LING 110 || Summer 2011, Class #11, 21 July

McFetridge, Ch. 12, p.255 to end; Ch .13 to p. 283

Greek prefixes continued …

dia- (through, across)

This prefix helps us test our rule about deletion of [a] before vowels:

Root	dia- + root	other words, same root
√log = word	dialog	logic
√lys = loosen	dialysis	catalyst
√opt = eye	diopter	optic
√ure = urea	diuresis	urea
√rhea = flow	diarrhea	logorrhea

We find the same behaviour in words formed with cata- (down), para- (beside), and meta- (after, change, above) — see tables XII.5, 6, and 7.

root	cata-, para-, meta- + root	other words, same roots
√ball = throw	catabolic	anabolic
√i = go	cation	anion
√sit = food	parasite	
√od = song	parody	ode
√phor = carry	metaphor	anaphor
√eor = air	meteor	

"meta" is still productive. Your text cites the recent word "metafiction". Common in academic circles is the word "metastudy" consisting of a Greek prefix and a Latin word (a "hybrid")

anti- (against, before)

Another productive prefix in CE. While the Latin form is "ante", this fact is often obscured by medial vowel weakening that raises the "e" to "i" so it looks the same as the Greek.

But if a word has "ante" in it, you can be sure its Latin, e.g., "antebellum" or "antecedent".

Note that the "i" in "anti" deletes before a vowel:

root	anti- + root	other words, same root
√path = feel	antipathy	sympathy
√onym = name	antonym	synonym

This is why we don't want a rule that deletes only [a]: other vowels are affected, too. Hence the suggested rule $[V_1 + V_2 \rightarrow V_2]_{Greek}$.

But we need to consider other data before choosing this single very general rule in preference to other narrower rules.

epi- (upon, in addition) and **endo-** (within) help our cause …

root	epi-, endo- + root	other words, same root
√derm = skin	epidermis	hypodermic
√the = place	epenthesis	synthesis
√morph = shape	endomorph	morpheme
√erg = work	endergonic	synergy

We seem to be thwarted by the prefix **apo** (from, off), because we lack data with it appearing before roots that begin with a vowel. Lots of cases before consonants, however, e.g., "apostrophe" < apo + stroph ("turn"). See table XII.11.

But it does appear before roots beginning with "**h**" and this allows us to investigate other prefixes and their behaviour in that same environment.

ana + hod	anode
cata + hod	cathode
apo + heli + on	aphelion
para + heli + on	parhelion

Note that "a" deletes when it appears before "h". This is because Greek did not perceive "h" as a separate sound but rather one that simply [attached](#) to other sounds.

> — the "h" represents **aspiration**, which you can hear after voiceless stops in English [p, t, k] in certain environments
>
> Greek did not actually use "h" for this purpose and instead used a diacritic or the symbol for "r".
>
> This "h" is transparent to the deletion rule and assumes that there is simply a vowel following the prefix.

Aspiration attaches to "p", "t", and "k" in Greek and so this explains "method" and "aphelion". The "rh" combination comes about through the transliteration of Greek into Roman orthography. "Anode" has no "h" because aspiration does not attach to "n" in Greek.

Anyway, to resume our thread, consider now **hypo** (below) -

Root	hypo- + root	other words, same root
√derm = skin	hypodermic	dermatitis
√the = place	hypothesis	metathesis
√ = anth = flower	hypanthium	anthology

So once again we see loss of a prefix vowel before another vowel. So why do we find, in the common word "hypoallergenic", no loss of "o"?

