English Phonology

The Foot and Beyond

English Foot Structure

- beyond the word:

/^{2}kæŋgə^{1}ɹu:/ **BUT**: /^{1}kæŋgəɹu: ^{1}kɔɹt/

English Foot Structure

- beyond the word:

/ˈˈkæŋgəˈɹu:/ **BUT**: /ˈkæŋgəɹu: ˈkɔɹt/

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- unit above the level of the syllable
- foot (ϕ) = stressed syllable + all unstressed syllables in its domain

English Foot Structure

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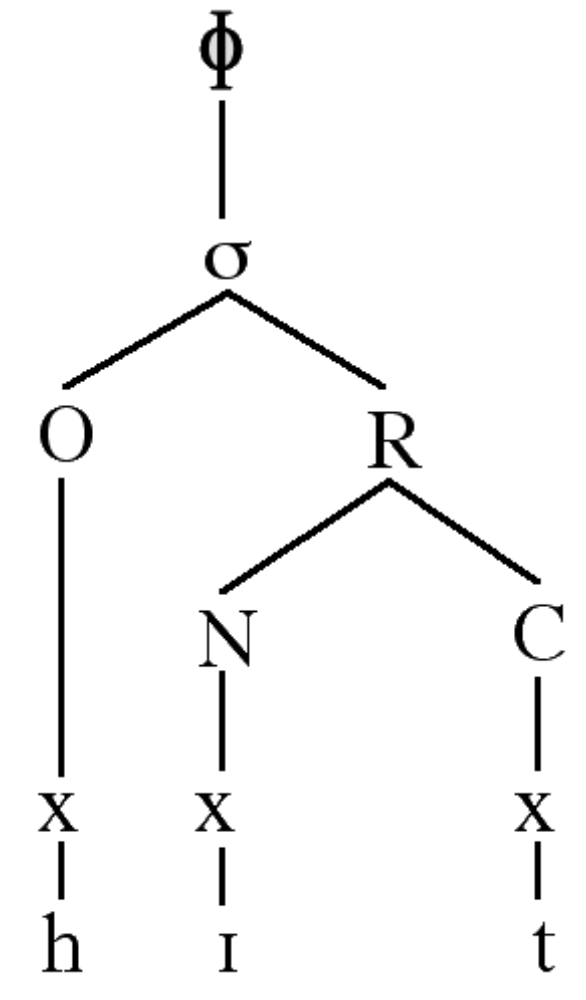
/ˈkæŋgəˈɹu:/ **BUT**: /ˈkæŋgəɹu: ˈkɔɹt/

- /ˈkɔɹt/ is actually the most heavily stressed syllable in the phrase
- unit above the level of the syllable
- one stressed syllable per foot
- foot (ϕ) = stressed syllable + all unstressed syllables in its domain



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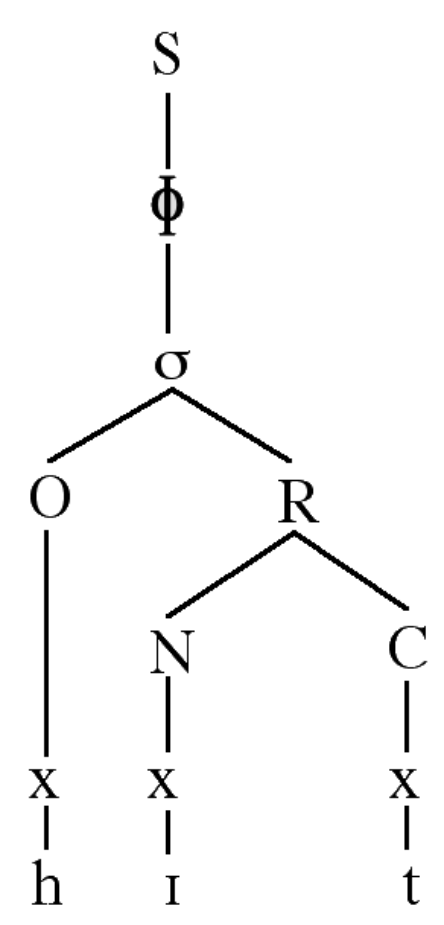

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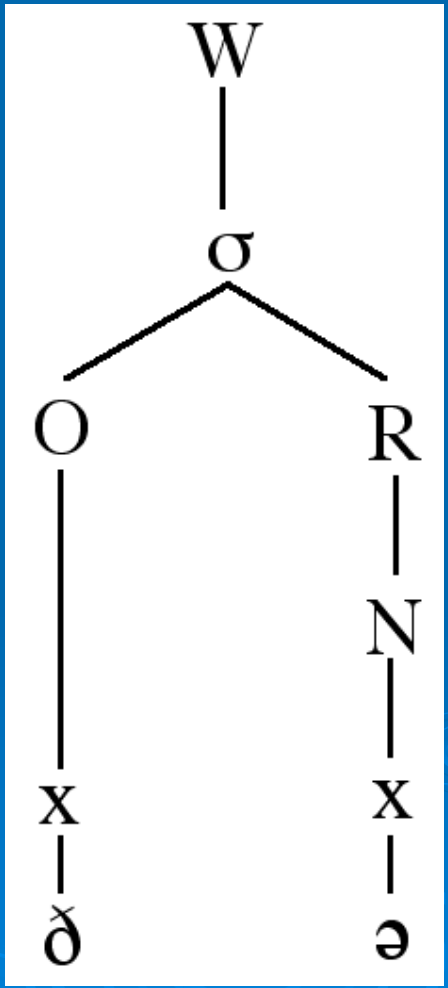

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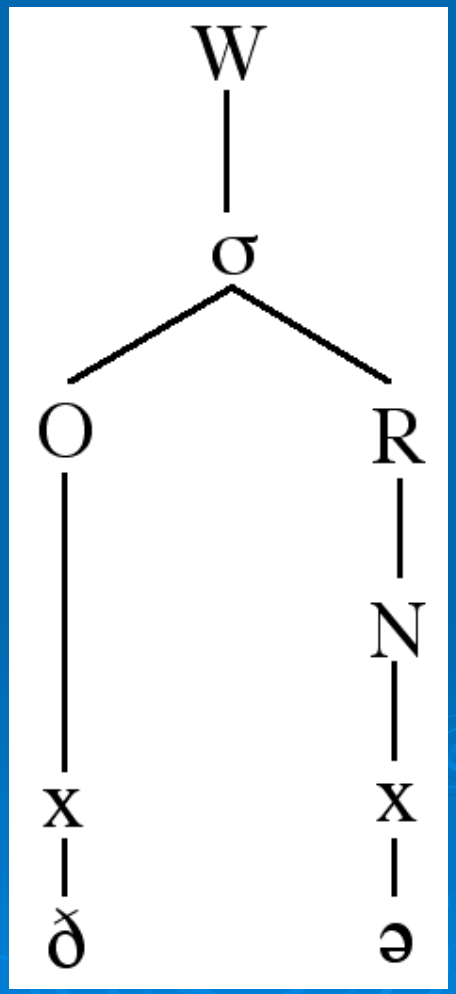
- they must attach to a foot, e.g., a + apple → an apple



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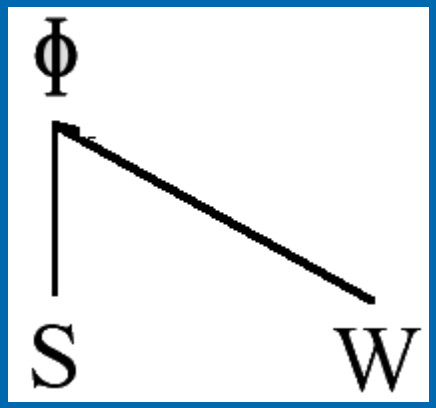
- we will focus on the S/W assignment of feet, but remember that both syllable and foot structure are important for rhythm assignment
- three main types of feet in English: trochees, iambs, and dactyls

Foot Types

Foot Types

Trochee



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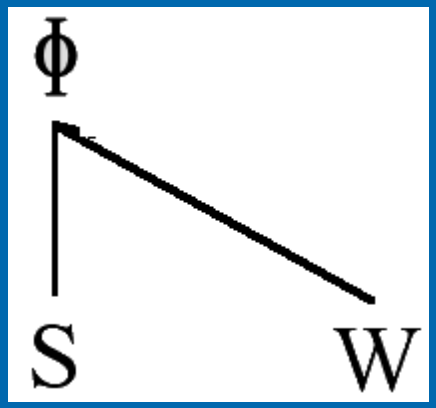

sofa
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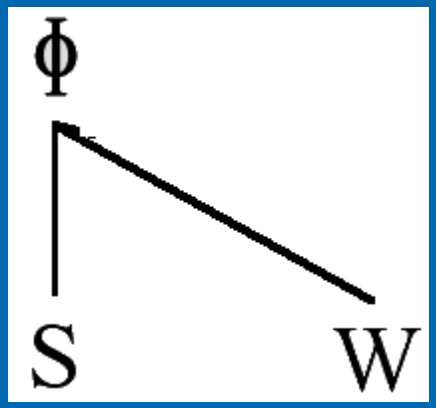

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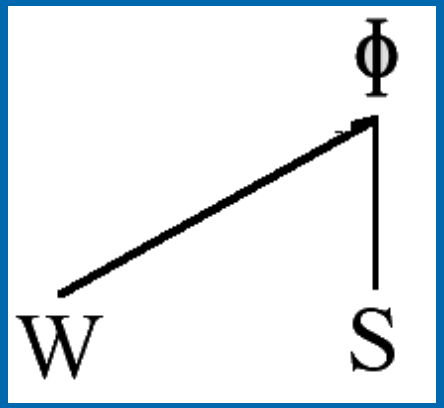

