

How to explain suppletion in the lexical vocabulary

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According to Embick & Halle (2004), suppletion is a phenomenon which is only found in the functional vocabulary of a language and, as functional morphemes are not specified pre-syntactically with phonological material, suppletion can be explained via *Vocabulary Insertion*. In contrast, lexical elements, i.e. verbal roots, are pre-syntactically specified for phonological features and thus not subject to *Vocabulary Insertion*. Root alternations must therefore be explained via readjustment rules (cf. Embick & Halle 2004:6).

Ir 'go' is one of the Spanish verbs which shows verbal suppletion, cf. the following verbal forms:

(1) *voy, vamos, iba, fui, vaya, yendo* etc.

In line with the above mentioned claims, since Spanish *ir* is a suppletive verb and since it can be used functionally (cf. the examples in (2)), we have to explain its forms by *Vocabulary Insertion*.

- (2) a. El niño se va a caer. [functional verb]
The child himself GO to fall.
b. María va comiendo cada vez más. [functional verb]
Maria GO eating each time more.
c. Ya van vendidos cien diarios. [functional verb]
Already GO sold hundred newspapers.

Yet, *ir* can also be used lexically (cf. (3)). This suggests that we are confronted with cases of root alternation:

- (3) a. Pedro va a la estación. [lexical verb]
Pedro GO to the station.
b. Me gusta ir a pie. [lexical verb]
I like GO by foot.

In my talk I will focus on problems for a morphological analysis which are related to the dual status of the Spanish *ir*. In line with Pomino & Remberger (in prep.), I will propose an analysis which can resolve the obvious morphological dilemma mentioned above: I will assume a phonologically empty root for the lexical verb and a kind of post-syntactic GO-support which provides a host for the phonologically realised affixes.

Embick, David & Morris Halle (2004): "On the Status of Stems in Distributed Morphology." Ms., University of Pennsylvania and MIT.

Embick, David & Rolf Noyer (2004): "Distributed Morphology and the Syntax/Morphology Interface." To appear in: G. Ramchand & C. Reiss (eds.): *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Interfaces*. Oxford: University Press.

Pomino & Remberger (in prep.): "Grammar at Work: Distributed Morphology and Minimalist Syntax of Spanish *ir*." Talk given at the 16⁰ Coloquio de Gramática Generativa, Madrid.