

AA #1: Swahili (Bantu)

The **overall goal** of the analysis presentation is: **Present and argue for an analysis of Swahili that accounts for all the morpheme alternations seen in this data set.**

Content — Your analysis and discussion should **include the following:**

- Propose a single UR for each alternating morpheme shown in this data set
- Describe any actions the grammar has to take in order to account for any case where the surface form differs from the UR. (These may be in the form of rules or prose descriptions.)

Other criteria for a successful presentation:

- Make your presentation clear and well-organized.
- Support any claims or generalizations you make by showing and discussing relevant data from the data set, organized in an insightful way that is helpful to your audience.

Your analysis should be as general and insightful as possible, and should make use of the tools we have developed for our phonological model so far in the course — especially **predictable/unpredictable distribution** and **phonological features**. If there is anything about the alternations in this data set that our phonological model as developed so far cannot handle, discuss it and explain why it poses a problem for our model.

If you refer to any **phonologically active classes** in your discussion, be sure to both: describe them in words, and either (a) give a formal characterization using the Hall (2007) feature model, or (b) explain why the class is difficult to characterize formally in this feature model.

For examples of how to show and discuss phonological data in the course of making an argument, Mielke (2005) is a good place to look!

Data set for AA #1: Swahili (Bantu)

Note: This diacritic [Ç] shows that the consonant C is syllabic (syllabified as a nucleus). For this analysis, assume there is a feature [\pm syllabic] that distinguishes vowels and syllabic C ([+syll]) from glides and non-syllabic C ([-syll]); in terms of feature geometry, treat it as a major-class feature.

	<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
'piece'	ubale	ᵐbale
'nut-grass'	udago	ᵎdago
'beer'	ugimbi	ᵎgimbi
'way'	ud̥zia	ᵎd̥zia
'razor'	wembe	ᵐembe
'time'	wakati	ᵐakati
'heaven'	uwingu	ᵐbingu
'song'	wimbo	ᵐimbo
'duality'	uwili	ᵐbili
'costliness'	uyali	yali
'(type of) knife'	upamba	pamba
'protection'	utunzo	tunzo
'uproar'	ukelele	kelele
'porch'	ukumbi	kumbi
'a burning'	ut̥joma	t̥joma
'small intestine'	ut̥jango	t̥jango
'imitation'	ufuasi	fuasi
'secrecy'	usiri	siri
'tongue'	ulimi	ᵎdimi
'length'	urefu	ᵎdefu

- Focus mostly on the **singular morpheme**. What are the alternating surface forms of this morpheme, and what are their conditioning environments? Is it useful to consider syllable structure?
- Some of the **roots** alternate, too. What are the URs of the alternating roots? Can we express the relevant phonological rule in terms of features? Does syllable structure matter here?
- We can also explore one interesting question about the **plural morpheme**: In what environment is this morpheme realized as a syllabic nasal? Why do you think this is the case?