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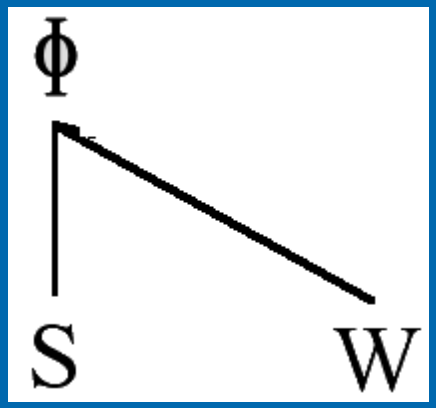

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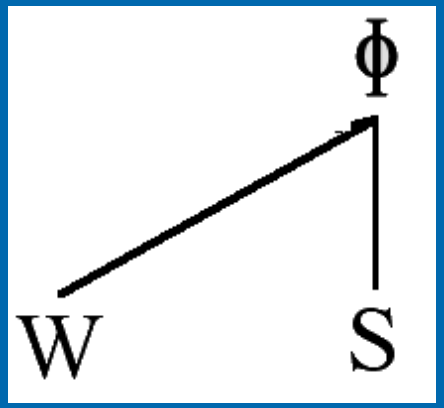

sofa
bitter
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apart
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Foot Types

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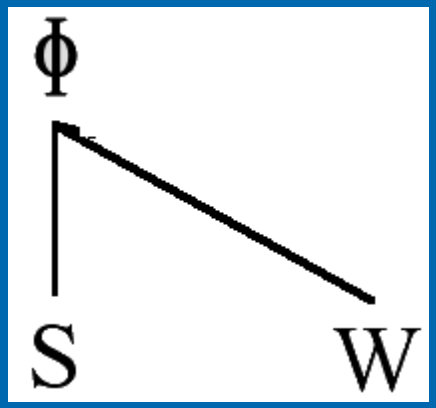

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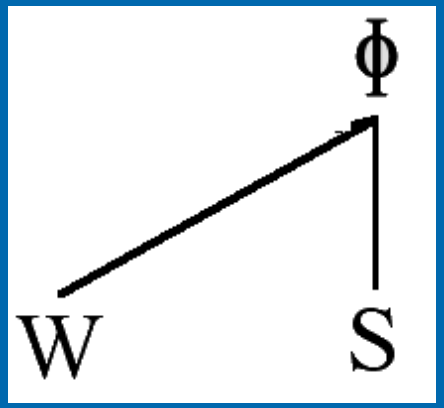
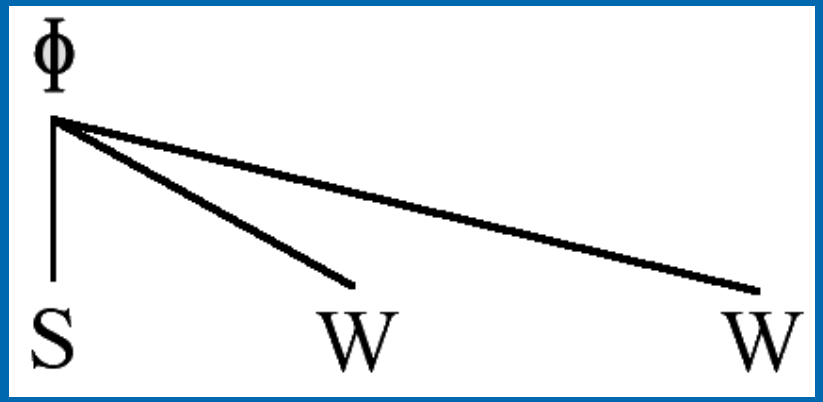


Dactyl



sofa
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grandma

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Foot Types

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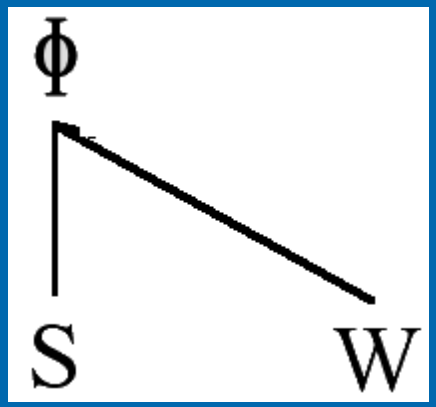	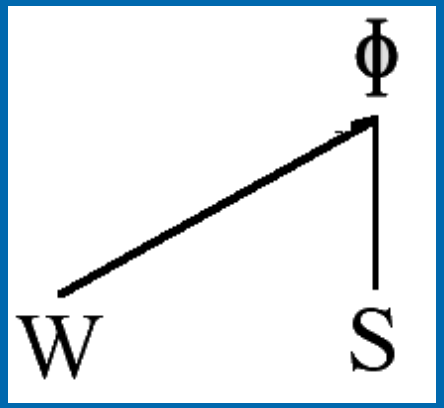	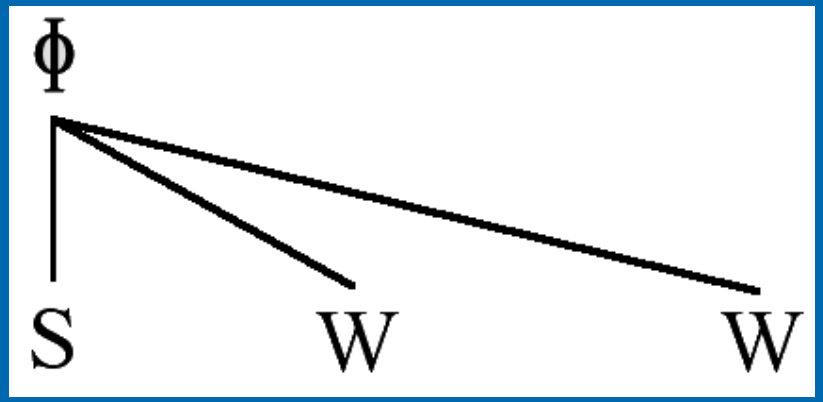
sofa	apart	federal
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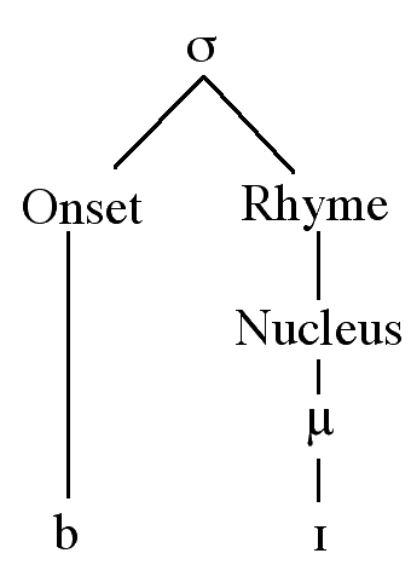

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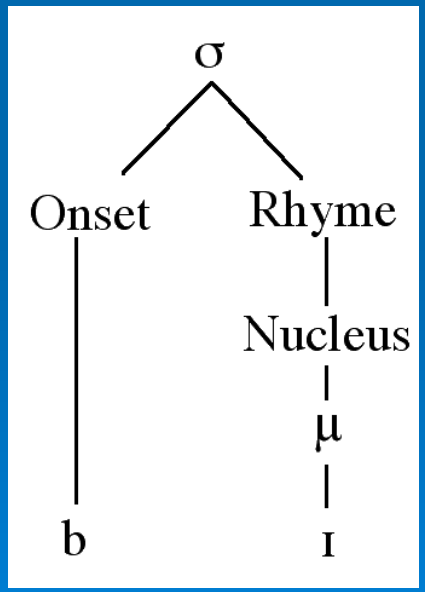

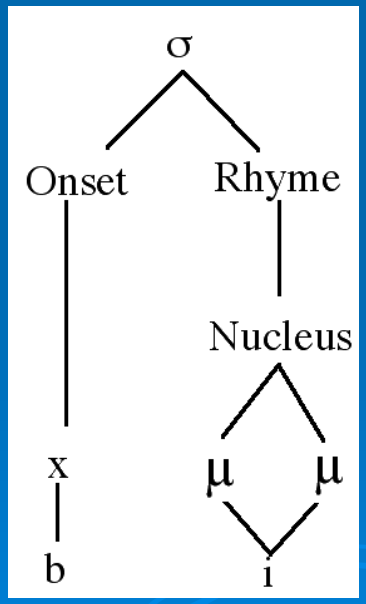

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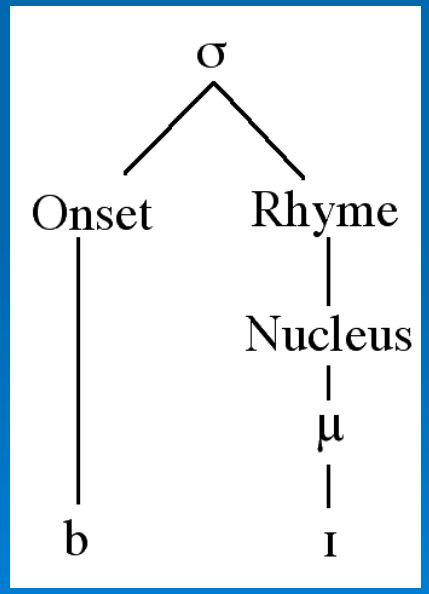

