

# Chapter XI: Latin Suffixes

- The type of affix added to the end is called a *suffix*.
- Latin used both suffixes and prefixes to modify the meaning of the base lexeme.
- Unlike prefixes, Latin suffixes also created forms with grammatical categories different from the original.
- In this chapter- examining some of the more frequently appearing Latinate suffixes.

## *-al (pertaining to)*

- The lexemes formed from *-al* are adjectives.
- The morphological rule is:
  - $[\text{Lex}_{\text{adj}} \Rightarrow \text{Lex} + \text{al}]_{\text{Latin}}$
- There is a second suffix that glosses as “pertaining to” but has the shape *-ar*.
- That this suffix has the same meaning as *-al* and a similar shape- both are comprised of *a* and a liquid- suggests they are allomorphs.
- The suffix *-ar* is immediately preceded by *l*.
- The *-ar* reflex can be predicted by a rule:
  - $[\text{l} + (\text{i}) \text{a} \text{l} \rightarrow \text{l} + (\text{i}) \text{a} \text{r}]_{\text{Latin}}$

## *-al (pertaining to) con't*

- This is a dissimilation rule.
- Similar sounds can change to maximize the difference between them.
- In this case, the liquid *l* changes to the liquid *r* when it is preceded by *l*.
- Dissimilation can apply over long distances, Table IX.3.
- In Table IX.4 dissimilation fails.
- The difference: the roots in Table IX.3 contain a nasal but those in Table IX.4 do not.
- It seems that nasals facilitate dissimilation.
- Another class of exceptions in Table IX.5. The presence of *r*, a liquid like *l*.

## *-ic (pertaining to)*

- Creates adjectives.
- It is occasionally augmented as *-tic*.
- Morphological Rule:
  - $[\text{Lex}_{\text{Adj}} \Rightarrow \text{Lex} + (t)\text{ic}]_{\text{Latin}}$
- It is often possible to add more than 1 suffix.
- Preferred sequences of suffixes.
- The sequence *-ic + -al* is one of these.

## *-ity (quality of)*

- A noun forming suffix.
- This suffix attracts stress.
- Table XI.10 gives examples of the stress alternation that
- *-ity* induces.
- The Latin stress rule counted syllables from the end of the word.
- Unless the second last syllable from the end either contained a long vowel or ended in a consonant, the third syllable from the end of the word was stressed.
- Since *-ity* meets neither of those conditions, when it is added to create a new lexeme, the syllable immediately preceding it will always carry the main stress.

## *-bil- (able to)*

- Recall that Latin forms new words off both the past participle stem and the thematic stem.
- When the new lexeme is formed from the thematic stem, it is the thematic vowel that is alternating, and that the suffix is *-ble*, not either
- *-able* or *-ible*.
- The structure is:
  - prob + a + ble
  - aud + i + ble
  - cred + e + ble
- When the thematic vowel is *-e-* it is raised to *-i-*.

## *-bil-* (*able to*) con't

- Consider Table XI.13.
- The past participle already has a thematic vowel and so the vowel of *-ible* cannot be the thematic vowel as it is in *credible*.
- This is a newer formation than the original which was formed by adding *-ble* to the thematic stem.
- What seems to have happened is that the past participle became opaque and was for many verbs perceived as a separate word, isolated from the other members of its paradigm.
- As a consequence, other words could be formed from it.
- The last complication: the productive form in English is *-able*. So when new words are created in English this is the form that is used.

## *-bil-* (*able to*) con't

- In summary, there are 3 rules that control how the *able/ible* suffix is used.
  1. In original Latin words, the suffix was *-bil-* and the vowel was the thematic vowel of the verb.
  2. In new Latin words where the thematic vowel was no longer apparent, the suffix was reanalyzed as *-ible*.
  3. Words that are formed in English use *-able*.



## *-ous (characterized by)*

- Creates adjectives which attribute the quality referred to by the root to the noun that the adjective modifies.
- Note: many words have a “connecting” vowel which is apparently unpredictable.
- It will be either *i*, *e*, or *u*. See Table XI.17.

## Past Participial Suffixes

- A number of suffixes are restricted to the past participle stem of the verb.
- *-or (Agentive)*
- Often added to the past participle to create a new nominal lexeme referring to the person or object that performs the action that is indicated by the verb.
- It is cognate with the English suffix *-er* which performs the same function.(reader, worker, opener, driver)
- The Latin *-or* suffix functions similarly, though not productively in English.

