



RESEARCH PAPER

Suppletion and politeness in English, Japanese and Korean: A Morphological Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the suppletion process in English, Japanese and Korean language, from the comparative morphological aspect. Suppletion is the replacement of a lexical form with any other unrelated form within the same grammatical category. In English, it is commonly present in forms like go/went, be/was, where grammar such as tense and its comparison changes the lexical form. In Japanese and Korean languages, on the other hand, suppletion is influenced by social hierarchy and politeness. Honorific forms in Japanese such as taberu/ meshiagaru and in Korean meokada/deusida show that lexical change can also occur due to respect and social relations, rather than merely the grammatical structure. The study uses a qualitative comparative model and the data is collected from linguistics books and journal articles. Suppletive forms are selected from Korean and Japanese languages to check similarities and differences in their morphological characteristics. The analysis highlights that English language mainly executes grammatical suppletion, whereas Japanese and Korean languages practice suppletion through honorifics in social domains. This research lays stress on politeness as a conditioned suppletion, which is considered an important morphological element, because it works systematically within linguistics structures and social hierarchies. The research contributes to the broader understanding of morphology by highlighting the link between language, grammar and socio-cultural context.

KEYWORDS Suppletion, Morphology, Politeness, Honorifics, English, Japanese, Korean

Introduction

“Suppletion refers to the use of etymologically distinct stems within a single inflectional paradigm” (Veselinova, 2006, p.3). Suppletion is mostly grammatical, but sometimes it is influenced by honorifics and social hierarchy. In linguistics, suppletion focuses on the internal structure of words and their modification. An interesting factor about suppletion is that, one grammatical form is replaced by another form having zero phonological resemblance. According to Spencer (1991), “suppletion represents the most extreme form of irregularity in morphology” (p. 46). The suppletion process demonstrates that language does not always work according to set rules. In English typical examples of suppletion are;

Table 1

Examples of grammatical suppletion (of the verb “Be”) in English

Verb “Be”	Examples
<i>Am</i>	<i>I am waiting for my mother.</i>
<i>Is</i>	<i>She is coming home today.</i>
<i>Are</i>	<i>They are preparing meal for the guests.</i>
<i>Was</i>	<i>He was absent yesterday.</i>
<i>Were</i>	<i>We were talking about electricity.</i>

The above mentioned examples are highly “suppletive” forms of the verb “be”. Some other examples are;

Table 2
Other grammatical and plural suppletive forms in English

<i>Go</i>	<i>Went</i>
<i>Person</i>	<i>People</i>
<i>Child</i>	<i>Children</i>
<i>Think</i>	<i>Thought</i>

The first example (*go-went*) is the reflection of full suppletion. Normally in English, past tense adds the inflection /-ed/ at the end, like (*walk-walked*). “Went” came from the verb “Wend”. The second and third examples are the indicator of partial suppletion. English usually forms plurals with /-s/, like (*book-books*), whereas /*person-people*/ and /*child-children*/ show irregular replacement. The fourth example should be taken as complete Suppletion but it is considered as partial suppletion because slight resemblance remains intact.

Linguistics takes suppletion as a grammatical mechanism, which deals with tense, agreement of subjects or comparison of degree. Matthews (1991) explains that suppletion occurs when “different grammatical forms are derived from historically unrelated roots” (p. 197). Some languages like Japanese, Korean, Javanese, Nahautl, Navajo and Georgian, suppletion is seen conditioned with honorifics, politeness, animacy and affinitive discrimination. Whereas, in English language these shifts take place due to grammatical dynamics.

In Japanese language for the word “go” there are three roots, which are applied according to social relationships.

Table 3
Suppletion in Japanese social context

<i>Nature</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Iku</i>	<i>Go</i>
<i>Respectable</i>	<i>Irassharu</i>	<i>Go / Come</i>
<i>Humble</i>	<i>Mairu</i>	<i>Go / Come</i>

In Korean language, honorifics determine the roots of a verb to be used.

Table 4
Suppletion in Korean honorifics

<i>Nature</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Meokda</i>	<i>Eat</i>
<i>Honorific</i>	<i>Deusida</i>	<i>Eat (respectful)</i>

Javanese language observes suppletion at speech level along with politeness.

