Contrastive studies in grammaticalization and subjectification
The case of causal clauses in English and Japanese

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The purpose of this paper is to examine the diachronic and synchronic phenomena of two similar constructions in English and Japanese. Over the past few decades, a number of studies have been made of grammaticalization phenomena in a variety of languages. It seems a good time to carry out a cross-linguistic study within the framework of grammaticalization. Comparing causal clauses in English and Japanese, this study points out some similarities in their diachronic process and synchronic diversity despite their typological distinctions.

Both English *because*-clauses and Japanese *kara*-clauses are generally characterized as subordinate clauses with causal meaning in present-day English and Japanese (henceforth PDE and PDJ respectively). There are, however, cases where these clauses appear without an accompanying syntactically associated "main" clause and express non-causal meaning.

(1)   **Irene: (describing a series of deeds) That's asinine, Henry.**
         Henry: *Because* you don't understand, see, because ith – it was done that way
         Irene: I don't understand WHAT?
         (Schiffrin, 1987:200)

(2)   sumimasen ga,   moo owari desu *kara*.
         excuse.me but   now end   COP KARA
         '(Lit.) Excuse me, but *because* we close now.'
         'Excuse me, but *because* we are closing now, you know.'
         (Alfonso, 1980:1203)

It seems as if so-called subordinate clauses act as independent clauses and so-called subordinate clause markers act as pragmatic markers (Brinton 1996), i.e., a clause-initial pragmatic marker in English and a clause-final pragmatic marker (generally called *syuuzyosi* 'final particle') in Japanese. This study observes how these clauses have been developing.

The data used for this paper are the dialogue portions of novels and play scripts from the 1590s to 2000s in the southern English dialect and those from the 1700s to 2000s in the Edo/Tokyo dialect. It also analyzed transcripts of conversation from the 1960s to 2000s in PDE and PDJ.

It turned out that both English *because*-clauses and Japanese *kara*-clauses are developing in the same direction in terms of syntax and semantics/pragmatics. In terms of syntax, the relationship between *because*-clauses/*kara*-clauses and their main clauses has been becoming more paratactic in the course of grammaticalization. In terms of semantics/pragmatics, the interpretation is toward epistemic/speech-act conjunction interpretation in Sweetser's (1990) sense. Furthermore, when these clauses appear independently, they are not considered syntactically associated with clauses but pragmatically associated with the preceding or following discourse. The development of these clauses can be summarized as follows.

English: [CL1 [*because* CL2]] → [CL1] [*because* CL2] → ø [*because* CL]
Japanese: [[CL1 *kara*] CL2]]   → [CL1 *kara*] [CL2]   → [CL *kara*] ø
                 → [CL1] [CL2 *kara*] → ø [CL *kara* ø]

content conjunction   epistemic/speech-act   pragmatically invited
                        conjunction   conjunction to discourse

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Thus, the diachronic and synchronic phenomena of these clauses illustrate subjectification and intersubjectification along with grammaticalization (Traugott and Dasher 2002). In addition, conventionalization of pragmatic meanings and discourse factors seems to play an important role in their developmental processes (e.g., Suzuki 1999; Onodera 2004).

Viewed in this light, the framework of grammaticalization is one of the best methods of comparing and explaining the diachronic and synchronic phenomena of two similar constructions in linguistically unrelated languages. (499 words)

References

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