## *-or (Agentive) con't*

- The *-or* suffix is classically derivational as opposed to inflectional.
- Not only does it create a lexeme of a different grammatical category from the original lexeme, but
- It also introduces a new semantic, one that is usually predictable.
- Consider:
  - An actor is one who acts.
  - An indicator is one who indicates.
  - A detector is one who detects.
  - A defector is one who defects.

## *-or (Agentive) con't*

- The morphological rule is:
  - $[\text{Lex}_N \Rightarrow \text{Lex}_{V[\text{PPP}]} + \textit{or}]_{\text{Latin}}$

## *-ion (act of)*

- The *-ion* suffix was used to nominalize verbs.
- Morphological rule:
  - $[\text{Lex}_N \Rightarrow \text{Lex}_{V[\text{PPP}]} + \textit{ion}]_{\text{Latin}}$
- Comparing this rule to the previous one.
- If we intend to fully develop the grammar to distinguish among the different suffixes, it will be necessary to include a way of representing semantics.
- *-or* and *-ion* create different kinds of nouns.
- The noun created by *-or* refers to the agent who performs the action of the verb.
- The noun created by *-ion* refers to the action.
- We would ultimately like to capture this difference.

## *-ure (result of)*

- Typically added to the past participle stem.
- Created nouns from the past participle.
- Morphological rule:
  - $[\text{Lex}_N \Rightarrow \text{Lex}_{V[\text{PPP}]} + \textit{ure}]_{\text{Latin}}$

## *-ive (nature or quality of)*

- Attaches to the past participle stem.
- Creates adjectives.
- Morphological rule:
  - $[\text{Lex}_A \Rightarrow \text{Lex}_{V[\text{PPP}] + \text{ive}}]_{\text{Latin}}$

## Extensions

- Other suffixes which typically do not create a lexeme.
- Create a stem which requires a further suffix to create a new lexeme.
- *Diminutive -ul-*
- The diminutive expresses smallness in size or function.
- The suffix *-ul-* was used to this effect in Latin.
- Table XI.23.
- The past participle of the root is given.
- The thematic vowel in the past participle is *a*.
- The change in thematic vowel is evidence that a new root has been created.



## Extensions con't

- Use of the thematic vowel *a* indicates a newer structure.
- A common landing site for this suffix is on forms which end with the suffix *-ic*.
- This suffix is also a popular landing site for the suffix *-al*.
- Since the diminutive ends in *l*, the expectation is that it will trigger dissimilation of the *l* of *-al* and, in fact, this is what occurs (Table XI.25).

## Adjectival *-il-*

- In Latin, it was possible to create an adjective from a root with the suffix *-il-*.
- Frequently, the suffix *-ity* is used to create a nominal lexeme.

# The Inchoative

- Actions:
  1. They take place in time: the past, the present, the future
  2. They can have different aspects: completed, uncompleted, habitual, repetitive, frequent, etc.
  3. They can be observed directly, reported or inferred
- These and other aspects of actions are often marked on verbs in many languages.
- Languages usually have a method of expressing the start of an action and this method is called the *inchoative*.
- Example: *Let's go* and *Let's get going*.

## The Inchoative con't

- Latin had an inchoative morpheme *-esc-* which was added to a root (before the thematic vowel).
- This morpheme takes a lexeme *X* and creates a new lexeme meaning something like “begin to do *X* or become *X*”.
- This suffix creates new verbs that always take the *e* theme vowel.
- Recall that the rule that creates thematic stems is:  
$$[\text{Stem}_{\text{theme}} \Rightarrow \text{Root} + V_{\text{theme}}]_{\text{Latin}}$$
- The rule that creates inchoatives actually creates new roots with then take the thematic *e*:  
$$[\text{Root}_{\text{Inchoative}} \Rightarrow \text{Root} + \text{esc}]_{\text{Latin}}$$

## The Inchoative con't

- One additional phonological rule is needed.
- The morphological rule for the inchoative by itself predicts that *crescent* should in fact be: *creescent* (< *cre* + *esc* + *e* + *nt*).
- A phonological rule reducing a sequence of 2 identical vowels to 1 is necessary.