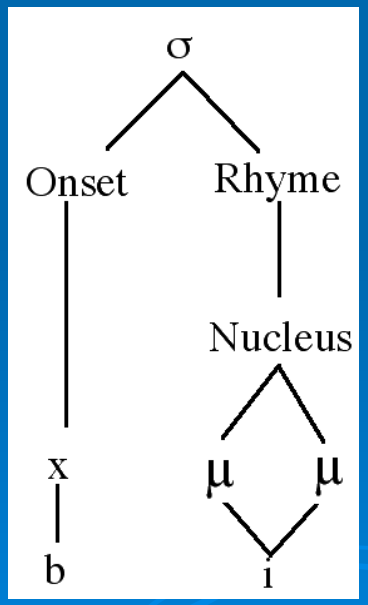

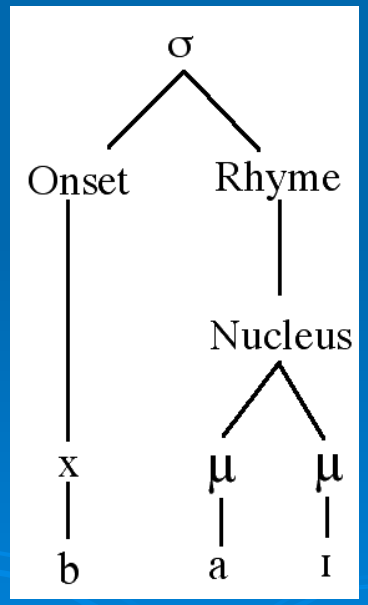

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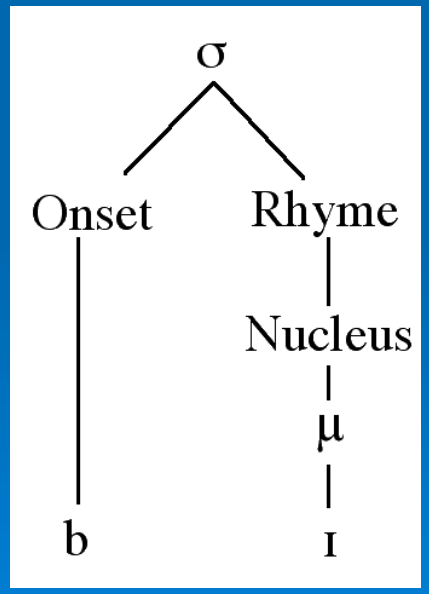

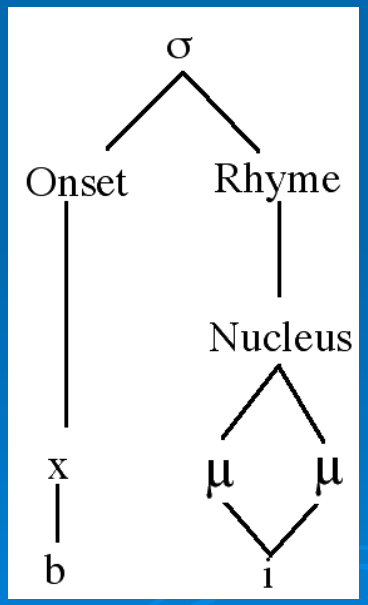

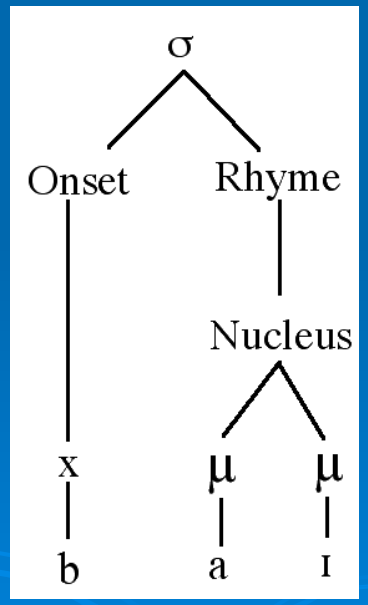

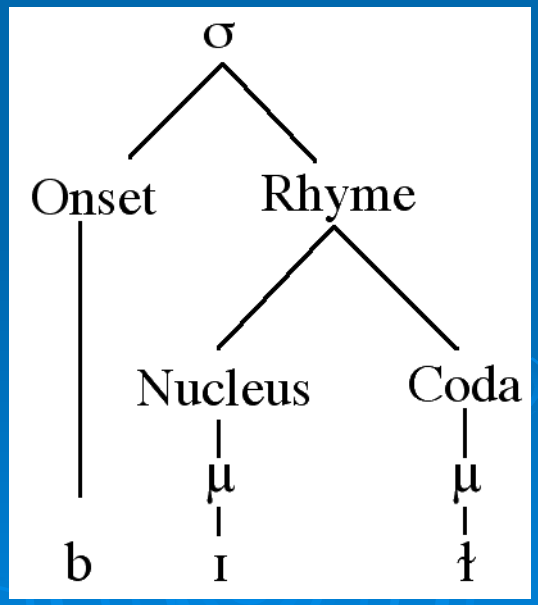

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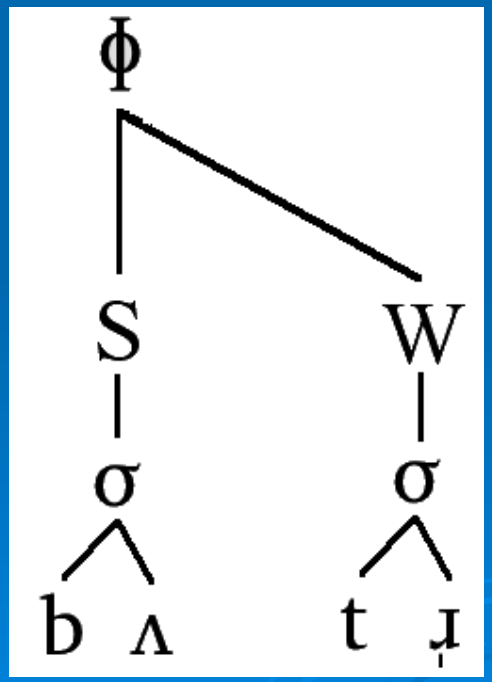

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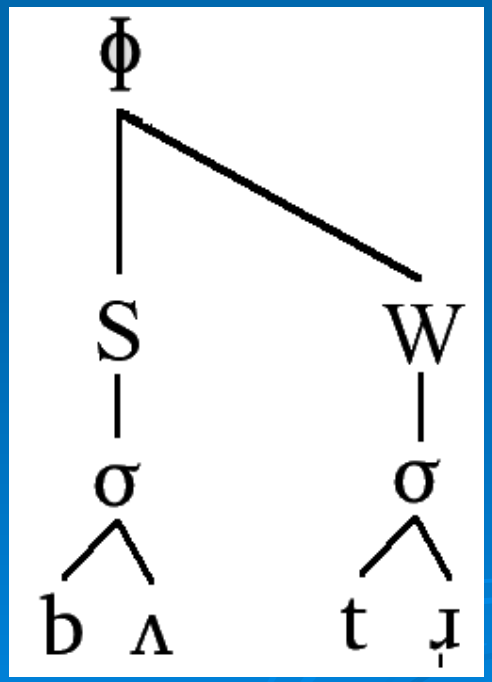

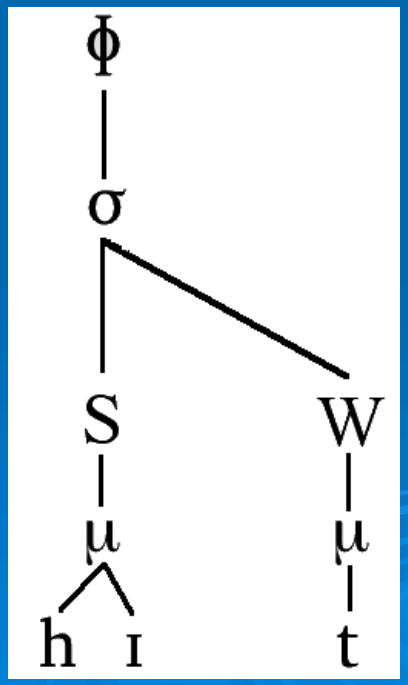

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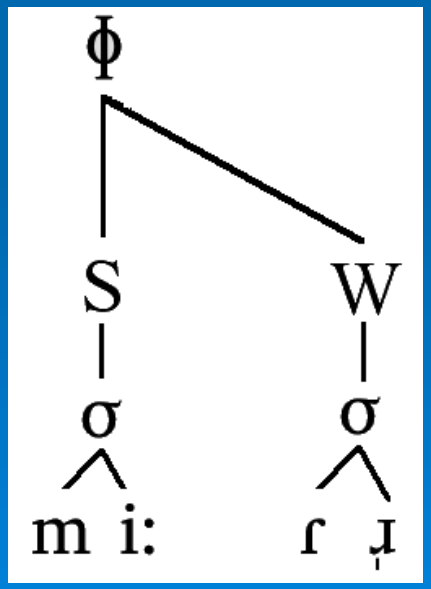

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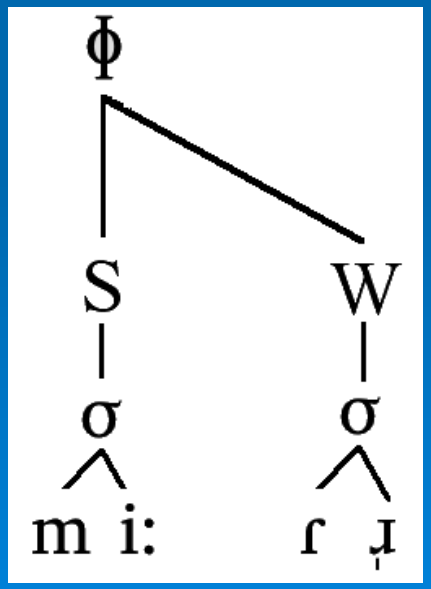

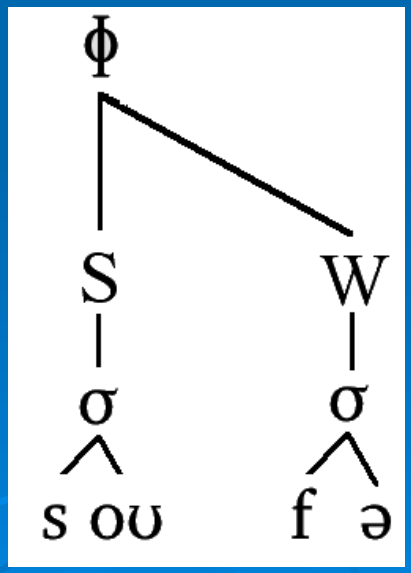

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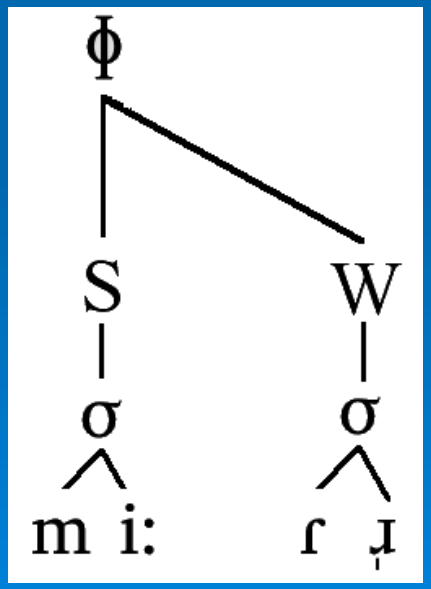