Table 5
Suppletion in Javaense politeness level

<i>Nature</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Instances</i>
<i>Informal</i>	<i>Mangan</i>	<i>Aku manga sega./ I am eating rice</i>
<i>Polite</i>	<i>Nedha</i>	<i>Simbah lagi nedha./ Grand ma is eating.</i>
<i>Highly respectful</i>	<i>Dhahar</i>	<i>Bapak sampun dhahar. / Sir has eaten rice.</i>

Navajo demonstrates suppletion through its complex verbal system, where different stems may occur within the same paradigm depending on number and semantic classification (Faltz, 1998). According to Faltz, Navajo language uses different

roots according to the shape or nature of the object. Nahautl whereas executes suppletion, as semantic or animacy based. Navajo is also famous for classificatory verbs. The verbs shifts according to texture, shape, number and animacy.

Table 6
Semantic and animacy based suppletion in Navajo language

<i>Nature</i>	<i>Verb (Navajo) to carry</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>Suppletion of flexible objects</i>	<i>-tsooz</i>	<i>Carry rope / cloth</i>
<i>Suppletion of animate objects</i>	<i>-jaal</i>	<i>Carry a baby or animal</i>
<i>Suppletion of multiple objects</i>	<i>-la</i>	<i>Carry many items together</i>

Table 7
Semantic handling in Nahautl language

<i>Nature</i>	<i>Verb (Navajo) to carry</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>Washing a specific object</i>	<i>Kipa:ka</i>	<i>He washes it</i>
<i>Washing in general</i>	<i>Tapa:ka</i>	<i>He washes</i>
<i>Grinding a specific object</i>	<i>Kitisi</i>	<i>He grinds it</i>
<i>Grinding in general</i>	<i>Tisi</i>	<i>He grinds</i>

Brown and Levinson (1987) argue that politeness plays a central role in maintaining social relationships and interpersonal harmony. According to them, "politeness strategies are developed in order to save the hearer's face" (p. 61).

The languages that have stronger affinitive and politeness root verbs attached with their linguistics structure, becomes more embedded with social hierarchy. Similarly, Shibatani (1990) notes that Japanese honorifics reflect social hierarchy and cultural values, while Sohn (1999) explains that Korean honorification is grammatically encoded and socially obligatory.

The current research tends to check Suppletion and politeness in English, Japanese, and Korean languages. The study compares the grammatical aspect of English language with honorific Suppletion in Japanese and Korean. By analyzing the selected examples from all three languages, politeness and Suppletion can be considered a morphological element rather than merely lexical variation.

This study holds significance in the field of sociolinguistics, morphology and comparative linguistics. It sheds light on how roots of verbs are formed not only by traditional grammatical rules but also by affinitive, politeness, social and cultural context. It also argues that lexical roots change in different languages according to situation and material.

Traditionally, when one root word (verb) is replaced by its another lexical variant due to subject agreement, comparison or grammar, it is called Suppletion. This concept of Suppletion is deeply embedded with morphological theory. According to Matthews (1991), Suppletion occurs when grammatical forms originate from historically unrelated roots. Similarly, Spencer (1991) describes Suppletion as one of the most extreme forms of morphological irregularity. However, less attention has been paid to the other factors except grammatical aspects that also cause full or partial Suppletion. Japanese and Korean languages own a rich literature in extensive honorifics, according to social hierarchy or politeness. For instance, Japanese *taberu* changes to *meshiagaru*, while Korean *meokda* changes to *deusida* in affinitive contexts. Shibatani (1990) explains that Japanese honorific expressions are closely associated with social hierarchy and cultural norms, while Sohn (1999) notes that Korean honorification is grammatically encoded and

socially obligatory. Although these Suppletions are observed in day-to-day life yet, they are often discussed under politeness rather than within morphology. Consequently, there remains a gap to examine the Suppletion and politeness bridge of English, Japanese and Korean languages. Previous studies have focused on these languages while excluding social hierarchy and politeness. Brown and Levinson (1987) argue that politeness strategies are central to maintaining interpersonal relationships, yet their connection with morphological processes has not been sufficiently explored in comparative linguistic studies. Therefore, this research aims to explore the morphological value of honorific Suppletion and how grammar, politeness, and social context interact within the structure of language.

