
Rezensionen

Heiko Narrog & Bernd Heine (2018): *Grammaticalization from a typological perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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Although grammaticalization clines and mechanisms driving grammaticalization are assumed to be universal, most of the existing studies focus on European languages. The volume “Typology and grammaticalization” edited by Heiko Narrog & Bernd Heine addresses this dearth of research and examines how grammaticalization is determined by typology. It is a collection of 19 chapters from experts/researchers in the field of grammaticalization in typologically different languages, most of which focus on what is characteristic of grammaticalization in specific languages or groups of languages. The volume comprises 468 pages and 19 chapters and was published in 2018 by Oxford University Press.

In the introduction (Chapter 1), the editors present the goals of the volume. It aims at studying how grammaticalization is related to typology, by examining areal groups of languages with common typological features, most of which constitute a linguistic area or a so-called Sprachbund. According to the editors, typology has an impact on grammaticalization, but formal changes are especially affected by typological properties. Structural features that exist in a language determine which features will evolve. In isolating languages, for instance, phonological attrition leading to grammatical inflexion is unlikely to occur. In addition, specific dominant categories grammaticalize in certain languages in cycles while other categories never undergo grammaticalization in the respective language. In addition, the editors assume that grammaticalization affects and shapes typological features. This, for example, is because grammaticalization determines universal implications or the order of affixes.

The following chapters focus on specific language areas showing which grammaticalization processes are representative of the respective group of languages. The chapters of the volume are arranged according to the regional proximity of the languages under scrutiny since it is assumed that neighboring languages share typological properties.

In Chapter 2, Bernd Heine defends and elaborates on one of the central tenets presented in the introduction: Semantic change is essential to grammaticalization, formal change is secondary. In consequence, semantic change such as bleaching temporally precedes formal change such as attrition. Drawing on grammaticalization processes that are representative of African languages such as de-volitive proximatives, reflexives evolving from body part markers or comparative constructions arising from action verbs, Heine shows that grammaticalization often