

# Re: Warter, warter everywhere

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- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <[grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 12 Oct 2006 15:09:34 -0700
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Mike Wright wrote:

ranjit\_mathews@xxxxxxxx wrote:

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Mike Wright wrote:

I tend to think of my "r" as a glide whenever it's not syllabic,

The glide in moor/Moore is spelt oor/oore, not spelt r/re.

Are you saying that there is no vowel in those words? Or does "glide" mean something different for you than it does for me?

There are vowels in there but to me, a glide means, at a minimum, two vowels and the transition from the first to the second. That is, the first vowel is the beginning of the glide and the second vowel is the end of it.

It's probably time for some of the linguists here to step in, but my understanding is that "vowel" refers to the nucleus of a syllable, while a "glide" is a non-nuclear vowel-like sound that leads to or from a

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vowel (on–glides and off–glides).

So, a one–syllable word will have at least a vowel, which may optionally be preceded by an on–glide and/or followed by an off–glide, forming a vocalic core that may optionally be preceded and/or followed by a consonant or consonant cluster. In English, the glide /j/ is similar to the vowel /i/, and the glide /w/ is similar to the vowel /u/. I think that there should be a vowel–glide pair for the sound often written <ɻ>, too.

I suspect that it's not quite that simple. I'm not sure how to take the supposed syllables in reconstructions of Middle and Old Chinese that appear to have vowel clusters (e.g., /srean/), glide clusters (/gjwang/), and even both (/jwieng/). These examples are from the Introduction to Chinese Historical Phonology that Dylan Song posted.

Perhaps someone can explain what \*that\* is all about.

No more than in the case of PIE are you expected to try to pronounce such sequences; they are formulas that serve to account for all the descendants or all the variations that are being reconstructed.