



Borrowing matter and pattern in morphology. An overview

Francesco Gardani¹

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Abstract Morphological inventories and structures of languages in contact can converge by means of either increasing formal similarity (MAT borrowing), or structural congruence (PAT borrowing), or a combination of both (MAT&PAT borrowing). In order to understand whether and how these borrowing types covary with specific grammatical features and modules of grammar, I propose a typology of MAT and PAT borrowing that distinguishes between functional and realization levels and covers all areas of grammar that can be affected by borrowing. I exemplify selected subtypes of borrowing with a number of crosslinguistic cases focusing on morphology and morphosyntax.

Keywords Grammatical borrowing · Morphological borrowing · Language contact · Matter borrowing · Pattern borrowing

1 Introduction

One of the possible triggers of grammatical change is language contact. Generally speaking, a source language (SL) can influence the grammar of a recipient language (RL) in two fundamentally distinct ways: either concrete material is taken over or abstract patterns are calqued. These fundamental types, which concern all components of grammar and are not specific to morphology, have been given many names in the literature, including ‘direct diffusion’ (Heath 1978:21), ‘direct transfer’ (Heath 1984; Weinreich 1953), ‘transfer of fabric’ (Grant 2002), ‘global copying’ (Johanson 2002), for the former, and called ‘replication’ (cf. Weinreich 1953:31 ‘replica language’), ‘indirect transfer’ (Silva-Corvalán 1994), ‘indirect diffusion’ (Heath 1978:21), ‘structural convergence’ (Heath 1984), ‘selective copying’ (Johanson 2002) and generally,

✉ F. Gardani

¹ Institute of Romance Studies, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

‘calque’ (Haugen 1950), for the latter. More recently the terminological pair introduced by Matras and Sakel (2007a) and Sakel (2007) of ‘matter borrowing’ (henceforth MAT borrowing) as opposed to ‘pattern borrowing’ (henceforth PAT borrowing) has become commonly used. Applying this dichotomy to morphology, MAT borrowing concerns actual morphological formatives, such as in (1), while PAT borrowing concerns morphological techniques, that is, structural patterns but no forms, as exemplified in (2).

- (1) MAT borrowing
- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| a. | Turkish (RL) | b. | Persian (SL) |
| | <i>yengeç-vari</i> | | <i>pishrow-var</i> |
| | crab-ADJZ | | leader-ADJZ |
| | ‘crab-like’ | | ‘leader-like’ |

The data in (1a) exemplifies the borrowing of a formative, viz. the adjectivizer *-vari* meaning ‘resembling’ (and corresponding to English *-like* or *-ish*),¹ from Persian (1b), into Turkish, where the formative occurs on native lexical bases such as *yengeç* ‘crab’ (Gardani 2020:104; Seifart 2013).² The data in (2) showcases the borrowing of a pattern, viz. the overt marking of plural on nouns, when these follow numerals, in Imbabura Quichua, a Quechua language spoken in the Northern Andes of Ecuador, which has been in contact with Spanish since the second half of the sixteenth century (Gómez-Rendón 2007:481). While plural marking is generally obligatory in Imbabura Quichua, it is not when a noun is preceded by a numeral (Cole 1982:128), as in (2c). However, in contemporary Imbabura Quichua there is an increasing tendency to mark plural also on nouns preceded by a numeral, as in (2a), most likely as an effect of contact with Spanish (2b). In contrast to (1), thus, there is no material transfer in (2), as plural marking is implemented by an Imbabura Quichua formative, viz. *-kuna*.

- (2) PAT borrowing
- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| a. | Imbabura Quichua (innovative) | | |
| | <i>ñuka-ka</i> | <i>ishkai churi-kuna</i> | <i>chari-ni</i> |
| | 1SG-TOP | two son-PL | have-1SG |
| b. | Spanish | | |
| | <i>tengo</i> | <i>dos</i> | <i>hijo-s</i> |
| | have.1SG | two | son-PL |
| c. | Imbabura Quichua (conservative) | | |
| | <i>ñuka-ka</i> | <i>ishkai churi</i> | <i>chari-ni</i> |
| | 1SG-TOP | two son | have-1SG |
| | ‘I have two sons.’ | | |
| | (Gómez-Rendón 2007:488) | | |

¹Note that Turkish has native suffixes expressing this meaning, such as *-(i)mtrak* (e.g., *beyazımtrak* ‘whitish’) and *-imsi* (e.g., *duvarımsı* ‘wall-like’) (cf. Lewis 2000:55).

²Note that in the 1960s, this suffix ranked very low in the suffix frequency hierarchy compiled for written Turkish by Pierce (1962:40).

While the case of borrowing in (2) is ‘additive’, that is, the SL feeds the RL, borrowing can also lead to loss of a pattern (or formative), that is, an SL bleeds an RL (see Gardani [forthcoming](#):§30.2). Interestingly enough, we observe the type of change occurred in (2), but in its ‘subtractive’ version, in Spanish varieties influenced by Nahuatl: here, probably as an effect of SL-agentivity (van Coetsem [1988, 2000](#)), the absence of plural marking after numerals in Nahuatl (3b) has been borrowed as a morphosyntactic pattern into local varieties of Spanish, as exemplified in (3a).

