Homework 2
due Wednesday, April 18th

The sounds [s] and [z] are allophones of a single phoneme.   For this problem, you need to determine whether the phoneme is /s/ or /z/, and come up with a rule that predicts the distribution of these allophones   Based on the data below, answer the questions in (i-iii).   Remember we are treating semivowels as consonants.   Also remember that nasals, laterals, tap/trills, and semivowels are all *voiced* consonants.

(i)   In what environments do [s] and [z] occur?
(ii)   What rule would you need if /z/ were the phoneme?   What rule would you need if /s/ were the phoneme?
(iii)   Based on the rules in (ii), which analysis is preferable?

IMOPORTANT NOTE: Write this up as a short paper - that is, you need to write prose, taking the reader through the reasoning behind your analysis and giving examples. Don't just give the distributions and the rules.   Your answers to (i-iii) should be incorporated into this prose.   Also, comment on any inelegance in your analysis or on any problems you may encounter in formulating the rules. Finally, include sample derivations in your exposition.

1.   [esféra]   'sphere'
2.   [kása]   'houses'
3.   [péska]   's/he fishes'
4.   [r̃úsos]   'Russians'

5.   [lósas]   'tiles'
6.   [swéño]   'dream'

7.   [aswéṭo]   'vacation'

8.   [ízla]   'island'

9.   [ezβél̯ṭo]   'slender'

10.   [sésos]   'brains'
11.   [eleksyón]   'election'
12.   [píso]   'apartment'
13.   [kási]   'almost'
14.   [késo]   'cheese'

15.   [ḏesyéṛto]   'desert'

16.   [syéṛto]   'certain'

17.   [mízmo]   'same'
18.   [áznos]   'asses'
19.   [r̃ázɣo]   'feature'