

Today's topics:

- **Morpheme alternations check-in**
- **Formalizing phonological rules**

Background preparation:

- *All past data sets, handouts, and readings from the “representing morphemes” unit*

0. Today's objectives

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

- *Review:* Work comfortably with our current model
 - Describe segments, segment classes using features
 - Generalize over multiple processes using features
 - Identify UR hypotheses for an alternating morpheme
 - Determine what processes the grammar has to enforce, given a UR hypothesis for an alternating morpheme
- *New:* Formalize a phonological process using rule notation

0. Course information

- Are there any questions about SC HW #2?
- Note the following IPA symbol difference:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| [dĩŋgre] | [dĩŋgʌ] | ‘bush type’ |
| [gĩga:rɛ] | [gĩga:ja] | ‘vulture’ |

1. Warm-up / Review

- Any questions about **listing UR hypotheses?**

Morpheme

Surface forms

Dutch nouns

[rant, rand] ‘edge’ (etc.)

Lamba neuter

[-ik-, -ek-]

Lamba applied

[-il-, -el-]

Turkish plural

[-ler, -lar]

Turkish genitive

[-in, -yn, -ın, -un]

Turkish locative

[-te, -de, -ta, -da]

- **Similar patterns?** Try to **generalize**
- **Multiple phenomena?** Model them **separately**

1. Warm-up / Review

- Any questions about **working with features**?
 - **Describing** segments, classes insightfully
 - **Generalizing** over multiple patterns
 - Focus on **shared feature changes**, even if some cases need further “clean-up” changes
- Examples to practice with
 - Māori loanword changes
 - Turkish suffixes (genitive, plural, and locative)

1. Warm-up / Review

- Any questions about **connecting** a UR hypothesis to **what the grammar has to do** to enforce the morpheme alternation (**phonological process(es)**)?
- Example from prep questions:
 - Consider the hypothesis that the UR for the Turkish plural morpheme is /-ler/
 - What does the grammar have to make happen?
 - What is the **environment** for the process?
 - What sounds does the process **apply to**?
 - What **change** does the process enforce?

2. Formalizing processes as phonological rules

General outline of our model:

- The **underlying representations (URs)** of **morphemes** are stored in the **mental lexicon**
 - An **alternating morpheme** has a **single UR**
 - For a **morphologically complex word**, its UR is assembled in the morphological component
- Cases where the **surface form** of a word is different from its UR are caused by the phonological grammar applying a **phonological process**
- Phonological processes operate over **features**

2. Formalizing processes as phonological rules

- So far, we have been practicing other aspects of our model while describing phonological processes in informal language (though with features)
- In order to fully incorporate phonological processes into our model, we need to make **specific proposals** about **what the grammar does** to make a process happen
- One proposal: **Phonological rules**
 - Later in the course, we will look at an alternative!

2. Formalizing processes as phonological rules

- Our proposal:

A phonological rule takes the following form

target → **change** / **environment**

- What do these terms refer to?

2. Formalizing processes as phonological rules

- A phonological rule takes the following form:

target → **change** / **environment**

- The **target** = segment class that the rule *applies to*
 - Describe it as generally as possible
 - State the description in terms of **features**
 - This is true even if the class that the rule applies to consists of only one segment!
 - **Why?**

2. Formalizing processes as phonological rules

- A phonological rule takes the following form:

target → **change** / **environment**

- The **target** = segment class that the rule *applies to*
 - State the description in terms of **features**
 - This is true even if the class that the rule applies to consists of only one segment!
 - Why? Because we have proposed that features are how the mental grammar refers to segments

2. Formalizing processes as phonological rules

- A phonological rule takes the following form:

target → **change** / **environment**

- The **change** = **only** *those features* that are *affected*
 - A rule is not something that *replaces* one segment with an entirely different segment
 - A rule makes *adjustments* to a segment
 - Our model allows us to express these adjustments as changes to specific features

2. Formalizing processes as phonological rules

- A phonological rule takes the following form:
target → **change** / **environment**
- The **environment** specifies *where the rule applies*
 - Use **features** to represent segment classes
 - **#** = word boundary; **C₀** = 0 or more [-syll] segments
 - An **underscore** shows the **position** of the target:
 - **# [-cont] _** after a word-initial stop
 - **_ [-son, +cont]** before a fricative
 - **[+strid] _ [+lat]** between a strident and a lateral
 - **[-hi] C₀ _** after a non-high vowel, with zero or more [-syll] segts intervening

2. Formalizing processes as phonological rules

- **Deletion** rules
 - The **change** is written ' $\rightarrow \emptyset$ '
- **Insertion** rules
 - The **target** is written ' \emptyset ' (null, zero)
 - The **change** would technically be all features!
 - By convention, we treat this like the **target**: specify only the features we need to distinguish the inserted segment from the other segments observed in the data set
- ' \emptyset ' is pronounced as "zero" in rules

3. Practice with stating phonological rules

Group discussion

- Propose a **rule-based analysis** for the Turkish locative morpheme
 - Apply the tools of our model
 - Make the analysis as insightful as you can!