Phonology Practice Exercises, part 2
Linguistics 201

Distinctive Features and Rules

Below are some (formal and informal) descriptions of phonological rules. Write out each rule in formal notation, using the appropriate distinctive features for each segment involved in the rule.

You may find the feature table at the end of section 3.3 in your textbook to be of use in completing this exercise. One strategy you can use for these problems is to think first of the phonetic descriptions of each segment (voicing, place and manner for consonants, and height, front/backness, rounding and tense/lax for vowels) and just convert those into the corresponding phonological features. Ultimately, your goal should be to try to include only those features which are necessary to specify the identity of the segments ("natural classes") involved in the rule.

Example: Tongan: /t/ becomes [s] before [i]

Feature Notation:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{[+consonantal]}
\text{CORONAL} \\
\text{[+continuant]} \\
\text{+anterior} \\
\text{[+strident]}
\end{array}
\rightarrow
\begin{array}{c}
\text{[+continuant]} \\
\text{DORSAL} \\
\text{[+high]} \\
\text{[+front]} \\
\text{[+tense]}
\end{array}
\]

(Note that C represents any consonant, V represents any vowel, and # is a word boundary.)

1. Micmac: /p/ becomes [b] between two vowels

2. Mokilese: [i] + [u] become voiceless in between two voiceless consonants


5. /n/ \rightarrow [m] / ____ [b]

6. /l/ \rightarrow [o] / [i] ____ #

7. /t/ \rightarrow [tʃ] / ____ [r]