

Homework 8: Somali

Phonetics & Phonology

due Tuesday, March 22

Give an analysis of the following forms of nouns in Somali. This includes the UR (underlying representation) of the morphemes, phonological rules (in prose and in features) for any phonological processes, and a discussion of anything of interest. For example, do the rules have to apply in a particular order, or not? Are the rules in a name-able relationship? Assume a rule that changes the sequence [lt] into [ʃ] (features are hard here– just use $lt \rightarrow ʃ$ (under all conditions, so no conditioning environment)). Illustrate how your analysis works by showing the derivation of the forms of the word for ‘sea’. (Note: Remember that a UR starts with all relevant morphemes; they aren’t added by rule.)

singular	sing. definite	plural	gloss
daar	daarta	daaro	‘house’
gees	geesta	geeso	‘side’
lug	lugta	luɣo	‘leg’
naag	naagta	naayo	‘woman’
tib	tibta	tiβo	‘pestle’
sab	sabta	saβo	‘outcast’
bad	bada	baðo	‘sea’
ʕid	ʕida	ʕiðo	‘person’
ul	ufa	ulo	‘stick’
bil	bifa	bilo	‘month’
meel	meeʃa	meelo	‘place’
kaliil	kaliifa	kaliilo	‘summer’

Now consider and give an analysis of the following, additional data. Determine the UR, and any additional phonological processes at work. (Hint: Be sure to consider all possible ways of accounting for the alternation before choosing a UR.) Present and defend your choice of UR for ‘branch’ and ‘hide’, show a derivation for all forms of these words, and comment on anything of interest.

singular	sing. definite	plural	gloss
sun	sunta	sumo	‘poison’
laan	laanta	laamo	‘branch’
sin	sinta	simo	‘hip’
dan	danta	dano	‘affair’
daan	daanta	daano	‘riverbank’
saan	saanta	saano	‘hide’