- (3) PAT borrowing
- a. Nahuatl-influenced Spanish
cien peso
 five peso
 (Flores Farfán [2013](#):226)
 - b. Nahuatl
macuile peso
 five peso
 (Horcasitas [1980](#):278)
 - c. Spanish
cien peso-s
 hundred peso-PL
 ‘100 pesos’

When analyzing cases that we suspect to be instances of PAT borrowing, its immaterial character, that is, the absence of concrete phonological form, is an obstacle to proving a language-contact hypothesis. By contrast, in the case of MAT borrowing, as we have seen above, similarity of formatives is a good piece of evidence in favor of a borrowing hypothesis. The more so as MAT borrowing and PAT borrowing are not necessarily mutually exclusive phenomena. As correctly noted by Sakel ([2007](#):15), “[i]n many cases of MAT-borrowing, also the function of the borrowed element is taken over, that is MAT and PAT are combined”.³ Therefore, when investigating the origin of grammatical change and pondering language-internal development explanations against contact-induced change explanations, evidence in favor of a borrowing hypothesis is strengthened when both the new pattern and the formative realizing it are borrowed. For example, the presence of both an augmentative suffix *-ūn* and the morphosemantic value augmentative in Maltese (4) is due to contact with Italo-Romance (cf. Italian *-one*) (Grandi [2004](#):70; see also Vicente [2020](#):234 for a related case of borrowing from Ibero-Romance in Andalusí Arabic). See the following data where the augmentative suffix *-un* applies to a native Maltese (i.e., Semitic) lexical base:

- (4) MAT&PAT borrowing
 Maltese
Kellu dar dar-un!
 had.3.M.SG house house-AUG

³Borrowing this combination of form and function is exactly what Johanson (e.g., 2000:291) refers to as ‘global copying’.

‘He had a huge house!’
(Borg and Azzopardi-Alexander 1997:77)

While Sakel (2007) is right in acknowledging that MAT and PAT borrowing can be combined, her analysis is wrong when she claims that “MAT-borrowing without any PAT [...] is very rare and mainly occurs in the lexicon” (Sakel 2007:26): as an example of MAT-only borrowing in the lexicon, she adduces the case of the noun *Handy* ‘mobile phone’ in German, because in the SL, English, *handy* has a different meaning. Sakel’s mistake, probably influenced by a morpheme-based approach to inflection, is that she classifies MAT vs PAT focusing on an SL only and without considering the grammatical inventories of both the SL and the RL. In fact, however, borrowing can be of additive, replacive, and subtractive type (Breu 1996; Gardani forthcoming, 2008:22–23), in two respects: in terms of a) formatives and/or b) feature values. Often times, an additive borrowing is simply addition of a form(ative) and not of a feature value, as this already exists in the grammar of an RL. This is, for example, the case of Persian, where the Arabic-borrowed suffix *-āt* applies to Arabic, Mongolian, and Turkish loans as well as to some genuine Persian bases such as *deh* ‘village’ as in (5a); at the same time, plural can be realized on the same lexeme *deh* by means of a native Persian suffix *-hā*, as in (5b).

- (5) MAT borrowing
Persian
- a. *deh-āt*
 - b. *deh-hā*
village-PL
‘villages’
(Yousef 2018:27, 32)

Because the feature value of plural already exists in the RL, we need to analyze the borrowing of a formative *-āt* (5a) realizing exactly the same morphosyntactic value as MAT-only borrowing and not as a combined MAT and PAT borrowing, as Sakel’s proposal (2007) would lead us to. As larger empirical collections (Gardani 2012; Seifart 2013) show us, this is by no means an isolated case. Therefore, I propose to distinguish three, and not two, types of borrowing depending on the effect of borrowing on the grammar of an RL: MAT borrowing as in (1) and (5), PAT borrowing as in (2) and (3), and MAT&PAT borrowing as in (4).

The classification of different types of borrowing as proposed for the cases seen thus far seems rather straightforward. However, things are often more complex, as we shall see in the following sections. The aim of the present article, which itself serves as an introduction to a special issue dedicated to borrowing matter and pattern in morphology, is to provide a principled classification of borrowing types such as MAT, PAT, and MAT&PAT. The rationale for a precise classification of this sort is the assumption that different types may covary with types of realized grammatical features, a hypothesis that has never been put forward explicitly and tested in the literature⁴ and that is worth investigating in future research.

⁴The idea *in nuce* is implicit in the following quote from Matras and Sakel (2007b:844): “Some categories seem to resist MAT but attract PAT”, but it has been left without any follow-up.

This article is structured as follows: in Sect. 2, I show what analytical problems arise when classifying types of grammatical and specifically morphological borrowing. In Sect. 3, I outline a proposal for a general classification of MAT and PAT borrowing and discuss several subtypes with respect to morphology. Section 4 concludes the article and summarizes the eight contributions to the special issue.

