Skill-check HW #1 | Māori consonants in loanwords from English

For this assignment, your goal is to demonstrate your understanding of:

- similarities and differences between consonants
- how to apply our feature model in describing consonants and classes of consonants
- how to use a model to make predictions
- how to evaluate the effectiveness of a model for particular data

Submit your responses to questions (1)–(4) as a PDF document in Canvas "Assignments". You can copy/paste IPA symbols from this assignment handout into your document.

The segmental inventory of Māori (Polynesian; New Zealand) is different from that of English. Sometimes, Māori borrows a word from English containing segments that are illegal in Māori, and those segments are converted into legitimate Māori segments.

Some notes:

- These IPA symbols may be unfamiliar to you: [ɸ ɾ]. Use the IPA chart linked from the LING 200 course page to see how these consonants are described in terms of their phonetic properties. From this, you can work out how to describe them using features.
- The IPA symbol [ː] indicates that the preceding segment is long.
- For this assignment, you are *not* responsible for discussing:
  - Cases where an extra vowel is inserted in the Māori form that is not present in the English form
  - Cases where an English vowel is changed or deleted in Māori
  - Cases of [ɻ]→[a(ː)]

Observe the following examples of English words that have been borrowed into Māori.

[hupa]	soup	[piɾi]	Billy
[kiɾiːmi]	cream	[haɾe]	Harry
[taːpu]	tub	[kataɾina]	Katherine
[paɾaihe]	brush	[pita]	Peter
[haːte]	shirt	[iɾihaːpeti]	Elizabeth
[koɾoɸa]	golf	[paːpaɾa]	Barbara
[tiata]	theatre	[tewi]	Davy
[taːpaɾa]	double	[ehikieɾa]	Ezekiel
[haɾatei]	holiday	[wikita]	Victor
[huːhana]	Susan	[paːoɾa]	Paul
[tame]	Tommy	[haɾona]	Sharon

(1) Make a list or chart showing (in IPA!) all the English consonants that occur in this data set, and what they correspond to in Māori. In some cases, the consonant from the English source word is unchanged in the Māori loanword, but in other cases, the consonant is changed to become an allowable segment in Māori. Give one English→Māori example word for each English consonant you list. Be sure to *organize* your answer by listing the English consonants in a **phonologically relevant** order. (What organization makes it easy for your reader to understand your list?)

(2) Use your list from question (1) to give a **systematic** description of the changes that are made when Māori borrows English words. Describe the affected segments and the changes that they undergo.

- Include enough statements to account for all the **changes** you have listed in (1).
- For each descriptive statement you make, express it in ordinary English. Then attempt to express it in terms of ***features*** (using features both to describe the class of segments that changes, and the nature of the change). If you find that some patterns in this data set cannot be easily expressed in our feature model, discuss the nature of the problem.
  - Make your statements general: Try to express a change in terms of ***segment classes*** instead of multiple specific statements, whenever possible.
  - Make sure that your statements don't overgeneralize — they should not incorrectly change the segments that do not change in your list in (1). (It's okay if they seem to turn segments from question (1) into *themselves,* though.)

For example: a statement about vowels might be "Mid central and back vowels become low." Expressed in terms of our feature model, this would be "[–hi –rd +bk] becomes [+lo]." This generalizes over the [ʌ]→[a], [ə]→[a], and [ɑ]→[a] examples in the data set.

(3) What does your feature analysis predict would happen if an English word containing [ð] were borrowed into Māori? Why do you predict this?

(4) Consider this additional example: The English name *Goliath* [gowlajəθ] was borrowed as [koɾiaha] in Māori.

(a) What is surprising about the consonants in this form? What does your analysis predict, and how is this loanword different?

(b) Is it possible to look at this example as a case of one of the segment classes you have described above being extended or generalized (becoming less specific)? Discuss.