Phonology Assignment #4

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1 Part 1

1.1 Ranking A: Complete Neutralization

The phoneme /c/ is "completely neutralized", that is, we do not expect to see it anywhere in the data.

/ka/	*Pal	*K_i	Ident
⇒ ka			
ca	*		*

/ki/	*Pal	*K_i	Ident
⇒ ki		*	
ci	*		*

/ca/	*Pal	*K_i	Ident
ca	*		
⇒ ka			*

/ci/	*Pal	*K_i	Ident
ci	*		
⇒ ki		*	*

1.2 Ranking B: Allophonic

The sounds /c/ and /k/ are in an allophonic distribution, that is, their distribution is predictable: /c/ appears only before /i/, while /k/ appears elsewhere.

/ka/	*K_i	*Pal	Ident
⇒ ka			
ca		*	*

/ki/	*K_i	*Pal	Ident
ki	*		
⇒ ci		*	*

/ca/	*K_i	*Pal	Ident
ca		*	
⇒ ka			*

/ci/	*K_i	*Pal	Ident
⇒ ci		*	
ki	*		*

1.3 Ranking C: Contextually Limited Contrast

The phonemes /k/ and /c/ are mostly contrastive, except that in front of /i/ we *only* see /c/.

/ka/	*K_I	IDENT	*PAL
⇒ ka			
ca		*	*

/ki/	*K_I	IDENT	*PAL
ki	*		
⇒ ci		*	*

/ca/	*K_I	IDENT	*PAL
⇒ ca		*	
ka		*	

/ci/	*K_I	IDENT	*PAL
⇒ ci		*	
ki	*	*	

2 Part 2

a) Ranking B best accounts for the data here. The example velar and palatal consonants are in an allophonic distribution. The palatal consonants appear before high vowels, while the velars appear elsewhere.

b)

ittjifak	*K_I	*PAL	IDENT
⇒ ittjifak			
ittjifac		*	*

ittjifak-i	*K_I	*PAL	IDENT
ittjifak-i	*		
⇒ ittjifac-i		*	*

c) Even if we choose the other underlying representation for 'alliance', we will get the same result. Observe:

ittjifac	*K_I	*PAL	IDENT
ittjifac		*	
⇒ ittjifak			*

ittjifac-i	*K_I	*PAL	IDENT
⇒ ittjifac-i		*	
ittjifak-i	*		*

d) We do not need to choose a specific underlying form for 'dirt'; or, more accurately perhaps, it does not matter *which* underlying form we choose. As demonstrated above with 'alliance', either underlying representation will produce the same result when run through our OT constraint ranking.