

Distribution exercises from Zsiga (2013: Ch 10)

9. Consider the distribution of [l] and [lʲ] in Russian. Do they represent two different phonemes, or are they allophones of a single phoneme? Argue for your answer, either by citing (near-)minimal pairs from the data, or by describing the distributions of the two sounds. (Data courtesy of Maria Gouskova.)

words with [l]

lat

gala

polka

mel

pol

agreement

gala

shelf

chalk

floor

words with [lʲ]

miʲ

nebiʲ

ʲat

ʲot

moʲ

poʲka

of miles

imaginary tale

demon

ice

moth

polka

10. In Farsi, spoken in and around Iran, the trill [r], voiceless trill [r̥], tap [r̩], and retroflex approximant [ɻ] are all in complementary distribution and form one phoneme. Describe the distribution of each allophone. (Data courtesy of Narges Mahpeykar.)

[r]		[r̥]	
ræd̩	trace	pær̥	feather
ræhbær̩	leader	dir̥	late
rumizi	tablecloth	pæniṛ̩	cheese
ræis	boss	aχær̥	final
rubah	fox	aʒiṛ̩	alarm
riz	tiny	mæd̩ʒbur̩	forced
ruzname	newspaper	æŋur̩	grapes
rahzden	robber	mar̩	snake
		mæsiṛ̩	path
		didar̩	meet

[r̩]		[ɻ]	
piruz	victorious	gæ:ɻf̩	mushroom
aram	quiet	so:ɻb̩	iron
birun	outside	sæ:ɻv̩	cedar
sæ:ri?	fast	zæ:ɻf̩	dish
kæ:rim	generous	mæ:ɻd̩	man
hæ:ras	fear	ge:ɻd̩	round
kæ:re	butter	ke:ɻm̩	warm
tire	dark	tʃæ:ɻm̩	leather
torab	dust	æ:ɻz̩	width
surax	hole	la:ɻv̩	insect eggs