Linguistics 202 Fall 2012

Homework assignment #5: Comparative reconstruction and subgrouping

Due Wednesday, October 31

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

Using Dataset 16 at the end of IHL, you will reconstruct an ancestor language for Aroma, Hulu, and Sinaugoro. In your assignment, include the following information:

- (1) For each item in the word lists, state the reconstructed protolanguage form.
- (2) For any "suspicious" (phonetically similar, as in Ch 5) sound correspondences, justify the decision you made about how many protolanguage phonemes were involved.
- (3) State all sound changes that each of the three descendant languages has undergone. Remember to state your sound change rules as generalizations over classes of similar sounds whenever possible.
- (4) Based on this data set and your reconstructed protolanguage, discuss whether or not there is evidence for subgrouping among these three languages.