delnas
apelsinas	drabužis
atvirukas	draudimas
baletas	erkė
bulvė	ežiukas
chirurgas	inkstas...

The second group of exercises

- Factors vs. rules (examples)

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Which nouns match the rule?

agrastas

antis

apelsinas

atvirukas

baletas

bulvė

chirurgas

darželis

delnas

drabužis

draudimas

erkė

ežiukas

inkstas...

attention to:

a

e + r, l, m, n

i

u

The second group of exercises

- Factors vs. rules (examples)

if the penultimate syllable is stressed and the type of accent is not acute, then in Instr.sg., Loc.sg. and Acc.pl. the stress shifts to the single syllable ending (and remains on the stem in case of 2-syllable ending or acute)

phonetic cues

single a, e, i, u → not acute

Exercises.

Find matching nouns and read the phrases correctly.

vadinamas balzāminių actu
apsidžiaugia agrastu
centras pavirsta statybų aikštele
nesirūpina kavos aparatu
patiekalaĩ su apelsinu
nieko nerašo kalėdiniame atviruke...

The second group of exercises

- Factors vs. rules (examples)

if the penultimate syllable is stressed and the type of accent is not acute, then in Instr.sg., Loc.sg. and Acc.pl. the stress shifts to the single syllable ending (and remains on the stem in case of 2-syllable ending or acute)

phonetic cues

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centras pavirsta statyby aikštele
nesirūpina kavos aparatu
patiekalaĩ su apelsinu
nieko nerašo kalėdiniame atviruke...

44,9% of the group,
23,4% of all nouns

The second group of exercises

- Factors vs. rules (examples)

if the penultimate syllable is stressed and the accent is not acute, then in Instr.sg., Loc.sg. and Acc.pl. the stress shifts to the single syllable ending (and remains on the stem in case of 2-syllable ending or acute)

morphological cues

kiaul-íena, lent-ýna, prek-ýba, atsakom-ýbè, darž-óvè
draug-ỹstè, amerik-iětis, šeim-iniñkè, gabal-ělis...

aikšt-ělə, dėž-ùtè, parduot-ùvè, kiauš-ìnis, miest-ėlis
skamb-ùtis, agresyv-ùmas, atsirad-ìmas...

The second group of exercises

- Factors vs. rules (examples)

if the penultimate syllable is stressed and the accent is not acute, then in Instr.sg., Loc.sg. and Acc.pl. the stress shifts to the single syllable ending (and remains on the stem in case of 2-syllable ending or acute)

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aikšt-ělə, dėž-ùtè, parduot-ùvè, kiauš-ìnis, miest-ělis,
skamb-ùtis, agresyv-ùmas, atsirad-ìmas

phonetic + morphological cues = **60,8%** of the group

The second group of exercises

- Factors vs. rules (examples)

if the penultimate syllable is stressed and the accent is not acute, then in Instr.sg., Loc.sg. and Acc.pl. the stress shifts to the single syllable ending (and remains on the stem in case of 2-syllable ending or acute)

pronunciation cues

kom-án-da – bal-añ-dis

sav-ái-tè – žem-aĩ-tis

pav-éi-kslas – kel-eĩ-vis

s-áu-lè – ki-aũ-lè

...

22,4% of the group

The second group of exercises

- Factors vs. rules (examples)

factors	rules	examples
place of stress + type of accent	if the penultimate syllable is stressed and the accent is not acute, then in Instr.sg., Loc.sg. and Acc.pl. the stress shifts to the single syllable ending (and remains on the stem in case of 2-syllable ending or acute)	agrāstas – agrastù, agrastè, agrastùs; bandēlē – bandelè, bandēlēje, bandelès; kalendōrius – kalendōriumi, kalendōriuje, kalendoriùs; daržóvė – daržóve, daržóveje, daržóves

phonetic cues +
morphological cues +
pronunciation cues

83,2% of the group,
43,4% of all nouns

The second group of exercises

Basic types of exercises:

- find the words of a given AC,
- exclude the words not belonging to a given AC,
- decline the nouns paying attention to the stress shift,
- determine the AC,
- stress the words,
- stress the words in a text.