Note that "hypo" is cognate with Latin "sub", thus highlighting the interesting conversion of Latin "s" to Greek "h" in word-initial position.

eu- (good)

Note the alternation between the "u" (before consonants) and "v" (before vowels) …

root	eu- + root	other words, same root
√gen = seed, birth, kind	eugenics	genetic
√phor = carry	euphoria	metaphor
√angel = messenger	evangelical	angel

Note "evangelical". We need a rule to account for this word:

$[u + V \rightarrow v + V]_{Greek}$

We would need to order this rule with respect to the vowel deletion rule so that [u] converts to [v] and does not delete.

hyper- (over)

No data showing this prefix before a vowel, but lots of words with consonant-initial roots. Here are a few, see Table XII.16 for more.

root	hyper- + root	other words, same root
√ball = throw	hyperbole	symbol
√bar = pressure	hyperbaric	barometer
√tend = stretch (Latin)	hypertension	textile

"Hyper" is a productive prefix in English and combines with Latin roots.

— Let's stop and consider Greek and Latin cognates.

The [s] to [h] alternation mentioned earlier is the result of "s" deleting and only aspiration remaining. This phenomenon allows us to see connections between Latin and Greek words that might otherwise seem mysterious, e.g., "subnormal" [L] and "hypodermic" [Gk] where both prefixes mean "under". See Table XII. 17 for many other examples.

Back to prefixes …

ex- (out)

Cognate with the Latin prefix "ex", but where the Latin prefix had the allomorph "e-", Greek has "ec-"

root	ex- + root	other words, same root
√hod = way	exodus	odometer
√log = word	eclectic	logic
√heg = lead	exegesis	hegemony
√zem = boil	eczema	

The rule here involves our old friend "x" and how it represents the sound [ks]. Thus:

$$[ks + C \rightarrow k + C]_{Greek}$$

exo-, ecto (outside, external)

These are related to "ex-". "exo-" is created with the extension "-o-" while "ecto" is "ex-" plus "-to-" where a consonant cluster simplification rule reduces *"exto-" to "ecto-"

root	exo-, ecto- +root	other words, same root
√gam = marry	exogamy	bigamy
√therm = warm	exothermic	thermometer
√derm = skin	ectoderm	dermatitis
√plasm = fluid	ectoplasm	plasma

dys- (bad)

Cognate with Latin "dis-" only the Greek form has no allomorphs (remember that Latin "dis-" lost the "s" before voiced consonants).

root	dys- + root	same root, other words
√top = place	dystopia	topic
√enter = bowels	dysentery	enteritis
√phon = sound	dysphonia	phonology
√pep = cook	dyspeptic	pepsin

dys + log + t + ic would lead us to "dyslectic", but we also find in CE "dyslexic", by analogy with the noun "dyslexia".

FINALLY, SOME SUFFIXES…

Many of these are used in science and medicine and are not in regular usage. However, some do have common currency and we should know about them.

-oid (resembling)

This is productive in CE as witness relatively recent coinages such as "factoid", "Polaroid", and "zonoid". Note the vowel deletion below.

root	root + -oid	other words, same root
√astero = star	asteroid	astrology
√schizo = cut	schizoid	schizophrenia
√thyra = door	thyroid	

-tomy (cut)

Used in names for all sorts of medical procedures. It actually derives from √tom, meaning "cut", and appears in the word "atom", i.e., "not cut". The word "anatomy" has the delightful meaning "cut up".

root	root + -tomy	other words, same root
√tracheo = windpipe	tracheotomy	trachea
√cranio = skull	craniotomy	cranial
√lobo = lobe	lobotomy	lobe

New topic: **ABLAUT**

Common throughout Indo-European languages, but still not well understood. Ablaut refers to vowel alternations internal to words, e.g.,

sing	sang	sung
ring	rang	rung
sink	sank	sunk

Here ablaut signals an inflectional change.

Early philologists called these alternate forms "vowel grades". That is, English displays "i", "a", and "u" vowel grades.

> — You can probably see that our morphological rule mechanism cannot really handle this kind of thing. Nor can our phonological rule system help out much.

Greek borrowings show four vowel grades, "a", "o", "e" and "zero".

The root √ball, for example, shows three of these: "ballistic", "symbol" and "emblem" ("a", "o", and "zero", respectively).

