

# Phonemehood

from Halle and Clements (1983) *Problem Book in Phonology: A Workbook for Introductory Courses in Linguistics and in Modern Phonology*. MIT Press.

In O'odham, [t] and [č] are allophones of a single phoneme, which we will call /t/, and [d] and [j] are allophones of another phoneme, which we will call /d/. Note the following data and the phonemic representations. (The retroflex /ɬ/ and /ɖ/ are separate phonemes.)

- |             |          |                   |              |          |                     |
|-------------|----------|-------------------|--------------|----------|---------------------|
| 1. [bĩjɪm]  | /bidim/  | 'turn around'     | 10. [hĩwgid] | /hiwgid/ | 'smell'             |
| 2. [tá:pan] | /ta:pan/ | 'split'           | 11. [číhaŋ]  | /tihaŋ/  | 'hire'              |
| 3. [hídoɖ]  | /hidoɖ/  | 'cook'            | 12. [tóɲi]   | /toɲi/   | 'become hot'        |
| 4. [čĩkid]  | /tikid/  | 'vaccinate'       | 13. [wíɖut]  | /wiɖut/  | 'swing'             |
| 5. [gátwid] | /gatwid/ | 'shoot'           | 14. [tá:taɖ] | /ta:taɖ/ | 'feet'              |
| 6. [čúku]   | /tuku/   | 'become black'    | 15. [kí:čud] | /ki:tud/ | 'build a house for' |
| 7. [dágʂp]  | /dagʂp/  | 'press with hand' | 16. [dó:dom] | /do:dom/ | 'copulate'          |
| 8. [tóha]   | /toha/   | 'become white'    | 17. [tá:tam] | /ta:tam/ | 'touch'             |
| 9. [jú:kĩ]  | /du:kĩ/  | 'rain' (noun)     |              |          |                     |

How do we know that [t] and [č] are allophones of /t/ and [d] and [j] are allophones of /d/? Not because they sound alike; to our ears, [t] and [č] sound very different from each other. We can tell by observing that [t,d] are in complementary distribution with [č,j]. Fill in the following chart showing what comes before and after [t,d] and what comes before and after [č,j]. Use the symbol # to mark the edge of a word. The results of words 1 and 2 have been done for you.

[t,d]	[č,j]
#__a:	i__i

Characterize the distribution of each set of phones.



O'odham, formerly known as Papago, is a Uto-Aztecan language spoken by approximately 12,000 people in south central Arizona in the United States.