

Polish verb roots and their affixes: an insight from inflection allomorphy

Michał Starke & Bartosz Wiland

There are two major syntactic approaches to verb roots. They are either analyzed as items that realize a syntactically simple element (like V or $\sqrt{\quad}$) or as items that realize complex structures, which can include multiple verbal heads like ‘process’, ‘indicative’, or ‘tense’. We present an analysis of present tense inflection classes in Polish, which provides an insight about the syntactic complexity of both verb roots and their affixes.

Polish verbs show an intricate pattern of inflectional suffixes, spreading across multiple conjugations, which differ with respect to the shape of suffixes, theme vowels, types of palatalizations, and suppletive roots. We will zoom in on the present tense, which displays a large subset of this variation.

Our aim is to show that an analysis in terms of root size (in the spirit of Ramchand 2008), combined with affix size (as proposed for other domains, e.g., in Taraldsen 2009, Márkus 2015, Caha et al. 2019) and affix shape (Blix 2021, Cortiula 2023, a.o.) successfully derives the full range of morphosyntactic and morphophonological complexity in the Polish present tense forms across conjugations.

References

- Blix, H. 2021. Phrasal spellout and partial overwrite: On an alternative to backtracking, *Glossa* 6(1).
- Caha, P., K. De Clercq, G. Vanden Wyngaerd. 2019. The fine structure of the comparative, *Studia Linguistica* 73(3).
- Cortiula, M. 2023. The nanosyntax of Friulian verbs, PhD thesis, Masaryk Univ., Brno.
- Márkus, A. 2015. Taming the Hungarian (in)transitivity zoo, PhD thesis, Univ. of Tromsø, lingbuzz/003195.
- Ramchand, G. 2008. *Verb meaning and the lexicon: A first phase syntax*, CUP.
- Taraldsen, T. 2009. The nanosyntax of Nguni noun class prefixes and concords, ms., lingbuzz/000876.