

**Mel'čuk, Igor A. 2000.** Suppletion. Morphologie / Morphology. Ein internationales Handbuch zur Flexion und Wortbildung / An International Handbook on Inflection and Word-Formation 1, ed. by Geert Booij, Christian Lehmann, and Joachim Mugdan, 510-524. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

The article provides a definition and a typology of suppletion. Suppletion is a "relation between X and Y so that X is suppletive with respect to Y". Suppletion as defined in the article concerns etymologically related items as well as the unrelated ones.

Typology of suppletion is constructed along the following parameters:

- inflectional vs derivational;
- radical vs affixal;
- morph vs strong megamorph vs idiom;

The parameters produce a logical space of 12 possibilities of these only 8 are attested:

1. Derivational radical morph suppletion	Russian	<i>stir-at'</i> vs <i>pračk-a</i> 'do the laundry' 'laundress'
	English	<i>father</i> vs <i>patern-al</i>
2. Derivational radical megamorph suppletion	Russian	<i>četyre</i> vs <i>sorok</i> , <i>byk</i> vs <i>korova</i> 'four' 'forty' 'bull' 'cow'
	French	<i>dorm-ir</i> vs <i>someil</i> 'to sleep' 'sleep'
3. Derivational affixal morph suppletion	Russian	<i>medvež-onok</i> vs <i>medvež-at-a</i> 'bear cub' 'bear cubs'
	Dutch	<i>spaar-der</i> vs <i>trommel-aar</i> 'saviour' 'drummer'
4. Inflectional radical morph suppletion (suppletive root+inflectional morpheme)	Lak	<i>šarša</i> vs <i>qam-i</i> 'woman' 'women'
5. Inflection radical megamorph suppletion (suppletive root+no inflectional morpheme)	Breton	<i>ki</i> vs <i>šas</i> 'dog' 'dogs'
6. Inflectional idiom suppletion	Russian	<i>sukin syn</i> vs <i>sukiny deti</i> 'son of a bitch' 'sons of bitches'
7. Inflectional affixal morph suppletion	English	<i>book-s</i> vs <i>fulcr-a</i>
8. Inflectional affixal megamorph suppletion	Dakota	<i>č<sup>h</sup>i-kté</i> vs <i>Ø-wa-kté</i> 'I kill thee' 'I kill him'

Suppletion is a gradable notion, the gradation depending on the three following factors:

- regularity of the semantic relation between X and Y;
- irregularity of the formal relation between X and Y (whether an alternation can be established, i.e. whether the substitution of one "phonemic string" by another is totally unique in the language);

similarity of the signifiers of X and Y (the degree of identity in phonological material).