

## **‘One allomorph to rule them all, one allomorph to bind them’\*: the single allomorph selection constraint in Greek**

Research of stem allomorphy has been renewed by Maiden (1992) and Aronoff (1994), whose work led to novel approaches of inflectional and derivational phenomena in morphological research by Booij (1997), Pirrelli & Battista (2000), Ralli (2000, 2007), Stump (2001), among others.

According to Ralli (2000, 2007), stem allomorphy is a core morphological phenomenon and it participates in all word formation processes. As she suggests, allomorphy is considered one of the basic characteristics of nominal and verbal classifications. Furthermore, Karasimos (in progress) points out that the allomorphic behaviour of lexemes in Greek language is similar in every morphological process. However, based on data of Greek derivation all allomorphs of a lexeme are not fully available on complex word formations. More specifically, the noun *κύμα* displays the allomorphs *κυμα~κυματ*, although only one of them (*κυματ-*) appears in derivation, for example *κυματικός, κυμαάρα, κυματίζω* and in compounding, for example *κυματοθραύστης, κυματομορφή*.

In this paper, we suggest that the non-occurrence of all nominal and adjectival allomorphs as a base in derivative words does not depend on the procedure of derivation, since this phenomenon appears also in compounding. We maintain that in Greek the reasons of this specific constraint are independent. The choice of the single allomorph is not random and arbitrary, but it appears to be based on phonological criteria. Moreover, the non-head position has to be fulfilled by one form of lexemes and blocks the occurrences of the other allomorphs to preserve uniformity of derivational word groups with common bases.

To point out, the single allomorph selection constraint has not any exceptions and it applies also to compounding and more specific in all the first V/ N/ ADJ components (*παπαδοπαίδι*) and to the compound formations with nominal and adjectival stem as second components (*φιλογράμματος*). The allomorphic changes apply to both stems and suffixes; more specifically, items sharing the same morphological (grammatical category, inflection classes and endings) and phonological features (same final character(s), stress position) exhibit similar allomorphic behavior. Therefore, we expect that suffixes will follow the requirements of this constraint.

### **Bibliography**

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\* A rephrase of ‘one ring to rule them all, one ring to bind them’ from the trilogy *The Lord of the Rings*.

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