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Suppletion is seen as one of the central notions for both inflectional and derivational morphology. For example, the definition of a morph and a morpheme is hardly possible without full understanding of the nature of suppletion.

The article pursues two aims – to give a rigorous definition of suppletion and to present a case study of one suppletive idiom in Russian. The definition provided covers cases of inflectional and derivational suppletion and can be used to describe suppletive relations between all kinds of language signs – affixes, stems, megamorphs and phrases.

Examples given: French *allons – irons*, English *am – was*, Russian *pračka – stirat'* (laundress – to do the laundry), Russian Genitive endings ( $\emptyset$ , *-ov*, *-jej*). Three main conditions for two segments **X** and **Y** to be considered suppletive are:

- (1) they must be either semantically identical or connected by a regular semantic relation
- (2) **X** and **Y** can not be represented by another segment  $Z+Z_i$  (thus, *am* can not be represented as *be*+some ending)
- (3) there is no segment (or segment complex) **W** that:
  - is identical with '**X**' or '**Y**';
  - **W** and **Y** (or **X**) can be represented by another segment  $U+U_i$ .

The second part of the article is devoted to Russian idiom *sukin syn* (son of a bitch) that has a suppletive plural *sukiny deti* (sons of bitches – lit. children of bitch).