

GIUSEPPE PEZZINI

Early Latin

Morphology – Part 1: Word-formation, and Derivational Morphology

Roadmap

- Overview of the morphological processes
- Word-formation
- Derivational morphology
- Compounding
- Agglutination (juxtaposition, univerbation)
- Recategorisation (conversion)

A rich affixional morphology

- In Early Latin word-formation is mainly derivative and inflexional, and mainly realised through affixes (+ compounding, ablaut, reduplication)
- Affixes (prefixes, infixes and suffixes) added to nominal (/adjective) and verbal stems and roots
 - root: minimal unit conveying a semantic content (e.g. *laud-* ‘praise’)
 - stem: root + grammatical affixes distinctive of the given form (e.g. *laudātor* (‘the one who praise’))
- Affixation used both to produce new words (derivation) or, new forms of the same words with different grammatical meaning (inflexion)
Inflexion on nouns (declensions), adjectives (classes), verbs (conjugation)

Word-formation

- suffixation
- preverbation
- nominal prefixation
- nominal compounding
- verbal compounding
- agglutination (juxtaposition, univerbation)
- recategorisation (conversion)

Derivational Morphology

- Suffixation
 - (1) of verbal roots or stems
 - (2) of nominal (/adjectival) roots or stems

Suffixation of verbal roots

- Creating new nouns
 - *-tor* -> 'one who performs the action X' (m.) (e.g. *cura-tor*)
 - *-trix* -> 'one who performs the action X' (f.) (e.g. *(pro)cura-trix tura*)
 - *-tiō* -> 'the act of X' (e.g. *cura-tio*)

(a genetic set? e.g. *factor, factrix, factiō*)

BUT not all forms are attested (*laudātiō*, but **laudātor, *laudātrix*)

semantic shift (*factiō* = 'act of making' but also 'faction')

- *-tūra* ('concrete result of X'), *-tus* (a variant of *-tio*), *-men* and *-mentum* ('the locus where X happens'), *-bulum*, *-or* (rarer and grammaticalized)

Suffixation of verbal roots

- Creating new adjectives
 - *-bilis* -> 'that can be X' (e.g. *castīgābilis*, *lūdificābilis*, *invendibilis*)
 - *-bundus* and *-cundus* -> in the progress of X' (e.g. *rīdibundus*)

- Creating new verbs
 - *-scere* -> inchoative (e.g. *silesco* < *silēre* 'to grow quiet')
 - *-tāre* -> intensive (e.g. *cantāre* < *canere* 'to sing (loudly)')
 - *-itāre* > iterative (e.g. *cantitāre* < *cantāre* 'to keep singing')

Suffixation of nominal roots

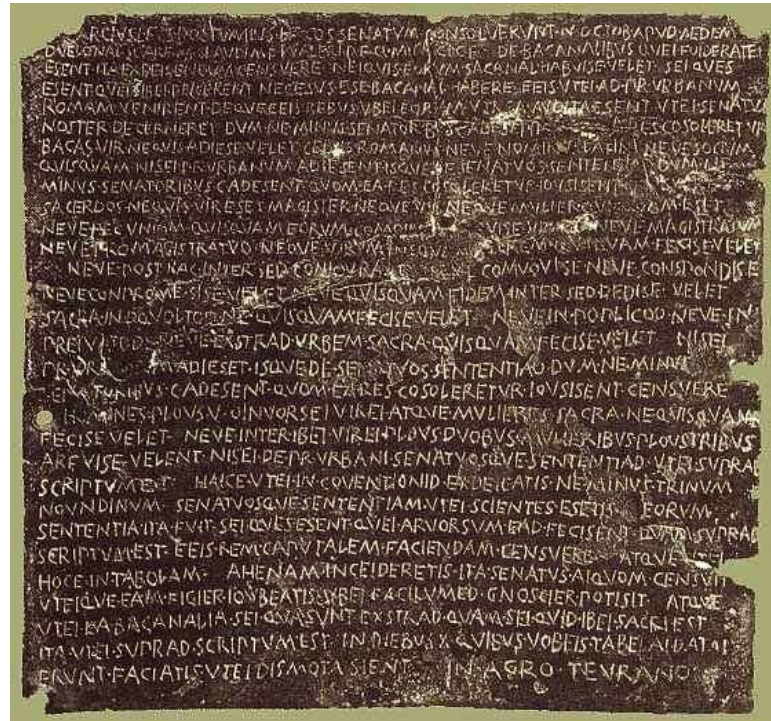
- Creating new nouns
 - *-culus* -> (originally) diminutive (e.g. *pēniculus* < *pēnis*)
 - abstract *-ia* (and allomorphs *-itia* and *-ntia*) -> e.g. *miser-ia*, *dūr-itia*
 - tās* -> e.g. *vīcīn-i-tās*, *sevērītās* (Terence)
 - tudo* -> e.g. *sever-i-tudo* (Plautus), *dūritūdo* (Cato), *miseritūdō*
 - new coinages, optional variants
 - others: *-iō*, *-ēdō*, *-bra*, *-crum*, *-aster*
 - (e.g. *condic-iō*, *absum-ēdō*, *late-bra*, *involu-crum*, *parasīt-aster*)
 - less productive, more grammaticalized