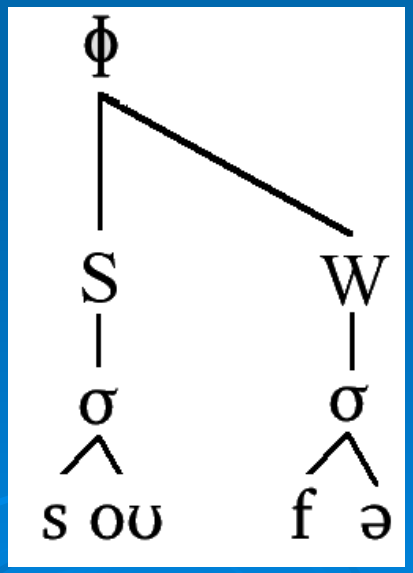

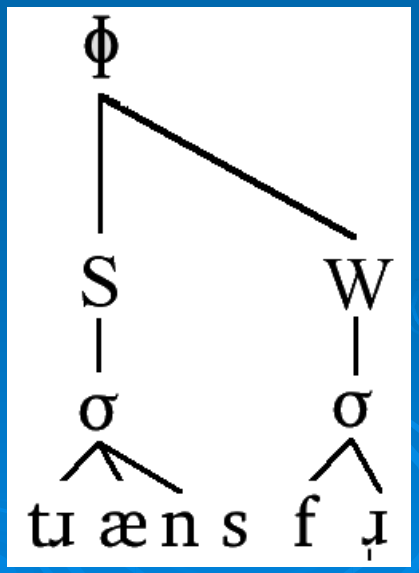

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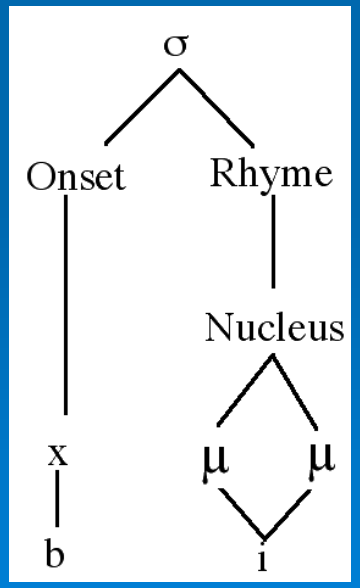

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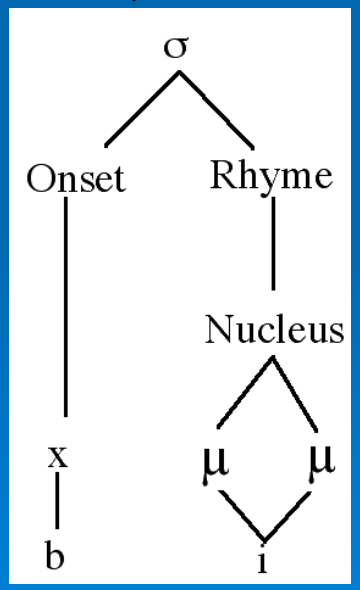

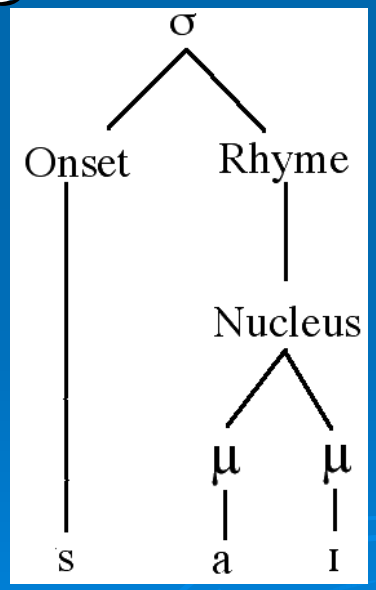

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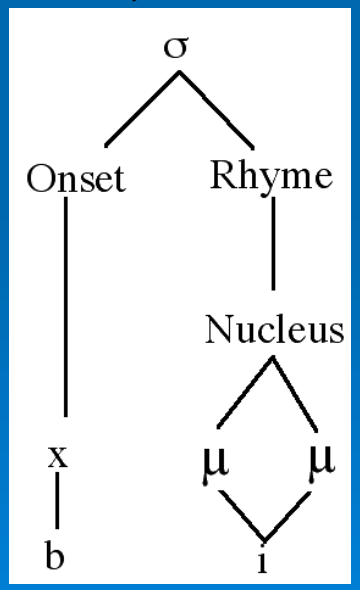

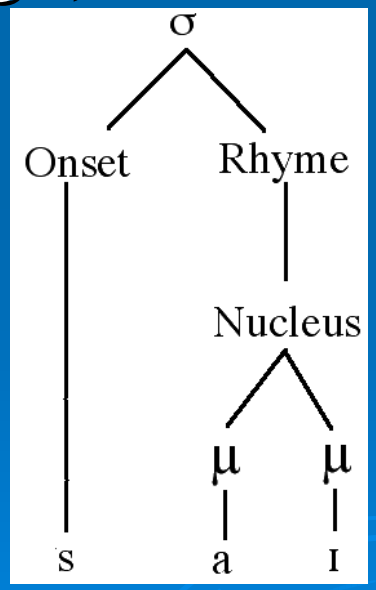

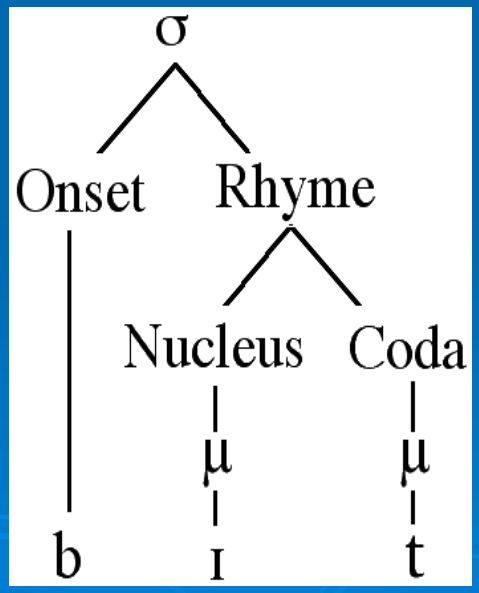

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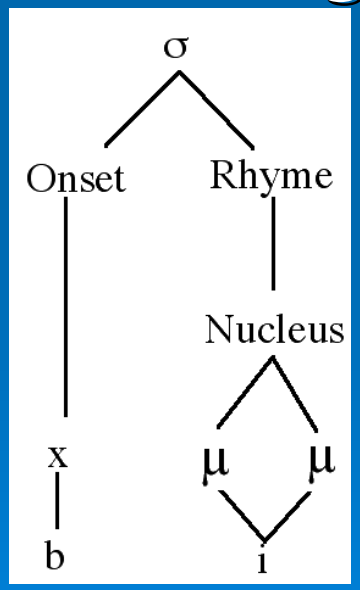

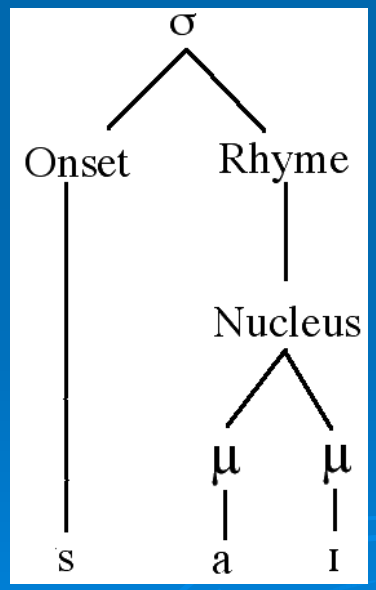

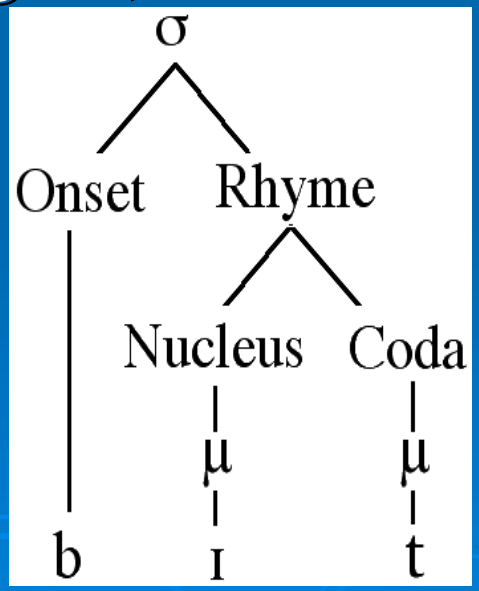

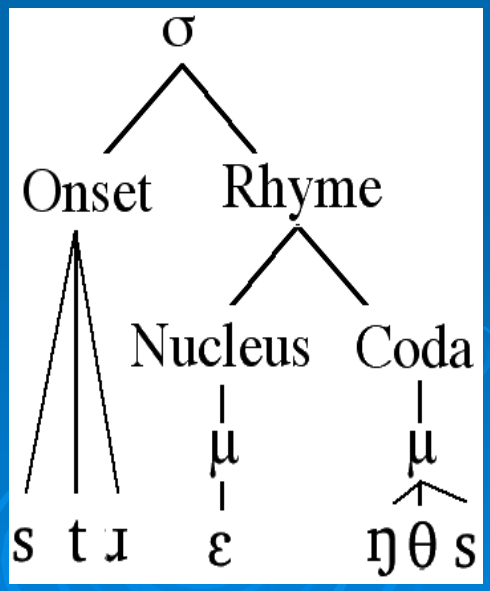

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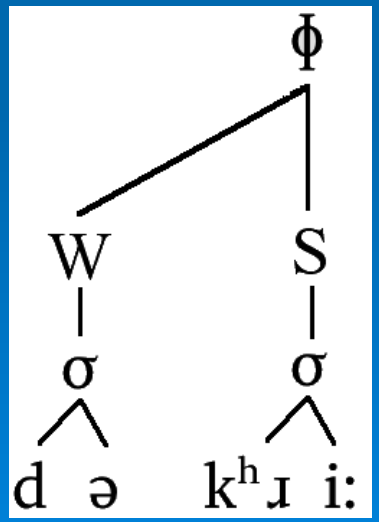