Literature Review

Concept of English Morphology and Suppletion

According to Yule (2020), morphology focuses on “the basic elements used in a language” and the processes through which words are modified. Morphology is the prime branch of linguistics that deals with the structure, formation and Suppletion of root words in different contexts. Spencer (1991) defines Suppletion as “the extreme end of morphological irregularity” (p. 46). Traditionally, suppletions represent variants of root words as entirely grammatical and phonological. Whereas, English language provides common examples like:

Table 8
Grammatical and comparative Suppletion in English

<i>Go</i>	<i>Went</i>
<i>Be</i>	<i>Was</i>
<i>Good</i>	<i>Better</i>
<i>Many</i>	<i>More</i>
<i>Little</i>	<i>less</i>

These examples are variations of Suppletion that depict grammar, subject agreement and comparative form of root verb. Matthews (1991) explains that these forms are historically unrelated yet function within the same grammatical paradigm. Such examples illustrates that lexical Suppletion does not always follow standard rules.

Suppletion occurs when one form is replaced by another form with no phonological similarity.”(Trask, 1993, p. 271). Traditional studies have focused mainly on grammar, tense, comparison and subject agreement. Whereas, contemporary linguistic research takes Suppletion as a social and affinitive-biased phenomenon. Aronoff and Fudeman (2011) argue that Suppletion challenges the idea that morphology always operates systematically because some forms survive historically despite lacking regular patterns. English language is rich in irregular suppletions because it was developed from old English. It belongs to Germanic language family and after getting involved with Latin and French, it borrowed many words and comparison patterns.

For example:

Table 9
Examples of Suppletion from Latin and French.

<i>Latin examples of Suppletion</i>		<i>French examples of Suppletion</i>	
<i>Degree</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>Positive</i>	<i>Bonus/good</i>	<i>Vais</i>	<i>I go</i>

<i>Comparative</i>	<i>Melior/better</i>	<i>Allons</i>	<i>We go</i>
<i>Superlative</i>	<i>Optimus/best</i>	<i>Irai</i>	<i>I will go</i>

Honorifics and Politeness in Japanese

From linguistics perspective, Japanese language is well-known for Suppletion of entire root word according to politeness, respect, social status, and affinity. This language owns multiple speech levels to adjust the speaker according to the situation. Shibatani (1990) explains that Japanese honorifics are deeply connected with Japanese cultural values and hierarchical social relations. Some verbs entirely change their shape and structure in honorific or humble level. For example:

Table 10
The agreement of Suppletion with social level

<i>Social level</i>	<i>Verb (to see)</i>
<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Miru</i>
<i>Honorific</i>	<i>Goran ni naru</i>
<i>Humble</i>	<i>Haiken saru</i>

In the above-mentioned example, the verb (to see) changes its complete form in three different scenarios. Although the semantic significance of the verb remained same, yet it changed its shape according to social levels.

Ide (1989) states that Japanese politeness is not merely an individual choice but a socially expected linguistic behavior. Similarly, Brown and Levinson (1987) emphasize that politeness strategies function to maintain social harmony and protect interpersonal relationships. Japanese language embeds grammatical and lexical structures altogether and shapes honorific Suppletion or socially-conditioned Suppletion. For example:

<i>Sensei ga goran ni narimashita.</i>	<i>The teacher saw it.</i>	<i>Respectful</i>
<i>Watashi ga haiken shimashita.</i>	<i>I saw it.</i>	<i>Humble</i>

Japanese language is essential for Morphology, because it challenges the custom idea of Suppletion. It demonstrates very clearly that Suppletion does not only depends on grammar, rather it owns the colors of pragmatics, cultural meanings, social hierarchy and affinitive influence.

Honorific Systems in Korean

Sohn (1999) explains that honorification in Korean is “grammatically encoded and socially obligatory” (p. 407). Likewise Japanese, Korean language also practices honorific system influenced by age, status, and social hierarchy. Korean speakers shift root verbs depending on the existing scenario.

