

Rudes, Blair A. 1980. On the nature of verbal suppletion. *Linguistics* 18. 655-676.

Suppletion is understood as "etymologically unrelated forms represented the same morpheme within a paradigm". Two patterns of verbal suppletion are recognised: suppletion by tense/aspect/mode and suppletion by person/number in the unmarked present.

Example of the first pattern (suppletion by tense/aspect/mode):
Tuscarora(Iroquoian), 'say':

PRESENT, IMP	PERFECTIVE	OTHER
II' { }	{ }] [√] }

For the second pattern (suppletion by person/number) there is a tendency for the distribution of stems along tense/aspect/mode lines to be the same for all such suppletive verbs. Example: Albanian (Pres. Ind vs Aorist):

'have' *kam/pata*

'fall', 'strike' *bie/rash*

'be' *je/qe*

'bring' *bi/prû*

'give' *jap/dha*

'stand' *rri/ndêj*

'see' *shof/pa*

'come' *vje/erdh*

etc.

Within a given language, the pattern of suppletion tends to be the same for all suppletive verbs. Example: Old Irish verbs have one stem for the imperative and another stem for all other verb forms:

	IMP, <i>ro</i> -forms	Other
'bear'	ber-	uc-
'bring'	do·ber-	do·uc-
'die'	-at·bel	-at·bath
'give'	do·ber-	do·rat-
'put, throw'	cuirethar-	ro·la-
'steal, take away'	gataid-	tall-

Then the conditions that allow suppletion to arise are studied. The basic verb must be paradigmatically irregular, which means that the basic verb must be either morphologically irregular or obsolete, or must already have a suppletive paradigm (example: Old English *gā/ēode*, newer suppletion is *go/went*).

The supplying verbs must fulfill the following semantic criteria:

- the meaning of the verbs must be included within the the more general sphere of meaning of the basic verb but must not be too narrow or too specific an aspect of that sphere

- secondary verbs must share all or most of the subcategorization requirements of the basic verb. That is, the secondary verb must be capable of appearing in all of the contexts in which basic verb can appear.