GRAPHETIC ALLOGRAPHY (→ FORM) hinges on material (here: visual) similarity (making it similar to allomorphy). Non-distinctive graphs must be visually similar to be considered graphetic allographs of the same basic shape.

PARADIGMATIC ALLOGRAPHY concerns allographs that occur across inventories, i.e., in different handwriting or different fonts. They potentially occupy the same slot but do not occur together in a minimal context. They are stylistic variants.

LINGUISTIC LEVEL (GRAPHEMATICS) ↓

PARADIGMATIC GRAPHEMATIC ALLOGRAPHY pertains to those basic shapes that occupy the same slot and thus do not occur together in any (minimal) context. Examples from Roman script are the basic shapes |a| and |e| as well as |g| and |ğ| (at a specific moment in time) or a given font such as 10 pt italic Times New Roman. For example, when a person writes the word <kitten> by hand, two graphs of the basic shape [t] are produced, and the same applies when the word is printed, as in <kitten>. In both cases, two instances of [t] occur. These two instances, as unique physical /k/, /t/, are concrete graphs and are syntagmatic variants of the same basic shape. They can be considered free allographs given that they can be replaced by each other, meaning the two instances of [t] in <kitten> might be switched. Note, however, that there might be effects of so-called coarticulation, especially in handwriting, as the forms of the preceding and following graphs and the graphomotoric movements of the hands and writing tools involved in producing them might affect the shape of the two instances of [t], making them dependent on their specific position and, thus, visually variable and non-exchangeable.

SYNTAGMATIC GRAPHEMATIC ALLOGRAPHY concerns basic shapes that occur together in a given context but are complementarily distributed, i.e., never occur in the same slot. This type of alligraphy is reminiscent of complementarily distributed allomorphy as exhibited by the allophones [k] as in ich /k/’t/ and [x] as in Nacht /n/’t/ for the German phoneme /x/. In both cases, two instances of |t| occur. These two instances, as in handwriting or the same font. They do not occur together in a minimal context such as the word <kitten> (as it is uncommon to change the inventory in the middle of a minimal context such as a single word, e.g., “<kitten>”). However, since they instantiate the same basic shape, they can occur in the same slot in a given written/printed word. Thus, all possible graphs that can materialise a given basic shape are considered paradigmatic graphetic allographs.

SYNTAGMATIC GRAPHEMATIC ALLOGRAPHY concerns allographs that occur in the same sets, i.e., in the same person’s handwriting or the same font. They do not occupy the same slot, they are position-dependent. They are system-inherent variants.

REFERENCES


SYNTAGMATIC ALLOGRAPHY

PARADIGMATIC ALLOGRAPHY

GRAPHEMATIC ALLOGRAPHY

S Y N T A G M A T I C   G R A P H E M A T I C   A L L O G R A P H Y captures allographs that co-occur in sequence in the context of the same inventory, be it a given person’s handwriting (at a specific moment in time) or a given font such as 10 pt italic Times New Roman. For example, when a person writes the word <kitten> by hand, two graphs of the basic shape [t] are produced, and the same applies when the word is printed, as in <kitten>. In both cases, two instances of [t] occur. These two instances, as unique physical /k/, /t/, are concrete graphs and are syntagmatic variants of the same basic shape.

FIGURE 1: Different typographic paradigmatic graphetic alllographs of the basic shape [t].