A transferentive connective marker -etaka in Korean: 
Perspectives of Grammaticalization and Pragmatics

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Abstract

This paper aims to address the developmental path of functions and semantics of a connective marker -etaka in Korean from perspectives of grammaticalization and pragmatics. This paper focuses on transferentives, emphasis, and condition of -etaka. The path of grammatical evolution of -etaka is [lexical verb > functional category > affix]. The mechanism of FFV (Focus Frame of Variation) will illustrate its transferentives, based on the contact or separation between TR (Trajector) and LM (Landmark). This paper also argues that the directionality into an attitude stance-marker -etakanun from emphasis and condition of -etaka proceeds towards a domain of discourse from a domain of text, increasing subjectification of the speaker.

1 Introduction

The source lexeme of the connective marker -etaka in Korean is a verb takuta. The verb takuta etymologically denotes ‘to have’ or ‘to possess.’ In the early 20th century it acquires the meaning ‘to approximate’ or ‘to draw near.’ In terms of etymological persistence, -etaka is construed as ‘having the properties of the preceding verb and drawing near the goal.’

A connective marker -etaka has been researched by K-G Lee (2004), Rhee (1996), Yae (2015), Zhang (2015), inter alios. The connective marker -etaka is composed of [-e, NF + takuta, V + a, Conn]. The connective marker -etaka designates transferentives, enumeration, emphasis, causality, and condition. Due to the limit of the space, this paper deals with transferentives (completion and incompletion) and condition of -etaka. The connective marker -etaka links a preceding verb with a verb or a clause that follows -etaka. Grammatical and pragmatic approaches will clarify the path of the developmental continuum of -etaka.

2. Constructions of -etaka

The connective marker -etaka denotes the completion transferentive, the incompletion transferentive, and condition. The example in (1) elaborates the completion transferentive: the completion of the first event kokilul capassta ‘caught a fish’ and transition towards the second event nohchyessta ‘missed it.’

(1) Completion transferentive:

ku-nun koki-lul cap-ass-taka
nohchye-ess-ta

he-Nom fish-Acc catch-Pst-taka
miss-Pst-Dec

‘He caught a fish but missed it.’

The example in (2) describes the incompletion transferentive: kunun inmunkwanulokata ‘he is going to the building of Humanities’ is not a completed action at the point where he changed his direction to the library.

(2) Incompletion transferentive:

ku-nun inmunkwan-uloku ka-taka
palkelum-ul tolly-e

he-Nom inmunkwan-ulo hyangha-yss-ta

He-Top the.building.of.the.humanities-to go-taka
step-Acc turn-NF

library-to head.for-Pst-Dec

‘He stopped going to the building of Humanities in the middle and headed for the library.’

The connective marker -etaka also denotes condition as shown in (3). Nolkimahata ‘you only play’ is the protasis for the apodosis nakceyhanita ‘you will fail in the examination.’

(3) Condition:

nol-ki-man ha-taka nakceyha-n-ta
play-Nm-only do-taka fail-in-Fut-Dec

‘You will fail in the examination if you only play.’

The connective marker -etaka is directly attached to the preceding verbs in the examples above. Therefore, we can conclude that -etaka has grammaticalized from the connective marker to the postposition as shown in (4).
3. Discussion

3.1. Frame of focus

The completion and incompletion transferentive connective markers of -etaka discussed in section 2 are characterized by the LM1 on the surface and TR in association with the LM1. Therefore, the distance between TR with LM1 in the completion and incompletion transferentives of -etaka, is decided by adjusting the FFV.

In (1), the LM1 is ku ‘he’ and the TR is koki ‘fish.’ The LM1 ku ‘he’ on the surface contacts the TR koki ‘fish’ and then the TR koki ‘fish’ gets out of the LM1 ku ‘he’ and transfers to the LM2 (the impact point of the fish). The contact point of TR and LM1 is a turning point where the fish was caught and missed, and thus TR transferred its action toward the LM2. In the completion transferentive, the association of TR and LM1 is induced by the telescopic focus of frame.

In the incompletion transferentive in (2), the TR ku ‘he’ does not contact the LM1 inmwunkwan ‘the building of the humanities’ when the TR ku ‘he’ contacts the TR koki ‘fish’ and the TR koki ‘fish’ gets out of the LM1 ku ‘he’ and transfers to the LM2 (the impact point of the fish). The separation of TR with LM1 is clarified by adjusting the frame to the microscopic focus.

3.2. Subjectification

The completion transferentive in (1) and the incompletion transferentive in (2) describe the events objectively while the conditional example in (3) is a hypothesis created by speaker’s evaluation on the increase of subjectification.

4. Pragmatic approach

4.1 Attitude Stance

-Etaka, attached to verbs in (1) and (2), cannot be deleted while the transferentive connective marker -etaka in (5) can be deleted without affecting the grammatical status of the sentence.

It is argued that the transferentive connective marker -etaka in (5) functions as an emphasis marker of the event it describes, representing the attitude stance of the speaker.

4.2. Negative-stance marker

The condition example in (3) is repeated in (6), adding a particle nun to -etaka.

(6) Condition: nol-ki-man ha-taka-nun nakceyha-n-ta play-Nnn-only do-taka-particle fail-in-Fut-Dec ‘You will fail in the examination if you only play.’

In the conditional context, -etakanun indicates the negative point of view of the speaker, that is, the negative stance marker.

Regarding the attitude stance of the speaker, -etakanun is summarized as in (7).

(7) Attitude stance-marker of -etakanun:
   a. transferentive > emphatic attitude-stance marker
   b. condition > negative attitude-stance marker

5. Conclusion

This paper has discussed grammaticalization and pragmaticization of -etaka. This paper has employed the mechanisms of FFV and subjectification to account for transferentives and a conditional marker of -etaka. In the pragmatic stage of developmental path, -etakanun has marked a stance of the speaker to show his/her attitude: emphasis and a negative point of view.

References