2 Problems

The topic of this article, and of the special issue introduced by it, is borrowing matter and pattern *in morphology*. In the case of MAT borrowing, the borrowing of morphological formatives does not present major classificatory problems for we can easily say what kind of grammatical feature a formative realizes, but when dealing with PAT borrowing as involving the “organization, distribution and mapping of grammatical or semantic meaning, while the form itself is not borrowed” (Sakel 2007:15), we encounter several analytical and classificatory problems, especially as regards what area of grammar is affected by borrowing. Consider, by way of example, the change occurred in Molise Slavic, a variety of Croatian spoken in Molise (Italy), under the influence of Italo-Romance varieties and Italian. As a result of contact, the comparative degree of adjectives is now realized periphrastically (6a) on the model of Italian (6b), as opposed to synthetic comparative formation in Standard Croatian (6c) (Breu 1996:26).

(6)	a.	Molise Slavic	b.	Italian	c.	Croatian
		<i>veće lip</i>		<i>più bello</i>		<i>ljepši</i>
		more pretty		more pretty		pretty.COMP
		‘prettier’		‘prettier’		‘prettier’

While the role of language contact and the resulting structural convergence are pretty clear, it is not necessarily clear how to classify this case: in Croatian, comparative is realized synthetically and pertains to the domain of morphology; in Italian, however, comparative is generally realized by a periphrasis made up of an adverb and an adjective, as it does in Molise Slavic. Now, periphrastic constructions are strictly speaking syntactic, and this is exactly what comparative constructions (Stolz 2013) are when considering the whole comparative scheme including the COMPAREE, the STANDARD, and the PARAMETER, that is, the property in terms of which they are compared (cf. Dixon 2008:788). But often the morphological literature treats comparatives, and superlatives, too, as morphological categories. Undoubtedly, this treatment results from analytical biases imposed by the grammatical tradition of Latin, where the three degrees of an adjective constitute a paradigm (e.g., positive *longus* ‘long, tall’—comparative *longior*—superlative *longissimus*); this paradigmatic analysis has been mapped onto many modern European languages where often synthetically and periphrastically realized comparatives coexist (e.g., *better* vs *more lovable* in English), a condition that favors considering different degrees of adjectives as different values of a grammatical feature ‘degree’ that, while couched within the same paradigm, are realized in different components of grammar, in morphology (i.e., synthetically) or in syntax (i.e., periphrastically) (for a discussion, see Brown et al. 2012).

My personal view is that the positive, comparative, and superlative (etc.) degrees of adjectives (and adverbs) are not as ‘tight paradigms’ as those represented, for example, by the cells realizing case values; therefore, when in a certain language these three categories are realized in a non-uniform way (say, inflectionally, periphrastically, lexically) including a periphrasis, the periphrastic comparative is generated in syntax rather than in morphology. But an ultimate solution is hard to find, if at all, and this is not the place to find a solution but to address problems. However, what is particularly interesting in the Molise Slavic example is the replacement of a synthetic (morphological) pattern by a periphrastic pattern. This means that this PAT borrowing affects the morphology of the RL, while not involving any transfer of a morphological pattern from the SL.

Problems become even more evident when we consider cases such as the following. In the Jewish Neo-Aramaic dialect of Urmi (north-western Iran), there exists an attributive (also genitive/possessive) construction *X-əd Y* as in (7a): it is made up of a head noun *X* suffixed by *-əd* (or *-ət*) and followed by a dependent noun *Y*. This construction, also known as ‘construct state construction’ (CSC), occurs in Neo-Aramaic varieties in contact with Kurdish, such as the dialects of Barwar (Khan 2008b: §§10.16 and 14.5) and of Jewish Zakho (Cohen 2015) and is generally considered to be a calque of the Kurdish Ezafe construction, that is, a head-marking possessive construction of the type in (7b) (see Garbell 1965:171; Khan 2008a:176; and Gutman 2018:307–320, for detailed discussions).

- (7) a. Jewish Neo-Aramaic dialect of Urmi

tar-ət bela
door-CSC house
‘the door of the house’
(Khan 2008a:174)

- b. *dád-ət d-ò broná*
father-CSC GEN-that son
‘the father of that son’
(Khan 2008a:175)

- c. Sorani (Silêmanî) Kurdish
ser-î binîâdem
head-EZ human_being
‘men’s heads’
(Gutman 2018:260)

Etymologically, this suffix appears to be related to the Classical Aramaic genitive prefix *d-* (Khan 2008a:175; Gutman 2018:189), remnants of which coexist with the CSC in the Jewish Neo-Aramaic of Urmi, and sometimes even cooccurs with it (7b). Thus, what we observe in Jewish Urmi is the borrowing of the distributional property of the Kurdish Ezafe, but not of the contact language’s material. Therefore, it is PAT borrowing.

