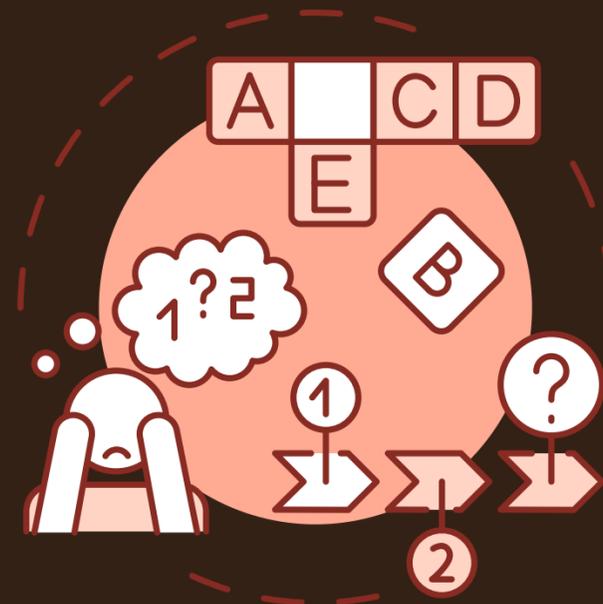


Phonology



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Phonology is the study of sound systems or the **patterns of sounds** in a language.



Phonology aims to discover the sound patterns in individual languages.



The different distribution of English and Thai sounds

/ŋ/

- English

song → /sɒŋ/ , /sɔ:ŋ/

hang → /hæŋ/

- Thai

work → /ŋā:n/

busy → /iŋ/

/l/

- English

land → /lænd/

feel → /fi:l/

- Thai

and → /lɛ/

play → /le:n/

A phoneme is the **smallest** and **contrastive** or **significant unit** of the sound of a language, which, **when replaced with another sound,** **results in a change in meaning.**

Therefore, a phoneme can not be subdivided into a smaller unit. For example; 'Can' can be broken to /k/+/æ/+/n/ but **phonemes /k/+/æ/+/n/** **can not further be broken into smaller units.**



Minimal pairs are beneficial in identifying the phonemes of a language.

If two sounds occur in a **minimal pair**, two sounds to be **contrastive**, replacing one with the other in a word can **change the meaning of the word**.

