THE 'IT' AFFIX
SUBREGULAR INTERACTIONS OF THE DIMINUTIVE IN SPANISH

Jimmy Suzuki

Stony Brook University

jaime.suzuki@stonybrook.edu

December 12, 2016

INTRODUCTION

- Interaction between Spanish diminutive and stem formatives (Bermúdez-Otero, 2006), also known as word markers (Harris, 1991)

- Nouns and adjectives in Spanish have three four stem options

  - -o formative

  - -a formative

  - -e formative (with null allomorph)

  - Athematic stems (no formative)

- (See Table on next slide)

LIST OF STEMS
(ADAPTED FROM BERMÚDEZ-OTERO, 2006)

Stem kind	Singular	Plural	Gloss
-o	libr-**o** ['li. βro]	libr-**o**-s	'book' (MASC)
	man-**o** ['ma.no]	man-**o**-s	'hand' (FEM)
-a	libr-**a** ['li. βra]	libr-**a**-s	'pound' (FEM)
	problem-**a** [pro.'ble.ma]	problem-**a**-s	'problem' (MASC)
-e	cruz-∅ ['krus]	cruc-**e**-s ['kru.ses]	'cross' (FEM)
	cruc-**e** ['kru.se]	cruc-**e**-s ['kru.ses]	'crossing' (MASC)
	hindú-∅ [in.'du]	hindú-**e**-s [in.'du.es]	'Hindu' (M/F)
athematic	menú [me.'nu]	menús [me.'nus]	'menu' (MASC)
	brindis ['brin.dis]	brindis ['brin.dis]	'toast' (MASC)

INTRODUCING THE DIMINUTIVE

- *-it* is the most common of the four diminutive affix in Spanish

- Shared properties

  - They can only be followed by stem formatives

  - The rightmost (in a series of diminutives) attracts stress

- Unique properties

  - It is the only that can iterate (forming a series)
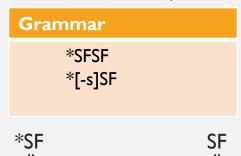
  - Possibility to act as an infix

FORMING A SERIES

- *-it* iterates, and the final diminutive gets the stress:
  - chiqu-ititit-**ít**-o[MASC]/a[FEM]
  - chiqu-ititit-**íll**-o[MASC]/a[FEM]
  - chiqu-ititit-**íc**-o[MASC]/a[FEM]
  - chiqu-ititit-**ín**-{∅,e}[MASC]/a[FEM]
- These examples are strictly-2-local
  - *[in][it], *[ik][it], *[iʌ][it]
  - *DIMINUTIVE⋈
  - *DIMINUTIVE,-s

STEM FORMATIVES ARE TSL

- A diminutive series may intervene between two possible SFs

Grammar
*SFSF *[-s]SF

- Example: Tier:

$$*SF \qquad\qquad SF$$
$$\| \qquad\qquad\qquad \|$$

[WORD[STEM cuell *-o] -it+ -o]

- Spanish phonotactic: *[PAL]# (SL$_2$)

- SF -o is required (at some point in the derivation) before the diminutive to license the palatal ʎ in *cuellito*

'-*IT*-' IS NOT SL$_2$

- *-it* may become an infix when it attaches to a stem with a final unstressed closed syllable with the vowel *-a* or *-o*

- Examples:
  - azúcar (PL: azúcares) → azuqu**it**ar
  - Víctor (PL: ?Víctores) → Vict**it**or

- We need at least SL$_4$ to account for this pattern
  - *{a,o}$_{[-stress]}$[C]#DIM
  - *{a,o}$_{[-stress]}$[C]DIM#
  - *{a,o}$_{[-stress]}$DIM[C]#

REFERENCES

❑ Aksenova, Alëna, Thomas Graf, and Sedigheh Moradi. 2016. Morphotactics as Tier-Based Strictly Local Dependencies. In Proceedings of the 14th SIGMORPHON. URL: http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/W/W16/W16-2019.pdf

❑ Bermúdez-Otero, Ricardo. 2006. Morphological structure and phonological domains in Spanish denominal derivation. In Fernando Martínez-Gil & Sonia Colina (eds), Optimality-theoretic studies in Spanish phonology, 278-311. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. URL: http://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/000179

❑ Harris, James W. 1991. The Exponence of Gender in Spanish. *Linguistic Inquiry,* 22 (Winter), 27-62.