The question that is relevant to us here is how to classify the phenomenon in (7): is it morphological PAT borrowing? Or is it syntactic PAT borrowing? We know that this case involves a change occurred in the locus of morphological marking of the genitive, from dependent-marking to head-marking, and locus is the place where the syntactic relations within a phrase are marked, viz. on its head, on a dependent, or on

both (Nichols and Bickel 2013). At the same time, the case involves the realization of a grammatical feature by means of suffixation—an overt morphological operation. Of course, a decision as to whether a change such as (7) is to be classified as morphological or syntactic (or belonging to other areas of grammar) might depend on the theoretical framework adopted by the analyst. And some might suggest that it is an instance of morphosyntactic borrowing, but in my opinion, there is no reason to call upon morphosyntax. We need to consider the case more carefully by answering two questions. First: how is a grammatical feature realized? That is, is it realized morphologically, syntactically, phonologically, prosodically, etc.? Second: what area of grammar does that feature belong to?

With respect to the Neo-Aramaic case in (7), my answers are that a), the feature in question is realized morphologically, by means of a formative and an operation of suffixation and b), while the feature is realized morphologically, it is also relevant to syntax and as such can be classified as morphosyntactic. In these terms, the borrowing instance exemplified in (7a) could qualify as morphological and/or morphosyntactic. But this is not the whole story. As a matter of fact, head vs dependent marking concerns the placement of morphological formatives *in a phrase*, therefore syntax is involved, too.⁵ In reality, what we observe in (7) is a case of double borrowing, that is, of a morphological pattern (operation) and of a syntactic pattern.

Aiming at providing an instrument to classify grammatical borrowing phenomena in a more precise way, I propose a classification based on five identifiers:

- a) the grammatical features (and values) involved in the borrowing case;
- b) the areas of grammar the borrowed grammatical features (and values) supposedly pertain to;
- c) MAT vs PAT vs MAT&PAT borrowing;
- d) the realization of a MAT or PAT or MAT&PAT borrowing;
- e) maintenance vs change of meaning/function in RL vs SL.⁶

Applying the identifiers to the case of Jewish Urmi in (7), we yield the following picture: a) two features: case (value: genitive) and locus (value: head); b) two areas of grammar: morphosyntax for case and syntax for locus; c) PAT borrowing; d) suffixation; e) identity.

By combining identifiers a), b), c) and d), I have elaborated a typology of matter and pattern borrowing that applies to all areas of grammar.⁷ This is presented in Sect. 3 with particular emphasis on morphology.

⁵Someone might argue that locus is morphology: in Dryer and Haspelmath's (2013) WALs, locus of marking is classified as a morphological feature in spite of the specification "in the clause".

⁶For an overview of cases in which the original function of a borrowed formative and/or pattern in the SL is not maintained in the RL, see Gardani (2016).

⁷Identifier e) concerns change in function of borrowed formatives or patterns and is relevant for the phenomenon that I have dubbed 'allogeneous exaptation' (see Gardani 2016).

3 Proposal for a classification of matter and pattern borrowing

In spite of the fact that the terminological distinction between MAT and PAT borrowing goes back to 2007⁸ and has been well received in language contact research (for recent examples, see Hober 2019; Meyer 2019; Anderson 2020), so far there has not been any attempt at detailing subtypes of MAT and PAT borrowing. For example, we have seen that for PAT borrowing, Sakel (2007:15) speaks of “organization, distribution and mapping of grammatical or semantic meaning”, but what does this mean exactly? In particular, classifying borrowing cases concerning morphology is a tedious task, as we have seen in Sect. 2. This is because of the “double” nature of morphology, conflating form and meaning/function: for instance, in some languages a prototypical morphological feature such as inflectional class can be realized by prosodic means such as patterns of stress alternation (see, e.g., Corbett and Baerman 2006; Finkel and Stump 2007:45–47). For these reasons, in the context of morphological borrowing research, it appears particularly meaningful to adopt a realizational theory of morphology in the sense of Stump (2001:4), as this allows us to separately analyze the type of feature (as well as the area of grammar it belongs to) and the means by which that feature is realized.

In the following scheme (Scheme 1), I outline a typology of matter and pattern borrowing in spoken (vs signed) languages that distinguishes between functional levels (such as semantic and grammatical features) and realization levels (such as abstract devices and distributional and organizational properties) and covers all areas of grammar that are potentially subject to borrowing, viz. phonetics, phonology, prosody, morphology, morphosemantics, morphosyntax and syntax. The proposed typology has been developed based on a thorough analysis of the literature on grammatical borrowing and it is informed by morphological theory. My classification of feature types is mainly based on Corbett (2012); my classification of six morphological classes, viz. contextual, inherent, valency-changing, transpositional-only, evaluative and lexicon-expanding morphology,⁹ is largely based on Bauer (2004) and partly overlapping with Dressler’s (1989, 1997) morphological architecture consisting of prototypical derivation, non-prototypical derivation, non-prototypical inflection and prototypical inflection.

