

MARGINAL ZERO DERIVATION IN MACEDONIAN BASED ON THE MARGINALITY OF THIS PROCESS IN ENGLISH

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Abstract

The process of zero derivation is a derivational phenomenon that connects lexemes which have one and the same form, expanded meaning, but belong to different lexical categories. The process doesn't allow any derivational intervention, and is, therefore, named zero derivation when the most that can be used from derivational point of view is a zero derivational suffix, while inflectional material, which is part of the word form and not of the word base and has grammatical meaning, can be used for the purpose of the process. In analytic languages, like English, the marginal type of the process is manifested by orthographic changes that inevitably lead to changes in pronunciation, by changes only in pronunciation, and changes of accent, but in Macedonian, due to its different structure as an isolating, inflectional language, the marginal character of the process is present only with the orthographic changes that happen to the lexeme subject to the zero derivational process. The lexeme before the process and the one after it differ in their orthography, belong to different lexical categories, but what unites them is the similar semantics that they both share.

Keywords: Zero derivation, Macedonian, marginal, orthography

Introduction

In Macedonian, there are no articles, papers or grammar books that treat the process of zero derivation, but there are many that talk about conversion or derivation with a zero suffix. This means that the term zero derivation is not very much present in the Macedonian linguistics, while the process does exist, thus producing new lexemes that follow the path of zero derivation. Therefore, we will shortly analyse the situation in English, as far as the definitions and notions in the literature exist, and then we will concentrate on the situation in Macedonian.

In the English literature, the topic of zero derivation is represented by many authors who have different attitudes to this process and interpret it

differently. Namely, Marchand (1969: 359) considers it to be a process that happens without modifying elements when referring to syntactic transposition of the word with regard to functional shift, and, according to him, such syntactic transposition is a straightforward grammatical question that has nothing to do with word formation and derivation. On the other hand, Adams (1973: 16), when talking about the difference between *full* and *partial* zero derivation, argues that the full type is a derivational process, while the partial one is syntactic. He explains this by saying that when a word goes from one lexical category to another a new lexeme is formed and it is a result of the process of zero derivation, while in the partial type the new lexeme accepts only part of the characteristics of the new part of speech, which makes it syntactic. On the other hand, Jackson (1980: 109-110), like Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech and Svartvik (1985: 2558), claims that this is a derivational process, very analogous to suffixation. Furthermore, Hurford and Heasley (1983: 206) support the opinion that when we analyse the derivational processes we ought to bear in mind that it is not one, but three processes:

1. Morphological – that means changing the word form by adding prefix or suffix,
2. Syntactic – that means changing the part of speech, and
3. Semantic – that implies producing new meaning.

By considering all these authors' opinions, we come to the definition that in analytic, isolating languages, such as English, zero derivation is a derivational process when the lexeme changes its lexical category without using an affix. But, in inflecting languages, such as Macedonian, zero derivation is helped by inflectional material, that is, the lexical category or subcategory of the lexeme changes due to *addition*, *substitution*, or *omission* of inflectional suffixes. That is how we come closer to one type of this process, and that is the *marginal* kind.

Namely, in English, a language that is rich in the process of zero derivation, the marginal type of this process is characterized by three subtypes:

- a) a letter change: (**advice** /əd'vaɪs/ n. → **advise** /əd'vaɪz/ v., when the letter change causes change of pronunciation, too,
- b) only a pronunciation change: (**document**: /'dɒkjumənt/ n. → /'dɒkjumənt/ v., or
- c) change of accent: **transport**: 'transport n. → tran'sport v.

In Macedonian, the examples that belong to marginal zero derivation are of different type and they are analysed as cases when the resulting lexeme has a:

- a) changed consonant and vowel, like in the case with **граница** → **граници**,

- b) a changed consonant and a dropped vowel, like in the case with **МОЛЧИ** → **МОЛК**,
- c) with a kept consonant, but dropped and added vowel, like in the case with **ТОПОЛ** → **ТОПЛИ**,
- d) with a small initial letter, when naming inventions like in the case with **Ом** → **ом**,
- e) with a capital letter, when naming people, like in the case with **роза** → **Роза**, and
- f) with a capital letter, when naming people, places, newspapers, one of them being the example with **мила** → **Мила**.

