

The H-Pattern in Central Ibero-Romance: Further Evidence for Morphomes^{1*}

*Katie Slep, Tatiana Fernandez, and Fraser Carson
(The University of Western Ontario)*

1. Introduction

Latin entered the Iberian Peninsula in 218 B.C.E., years before it developed in other areas of Europe, such as the north of Italy and the south of Gaul. There is a hypothesis that the conquered regions are more conservative than the place of origin, so it is accepted that Hispanic Romance preserved some of the characteristics of Latin from the 2nd and 3rd centuries B.C.E. that were lost in Rome and other later Latinized areas (Penny 2010). However, the Iberian languages were also innovative with changes prescribed exclusively to the peninsula. We can mention the fusion of second and third Latin conjugation verbs like *DĒBĒRE* y *VENDĒRE*, that were distinct in Latin and became identical, in regards to conjugation class, in the Romance languages (Sp., Ast. *deber*; *vender*; Pt. *dever*; *vender*) of the Peninsula but are different in other varieties (e.g. Fr. *Devoir*; *vendre*) (Penny 2010).

The Iberian Peninsula is home to much language variety. The peninsula is dominated by Castilian Spanish and secondarily Portuguese, but there are other commonly spoken languages with official and unofficial status that coexist along with the two main languages. Catalan, Galician, Euskara, and Castilian Spanish are all official languages on the Peninsula, whereas languages like Asturian and Aragonese have not been granted official status; they are, however, recognized languages. Euskara is the outlier on the Peninsula, as it is not a Romance language and it is much older than the other languages as well (Zuazo 1995). Throughout this paper, Asturian and Castilian will be categorized as central Ibero-Romance languages and will be the focus of comparison with regard to each language's verbal morphology.

1.1. What are morphomes?

Morphomic patterns are compared across central Ibero-Romance in this paper. Morphomes and morphemes are not to be confused. While the existence of morphemes is generally not doubted, morphomes are quite controversial. Morphomes are patterns that have no phonological or functional content, but they are recurrent for typologically similar verbs in the grammar of each language and systematic in their occurrence (Aronoff 1994; Maiden 2009, 2018). Due to their systematic nature, the presence of one distinctive form, like *tengo* (Sp. 'have.1SG.PRS.IND'), implies this distinctive form will be present in all other forms of that pattern (Sp. *tenga* 'have.1SG/3SG.PRS.SBJV')

¹ * Special thanks to Dr. David Heap for constructive feedback through all steps of this work.

(Maiden 2018). Morphemes cannot be reduced to anything outside morphology, like some have attempted to do with phonology, but cannot be ignored either.

Among the morphomic patterns found across Romance languages, the N-pattern and the L-pattern, as well as our proposed H-pattern, will be the primary source of morphomic evidence throughout this paper. The development and descriptions of the morphomic patterns will be provided in Section 2. Briefly, the L-pattern generally exhibits a velar or palatal consonant in part of the paradigm. The N-pattern normally contains high vowels or diphthongs of a high and mid vowel in certain systematic cells of the paradigm. The H-pattern is derived from the N-pattern and contains high vowels or diphthongs in more systematic cells than in the N-pattern.

L-patterns and N-patterns are frequently found within Romance Languages, even in verbs that lack any resemblance to the original alternation created by sound change. In verbs, stress fell on the lexical root in the singular and third person plural of the present indicative and subjunctive, but onto the following syllables in the rest of the paradigm, causing sound changes (Maiden 2016). According to Maiden (2009), these changes are solely “morphomic” as they are phenomena that are not synchronically conditioned by any factor outside morphology. As will be detailed in later sections, the development of these patterns was largely due to diachronic phonological reasons, but their persistence into modern Romance is purely morphological.

This study compares and contrasts the verb stem morphology of two central Ibero-Romance languages: Asturian and Castilian. In particular, the verbal stem morphology is examined to identify how similar the verb root changes, such as /e/ → /je/ vowel alternations, are among these two modern languages. Additionally, we apply two of the morphological patterns of verb conjugation developed by Maiden (2009), namely N- and L-, to each language as a diagnostic for evaluating paradigm similarities, and we propose a new pattern: the H-pattern.