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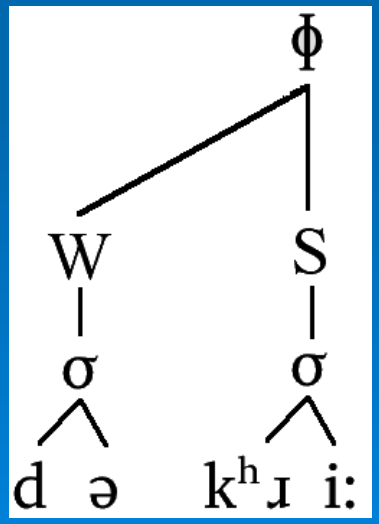

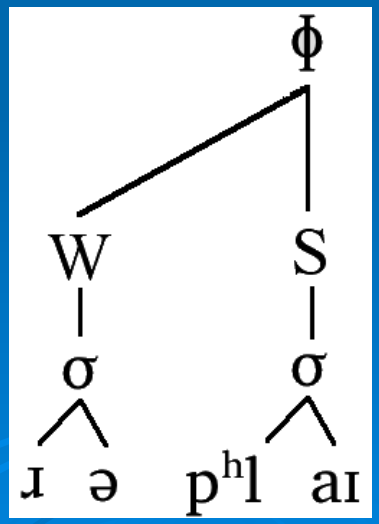

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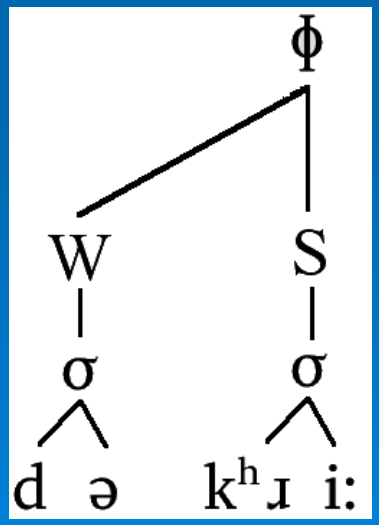

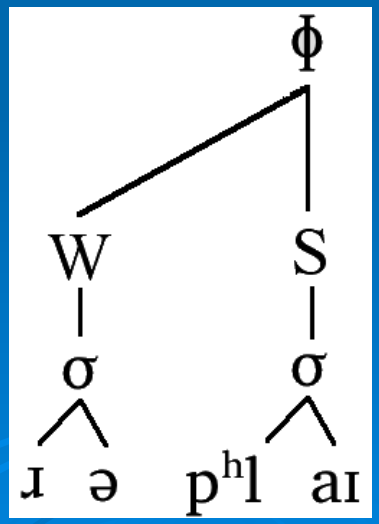

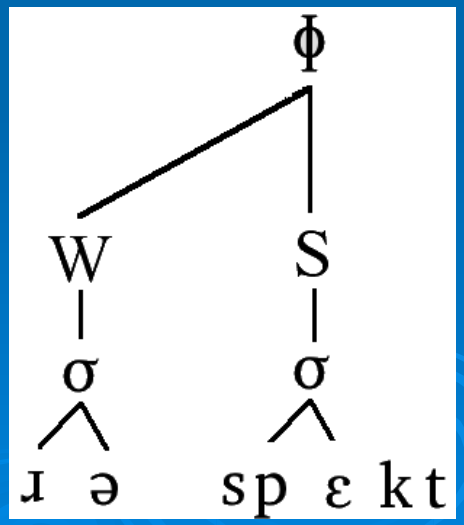

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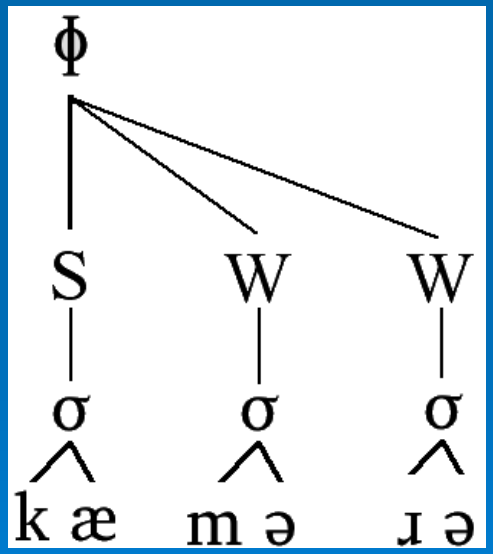

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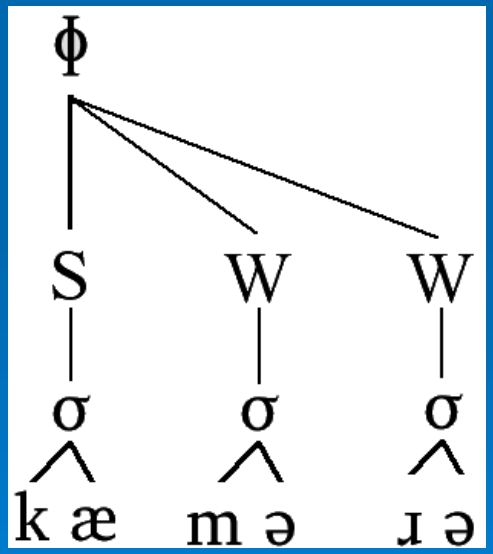

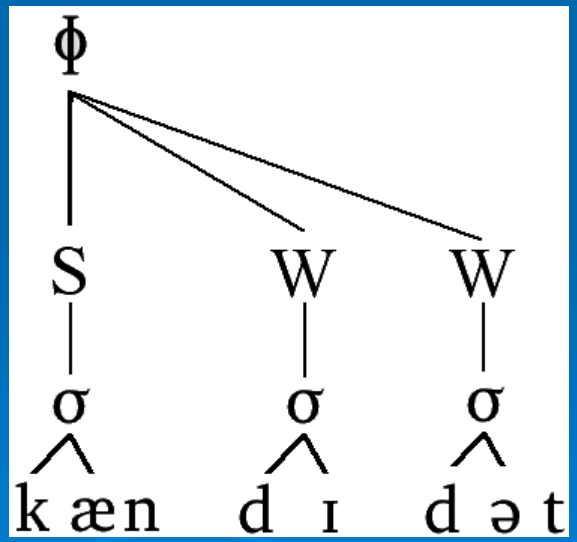

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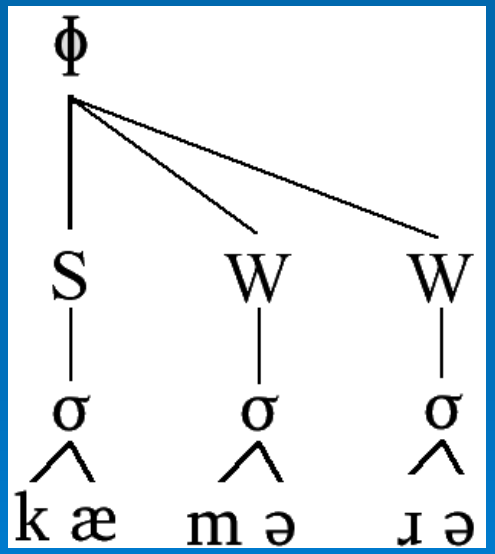
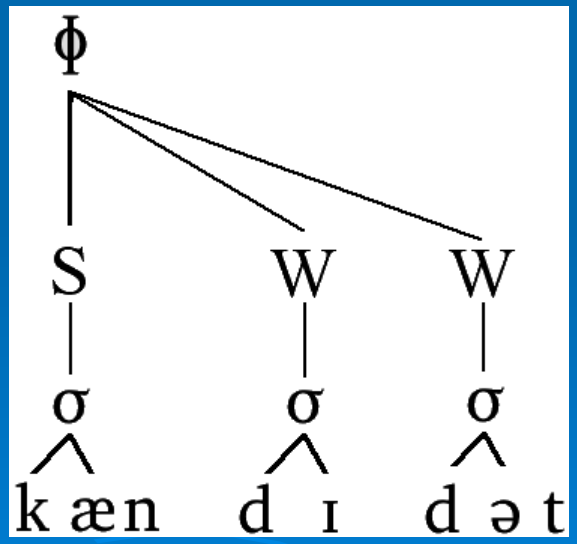
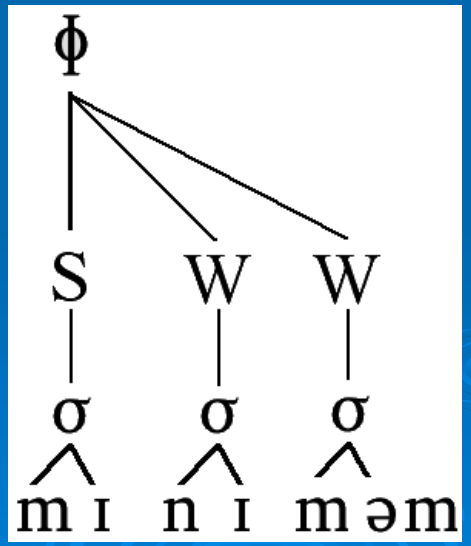






Why Use Moras?

