LIN 617 – Extra handout on grammaticalization – Elly van Gelderen


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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V&gt;AUX</th>
<th>P&gt;AUX</th>
<th>P&gt;C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>go</td>
<td>motion &gt; future</td>
<td>to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have</td>
<td>possession &gt; perfect</td>
<td>on</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 iuuden ðene þing. 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. hlynod 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 faeder
   '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) \( \text{Je vais le faire} \)  
    I go it make  
    'I am going to do it.'  

Urdu/Hindi 'go'
(9) a. \([\text{mar} + \ddot{u}]\) \([\text{ga} + \text{tah}]\)  
    hit 1S go MS,  
    'I will hit.'  
b. \([\text{mar} + \text{ps/#}] + [\text{ga} + \text{gender/#}]\)  
c. \([\text{mar} + \text{ps/#} + \text{fut} + \text{gender/#}]\)  

(10) a.  
\( \text{T+AGRP} \)  
\( \text{VP} \)  
\( \text{T+AGR} \)  
\( \text{FuTP} \)  
\( \text{AGR} \)  
\( \text{tah} \)  
\( \text{ga} \)  
\( \text{TP} \)  
\( \text{FUT} \)  
\( \text{g} \)  

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>the</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>of</th>
<th>to</th>
<th>for</th>
<th>is</th>
<th>was</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1%</td>
<td>.2%</td>
<td>.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peterborough</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>.6 (an)</td>
<td>.9%</td>
<td>...</td>
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<td>.7%</td>
<td>.3%</td>
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Table 2: Selected function words

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