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:
  - \([\text{Lex}_{\text{adj}} \Rightarrow \text{Lex} + al]_{\text{Latin}}\)
- 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:
  - \([l + (i) a l \rightarrow l + (i) a r]_{\text{Latin}}\)
-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:
  - \( [\text{Lex}_{\text{Adj}} \Rightarrow \text{Lex} + (t)ic]_{\text{Latin}} \)
- 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 created 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 it 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.
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 in 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 on the indicates.
  - A detector is one who detects.
  - A defector is one who defects.
-or (Agentive) con’t

• The morphological rule is:
  – \([\text{Lex}_N \Rightarrow \text{Lex}_V^{[PPP]} + or]_{\text{Latin}}\)
-ion (act of)

- The -ion suffix was used to nominalize verbs.
- Morphological rule:
  - \[ \text{Lex}_N \Rightarrow \text{Lex}_{V[PP]} + ion \]_{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:
  – \([\text{Lex}_N \Rightarrow \text{Lex}_{V[PPP]} + \text{ure}]_{\text{Latin}}\)
-ive (nature or quality of)

- Attaches to the past participle stem.
- Creates adjectives.
- Morphological rule:
  
  \[ \text{[Lex}_A \Rightarrow \text{Lex}_{V[PPP]} + \text{ive}]_{\text{Latin}} \]
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 inchoactive.
• 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:
  \[ \text{Stem}_{\text{theme}} \Rightarrow \text{Root} + V_{\text{theme}} \] Latin
• The rule that creates inchoatives actually creates new roots with then take the thematic e:
  \[ \text{Root}_{\text{Inchoative}} \Rightarrow \text{Root} + esc \] Latin
The Inchoative con’t

• One additional phonological rule is needed.
• The morphological rule for the inchoactive 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.