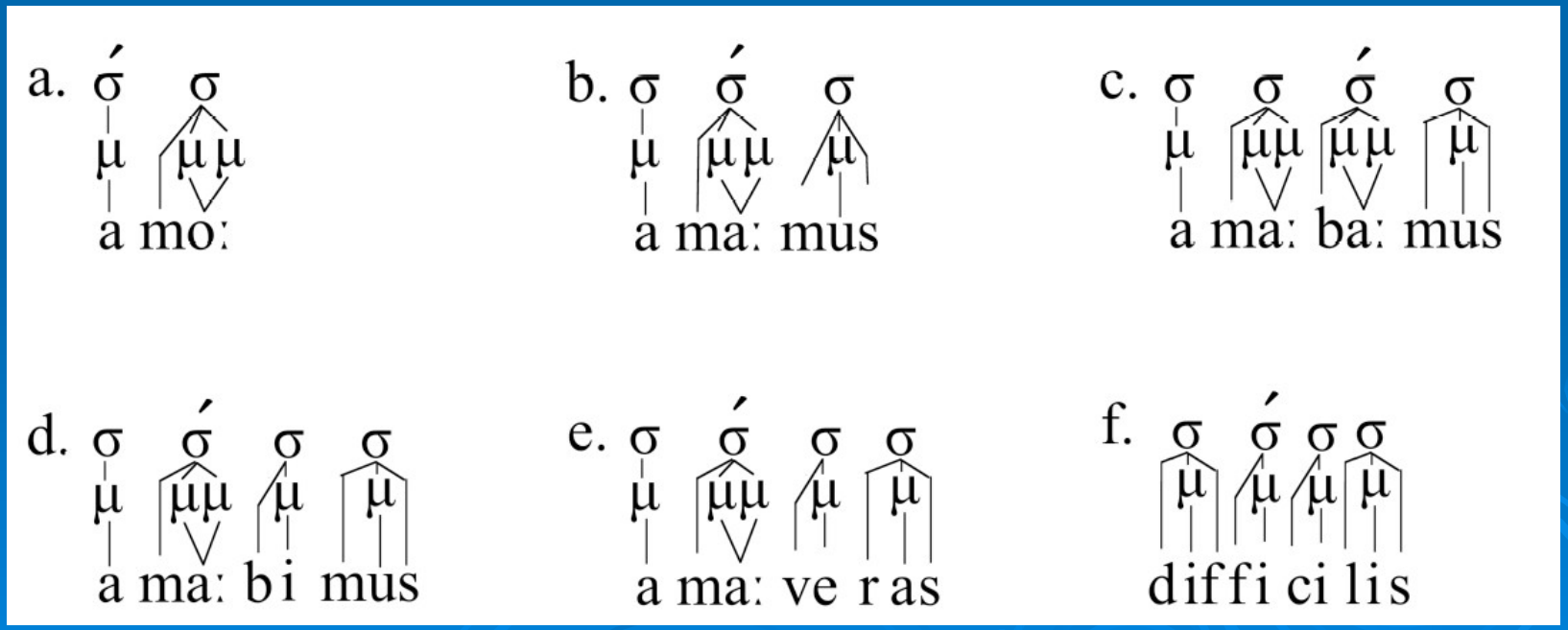
- Why use moras instead of syllables?
- Examine the Latin data below
  - a. ˈamoː `I love’
  - b. aˈmaːmus `We love’
  - c. amaːˈbaːmus `We loved’
  - d. aˈmaːbimus `We will love’
  - e. aˈmaːveras `You had loved’
  - f. difˈficilis `difficult, hard, troublesome'
- Stress is assigned from the end of the word in Latin, like in English

Why Use Moras?

- We might try to account for it in terms of syllables
- In (a–c), stress appears to be assigned to the second syllable from the end i.e., the penultimate syllable
- Languages such as Spanish (a daughter language of Latin) regularly assign stress to the penultimate
- In (a–c) this description explains the placement of stress

- What else can we use?
- What about syllable weight: heavy versus light?
- One might say that stress is placed on the first heavy syllable from the end
- This would work for (b-e), but not for (a) or (f):
  - (a) has a heavy final syllable, but there is no stress on it,
  - (f) does not have a heavy syllable.

- What about using the mora?
- Take a look at the mora assignments for the words shown above:



- count moras from the end of the word
- stress is always on the third mora from the end
- the best characterization of stress assignment for Latin words
- Latin stress assignment rule (mora-based:)

$$\emptyset \rightarrow [+\text{stress}] \;/\; \underset{\mu}{\underline{\quad\quad}} \quad \mu \;\; \mu \;\; \#$$

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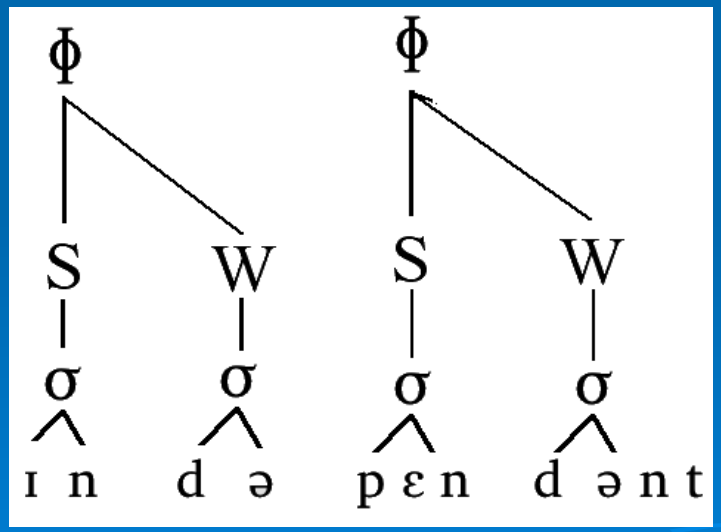

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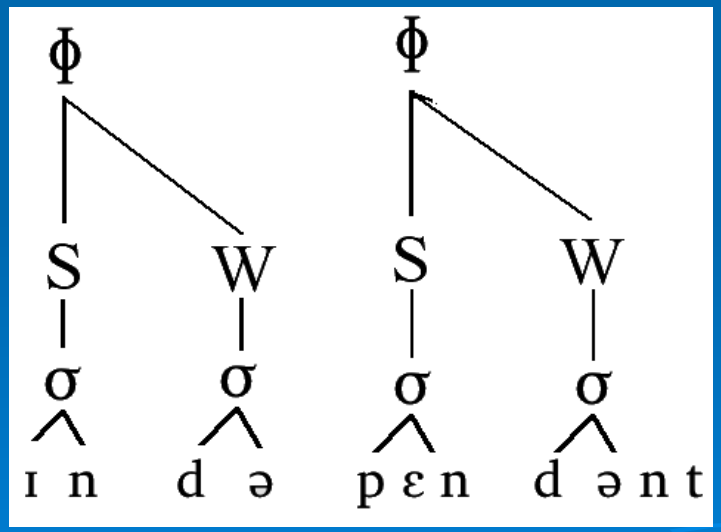

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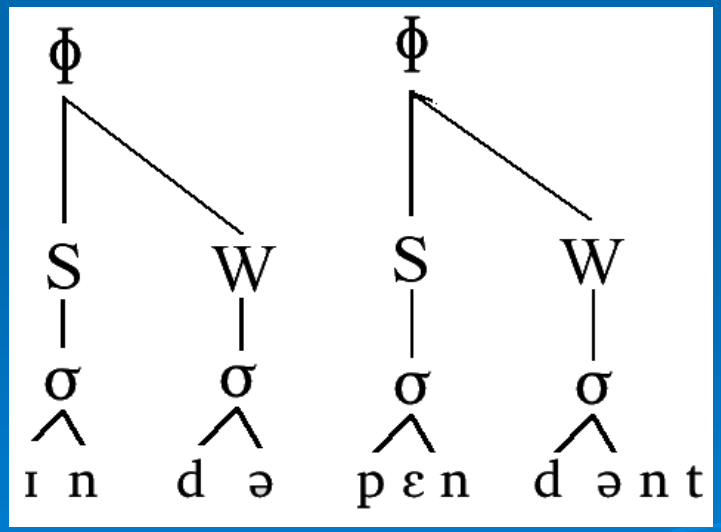

