

Polish Nasal Vowels

ręka [rɛŋk]	(vowel is slightly nasalized)	"hand"
rząd [ont]		"row"
rządzić [ońʒ]		"govern"
gęba [emb]		"mouth, trap"
gęsty [eŋs]	(ŋ = nasal glide)	"thick"
kęs chleba		"piece of bread"
cenzura		"censorship"
wąski		"narrow"
wąs [oŋs]		"mustache"
konsul [oŋ]		"consul"
anons [oŋ]		"announcement"
inspektor [iŋ] or [iŋ]		"inspector"
czynsz [yŋ]		"rent"
latarnie chińskie		"Chinese lantern"
rynsztok [y]?		"gutter, ditch"
kamień młyński		"mill stone"
londyński most [y]		"London bridge"
gęś [e]		"goose"
żeński		"woman's"
cieńszy		"thinner"
awans [aŋ]		"advance"
szansa [aŋ]		"chance"

I. If we hypothesize that there are nasal V phonemes, then we must posit diphthongization and assimilation rules:

diphthongization- /V/ > [Vw̃]

assimilation- [w̃] > [C [-cnt α place of articulation]]/___C [-cnt α place]

II. If we hypothesize that there are no nasal V phonemes:

/VN/

C[+nas] > C[α place]/___C[-cnt α place]

N > w̃

There are 6 V's (i, y, e, o, a, u), can occur in [Vw̃]:

1a. posit /V/ = /e, q, a, y, i, u/

1b. /V/ = /e, q/

/VN/ > [Vw̃]/___S (S = any fricative)

The evidence seems to favor II.

Шаумян:

/V/ > [Vw̃] /V/ = /q/

/VN/ > [Vw̃]

final position: ton [on]
tom [om]
tə [ow̃]
tə [e] ~ [ew̃]

Stieber:

/q/ is a phoneme, but only in final position--this is probably the most reasonable analysis.

If we posit /VN/, what is this N?

Fricatives:	f	s	š	ś	x
m	[w̃]	[m]	[m]	[m]	[m]
n	[w̃] ~ n	[w̃]	[w̃]	[j]	[w̃]
ń	--	[j]	[j]	[j]	--
N <e, a>	?	[w̃]	[w̃]	[w̃/j]	[w̃]

(Which nasals occur before which fricatives? m behaves funny, becomes w̃ only before organic fricatives. N looks like n.)