

Swahili, p. 1

from Morris Halle, and G. N. Clements (1983) *Problem Book in Phonology: A Workbook for Introductory Courses in Linguistics and Modern Phonology*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

The following forms illustrate a regular pattern of singular and plural formation in Swahili.

		<u>singular</u>	<u>plural</u>	<u>underlying representation</u>
A.	1.	'piece'	ubale	ɱbale
	2.	'nut-grass'	udago	ɳdago
	3.	'beer'	ugimbi	ŋgimbi
	4.	'passage-way'	uɟia	ɟɟia
	5.	'a bulging'	upaɟa	p ^h aɟa (also mapaɟa)
	6.	'(type of) knife'	upamba	p ^h amba
	7.	'guardianship'	utunzo	t ^h unzo (also matunzo)
	8.	'string of beads'	utunda	t ^h unda
	9.	'a cry'	ukelele	k ^h elele (also makelele)
	10.	'porch'	ukumbi	k ^h umbi
	11.	'a burning'	uɕoma	ɕ ^h oma (also maɕoma)
	12.	'small intestine'	uɕaŋgo	ɕ ^h aŋgo
	13.	'imitation'	ufuasi	fuasi (also mafuasi)
	14.	'sea shore'	ufuko	fuko
	15.	'night'	usiku	siku (also masiku)
	16.	'(type of) powder'	usira	sira
	17.	'sewing'	uʂono	ʂono (also maʂono)
	18.	'bead'	uʂaŋga	ʂaŋga
	19.	'sky, heaven'	uwiŋgu	ɱbiŋgu
	20.	'duality'	uwili	ɱbili
	21.	'tongue'	ulimi	ɳdimi
	22.	'length, distance'	urefu	ɳdefu
	23.	'throat'	umio	mio
	24.	'song'	wimbo	ɱimbo
	25.	'razor'	wembe	ɱembe
	26.	'time'	wakati	ɱakati
	27.	'eyebrow'	uʂi	ɱuʂi

B. Additional data, illustrating another pattern of singular and plural formation.

28.	'axe'	ʂoka	maʂoka
29.	'fruit'	tunda	matunda
30.	'safe'	kaʂa	makaʂa

1. What are the underlying forms of the noun stems in Part A? List them in the chart. (If there is a consonant alternation, use the other words to help you figure out the underlying form.)

Swahili, p. 2

2. What is the underlying form of the singular prefix in Part A? What rule determines its phonetic form?

3. Consider the following choices for the underlying representation of the plural prefix in Part A: /n-/; /ɲ-/; ∅. Which choice can be defended on the basis of the simplicity of the description and the naturalness of the rule(s) required to describe the alternation?

4. State the simplest set of rules required to account for all surface forms, and determine the order in which they apply.

5. Give derivations for 'piece', 'string of beads', 'sea shore', and 'tongue' in the singular and plural (8 forms in all).