LING 321 **LECTURE #5 (Supplement)**

ABSTRACT UNDERLYING REPRESENTATIONS

There may be cases when the alternants must be derived from an underlying form which coincides with *none* of the phonetic representation forms.

Yawelmani (a dialect of the Yokuts language, California)

Vowel Harmony Rule:

$$\begin{bmatrix} V \\ +\text{high} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [+\text{round}] \,/\, \begin{bmatrix} V \\ +\text{high} \\ +\text{round} \end{bmatrix} \text{ Co + Co } \_\_\_$$

What about #9 and #10?

Compare: go:bit
?o:?ut

There are two kinds of long o:

(1) Those which behave like u and cause rounding harmony,

(2) Those that behave like o and do not cause rounding harmony.

In Yawelmani only

e:
a:
o:
} occur as long vowels

Long u: is lacking!

Suffix harmony suggests that those occurrences of o: which behave like high rounded vowels are actually derived from underlying /u:/

Consequently, the underlying form for the stem 'steal' must be /÷u:t÷/, and we need a rule that lowers long high vowels:

$$\begin{bmatrix} V \\ +\text{high} \\ +\text{back} \\ +\text{long} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [-\text{high}]$$

The environment is not specified, because all PRs of the /u:/ will undergo this rule.

Note: an underlying short /u/ is never lowered, e.g. *mut* 'swear'

UR	/go:b + it/	/mut + it/	/ʔu:tʔ + it/
Vowel Harmony Rule	-	mut + ut	ʔu:tʔ + ut
Long High Vowel Lowering Rule	-	-	ʔo:tʔ + ut
PR	[go:bit]	[mutut]	[ʔo:tʔut]

Abstract underlying representations have an *explanatory* function. What on the surface may appear to be an irregularity, has an explanation at the abstract level.