

The grammaticalization of motion verbs in Udmurt

This presentation examines the features of grammaticalization processes of motion verbs in Udmurt converb constructions from a cross-linguistic and areal linguistic perspective.

In Udmurt, converb constructions can be grammaticalized: in these cases, the converbs provide the lexical meaning while the verbs lose some of their lexical properties – they function syntactically like main verbs but are interpreted rather as auxiliaries:

- (1) *ali M. Bulgakov-leś, F. Dostojevskij-leś vañ*
now M. Bulgakov-ABL F. Dostoyevskiy-ABL all
proizved'eñi-os-ses lydžy-sa pot-i
work-PL-ACC.3PL read-CVB go_out-PST.1SG
'I have read all of the works of M. Bulgakov and F. Dostoyevskiy' (UdmCorp.)

The second component of the grammaticalized converb constructions is drawn from a restricted set of verbs, often from verbs of motion, posture verbs, phasal verbs, and verbs denoting other activities (for instance, 'give', 'take', 'throw'). Similar constructions are widely used in the Volga-Kama area in Turkic and Finno-Ugric languages (cf. Johanson 2011, Bereczki 1998) but the phenomenon is quite common cross-linguistically as well. In the case of grammaticalized converb + auxiliary verb complex predicates in Udmurt, the primary lexical meaning of the auxiliary can be retained to different extents in different environments: the interpretation of converb constructions depends on the semantics of the converb and the finite verb, as well as on the pragmatic and syntactic contexts of the construction. For example, the motion verb *koškyny* ('go away') tends to behave in a different way when it occurs with different types of converbs. During the grammaticalization process, one semantic feature of the lexical meaning of the finite verb (the direction of the movement) becomes stronger compared to the other elements of the lexical meaning, the verb loses parts of its lexical semantics. As the aspectual meaning (perfectivity) becomes more general, the motion verb can encode more abstract meanings: *koškyny* (<'go away'), for example, can express a rapid change of state:

- (2) *peša-sa ik košk-i*
sweat-CVB PCL go_away-PST.1SG
'A cold sweat came over me.' (UdmCorp.)

In my presentation, I plan to examine motion verbs combined with different converbs in Udmurt, comparing them with similar converb constructions of other languages of the Volga-Kama area. The study also focuses on the ways these constructions contribute to the aspectual meaning of the clauses.

Literature

Berezki Gábor 1998: A Volga–Káma-vidék nyelveinek areális kapcsolatai. – Rédei Károly (vál.): Ünnepi könyv Berezki Gábor 70. születésnapja tiszteletére. Budapest, 179–207.

Johanson, Lars 2011. Grammaticalization in Turkic Languages. – Heine & Narrog (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Grammaticalization*. Oxford: OUP, 754–763

UdmCorp. = Udmurt corpora (http://udmurt.web-corpora.net/index_en.html)