2. Overview of patterns

To rephrase, allomorphic changes in verb stems due to stressed syllable position are common amongst central Iberian Romance languages (Bergquist 1977). Due to these changes, we find some morphomic patterns in Romance languages like remnants of the perfective morphology from Latin, the L-pattern and the N-pattern, and the proposed H-pattern. From the observation of diachronic morphological innovation that replicated those patterns, it can be stated that morphomic patterns play an active role in morphological change. These distributional patterns are a particular characteristic of Romance languages, as opposed to Latin and other languages. We can identify their origin in old sound changes but their synchronic description does not display ‘coherence’ as there is no phonological or semantic common cause of change. Instead, over time, the stem cells implicated in the alternation patterns affected all of the others. These patterns had a morphological effect to rearrange the verbal system of inflexional morphology (Maiden 2018).

2.1. L-Pattern

The L-pattern occurs throughout Romance languages from two sets of phonological changes: the yod effect, palatalization and/or affrication of consonants immediately preceding yod; and the palatalization and affrication of velar consonants before front vowels (Maiden 2009, 2018). These two sets of sound change, although they involve different kinds of palatalization, both resulted in one identical paradigmatic effect (Maiden & O’Neill 2010). The velar or palatal is found in the root of the first-person singular of the present indicative, and throughout the entirety of the present subjunctive. It is named the L-pattern by Maiden because the distribution of the palatal or velar sounds appears to form a sideways “L” (2018). The L-pattern distribution, exemplified below in Table (1) with the Castilian verb *poner*, demonstrates the velar or palatal verb root found across Ibero-Romance from infinitives that do not themselves contain a velar or palatal. This pattern became a template for innovation across Romance introducing velar alternants into verbs that did not originally contain velars (Maiden 2016).

Both Ibero-Romance varieties discussed in this paper show multiple occurrences of the L-pattern, many times with the equivalent verbs in each of the languages (Sp. *hago*, Ast. *faigo*, ‘make.1SG.PRS.IND’). The yod effect primarily occurred in Latin second- and fourth-conjugation verbs, but it did affect some third-conjugation verbs as well (Maiden 2018).

(1) L-pattern Castilian *poner* ‘to put’

L-Pattern <i>poner</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	pongo	pones	pone	poemos	ponéis	ponen
Present subjunctive	pongan	pongas	ponga	pongamos	pongáis	pongan

2.2. N-Pattern

The N-pattern denotes the alternation in Romance language verbs where the first-, second-, and third-person singular, third-person plural, and second-person imperative maintain a root different from the rest of the paradigm. This pattern appears in both the present indicative and the present subjunctive. Maiden named the N-pattern arbitrarily, as it appears to resemble the letter “N” as it were in Morse Code (2018). It originated on the quality differentiation between stressed and unstressed vowels. In Latin, word-level stress depended on syllable structure and position. In verbs, stress fell on the lexical root in the singular and third person plural of the present but to the syllable following the root in the rest of the paradigm. The effects of phonological change sensitive to stress affected vowel quality (Maiden 2009). This produced two alternations: /e/ into /je/ and /o/ into

/we/. Following the historical loss of the vowel length distinction, Castilian diphthongized the Latin sounds [ɛ] to /je/, and [ɔ] to /we/ in stressed syllable positions (Lloyd 1987). These two alternations give rise to the N-pattern, taken as evidence of distinct morphemes (Aronoff 1994; Maiden 2009, 2018). An example of an /o/ to /we/ alternation is shown below in Table (2) with the Castilian verb *volar*.

(2) N-pattern Castilian *volar* ‘to fly’

N-Pattern <i>volar</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	vuelo	vuelas	vuela	volamos	voláis	vuelan
Present subjunctive	vuele	vueles	vuela	volemos	voléis	vuelan

These changes left an extensive pattern of root allomorphy, initiated by phonological reasons but with extension into verbs with patterns that are not etymologically justified and innovatory types of allomorphy unconnected with the original phonological process. As an example, almost all Romance varieties took forms from *ĪRE*, *UADERE*, *AMBULARE*, and even *AMBITARE* for their own verb ‘to go’.

