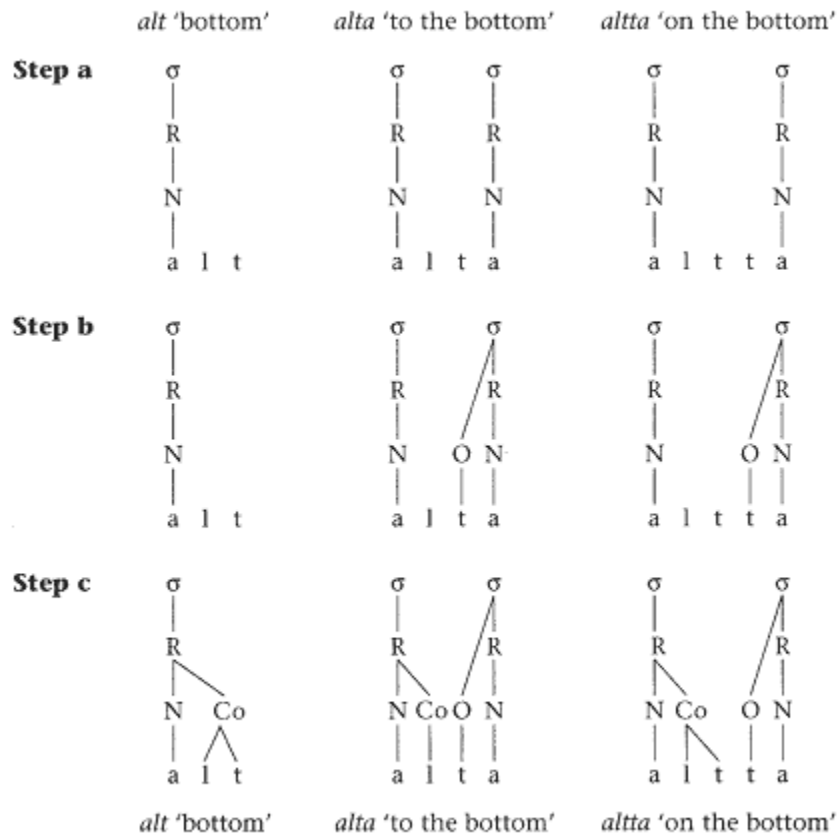## Syllabification

The procedure followed in Section 5.4 is used to syllabify forms in any language. In this section we give an example from Turkish that demonstrates in more detail how this universal syllabification procedure works.

   Turkish has different syllable structure constraints from English. As in English, onsets are optional in Turkish, but when present may consist of no more than one segment—clearly not a constraint found in English. A nucleus may consist of a short vowel or a long vowel (which is equivalent to two short vowels in length). Codas can be no more than two segments long and are largely limited to the following combinations: fricative–stop (e.g. *–ft$_\sigma$*), or sonorant–obstruent (e.g. *–rp$_\sigma$*).
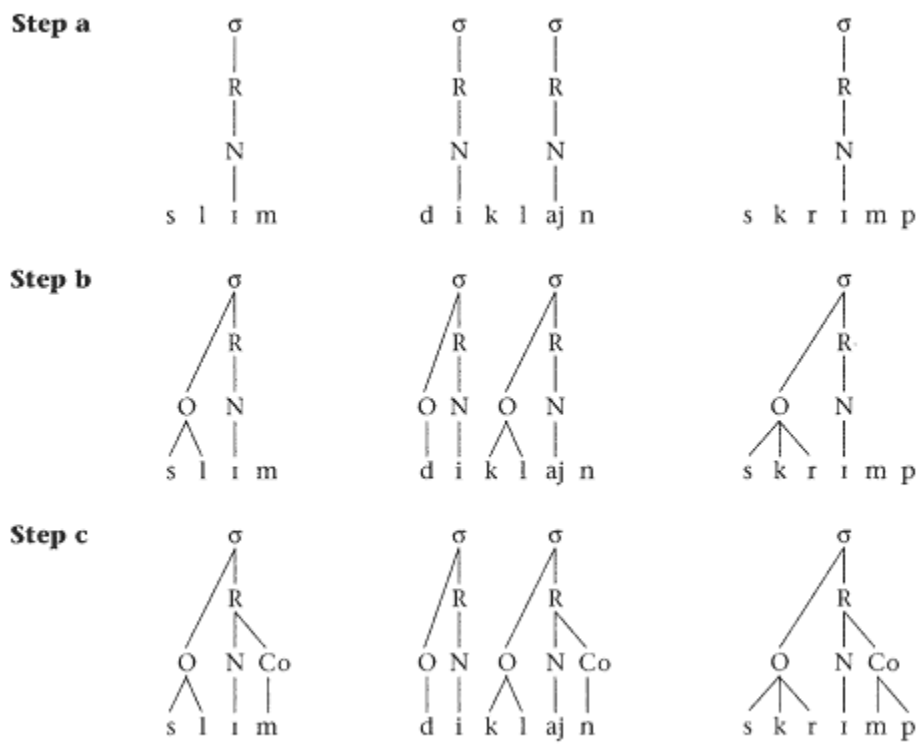
   The following words can be syllabified in the steps given in the text (steps c and d have been collapsed here). Note how the procedure leads to different syllabifications of the word *alt* 'bottom' in steps b and c of the examples.

Figure 1 Examples of syllabification in Turkish

In these examples, the *t* of *alt* 'bottom' is assigned to the coda of the first syllable, since there is no syllable with an available onset position following it. However, the same phoneme *t* in *alta* 'to the bottom' is assigned to the onset of the second syllable, since onsets are filled first and *t* is available to fill the position. In *altta* 'on the bottom', the two *t*s fill the available coda and onset positions of their respective syllables.

As a final example of the procedure, Figure 2 demonstrates the syllabification of the English words *slim*, *decline*, and *scrimp*.

Step a

Step b

Step c

Figure 2 Examples of syllabification in English