Scheme 1: Typology of matter and pattern borrowing

1. Types of MAT borrowing:
 - 1.1 MAT borrowing of forms (phones; empty morphs)
 - 1.2 MAT borrowing of forms capable of discriminating meaning (e.g., phonemes; tonal vowels)
 - 1.3 MAT borrowing of forms capable of realizing semantic and grammatical features and values:
 - 1.3.1 contextual-inflection formatives
 - 1.3.2 inherent-inflection formatives

⁸As a matter of fact, the history of this distinction, although expressed with different terms, is much older in contact linguistics, as we have seen in Sect. 1.

⁹Transpositional-only morphology has the sole function of effecting a transposition from one part-of-speech to another without producing any semantic change, such as in the formation of action nouns.

- 1.3.3 valency-changing formatives
- 1.3.4 transpositional-only formatives
- 1.3.5 evaluative formatives
- 1.3.6 lexicon-expanding formatives
- 2. Types of PAT borrowing:
 - 2.1 PAT borrowing of semantic and grammatical features or values thereof (“meaning”):
 - 2.1.1 morphological features or values thereof (e.g., morpheme, inflection class)
 - 2.1.2 morphosyntactic features or values thereof (e.g., number distinctions; case distinctions)
 - 2.1.3 morphosemantic features or values thereof (e.g., tense distinctions; aspect distinctions)
 - 2.1.4 semantic features or values thereof (e.g., animacy distinctions)
 - 2.2 PAT borrowing of abstract devices:
 - 2.2.1 phonological processes (excluding their exact realization) (e.g., palatalization; metaphony)
 - 2.2.2 phonological oppositions (e.g., voice: voiced vs non-voiced)
 - 2.2.3 prosodic patterns (e.g., stress; tone system: high, mid, low, etc.)
 - 2.2.4 morphological operations (e.g., affixation; compounding structures; reduplication)
 - 2.2.5 periphrastic constructions (e.g., periphrastic comparative constructions)
 - 2.2.6 morphosyntactic operations (e.g., agreement rules; passivization rules)
 - 2.2.7 syntactic operations (e.g., *wh*-movement)
 - 2.3 PAT borrowing of abstract properties of formatives or devices:
 - 2.3.1 productivity
 - 2.3.2 variation¹⁰
 - 2.3.3 frequency¹¹
 - 2.4 PAT borrowing of distributional and organizational properties:
 - 2.4.1 phonotactic constraints (e.g., types of syllable structure)
 - 2.4.2 morphotactic rules
 - 2.4.3 type of morphological organization (e.g., synthetic vs analytic; agglutination; templatic structure)
 - 2.4.4 parts-of-speech
 - 2.4.5 clause types
 - 2.4.6 syntactic distributions (e.g., alignment type; word order; locus of head/dependent marking in the clause)

¹⁰The hypothesis that some kind of variability in one language (i.e., variable features) can be borrowed into another language has been made by Meyerhoff (2009a, 2009b), who has tested it on Bislama, an English-lexifier Pacific creole whose substrate language is Tamambo.

¹¹According to Johanson (2002:292), “frequency patterns peculiar to model code units [can be] copied onto units of the basic code so that the latter undergo an increase or a decrease in frequency of occurrence.” I am much indebted to Peter Arkadiev for bringing this concept to my attention.

3. Types of MAT&PAT borrowing:

- 3.1 MAT&PAT borrowing of formatives realizing semantic and grammatical features or values thereof (“meaning”):
 - 3.1.1 morphological features or values thereof (e.g., inflection class) and formatives realizing them
 - 3.1.2 morphosyntactic features or values thereof (e.g., number; case) and formatives realizing them
 - 3.1.3 morphosemantic features or values thereof (e.g., tense; aspect) and formatives realizing them
 - 3.1.4 semantic features or values thereof (e.g., animacy) and formatives realizing them
- 3.2 MAT&PAT borrowing of abstract devices and their realization:
 - 3.2.1 morphological operations and accompanying formatives (e.g., affixation types; compounding structures including SL compound markers)
 - 3.2.2 periphrastic constructions and their realization (e.g., periphrastic comparative and the SL lexemes realizing them)¹²
 - 3.2.3 morphosyntactic and syntactic operations and their realization means (e.g., passivization rules and the SL lexemes realizing them)
- 3.3 MAT&PAT borrowing of distributional and organizational properties and their realization:¹³
 - 3.3.1 parts-of-speech and their realization
 - 3.3.2 clause types and their realization

In the second part of this section, I zoom in on morphology and morphosyntax and present examples of some subtypes pertaining to these two areas of grammar. For reasons of space, the following empirical overview cannot showcase all subtypes listed in Scheme 1. Let us start with SUBTYPE 1.3, that is, ‘MAT borrowing of forms capable of realizing semantic and grammatical features and values’. This type implies that formatives are borrowed into an RL, although the feature values that they realize are not new to the RL. We can distinguish between several types of formatives: a first general distinction is that between inflectional and derivational formatives. In this

¹²For example, Pipil, a Uto-Aztecan language spoken in western El Salvador, borrowed from Spanish the comparative construction consisting of COMPAREE INDEX PARAMETER MARK STANDARD, as well as the lexeme realizing the index, *mas* (cf. Spanish *más*), and that realizing the mark, *ke* (cf. Spanish *que*), as shown in the following example:

- (8) a. Pipil
 ne siwa:-t mas galá:na ke taha
 the woman-ABS more pretty than you
- b. Spanish
 esa mujer es más linda que tú
 this woman is more pretty than you
 ‘That woman is prettier than you are.’
 (Campbell 1987:255)

Crucially, the Spanish syntactic construction has no match with the native Uto-Aztecan comparative constructions listed in Andrews (2003:563–566) and Langacker (1977:116–118), which are all lost in Pipil. This is why we can safely say that the pattern was borrowed, as well.

