

LIN 617 – Extra handout on grammaticalization – Elly van Gelderen

Hopper & Traugott (2003) is THE reference work; Heine & Kuteva (2002) a wonderful resource; and Narrog & Heine (2010) is a Handbook on Grammaticalization.

The changes involved in grammaticalization can be schematized as in (1), which represents the morphosyntactic changes.

(1) phrase > word/head > clitic > affix > 0

	V>AUX	P>AUX	P>C
go	motion > future	to direction>mood	for location>time>cause
have	possession>perfect	on location>aspect	after locatlon>tme

Table 1: Instances of Grammaticalization (van Gelderen 2004)

(2) a. I told Cowslip we were **going** before I left the burrow. (BNC-EWC 3181)

b. Anne can HAVE her Mini....Cause I's **gonna** get me a BMW

(http://www.inkycircus.com/jargon/2006/09/anne_can_have_h.html)

(3) a. I **have** a garden.

b. I've seen the garden.

(4) a. The highway **to** Phoenix

b. I didn't expect **to** find you here. (BNC FPM 899)

(5) a. Above them **on** the balcony terrace, Alina Petrovna stood ...
(BNC-FYY 1799)

b. *and iuunden þene king. þær he wes an slæting*
and found the king there he was on hunting

'and they found the king where he was hunting' (Layamon, Caligula 6139)

(6) a. *hlynode for hlawe*
made-noise before mound

'It made noise before/around the gravehill' (Beowulf 1120).

b. I would prefer **for** John to stay in the 250 class. (BNC-ED2 626)

(7) a. *Ercenberht rixode æfter his fæder*

'E. ruled after/following his father' (Chron A, entry for the year 640)

b. **After** she'd hung up, she went through into the kitchen. (BNC GWO1402)

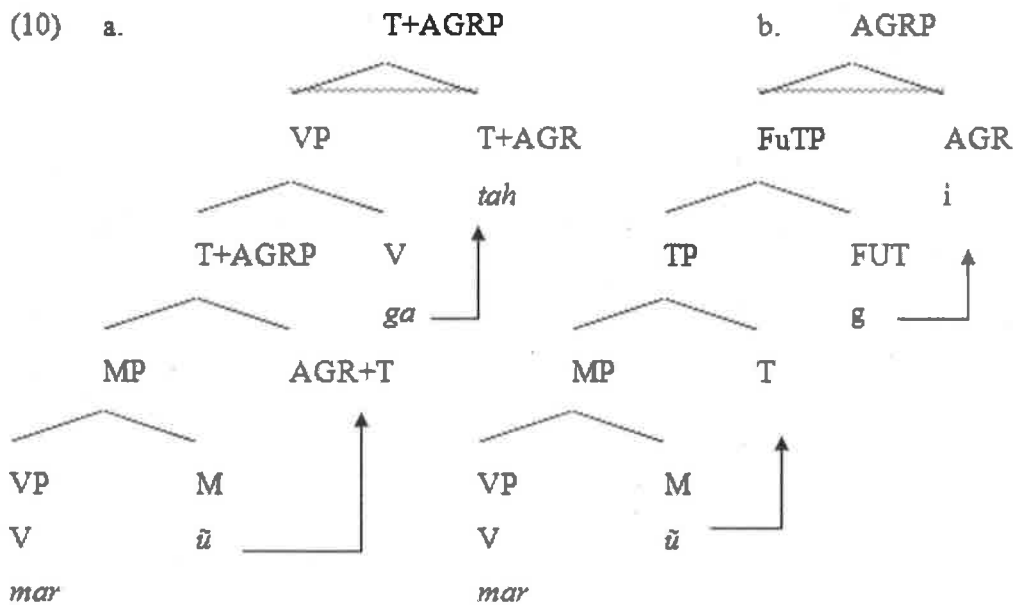
French 'go'

(8) *Je vais le faire* Colloquial French
 I go it make
 'I am going to do it.'

Urdu/Hindi 'go'

(9) a. [*mar + ũ*] [*ga + tah*]
 hit 1S go MS,
 'I will hit.'

b. [*mar + ps/#*] + [*ga + gender/#*]
 c. [*mar + ps/# + fut + gender/#*]



A very coarse measure that shows grammaticalization has taken place can be seen from this partial table.

	the	a	of	to	for	is	was
Beowulf	0	0	.2%	1 %	.2%	.2%	1.4%
Peterborough	..	.6 (an)	.9%	..	.8%	.3%	..
Chaucer, CT	2.6%	1.4%	2.5%	1.8%	1.4%	1.1%	.8%
Paston Letters	2.8%	.9%	2.7%	3.2%	1.3%	.6%	.4%
Swift, G's Travels 1726	5.6%	2.4%	3.6%	3.3%	.8%	.4%	1.2%
Mark Twain-Tom Sawyer	5.1%	2.5%	2%	2.3%	.7%	.3%	1.6%

Table 2: Selected function words

What about: fortunately, frankly, still, again, just, well?