More suffix-triggered vowel changes

Let's review what the Hul'q'umi'num' vowels are. Please fill in the chart depending on the approximate location of the tongue body.

<u>Vowels</u>   front   back

      high

      mid

      low

We have seen a few examples where adding a suffix changes the vowels. Recall that the vowel in the root √*lem* 'look' changes to schwa (*u*) when –*nuhw/-nehw* 'non-control transitive' is added.

(1)   lemut   look at something
       lumnuhw   see something
       lumstuhw   show him or her

(2)   thxut   push it
       thuxnuhw   push it accidentally

(3)   xul'ut   write, mark
       xul'nuhw   write, mark, manage to

One way to think about how the vowel changes happen is to follow a model that is similar to the speech chain: words are created by combining roots with the other meanings of the words, then the words are pronounced. There are two levels – before the word is pronounced and then the pronunciation of the word. Let's see how this is done with the sets of words above, following a few steps.

Step 1:   find the parts of each word associated with each meaning.

One way to do this is to draw a line between the root and the suffix for each word. Other patterns may involve different methods [like highlighting sounds].

Step 2:   Make a proposal about what the word is like before it is pronounced.

> • if there is only one form of a root or affix, it usually means that the form is the same before it is pronounced. List the forms that are the same with their meanings:

_____

> • if there is more than one form of a root or affix, then that means the pronunciation has changed. The dictionary usually lists this form in the entry by the √ symbol. List the forms that have two pronunciations and their meaning, then list the form before it is pronounced.

_____

Step 3:   Figure out what the processes are that change the pronunciation.
            Processes have two parts:
                    what the change is
                    when the change happens

There are two processes that have applied to change the pronunciation.
> • V → u   when =*nuhw* and =*stuhw* are added.
> • ø → u   between T_T, when =*nuhw* is added.

Step 4:   Put words together and show how processes change the pronunciation.

The form of a word before it is pronounced is called the **Underlying Representation** (UR). It is put in /…/. The **Surface Representation** is how the word is pronounced.

Let's look at each process separately

UR   /   /   /   /   /   /

V → u

SR   lemut   lumnuhw   lumstuhw

UR

ø → u
T_T

SR   thxut   thuxnuhw   xul'ut   xul'nuhw

This worksheet goes over another patterns of vowel change that is triggered by adding suffixes. The following word has the same root, with the 'reflexive' suffix added to it.

(4)   lamuthut   'look at self, look after self'

The first step in determining what the change is, is to identify the root.

Q1.   What is the root of the word in (2) _____

Q2.   How has the vowel changed in (2)?   _____   →   _____

In order to see if this is a regular pattern for the 'reflexive', it is helpful to look at other roots to see what happens with them. It is easiest to see the pattern if we look at each root vowel on its own, so the different word sets below are organized according to what the root vowel is.

(5)   Root vowel is /e/
      lheq'ut   'lay it on'
      lhaq'uthut   'lie down'

      lhets   'dark'
      lhatsthut   'get dark'

      lhexun't   'medicate, rub medication on someone'
      lhaxun'thut   'medicate oneself'

      neet   'name someone, call him or her by name…'
      naathut   'call oneself, give oneself a name'

      nets't   'change it'
      nats'thut   'change'

Q3.   How has the vowel changed in (5)?   _____   →   _____

Now let's look at what happens with different vowels. The next pattern to look at is with the vowel *i*.

(6)   Root vowel is /i/
        ts'imul'   'close, get close'
        ts'imuthut   'close, get self close'

        wi'ult   'show, bring out'
        wi'ulthut   'show oneself, come into view'

        xiq'ut   'scratch (for an itch)'
        xiq'uthut   'scratch self'

        hwisut   'shake it'
        hwisuthut   'shake oneself'

Q4.   What happens when the root vowel is /i/?   _____

(7)   matl'ut   even: get even (for ex, return a favour)
       matl'uthut   pay back

       paqw   mold, moldy
       paqwthut   moldy, stale (get moldy)

       payt   bend it
       paythut   curved

       tl'a't   stop him/her from crying
       tl'a'thut   stop oneself from crying

Q5.   What happens when the root vowel is /a/?   _____

Let's take a look at what happens when the root has a schwa in it. Stress is marked in the words in (8), based on Bianco (1996) *The role of sonority in the prosody of Cowichan*.

(8)   lúqw'ut   'drink it in one swallow'
       lúqw'uthut   'clear away, clean up (stray objects lying about)'

       muq'út   'fill someone with food'
       muq'úthut   'fill self with food'

lúq'ut   'even it, level it, bring to par'
luq'úthut   'even with, in line, on par'

Now look at the following words, and keep track where stress falls.

(9)   muqw   'thick, big around'
      muqwthat   'thick, big around, getting big around'

      xuytl'   'cold, stormy'
      xuytl'that   'become cold, stormy'

      xwum   'fast'
      xwumthat   'become fast'

      tl'up   'be deep, down, below'
      tl'upthat   'get deep'

Q6.   What is the difference between the words in (8) and (9)?

_____

Q7.   What are the two different pronunciations of the 'reflexive' suffix?

_____

Q8.   Which one is the underlying representation, before it is spoken?

_____

Q9.   What is the change in the suffix?   _____

Once again we see that 'reflexive' words have two processes: one for the change in the root vowel and another for a change in the suffix.

      • e → a   when /=that/ is added
      • a → u   when unstressed

The first rule is very specific: it targets a specific vowel and has a specific suffix.

What shall we call this rule, where the /e/ in the root changes to match the /a/ in the suffix?

_____

Is the reflexive suffix the only suffix that triggers vowel harmony?

_____

Consider the following:

lemut	"look at it"	lamtul	"meet, look at each other"
p'etl'ut	"feel it"	p'atl'a'qwt	"feel his/her head"
kw'es	"burn"	kw'asa'qw	"scorched head"
te'tsus	"eight"	ta'tssus	"eight dollars"
xt'ekw'	"carve"	hwxt'akw'us	"carve a mask"
kw'es	"burn"	hwkw'asus	"burnt face"