¹³This type would be, for example, the borrowing of a part-of-speech not existent in an RL (say, adverbs) and the lexical material themselves or the borrowing of a clause type and a concurrent conjunction.

respect, it appears that the borrowing of derivational formatives is more frequent than the borrowing of inflectional formatives. Elaborating on submodules of inflection (Booij 1996), Gardani (2008, 2012) found that a difference obtains in the degree of borrowability of formatives pertaining to inherent inflection (SUBTYPE 1.3.2) and those pertaining to contextual inflection (SUBTYPE 1.3.2), with inherent-inflection formatives such as nominal plural being borrowed more frequently than contextual-inflection ones such as case. One such case of plural formative borrowing is found in the Eastern Romance language of Aromanian, spoken in southeastern Europe, which has borrowed the formative *-(á)dz* (9a) from Greek (9b).

- (9) a. Aromanian
dumnidz-(á)dz
 god-PL
 b. Greek
psará-des
 fisherman-PL
 c. Romanian
dumneze-i
 god-PL
 (Gardani 2008:65)

Following the results concerning inherent and contextual inflection, Gardani conducted a pilot study on the borrowing of derivational formatives in a small number of typologically diverse languages (including seventeen RLs and fifteen SLs), applying a subdivision of morphology into classes as proposed by Bauer (2004). As reported in Gardani (2018:9), I found that the borrowing of lexicon-expanding formatives (SUBTYPE 1.3.6), such as agent, patient, and instrument noun formatives, outnumbers both the cases of borrowing of evaluative morphology (SUBTYPE 1.3.5) such as augmentative and diminutive formatives, and the cases of borrowing of transpositional-only formatives (SUBTYPE 1.3.4) such as those deriving action nouns and result nouns. However, despite recent efforts to provide crosslinguistic samples (see Seifart 2013, 2017), the datasets at our disposal are not yet comprehensive enough to make firm conclusions.

As concerns morphological PAT borrowing, there are, as I already said, virtually no overview studies. Nevertheless, it seems safe to claim that SUBTYPE 2.1.1 ('borrowing of morphological features or values thereof') must be extremely rare: no instance of the borrowing of morphemes (in the sense of Aronoff 1994) is known in the literature to date and as for the feature 'inflectional class', while it is a virtually possible type of PAT borrowing (and it therefore appears in Scheme 1), I can hardly imagine that such a feature is borrowed without the transfer of the material realizing it. But see a discussion of SUBTYPE 3.1.1 below.

As concerns SUBTYPE 2.2.6 ('morphosyntactic operations'), an interesting case of morphosyntactic rule borrowing concerns the loss of an agreement pattern in Swiss German-Romansh bilingual children. Weinreich (2011[1951]:322) observed that in recorded productions such as (10a), those children failed to realize the mandatory Romansh rule which requires subject agreement on predicative adjectives (10c), in which the adjective is marked feminine singular, because of contact with Swiss German, that lacks this rule (10b).

- (12) a. Korlai Indo-Portuguese b. Marathi
loṭ-u *loṭ-u*
 push-IC4 push-IMP
 ‘to push’ ‘push!’
 (cf. Clements and Luís 2015:234)

The full paradigm of a verb belonging to Class 4 is given in (13), where the verb *loṭú* ‘push’ is juxtaposed to verbs belonging to the other inflectional classes, *katá* ‘sing’, *bebé* ‘drink’, and *irgí* ‘get up’.

- (13) Korlai Indo-Portuguese
- | | Class 1 | Class 2 | Class 3 | Class 4 |
|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | ‘sing’ | ‘drink’ | ‘get up’ | ‘push’ |
| Unmarked | <i>kat-á</i> | <i>beb-é</i> | <i>irg-í</i> | <i>loṭ-ú</i> |
| Past | <i>kat-ó</i> | <i>beb-é-w</i> | <i>irg-í-w</i> | <i>loṭ-ú</i> |
| Gerund | <i>kat-á-n</i> | <i>beb-é-n</i> | <i>irg-í-n</i> | <i>loṭ-ú-n</i> |
| Completive | <i>kat-á-d</i> | <i>beb-í-d</i> | <i>irg-í-d</i> | <i>loṭ-ú-d</i> |
- (Clements and Luís 2015:228)

The ‘borrowing of a morphosyntactic features or values thereof and formatives realizing them’ (SUBTYPE 3.1.2) is documented, too. One such case, the borrowing of a gender value along with its formative, is found in Northern Istro-Romanian. The northern dialect of Istro-Romanian has borrowed from Croatian (14b) both the gender value ‘neuter’ and the suffix encoding it, viz. *-o*, which occurs both on nouns and on agreement targets such as the adjective *yrév* ‘heavy’ in (14a) (Kovačec 1968:87; Petrovici 1967:1526). Because Northern Istro-Romanian had lost the Latin-inherited neuter, this case qualifies as MAT&PAT borrowing.

