

## **What do Hungarian transparent vowels and Slovak yers have in common?**

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The first common feature is that in traditional phonological analyses, both Hungarian transparent vowels (TVs) and yers in Slavic languages require a complex machinery of abstract representations and operations for accounting for surface patterns. Most accounts of Hungarian transparent vowels assume, with good reasons, that /i/ and /e/ in harmonic front domains are phonetically the same as /i/ and /e/ in dis-harmonic back domains. Similarly, most accounts of Slovak yer vowels (YVs) assume, again with good reasons, that on the surface, underlying yer and non-yer vowels are phonetically identical. Hence, the second common feature of Hungarian TVs and Slovak YVs is the assumption that deep phonological alternations do not interact, or are linked to, surface phonetic realizations of these vowels. I will review the findings of Benus and Gafos (2007) and the model of Benus (2005) that propose a close relationship between the phonological and phonetic levels of the cognitive system behind our speaking competence. I will then review the findings of Benus (2012) showing that in Slovak, similar to Hungarian TVs, the division between the phonetics and phonology of yers does not seem to hold as strongly as assumed in traditional phonological accounts.