Semantic Shifts: From lexicon to grammar. Diachronic and typological perspectives

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The Americas
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Each session will be on some area of grammar of special typological interest in the Americas, given jointly by the two presenters. The foci will be on the semantic patterns that emerge from the formal constructions, the diachronic pathways by which they may have developed, areal patterns, and the mechanisms by which patterns might spread.

1. Possession

Predicative vs Attributive possession

Semantic distinctions
    Possessibility
        Unpossessible nouns
        Obligatorily possessed nouns
        Optionally possessed nouns
    Alienability distinctions
        Classes across the languages
    Affectedness
        When possession is not really possession

Formal marking
    Locus of marking: head, dependent, both
    Order of possessor and possessed
    Classificatory possessive constructions

2. Classificatory systems

Semantic categories that emerge from sets of entities classified
Diachronic pathways leading to classifiers.
Areality of the patterns

Classification by noun incorporation (North America)
    Inventories of classificatory incorporated nouns
    Kinds of entities they classify
    Diachronic pathways of development
    Areal patterns

Nominal classifiers (South America)
    Inventories of classifiers across the languages

The classes of nouns they classify
Their distributions and functions
Diachronic sources and pathways of development

3. Postural classifications

'sit', 'stand', 'lie', etc.
Areal patterns across North and South America

Subsequent grammaticalization
Development into tense in North America

4. Verbal number

Predominance of verbal expression and distinctions
    particularly in North America

Basic number distinctions: distributives, collectives
Formal expression
    Reduplication
    Affixation
    Lexical organization

Lexical encoding of verbal number
    Different verb roots for 'one to go', 'multiple to go', etc.
        Rich lexical organization along these lines in certain areas
    How such patterns could spread areally
        Bilinguals could systematically choose hyponyms
            that include number as part of their meanings.
        With the added frequency, the hyponyms
            could come to be basic-level terms.

Bilinguals could use derivational morphology
    to create new stems with number distinctions
These morphologically complex stems
    could gradually lose their transparency.

5. Causatives and applicatives

Basic functions of causatives and applicatives

Sociative causation: South America

Inventories of applicatives across the languages
    (benefactive, instrumental, locative, reason, etc.)

Diachronic sources of causatives and applicatives
    (verbs like 'make', 'give', adpositions like 'for')

Frequent homonymy between causatives and applicatives
    How the syncretism could come about.

Further developments of causative and applicative morphology
    North America: Nominalizers