- (14) a. Northern Istro-Romanian
zrébro=j *yrév-o*
 silver(N).SG=is heavy-N.SG
- b. Croatian
srebro *je* *tešk-o*
 silver(N).SG is heavy-N.SG
 ‘silver is heavy’

An example of the MAT&PAT borrowing subtype ‘morphosemantic features and values thereof and formatives realizing them’ is the borrowing of aspectual distinctions in Istro-Romanian, an Eastern Romance language spoken in the Northeast of the Istrian peninsula, Croatia, as well as in the diaspora (e.g., in New York City). As reported by, among others, Arkadiev (2017), Klepikova (1960, 1963), Kovačec (1966), Pușcariu (1926) and Sârbu (1995), Istro-Romanian has borrowed from its contact language, Croatian, both the morphosemantic feature of aspect—with its values of imperfective vs perfective—and some dedicated formatives such as the prefix *-za*, which in the following example applies to a native Romance lexical base.

- | | | | | |
|------|----|----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| (15) | a. | Istro-Romanian | <i>latră</i> | <i>za-latră</i> |
| | b. | Croatian | <i>lajati</i> | <i>za-lajati</i> |
| | | | | PFV-bark |
| | | | ‘bark(IPFV)’ | ‘bark(PFV/inchoative)’ |

I conclude this section with a case exemplifying MAT&PAT borrowing of abstract devices and their realization and in particular, its subtype ‘morphological operations and accompanying formatives’: it concerns the occurrence in Persian of the so-called ‘broken plural’, that is, plural forms realized by internal modification of the singular base; this operational pattern (generally known as ‘root-and-pattern morphology’) is not inherited in (Indo-European) Persian and was borrowed from Arabic (Semitic), the long-standing contact language of Persian. As a result of PAT borrowing, some native Persian nominal bases have broken plurals forms: for example, in (16a), the plural form of *bostān* ‘garden’, viz. *basātīn*, implements an Arabic abstract plural pattern (i.e., the template), CVCV:CV:C. Furthermore, the template (that is, the PAT) is itself realized by exactly the same set of vowel qualities and length (that it, the MAT) found in the plural template in Arabic, viz. *CaCa:Ca:C* (cf. Arabic *ṣanādīq* ‘boxes’ in (16b)).

- | | | | | |
|------|----|--------------------------|----|------------------------|
| (16) | a. | Modern Persian | b. | Arabic |
| | | <i>bostān</i> ‘garden’ | | <i>ṣandūq</i> ‘box’ |
| | | <i>basātīn</i> ‘gardens’ | | <i>ṣanādīq</i> ‘boxes’ |
| | | (Mumm 2007:41) | | |

4 Conclusion and overview of the Special Issue

In this conceptual article, we have seen that the morphological inventories and structures of languages in contact can converge by means of either increasing formal similarity (MAT borrowing), or structural congruence (PAT borrowing), or a combination of both (MAT&PAT borrowing). In an attempt at understanding various borrowing types and studying covariation of borrowing types with types of realized grammatical features and areas of grammar affected by borrowing, I have proposed a classification of grammatical borrowing phenomena based on five identifiers (Sect. 2) and elaborated a fine-grained typology of MAT and PAT borrowing distinguishing between functional and realization levels and covering all areas of grammar that can be affected by borrowing (Sect. 3).

This article and the special issue *Borrowing matter and pattern in morphology* focus on morphology, as this is generally considered resistant to borrowing (Gardani et al. 2015) and rather understudied. The present special issue endeavors to fill this gap and aims to provide an empirical and theoretical coverage of the topic, in order to seize their global extension and incidence in morphological change.

The articles offer a good overview of which areas of morphology are borrowed, in terms of features (in the sense of Corbett 2012) and morphological operations. Six articles deal with contact settings which involve both matter borrowing and pattern borrowing of morphology, while the papers authored by Law, Klammer & Saad, and

Meakins, Disbray & Simpson are exclusively concerned with the borrowing of patterns. Empirical evidence is drawn from South America (Ciucci; Law), North America (Mithun), Africa (Souag), Europe (Ralli; Saade), Asia (Klamer and Saad) and Oceania (Meakins, Simpson and Disbray). With respect to features, the papers deal with morphosyntactic features such as case (Meakins, Simpson and Disbray), number (Mithun), numeral classifier (Law), person (Ciucci) and morphosemantic features such as adjective degree (Souag). With respect to morphological operations, most papers cover affixation, while Klamer and Saad's is dedicated to reduplication and Ralli's to compounding. The case of compounding borrowing in four Asia Minor Greek varieties in contact with Turkish, investigated by Angela Ralli (Ralli 2020) in *Matter versus pattern borrowing in compounding: Evidence from the Asia Minor Greek dialectal variety* is of great importance in language contact research because the borrowing of compound patterns seems to be an extremely rare phenomenon (cf. Gardani 2018:10–12).

