*Implications of grammaticalization for language change:*

*The emergence of the German present perfect and the rise of new periphrastic constructions*

Scholars such as Rödel (2007), Gersbach (1982), Maiwald (2002) and Schrodt & Donhauser (2003), consider the development of the German double present perfect such as “hat vergessen gehabt” (has forgotten had); “ist gefahren gewesen” (is gone been) and the double past perfect, such as(hatte vergessen gehabt ‘had forgotten had’; war gefahren gewesen ‘was gone been’) constructions as a result of the decline of the German preterite.

In this paper, I present evidence that challenges these claims, and argue instead

that the emergence of these constructions is the direct outcome of the grammaticalization of the present perfect, since, as argued by Frajzyngier (2012), “the grammaticalization of a function may itself be the motivation for the grammaticalization of other functions in the same domain”.

The morphology of these forms suggests that the present perfect served as a base for their formations, and especially the forms of the past participles of *haben* (to have) and *sein* (to be), *gehabt* (had) and *gewesen* (been).

Furthermore, the first attestations of both double perfect constructions can be traced back to the thirteenth century (Wargenau, 2012). It was in this period that the present perfect grammaticalized (Kuroda, 1999) which took place before the alleged decline of the preterite around 1450 (Werner & Conradie, 2001).

Moreover, the analyses of the data show that the double perfect constructions were used in combination with present perfect and preterite which challenges also the position of many scholars, such as Gersbach (1982), Semejuk (1981), Trier (1964 -1965), Hauser-Suida / Hopper Beugel (1972), Eroms (1984), Thieroff (1992), Dorow (1996), Henning (2000), Buchwald (2005a) and Litvinov (1969), who claimed semantic overlap between both double present perfect and past perfect and the traditional tenses.

In conclusion, my analysis shows how German speakers created two new constructions from an existing grammaticalized form. It also provides support for Fraizyngier’s framework of grammaticalization, as well as some new insights for the diverse implications of grammaticalization to language change.

**Selected references**

Lopez-Couso, M.J., Seoane, E. (ed). (2008). Rethinking Grammaticalization. Amsterdam: John Benjamins B. V.

Bybee, J. (2006). From usage to grammar: the mind’s response to repetition. Project Muse. Language, Volume 82, Number 4.

Bybee, J. (2007). Frequency of Use and the Organization of Language. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hopper, P., Traugott, E. (2003). Grammaticalization. Cambridge: University Press.

Kuroda, S. (1999). Perfektkonstruktionen im Deutschen. Tübingen: Buske Verlag.