Suffixation of nominal roots

- Creating new adjectives
 - relational *-ius* (e.g. *censōr-ius*) and *-lis* with allomorphs (*-ālis*, *-āris*, *-īlis*),
 - *-icus* (e.g. *imbr-icus*) and *-eus* (e.g. *plumb-eus*),
 - diminutive *-culus*, with derivatives (*-cula/-um*) and allomorphs (*-ulus*, *-olus*),
 - *-ārius* (e.g. *sect-ārius*, *carcer-ārius*), *-ātus* (e.g. *sarcin-ātus*, *viatic-ātus*), *-ōsus* (e.g. *peculi-ōsus*, *radi-ōsus*), *-(ī)nus* (e.g. *clūr-inus*, *colubr-inus*) and *-icius* (e.g. *patr-icius*).
 - Other, less frequent suffixes: *-āticus* (*ven-āticus*), *-ensis* (*atri-ensis*), *-ulentus* (*vin-ulentus*), *-itus* (*turr-itus*), *-ūtus* (e.g. *nasūtus*), *-īvus* (*fugitīvus*).
 - No longer productive: e.g. *-mōnium* (*patr-i-mōnium*, *matr-i-mōnium*).

An important *nota bene*

- Patterns described may suggest a consistency and regularity in the formation of suffixal forms
- BUT in many cases suffixation does not follow the regular patterns of word-formation described



Prefixation (of verbs)

- Prefixation of verbs = Preverbation
- Most frequent preverbs added to existing verbs (in order of frequency):
 - *cum-* (*con-*) -> *con-dūcō*
 - *ex-* (*e-*) -> *e-dūcō*
 - *de-* -> *de-dūcō*
 - *ad-* -> *ad-dūcō*
 - *ob-* -> *ob-dūcō*
 - *per-* -> *per-dūcō*
- + *dis-*, *pro-*, *prae-*, *sub-*, *inter-*, *ab-*
- In most cases preverbs = prepositions (e.g. *ex* 'out of' > *ē-dūcō* 'to lead out')

Prefixation of nouns

- Less frequent
- Some common prefixes (or ‘compound units’?)
- Negative *in-* (distinct from the preposition *in*) -> *invendibilis* or *incōgitantia*
- *per-* (‘very’, ‘thoroughly’) + adjective/adverb (e.g. *per-niger*, *per-lepidē*)
- *sub-* (‘-ish’ ‘rather X’) + adjective/adverb (e.g. *sub-tristis*)
- *sub-* (‘deputy-’) + noun (e.g. *sub-custos*)
- *con-* (‘fellow-’) + noun (e.g. *con-servos*)

Compounding

- Merging of two or more stems or roots into a new lexical item
- Not a form of affixation, but still a type of word-formation
- In Latin in general not as productive as in other languages such as Greek
- But, within the history of Latin language and literature, comparably frequently in early Latin, and especially in tragedy and the comedy of Plautus (a stylistic feature)

Nominal compounds

- Often involving the addition of *-i-* between the parts of the compounds (e.g. *agricola*, *clarisonus*)
- More common types:
 - With almost-grammaticalised verbal roots, such as *-fex*, *-spex*, *-dex*, *-ceps*, *-ficus*, *-dicus*, *-fer*, *-ger*, *-cola* (e.g. *aurifex*, *agricola*, *causidicus*)
 - Possessive compounds (or *bahuvrīhi*): e.g. *bipes*, *clarisonus*, *magnanimus*

Verbal compounds

- Rare
 - more common type *-ficāre/-i*, from the root *facere* (cf. e.g. *causificari*, *fumificare*)
 - other, less common: *-gerāre/-i* (e.g. *morigerārī*, in Plautus), *-ferāre/-i* (e.g. *rumiferāre* in Plautus) and *-cināre/-i* (e.g. *sermōcināri* in Cato);
 - many of these forms are *hapax legomena*, with high stylisation.

Agglutination (univerbation, juxtaposition)

- ‘Loose’ form of compounding, in which two independent words (not roots or stems) are merged together into a new lexical item.
e.g. manū-mittere, ius-iurandum, res-publica, anim-advertere (with internal elision), *vendere* (*venum-dare*), with further phonological reduction, and probably obscuration of the agglutinated origin of the form
- Difference between compounding and agglutination: agglutination *agrīcultūra* (‘the cultivation of the field’ > ‘agriculture’) where long *-ī* is the proper genitive form vs. compound *agrīcola*, in which a root followed by the regular linker *-ī-*

Recategorisation (conversion)

- Creation of new forms by changing grammatical category (e.g. noun > adjective)
e.g. nominalised adjectives (e.g. *bonus* ‘good’ > neuter *bonum* ‘the good’;
Flōrālis ‘of the goddess of flowers’ > *Flōrālia* ‘the festival of Flora’).
- With addition of new grammatical ending
e.g. denominative verbs (nominal/adjectival root/stem + *-āre*, *-īre* etc.)
nomin- (‘the name’) > *nomin-āre* (‘to name’)
fīnis (‘the end’) > *fīnīre* (‘to end’)
lēnis (‘moderate (adj.)’) > *lēnīre* (‘to moderate’)
- With addition of preverbs (parasyntesis)
hērēs, *hērēdis* (‘heir’) > *ex-hērēdāre* ‘to disinherit’ (*ex* + *hērēd-* + *-āre*).

Epilogue: ablaut

- Change or lengthening of the root vowel in the creation of a new grammatical form.
 - from the root of the verb *těg-ō* ‘(to cover)’ > the noun *tōg-a*,
 - from the root of *rěg-ō* ‘(to rule)’ > *rēx* is formed (‘ruler, king’).
- Vestige of a PIE phenomenon, more widely attested in other languages
- Ablaut is no longer productive in Early Latin, but was completed in earlier stages of the language.

Thank you!