

Today's topics:

- **More practice with alternating morphemes and UR hypotheses**

Background preparation:

- PP: Dutch
- Handouts – Morphology and phonology;
Morpheme alternations

0. Today's objectives

After today's class, you should be able to:

- Identify multiple hypotheses about URs for alternating morphemes
- Make an argument about which analysis to choose

1. Check-in: Alternating morphemes

- What is an **alternating morpheme**?
- What does our model propose about the **UR** of an alternating morpheme?

2. Alternating morphemes in Dutch

Data set – [Dutch](#) (PP)

- In the prep questions assignment, you considered these words:

singular *plural*

[rant] [randən] ‘edge’

- What is the **meaning** of the morpheme that alternates?
- What are the **surface forms** of this morpheme?

2. Alternating morphemes in Dutch

Data set – Dutch (PP)

singular *plural*

[rant] [randən] 'edge'

Group debate and discussion

- People who chose /rant/ as the UR:
Explain (in your group) why you made this choice
 - Make a note of your best argument(s)

2. Alternating morphemes in Dutch

Data set – Dutch (PP)

singular *plural*

[rant] [randən] 'edge'

Group debate and discussion

- People who chose /rand/ as the UR:
Explain (in your group) why you made this choice
 - Make a note of your best argument(s)

2. Alternating morphemes in Dutch

What we proposed last class

- To **decide between UR hypotheses** for an alternating morpheme:
 - Take each hypothesis in turn and consider what phonological process(es) would be needed **under that hypothesis**
 - Compare: Is one of the options for the phonological process(es) **preferable**?

2. Alternating morphemes in Dutch

Data set – [Dutch](#) (PP)

- Which morphemes in Dutch **alternate**?
- What **hypotheses** can we formulate about the phonological **grammar** of Dutch in order to account for these alternation patterns?
 - What URs should we consider?
 - For each UR, what would the grammar have to make happen?
 - Which approach is the most insightful?

2. Alternating morphemes in Dutch

- Example: [rant] ~ [randən] 'edge -SG, -PL'
 - Hypothesis 1: UR is / rant /
 - What does the grammar have to make happen? In what environment?
 - Hypothesis 2: UR is / rand /
 - What does the grammar have to make happen? In what environment?
- What are the **pros and cons** of each hypothesis?

2. Alternating morphemes in Dutch

- Example: [rant] ~ [randən] 'edge -SG, -PL'
 - Hypothesis 1: UR is / rant /
 - Hypothesis 2: UR is / rand /
- What are the **pros and cons** of each hypothesis?
 - Isolation form is not same as UR (which hyp.?)
 - Phonological process is restricted to only certain morphemes (which hyp.?)
 - Make sure you understand what this means, and why it is a concern!
- What are some **predictions** of each hypothesis?

2. Alternating morphemes in Dutch

- Hypothesis 2
(UR is / r and /; rule *devoices* word-final obstruents)
 - What does this hypothesis predict should happen when a Dutch speaker starts to learn a language that has final voiced obstruents?
 - Listen to [this Dutch speaker](#)
(from Speech Accent Archive (GMU), speaker *dutch8*)
- **productivity**: when a process in the grammar is extended to novel words or contexts
 - Evidence that there *is* a process in the grammar!

3. Analyzing morpheme alternations

- **How many URs**
does an alternating morpheme have,
if the alternation is **phonologically productive**?

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- **How many URs**

does an alternating morpheme have,
if the alternation is **phonologically productive**?

- Example: Turkish plural has surface forms [-ler] and [-lar] — how many URs does this morpheme have?
 - If the surface form is predictable and the process is productive, the pattern is produced by the grammar (not memorized)
 - Start with the (single) UR and **apply phonological processes**

3. Analyzing morpheme alternations

- 1 Isolate the **morphemes** in the data set
- 2 Identify which morphemes are **alternating**
- 3 Determine the **phonological context** in which each surface form appears
- 4 Determine the best **analysis** (UR + process(es) combination)
- 5 Make sure your analysis is **formalized** using the tools of our phonological model

3. Analyzing morpheme alternations

Data set - [Dutch](#)

- 4 Determine the best **analysis** (UR + process(es) combination)
 - What considerations are important here?

3. Analyzing morpheme alternations

Data set - [Dutch](#)

4 Determine the best **analysis** (UR + process(es) combination)

- What considerations are important here?

- *From last time, now updated:*

Things to consider when comparing two hypotheses

- MOST IMPORTANT: Can a consistent generalization be stated across the data set (no “exceptions”)?
- ALSO CONSIDER: Can the environment needed for a process be stated **insightfully** in our model?

3. Analyzing morpheme alternations

Data set - [Dutch](#)

- 5 Make sure your analysis is **formalized** using the tools of our phonological model
 - What does this mean?
What “tools” should we use?
 - We will follow this up next class (and in the preparation questions)