



The central question we will address in this talk is whether, and if yes, under what condition Y (here:  $T^\circ$ ) and Z (here:  $\varphi$ ) can trigger root allomorphy/suppletion. More precisely, how close to the root must a feature be in order to influence its form? One possible answer would be that a feature of Y can trigger root allomorphy if it fuses with X and appears closer to the root (= fusion approach). Another possibility relies in the assumption that Y is local enough for triggering root allomorphy if no overt node intervenes (Embick 2010, Clabrese 2015), i.e. if X is not exponed it is pruned/deleted and Y becomes (linearly) adjacent to the root (= pruning approach). A third option is the spanning approach, i.e. an approach on non-terminal Vocabulary insertion: Y may trigger root allomorphy if it is an adjacent span (Svenonius 2012, 2016, Merchant 2015). The question that this paper tries to solve is to discuss which of these three approaches gives us the correct distribution of forms without being too unrestrictive as far as context conditions are concerned.

We will show that the fusion approach as well as the pruning approach are not free from ad hoc, stipulative assumptions and mechanisms: The general problem with fusion is that it remains unclear what it is triggered by and how is it restricted. Therefore, several researchers reject fusion (e.g. Trommer 1999). And with respect to Romance GO, even assuming fusion of  $T^\circ$  and  $\varphi$  in the present tense as proposed by Oltra Massuet (1999), the closeness of  $\varphi$  to other non-adjacent elements is not really altered. That is, even after fusion the  $\varphi$ -features are neither structurally nor (in most cases) linearly adjacent to the root. One shortcoming of the pruning approach is instead that the argumentation is circular: In Embick's approach we are forced to assume that the root is not the first but rather the last element to be realized by VI. Then, we can say that in Italian *va-i* '(you)<sub>sg</sub> go' suppletion is possible since no intervening node between the root and  $\varphi$  is exponed, i.e. the non-realised nodes have been pruned and  $\varphi$  is adjacent to the root, while in *and-a-te* '(you)<sub>pl</sub> go' the  $\varphi$ -features cannot trigger root suppletion since there is an intervening (an overt) node, the theme vowel. But how is then pruning foreseen since it is the realization of the root that tells us whether a verb is thematic (/and/) or athematic (/va/), but the realization of the root is conditioned by  $\varphi$  (which is preceded or not by a Th)? We would thus like to propose an approach based on non-terminal Vocabulary Insertion for Romance GO which avoids the problems mentioned above and explains at the same time why the suppletive forms are in many cases cumulative exponents which cannot be segmented like non-suppletive forms.

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