

1 A morphonological example

Latin verb roots ending in a coronal stop take the -s- perfect allomorph and many verbs have corresponding agent nominals in -sor. Heslin (1987) observes that root-final coronal is assibilated after short vowels, as in (1a), and deleted before long nuclei, as in (1b).

(1) Perfect passive participles and agents:

a.	<i>metere</i>	‘reap’	<i>messus</i>	‘harvested’	<i>messor</i>	‘reaper’
	<i>fodere</i>	‘dig’	<i>fossus</i>	‘dug’	<i>fossor</i>	‘digger’
b.	<i>plaudere</i>	‘applaud’	<i>plausus</i>	‘applauded’	<i>plausor</i>	‘cheerer’
	<i>ludere</i>	‘play’	<i>lūsus</i>	‘played’	<i>lūsor</i>	‘player’

2 A gloss example

Albright (2005) observes that word-final *-ōs scans as heavy -ōr in the fragments of Ennius. At first blush, this suggests that leveling began before PRE-LIQUID SHORTENING was actuated, preserving the allomorphy-reduction hypothesis. However, word-final consonants syllabify as the onsets of following vowel-initial words (Allen 1978:127) and in all of Albright’s examples, such as the following, word-final *r* is followed by a vowel.

(2) PRE-LIQUID SHORTENING bled by external sandhi:

clāmōr=ad cael-um uolu-e-nd-us per=aether-a
 shout=to heaven-ACC.SG. roll-T-FUT.PASS-NOM.SG. through=heaven-ACC.PL.
 ‘a shout fit to roll up to heaven’ (fragments of Ennius)

3 A mathematical example

Zipf (1949) notes a linear relationship between log word frequency *r* and log frequency *r*. A generalized form of this relationship, shown in (3), is what is now known as Zipf’s Law (e.g., Baroni, 2009).

$$(3) f(C, \alpha) = \frac{C}{r^\alpha}$$

References

A. Albright. The morphological basis of paradigm leveling. In L. J. Downing, T. A. Hall, and R. Raffelsiefen, editors, *Paradigms in phonological theory*, pages 17–43. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005. W. S. Allen. *Vox Latina: A guide to the pronunciation of Classical Latin*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2nd edition, 1978. M. Baroni. Distributions in text. In A. Lüdeling and M. Kyöto, editors, *Corpus linguistics: An international handbook*, pages 803–821. Mouton de Gruyter, 2009. T. P. Heslin. Prefixation in Latin. *Lingua*, 72(2–3):133–154, 1987. G. K. Zipf. *Human behavior and the principle of least effort: An introduction to human ecology*. Addison-Wesley, Cambridge, 1949.