Association links are the most important in the process because by applying metaphorisation, in his/her consciousness, the speaker makes connections between the already known meaning of the source lexeme, and the new, undiscovered semantic implication of the target lexeme, when the latter should be produced as a result of the process of zero derivation.

In order to illustrate the marginal type of this process in Macedonian, the corpus has been compiled from the *Macedonian Language Dictionary with Serbo-Croatian Interpretations* (*Речник на македонскиот јазик со српскохрватски толкувања*) (1961 - 1965), *Interpretative Dictionary of the Macedonian Language* (*Толковен речник на македонскиот јазик*) (2003), *Dictionary of the Macedonian Folk Poetry* (*Речник на македонската народна поезија*) (1983, 1987, 1993, 2001). Along with these sources, many examples have been taken from the collections of poems written by Gane Todorovski, who is a poet that doesn't accept an absolute system of forms, but immerses himself in word play, thus forming new individual forms which can also function out of the poetic expression and text.

Marginal Zero Derivation in Macedonian

In Macedonian this kind of zero derivation is being distinguished by a different letter, not by a pronunciation change, because, unlike English, in Macedonian, the lexical categories do not differ in terms of different pronunciation, that is, we cannot determine the part of speech of certain lexemes on the basis of the change in pronunciation – something that is possible in English. Therefore, in Macedonian, marginal cases of zero derivation are the transformations *from noun to verb*, *from verb to noun*, *from adjective to verb*, *from proper to common noun*, *from common to proper noun*, and *from adjective to proper noun*.

Zero derivation from noun to verb

The pattern that illustrates this kind of zero derivation looks like this:

L1 N (=MB+ØDS) →L2 V (=MB+ØDS with a changed consonant and vowel)³⁷

When zero deriving a verb from a noun, besides distinguishing *clear/genuine* and *inflectional* zero derivation, we are also aware of a *marginal* case, which is due to the difference in writing of the initial and the final letter. This difference is illustrated with the pattern given above. This kind of zero derivation embraces in itself three subgroups according to the criterion what kind of marginal change takes place in the motivating basis within the resulting lexeme, that is, according to which orthographic changes the starting and the resulting lexeme are different. The first subgroup is going to be illustrated with the following examples:

граница → **граничи**: *македонско-бугарска граница* → *Македонија граничи со Бугарија.*

врвца → **врвчи**: *заврзува со врвца* → *ја врвчи јаката*

шилец → **шилчи**: *става шилец на оградата* → *ја шилчи оградата*

The first case shows that, as far as the semantic transfer is concerned, the first lexeme that exists in the language is the noun **граница** which means *place that divides a territory* and it zero derives a verb that has the same motivating lexeme, to which the zero derivational suffix is added while the ending *-ца* from the noun is replaced by the verbal ending *-чи*. This is a case when in the basis ending in *-ц*, the consonant *-ц* is replaced by *-ч*.

There is another kind of change in the following three cases:

сврдел → **сврдли**: *Ни треба сврдел за вратата.* → *Секој ден ја сврдли вратата.*

ветер → **ветри**: *силен ветер* → *го ветри станот*

метар → **метри**: *еден метар* → *ја метри собата*

This is a case when the vowel, which is a part of the starting noun lexeme and is non-constant, is being omitted, and what remains is the consonant to which the verbal ending *-и* is added. Otherwise, in the first example, the semantically expanded element from the noun **сврдел**, a *name of an object, tool*, makes it possible to understand and predict the meaning of the zero derived verb meaning *to perform the action by using the object denoted by the noun*.

We can consider the following change:

снег → **снежи**: *Цел ден паѓа снег.* → *Цел ден снежи.*

челик → **челичи**: *цврст како челик* → *Секоја мака го челичи човекот.*

³⁷ In this, and in the following schemes, the interpretation of the symbols is as follows: L1 = lexeme 1, N = noun, MB = motivating base, Ø = zero, DS = derivational suffix, V = verb, Adj. = adjective, Prop N = proper noun, Com N = common noun.

прав → **праши**: *се стори прав и пепел* → *Не го праши јадењето!*
страв → **страши**: *голем страв* → *ме страши ситуацијата*

These examples show morphological changes, and those are the consonants *-к*, *-з*, and *-в*, which are part of the motivating basis at the starting lexeme, transform into *-ч*, *-ж*, and *-ш*, respectively, and to all of them *-и* is added, which as a verbal ending creates the target verbal lexeme.

