



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

GRAMMATICALIZATION OF SPATIAL TERMS AND DIRECTIONAL LEXEMES IN MAGAHI

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Abstract: The following Paper investigates the Grammaticalization process in the Spatial term and Directional lexemes in Magahi Language. Magahi is an Indo-Aryan language and mainly spoken in Patna, Gaya, Nalanda, Nawada and Jahanabad, Aurangabad and some other districts of Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The term Grammaticalization refers to the process where the lexical terms or any lexeme and become the part of grammar or change in Grammatical functions. The findings of this work shows that the lexemes like tʰor> tʰore (Lips> In Front of), bʰɪtərə> bʰɪtər (Room> Inside), muhva> muhva(Mouth> Front) etc. are productive in the language.

Keywords: Grammaticalization, Semantic Extention, Phonetic Erosion, Lexemes, Magahi, Grammatical categories

1. INTRODUCTION

Grammaticalization refers to that part of the study of language change which is concerned with such questions as how lexical items and constructions come in certain linguistic contexts to serve grammatical function or how grammatical items develop a new grammatical function. In simple words we can say that Grammaticalization is defined as the development from lexical to grammatical forms and from grammatical to even more grammatical forms. Since the development of grammatical forms is not independent of the constructions to which they belong, the study of grammaticalization is also concerned with constructions and with even larger discourse segments.

According to Heine and Kuteva (2007), Grammaticalization theory is concerned with the genesis and development of grammatical forms. Its primary goal is to describe how grammatical forms and constructions arise and develop through space and time, and to explain why they are structured the way they are.

- (a) Desemanticization (or “semantic bleaching”) – loss in meaning content,
- (b) Extension (or context generalization) – use in new contexts,
- (c) Decategorialization – loss in morphosyntactic properties characteristic of lexical or other less grammaticalized forms, and
- (d) Erosion (or “phonetic reduction”) – loss in phonetic substance.

While three of these mechanisms involve a loss in properties, there are also gains. In the same way that linguistic items undergoing grammaticalization lose in semantic, morphosyntactic, and phonetic substance, they also gain in properties characteristic of their uses in new contexts.

For example in English: i) She is going.

ii) She is going to dance.

In the above sentences, the verb ‘go’ has been used in both sentences but in sentence no.i) ‘go’ has been used as a main verb but in ii) it has been used as auxiliary to show the future sense of the sentence. So, here we can see that how ‘go’ is getting grammaticalized in one aspect, there are many perspectives in which ‘go’ shows its productivity.

2. MAGAHI AS A LANGUAGE

Magahi is usually called as a dialect of Hindi, but any speech form of a particular community would be considered as a Language. Magadhi Prakrit was the ancestor of Magadhi, from which the latter's name derives. The ancestral language, Magadhi Prakrit, is believed to be the language spoken by the Buddha, and the language of the ancient kingdom of Magadha. Magahi is closely related to Bhojpuri and Maithili, and these languages are sometimes referred to as a single language, Bihari. These languages, together with several other related languages, are known as the Bihari languages, which form a sub-group of the Eastern Zone of Indo-Aryan languages. The number of speakers has not really gone down but has simply been swallowed up by the census figures for Hindi speakers and this could be some sociolinguistic factors and attitudes of speakers involved in it (Verma,1985).The number of speakers on the basis of latest census report available in 2001 is 13,978,565 and in 2011 is approximately 20,700,000 which also includes the Khortha speakers.

The number of Magahi speakers is difficult to indicate. In the urban Magahi region, most educated speakers of the language name Hindi as their language because this is what they use in formal contexts and believe it to be the appropriate response because of unawareness. The uneducated and the rural population of the region return Hindi as the generic name for their language. Magahi is mainly spoken in Patna, Gaya, Nawada, Jahanabad, Nalanda and some other districts of Bihar, Jharkhand and west Bengal.

3. GRAMMATICALIZATION IN SPATIAL TERMS

Grammaticalization is a diachronic and synchronic process both, and Magahi is one of the oldest languages (developed from Prakrit), older than Hindi ofcourse; therefore the instances of grammaticalization in this language is much frequent. The paper is based on grammaticalization specifically in spatial terms and directional lexemes.

The directional and the spatial terms in grammaticalised forms are as follow shown in table.

Sl. no.	MAIN LEXEME	GRAMMATICALISED FORM	MEANING/ Grammatical category
1.	tʰor	tʰore	Lips>in front of Body part (noun)>spatial term
2.	bʰiṭərə	bʰiṭər	Room>inside noun>spatial term
3.	Bəju	bəjuə	arm>beside body part (noun)>spatial term
4.	picʰe	picʰe	back> backside body part (noun)> spatial term>adverb
5.	upar	par, pe	upon>upward>on location >direction
6.	muhva	muhva	mouth>front body part (noun)>spatial term
7.	bahər	bəhrana	Outside>exit spatial term>directional term
8.	par	par	edge/side>cross spatial term >adverb

həʃin.

be.AUX.HON.3.M.SG

(Ramesh has contracted chickenpox)

The word 'bahər' is fully grammaticalised in Magahi unlike Hindi. It is basically used in two contexts. The parameters which are necessary for a fully grammaticalised form Desemanticisation, decategoralisation, semantic extension and phonetic erosion as well; are being fulfilled by the lexeme '**bahər**' which means *Outside*. Firstly, the process of grammaticalization is happening here i.e., bahər>bəhrana; which gives the meaning of *Exit*. We can see the decategoralisation in all the above sentences; the spatial term or the postposition changing in to a verb. The first two grammaticalised forms are showing the same context but the last one is showing a different context. The word 'bəhrana' in 3.2 and 3.3 is functioning as main verb giving the meaning of *Exit* and in 3.4 also it is working as a main verb but giving a different meaning i.e. *To Appear*.