Therefore, the L- and N- patterns are purely morphomic: motivated and developed due to phonological reasons, but continuing solely due to morphology (Maiden 2016). These patterns tend to exhibit similar allomorphs through their domain and differentiate from the forms in the rest of the verbal paradigm becoming a type of boundary (Maiden and O’Neill 2010).

2.3. PYTA

The term PYTA stands for *pretérito y tiempos afines* (the preterite tense and related times). This refers to the tenses that are continuants of the Latin perfectives (O’Neill 2011; Maiden 2010). According to Maiden (2010), this persistence is purely morphological, and of the original perfective forms the only one that maintains a clear perfective aspectual meaning is the preterite. It is also the only remnant of the perfective which has an exclusively ‘past’ temporal value. The old perfect subjunctive, and future perfect, formally identical in Latin outside the first person singular, emerge in Ibero-Romance.

2.4. The Latin fourth-conjugation

Many of the fourth-conjugation verbs in Ibero-Romance contain a high vowel before the theme vowel, e.g. *subir* (to rise, to climb). However, there are verbs where a high vowel appears somewhere in the paradigm, particularly the preterite, but these verbs are not

fourth-conjugation. For example, the Castilian verb *hacer* (to do, to make), contains a PYTA root with a high vowel, but it is a third-conjugation class member. And the verb *hacer* is classified as an L-pattern verb (illustrated in Table 4). The L-pattern cells for this particular verb do not contain a high vowel. Maiden (2018) argues that the defining characteristic for membership to the fourth-conjugation is actually the presence of a high vowel in L-pattern distribution cells. Therefore, Castilian *subir* is a member of the fourth-conjugation as it retains the high vowel in its infinitive form and throughout the verbal paradigm. A verb like Castilian *dormir* (to sleep) is also a member of the fourth-conjugation, because although its infinitive does not retain a high vowel, the L-pattern cells in the paradigm do (see Table 4 for illustration). The fourth-conjugation verbs that retain the mid vowel in the infinitive are the verbs of focus as they contain the paradigm of the H-pattern we propose, for example Castilian *dormir*.

2.5 The H-Pattern

The proposed H-pattern is derived from the N-pattern, and provides further evidence for morphomic patterns in Romance language. These verbs are identified in Castilian as *-ir* stem changing verbs, and members of the Latin fourth-conjugation class. The origin of these particular verbs of Ibero-Romance has long been questioned. Like the N-pattern, the H-pattern distribution arose in part to the differentiation between stressed and unstressed vowel quality. However, Maiden (2018) categorizes these verbs as N+L-pattern verbs because of the root-final yod in the early stages of the development of Romance of these fourth-conjugation verbs. Maiden claims that the presence of yod in these verbs would have provoked metaphony from unstressed [e] to [i] and unstressed [o] to [u], similar to the metaphonic alternation mechanism of the N-pattern. The metaphony did not affect words with stressed [ɛ] and [ɔ] like it did with verbs containing unstressed [e] and [o] which caused this Ibero-Romance-specific distribution for fourth-conjugation verbs.

Although Maiden (2018) argues that the appearance of high vowel alternation in the L-pattern cells is a result of the yod effect and palatalization historically, there is no synchronic velarization or palatalization present in these paradigms, which is how the N- and L-patterns are currently identified. Therefore, we argue that the H-pattern is a better classification for these verbs than N+L-. Throughout the remainder of the paper, we will describe other verbs that are better classified as N+L-pattern. Unlike the N-pattern, the proposed H-pattern includes the preterite as it is essential to show the role of metaphony in these verbal paradigms that does not appear in regular N-pattern verbs. Including the preterite in the N-pattern paradigms does not change the distribution, as there is no metaphony in the preterite of N-pattern verbs. The preterite is, however, an essential part of the paradigm of the H-pattern. It is demonstrated below by the Castilian verb *repetir* (to repeat) in Table 3. The processes detailed above not only affect the preterite tense, but also other PYTA forms, such as the gerund, or present participle, and most forms of the

imperative (Maiden 2018). The H-pattern is also named arbitrarily as it appears to form the letter “H” with part of the paradigm.