It is the metaphorical transfer that enables the speaker to carry the meaning from the noun **страв** to the verb **страши**, which means to cause what the noun denotes, that is, *to cause fear*. Thus, the speaker using his/her cognitive abilities and moving from the noun that already exists fills the verbal slot in the language by creating a new, verbal element as a result of zero derivation. The product of this process has a different, changed form; more precisely, the motivating basis is the same, but due to the orthographical difference between both lexemes, we consider this zero derivation to be of marginal type.

The following examples are different:

боја → **бои**: *жолта боја* → *ја бои собата жолто*
струја → **струи**: *електрична струја* → *струи воздухот*
број → **брои**: *парен број* → *брои до десет*

In the last subgroup, the *-ја* ending, as a part of the motivating basis in the nominal source lexeme, is being replaced by *-и* which forms the motivating basis, but now it is within the zero derived verb. As far as the semantic transfer is concerned, from the noun **боја** that *names the object or the substance*, the verb **бои** is formed with a changed morphological form, meaning *to apply the object, that is, the substance*.

Zero derivation from verb to noun

L1 V (=MB+ØDS) → L2 N (=MB+ØDS with a changed consonant and a dropped vowel)

молчи → **молк**: *Молчи и послушај ме!* → *Од еднаш настани молк*.
режи → **рез**: *ја режи конзервата* → *направи голем рез*
стрижи → **стриг**: *Отиде да си ја стрижги косата.* → *висок стриг*

In these previously given examples, the marginal case of zero derivation is being mirrored in the different spelling of the initial, verbal and the final, nominal lexeme. The change is that the last two letters from the first lexeme are being changed in the final element in such a way that the consonant is replaced, while the vowel is totally dropped. This means that at both lexemes the motivating basis is different up to a point that is allowed in the process of zero derivation, meaning that they are different only in the domain of orthography, but the metaphoric-semantic element remains the same. Hence, in the first example, the verb **молчи** zero derives the noun **молк**, that denotes a *state when there is no speaking or uttering anything*.

Zero derivation from adjective to verb

L1 Adj (=MB+ØDS) → L2 V (=MB+ØDS with a kept consonant, but dropped and added vowel)

топол → **топли**: *топол стан* → *Го топли станот со кварцна печка.*

ведар → **ведри**: *Брат ми е многу ведар човек.* → *Тој ме ведри со секоја негова смеа.*

крупен → **крупни**: *крупен човек* → *Ги крупни парите.*

ситен → **ситни**: *ситен проблем* → *Не ситни толку!*

бистар → **бистри**: *бистар ум* → *ја бистри секоја дилема*

In Macedonian, the marginal type of zero derivation from adjective to verb is being explained with one interpretation, and that is from the starting adjectival lexeme the vowel is dropped because it is non-constant, so that in the resulting verbal lexeme the consonant is copied and the vowel –*и* that denotes a verbal ending is added. In the first example, from the adjective **топол**, the verb **топли** is (zero) derived. The verb itself means *to spread warmth, to heat something, to make something warm*.

As can be seen from this example and from the others in this group of zero derivation, there is a very low level of abstraction and the association leap of meaning from adjective to verb is absolutely understandable and expected by the participants in the conversation. In this way, starting from the similar orthography, that is, the morphology of the lexeme and the similar semantics, by using his/her own cognitive abilities, from an element that belongs to one word class, the speaker forms a word that belongs to a new lexical category.

Zero derivation from proper to common noun

L1 Prop N (=MB+ØDS with a capital letter) → L2 Com N (=MB+ØDS with a small initial letter)

In this subtype, the direction of zero derivation is from a proper noun because the lexemes on the left are names and surnames of people-inventors of something, while the lexemes on the right are formed as common nouns because they name the invention or the unit for measuring the relevant entity:

Ом → **ом**: *Георг Симон Ом го открил Омовиот закон.* → *Единицата за електричен отпор се нарекува ом.*

Херц → **херц**: *Хајнрих Херц е германски физичар кој ги открил електромагнетните бранови.* → *Единицата за мерење фреквенција се вика херц.*

Њутн → **њутн**: *Исак Њутн е еден од најголемите научници на човештвото.* → *Единицата за сила е позната како ънутн.*

As the first example shows, **Ом** is the name of the person who invented the way to measure electrical resistance and, of course, that is a proper noun and is written with a capital letter, while the unit for measuring resistance is

called **ом** in his honour. The latter is a common noun, which as a derivative accepts the characteristics of this type of nominal lexemes, meaning it is written with a small letter and accepts inflectional suffixes for plural and definiteness. In that way, the transfer of meaning goes from the name of the person to the name of the unit or the invention, which is very easy for connecting and establishing direct link.

