

Mel'čuk, Igor. 1994. Suppletion: Toward a logical analysis of the concept. *Studies in Language* 18. 339-410.

The article provides a rigorous definition of the concept 'suppletion', illustrates it and gives a typology of suppletion.

The definition is as follows: "Suppletion is a relation between signs X and Y such that the semantic difference 'd' between X and Y is maximally regular in L ['d' is grammaticalized in L], while the formal, i.e. phonological, difference *d* between them is maximally irregular [*d* is not an alternation of L; it is close to being unique in L, i.e. it obtains between two signs only and is not similar to any difference in any other pair of signs of L]". The notion of suppletion is valid for both inflection and derivation, roots (stems) and affixes.

Two conditions are required to be fulfilled for two signs (X and Y) to be suppletive, namely:

- (1) the signifiers of X and Y are not corepresentable;
- (2) the signifieds of X and Y are corepresentable and
 - (2a) either the signifieds (meaning) 'X' and 'Y' are identical, and then X and Y are allomorphs of the same morpheme;
 - (2b) or the signifieds 'X' and 'Y' are not identical, and then 'X' and 'Y' are grammatically corepresentable.

Subcondition 2b avoids lexical synonyms to be considered suppletive. To be "grammatically corepresentable" means that the signifieds differ only by grammatical meaning, i.e. the meaning that has separate morphological expression. Thus, Russian meaning 'in-law, through marriage' is not grammatical, whereas French one is, having prefix *beau-*, *belle-*).

The notion of graduality is introduced for both semantic and formal regularity (rules can be non-productive or restricted to special subclasses of units) the consequence of which is a weak and strong suppletion.