

An Animated and Narrated Glossary of  
Terms used in Linguistics  
*presents*

# Underlying Representation

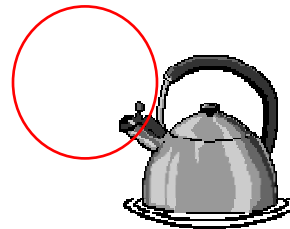
## *Frog Or Prince?*



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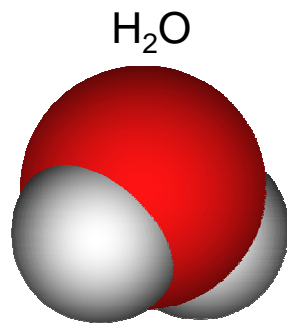
# What is Water?



Slide 3



# Hidden realities



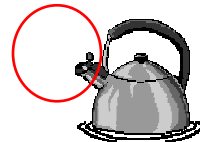
underlying representation



surface manifestation 1



surface manifestation 2



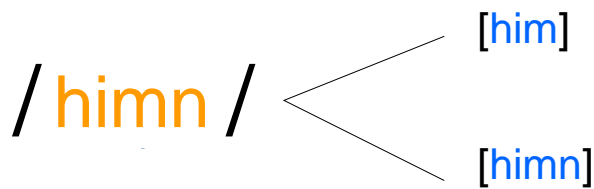
surface manifestation 3

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## Examples from English

hymn [him]  
hymnal [himnəl]

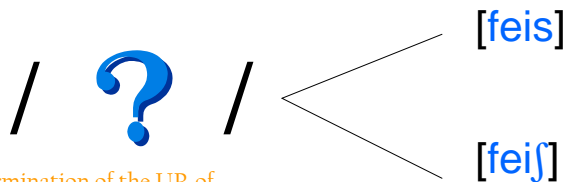


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## Examples from English

face [feis]  
facial [feɪʃiəl]



Determination of the UR of  
"face" would depend on  
evidence

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## Underlying Representation

An **underlying representation** (UR) is a representation of a hidden reality.

If we have reasons to believe that different observable forms are so related as to be really the same thing, postulating an UR allows us to capture that insight.

An UR is **theory/hypothesis**, not fact. It is acceptable only on the strength of evidence.

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## Further reading

- Davenport, Mike and S. J. Hannahs (2005) *Introducing Phonetics and Phonology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Chapter 8. New York: Hodder Arnold Publication.
- Gussenhoven, Carlos and Haike Jacobs (2005) *Understanding Phonology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Chapter 4. New York: Hodder Arnold.
- Hawkins, Peter (1992) *Introducing Phonology*. London: Routledge.
- Kenstowicz, Michael J. (1994) *Phonology in Generative Grammar*, pp.59-60. Blackwell Publishers.
- Malmkjær, Kristen (ed.) (1991) *The Linguistics Encyclopedia*. Routledge.
- Odden, David (2005) *Introducing Phonology*, Chapter 4. Cambridge University Press.
- Spencer, Andrew (1991). *Morphological Theory*, Chapter 2.2. Blackwell.
- Tserdanelis, Georgios and Wai Yi Peggy Wong (eds.) (2004) *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction of Language and Linguistics*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, File 4.2. The Ohio State University Press.
- Yule, George (1996) *The Study of Language*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Chapter 10:102. Cambridge University. Press.

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香港浸會大學  
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

## The End

Wee, Lian-Hee and Winnie H.Y. Cheung (2009)  
*An animated and narrated glossary of terms used in Linguistics.*  
Hong Kong Baptist University.