

**Dressler, Wolfgang U. 1985.** Suppletion in word formation. Historical semantics - historical word-formation, ed. by Jacek Fisiak, 97-112. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Suppletion represents one of the “most unnatural morphological phenomena” for the Natural Morphology framework. It is unnatural both on the scale of morphological transparency and on the scale of morphological diagrammaticity (iconicity).

The Natural Morphology framework allows to make the following predictions about suppletion:

1. Agglutinating languages show very little suppletion (if at all) because they value those two parameters more than inflecting languages do.
2. In inflecting languages there must be less suppletion in derivation (word-formation) than in inflection.
3. If the language changes its type from agglutinating to inflecting the number of suppletions is expected to increase. Estonian is an example of such language.

The article studies the examples of violations of these predictions and suggests the functional explanations of why the languages tolerate them.

For cases of suppletion in adjectival derivation from place names in agglutinating languages like Hungarian, Suomi-Finnish and Turkish, the reason is sociolinguistic (it is noted that sociolinguistic factors are stronger than morphological ones): “suppletive names, whether borrowed from Latin or being introduced by a politician, remain in the language as a sign of a learnedness”.

For pairs like *bull-cow* suppletion is preserved for semiotic reasons - it signals difference where it is important for a peasant economy.