(3) H-pattern Castilian *repetir* ‘to repeat’

H-Pattern <i>repetir</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	repito	repites	repite	repetimos	repetís	repiten
Present subjunctive	repita	repitas	repita	repitamos	repitáis	repitan
Preterite	repetí	repetiste	repetió	repetimos	repetís	repetieron

3. Patterns of verb stem allomorphy in the central Ibero-Romance languages

Both Castilian and Asturian demonstrate multiple occurrences of all of the morphomic patterns detailed in Section 2 above.

3.1. Castilian

When Castilian began to develop from Romance, it was merely a dialect of Ibero-Romance among many other dialects. The ‘reconquest’ plight to remove the Muslim and Jewish populations from the peninsula carried the dialect along with them, and thus Castilian came to overpower the popularity of the other dialects and eventually became the principle, and at times the sole, language in Spain (Tuten et al. 2016).

Castilian has preserved a large portion of the Latin verbal system. It inherited almost all of the morphemes for person, number, aspect, tense, and mood. In some respects, such as the creation of the preterite, perfect conditional and subjunctive future, the Castilian system has been more complex than the Latin verbal system (Penny 2010). Each of the patterns of interest can be found in Castilian, and each can be found more than once. As previously described, the L-pattern occurs throughout Romance due to the yod effect and palatalization and affrication of velar consonants preceding yod. *Hacer* exhibits the L-pattern, which is illustrated below in Table (4).

(4) L-pattern Castilian *hacer* ‘to make’

L-Pattern <i>hacer</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	hago	haces	hace	hacemos	hacéis	hacen
Present subjunctive	haga	hagas	haga	hagamos	hagáis	hagan

Other verbs showing an L-pattern distribution in Castilian are *salir* (to leave), *conducir* (to drive), and *poner* (to put, to place). The roots of the verbs *salir* and *poner* both contain the voiced velar /g/ whereas *conducir* contains the devoiced velar /k/ (Sp. *conduzco* ‘drive.1SG.PRS.IND’).

While Maiden refers to our H-pattern as the N+L-pattern, that term would better describe verbs such as *tener* (to have) in Castilian (Table 5). The paradigm of *tener*, and verbs like it, contain a velar or palatal consonant in the verbal roots of the L-pattern cells. These cells are shown in dark gray. The remainder of the present indicative contains an N-pattern distribution and either /e/ to /je/ or /e/ to /i/ vowel changes. These cells are shown in lighter gray.

(5) N+L-pattern Castilian *tener* ‘to have’

N+L-Pattern <i>tener</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	tengo	tienes	tiene	tenemos	tenéis	tienen
Present subjunctive	tenga	tengas	tenga	tengamos	tengáis	tengan

Other N+L-pattern verbs in Castilian like *tener* are *decir* (to say) and *venir* (to come). The verb *venir* is very similar to *tener*, with the velar in the L-pattern cells and the diphthong /je/ in the N-pattern cells of the present indicative. *Decir* is similar in regards to the presence of the velar, but instead of the diphthong /je/, the remaining N-pattern cells of the present indicative contain /i/. The vowel /i/ also appears alongside the velar in the L-pattern cells, differently from *tener* and *venir*. These three verbs are members of the fourth-conjugation, according to Maiden, because they retain a high vowel in their PYTA roots. They are not, however, H-pattern verbs, so being a member of the fourth-conjugation class does not automatically ensure that a verb is identified as an H-pattern verb.

