PAPER 7 (DESCRIPTIVE LINGUISTICS)
ANALOGICAL CHANGE

By grammatical analytical change, members of a grammatical set are increased or reduced in number and the means involved in marking grammatical categories are extended. Since such changes are carried out in accordance with the pattern which already exist in the language, they are referred to as 'analogical' and the process is called 'analogy'.

Analogy is a process by which morphs, combination of morphs or linguistic patterns are modified, or new ones created in accordance with those present in a language. It is a fundamental feature if human language, and is most obvious in children's learning forms. After hearing plurals such as 'caps', 'dogs', they form the plurals such as mans, foots, etc. Likewise, they make comparatives as 'gooder' for 'good' after hearing the pattern 'tall' - 'taller', etc. But 'better' is the preferred form for 'good'. In this way irregularities may be removed from grammatical sets. But the most important use of analogy in language learning is in extending forms that we have mastered.

In learning a language like German, we don't memorize every inflected form separately. We learn a model and apply to others also. For example, from singer we apply to ringer and bringer and so on. In this way we may assume that native speakers learned their language in much the same way. It is difficult to predict when analogical forms are accepted, when not.

CONDITION FOR ANALOGICAL OPERATION

For the operation of analogy, some linguistic set is necessary. It may be inflectional like the English verbs, in which the t/d suffix has been replacing internal change; derivational - such as nouns with -er suffix; syntactic or semantic such as the relationship terms such as brother, mother, father, sister, etc.

Such sets are very infrequent at the phonological level, and completely absent among allophones, and accordingly would not be classed into sets.

Repeated attempts have been made to determine when analogy takes place, rather than simply to record instances of analogical remodeling. Among the recent are those by Kurylowicz and Manczak. Karylowicz attempts to set up general rules based on general linguistics principles, then on relationship between forms. Manczak, on the other hand, has set up general observations which account for those of   greatest frequency. But neither permits us to predict when in any given language analogy may take place. Like general statements like other phenomenon in historical linguistics, both studies are useful in enabling us to understand analogical developments elsewhere in language.

Karylowicz's first rule states that a two fold morphological marker tends to replace one that is single. For example, the -'e' plural ending of Germanic nouns, which in some nouns was also associated with umlaut of the stem vowel : gast, "guest", gaste.

By second rule, analogy proceeds from the base forms to derived forms. For example as in sputnik, sputniks.

By third rule, any construction consisting of a consonant plus a variable is used as patterns for an isolated entity of the same function. For example the construction like 'wrongly' from 'wrong' was used as a pattern for remodeling flat adverbs such as 'slow' to 'slowly'.

The fourth rule states that a new analogical form takes over the primary function of a contrast, while the replaced form is used for secondary function. For example 'brothers' is used for the plural of 'brother', while the replaced 'brethren' maintains a peripheral function.

A set of such rules would be highly useful to prehistoric languages such as pre-Indo-European. And Kurylowicz has indeed applied them in this way. If the rules cannot be established in contemporary languages, their application to earlier periods may be artistic rather than scientific.

Manczak's first rule, at once, illustrates the difference between his and Kurylowicz's approach. According to it, long words except paradigms, are more often remodeled after short words than vice-versa. Thus 'bridegroom' was remodeled after 'groom', not 'groom' after 'bridegroom'.

By the second rule, the alternation of roots is more often abandoned than introduced. The gradual regularization of English strong verbs provides good support. The third rule states that a long inflection at form is more often remodeled after a short one. For example: French 'chauffeur' is from 'calefare'. By the fourth rule, zero endings are more often replaced by full endings than not. Example: English noun plurals, where 'word': 'word' has been replaced by 'word': 'words'.

Only when we have a complete understanding of all systems and sets in a given language, we can suggest when modifications may result from analogy. It may be viewed as a central process in modifications introduced in grammatical systems.