For example:

Table 11
Difference in pronouns and their honorifics of suppletion

<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Honorific</i>
<i>(To be/ exist) itda</i>	<i>Gyesida</i>
<i>(pronoun I) na</i>	<i>Jeo</i>
<i>(to speak) malhada</i>	<i>Malsseumhasida</i>
<i>(to sleep) jada</i>	<i>Jumusida</i>

The above-mentioned examples involve complete lexical shift from neutral to honorific category. This process is not merely lexical shift, rather it involves complete morphological modification.

Lee and Ramsey (2000) note that Korean honorifics serve both grammatical and social functions because they express politeness while maintaining hierarchical relationships.

Korean language is very dense in morphological analysis of Suppletion, because it extensively demonstrates social-conditioning, lexical alteration and honorific relevance in sociolinguistics and pragmatics.

Morphology, Politeness, and Social Hierarchy

These three pillars are inter-twinned and their hierarchy has been widely discussed in sociolinguistics. Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory argues that speakers employ linguistic strategies to maintain social harmony and avoid threatening the listener's "face." Languages like Japanese, Korean, Javanese and Georgian use them, as tools to make the entire root word shift feasible and practical.

Agha (2007) suggests that honorific systems reflect social identity and cultural expectations through linguistic forms. Similarly, Fasold (1990) argues that language variation often reflects social structure and power relations within society.

All the above-mentioned theories and concepts very strongly argue that Suppletion is not only the trait of grammar, subject agreement and tense. Rather Suppletion is a full-fledge area, that discovers the strength and significance of social status, cultural norms, affinal ties, honorifics and objects linked with the root words.

Theoretical framework

This piece of research is grounded in two theories, Morphological theory and politeness theory. Morphological theory, developed as a branch of linguistics, describes how words change their forms and shape. According to Spencer (1991), Suppletion represents an extreme form of morphological irregularity in which different grammatical forms are realized through unrelated lexical roots. Similarly, Matthews (1991) argues that Suppletion occurs when grammatical forms originate from historically distinct roots. Morphological theory views grammatical Suppletion as a sole linguistics process. To investigate the social and cultural aspect of Suppletion Brown and Levinson's (1987) Politeness theory is also applied to the research. This theory analyzes the elements of age, status and social hierarchy as honorific expressions in Japanese and Korean languages. Ide (1989) further explains that politeness in Japanese is often based on discernment, where speakers choose linguistic forms according to socially prescribed norms rather than personal preference. These theories provide the base for analyzing different forms of Suppletion in English, Japanese, and Korean. The combination of these two theories helped in a better investigation of Suppletion in English, Japanese and Korean languages. It investigated Suppletion from grammatical, social, cultural, age and affinal categories. This framework actually provided a platform to investigate how morphology and social relationships interact in the formation of suppletive forms.

Material and Methods

Research design

This study has adopted a qualitative and comparative research design. The main aim of this study is to compare the forms of Suppletion in English, Japanese, and Korean languages. A qualitative approach was considered appropriate because research is based on comparative analysis and statistical evaluation of data is not required. The data comprises of real-life examples from scholarly books, journal and articles. The data related to English language indicated grammatical Suppletion. Whereas the data gathered from Japanese and Korean language mentioned honorific and politeness-conditioned Suppletion. Both figures of data were analyzed through comparative morphological analysis. The comparison also highlighted the factors that caused lexical replacement.

Analysis

This research tends to analyze the factors affecting Suppletion process in English, Japanese and Korean languages with reference to their function and context. This analysis mainly focuses the areas of social hierarchy, speaker's relationship with the person, singular and plural forms, inflections using -ed, comparative degrees and tense agreement of grammar. Further, the analysis clarify the link and effects of that link between morphology, politeness, and social hierarchy.

Suppletion in English

In English language, Suppletion is mainly activated through grammatical categories like tense (-ed), plurals (-s/-es), comparison (-er / -est) and some ir-regular forms of main root verb. Except irregular categories, all the terms applied to Suppletion in English language are definite and standard steps. Irregular root words formation is also acceptable and has been seen in practice since the birth of English language. The reason behind this phenomenon is social conditioning to these terms and their validation as standard forms. Since English language sees its roots from Germanic, Latin and French, the borrowed forms and terms from those languages are equally valid as the regular forms. The discriminating part of English language is very evident that Suppletion here is not dependent on social relationships and honorifics.