The N-pattern in Castilian is by far the largest group of the three. Many of the verbs come from Latin first-conjugation, but there are verbs from second- and third- as well. In modern Castilian, these verbs are *contar* (to count), *mover* (to move), and *perder* (to lose), respectively. There are no Latin fourth conjugation N-pattern verbs, as those are categorized in this paper as adhering to the H-pattern, as noted previously in Section 2.5. The conjugation class does not seem to affect which diphthong manifests in the N-pattern cells. *Contar*, in Table 6, is a Latin first-conjugation verb, while *mover* is a Latin second-conjugation verb, but both alternate /o/ to /we/. *Perder*, illustrated in Table 7, alternates /e/ to /je/ and is a third-conjugation descendant.

(6) N-pattern Castilian *contar* ‘to count’

N-Pattern <i>contar</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	cuento	cuentas	cuenta	contamos	contáis	cuentan
Present subjunctive	cuente	cuentes	cuente	contemos	contéis	cuenten

(7) N-pattern Castilian *perder* ‘to lose’

N-Pattern <i>perder</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	pierdo	pierdes	pierde	perdemos	perdecís	pierden
Present subjunctive	pierda	pierdas	pierda	perdamos	perdáis	pierdan

A few examples of other N-pattern verbs in Castilian are *jugar* (to play), *entender* (to understand), and *pensar* (to think). The verb *jugar* is slightly different from the rest as it alternates /u/ to /we/ in the N-pattern cells.

In modern Castilian, only two verbs, namely *dormir* (to sleep) and *morir* (to die), do not contain the high vowel [u] throughout the entirety of their respective paradigms, but rather demonstrate the H-pattern. The H-pattern distribution for *dormir* can be found in Table (8) below. Most verbs that come from Latin or Romance with a historical [o], e.g. *sobir*, instead retain [u] in modern Castilian, e.g. *subir* (to rise, to climb). Rini (1999) postulates this [o] to [u] change from Old Spanish to the modern language is due to leveling induced by the presence of [u] in the third-person form. Contrarily, there are many verbs that retain [e] in their stems in modern Castilian, but complete an H-pattern metaphonic alternation, such as *repetir* (to repeat) in from Table (3) above. Other verbs, such as *recibir* (to receive), show the high vowel [i] throughout the paradigm, but descend from older *recebir*, in which case the metaphonic alternation would have been present historically (Maiden 2018).

(8) H-pattern Castilian *dormir* ‘to sleep’

H-Pattern <i>dormir</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	duermo	duermes	duerme	dormimos	dormís	duermen
Present subjunctive	duerma	duermas	duerma	durmamos	durmáis	duerman
Preterite	dormí	dormiste	durmió	dormimos	dormistéis	durmieron

Other verbs in Castilian that follow the H-pattern distribution are *morir* (to die), *pedir* (to order), and *sentir* (to feel). *Morir* would be similar to the *dormir* paradigm in Table (8) and *pedir* would look similar to *repetir* in Table (3). *Sentir* contains two different stem changes, similar to *dormir* and *morir*, but instead alternates from /e/ to /je/ in all but first- and second-persons plural in the present subjunctive and third-persons in the preterite, which alternate from /e/ to /i/ in both situations.

3.2. Asturian

As stated above, Asturian is not an official language on the Iberian Peninsula. It is characterized as a minority language, subordinate to the prestigious Castilian and usually thought of as the language of the rural and uneducated (González-Quevedo 2001). After the ‘reconquest’ of the peninsula, Castilian became the official language, but Asturian remained the vernacular used by the people. Starting in the 20th century, the elites ceased their usage of the Asturian language, and turned completely to Castilian. Simultaneously, the Franco regime suppressed language use that was not Castilian. Therefore, standardization with the Academia de la Llingua Asturiana began in 1980 (González-Quevedo 2001). Because of this, Asturian has quite a bit of variety. Many of the verb selections, and the presence of a high versus mid vowel, is dialectical in Asturian.

Similar to Castilian, Asturian also contains multiple manifestations of each of the three patterns of the study. Asturian is actually quite similar to Castilian with respect to the verbal paradigms, as one can easily see based on the paradigms provided throughout this section, which in many examples are almost identical to their complementary paradigms in Castilian. In Table (9) below, the verb *facer* (to do, to make) is complementary to Castilian *hacer*, but retains the Latin [f] rather than the devoiced [h] in Castilian. *Facer* contains an L-pattern distribution due to the same mechanism found in Castilian, but it also contains diphthongs, unlike in Castilian *hacer*.

