

LING 183 Mastery Assignment 1 Sound Change

The purpose of this assignment is to get you thinking creatively about sound change. Sound changes are what you use to generate a lot of the allophony, and, ultimately, morphological complexity in your language. They are your paintbrush!

Review

What sound changes occurred between the following pairs of words? (Note the order. May be more than one correct answer.)

1. *gaxpε > ga:bε {1 pt}

2. *mentiv > mēdif {1 pt}

3. *kεstu > kjetso {1 pt}

Paradigm Shift

For the questions 4-7, work with the data set below:

tsuin	"box"	tsuinag	"boxes"	etsuin	"box's"
rome	"dream"	romeg	"dreams"	erome	"dream's"
iga	"son"	igag	"sons"	ehiga	"son's"
vas	"song"	vasag	"songs"	evas	"song's"
unir	"nut"	unirag	"nuts"	ehunir	"nut's"
plitu	"face"	plitug	"faces"	eplitu	"face's"
hik	"cup"	hikag	"cups"	ehik	"cup's"
fas	"elbow"	fasag	"elbows"	efas	"elbow's"
alam	"shelf"	alamag	"shelves"	ehalam	"shelf's"
vaza	"wife"	vazag	"wives"	evaza	"wife's"

4. Assuming an underlying prefix /e-/, what sound change is occurring in the forms /ehunir/ "nut's" and /ealam/ "shelf's"? {2pts}

5. Working with the same /e-/ prefix, what are some other possibilities for the underlying VV forms *eunir and *ealam? Give at least two. {3pts}

6. If you apply intervocalic voicing to this entire data set, are all forms still unique? If not, which forms are no longer unique? {3pts}

7. Using regular (i.e. unilateral), ordered sound changes, can you eliminate the distinction between singular and plural in this data set? If so, which sound changes do you use in which order? Illustrate with examples. {3pts}

Challenge Mode

Accomplish the following feats in the number of sound changes specified. (Note: May be the more than one correct answer.)

8. Starting with [ˈvæn.tə.kɔs], produce a velar nasal [ŋ] in three sound changes. {2pts}

9. Starting with [mɛ.ni.'to.li], produce any affricate in two sound changes. {2pts}

10. Starting with [ta.'ta.ta], produce a word-initial consonant cluster in three sound changes. {2pts}

Epic Challenge Mode (Bonus)

11. Reduce the form given below to [ə]. Use as many sound changes as you need. Let's see who can do it in the fewest! {5pts}

ts'kxr.t'if.p'ɛt.'kwɔ.just^h