The same happens with the following examples:

Келвин → **келвин**
Целзиус → **целзиус**
Цул → **цул**
Ват → **ват**
Ампер → **ампер**

Of course, the element that is result of the process, that is, the zero derived common noun, can accept inflectional suffixes for plural and definiteness as required by the lexical category itself, since a characteristic of the common nouns is to accept inflections for gender, number and definiteness. In this kind of zero derivation, the marginality is contained in the different orthography of the two analysed lexemes, in other words, the source – proper noun is written with a capital letter, whereas the target – common noun starts with a small letter.

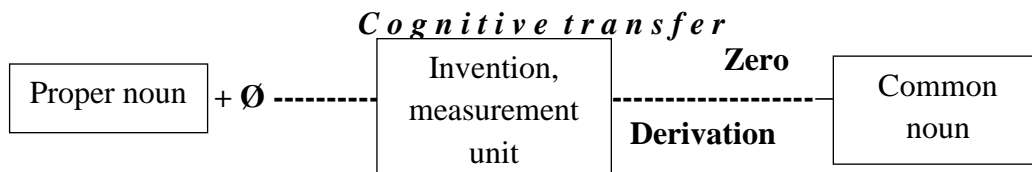


Figure 1: Zero derivation from proper to common noun

Zero derivation from common to proper noun

L1 Com N (=MB+ØDS with a small letter) → L2 Prop N (=MB+ØDS with a capital letter)

This kind of deriving proper nouns from common ones will be observed through three types.

The first type is represented with zero derived proper nouns that name people:

роза → **Роза**: *Има една роза во дворот. → Нашата нова сосетка се вика Роза.*

ружа → **Ружа**: *Најубавиот цвет во градината е ружата. → Девојчето се вика Ружа.*

Here, the meaning, that is, the semantic implication, is being transferred from the common noun to a person’s name, thus implying that the person is named by the object or the plant that already exists. In that way, for example, the person named **Роза** is named by the flower **роза**. This

process of zero derivation implies similarity in beauty between the flower and the girl. Therefore, as the roze (ружа) is pretty, so is the person that gets this name and has the same element on which the semantic closeness is based – what connects them is the beauty.

The following lexemes are of the same kind:

искра → **Искра**

дуња → **Дуња**

јагода → **Јагода**

невен → **Невен**

The following example shows that this type of zero derivation, which is very productive in poetry, in future will be present even more in the language considering that there are no formal and grammar limitations, and it takes place with a very simple metaphoric transfer of meaning based on the cognitive abilities of the participants in the conversation.

немир → **Немир**: *Не можам да се ослободам од овој **немир**. → Крстеник да ми беше, со **Немир** би ја крстел ...*

MM pp.22

In this example, it is the motive for transferring the semantic similarity from the common to the proper noun in naming the person that is especially obvious, and in that way the speaker shows his/her creativity for making proper nouns through the process of zero derivation, all that on basis of metaphoric transfer and identical morphology. If the common noun **немир** means *absence of peace and calmness*, the semantic expansion enables the speaker to be creative when *naming the person as such that causes absence of peace, calmness and tranquility*, hence the person is given the name. The semantic implication of both lexemes connects the two end domains: the state of not being calm and the person that causes this state.

Next, as derivatives, there are proper nouns that name *places*, and originate from common nouns:

извор → **Извор**: *Тие често одат на **изворот** Рашче. → Тој потекнува од селото **Извор**.*

There is also the same similarity here between the common and the proper noun, as well as the same motives for naming the place or the location. Namely, in the example with **извор** which is a common noun and means *place from where something comes or derives from*, the village in Veles - **Извор** got its name, *naming the place from where something springs*.

