

## Re: -ire words

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Date: Mon, 19 Jul 2004 13:06:14 +0100

"Aaron J. Dinkin" <[dinkin@babel.ling.upenn.edu](mailto:dinkin@babel.ling.upenn.edu)> wrote in message  
news:cdcc60\$87d5\$1@netnews.upenn.edu...  
> *On Sat, 17 Jul 2004 22:48:44 GMT, Peter T. Daniels*  
<[grammatim@worldnet.att.net](mailto:grammatim@worldnet.att.net)> wrote:  
>  
> > *Aaron J. Dinkin wrote:*  
> >  
> > > *As I indicated elsewhere ("I have no desire to call the vowel in*  
> > > *"cut"*  
> > > *schwa"), I'm not tying myself to Smith-Trager. I'd rather use a*  
> > > *phonemicization that actually fits my dialect. (In particular,*  
> > > *having to*  
> > > *use /@/ for [V] and /@r/ for [R] would make "burrow" and "burro"*  
> > > *indistinguishable, and I for one can tell an ass from a hole in*  
> > > *the*  
> > > *ground.)*  
> >  
> > *The words, however, are homophonous,*  
>  
> *Ain't so, so there.*  
>  
> > *as is "borough" as well (but not "borrow"),*  
>  
> *I have "borough" like "burrow", but not "burro".*  
>  
> > *unless of course you use a Hispanicizing "b/uw/rro."*  
>  
> *Nope. They're ['bVrow] and ['bRow].*  
>  
> > *If you don't recognize "cut" as a stressed shwa, then you are*  
> > *multiplying entities -- there is no need for a /V/ ~ /@/ contrast.*  
>  
> *You and I have been through this before. If you have the*  
> *"hurry"/"furry"*  
> *vowel merger it's your loss, but there's no need for you to impose*  
> *it on*  
> *the rest of us.*

- >
- > *(I used "burrow"/"burro" for my example because they're both*
- > *monomorphemic, and because I like the "ass from a hole in the*
- > *ground"*
- > *joke; but I can't say for certain whether other people without the*
- > *"hurry"/"furry" merger make this particular distinction in the same*
- > *way as*
- > *I do. We were talking about my own personal phonemic system,*
- > *however, so*
- > *nothing is lost by my choice of example.)*

It doesn't work for me, partly because I don't really think of "burro" as an English word, and I think it would have /U/ (Smith-Trager /u/) if I did.

The /@/-/V/ minimal pairs I've come up with are "but"/"butt" (even when stressed, my "but" often still has [@] – it depends on the context) and "Ms"/"muzz". I presume that Peter will insist either that these are the same or that they're different in some other way, but there we go.

Jonathan