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THE GRAMMATICALIZATION OF *BA* IN SGAW KAREN

NAW BAR HSO WAH

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Researcher: Naw Bar Hso Wah

Degree: Master of Arts in Linguistics

Advisor: Kenneth Manson, PhD

Approval Date: 7 November 2011

Institution: Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand

The members of the thesis examination committee:

1. _____ Committee Chair
(Associate Professor Saranya Savetamalya, Ph.D.)

2. _____ Committee Member
(Kenneth Manson, Ph.D.)

3. _____ Committee Member
(George Bedell, Ph.D.)

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ABSTRACT

The Sgaw Karen language is a member of the Karen branch of Sino Tibetan. Sgaw is primarily spoken in Myanmar and Thailand. The language contains numerous morphemes which function in many different roles. This thesis considers the verb *ɓa* a word used very frequent in Sgaw sentences and everyday conversation. This thesis considers the independent verbal uses and then explores the pathways of grammaticalization. The verbal functions of *ɓa* include main verb, pre-verb, post-verb, and also some other non-verbal uses such as elaborative expressions.

By observing the use of *ɓa* in many different constructions, it will be shown that the morpheme has grammaticalized from purely lexical meaning to grammatical meaning and then from grammatical meaning to more grammatical meaning. These changes are summarized in a semantic map, a graphic representation of the different pathways of development.

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บทคัดย่อ

ภาษากะเหรี่ยงสะกอว์เป็นภาษาตระกูลจีน-ทิเบต สาขากะเหรี่ยง ผู้พูดส่วนใหญ่อาศัยอยู่ในสหภาพพม่าและประเทศไทย ภาษากะเหรี่ยงสะกอว์มีหน่วยคำจำนวนมากที่ทำหน้าที่ในบทบาทที่ต่างกัน งานวิจัยนี้ศึกษาคำกริยา บา ซึ่งพบบ่อยในประโยคและการสนทนาประจำวันในภาษากะเหรี่ยงสะกอว์ โดยศึกษาการใช้เชิงกริยาและเส้นทางการกลายเป็นคำไวยากรณ์ หน้าที่เชิงกริยาของ บา เป็นได้ทั้งกริยาหลัก คำวางหน้ากริยา คำวางหลังกริยา และการใช้แบบอื่นที่ไม่ใช่กริยา เช่น คำเสริมสร้อย

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

1	First person
2	Second person
3	Third person
ADJ	Adjective
ADV	Adverb
CLF	Classifier
CONJ	Conjunction
DEM	Demonstrative
EXPER	Experience
HV	Head Verb
INSTR	Instrument
LCLZR	Localizer
LOC	Locative
MOD	Modifier
N	Noun
NEG	Negative
NLZR	Nominalizer
NP	Noun phrase
NPprop	Proper noun
NUM	Numeral (1-9)
P	Preposition
PASS	Passive
Pf	Clause final element
Pfx	Prefix
pl	Plural
POL	Politeness marker
POSS	Possessor/possessive
PRO	Pronoun
Q	Question marker

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QNT	Quantifier
RECIP	Recipient
RFLX	Reflexive
REL	Relative clause marker
S	Sentence
s	Singular
SUB	Subordinator
SUPER	Superlative
TAM	Tense aspect marker
TEMP	Temporal marker
TOP	Topic
V	Verb
VP	Verb phrase
Vv	Post-verbal
vV	Pre-verbal

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GLOSSARY

Ability	enabling conditions exist in the agent to complete the predicate action.
Ambiguity	multiple semantic meanings
Circumstance	(Root Possibility) enabling conditions exist *physically* that *allow* an agent to complete the predicate action.
Necessity	enabling conditions exist *physically* that *compel* an agent to complete the predicate action.
Obligation	enabling conditions exist *socially* that *compel* an agent to complete the predicate action.
Opportunity	*unexpected* enabling conditions exist.
Permission	enabling conditions exist *socially* that *allow* an agent to complete the predicate action.
Semantic map	A "spatial" representation of the ways a set of linguistic meanings relate to each other.

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