



From adjective to affix in Dutch and French

The influence of word order patterns on grammaticalization

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DUTCH

From A to prefix

- [A+N]_N: [oud- + N]_N ‘former N’
- ✓ Desemanticization: ‘old’ > ‘former’
 - ✓ Decategorialization: loss of adjectival inflection (*oud-leerlingen*)
 - ✓ Productivity: *oud-leerling*, *oud-burgemeester*, *oud-wielrenner*, etc.
 - ✓ Paradigmaticization: *oud-leerling* / *ex-leerling*

[A+A]_A: [dol- + A]_A ‘very A’

- ✓ Desemanticization: ‘mad’ > ‘very’
- ? Decategorialization: loss of adjectival inflection (< adverbial origin?)
- +/- Productivity: but only with positively loaded adjectives (*dolblij*, *dolenthousiast*, *dolverliefd*, etc.)
- ✓ Paradigmaticization: *dolgelukkig* / *supergelukkig*, *overgelukkig*

From A to suffix

[N+A]_A: [N / V + -vriendelijk]_A ‘beneficial to / for N / V’

- +/- Desemanticization: ‘friendly’ > ‘beneficial’
- ? Decategorialization
- ✓ Productivity: *huisdiervriendelijk*, *Obama-vriendelijke media*, *fiets- en loopvriendelijke stad*, etc.
- ✓ Paradigmaticization: *vrouwvriendelijk* / *pro-vrouwen*

FRENCH

From A to prefix

- [A+N]_N: [grand-/petit-/beau- + N]_N
- ✓ Desemanticization: qualitative A > ‘kinship’
 - / Decategorialization: *petite-fille*
 - / Productivity: *grand-père*, *petite-fille*, *belle-soeur*
 - / Paradigmaticization

[A+V]_{N/A}: [nouveau- + PP]_{N/A} ‘recently PP’

- ✓ Desemanticization: ‘new’ > ‘recently’
- +/- Decategorialization: irregular inflection (*nouveau(x) nés*)
- ✓ Productivity: *nouvel arrivé*, *nouvel embauché*, *nouveaux mariés*, etc.
- ✓ Paradigmaticization: *nouveau-né* / *néonatal*

From A to suffix: /

RESULTS

1. Affixization of A is more frequent and productive in DU than in FR.
2. DU produces more semi-suffixes than semi-prefixes with an adjectival origin.

A			SEMI-AFFIX	AFFIX
			AFFIXIZATION	
DU	[dol- + A] [N / V + -vriendelijk]		[oud- + N]	
FR	[grand-/petit-/beau- +N]		[nouveau- + PP]	

HYPOTHESIS

1. Interaction between word order patterns and affixization (compounding ⇒ derivation)
 - DU: Modifier-Head ⇒ beneficial to affixization of A into prefixes (modifiers in modifier-position) and into suffixes (heads in head-position)
 - FR: Head-Modifier ⇒ obstacle to affixization of A into prefixes (modifiers in head-position) and into suffixes (heads in modifier-position)
2. Suffixes are in general more frequent than prefixes; they are more typical affixes
Grammaticalization of A into (semi-)prefixes is less necessary, since A already are pre-modifiers in syntax

