

Proclisis and Subordination in Indo-European/

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The present paper focuses on proclisis as a phonetic feature accompanying the syntactic process of (gradual) subordination. Sentence connectives frequently appear as proclitics, a trait shared by ancient and modern languages, and procliticization is in turn a process whereby content words can be converted into function words.

To take an example, Modern German uses a contrastive stress pattern to differentiate between the use of the same word as an adverb or as a complementizer, e.g., Modern German *dá=mit* (adverb: comitative, modal) versus Modern German *da=mít* (subjunctive: purposive). My contribution intends to show that the same practice can be shown to recur in ancient Indo-European languages, thereby casting light on the gradual desemanticization of the words in question and contributing to the grammaticalization history of a number of Indo-European function words.