

Emergence and Evolution of Complex Adpositions in European Languages

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(Abbreviations: CA – complex adposition, CP – complex preposition, P. Part. – past participle)

In the studies on grammaticalization the need is felt for a deeper understanding of the processes that lead to the emergence of complex adpositions, as well as to their evolution and eventual change into simple adpositions and into case markers. The main aim of the present workshop is to look for new insights into these problems in the domain of European languages. The background for these studies has been laid out in interesting work relating to complex prepositions and/or their grammaticalization, on the one hand (Lindqvist 1994, Schwenter and Traugott 1995, Di Meola 2000, Cifuentes Honrubia 2003, Hoffmann 2005, Fagard 2010, among others), and to adpositions on the other (as, e.g., Kurzon & Adler 2008, Hagège 2010, Libert 2013). We aim at widening the object under analysis from the traditional one of complex prepositions to the more embracing one of complex adpositions, thus gaining the advantage of contemplating studies on complex postpositions (and circumpositions), which have been so far neglected, at least in what concerns their grammaticalization.

Complex adpositions are a polemic category, inasmuch as not even their definition is consensual. Thus, although it is usual to consider sequences such as Eng. *instead of* or *in order to*, or Ger. *auf Grund von* as complex prepositions, mainly due to an internal structure that may be recognized and to their relation role in the sentence, the very definition of a complex preposition is not peaceful, as shown by the different positions that the two reference grammars of English take on the matter: while Quirk *et al.* (1985) consider that there is justification for such a category, Huddleston & Pullum (2002) dismiss the concept on the basis of the syntactic properties of these sequences, although acknowledging their semantic autonomy. In other languages, reference grammars admit an intermediate category between simple prepositions and standard complex ones, such as the ‘secondary prepositions’ in German (e.g., *trotz*, *kraft*, *laut*, etc.), which are apparently ‘simple’ but are considered secondary because of their non-prototypical features and transparency as to their lexical sources (Diewald 1997, 65-73).

The question of the definition of the class ‘complex adpositions’ is therefore prior to others in more than one sense of the word. Definitional uncertainty, however, has not prevented a certain consensus about the kind of grammaticalization and/or lexicalization processes that complex adpositions go through, at least those with the most common source structures, such as $P_1(+\text{Det})+N+P_2$, to which the examples above belong (see Fagard & De Mulder, 2007). These processes can be dealt within the framework of Lehmann’s (1995) parameters: e.g., the change of P_1 from paradigmatic variability to invariability, the impossibility of including linguistic material

between $P_1(+\text{Det})$ and N , and the eventual coalescence of $P_1(+\text{Det})+N$. However, many other grammaticalization ways are awaiting to be explored, in so far as complex adpositions may have their origin in a great variety of syntactically as well as morphologically complex structures: besides $P_1(+\text{Det})+N+P_2$, we can find $P_1+\text{Adv}+P_2$ (Fr. *en dehors de*), P_1+P_2 (Sp. *para con*), P . Part.+P (Pt. *derivado a*), Adj+P (Eng. *due to*), $N+P$ (Pt. *face a*), $P+N$ (Ger. *mithilfe*) $V+P$ (Sp. *pese a*), etc.

Among the variety of topics open to exploration, we would like to mention the following:

– What criteria are more relevant for inclusion in the class of CAs and to which extent are they dependent on the internal structure of CAs? For CPs, some have been proposed in the literature (Quirk *et al.* 1985, Seppänen *et al.* 1994, Adler 2001, Cifuentes Honrubia 2003, Fagard 2006, Leeman 2007) but no cluster of criteria seems consensual.

– The determination of subcategories of CAs – which may reflect different stages in grammaticalization – should be discussed (see Adler’s 2008 distinction of compound prepositions and prepositional locutions).

– The relation between CAs and close categories such as adverbs and conjunctions. It should be asked whether a regular order can be discerned in the processes of grammaticalization leading to the emergence of a member of one of these classes from a member of one of the others. Do grammaticalization processes involving adverbs, CAs and conjunctions follow predictable orders? And how do these processes fare under the unidirectionality hypothesis (Hopper & Traugott 2003)?

– Explanation of ‘odd’ cases. By ‘odd’ cases we mean the existence of only one, or a reduced number of, postpositions in a language of prepositions, or *vice-versa* A case in point is Eng. *ago*, apparently a postposition in a language of prepositions (Kurzon 2008).

– Semantic sources of CAs. If it is the case that prepositions have their sources in the domains of spatial (and temporal) expression, it should be a matter of concern whether this also holds true for CAs (see Fagard 2010). Apparently, many CPs emerge in the abstract domains of cause (Eng. *because of*, Sp. *a causa de*, etc.), concession (Pt. *apesar de*) and others, which don’t seem to be in accordance with the localist hypothesis.

– How do frequency and CAs correlate? It is generally assumed in grammaticalization studies, as well as in usage-based theories (Bybee 2010), that higher frequency correlates with deeper grammaticalization. Although some studies on CPs suggest this (e.g. Hoffmann 2005, Pinto de Lima 2014, Stosic 2013), more evidence is necessary.

– CAs and language contact. Another question having to do with the sources of CAs is to ascertain the role of language contact in their emergence and grammaticalization.

– Productivity of CAs source structures. Some structures – such as $P_1(+\text{Det})+N+P_2$ – seem to be highly productive and regular, while others seems to emerge *ad hoc* and have just a few members. Is the emergence of CAs always casual or are there patterns of productivity?

– CAs and case. It has been suggested that ‘adpositions are the only source for Case markers’ (see Gelderen 2011, 180) and that ‘a noun or verb or adverb always has to go through the stage of adposition before it is reanalyzed as Case’ (Gelderen 2011, 180). The question that arises in this context is whether these adpositions can be CAs and, if so, what is their role in the process.

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