

HUL242:: Tutorial-2

1. Greek data. Focus on [x] voiceless velar fricative, [k] voiceless velar stop, [ç] voiceless palatal stop [ç] voiceless palatal fricative.

[kano] ‘do’	[çeri] ‘hand’
[xano] ‘lose’	[kori] ‘daughter’
[çino] ‘pour’	[xrima] ‘money’
[cino] ‘move’	[krima] ‘shame’
[kali] ‘charms’	[xufta] ‘handful’
[xali] ‘plight’	[kufeta] ‘bonbons’
[çeli] ‘eel’	[oçi] ‘no’
[ceri] ‘candle’	[xori] ‘dances’

Are there any minimal pairs ? Are there any sounds in complementary distribution? What are the phonemes and their allophones? How can they be derived via phonological rules?

2. In English not all consonant clusters appear in word-initial clusters after /s/ E.g. *spin* is possible, but others are not. List those consonants that *can* occur using an example. Using this list, is it possible to group them into classes ? Now try this with three member clusters e.g. /s/ followed by two consonants ? Do these consonants also constitute a class(es) ? Can you extend this idea to explain how the creation of nonce words (e.g. words like ‘wug’) is acceptable but not ‘zhlet’ ?

Solution: [sp] spin [sw] sweet [sk] skew [sf] sphere [sm] small [st] stay [sl] slow [sn] snide
 voiceless consonants [p,t,k,f], approximants [l,w] and nasals [m,n]

[spl] splash, [spr] spring, [str] straw, [skr] screw, [skw] squid [stj] stupid
 Voiceless consonants /p,t,k/ followed by lateral approximants and glides /l,r,w,j/.
 The restriction on the number of consonant clusters at the beginning of a word is related to certain phonological constraints typical to the language. It appears to disallow certain consonants to co-occur, hence ‘zhlet’ is not possible but ‘wug’, or some nonce word like ‘spom’ is acceptable because they are obeying certain phonological constraints.