(9) L-pattern Asturian *facer* ‘to make’

L-Pattern <i>facer</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	faigo	faes	fai	facemos	facéis	facen
Present subjunctive	faiga	faigas	faiga	faigamos	faigáis	faigan

Other L-pattern verbs in Asturian are *dicir* (to say), which is not an N+L-pattern like in Castilian (though it is also a remnant of the Latin fourth conjugation); *poner* (to put, to place), and both variations of the verb ‘to bring’: *traer* and *trayer* (Ast. *traigo*, *trayo* ‘bring.1SG.PRS.IND’). The former contains the velar [g] in the L-pattern cells, the latter contains the palatal [j] in the L-pattern cells. The infinitive selection in this case is dialectal.

Similar to Castilian, *tener* (to have) in Asturian shows an N+L-pattern in its paradigm, with the velar [g] appearing in all of the L-pattern cells and the diphthong /je/ appearing in the remaining N-pattern cells of the present indicative.

(10) N+L-pattern Asturian *tener* ‘to have’

N+L-Pattern <i>tener</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	tengo	tienes	tien	tenemos	tenéis	tienen
Present subjunctive	tenga	tengas	tenga	tengamos	tengáis	tengan

A similar verb that demonstrates an N+L-pattern like *tener* in Asturian is *venir* (to come). Both of these verbs resemble the paradigms of their Castilian counterparts in regards to the presence of the velar /g/. The most notable difference is the loss of the final /e/ in the third-person singular form of the present indicative in both of these verbs (Conde 1999).

The N-pattern in Asturian is a rather large selection of verbs, just as in Castilian. The paradigms for the verbs *contar* (to count) (Table 11) and *perder* (to lose) (Table 12) are the same as those of Castilian. In fact, this is a frequent occurrence. For every N-pattern verb listed in the Castilian section (3.1), the Asturian paradigm also demonstrates an N-pattern. In some varieties of Asturian, *contar* is actually *cuntar*, retaining the high vowel, not the diphthong, for the entire verbal paradigm (Academia de la Llingua Asturiana 2001).

(11) N-pattern Asturian *contar* ‘to count’

N-Pattern <i>contar</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	cuento	cuentes	cuenta	contamos	contáis	cuenten
Present subjunctive	cuente	cuentes	cuente	contemos	contéis	cuenten

(12) N-pattern Asturian *perder* ‘to lose’

N-Pattern <i>perder</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	pierdo	pierdes	pierde	perdemos	perdís	pierden
Present subjunctive	pierda	pierdas	pierda	perdamos	perdáis	pierdan

Other N-pattern verbs in Asturian, in addition to the verbs mentioned for Castilian, are *poder* (to be able to), *querer* (to want), and *xugar* (to play). Although, in some dialects the diphthong /we/ is retained in the infinitive *xuegar*. Again, the infinitive selection in this situation is purely dialectal. The Castilian counterparts of *poder*, *querer*, and *xugar* are all N-pattern verbs as well.

In Asturian, the H-pattern is observed rarely, since most verbs where this alternation is present in Castilian retain the high vowel in Asturian, for example Castilian *pedir* (to order) is Asturian *pidir* (Academia de la Llingua Asturiana 2001). *Pedir* in Castilian demonstrates an H-pattern, similar to Castilian *repetir* shown in Table 3, but Asturian *pidir* does not, since the infinitive retains the high vowel. However, the H-pattern can be found in a few verbs in Asturian, such as *repetir* (to repeat) (Table 13).

