

# One of Those Things Is Not Like the Others: Non-Uniformity of Theme Vowel Classes in Slovenian

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Building on the understanding of theme vowels, according to which they instantiate conjugation classes without affecting the syntactic or semantic properties of verbs (see Oltra-Massuet 2020 for an overview), we re-examine theme vowel classes in Slovenian. We argue that they do not form a uniform set and that some conjugation class markers should instead be analyzed as derivational affixes.

Focusing on verbs in the *e/i*-class—whose counterparts constitute exceptional classes in several Slavic languages—we present evidence from argument structure, prosody, and ‘theme vowel’ preservation in adjectival *l*-participles and secondary imperfectives, previously reported on in Mišmaš & Simonović (2022, 2023) and Simonović & Mišmaš (2022, 2023), and argue that this element is not a theme vowel but rather a derivational affix.