

GRAMMATICALIZATION OF UNEXPECTEDNESS AS A TYPOLOGICAL ISSUE: WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE LANGUAGES OF JAPAN

Full Presentation

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This study is aimed to analyze two aspects of the grammaticalization of nominalizers: one relates to the morphosyntactic aspect whereby nominalizers are grammaticalized into stance markers in the languages of Japan; the other centers on the semantic-pragmatic aspect of the grammaticalization wherein the stance-marking function of nominalizers tends to embrace the notion of unexpectedness. While this study conducts extensive diachronic research on Okinawan, Japanese and Ainu in relevancy ranked order, other languages such as Burmese, Chantyal, Lepcha or whatever are referred to as examples characteristic of this grammaticalization. Yap and Matthews (2008) investigate the grammaticalization pathway of nominalizers in East and Southeast Asian languages and show some prototypical directions of change common among them. This study focuses research on the grammaticalization of unexpectedness, whilst giving support for the observational adequacy provided in Yap and Matthews (2008).

The following survey results about the Okinawan nominalizer *si* and the Japanese nominalizer *no* are drawn from this study. Both Okinawan and Japanese languages developed their stance functions of *no* and *si* from their earlier nominal(-izing) functions; this grammaticalization pathway is attested in other languages in my database. The following morphosyntactic structures are found to be common among them.

- (1) a. [clause ... V-final] + nominalizer + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{verb} \\ \text{copula} \\ \emptyset \end{array} \right\}$
- b. [clause ... V-final] + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{evidential} \\ \emptyset \end{array} \right\}$

The morphosyntactic structure in (1a) is found in Ainu, Burmese, Korean, Japanese, Lahu, Okinawan and Turkish; the morphosyntactic structure in (1b) is shared by some Tibeto-Burman languages (Kulung, Lepcha, Qiang and Sunwar), Hare (Athapaskan), Jarawara, Yukaghir, Abkhaz, Albanian, Kalasha and Chinese Pidgin Russian. According to Aikhenvald (2004: Ch.6), nominalizer is one of the grammatical sources from which evidentials are derived in a variety of languages; the evidential markers attached onto clause-final verbs in (1b) might have derived from erstwhile nominalizers. Consequently, the clause structures in (1) can be considered to exhibit one common parallel morphosyntactic alignment from which stance marking functions emerge. Of course, we cannot miss several dialects of Chinese which followed the same grammaticalization pathway as in Yap and Matthews (2008) despite their non verb-final clause structures. However, such morphosyntactic structures as in Chinese dialects, i.e. putting a correlative word at the clause-final position, serve as a similar strategy to those in (1). In fact, this interpretation turns out to be feasible, because stance markers show a tendency to indicate something unexpected, positively or negatively, in my database. Based on these survey results, I will argue that the grammaticalization of unexpectedness is structure-based and attested in a wide range of languages beyond the realms of genetic affiliations. Furthermore, these observable changes underline the need for a fuller investigation into the structure-basis of grammaticalization as a typological issue.

Aikhenvald, A. Y. 2004. *Evidentiality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Yap, F. H. and S. Matthews. 2008. The development of nominalizers in East Asian and Tibeto-Burman languages. In M. J. López-Couso and Elena Seona (eds.), *Rethinking Grammaticalization: New Perspectives*, 309-341. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

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