The papers are in-depth studies concerned with topics such as: the components of morphology affected by borrowing; the types of abstract patterns borrowed; the refunctionalization of borrowed formatives or patterns in an RL; the conditions promoting or inhibiting morphological borrowing; the areal aspects of morphological borrowing; the role of rule productivity in morphological borrowing. As regards the maintenance vs refunctionalization of borrowed formatives or patterns in an RL (see Sect. 2), in *Which MATter matters in PATtern borrowing? The direction of case syncretisms* Felicity Meakins, Samantha Disbray and Jane Simpson (Meakins et al. 2020) address the interesting question of which case value is favored in case realignment by examining two mixed varieties in northern Australia, Gurindji Kriol and Wumpurrarni English where case markers borrowed from two Australian languages, Gurindji and Warumungu, are no longer used in the same way as in their source languages. They show that the refunctionalization occurred as a result of mapping the original Australian case values onto the distribution of the functionally corresponding preposition in the contact language, Kriol, and argue that it is the case value with the broadest functional range which is generalized.

With respect to what conditions can promote or inhibit the spread of morphological borrowing, two main factors are in focus: the fundamental role played by structural compatibility between SL and RL and the sociological characteristics of the contact setting. The role of structural compatibility is stressed in the contributions by Law, Mithun, Ralli and Souag. For example, in *Replicated inflectional matter? Plots twists behind apparent borrowed plurals*, Marianne Mithun (Mithun 2020) examines the role of typological similarities among the languages involved in plural marking on nouns and shows that throughout the Northern California area (with three unrelated families, viz. Pomoan, Yukian, and Wintun), where inflectional number marking on nouns is rare, but related distinctions on verbs can be elaborate, verbal distributive and collective suffixes were transferred, which then evolved within the individual languages into number marking on nouns.

As for the sociological characteristics of contact setting as a variable that can promote or inhibit the spread of morphological borrowing, in *Matter borrowing, pattern borrowing and typological rarities in the Gran Chaco of South America* Ciucci (Ciucci 2020) discusses the war relationship between the Chamacoco and the Kadiwéu in Gran Chaco of South America and convincingly argues that the Kadiwéu's

incursions in the Chamacoco territory and the imprisonment of Chamacoco children to be incorporated into the Kadiwéu tribe, facilitated the spread of rare morphosyntactic features.

The areal dimension of morphological borrowing is explicitly addressed by Ciucci (focusing on the Gran Chaco), Law (focusing on Mayan languages), and Mithun (focusing on Northern California). All three papers highlight the role of pattern borrowing in the emergence of areal phenomena. These three papers also show the importance of the study of morphology in reconstructive historical linguistics, when it comes to areas characterized by uncertain or unknown genealogical relationships. This is particularly evident in *Pattern borrowing, linguistic similarity, and new categories: Numeral classifiers in Mayan*, by Danny Law (Law 2020). Law discusses the areal spread of numeral classifiers among Mayan languages as a case of pattern borrowing and argues that inherited grammatical categories related to quantification provided important preconditions for the development of similar systems of numeral classification across the family and that inherited linguistic matter facilitated the transfer of linguistic patterns, even as the forms themselves, already shared through common inheritance, were not borrowed.

A decisive factor in the making of linguistic areas is productivity, as it can have a boosting effect on the spread of borrowed formatives or patterns. However, productivity plays a central role independently from areal spread, namely in the process of nativization that morphological entities undergo after being borrowed, as is shown neatly in the papers by Klammer & Saad and by Souag. In *Reduplication in Abui: A case of pattern extension*, Marian Klammer and George Saad (Klammer and Saad 2020) study the effect of contact between Abui, a Papuan indigenous minority language of eastern Indonesia, and Alor Malay (Austronesian), the regional lingua franca, on the Abui reduplication system. They show that existing Abui verb reduplications become more Alor Malay-like also with respect to their productivity. In *When is templatic morphology borrowed? On the spread of the Arabic elative*, Lameen Souag (Souag 2020) discusses the borrowing of the Semitic comparative/superlative template *?aCCaC* into Siwi Berber, Western Neo-Aramaic, and Mehri, where it has become fully productive. A different view on productivity is taken by Benjamin Saade in *Quantitative approaches to productivity and borrowing in Maltese derivation* (Saade 2020). By applying quantitative measures of productivity to a selection of Maltese derivational affixes borrowed from Italo-Romance, Saade shows that the productivity rankings of the most productive affixes are identical in the SL and the RL, and that productivity is to be treated as a borrowable pattern itself.

Abbreviations

The abbreviations used in this paper are based on Lehmann (2004) and the Leipzig Glossing Rules. In addition, CM stands for compound marker, CSC for construct state construction, and IC for inflectional class.

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