



IZKUNTZALARI GAZTEEN ELKARTEA ASOCIACIÓN DE XOVES LINGÜISTAS  
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“The Status of the Vocabulary in Distributed Morphology”

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Data: An analysis of a rich inflectional language where information regarding the conjugational classes is also encoded in the system, requires the morphemes to represent syntactic, phonological and morphological features (class). Consider Modern Greek (MG); The root is followed by the theme vowel (TV) representing aspectual and morphological features. There is also a certain degree of interrelation between TVs.

- (1) (a) è -graf - Ø -s sa  
AUG - √.write-PER.TV[-α] – AC – 1SG.PST  
(b) agàp -i  
√.love – PER.TV [-α, +β] –AC- 1SG.PST

Issues: This particular analysis causes problems for the formulation of the account within Distributed Morphology (DM) (Halle & Marantz 1993). The problem is related to the status of the Vocabulary, seen as the repository of the mapping between syntactic onto phonological features of underspecified entries. Consequently, this does not allow the presence of the morphological features (TVs, MG) within DM's existing principles. Additionally, Vis are arranged in terms of specificity: the most specified entry precedes less specified items. Nonetheless, this makes the wrong predictions about the degree of regularity, frequency and diachrony in MG. Clearly, there is not also space for any type of interrelation between Vis. Overall, a simplified view of the DM Vocabulary does not allow to account for all the features and processes under which formation occurs.

An alternative: An extended version of the DM's Vocabulary is proposed. Crucial is the claim that Vocabulary has an independent structure and mechanisms. Suppletive versus non-suppletive stem formation is the result of processes operating at different levels. It is also assumed that Vis are hierarchically organised in tree-structures—based on the degree of markedness of TVs morphological features—rendering similarities with the hierarchical grouping of the structural levels.

Consequences: This extended view shows important advantages for word formation and allomorphy.