The second group of exercises

Function:

- to deepen and to structure knowledge of accentuation,
- to reduce errors,
- to motivate for further learning.

The second group of exercises

- Examples (finding the words of a given AC)

Find all the nouns of the 1st AC. Explain your choice.

ambasadà

ātvejis

balsāvimas

bandītas

pōpierius

būrŷs

gēnijus

čèkis

jūra

kaklēlis

lentýna

narkòtikas

erdvē

rōtušè

rāgana

The second group of exercises

- Examples (finding the words of a given AC)

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jūra

kaklēlis

lentýna

narkòtikas

erdvē

rōtušē

rāgana

The second group of exercises

- Examples (excluding the words not belonging to a given AC)

Which nouns from the list do not belong to the 2nd AC?

aikštēlē

brólis

aliējus

ántis

banānas

statinỹs

gramātika

bùtas

skỹrius

šlúota

spìnta

teātras...

The second group of exercises

- Examples (excluding the words not belonging to a given AC)

Which nouns from the list do not belong to the 2nd AC?

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spìnta

teātras...

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skỹrius

šlúota

spìnta

teātras...

The second group of exercises

- Examples (AC vs. morphology)

Which nouns do not have the suffix -ēlis/-elis?

ežerēlis

nusikaītēlis

sándēlis

kiaušinēlis

šešēlis

smēlis

gabalēlis

sukilēlis

truputēlis

būtelis

daržēlis

daūgelis

geležīnkēlis

kaklēlis

miestēlis

mòdelis

obelis

paukštēlis

The second group of exercises

- Examples (AC vs. morphology)

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daržēlis

daūgelis

geležīnkēlis

kaklēlis

miestēlis

mòdelis

obelis

paukštēlis

The second group of exercises

- Examples (AC vs. morphology)

The 1st or the 2nd AC?

ākcininkas
apžvalginiņkas
daīlininkas
daininiņkas
darbiniņkas
jūrininkas
kalbiniņkas
kēltininkas
mīškininkas...

The second group of exercises

- Examples (AC vs. morphology)

The 1st or the 2nd AC?

ākcininkas
apžvalginiņkas
daīlininkas
daininiņkas
darbiniņkas
jūrininkas
kalbiniņkas
kēltininkas
mīškininkas...

The second group of exercises

- Examples (stressing words in a text)

apsitempia drabužiu²

nusiprausiu po lediniu² dušu²

pavaišina torto¹ gabaliuku²

namas su garažu²

dažnai užsikrečia gripu²

susitinka kabinete²

nebeauginu kalakutus²

išvyksta į kalnus³

nežaidžia su guminiu² kamuoliuku²

The second group of exercises


- Examples (stressing words in a text)

Vieną kartą viename **dideliame**³ **mieste**², **vardu**⁴ Vilnius, gyveno toks žmogus, vardu Antanas, o **pavarde**³ — Žmogelis. Ir turėjo tas Žmogelis geraširdę žmoną Aldoną Žmogelienę bei du išdėkčius **vaikučius**² — Birutę ir Kęstutį **Žmogeliukus**². Gyveno Žmogeliai **gražiame**⁴, dideliame keturių **kambarių**³ **bute**² Vilniaus **senamiestyje**¹, o pro jų buto **langus**³ matėsi **nuostabūs**⁴ **vaizdai**⁴: Gedimino **pilies**⁴ bokštas, **balti**³ Trys **kryžiai**² ant aukšto kalno **Kalnų**³ **parke**¹ ir nesuskaityta daugybė **bažnyčių**¹ **stogų**³ bei vėrpinių.

Perspective

The exercises could:

- help to learn Lithuanian accentuation step by step (also good for grammar and vocabulary repetition),
- show there is a system and logic, and it is possible to understand and to use it,
- develop language intuition,
- motivate to learn ACs for new nouns.



**Thank you
for your attention!**