Analogy

Analogy: “... a process whereby one form of a language becomes more like another with which it has somehow associated.” (Arlotto 1972)

1. Proportional analogy

(2) \( a : b = c : x \)

(3) \( \text{ride} : \text{rode} = \text{dive} : x \quad x = \text{dove} < \text{dived} \)

(4) Old English

\( \text{sprec} / \text{spræc} / \text{gesprecen} \) > Modern English

\( \text{spreak} / \text{spoke} / \text{spoken} \) (break / broke / broken)

(5) Finnish

\( \text{lehden} : \text{lehti} \) > \( \text{lahden} : \text{lahti} (< \text{laksi}) \)

‘leaf-gen.’ ‘leaf-nom’ ‘bay-gen’ ‘bay-nom’

(6) Standard Spanish  Northern Castilian Spanish

\( \begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Lo ví.} & \text{La ví.} & \text{Lo vi.} \\
\text{‘I saw him.’} & \text{‘I saw her.’} & \text{‘I saw him.’} \\
\text{Le di.} & \text{Le di.} & \text{Le di.} \\
\text{‘I gave him (s.t.).’} & \text{‘I gave her (s.t.).’} & \text{‘I gave him (s.t.).’}
\end{array} \)

2. Analogical leveling

• A more common pattern replaces a less common one; PARADIGM UNIFORMITY

(7) English strong verbs level to weak verbs:

\( \text{strive} / \text{strove} / \text{striven} \rightarrow \text{strive} / \text{strived} / \text{strived} \)

(8) Standard Spanish  US Spanish

\( \text{volar} \text{‘fly-inf’} / \text{vuela} \text{‘fly-3sg’} \)

\( \text{vuelar} / \text{vuela} \)

(9) \( \text{old} / \text{elder} / \text{eldest} \rightarrow \text{old} / \text{older} / \text{oldest} \) (loss of umlaut through leveling)

Note: \( \text{elder} \) remains with a specialized meaning; \( \text{eldest} \) is used in archaic language.

(10) \( \text{nigh} / \text{near} / \text{next} \rightarrow \text{nigh} / \text{nearer} / \text{next} \rightarrow \text{nigh} / \text{nearer} / \text{nearest} \rightarrow \text{near} / \text{nearer} / \text{nearest} \)
3. Analogical extension

- A less common pattern replaces a more common one - rarer than Analogical Leveling

(11) a. dive / dived > dive / dove (weak > strong)
    b. arrive / arrived > arrive / arrove (non-standard)

(12) aprender ‘learn-inf’ / apredo (1sg) > aprender / apriendo (non-standard)

4. Analogy and Sound Change

- Sturtevant’s Paradox: “sound change is regular and causes irregularity; analogy is irregular and causes regularity”

(13) Umlaut is a regular sound change in the history of English:

   brother / brother-en >_umlaut brother / brethren >_analogy brother / brothers

(14) O.E. ʧe:osan / ʧe:as / kuron / koren >_analogy choose / chose / chose / chosen

   the s ~ r comes from two regular sound changes: *s > *z (Verner’s Law) and *z > r (rhot)
   the ʧ ~ k comes from a regular palatalization rule - these lead to an irregular paradigm;
   analogy levels this and creates a regular paradigm

(15) Early Latin (before 400 BS)


   Rhotacism (s > r / V __ V):

   honos  hono:r-em  hono:r-is

   Analogical Leveling (after 200 BC):

   honor  hono:r-em  hono:r-is

   Analogy eliminates root allomorphy

5. Immediate analogy

- Analogy involving paradigms is NON-IMMEDIATE - i.e., the forms usually don’t occur together in discourse. IMMEDIATE analogy occurs when forms are often recited together - e.g., as a list.

(16) English months: January, February, March, ...  [fəbuaɪə] > [fəbuaɪə], on analogy with [dʒænuəri]
Most Spanish days of the week end in /s/:

lunes, martes, miércoles, jueves, viernes

originally, lunes and miércoles did not end in /s/:

Latin: dies lunae, dies martis, dies mercur_, dies jovis, dies veneris

6. Other types of analogy

Hypercorrection

(18) tunar, Cubar, marijuanar (some r-less dialects of English)

(19) for you and I

(20) Bilbado, Pilás

Folk Etymology

(21) Hamberg-er > ham-burger (cf. cheese-burger, fish-burger, gains-burger)

(22) dictadura (cf. dicta-blanda)

(23) Nahuatl kwawnawak ‘near the trees’ > Spanish Cuernavaca

(24) Caló chorri ‘knife’ > Spanish chorizo ‘street thug/mugger’

Back Formation

(25) burgle < burglar
orientate < orientation

(26) Swahili ki-tabu ~ vi-tabu < Arabic kitab-u

Reanalysis

(27) O.E. a næ:ddre > Mod.E. an adder
M.E. a napron (borrowed from French naperon ‘little cloth’) > Mod. E. an apron

Blends

(28) smog, brunch, telethon, Irangate, Camillagate, Spanglish

(29) Spanish indioma (from Cantiflas, El Portero)