

Markey, Thomas L. 1985. On suppletion. *Diachronica* II:1. 51-66.

Suppletion is defined by its results as follows: "...the results of suppletion construed as deviant, but deviant in such a way that the discrepancy cannot be accounted for by regular or morphological change". Three types of suppletion are recognised according to the possibility of tracing the history of the suppletive paradigm. They are: extreme, transitory and basic suppletion.

Extreme suppletion is characterised by the complete lack of "a resemblance to other alternant forms or formations". Examples: *ox-oxen*, *go-went*.

Transitory suppletion covers "the fusion of two different inflectional formants or procedures as a unitary paradigm". Example: Latin *pecus*, *pecū*, a conflation of the 3rd and 4th declension.

It is basic suppletion (defined as "the failure to extend a basic, underlying form throughout a paradigm, e.g. *bonus-melior-optimus*") that is studied in the article. Pairs like *brother-sister*, *sheep-ram* are recognised as being suppletive. The preservation of suppletion is explained by hierarchy of closeness to the *ego* (so pairs like *brother-sister*, *sheep-ram* are more likely to be suppletive than pairs like *aunt-uncle* and *lion-lioness*).