

Homework assignment #1

Due Monday, September 10

Reminders:

- You may complete and turn in a homework assignment in groups of up to 4 members
- Make sure you understand the material yourself, even if you are working in a group
- You/your group may discuss the assignment with other people/groups, but if you do, please acknowledge your collaborators

- (1) Do Ex 7 in Ch 2 of *IHL*, p 50. Try to answer the question as concretely and insightfully as you can. Remember to use properties of sounds in your answer whenever they lead to a deeper understanding of the phenomenon.
- (2) This question is *based on* Ex 13 in Ch 2 of *IHL*, p 52, which uses a data set (Palauan) from the back of the book. However, more specific directions are given here:
 - Find three sound changes that are represented in the Palauan data set to discuss. Try to choose changes that occur in more than one word in the data set, as far as possible.
 - For each of the changes that you have chosen:
 - (a) List all the words from the data set that undergo the change.
 - (b) Describe the change using at least one term from the list of sound-change types in Ch 2, if possible.
 - (c) State the change as explicitly as possible. If you can use the rule notation from Ch 3, do so. If this is not possible or presents special complications, describe the rule in prose as insightfully as you can.
- (3) Do Ex 2 in Ch 3 of *IHL*, p 62. For some items, you may wish to write more than one rule.
- (4) Discussion question
 - (a) *IHL* introduces terms to categorize assimilation based on the **direction** in which it takes place. State these terms, define them, and present an example of each (taking an example from the textbook is fine).
 - (b) Which of the types of assimilation discussed in (a) is more common?
 - (c) Phonetics experiments have shown the following result:
 - People are better at identifying the place of articulation of a consonant when it comes before a vowel than when it comes after a vowel. That is, they are more accurate identifying the place of C in a CV item than in a VC item.

Discuss the relationship of this finding to your answer in part (b) above. Does this phonetics result explain (b), either partly or completely? In your answer, make use of some of the ideas concerning **reasons why some sound changes are common** that we discussed at the end of class on Wed 9/5.