For example:

1. Sara said to her younger brother, "You have to finish your work by 10 pm."
2. The student said to the teacher, "Sir! Can you please repeat the statement?"

In both, above-mentioned examples the use of pronoun "You", indicates the addressed person. In example "A" the person is younger brother, whereas in example "B" the person is the teacher. The use of pronoun "You" remains the same in both examples. This clearly shows that English language remains free from any sort of affinitive or honorific link.

Here are some very common day to day examples of Suppletion in English language:

Table 12
Different forms of Suppletion in English

<i>Root form</i>	<i>Suppletive form</i>	<i>Function</i>
<i>Go</i>	<i>Went</i>	<i>Past tense</i>
<i>Be</i>	<i>Was / were</i>	<i>Tense and agreement</i>
<i>Good</i>	<i>Better</i>	<i>Comparative degree</i>
<i>Worse</i>	<i>Worst</i>	<i>Comparative-superlative link</i>
<i>Person</i>	<i>People</i>	<i>Irregular plural form</i>

The above mentioned table explains the Suppletive process step by step. First root verb *Go* changes into *went* and displays past tense. Then *be* is shifted into *was/ were* and shows tense agreement. *Good* shifting towards *better* represents comparative degree. The link of *worse* into *worst* indicates comparative-superlative form. The changing of *person* into *people*, indicates irregular plural form. According to Matthews (1991), such forms are examples of classical Suppletion because different grammatical forms originate from historically unrelated roots. Mostly lexical replacements are due to standard grammatical rules and occur regardless of social context or speaker relationship.

Honorific Suppletion in Japanese

Honorific Suppletion takes place when a speech code adopts completely different and non-conditioned terminology to express gratitude, respect or humility. It also happens when context or situation changes from neutral to humble or honorific. Speakers of Japanese language adopt this technique to showcase their social and culturally biased terms. Japanese language exhibits honorific or humble forms according to the situation and context, rather than mere application of standard grammatical figures.

For example:

Table 13
Difference between neutral and humble honorifics suppletion

<i>Neutral form</i>	<i>Honorific / humble form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>Taberu</i>	<i>Meshiagaru</i>	<i>To eat</i>
<i>Morau</i>	<i>Itadaku</i>	<i>To get / to receive</i>
<i>Iu</i>	<i>Ossharu</i>	<i>To say</i>
<i>Iku / kuru</i>	<i>Irassharu</i>	<i>To go / to come</i>
<i>Miru</i>	<i>Goran ni naru</i>	<i>To see</i>
<i>Shiru</i>	<i>Zonjiru</i>	<i>To know</i>

The above-mentioned examples of table 13, state the shifting phase of neutral terms into humble or honorific terms. This shift is least grammatical, rather each example denotes the action done in two different zones. This difference of social status, age or relationship refers to honorific Suppletion in Japanese language.

Shibatani (1990) explains that Japanese honorific expressions are closely connected with social identity and cultural expectations. The plain verb *taberu* changes to *meshiagaru* when referring respectfully to another person's action. Similarly, *morau* changes to *itadaku* in humble speech. The verb *iu* ("to say") changes to *ossharu* in honorific contexts, while *iku* ("to go") and *kuru* ("to come") may change to *irassharu*.

Unlike English Suppletion, Japanese Suppletion is not only triggered by grammar or tense. Instead, they are directed by affinity, politeness, respect, and social hierarchy. Therefore, lexical replacement in Japanese functions both grammatically and socially.

Honorific Suppletion in Korean

Korean language is famous for its agglutinative structure. It means that lexicons of Korean language are built by adding bricks of more than one suffix together. For instance: It could be a combination of verb root + honorific marker+ tense + politeness ending. This combination means that a single Korean word can express tense, action, mood, politeness and respect at the same time. Another important aspect of Korean language is omission of subject and object, if the context is clear enough to deposit meaning. For instance (*meogeosseyo*), it means *have eaten*. If we break down this word, it will demonstrate verb root, past tense marker and polite ending.

