

COMPARATIVE RECONSTRUCTION

Data for In-class Demonstration

(Conceived by Donald Ringe)

The languages are artificial; they are labeled “A” and “B”. Each pair of words is a cognate pair; their meanings are represented by numbers. The task is to reconstruct the Proto-AB forms.

Pair #	A	B	Pair #	A	B
1	čiku	tig	16	puka	pug
2	kupa	kub	17	kut	kut
3	kipi	küb	18	tipi	tüb
4	tapu	tab	19	papa	pab
5	piči	püd	20	tupu	tub
6	čipa	tib	21	pit	pit
7	pak	pak	22	kapi	kab
8	katu	kad	23	taka	tag
9	tuta	tud	24	put	put
10	kat	kat	25	kap	kap
11	kutu	kud	26	tiči	tüg
12	čik	tik	27	pika	pig
13	pitu	pid	28	čita	kid
14	kiči	küd	29	paku	pag
15	čipi	kib	30	tup	tup

Note: the symbol [č] indicates a palato-alveolar affricate.

Follow these steps:

- 1) Make a list of correspondences and the numbers they occur in.
- 2) Group them into sets of similar correspondences.
- 3) Propose a tentative proto-phoneme for each correspondence.
- 4) Using these proto-phonemes, re-write the data as a single set of proto-forms.
- 5) Inspect your set of proto-forms for complementary distributions.
- 6) If you find complementary distributions, identify proto-allophones and their conditioning environments.
- 7) Re-write the data again, without the allophonic alternations.
- 8) List the rules that apply to each language to derive the attested forms.
- 9) Make charts of the proto-phonemes.
- 10) Comment on the choices you have made and the results of your reconstruction, where necessary.