The following lexemes also belong here:

треска → **Треска**

бор → **Бор**

чашка → **Чашка**

китка → **Китка**

река → Река

The group of derivatives that are names of *newspapers, magazines, and other products* also deserves to be paid attention to. With the example below, we will illustrate the distribution of this kind of source and target, zero derived lexemes:

вест → **Вест**: *убава вест* → *Утрово купив Вест*.

Here, the common noun **вест** that means *information, news* zero derives a proper noun which is *a name of a newspaper*, because, as a medium, the newspaper offers news, information. Moreover, we ought to compliment the founders of the newspaper on their creativity who obviously had into consideration the close connection between the thing the newspaper offers and the name of this daily newspaper. This takes place on basis of the experience and the knowledge that the speaker has and implements them to perform the transfer from the starting to the ending lexeme.

The following lexemes are of the same type:

капитал → **Капитал**

екран → **Екран**

фокус → **Фокус**

свет → **Свет**

дневник → **Дневник**

здравје → **Здравје**

The zero derivation from common to proper noun gives names of a person, product, object, newspaper, plant, but also a geographical notion such as river, mountain, city or state. This group seems to have numerous examples due to the process of zero derivation itself, which is still developing and is increasing its productivity, but also due to the capacity of the words from both types to be both semantically identical, and to show mutual semantic proximity.

In future, many new proper nouns can be formed in this way, especially because there are no rules that should be obeyed when naming something. Simply, if the new object, person or place reminds us of the common noun or resembles it in some way, then it is easy to come to a zero derived proper noun which is rightly regarded as a product of the zero derivation. All these zero derived proper nouns comply with the requirements of their group, that is, they don't accept suffixes for plural and definiteness, while from the source common noun they maintain the gender to which they belong because of the necessary formal identity between the two elements. The marginal type of the process is evident in the first letter that is different; more precisely, the source lexeme – the common noun is written with a small letter, and the target – the proper noun, as the Macedonian language rules impose, is written with a capital.

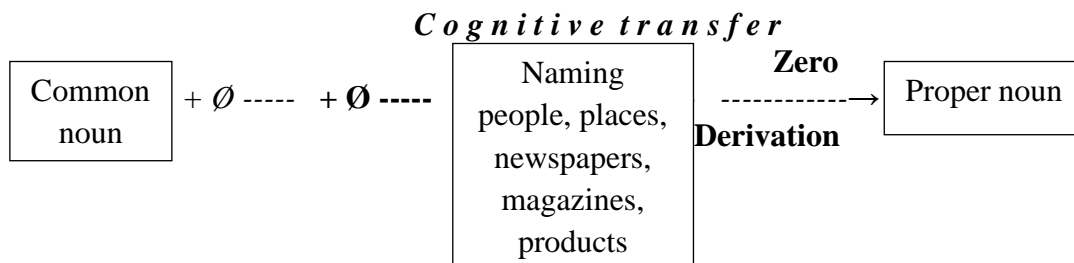


Figure 2: Zero derivation from common to proper noun

Zero derivation from adjective to proper noun

L1 Adj (=MB+ØDS) → L2 Prop N (=MB+ØDS with a capital letter)

The analysis of this group’s examples also provides us with significant results because the proper nouns are created by inner, individual and non-universal intuition. The following examples show this:

мила → Мила: мила девојка → Керка им се вика Мила.

весела → Весела: весела дружина → Дојде Весела.

горда → Горда: горда жена → Таа се вика Горда.

The examples that follow are of the same type:

јасна → Јасна

убавка → Убавка

галена → Галена

добра → Добра

комплетна → Комплетна

ладна → Ладна

In the first case, the girl is cute, gentle, and pretty and it is given the name **Мила** by the evident characteristics, so that the characteristic is being transferred from an adjective to a proper noun.

The nouns shown in this group reflect the semantic connection, in a way that the similarity between the adjective and the newly named person or product is visible, because the proper noun **Комплетна** is a name of a magazine, while the derivative **Ладна** is a name of a relatively new type of mineral water, whereas the previously listed lexemes to the right are names of people, but what they all have in common is the characteristic that the adjective gives is now transferred to the noun. The speaker achieves to make metaphorical expansion by connecting the old and the new concept in managing to find mutual similarity and carrying the feature from one lexeme to the other. The speaker’s cognitive abilities enable him/her to easily use what he/she knows and already has in the mind, a thing that goes for the first lexeme and map that on the product of zero derivation.

