

## Pragmaticalization (defined) as grammaticalization of discourse functions

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This contribution takes its start from studies on the diachronic rise of discourse markers in general and on the development of modal particles and discourse particles in German, and takes up the latest debate on grammaticalization, pragmaticalization and (inter)subjectification (Aijmer 1997, Aijmer/Simon-Vandenberg 2004, Authenrieth 2002, Davidse/Cuyckens/Vandelanotte [eds., in press], Diewald 2006, Diewald [in press], Diewald & Ferraresi [in press], Günther/Mutz 2004, Traugott/Dasher 2002).

It puts forward the hypothesis that pragmaticalization is a subclass of grammaticalization, which shows the crucial features of grammaticalization processes, but is distinguished from other grammaticalization processes by specific characteristic traits (concerning function and domain as well as syntactic integration). This is demonstrated by a survey of the diachronic development of several particles in German (e.g. *aber*, *eben*, *ruhig*) which developed an array of heterosemes in different word classes (among them discourse particles, modal particles, scalar particles, conjunctions, adverbs, adjectives). It is suggested that the word class of modal particles in German is particularly instructive for the problems pertaining to the tension between pragmaticalization and grammaticalization as this word class represents an important grammatical device of contemporary spoken discourse, which covers an intermediate domain between the functions of text-connecting elements such as conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs on the one hand, and discourse-structuring elements such as turn signals, hesitation markers, etc. on the other. Thus, modal particles are supposed to be the link between strictly textual functions and strictly discourse-relational functions. Taking into account that languages like English, which have been the object of extensive research concerning their discourse marking devices, do not have a functional class comparable to the modal particles in German, the latter might even be called the “missing link” to deepen our understanding of the interrelations between text-connecting and discourse-marking elements.

The more general theoretical stance taken here is that the notion of grammar and hence grammaticalization has to be conceived broad enough in order to encompass discourse functions. As an outlook, a first concept of this broader notion of grammar is offered.

### References

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