PHONETIC VOWEL ROTATIONS

SUSAN THORPE
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England
thorpeds@hotmail.com

Phonetic Vowel Rotations is offered as a new twist on vowel rotations, a genre familiar to the readers of Word Ways. LAST LEST LIST LOST LUST is a vowel rotation. The embedded 5 major vowels (a, e, i, o and u) ‘rotate’ in the same position in the word, the other letters also remaining in their positions.

In Phonetic Vowel Rotations:
1. the embedded rotating vowel sounds are those as pronounced in the alphabet.
2. each vowel sound can be made from any number of letters.
3. the vowel sound is sandwiched between two short consonantal sounds each of which can also be made from any number of letters.

The number of complete Phonetic Vowel Rotations is limited by the lack of words with a suitably-situated alphabetical U sound. For example, WAYS WEEES WISE WOES..........whoops!


bine = hop stem; buze = a pipe to convey air into mines; dade = a wading bird; pheme = words in an utterance as they make up a grammatical unit in language; fime = dung; guze = a roundle of a sanguine tint; keet = colt, lorikeet or parakeet; mese = the middle string of a 7-stringed lyre in ancient Greek music; mise = to be miserly; nide = a brood of pheasants; nate = to use; nighs = draws near to; pule = a whine; tute = coll. tutor; tain = tinfoil; Tays = rivers called Tay; tase = takes; tews = tails; veys = surveys; voes = bays in Orkney & Shetland

A (ø) E (i) I (ai) O (øu) U (ju)

b - d BADE BEAD BIDE BODE BUDE (in Cornwall, U.K.)
b - n BANE BEEN/BEAN BINE BONE BUNE (a surname)
b - t BAIT/BATTE BEAT/BEET BITE/BIGHT BOAT BEAUT/ BUTTE
b - z BAYS/BAIZE BEES BUYS BOWS/BEAUX(S) BUZE

d - d DADE DEED DIED/DYED DOUGHED DUDE

d - s DAISS/DACE DIX DICE DOSE DEUCE

d - z DAZE/DAYS DEES DIES DOES DUES

f - d FADE FEED FIED FOED FEUD

f - m FAME PHEME FIME FOAM FUME

f - z FAZE/PHASE FEES FIES FOES FUSE

g - z GAZE GHEES GUISE GOES GUZE

h - d HAYED HEED HIDE HOED/HOAD HEWED

h - z HAZE HES HIGHS HOSE/HOES HEWS

k - t KATE KEET KITE COAT/COTE CUTE

l - d LAYED/LAID LEAD/LIED(song) LIED LOAD LEWD

m - t MATE MEET/MEAT MITE/MIGHT MOAT MUTE

m - z MAZE/MAIZE MESE MISE MOWS MUSE

m - l MALE/MAIL MEAL MILE MOLE MULE

n - d NEIGHED NEED/KNEAD NIDE NODE NUDE

n - t NATE NEAT NIGHT NOTE NEWT

n - z NEIGHS KNEES NIGHS NOSE NEWS

p - l PALE/PAIL PEAL/PEEL PILE POLE PULE

p - z PAYS PEAS/PEES PIES POSE PEWS

s - z SAYS SEIZE/SEES SIZE/SIGHS SEWS SUES

T - n TAIN TEEN TINE TONE TUNE

T - t TATE TEAT TIGHT TOTE TUTE

t - t TAYS/TASE TEES/TEAS TIES/TIGHS TOES TEWS

V - z VEYS VEES VIES VOES VIEWS

An extension of the above sees 2 short consonantal sounds preceding the embedded vocalic sound:

sp - d SPADE SPEED SPIED SPODE SPEWED

st - p STAPE STEEP STIPE STOPE STUPE