The next example shows zero derivation from a starting, adjective lexeme into a resulting, noun, that is used as a proper noun. This noun determines the person's identity according to the main feature which is inherent in it being taken from the adjective, thus extracting the person as only one and self-determined:

моја → **Моја:** *моја девојка* → ... *за девојка која име носи **Моја**, Добра, Дивна!*

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This case provides context for the starting adjective on the left and linguistic environment for the resulting proper noun on the right, the latter being taken from poetry. The reason for using poetry is that this is a less common type of zero derivation, when not only qualitative, but also a possessive adjective can be transformed into a proper noun and can name a person. Here, the person's identity is determined by the main feature that the noun has in itself taken from the adjective, extracting the person as the only one, self-determined. There is no high level of abstraction, because the possession marker, which is a primary feature of the adjective, is being kept in the noun. The noun is unusual in that it is a name, and yet, implies that the person belongs to the speaker.

On the other hand, as the analysed lexical categories imply and has been shown with the examples considered by now, the lexeme on the left - an adjective that can accept inflections for gender, number and definiteness, has to be used in feminine gender, singular form in order to agree with the proper noun on the right, which must be in its determined form.

Yet, not only adjectives in feminine gender, but also neuter adjectives can be zero derived into proper nouns, in which case, the resulting lexemes name animals, and the following are only some of them:

дошко → **Дошко:** *дошко куче* → *Кучето го крстивме **Дошко**.*

сивко → **Сивко:** *сивко ждребе* → *Моето ждребе се вика **Сивко**.*

Here, the metaphorical transfer is the same as in the other examples from this group; namely, by adding the suffix – *ко* to the adjective, we add a shade of dearness, cuteness to the starting adjectival lexeme, and with the process of zero derivation the feature that we use to describe and determine the animal is being transferred to the proper noun that contains the description. In this way, as far as semantics is concerned, by transferring the meaning from one to the other lexeme, by metaphorisation the similarities are carried over and a connection between the source and the target is established.

Of course, the morphological aspect is met, because as the examples show, neither the adjective, nor the noun, change the form, thus illustrating complete formal overlapping between the two analysed lexemes, which are in their basic, cited form. Hereby, the adjective, as a starting, source element

in the process, has to be in neuter form, singular, but when being realized in the language it can also take inflectional suffixes for definiteness, as opposed to the derivative which is in its basic form, and each name is written with a capital letter.

In continuation, there are more adjective-noun transformations of this type, the result of which is name of an animal:

- брешко → Брешко
- жолтко → Жолтко
- зеленко → Зеленко
- калешко → Калешко
- лишко → Лишко
- сурко → Сурко
- шутко → Шутко³⁸

Cognitive transfer

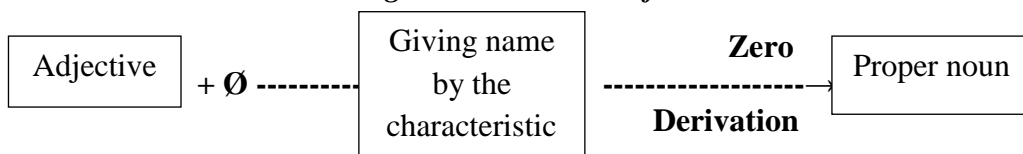


Figure 3: Zero derivation from adjective to proper noun

Conclusion

Association links are the most important in the process because by applying metaphorisation, the speaker makes connections between the already known meaning of the source lexeme, and the new, undiscovered semantic implication of the target lexeme, when the latter should be produced as a result of the process of zero derivation.

As Vaneva (Ванева 2009: 266) maintains, in all instances of this notion, we cannot determine the lexical category on basis of the orthography, but it is the context that helps us in deciding what part of speech we are dealing with. From semantic point of view, the meaning transfer from one to another lexeme is unusually simple since the level of abstraction is very small, and that is how during their mental activity, the participants in the conversation very easily connect the concrete and the abstract interpretations of what has been said, that is, they connect the literal and the metaphoric meaning.

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³⁸ The examples are taken from Markov (Марков 1979: 43)

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