

Assignment #2 Due: in class, Tuesday, Sept 16, 2007

Minimal Pairs and Complementary Distribution

For each of the following data sets, you may read the instructions associated with each problem, but follow the ones I give instead.

1. Angas Sonorants. Halle and Clements Workbook p. 45.
 - (a) Do you think [t] and [d] are surface variants of the the same phoneme? Explain/justify your answer.
 - (b) Explain why the voicing quality of the sonorants is predictable. State the rule in prose. (If you like, you may also state it in the rule format discussed in class, but I definitely want it in prose).
2. Kongo Obstruents. Halle and Clements Workbook p. 47.
 - (a) State the distribution of [t,s,z] and [č,š,ž]. I.e. state the contexts in which each appears.
 - (b) Which set of sounds should be taken as phonemic and which set as the surface variant? Explain/justify your answer.
 - (c) State a rule in prose which changes the underlying phonemic form to the surface variant in the appropriate context. (If you like, you may also state it in the rule format discussed in class, but I definitely want it in prose).
3. Ganda Liquids. Halle and Clements Workbook p. 51.
 - (a) State the distribution of [l] and [r]. I.e. state the contexts in which each appears.
 - (b) Which set of sounds should be taken as phonemic and which set as the surface variant? Explain/justify your answer.
 - (c) State a rule in prose which changes the underlying phonemic form to the surface variant in the appropriate context. (If you like, you may also state it in the rule format discussed in class, but I definitely want it in prose).
 - (d) Answer the question in the book about the loanwords.
4. Proto-bantu Voice Obstruents. Halle and Clements Workbook p. 55.
 - (a) State the distribution of [β,l,ɣ] and [b,d,g]. I.e. state the contexts in which each appears.
 - (b) Which set of sounds should be taken as phonemic and which set as the surface variant? Explain/justify your answer.
 - (c) State a rule in prose which changes the underlying phonemic form to the surface variant in the appropriate context. (If you like, you may also state it in the rule format discussed in class, but I definitely want it in prose).
5. Mohawk Stops. Halle and Clements Workbook p. 59. For this one, you can follow the directions in the book.