

**Dressler, Wolfgang U. 1986.** Inflectional suppletion in natural morphology. Languages in Global Perspective, ed. by Benjamin F. Elson, 97-111. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.

The paper is written within the Natural Morphology framework. It is claimed that suppletion is a very unnatural on two parameters: the parameters of morphotactic transparency and of morphological diagrammaticity. Predictions are made concerning the relations between language type and a number of suppletive items: “agglutinating languages show very little suppletion if at all. Within the inflecting languages we can distinguish strongly and weakly inflecting ones. We predict that there should be less suppletion in weakly inflecting languages”. These predictions are checked against the following sample:

agglutinating	less agglutinating	strongly inflecting	less strongly inflecting	weakly inflecting
Turkish	Georgian, Hungarian, Finnish, Tokharian B	Latin, Ancient Greek	Russian, German, Estonian	Breton, Italian, French, English

The paper also lists the origins of suppletion (phonological changing, replacement of too short forms (Latine ‘go’) and borrowings) and the factors that work to resist morphological levelling:

- high token frequency;
- a suppletive form within a small class resist analogical levelling better than within a large class: pronouns, articles, auxiliary and modal verbs;
- forms expressing more basic pragmatic concepts resist analogical levelling better than less basic forms.