The root √erg shows two: "organ" and "energy" ("o" and "e").

root	a grade	o grade	e grade	zero grade
√phan = appear	phantasy		phenomenon	
√log = word		dialogue	dialect	
√astero = star			asteroid	astronomy

Now consider English plurals:

singular	plural
mouse	mice
louse	lice
foot	feet
tooth	teeth
man	men

In a much earlier form of English we think the forms were like these:

singular	plural
mũs	mīsīz
lũs	līsiz
fōt	fētiz
tōθ	tēθiz
man	meniz

So the claim is that the vowel of the plural suffix (a front vowel) caused the back vowel of the root to move to the front as well. This is a well-attested phenomenon in phonology.

Once the root vowel had fronted, the plural ending gradually disappeared.

> We have "naturalized" the current plural form and completely lost sight of its origin. The child learning English as his or her native language simply learns that these words are different and don't follow the normal pluralization rule.

Compounding

Borrowings from Greek really lend themselves to compounding, i.e., the formation of lexemes from two or more other lexemes.

> We're not talking affixation here but rather the joining of two or more forms that can each act as bases.

The text handily lists a wide variety of compounds with the first element glossed and a range of lexemes that can be built upon it with other roots.

Thus, a quantity root like "mono" meaning "one" can help to form lexemes like "monarchy", "monotonic", "monorail" and so forth.

A humanity root like "gyn" meaning "woman" goes into forms such as "gynecology", "misogynist", and "androgynous".

A so-called "universe" root like "bio" meaning "life" features in lexemes such as "biology", "symbiosis" and many others.

And of course there are logic and philosophy roots (after all, this is Greek we're talking about!) such as "log" meaning "word" in lexemes such as "dialogue", "logic", "analogy" and others.

Many more useful words in Tables XII.28 through 31 on pp. 272-4.

The French Partition

Special 48-point font for this new section title!

Vikings settled in the Seine Valley of France in the mid-9th century. These Vikings were forbears of the Normans (Norman = North Man) who invaded England in 1066 and established Norman French as the prestige language of England.

> — this had a profound effect on English: not only did the lexicon change, but grammar, too. For example, word order changed to the French pattern and away from the Germanic-based Old English word order. Inflections were lost as well.

Social stratification of language can be seen in the different terms for the name of the animal that provided food (English words) and the names bestowed by the French — who ate the food: pig / pork, chicken / poultry, cow / beef, sheep / mutton, deer / venison, calf / veal.

The English lexicon now becomes a lot messier because not only has English borrowed continuously from Latin, but from the Middle English period it borrowed from French, too.

Sometimes this means that a word will be borrowed twice, but a bit differently each time.

For example, English borrowed "humility" from Latin. But French borrowed this word, too, and English borrowed the French form much later as "humble".

We're less concerned with structure in this section than we are with the processes that changed Latin into French.

Lenition

The general rule here is of the kind that, among other things, changes Latin "b" to French "v" as in the word pair "probe" and "prove": V p V → V v V.

Lenition of labials

Latin borrowing	Latin	French borrowing
pauper	paupertas	poverty
probe	probare	prove
reception	recipere	receive
febrile	febris	fever
super		sovereign

You find interesting variations with roots like "cap" meaning "take". The Latin forms (nouns) have the labial "p", but the verb forms have the French "v"

conception > conceive

deception > deceive

perception > perceive

Note that the "p" in "super" on slide 22 can lenite to the point where it disappears as in the prefix "sur". This common form appears in many words like "surprise", "survey", "surtax" …

Lenition of dentals

Dentals softened (lenited) to the point of disappearance as well:

Latin "native" > French "naïve"; Latin "vital" > French "viable";

Latin "radius" > French "ray"

Lenition of velars

This issue is a little more complex as we shall see anon, but we do have some examples:

Latin	French
secure	sure
regulate	rule
gigantic (< Gk)	giant

Next: Vocalization