# Complications of Inflection, p. 1

## Defective Paradigms

Hebrew יבול yaxol 'be able' has no infinitive.

### Examples from the book

Italian incombere 'be incumbent (on someone)' no past participle

French frire 'fry' déchoir 'fall' clore 'close' no imperfective past tense

English abide no past tense

Russian победить pobedit' 'to win, defeat' no 1st pers sg in present/future

мечта mečta 'dream' no genitive plural

### Deponency

Note the active and passive present tense suffixes in modern Greek. The suffixes are in **boldface**.

| 'I see' 'you see' 'he/she/it sees' 'we see' 'you see' 'they see'             | active<br>βλέπ <b>ω</b><br>βλέπ <b>εις</b><br>βλέπει<br>βλέπουμε<br>βλέπ <b>ετε</b><br>βλέπ <b>ουν</b> | vlép <b>o</b><br>vlép <b>is</b><br>vlép <b>i</b><br>vlép <b>ume</b><br>vlép <b>ete</b><br>vlép <b>un</b> | 'I am seen' 'you are seen' 'he/she/it is seen' 'we are seen' 'you are seen' 'they are seen'                   | <u>passive</u><br>βλέπ <b>ομαι</b><br>βλέπ <b>εσαι</b><br>βλέπ <b>εται</b><br>βλεπ <b>όμ</b> αστε<br>βλέπ <b>εστε</b><br>βλέπ <b>ονται</b> | vlép <b>ome</b><br>vlép <b>ese</b><br>vlép <b>ete</b><br>vlep <b>ómaste</b><br>vlép <b>este</b><br>vlép <b>onde</b> |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| 'I write' 'you write' 'he/she/it writes' 'we write' 'you write' 'they write' | γράφω<br>γράφεις<br>γράφει<br>γράφουμε<br>γράφετε<br>γράφουν   | yráf <b>o</b><br>yráf <b>is</b><br>yráfi<br>yráfume<br>yráf <b>ete</b><br>yráf <b>et</b>                 | 'I am written' 'you are written' 'he/she/it is written' 'we are written' 'you are written' 'they are written' | γράφ <b>ομαι</b><br>γράφ <b>εσαι</b><br>γράφ <b>εται</b><br>γραφ <b>όμαστε</b><br>γράφ <b>εστε</b><br>γράφ <b>ονται</b>                    | yráfome<br>yráfese<br>yráfete<br>yráfómaste<br>yráfeste<br>yráfonde   |

As these examples show, the suffixes for the active and passive are completely different.

The following are active verbs (as is the verb *érxome* 'come' in the textbook). However, even though they are active verbs, they take passive endings.

| 'I wish'           | εύχ <b>ομαι</b>   | éfx <b>ome</b>    | 'I need'          | χρειάζ <b>ομαι</b>   | xriáz <b>ome</b>    |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 'you wish'         | εύχ <b>εσαι</b>   | éfç <b>ese</b>    | 'you need'        | χρειάζ <b>εσαι</b>   | xriáz <b>ese</b>    |
| 'he/she/it wishes' | εύχ <b>εται</b>   | éfç <b>ete</b>    | 'he/she/it needs' | χρειάζ <b>εται</b>   | xriáz <b>ete</b>    |
| 'we wish'          | ευχ <b>όμαστε</b> | efx <b>ómaste</b> | 'we need'         | χρειαζ <b>όμαστε</b> | xriaz <b>ómaste</b> |
| ʻyou wish'         | εύχ <b>εστε</b>   | éfç <b>este</b>   | 'you need'        | χρειάζ <b>εστε</b>   | xriáz <b>este</b>   |
| 'they wish'        | εύχ <b>ονται</b>  | éfx <b>onde</b>   | 'they need'       | χρειάζ <b>ονται</b>  | xriáz <b>onde</b>   |

These are called **deponent** verbs.

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## Complications of Inflection, p. 2

Hebrew also has deponent verbs. There are verbs in the נפעל binyan, which is a mid-dle/passive form, which have active meaning. Here are a few:

| נאבק | neevak | 'struggle'  | נהנה     | nehena | 'enjoy'   |             |
|------|--------|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|-------------|
| נזהר | nizhar | 'be careful | l' נזכָר | nizkar | 'remember | (suddenly)' |
|      |        |             | F        |        |           |             |

ובנס nixnas 'enter' נעלם neelam 'disappear'

## Periphrasis

Sometimes a place in a paradigm is filled by a syntactic construction.

English comparatives:

prettier

more beautiful (\*beautifuller)

Latin passive perfect forms:

SCRĪBŌ 'write'

| <u>active</u> | <u>passive</u>                   |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| scrībit       | scrībitur                        |
| scrībēbat     | scrībēbātur                      |
| scrīpsit      | scrīptum est                     |
| scrīpserat    | scrīptum erat                    |
|               | scrībit<br>scrībēbat<br>scrīpsit |

Some people also consider whole inflectional categories to be periphrastic, such as the future tense in Germanic languages. To others, a form like English will close or German wird schließen is not part of an inflectional paradigm, so there is no periphrastic expression here. On the other hand, in some languages there are inflectional categories that are usually expressed syntactically, but for a few lexical items they are expressed morphologically. For such cases, it is more reasonable to speak of periphrastic expression for the category as a whole.

#### Examples from the textbook:

Negative verbs in Lezgian usually use the word tawun:

| O  | 'w    | ashing'  | čüxün | 'not washing'  | čüxün tawun |  |
|--|-------|----------|-------|----------------|-------------|--|
| bı   | ıt 'b | ecoming' | xun   | 'not becoming' | taxun       |  |
|  | 'g    | iving'   | gun   | 'not giving'   | tagun       |  |
| nanish comparatives usually use the word más |       |          |       |                |             |  |

Spanish comparatives usually use the word más

|     | 'dark'  | oscuro  | 'darker'  | más oscuro |
|-----|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| but | 'good'  | bueno   | 'better'  | mejor      |
|     | 'bad'   | malo    | 'worse'   | peor       |
|     | 'big'   | grande  | 'bigger'  | mayor      |
|     | 'small' | pequeño | 'smaller' | menor      |

#### An additional example:

Hungarian future tense uses the auxiliary verb fog

'will explain' fog magyarázni 'will cook' fog főzni

but 'will be' lesz