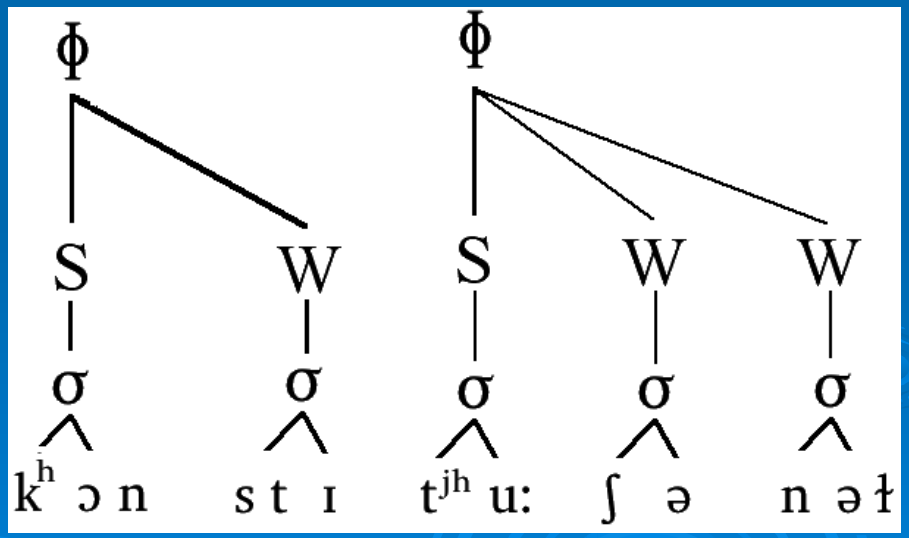

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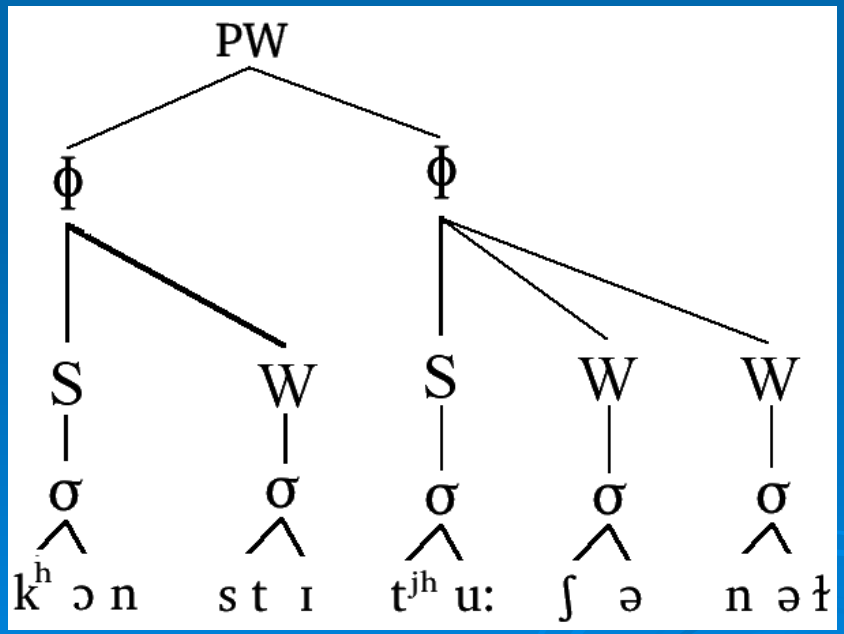

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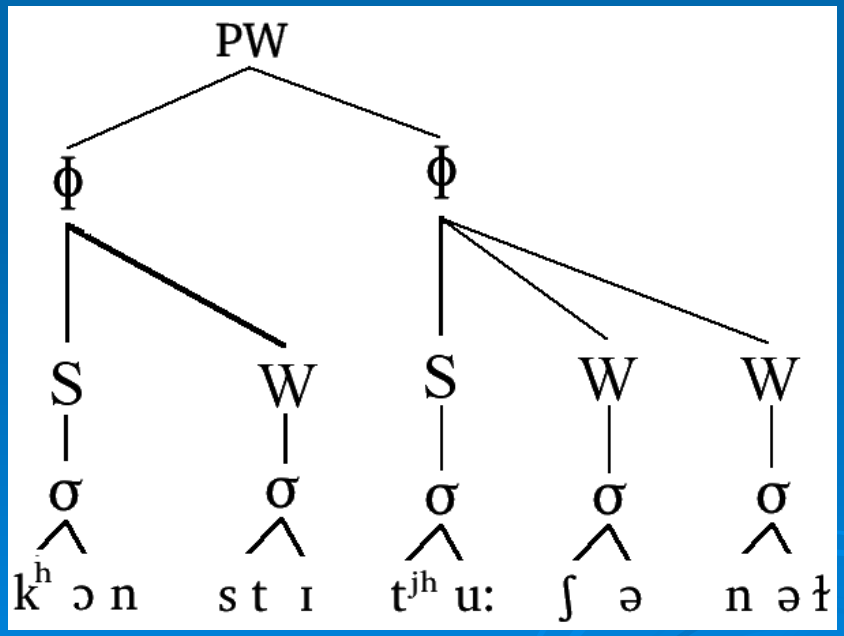

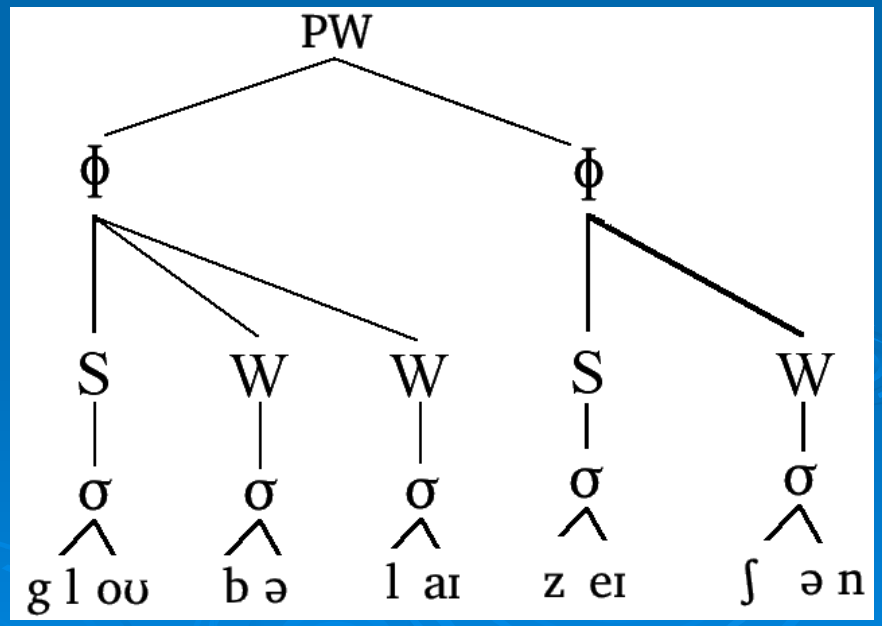

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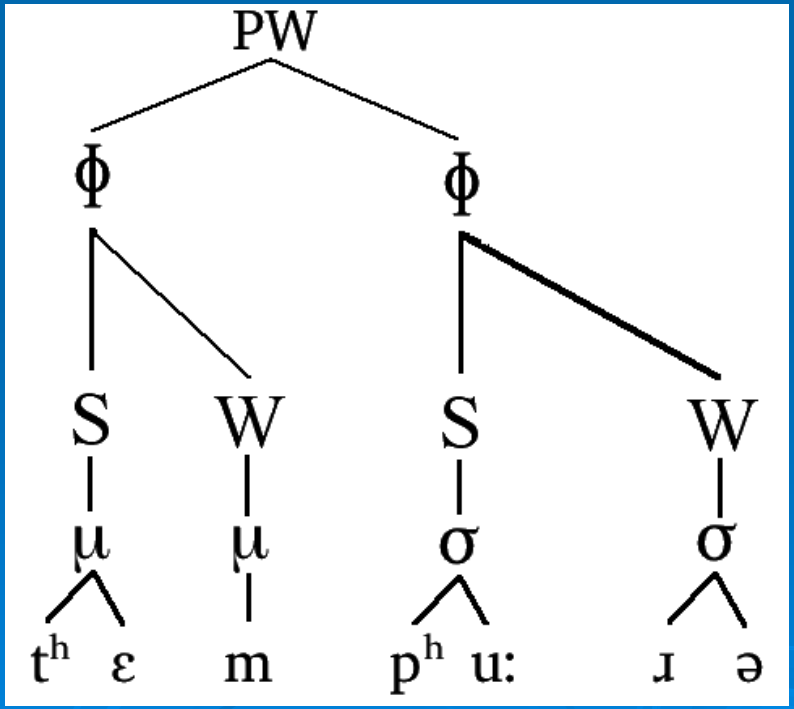

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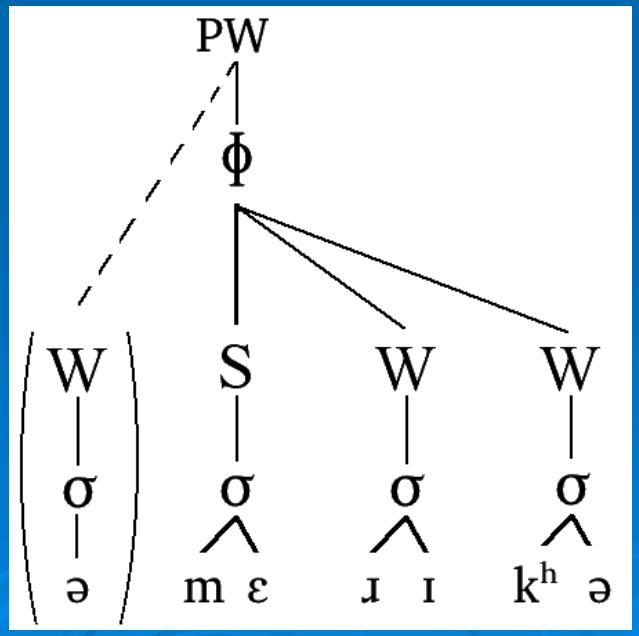

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  - Trisyllabic Shortening
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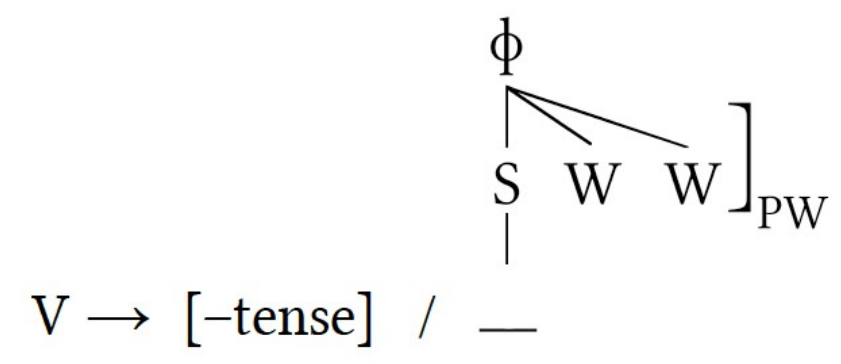

