

Linguistics 113
Instructions to Homework 8
Due Thursday 13 November, 2003

Yawelmani Vowel System (Reader p.51) *Don't leave this assignment to the last minute!*

1. List the surface forms for the suffixes in (a)
future passive:

passive aorist:

precative gerundial:

dubitative:

2. Describe in words when each surface form occurs.

3. Based on your description above, what is the underlying form for each suffix?
future passive:

passive aorist:

precative gerundial:

dubitative:

4. Write formal phonological rules for the suffix alternations in (a) and (b):
You need at most 2 rules. They can be combined with distinctive features into 1 rule
(extra credit – see below.)

5. Assuming Yawelmani does not allow consonant clusters in syllable onsets or codas,
break up the words in (c) into syllables.

6. List the surface forms for the stems in (c):

'swallow'

'unwrap'

'report'

'go'

7. Describe in words when each surface form occurs.

8. Based on your description above, list the underlying form for each stem:

‘swallow’

‘unwrap’

‘report’

‘go’

9. Write the formal rule for the stem alternation in (c):

10. Divide the words in (d) into syllables. (HINT: we went over this part of Yawelmani phonology in class)

11. List the surface forms of each stem:

‘fight’

‘run’

‘pulverize’

‘drink’

12. Describe in words when each surface form occurs.

13. Based on your description above, list the underlying form for each stem:

‘fight’

‘run’

‘pulverize’

‘drink’

Extra Credit

Combine the rules in 4 using distinctive features. For the purpose of this assignment – ignore [e] as it is a variant of /e:/. You will need to use Greek letter variables (α , β , etc.) You may find the following useful.

Fill in the distinctive feature values for Yawelmani vowels:

Vowel	[high]	[low]	[back]	[round]	[long]
i	+	-	-	-	-
u					
o					
a					
e:					
o:					
a:					

2. Now determine the minimal number of features necessary to specify each vowel:

i	[+syll, -cons, +high, -round, -long]
u	
o	
a	
e:	
o:	
a:	

It may be useful to review Turkish vowel harmony. Think in terms of rewrite rules (if it is a high front vowel – what is the rounding; if it is a high back vowel – what is the rounding?)