

# Li8 Supervision assignment 3

## Slots and templates

Due 20 November

### Slot and filler analysis

The analysis that we assigned to the Fore paradigms in Supervision 2 proceeded by a familiar process of segmentation and classification. We first divided each of the forms into parts, to determine the number and arrangement of morphotactic ‘slots’ in Fore. We then compared the interpretation of segments, to classify the slots. At the end of this process, we arrived at a four-slot ‘template’: STEM-TENSE-AGREEMENT-*e*. This template imposed a uniform structure in which each slot defined a substitution class of featurally coherent segments, and the arrangement of slots represented order.

### Data analysis task 1: Swahili

First propose a slot-and-filler analysis for the Swahili verb forms in Table 1. Define a general template, segment the forms in a way that conforms to the template, and note any alternations that occur at segment boundaries.

	Past	Future
1sg	nilitaka	nitataka
2sg	ulitaka	utataka
3sg	alitaka	atataka
1pl	tulitaka	tutataka
2pl	mlitaka	mtataka
3pl	walitaka	watataka

Table 1: Affirmative paradigms of KUTAKA ‘want’ in Swahili

Now extend your analysis so that it applies to the forms in Table 2:

	Past	Future
1sg	sikutaka	sitataka
2sg	hukutaka	hutataka
3sg	hakutaka	hatataka
1pl	hatukutaka	hatutataka
2pl	hamkutaka	hamtataka
3pl	hawakutaka	hawatataka

Table 2: Negative paradigms of KUTAKA ‘want’ in Swahili

### Data analysis task 2: Fula

Next propose the same kind of analysis for the Fula paradigms in Table 3:

	General Past	Emphatic Past
1Sg	milootii	lootumi
2Sg	’alootii	lootudaa
3Sg	’olootii	’olooti
1Pl	minlootii	minlooti
2Pl.Inc	’enlootii	lootuden
2Pl.Exc	’onlootii	lootudon
3Pl	belootii	belooti

Table 3: Past paradigms of LOOTUKI ‘wash’ in Fula

### Data analysis Task 3: European Portuguese

Next consider the distribution of the 2Sg object marker in the European Portuguese paradigms in Table 4. Can a slot-and-filler analysis provide an insightful analysis of this pattern? If you answer ‘yes’, specify a template for European Portuguese. If you answer ‘no’, suggest what other factors or mechanisms could be invoked to describe the distribution of object markers.

	Past Imperfective		Conditional	
	No marker	With 2sg marker	No marker	With 2Sg Marker
1sg	lavava	lavavate	lavaria	lavarteia
2sg	lavavas	lavavaste	lavarias	lavarteias
3sg	lavava	lavavate	lavaria	lavarteia
1pl	lavávamos	lavávamoste	lavariámos	lavarteíamos
2pl	laváveis	laváveiste	lavaríeis	lavarteíeis
3pl	lavavam	lavavamte	lavariam	lavarteiam

Table 4: Object markers in European Portuguese paradigms of ‘wash’

### Bonus essay task

The elements assigned to a given slot tend to share three properties in common: (i) they occur in complementary distribution, (ii) they express a coherent grammatical category, such as ‘tense’ or ‘agreement’, and (iii) they exhibit the same ordering relations with other elements. This clustering is sometimes captured by recognizing ‘position classes’ that are associated with all three properties. Write a short essay that (i) clarifies whether you think these properties always cluster, (ii) offers an explanation for why properties would cluster in the cases where they seem to, and (iii) suggests how you might dissociate properties in cases where they don’t seem to converge.

### References

- Inkelas, S. (1993). Nimboran position class morphology. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* **11**(4), 559–624.
- Luís, A. & Spencer, A. (2005). A paradigm function account of ‘mesoclisis’ in European Portuguese. In Booij, G. & van Marle, J. (eds.), *Yearbook of Morphology 2004*, Dordrecht: Springer, 177–228.
- Nordlinger, R. (2010). Verbal morphology in Murrinh-Patha: Evidence for templates. *Morphology* **20**(2), 321–341.