

Preface

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**Grammaticalization: Studies in Latin and Romance
morphosyntax**

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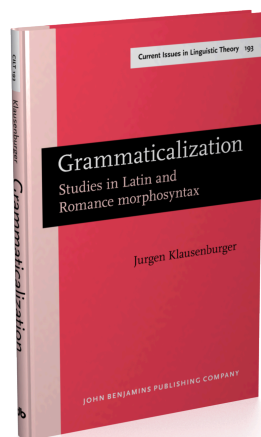
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Preface

This study began more than a decade ago, intended as a contribution to a natural morphological analysis of Latin and Romance inflection, with the tentative title of *Parameters of naturalness in Romance inflectional morphology*. The major dichotomy in natural morphology developed in the 1980's was that between Mayerthaler (1981) (English translation 1988), representing 'universal', or 'language independent' naturalness, and Wurzel (1984) (English translation 1989), cast within a 'language dependent' framework. Both approaches were presented and examined in Dressler (1985b) and Dressler (1987), along with Kilani-Schoch (1988), with additional insights found in Wheeler (1993). In papers read at various national and international Romance linguistics and morphology conferences between 1986 and 1994, I applied natural morphological themes to aspects of Latin, French (both Old and Modern), Italian, and Rumanian inflectional morphology, enlarging the relevant literature to include studies such as Bybee (1985) and Carstairs (1987), which, though not "officially" part of natural morphology, nevertheless manifest characteristics very compatible with naturalness. During this same period, I also conducted various seminars in Romance linguistics at the University of Washington which were based on these works,¹ in addition to writing reviews and review articles of some of them for journals. Although natural morphological theory contributed insightful and promising avenues for my research, it did not provide a satisfactory framework for a major section of historical Romance linguistics, the rise and evolution of periphrasis. For the latter, grammaticalization theory offered the necessary formal edifice, as it has evolved in studies such as Heine et al. (1991), Hopper & Traugott (1993), Heine (1993), Bybee et al. (1994), and Lehmann (1995 — already found in its essence in Lehmann 1985). I would also add Schwegler (1990) on this list, since, as an updated review of the (traditional) synthesis/analysis cycle, it clearly announces and deals with core issues of grammaticalization.

1. Such forums produced comments and ideas that may have been incorporated into the body of this monograph without specific attribution on my part being possible.

During a sabbatical leave at the Camargo Foundation, Cassis, France, in the Autumn Quarter of 1995, I was offered the opportunity to construct a grammaticalization 'scenario' appropriate for issues in historical Romance morphosyntax, incorporating works outside of grammaticalization studies proper, such as Hall (1992) and Bauer (1995). It was then that the real focus of this monograph crystallized in my mind: grammaticalization and how inflectional morphology constitutes only a part of, and is 'subordinated to', clines or chains of grammaticalization. Intuitively, such has probably always been my understanding of historical Romance morphosyntax, but it took grammaticalization theory to formalize such conceptualizations. It also became clear that such a study, combining natural morphology and grammaticalization, applying them to the very rich material of the Romance field, would fill a *lacuna* in both synchronic and diachronic linguistics.

Consonant with the preceding suggestions, I incorporate and alternate both natural morphology and grammaticalization issues in the text of my book. It begins with an introduction to a broad range of theoretical work which served as a foundation for this study (Chapter 1). The body of the monograph then contains first a chapter on verbal morphology (Chapter 2), on Latin, French, and Italian, and their interrelationships. Here, I deal with Latin inflectional morphology becoming (remaining?) Romance inflection, material all of which falls within the reach of natural morphological theory. Chapter 3, on the other hand, requires grammaticalization concepts, revisiting the well-known Latin to Romance verbal restructurings, French subject pronouns, and Romance object clitics. Chapter 4 merges natural morphology and grammaticalization in the presentation of questions involving Romance nominal histories, making use of French, Rumanian, Spanish, Italian, and Provençal examples. Chapter 5, finally, thoroughly examines outstanding theoretical issues in grammaticalization, prominently featuring the relevance of 'invisible hand' explanations and the crucial and pervasive role played by unidirectionality, or irreversibility. The strong tie-in between natural morphology and grammaticalization is (re)emphasized in the conclusion (Chapter 6), which also attempts to connect directly specifics of Chapter 2–4 with the theoretical discussion of Chapter 5.

This study was written, over the past decade, in various stages. For the first part, essentially Chapter 2, I am grateful for sabbatical leave granted to me by the University of Washington for Spring Quarter 1989. The major section, Chapter 3, was completed during another sabbatical quarter, Autumn 1995, which I spent at the Camargo Foundation, Cassis, France. For this opportunity I would like to thank both the University of Washington and the Foundation, which provided an ideal atmosphere and accommodations for the work. The writing of

the remaining chapters of the monograph took place during the academic years 1996–1999.

I would like to acknowledge gratefully the help and encouragement provided to me by Konrad Koerner. This work has been greatly improved as a result.

Jurgen Klausenburger
Seattle, August 1999