

How Grammaticalization Processes Create Grammar

after reviewing from a grammaticalization perspective the main stages in the evolution of italian object clitic pronouns the book discusses the distinctive morphosyntactic semantic and pragmatic features of italian clitics in particular the book offers an original study of the most common examples of so called *verbi procomplementari* verbs which are characterized by the incorporation of clitics that no longer function as pronouns and which are widely used in present day italian their emergence involves both grammaticalization of the clitic pronoun into an obligatory element and lexicalization of the verb clitic sequence this study is essentially descriptive and maximally data driven the discussion of grammaticalization and lexicalization is reduced to the essentials and aims primarily at defining how these terms which have received different and at times divergent interpretations are employed in the book the book is accessible to a wide and varied readership which includes italian and romance linguists of functional and formal orientation italian language scholars grammaticalization scholars interested in new case studies as well as students of language change and variation

this collected volume brings together a wide array of international linguists working on diachronic language change with a specific focus on the history of English who work within usage based frameworks and investigate processes of grammatical change in context although usage based linguistics emphasizes the centrality of the discourse context for language usage and cognition this insight has not been fully integrated into the investigation of processes of grammatical variation and change the structuralist heritage as well as corpus linguistic methodologies have favoured de contextualized analytical perspectives on contemporary and historical language data and on the mechanisms and processes guiding grammatical variation and change from a range of different perspectives the contributions to this volume take up the challenge of contextualization in the investigation of grammatical variation and change in different stages of English language history and discuss central theoretical notions such as gradable grammaticality motivation in hypervariation and hypercharacterization the book will be relevant to students and linguists working in the field of diachronic and variational linguistics and English language history

this book reconstructs what the earliest grammars might have been and shows how they could have led to the languages of modern humankind like other biological phenomena language cannot be fully understood without reference to its evolution whether proven or hypothesized wrote talmy givón in 2002 as the languages spoken 8 000 years ago were typologically much the same as they are today and as no direct evidence exists for languages before then evolutionary linguists are at a disadvantage compared to their counterparts in biology bernd heine and tania kuteva seek to overcome this obstacle by combining grammaticalization theory one of the main methods of historical linguistics with work in animal communication and human evolution the questions they address include do the modern languages derive from one ancestral language or from more than one what was the structure of language like when it first evolved and how did the properties associated with

modern human languages arise in particular syntax and the recursive use of language structures the authors proceed on the assumption that if language evolution is the result of language change then the reconstruction of the former can be explored by deploying the processes involved in the latter their measured arguments and crystal clear exposition will appeal to all those interested in the evolution of language from advanced undergraduates to linguists cognitive scientists human biologists and archaeologists

although portuguese is one of the main world languages and researchers have been working on portuguese electronic text collections for decades e g kelly 1970 biderman 1978 bacelar do nascimento et al 1984 see berber sardinha 2005 this is the first volume in english that encapsulates the exciting and cutting edge corpus linguistic work being done with portuguese language corpora on different continents the book includes chapters by leading corpus linguists dealing with portuguese corpora across the world and their contributions explore various methods and how they are applicable to a wide range of language issues the book is divided into six sections each covering a key issue in corpus linguistics lexis and grammar lexicography language teaching and terminology translation corpus building and sharing and parsing and annotation together these sections present the reader with a broad picture of the field

the studies in language change in contact languages showcase the contributions that the study of contact language varieties make to the understanding of phenomena such as relexification transfer reanalysis grammaticalization prosodic variation and the development of prosodic systems four of the studies deal with morphosyntactic issues while the other three address questions of prosody the studies include data from the atlantic creoles saramaccan sranan haitian creole jamaican creole trinidadian creole papiamentu as well as singapore english this volume originally published as special issue of studies in language 33 2 2009 aims to make the work of several language contact experts available to a wider audience the studies will be of use to any student or scholar interested in different approaches to contact induced language processes particularly as they relate to morphosyntax and prosody

language demonstrates structure while also showing considerable variation at all levels languages differ from one another while still being shaped by the same principles utterances within a language differ from one another while exhibiting the same structural patterns languages change over time but in fairly regular ways this book focuses on the dynamic processes that create languages and give them their structure and variance it outlines a theory of language that addresses the nature of grammar taking into account its variance and gradience and seeks explanation in terms of the recurrent processes that operate in language use the evidence is based on the study of large corpora of spoken and written language what we know about how languages change as well as the results of experiments with language users the result is an integrated theory of language use and language change which has implications for cognitive processing and language evolution

this book presents the state of the art in research on grammaticalization the process by which lexical items acquire grammatical function grammatical items get additional functions and grammars are created leading scholars from around the world introduce and discuss the core theoretical and methodological bases of grammaticalization report on work in the field and point to promising directions for new research they represent every relevant theoretical perspective and approach research on grammaticalization and its role in linguistic change encompasses work on languages from every major linguistic family its results offer valuable insights for all theoretical frameworks including generative construction and cognitive grammar and relates to work in fields such as phonology sociolinguistics and language acquisition the handbook provides a full critical assessment of every aspect of this research it is divided into five parts of which the first two are devoted to theory and method the third and fourth to work in linguistic domains classes and categories and the fifth to case studies of grammaticalization in a range of languages it will be an indispensable source of information and inspiration for all those who wish to know more about this fascinating and important field

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