

Day 7: Phonology

Ling 200: Introduction to Linguistic Thought

Jonathan North Washington

26 June 2007

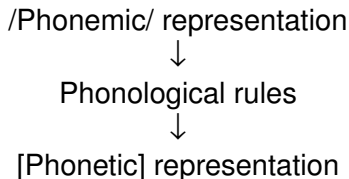
① *Phonological Rules*

② *Phonology Problems*

Phonological Rules

Definition (Phonological Rules)

Phonological rules are responsible for the mapping between the **phonemic** and **phonetic** (=allophonic) levels.



Phonological Rules

Phonological rules

- Account for predictable properties of pronunciation
- Have 3 parts:
 - ① sound(s) that undergo the rule
 - ② result of the rule
 - ③ environment where the rule applies
- $A \rightarrow B / C$
- “A becomes B in the environment C”

Phonology Problems

How to solve a phonology problem

Some tests to solve phonology problems:

- Minimal pairs: **contrastive distribution**
(allophones of different phonemes)
- Predictability: **complementary distribution**
(allophones of the same phoneme)

Phonology problems

Example

What are the high vowel phonemes of Mokilese?

Example (Mokilese (#23, p. 139))

[pɨsan]	[uduk]	i	u	i	u
[dupɨkda]	[kaskas]	p_s	p_k	_#	d_p
[pɨko]	[poki]	k_s	s_p	p_l	#_
[kɨsa]	[pil]	k_t		p_d	d_k
[sɨpwo]	[apid]				_#
[kamwɔkɨti]	[ludʒuk]				l_d
					_k

Phonology problems

Step 1

i	u	i	u
p_s	p_k	_#	d_p
k_s	s_p	p_l	#_
k_t		p_d	d_k
			_#
			l_d
			ʒ_k

Step 1: Look at environments to find natural classes

- [i] occurs...
 - between voiceless consonants
- [u] occurs...
 - between voiceless consonants
- [i], [u] occur...
 - No natural class can be used to define where [i], [u] occur

Phonology Problems

Step 2

Step 2: Look to see if environments overlap

- [i] does not occur where [i̯] does, and vice versa
- [u] does not occur where [u̯] does, and vice versa

THUS...

- [i̯] and [i] are in complementary distribution
- [u̯] and [u] are too

Phonology Problems

Step 3

Step 3: State generalisations

- “[i] and [u] are voiceless...
...when they occur between voiceless consonants.”
- “[i] and [u] are voiced...
...everywhere else.”
- Question: Is the Mokilese rule a voicing rule or a devoicing rule?

Phonology Problems

Step 4

Step 4: Determine identity of the phonemes and their allophones

I.e., Which is the basic and which is the restricted allophone(s)?

- Basic:
 - Assumed to be the phoneme that undergoes the rule
 - Occurs in wider, more complex set of environments
- Restricted ('derived'):
 - Predicted to be the outcome of the rule
 - Occurs in simplest set of environments

Phonology Problems

Solution

Rule for Mokilese?

- “/i/ and /u/ become [i̥] and [u̥] between voiceless consonants”
or...
- “High vowels become voiceless between voiceless consonants”
or...
- $V_{[+high]} \rightarrow [-voice] / C_{[-voice]} _ C_{[-voice]}$

Phonology Problems

Summary

Summary

- ① List the phonetic environments
- ② State the environments in terms of natural classes
- ③ Are the environments **the same** or **non-overlapping**?
 - Same: Contrastive distribution (allophones of different phonemes) e.g., [i] vs. [u]
 - Non-overlapping: Complementary distribution (allophones of the same phoneme) e.g., [i̯] vs. [i]
- ④ Identify the basic vs. restricted allophone(s)