

Kihehe prefixes (Tanzania)

In many Bantu languages, nouns belong to *classes*, which are (partially) arbitrary groupings similar to *genders* in European languages. Sometimes, the same noun stem can be used in different classes, with a change in meaning. **In this data set, each noun class is marked by a different *prefix*** (there are no infixes or non-concatenative morphemes).

- Examine the data given here and identify the morpheme alternations. Propose an appropriate UR for alternating morphemes.
- Some of the phonological rules that account for these morpheme alternations depend on syllable structure. State the syllable-related environments for these rules as explicitly as you can. (Hint: Set up URs for some of the morphologically complex words on the basis of your proposed morpheme URs, assign syllable structure to the URs, and see if the output of the syllabification process gives you any insight into the syllable-related environments for the segmental rules.)
- Try to generalize your rules as much as possible. But also think about: Are there any aspects of this data set that seem like they should be generalized, but which our current phonological model does not allow us to capture?

<i>Class 3</i>	muho:mi	‘cow hump’	muhogo	‘cassava’
	mufuniko	‘cover’	muvili	‘body’
	mwi:na	‘hole’	mwi:gi:gi	‘shadow’
	mwe:nda	‘cloth’	mo:to	‘fire’
	mu:ɲu	‘salt’		
<i>Class 4</i>	miho:mi	‘cow humps’	mihogo	‘cassavas’
	mifuniko	‘covers’	mivili	‘bodies’
	mi:na	‘holes’	mi:gi:gi	‘shadows’
	mje:nda	‘cloths’	mjo:to	‘fires’
	mju:ɲu	‘salts’		
<i>Class 12</i>	kate:fu	‘small mat’	kako:ngo	‘small wound’
	kafuniko	‘small cover’	kanga:mba	‘small sweet potato’
	ka:si	‘small builder’	ki:mbi	‘small singer’
	ka:nga	‘small grave’	ko:to	‘small file’ [fire?]
	ku:la	‘small frog’	ku:nga	‘small wet lowland’
<i>Class 13</i>	tute:fu	‘small mats’	tuko:ngo	‘small wounds’
	tufuniko	‘small covers’	tunga:mba	‘small sweet potatoes’
	twa:si	‘small builders’	twi:mbi	‘small singers’
	twa:nga	‘small graves’	to:to	‘small files’ [fires?]
	tu:la	‘small frogs’	tu:nga	‘small wet lowlands’