

Data Set 1: Ebira

Examine the sounds [e] and [a] in the following data from Ebira, a Niger-Congo language of the Nupoid family, spoken in Nigeria. Do they appear to be allophones of separate phonemes or allophones of the same phoneme? If the two sounds are in complementary distribution, state the conditioning environments for the allophones.

Ebira	English
1 - [mezi]	“I expect”
2 - [meze]	“I am well”
3 - [meto]	“I arrange”
4 - [metu]	“I beat”
5 - [mazi]	“I am in pain”
6 - [maze]	“I agree”
7 - [mato]	“I pick”
8 - [mato]	“I send”

Data Set 2: Éwé

Recall that in a previous worksheet (specifically, Data Set 1 from Week 2, Worksheet 2), I gave you a set of data on Éwé, a Gbe language spoken primarily in Ghana and Togo.

I actually omitted many of the words, for simplicity's sake - the full data set is shown below. As we already noted during discussion, [l] and [r] are allophones of the same phoneme. What is their true distribution, based on the following data?

Éwé	English
1 - [zrɔ̃]	“to be smooth”
2 - [pra]	“to rage”
3 - [lɔ̃]	“to love”
4 - [k̄pla]	“to intertwine”
5 - [ḡblaa]	“thick”
6 - [lolo]	“to be large”
7 - [wlu]	“to dig”
8 - [dɔ̃lele]	“illness”
9 - [adoglo]	“lizard”
10 - [βla]	“suddenly”
11 - [srɔ̃]	“wife”
12 - [lāk̄le]	“leopard”
13 - [hle]	“to spread out”
14 - [vlɔ̃]	“to go far away”
15 - [atra]	“mangrove”
16 - [dru]	“to be bent”
17 - [fle]	“to pluck”
18 - [ɲlɔ̃]	“to write”
19 - [glamaa]	“uneven”
20 - [litsa]	“chameleon”
21 - [dzre]	“to quarrel”
22 - [ɣla]	“to hide”
23 - [xloloo]	“rough”
24 - [tsro]	“bark (of tree)”
25 - [φle]	“to buy”
26 - [blema]	“formerly”
27 - [jre]	“evil”
28 - [mlagoo]	“thick”
