

How Grammaticalization Processes Create Grammar

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this book offers fresh perspectives on shared grammaticalization a state whereby two or more languages have the source and the target of a grammaticalization process in common while contact induced grammaticalization has generated great interest in recent years far less attention has been paid to other factors that may give rise to shared grammaticalization this book intends to put this situation right by approaching shared grammaticalization from an integrated perspective including areal as well as genealogical and universal motivations and by searching for ways to distinguish between these factors the volume offers a wealth of empirical facts presented by internationally renowned specialists on the transeurasian languages i e japonic koreanic tungusic mongolic and turkic the languages in focus as well as on various other languages shared grammaticalization will appeal to scholars and advanced students concerned with linguistic reconstruction language contact and linguistic typology and to anyone interested in grammaticalization theory

on the basis of analyzed examples from many languages basic concepts of grammaticalization theory are explained grammaticalization is delimited against other types of variation and change

degrees of grammaticalization are assessed by well defined criteria and parameters many well documented cases from different functional domains are analyzed in depth issues of directionality are settled on a theoretical basis the cognitive bases of grammaticalization are identified

this volume explores the way in which grammaticalization processes whereby lexical words eventually become markers of grammatical categories converge and differ across various types of language while grammaticalization at its core is a unidirectional phenomenon in which the same pathways of change are replicated across languages certain language types and language areas have distinct preferences with respect to what they grammaticalize and how previous work has principally addressed this question with specific reference to languages of southeast and east asia that do not seem to grammaticalize paradigms of categories in the same manner as indo european languages or form extensive grammaticalization chains this volume takes a broader approach and proceeds systematically area by area specialists in the field address the processes of grammaticalization in languages of africa europe asia and the pacific and the americas and in creole languages the studies reveal a number of unique pathways of grammaticalization in each language area as well as identifying the universal shared features of the phenomenon

after reviewing from a grammaticalization perspective the main stages in the evolution of italian object clitic pronouns the book discusses the distinctive morphosyntactic semantic and pragmatic features of italian clitics in particular the book offers an original study of the most common examples of so called *verbi procomplementari* verbs which are characterized by the incorporation of clitics that no longer function as pronouns and which are widely used in present day italian their emergence involves both grammaticalization of the clitic pronoun into an obligatory element and lexicalization of the verb clitic sequence this study is essentially descriptive and maximally data driven the discussion of grammaticalization and lexicalization is reduced to the essentials and aims primarily at defining how these terms which have received different and at times divergent interpretations are employed in the book the book is accessible to a wide and varied readership which includes italian and romance linguists of functional and formal orientation italian language scholars grammaticalization scholars interested in new case studies as well as students of language change and variation

this book reconstructs what the earliest grammars might have been and shows how they could have led to the languages of modern humankind like other biological phenomena language cannot be fully understood without reference to its evolution whether proven or hypothesized wrote talmy givón in 2002 as the languages spoken 8 000 years ago were typologically much the same as they are today and as no direct evidence exists for languages before then evolutionary linguists are at a disadvantage compared to their counterparts in biology bernd heine and tania kuteva seek to overcome this obstacle by combining grammaticalization theory one of the main methods of historical linguistics with work in animal communication and human evolution the questions they address include do the modern languages derive from one ancestral language or from more than one what was the structure of language like when it first evolved and how did the properties associated with modern human languages arise in particular syntax and the recursive use of language structures the authors proceed on the assumption that if language evolution is the result of language change then the reconstruction of the former can be explored by deploying the processes involved in the latter their measured arguments and crystal clear exposition will

appeal to all those interested in the evolution of language from advanced undergraduates to linguists cognitive scientists human biologists and archaeologists

the studies in language change in contact languages showcase the contributions that the study of contact language varieties make to the understanding of phenomena such as relexification transfer reanalysis grammaticalization prosodic variation and the development of prosodic systems four of the studies deal with morphosyntactic issues while the other three address questions of prosody the studies include data from the atlantic creoles saramaccan sranan haitian creole jamaican creole trinidadian creole papiamentu as well as singapore english this volume originally pulished as special issue of studies in language 33 2 2009 aims to make the work of several language contact experts available to a wider audience the studies will be of use to any student or scholar interested in different approaches to contact induced language processes particularly as they relate to morphosyntax and prosody

although portuguese is one of the main world languages and researchers have been working on portuguese electronic text collections for decades e g kelly 1970 biderman 1978 bacelar do nascimento et al 1984 see berber sardinha 2005 this is the first volume in english that encapsulates the exciting and cutting edge corpus linguistic work being done with portuguese language corpora on different continents the book includes chapters by leading corpus linguists dealing with portuguese corpora across the world and their contributions explore various methods and how they are applicable to a wide range of language issues the book is divided into six sections each covering a key issue in corpus linguistics lexis and grammar lexicography language teaching and terminology translation corpus building and sharing and parsing and annotation together these sections present the reader with a broad picture of the field

this groundbreaking study examines the historical development of the semitic languages from the point of view of grammaticalization the linguistic process whereby lexical items and constructions lose their lexical meaning and serve grammatical functions the author first provides an introduction to this process followed by a comprehensive overview with abundant examples from ancient and modern languages of how it is exemplified in semitic three successive chapters are devoted to in depth studies of specific cases of grammaticalization the definite article in central semitic direct object markers across semitic and present tense prefixes in modern arabic and aramaic dialects drawing on evidence from many non semitic languages from recent developments in the field of historical linguistics and from traditional comparative semitics this book represents a major contribution to the field of comparative semitics

grammaticalization theory has played a major role in the developments in language typology and functional linguistics during the last three decades the contributions in this book discuss the major theoretical issues of grammaticalization theory il

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Introduction

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