

# Grammaticalization as Feature Reduction?

Augustin Speyer  
*a.speyer@mx.uni-saarland.de*  
Universität des Saarlandes

From a syntactic perspective, grammaticalization is often seen as a reanalysis process (with subsequent extension) which is triggered by a semantic change, vulgo called ‘bleaching’. The nature of this semantic bleaching has been discussed occasionally as a process of semantic feature reduction (e.g. by Kiparsky and Abraham). In my talk I want to start from this assumption and make a survey of several well-known and less well-known grammaticalization processes, mainly in the history of German. This should lead into a discussion whether feature reduction is a sufficient analysis of the semantic side of grammaticalization.