

# Handout #14

Lamba

# Lamba (a Bantu language of Zambia)

(Kenstowicz and Kisseberth 1979: 71-72)

Basic verb	Passive ("be ___ed")	Stative ("be___able)	Applica- tive ("___ for")	Basic verb gloss
tfita	tfitwa	tfitika	tfitila	do
tula	tulwa	tulika	tulila	dig
lasa	laswa	lafika	lafila	wound
masa	maswa	mafika	mafila	plaster
pata	patwa	patika	patila	scold
fisa	fiswa	fifika	fifila	hide

# Morphemes

- w “passive”
- ik “stative”
- il “applicative”
- tʃit “do”
- tul “dig”
- las ~ laʃ “wound”
- mas ~ maʃ “plaster”
- pat “scold”
- fis ~ fiʃ “hide”

# Alternations

- **Morpheme alternants**
  - las ~ laʃ “wound”
  - mas ~ maʃ “plaster”
  - fis ~ fiʃ “hide”
- **Alternating sounds**
  - s ~ ʃ

# Alternations

- **Distribution of alternating sounds**
  - [ʃ] occurs only before [i]
  - [s] occurs only elsewhere.
- Note that we've seen this same distribution before, in Korean (Handout #2).
- The analysis is also the same as there.

# Analysis

- **Underlying representation of alternating morphemes:**
  - /las, mas, fis/
- **Rule (Palatalization):**
  - [-son, +cont] --> [-ant] / \_\_\_\_\_ V  
[-back, +high]

# Derivations

Underlying representation	/f̥is - a/	/f̥is - il - a/
Palatalization	_____	/fiʃ - il - a/
Surface representation	[fisa]	[fiʃila]

# Lamba: Some more data

Basic verb	Passive ("be ___ed")	Stative ("be ___able")	Applicative ("___ for")	Basic verb gloss
tʃeta	tʃetwa	tʃeteka	tʃetela	<i>spy</i>
soŋka	soŋkwa	soŋkeka	soŋkela	<i>pay tax</i>
seka	sekwa	sekeka	sekela	<i>laugh at</i>
poka	pokwa	pokeka	pokela	<i>receive</i>
tʃesa	tʃeswa	tʃesekeka	tʃesela	<i>cut</i>
kosa	koswa	koseka	kosela	<i>be strong</i>



# Alternations

- There are some new **alternations** here:
  - ik ~ ek “stative”
  - il ~ el “applicative”
- The **alternating sounds** are:
  - i ~ e

# Distribution of the alternating sounds

- The mid vowel [e] occurs after [+syll, -high, -low] C<sub>0</sub>, as well as elsewhere.
- The high vowel [i] does not occur there, but does occur elsewhere.
- Note that this is the same pattern of distribution as in the related language Kinyarwanda (Homework #4).
- The analysis is the same as there too.



# Derivations

Underlying representation	/fis - il - a/	/kos - il - a/
Vowel harmony	_____	/kos - el - a/
Palatalization	/fiʃ - il - a/	_____
Surface representation	[fiʃila]	[kosela]

# Interaction

- We now have two rules that refer to vowel height:
  - **Vowel harmony**, which eliminates high vowels in certain contexts
  - **Palatalization**, which is conditioned by high vowels
- There are some forms, like *kosela* in the last derivation, where both rules apply.

# Interaction

- In such a case, the order in which the two rules are applied makes a difference.
- If **Vowel harmony** is applied before **Palatalization**, as in the derivation above, then **Palatalization** won't apply before underlying high vowels that **Vowel harmony** changes to mid vowels.
- **Palatalization** could have applied to the underlying representation /kosila/, but can't apply to the output of **Vowel harmony** /kosela/.

# Bleeding

- **Vowel harmony** bleeds **Palatalization** because there are forms, like [kosela], where **Palatalization** fails to apply because **Vowel harmony** has applied.
- As the following derivations show, applying Palatalization before Vowel Harmony yields incorrect outputs (marked by asterixes).

# Derivations (wrong order)

Underlying representation	/fis - il - a/	/kos - il - a/
Palatalization	/fiʃ - il - a/	/koʃ - il - a/
Vowel harmony	_____	/koʃ - el - a/
Surface representation	[fiʃila]	*[koʃela]



# Reference

- Kenstowicz, Michael and Charles Kisseberth (1979). *Generative Phonology: Description and Theory*. Academic Press, San Diego.