

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.