EL1101E Problem Set 2
AY 25/26 Sem 2 — github/omgeta

Q1. No; minimal pairs exist (e.g. in [kano] vs [xano], and [kali] vs [xali]) with different meanings.

Q2. (a.) Yes; they do not occur in the same environment (complementary distribution): [u̥] occurs only between voiceless consonants, while [u] occurs elsewhere. [u] is likely to be less restricted, as it occurs in more environments than [u̥].

(b.) Yes; they do not occur in the same environment (complementary distribution): [i̥] occurs only between voiceless consonants, while [i] occurs elsewhere. [i] is likely to be less restricted, as it occurs in more environments than [i̥].

Q3. Yes; they do not occur in the same environment (complementary distribution): [z] occurs only after nasals, while [s] occurs elsewhere. [s] is likely to be less restricted, as it occurs in more environments than [z].

Q4. Yes; they do not occur in the same environment (complementary distribution): [ʃ] occurs only before certain vowels in the dataset, while [s] occurs elsewhere. [s] is likely to be less restricted, as it occurs in more environments than [ʃ].

Q5. No; even if they do not occur in the same environment in this dataset, [z] and [ʃ] are not phonetically similar enough (different voicing and place).