## **Tutorial 7 More on phonemic analysis**

October 24, 2024

## **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this tutorial, you should be able to:

• Conduct a phonemic analysis of more pairs of sounds

## Phonemic analysis of Kisi

Kisi is a Mel language of the Niger-Congo family, spoken in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Consider the data below (adapted from Childs 1988, 1991). **Note:** tone is marked only for accuracy—it is **not** relevant to the distribution of the sounds. The sounds of interest are [a], [a:], [a], [a:], [i], [i:], [i], and [i:].

[à]	'you (singular)'	[dòmấː]	'shirt'	[dímí]	'speak!'
[já]	'me'	[sáːbándĭːnɔ̃ː]	'bag carrier'	[bàŋẵː]	'redeem'
[wónîkènề]	'greetings'	[kɔ̀:lì]	'behind'	[fàlló]	'cider'
[bàː]	'or, whether, if'	[jìːŋ͡iː]	'hair'	[dâːmấ]	'only'
[mầlăː]	'help'	[sùːwá]	'fish (plural)'	[kìːjò]	'palm wine dregs'
[mi̇̀ːŋgù]	'return'	[nầːndɔ́]	'August'	[ípáŋấ]	'machete'

1. <u>Determine</u> how we should group these sounds into natural classes to make the analysis easier. In other words, which pairs of sounds should be compared?

2. Now that you have relevant groupings, <u>list</u> the environment for each sound.

- 3. Based on your work above, <u>determine</u> whether there is contrastive or complementary distribution(s) between the relevant sound pairs. Then, <u>discuss</u> how you know this.
- 4. As a conclusion, <u>state</u> whether the relevant sound pairs are allophones of different phonemes or allophones of the same phoneme. <u>Organize</u> the relevant sound pairs into phonemes and allophones, using the diagram we saw in class (remember to use the correct brackets)

5. **Challenge**: Given the distribution(s) that you found above, <u>state</u> your predictions about the distribution of other vowels like [0], [u:], and  $[\tilde{\epsilon}]$ .