UNDERLYING REPRESENTATION: Morphemes, Data

1. URs are established for morphemes, not for words. More accurately, there are URs for words, but they are simply a combination of the URs of the morphemes of a given word.

2. Division into morphemes

*Morpheme (roughly): the smallest unit of meaning*, where ‘meaning’ can be lexical or grammatical.

Divide the word *nationalized* into morphemes. Let’s work leftwards from the end of the word.

Answer:

Divide into morphemes: *napisala*

3. Alternations

Alternation: exchange of segments in the same place of a given morpheme.

Example 1:
The negative prefix in *im*p*olite*, *in*tolerant, *in*compatible

Transcribe the prefix and state the alternations

Which of the three alternants goes into the UR?

Words such as *in*accurate or *inadequate* provide the answer. WHY?

Example 2: Polish *chleb* ‘bread’ vs. *sklep* ‘shop’.

4. Predictability

The English word *tip* is pronounced [tʰɪp], with aspirated t. The aspirated t never alternates with any other segment. What is the UR of *tip*? What is the reason for setting up this particular UR?

5. Exercise: establish the UR of *pobrudzić* [pɔbrudʑitɕ]