<i>Meok</i>	<i>Eoss</i>	<i>eoya</i>
<i>Root verb (to eat)</i>	<i>Past tense</i>	<i>Polite honorific</i>

Another fine example of the root verb (eat) is following:

Table 14
Description of suppletive terms, meanings and their usage

<i>Terms</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Usage</i>
<i>meogeosseyo</i>	<i>Have eaten</i>	<i>Neutral polite</i>
<i>Deusyeosseoyo</i>	<i>Have eaten</i>	<i>Honorific respectful</i>

Table 14 clearly depicts that Suppletion of words into root verbs are not only confined to grammar, rather Korean language is highly diverse and multifunctional. It performs multiple task through single words. Normally grammar only changes ending of the root verb, like in English language the root verb *talk* changes into *talked* after being suppleted. In Korean language *malhada* means to talk in general and *malsseumhasida* refers to someone who is respectful. The meaning remains same but the root words completely changes. Korean language practices Suppletion through socially conditioned vocabulary. Korean speakers mold their speech according to respect and social status. For instance:

Table 15
Description of Suppletion through socially conditioned lexical items

<i>Plain Form</i>	<i>Honorific Form</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>meokda</i>	<i>deusida</i>	<i>to eat</i>
<i>juda</i>	<i>deurida</i>	<i>To give</i>
<i>malhada</i>	<i>malsseumhasida</i>	<i>to speak</i>
<i>itda</i>	<i>gyesida</i>	<i>to exist/stay</i>
<i>jada</i>	<i>jumusida</i>	<i>to sleep</i>
<i>boda</i>	<i>boepsida</i>	<i>to see</i>

The ordinary verb *meokda* changes to *deusida* in respectful contexts, while *juda* changes to *deurida*. Similarly, *jada* (“to sleep”) changes to *jumusida*, and *itda* (“to stay/exist”) changes to *gyesida* in honorific speech.

This Suppletion is highly influenced by age, status, and social relationship. These forms are not identifiable through grammatical inflection because they involve different lexical roots. Sohn (1999) states that Korean honorification is grammatically encoded and become hidden while remain socially visible. The usage of incorrect root verb may seem

rude. The Korean data therefore demonstrate that morphology interacts strongly with politeness and cultural norms.

Comparative Analysis of the Three Languages

English, Japanese, and Korean, all three languages exercise Suppletion. Their difference lies in the grounds of linguistics structure, triggering elements and social functions.

Table 16
Core codes of suppletion

<i>Code</i>	<i>Trigger of Suppletion</i>	<i>Instances</i>
<i>English</i>	<i>Grammatical</i>	<i>Go/went</i>
<i>Japanese</i>	<i>Politeness and hierarchy</i>	<i>Taberu / mashiagaru</i>
<i>Korean</i>	<i>Hierarchy and agglutinative structure</i>	<i>meokda/deusida</i>

English Suppletion is primarily grammatical because lexical replacement occurs due to tense, agreement, or comparison. In contrast, Japanese and Korean exhibit socially conditioned Suppletion in which politeness and hierarchy determine lexical choice.

Another important difference is that English Suppletion functions independently of social context, whereas Japanese and Korean require speakers to consider interpersonal relationships before selecting lexical forms. This demonstrates that morphology may be influenced by sociocultural factors as well as grammatical structure.

Conclusion

The present research investigated the factor of Suppletion in English, Japanese and Korean languages. The results revealed that although all three languages show Suppletion, but their factors behind Suppletion are different. English language exhibits grammatical Suppletion, whereas Japanese and Korean languages rely on politeness-conditioned Suppletion influenced by social hierarchy and interpersonal relationships. These findings support Spencer's (1991) argument that Suppletion represents an extreme form of morphological irregularity. The data of English Suppletion indicate that it functions independently of social context, whereas the Japanese and Korean data remained socially conditioned. This supports Brown and Levinson's (1987) view that politeness plays a central role in maintaining social harmony and interpersonal relations. Another important finding is that honorific Suppletion in Japanese and Korean is systematic rather than random. Speakers are socially bound to select appropriate honorific forms in formal situations. Incorrect usage may be considered disrespectful or culturally inappropriate. Therefore, honorific Suppletion functions as an organized linguistic system embedded within grammar and social interaction. The comparison demonstrates that Suppletion is influenced by both grammatical and sociocultural factors. Overall, this research contributes to the broader understanding of morphology and sociolinguistics by highlighting the relationship between lexical structure and social hierarchy.

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