

Juge, Matthew L. 1999. On the rise of suppletion in verbal paradigm. Proceedings of the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, ed. by Steve S. Chang, Lily Liaw, and Josef Ruppenhofer, 183-194. Berkeley: BLS.

The article studies the cases in Ibero-Romance languages when an inflectional paradigm of a verb contains forms that are borrowed from another verb. Portuguese, Galician and Spanish demonstrate “a complete overlap in certain inflectional categories of two distinct verbs – *ir* ‘to go’ and *ser* ‘to be’”. It is only the stem suppletion that is in focus of interest, affixal irregularity such as English *ox-oxen*, that is also called suppletion sometimes, is left out.

Two types of suppletion are recognized – the weak and the strong type, the latter defined through absence of shared phonological material between two forms. Diachronic sources of suppletion are presented: (irregular) sound change, analogy and contamination for weak suppletion, sound change (over longer period of time) and incursion for the strong one. The author provides functional motivation for the incursion (borrowing from other lexemes): forms from the paradigm of another word are borrowed when the original paradigm is or becomes defective. The choice of the verb ‘to be’ to replace some forms of the verb ‘to go’ is determined by tense/aspect relations (Romance preterit still exhibits some features of perfect), rather than by the lack of adequate phonetic substance as it was claimed in earlier works.

The main claim of the article is: Instances of non-overlapping suppletion come about when the verbal sources of the forms are essentially synonymous and that instances of overlapping suppletion arise when the source verbs, while semantically linked, are more semantically different.