

ABSTRACT

A Constructionist Approach to the Grammaticalization of ‘Teo(ㅌ이)’

Andrii Kurtov

The Academy of Korean Studies

As most bound nouns in Modern Korean ‘teo(ㅌ이)’ does not simply depend on a pre-noun modifier clause but is thought to have gained certain grammatical functions similar to a connective and pre-final ending. Acknowledging this and the fact that most bound nouns historically derive from free noun morphemes several attempts have been made to address them within a grammaticalization theory framework. Among many others bound noun ‘teo(ㅌ이)’ is considered to be a prototypical case of grammaticalization as it has passed all three phases of the noun grammaticalization process proposed by Ahn(1996), namely, "free noun > bound noun > clitic construction > ending/ particle/ affix". Meanwhile, being primarily concerned with the lexical item in question grammaticalization as an explanatory tool fails to encompass the whole spectrum of the changes involved in evolution of bound nouns, especially those driven by context restrictions. It also implies certain difficulties in the morphological description of ‘teo(ㅌ이)’ as several forms corresponding to each phase still coexist in Modern Korean.

Therefore, in this paper I will introduce a Construction Grammar based approach as a solution to the problems posed in the work on grammaticalization focusing on development of ‘teo(ㅌ이)’ in copula construction ‘V -ㄴ ㅌ이-’. Approaching grammaticalization of ‘teo(ㅌ이)’ as a usage-based, frequency- and analogy-driven morphosyntactic change I will demonstrate how it can be incorporated within a CxG model in a fashion that fits both account for diachronic change and synchronic description.

I will argue that ‘V -ㄴ ㅌ이-’ construction was reanalyzed into modal construction via analogy with pre-existing high frequency modal copula constructions such as ‘V -ㄴ ㅌ이-’ in the mid-19th century with subsequent integration into a high level schematic modal construction. I will also address the problem in synchronic description of a transitional stages in grammaticalization of ‘V -ㄴ ㅌ이-’ by establishing it’s taxonomical relationships with several schemas via principle of multiple inheritance and redundant storage. In respect of form to meaning correspondence I will attempt to describe gradual accumulation of contextual restrictions followed by meaning(functional) changes in terms of constructionalization and constructional changes.