

Veselinova, Ljuba. 2000. Suppletion in the paradigms of copula verbs. Cognition and function in language, ed. by Barbara A. Fox, Dan Jurafsky, and Laura A. Michaelis, 65-83. Stanford: Centre for the Study of Language and Information.

The goal of the article is to find out how and why two different lexemes come together in one paradigm. The sample consists of examples from 41 languages. Examples like Engl. *am-are-is* are excluded from being suppletive since they can be traced back to one and the same stem.

Suppletion in copula may involve the following features:

1. suppletion according to tense and mood
2. polarity suppletion
3. person and number suppletion (excluded from the present discussion)

The term 'copula' is understood as verbs which can cover the following meanings:

- identity
- assignment of permanent and/or temporary quality
- location
- existence
- possession (alienable/inalienable)

It is claimed that languages that don't use suppletion in tense tend to distinguish IDENTITY/QUALITY from the rest of meanings whereas languages that use suppletion in tense tend to cover all the listed meanings with one word.

Using the diachronic data, the author concludes that lexical sources "show a great degree of uniformity crosslinguistically" namely, the verbs of position and living.