Day 1 – Questions on Grammaticalization

This practice is supposed to make you reflect on grammaticalization and also how you could find a research topic in this area. Your answer is going to be exploratory.

1. Give your own definition of grammaticalization.

2. Select a change in progress from the list below (or one of your own) and then list 10 examples of this use in a British, or American, or WE Corpus (http://corpus.byu.edu/) or in another language (http://corpus.byu.edu/ for Spanish and Portuguese). The COHA will give you 200 years; the COCA 25 years of history.
   (a) The loss of `shall`
   (b) `want to’ > `wanna’
   (c) `have’ to `of/a’ after a modal
   (d) renewal of the demonstrative by `there’, as in `that man there’
   (e) `pretty’ from adjective to adverb
   (f) changes in the use of `sort of’ or `kind of’.

3. Then, come up with questions you have about the data. For instance, how lexical is the use of the word/construction in your data; how often do they occur in the same syntactic environment; do phonetic changes occur? Hopper & Traugott (2003: 3, 31) might help.

4. Look up what the OED says about the change you selected, if anything.