4) The examples of the lexeme /upər/ (up)

4.1) həm **upəre** ja rəhəlije həi
 I.1SG up.LOC go live.PFV.ECV.SG be.AUX.PRS.1F.SG
 (I am going upstairs)

4.2) pʰonva kɪʈəbba **pəri** rəkkʰəl həi.
 phone.OBL book on.LOC kept.PFV.M.SG be.AUX.PRS.M.SG (The phone is kept on the book.)

In the examples, 4.1 and 4.2, we can see that '**upər**' is getting Grammaticalized and after fulfilling all the four parameters including phonetic erosion, and got the spatial term or locative marker '**pəri**'; like in Hindi /pər/ has come from /upər/.

5) The examples of grammaticalization of the word /bəju/ (arm)

5.1) həməɾ ɖunno **bəjuə** me ɖərəɖ həi
 I.GEN.1SG both arms.PL in.LOC pain be.AUX.PRS.1SG
 (I have pain in my both arms.)

5.2) u: həməɾe **bəjuə** bəiʈʰ-əl hələi.
 he.3M.SG I.GEN.1SG.OBL beside.LOC sit-PFV.M.SG be.AUX.PRS.3M.SG
 (He was sitting beside me)

Here in the examples 5.1 and 5.2, the body part lexeme /bəju/ which means 'arm' getting grammaticalized in to the spatial term /bəju/ which means *Beside*.

6) The examples of grammaticalization of the word /picʰe/ (back)

6.1) həməɾ **picʰe** kəʃ kəgəl həi. I.GEN.1SG.OBL
 back something feel.PFV be.AUX.PRS.1SG
 (There is something on my back)

6.2) u: həməɾ **picʰe** bəiʈʰəl he.3M.SG.OBL I.GEN.1SG back sit.PFV.M.SG
 hələi. be.AUX.PST.3SG
 (He was sitting behind me).

6.3)	u	həmra	pic^ha	kər	he.3M.SG.OBL	I.1SG.GEN
	follow	do.ECV		rəhle		həl.
	live.ECV.PROG		be.AUX.PST.3M.SG			
	(he was following me.)					

In the above sentences, we can see that **Back** has been grammaticalized to imply a spatial term **Behind**. If compared to Hindi, a similar process is taking place where the lexeme '**Behind**' has come from '**Back**'. In the sentence no.6.3 in which /**pic^ha**/ is fulfilling the parameters (including phonetic erosion) of grammaticalized form of /**pic^he**/ that has been used in a different context and giving the meaning of '**Follow**'.

7) The examples of Grammaticalization of the word /muh/ (Mouth)

7.1)	həmər	muhva	c ^h oṭ	həi.		I.M.SG.GEN
	mouth	small	be.AUX.PRS.M.SG			
	(My mouth is small)					

7.2)	kərva	ke	muhva	par	tempua	car.3.SG	Of.DAT
	mouth	on.LOC	tempo	rəkk ^h əl	həi.		
	kept.PFV	be.AUX.PRS.M.SG					
	(The tempo is parked in front of the car)						

The word /**muh**/ which means '**Mouth**' is getting grammaticalized and giving a spatial term for the word '**Front**'. The grammaticalization of body parts in Magahi is common and seen to be very productive.

8) The examples of Grammaticalized form of the word /par/

8.1)	həmər	g ^h ər	nəḍṭja	ke	par	həi	
	I.1.SG.GEN	home	river	of.DAT	across	be.AUX.PRS.M.SG	
	(my home is on the other side of the river.)						

8.2)	ḍ ^h ijan	se	səḍəkija	par	karihə.		carefully.ADV
	from.INST	road	cross				do.ECV.IMP.M.SG
	(Cross the road carefully)						

The word /**par**/ in Magahi is basically means '**Edge**' or **Side** which is a noun changing into an adverb which means '**to cross**'. This lexeme is fulfilling all the three parameters i.e. Semantic bleaching, extension and Decategorialization except phonetic erosion.

4. CONCLUSION

The findings are based on the data that have been collected from the native speakers, which are showing the "grammaticalization" in spatial terms. The instances of the grammaticalized forms show the frequency of the grammaticalization in spatial terms in Magahi Language. As It is already mentioned above that Magahi is one of the oldest languages and developed from Prakrit and Apbhransha; therefore it is apparent to have grammaticalization in this language as we know that it is a diachronic and synchronic process. The grammaticalization in spatial terms and directional terms is sometime influenced by Hindi also, because of Language Contact, for example 'baḷu' has come from Hindi, which is showing grammaticalization of body parts in postposition, and magahi has got many instances of body part getting grammaticalised in location position and showing topological relations. There were nine grammaticalized forms of Spatial terms and directional lexemes found in the language, which has many usage in different domains.

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Abbreviation used :

HON

honorific
 INTER interrogative
 IMP imperative
 INDF indefinite
 INF infinitive
 IPFV imperfective
 LOC locative
 M masculine
 NEG negation, negative
 1 first person
 2 second person
 3 third person
 ADJ adjective
 ADV adverb(ial)
 ART article
 AUX auxiliary
 CP conjunctive participle
 DAT dative
 DEF definite
 ECV explicator compound verb
 ERG ergative
 F feminine
 FUT future
 GEN genitive
 OBJ object
 OBL oblique
 PASP passive perfective
 PSTP past participle
 PASS passive
 PFV perfective
 PL plural
 POSS possessive
 PPTCP passive participle
 PRF perfect
 PRS present
 PROG progressive
 PST past
 SG singular

