

# Workshop

## “Stems in inflection and lexeme formation”

Interest in the topic of stem allomorphy has been renewed by Mark Aronoff's (1994) work on Latin conjugation, which, by highlighting the theoretical importance of ancient observations, led to novel descriptions of inflectional and derivational phenomena in work by Boyé & colleagues, Brown, Maiden, Pirelli & Battista, Sadler, Spencer & Zaretskaya, Stump, Thornton, and others. Central to Aronoff's work and later developments is the notion that the *signifiant* of a lexeme is not a single phonological representation, but an array of indexed stems, which may stand in relations going from identity through (semi)-regular phonological alternation to full suppletion. This shared structure accounts for the observation that regular and irregular inflection give rise to the same paradigm shapes.

Despite a period of 15 years of fruitful work, many conceptual, theoretical, and empirical issues of stem allomorphy remain unsolved. The aim of this workshop is to showcase work that addresses any of these issues, including:

- What heuristics or principles can be used to distinguish stem alternants from exponents? Should the peripherality of formatives be used as a criterion? Should stem size be maximized or minimized?
- How morphomic is stem allomorphy? Stem alternations are best motivated when the different stems do not correspond to a morphosyntactically coherent set of paradigm cells. Yet suppletion, another typical motivation for the postulation of distinct stems, typically affects coherent sets of cells (Veselinova 2006).
- What is the relationship between stem allomorphy and implicative morphology? Morphomic stems, by their nature, can only be related by implicational relations. But if implicational relations sometimes need to be stated between words (e.g. Blevins 2006), could we perhaps dispense with stems altogether as an analytical tool?
- What is the relationship between stem allomorphy and inflectional regularity? Tradition and naive functional motivation would suggest that a regular lexeme should have a single stem; this view has been challenged both from the point of view of synchronic description (Boyé 2000 and subsequent work) and from the point of view of language change (Maiden 1992 and subsequent work).
- What is the role of stem allomorphy in lexeme formation? Can the analysis of derived lexemes reveal the existence of stems that are invisible in inflection ('hidden stems')? How is the emergence of allomorphic stems influenced by the global structure of the lexicon?

### Invited speakers

Mark Aronoff (Stony Brook University)

Andrew Spencer (University of Essex)

Abstracts must be strictly anonymous and no more than 2 pages long (bibliography and annexes included). On a separate sheet, contributors should indicate their name(s), affiliation(s) and the e-mail address at which they wish to be contacted. Abstracts should be sent by e-mail in PDF (preferably) or RTF format to: [decembrettes@univ-tlse2.fr](mailto:decembrettes@univ-tlse2.fr).

**Deadline for submission of abstracts:** 15 January 2010

**Notification of acceptance:** 1 March 2010

Speakers and participants in the workshop will have to register for IMM 14 and pay registration fees.

We plan to publish the proceedings as a volume by a major publisher.

**Organization**

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