(13) H-pattern Asturian *repetir* ‘to repeat’

H-Pattern <i>repetir</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	repito	repites	repite	repetimos	repetís	repiten
Present subjunctive	repita	repitas	repita	repetamos	repetáis	repitan
Preterite	repetí	repetisti	repetió	repetimos	repetitis	repetiron

A few other verbs where the H-pattern can be found in Asturian are *correxir* (to correct), *sentir* (to feel), and *convertir* (to convert). These verbs alternate /e/ to /je/ and /e/ to /i/. These verbs all share the H-pattern paradigm in Castilian as well with their respective verbs.

The only verb in Asturian that displays an H-pattern alternation with [o] present in the infinitive is *dormir* (to sleep) (Academia de la Llingua Asturiana 2001). The distribution is illustrated in Table 14. In some varieties of Asturian, the verb *dormir* is instead *durmir*, retaining the high vowel throughout the paradigm, but this is not true for the majority of dialects. The other verb that exhibits the H-pattern distribution in Castilian with [o] in the infinitive, *morir* (to die), is not a member of the same conjugation class in Asturian. It does retain the mid vowel in the infinitive *morrer*, although it does not show any vowel alternation in its paradigm.

(14) *H-pattern Asturian dormir ‘to sleep’*

H-Pattern <i>dormir</i>	1SG	2SG	3SG	1PL	2PL	3PL
Present indicative	duermo	duermes	duerme	dormimos	dormís	duermen
Present subjunctive	duerma	duermas	duerma	durmamos	durmáis	duerman
Preterite	dormí	dormisti	durmió	dormimos	dormitis	durmiron

4. Conclusion

This research paper has examined the diachrony and synchrony of verb stem allomorphy in two Central Ibero-Romance languages. The diachrony of verb stem allomorphy was examined, beginning with the mother source of Modern Romance: Latin. The vital issues of historical transitions in Latin stress patterns, vowel inventories, and relevant verb morphophonology have been examined and accounted for in the various changes through to what we know and call “Modern Romance” present day. Given that it is important to consider the effects of Proto-Romance on the outcomes of verb stem allomorphy, the information and debate about the extent of Latin’s consequences on Modern Romance, such as diphthongization, metaphony, and conjugation class dissimilarities, served as a genesis to analyze the primary issue of verb stem allomorphy.

The morphomic patterns of Martin Maiden are the primary focus of the comparison of the various verb root allomorphy. In Castilian, both the N- and L- patterns have multiple manifestations. These morphomic patterns are best observed in Castilian due to their abundance. The verbs provided in this paper are by no means a comprehensive list for any of the morphomic patterns discussed here. The H-pattern appears to be purely morphomic in Castilian as well. It occurs systematically in typologically similar verbs.

While developed from phonological mechanisms in diachrony, the H-pattern should stand alone in synchrony, as its persistence is purely morphological. The H-pattern should be considered as another morphomic pattern, different from the N+L-pattern, which is much better suited to describe verbs that synchronically retain both a velar and a diphthong or raised vowel in their paradigms.

The H-pattern is also exhibited in Asturian, which is similar in its verbal morphology to Castilian. Many of the verbs in Castilian demonstrate similar, if not identical, verbal paradigms in Asturian. Although, Asturian tends to retain high vowels throughout their paradigms, particularly in regards to H-pattern and N-pattern verbs (recall the example of Asturian *pidir* instead of Castilian *pedir* in Section 3.2). Asturian also contains the most variability in the Ibero-Romance group, and this manifests itself many times in the vowel appearance in the infinitive (recall the presence of both Asturian *dormir* and *durmir* in Section 3.2, again). Despite the dialectal variation of Asturian, its verbal morphology is still very similar to Castilian.

The evidence of morphemes, provided by the paradigms presented in this paper, is sufficient to claim that they are psychologically real for the speakers of this language. The systematic presence of each of these patterns tends to be consistent across Ibero-Romance. The Castilian verb *tener*, manifests as an N+L-pattern in both Castilian and Asturian. This verb, therefore, is united across central Ibero-Romance by some sort of connection back to the L-pattern. This is not always the case, especially in regards to dialectal variation in Asturian. Notwithstanding, it can be said with confidence that morphomic patterns are psychologically real, especially among the Ibero-Romance varieties observed in this paper.

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