Generative Grammar and Historical Linguistics: What cycles tell us
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The powerpoint is available at: http://www.public.asu.edu/~gelderen/GG-Oslo.ppt.

Outline
- Generative (Historical) Linguistics
- The healthy tension between generative grammar and historical linguistics, in both directions
- The Minimalist Program and how it is conducive to looking at gradual, unidirectional change
- Examples of Linguistic Cycles
- Explanations and some challenges

Ambiguity is crucial

**PICKLES**

![Cartoon Image]

Four cycles that will be discussed
Negative Cycles
- negative argument > negative adverb > negative particle > zero
- negative verb > auxiliary > negative > zero
Subject Agreement Cycle
- demonstrative/emphatic > pronoun > agreement > zero
Copula Cycles
- demonstrative/verb/adposition > copula > zero
Nominal Cycles
- demonstrative > article/copula/tense marker
- noun > gender/number marker

**Negative cycle**
(1) Minimize the semantic and interpretable features in the derivation, e.g:
- DP in the VP Specifier of NegP Head Neg negative affix
- semantic negation > [i-neg] > [u-neg]
Subject Agreement Cycle
(3) Adjunct/Argument Specifier > Head affix
emphatic/noun full pronoun head pronoun agreement
[semantic] [i-phi] [u-1/2] [i-3] [u-phi] [u-#]

Copula Cycle
(5) demonstrative/pronoun specifier > copula head
specifier > head > ...
[loc]/[id] [i-phi] > [u-phi]
(see van Gelderen 2011 for more detail)
Nominal Cycle

(7) a. demonstrative > definite article > Case/non-generic
b. specifier > head > affix
c. i-phi > u-phi (uF)

(8) a. DP > b. DP

dem D' [loc]
[i-phi] D NP N
[art] N [u-phi]

> c. DP

D' 
D NP -art
[u-phi] N
[art] N [loc]

New/recent initiatives
- 25-26 April 2014; Linguistic Cycle Workshop II at ASU, deadline is 31 October 2013; http://linguistlist.org/callconf/browse-conf-action.cfm?ConfID=163258
- Cycles of grammaticalization:
- Willis 2010
  http://people.ds.cam.ac.uk/dwew2/negation_digs.pdf
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