

## Today's objectives:

- Review basic phonetics
- Contrast and predictability,  
continued

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*Background preparation:*

- *Phonetics review materials*
- *Zsiga (2013: Ch 10)*

# 0. Today's key points

- Phonetics quick check-in
- Contrast vs. predictability, and their implications for linguistic analysis
- How phonemes/allophones relate to contrastive vs. predictable distribution
- Determining distribution
- Analysis of predictable distribution; “basic” allophones

# 1. Phonetics review

- Are there any questions about the basic phonetics material to prepare for the quiz?
  - Review handouts
  - [Additional phonetics resources](#)

## 2. Contrast vs. predictability

- A fundamental distinction in linguistic theorizing is that between things that are
  - **systematic / predictable / productive**and things that are
  - **contrastive / unpredictable / not productive**
- Why is this such an important distinction?

## 2. Contrast vs. predictability

- What are the linguistic implications of information that is **systematic** / **predictable** and **productive**?
  
- What are the linguistic implications of information that is **contrastive** / **unpredictable**?

## 2. Contrast vs. predictability

- What are the linguistic implications of information that is **systematic / predictable** and **productive**?
  - The mental grammar must **enforce** it
  - Factors that matter must be **representable**
- What are the linguistic implications of information that is **contrastive / unpredictable**?
  - It must be memorized and **stored**
  - The contrasts must be **representable**
- (What to do about Information that is **systematic** but **not productive**?)

## 2. Contrast vs. predictability

- In the domain of a language's **segment inventory**, consider contrastive vs. predictable **distribution**
  - Implications if the distribution is **predictable**?
  - Implications if the distribution is **contrastive**?

## 2. Contrast vs. predictability

- In the domain of a language's **segment inventory**, consider contrastive vs. predictable **distribution**
  - Implications if the distribution is **predictable**?
    - How does the grammar **enforce** it?
    - What relevant factors must be **represented**?
  - Implications if the distribution is **contrastive**?
    - What contrasts must be **represented**?
- **These are big and interesting questions!**
  - **Be able to find, describe distributions in data**



### 3. Contrastive and predictable distribution

- Some **core concepts**:
  - Phonemes vs. allophones
  - Contrastive vs. predictable distribution
  - Minimal pairs
  - Phonological environments
- **Illustrate/explain** these concepts using the [Russian](#) and [Tohono O'odham](#) data sets
- How are these relevant for the mental grammar and mental representations?

### 3. Contrastive and predictable distribution

- Summary of key issues in distribution:
  - How do we determine whether two speech sounds belong to two **different phonemes**, and when they are two **allophones of the same phoneme**?
  - Describing and characterizing phonological environments: How much detail is too much? What information matters, and **why**?

## 4. Describing allophone distribution

- How do we conceive, in a grammar model, of a phoneme that has **multiple allophones**?
  - What two options does Zsiga discuss? (Others?)
  - Why is it attractive to have a “basic” allophone?  
What are the hidden implications?
- Try stating an analysis of allophone distribution for:
  - Tohono O’odham
  - [- Javanese ] (next time)

## 4. Describing allophone distribution

- Some points to note:
  - Tohono O'odham — Which allophones should we pair together, and why?
  - [- Javanese (next time) — Can we tell what the basic allophone is? What are some of the complicating factors? ]