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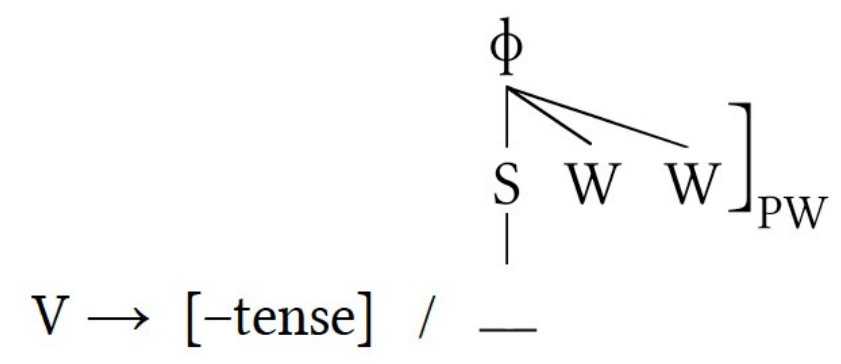

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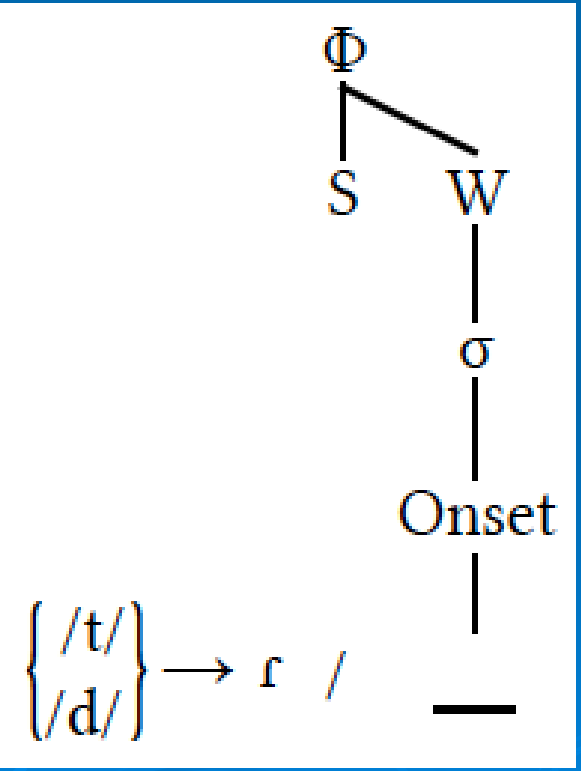
- This process of flapping may be described by the syllable structure below:



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- Alternative accounts sometimes appeal to the ambisyllabicity of the plosive in such cases

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  - d. impossible [ɪmˈpɔsəbl̩] → in-friggin-

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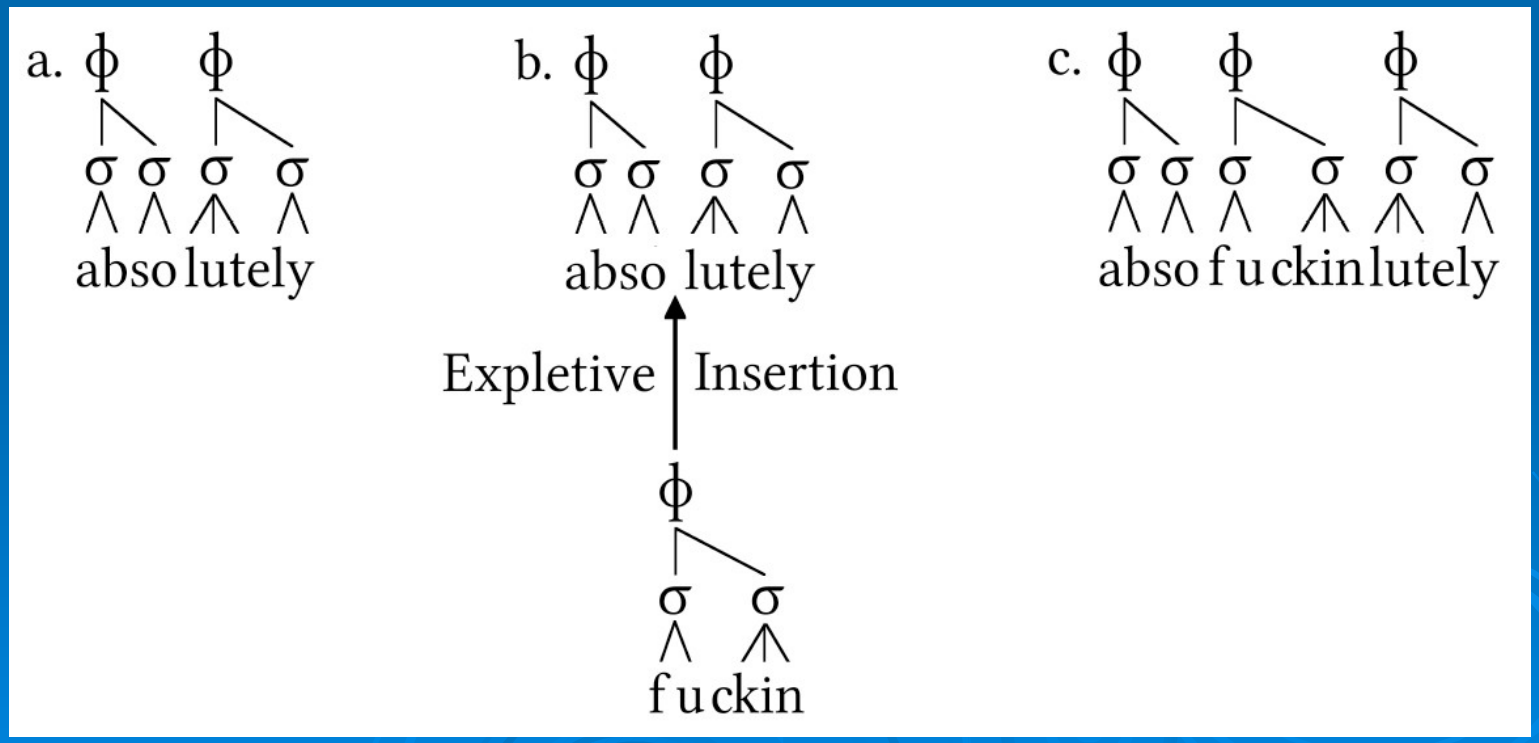
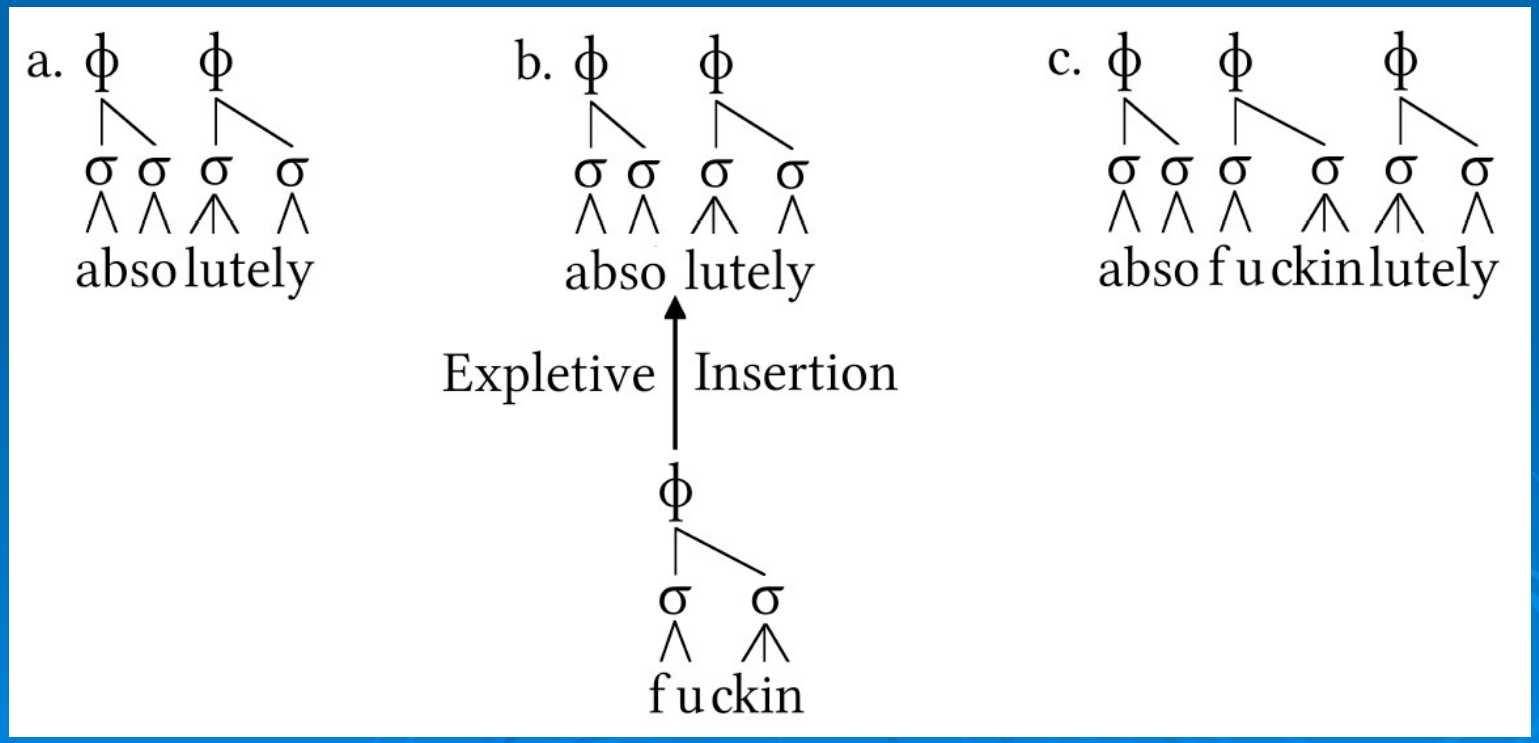


- involves insertion of a foot between existing feet
- preserves the existing foot structure



The End