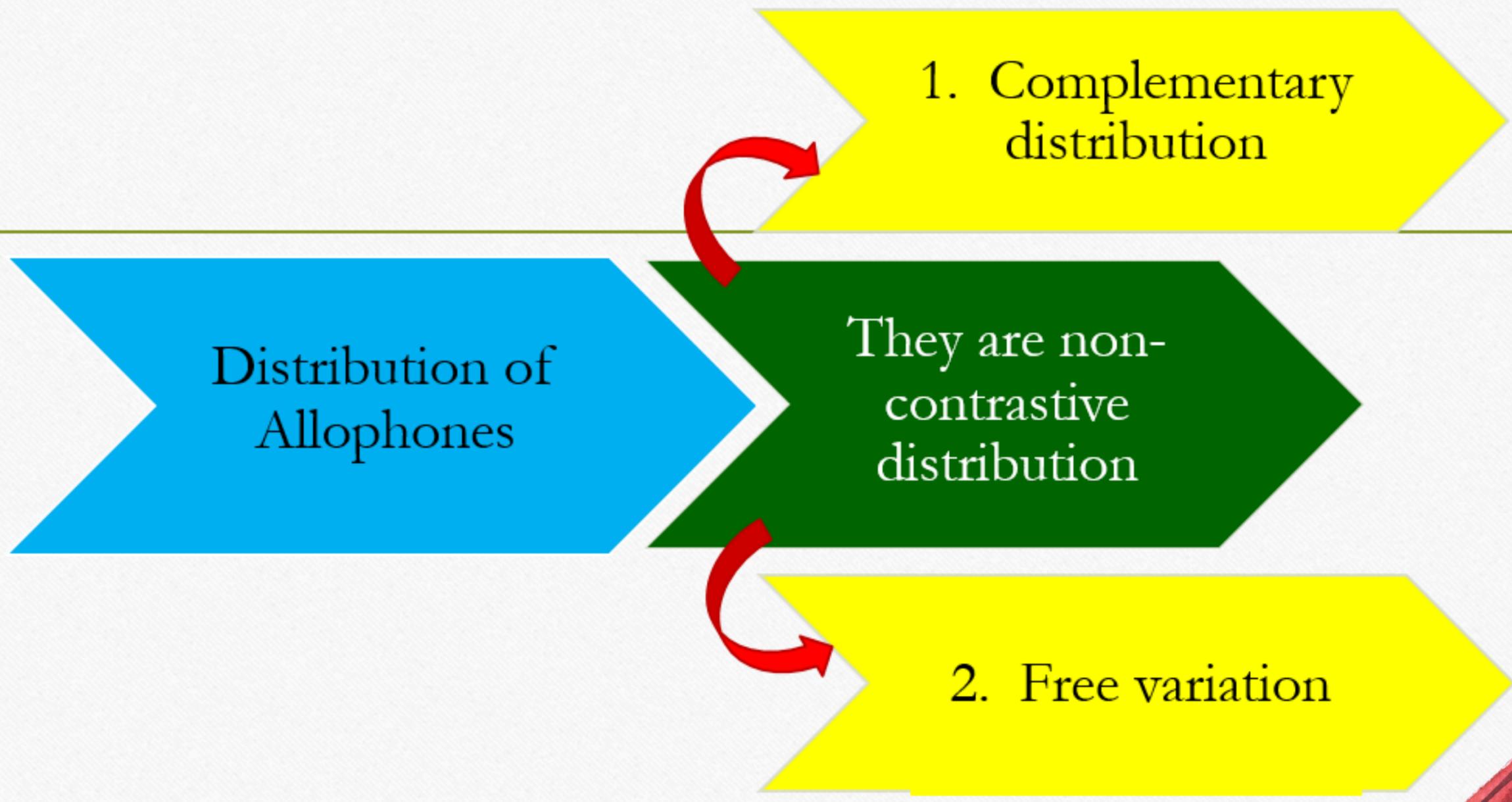


a. **k**ick [kɪk] : **p**ick [pɪk]

b. **c**at [kæt] : **c**ap [kæp]

c. **s**tray [streɪ] : **s**pray [spreɪ]





Distribution of
Allophones

1. Complementary
distribution

They are non-
contrastive
distribution

2. Free variation



1. Complementary distribution

Allophones of a single phoneme **do not** appear in the same phonetic environment.

a. **t**ill [tɪl]
b. **t**ea [ti:]
c. **t**ick [tɪk]

a. **s**till [stɪl]
b. **s**t**rong [strɒŋgə(r)] , [strɔ:ŋgər]
c. **s**t**ick [stɪk]****



Three allophones are the **different ways of pronouncing** the phoneme /t/ in **different phonetic environments**

Phoneme	Allophones	Distribution	Examples
/t/	[t ^h]	in word-initial position	tea, till, tick
	[t]	after /s/	still, strong, stamp, stick
	[d]	between a stressed vowel and an unstressed vowel	water, little, bitter, letter



Allophones of a single phoneme may appear in the same phonetic environment but they do not cause a difference in a word's meaning.

2. Free variation

eg.	English	/r/	→	[ɹ]	alveolar approximant
				[ɹ̥]	voiceless alveolar approximant (after voiceless sounds)
				[ɻ]	retroflex approximant (West England)
				[ɾ]	alveolar flap (Scottish) eg. [grɪn]
				[ʀ]	uvular fricative (<u>Tyneside</u>)



Phoneme (contrastive sound)

- **Contrastive distribution**
Replacing **one phoneme** with another in a word can **change the word's meaning**. In other words, phonemes can **appear in minimal pairs**.

Allophone (non-contrastive sound)

- **Complementary distribution**
Allophones usually **appear** in **different phonetic contexts**. Their appearance in a particular phonetic environment is predictable.
- **Free variation**
Allophones may sometimes **appear** in the **same phonetic environment** but they do not cause a difference in a word's meaning.



THANK YOU

