"From preposition to preverbal prefix in French and Dutch"

Van Goethem, Kristel

ABSTRACT

In our PhD research (Van Goethem 2006), we have studied the relationship between prepositions and their preverbal counterparts. Following Amiot (2004, 2005), we claim that prepositions can undergo a grammaticalization process and develop into prefixes. This "prefixization" process can be determined on the basis of several parameters. On the morpho-syntactic level, preverbs can behave as adpositions or can develop a new "prefixal" behaviour. In L'avion survole actuellement les îles Baléares 'The plane is currently flying over the Balearic Islands', sur- interacts with two syntactic arguments, assuming the roles of trajector (l'avion) and landmark (les îles Baléares), which is the typical syntactic behaviour of adpositions. In other cases, the preverb is incidental to its base and can be considered more grammaticalized (e.g. Il a surestimé ses forces 'He has overestimated his forces'). Dutch presents a third preverbal construction type, which is not based on an adpositional construction, but which is the result of the reanalysis of a resultative adverbial predicate (with a prepositional homonym) (e.g. de soep opeten 'to eat up the soup'). These three construction types have a semantic counterpart: in the relational or predicative construction, the preverb mostly expresses the same meanings as its adpositional, resp. adverbial counterpart. In the "prefixal" construction type, however, it often develops new aspectual or evaluative meanings (e.g. excess meaning in surestimer). In the third place, we have noticed that on the comparative level, the study of the translation ...

CITE THIS VERSION

Van Goethem, Kristel. From preposition to preverbal prefix in French and Dutch. LOT-Summerschool (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 11/06/2007). http://hdl.handle.net/2078/118520
From Preposition to Preverbal Prefix in French and Dutch

Kristel Van Goethem (K.U.Leuven)

Grammaticalization

PREPOSITION ————> PREVERBAL PREFIX

“Prefixation” (cf. Amiot 2004, 2005)

PREVERBAL CONSTRUCTIONS

1. Relational construction
   - Relational preverb + verbal base
     \[[Preposition] [Verb]\]
     \[[Noun] [Verb]\]
   - Verbalization of [preposition + trajector]
     \[[Preposition] [Noun][Adj]\]
     \[[Noun] [Adj]\]
   - Verbalization of [preposition + landmark]
     \[[Preposition] [Noun,Adj]\]

2. Adverbial predicative construction
   \[[NP] [Adverbial predicative preverb] [Verb]\]

3. Prefixal construction
   \[[Prefixal Preverb] [Verb]\]

4. Lexicalized construction
   \[[Prefixal Preverb] [Noun+Adjective]\]

PARAMETERS OF “PREFIXATION”

1. Morpho-syntactic parameters
   - Decategorialization (cf. Hopper & Traugott 1993; Morphological Degeneration (cf. Lehmann 1995)
   - Paradigmaticization (cf. Lehmann 1995)
     - We moeten de match 
     - Condensation (‘scope reduction’) (cf. Lehmann 1995)

2. Semantic parameters
   - Desemanticization/ Semantic Bleaching (cf. Lehmann 1995)
     - We zijn net de brug overgevoegd. ‘We have just crossed the bridge.’
   - Subjunctification (cf. Traugott 1995)
     - De puppy’s zijn overgevoegd. ‘The puppies are overed.’

ANALYSIS

Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>DUTCH</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sur-</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>sur-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contre-</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>tegen-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entre-</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>991</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

1. Discrepancies between the preverbal use of comparable prepositions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Abs. frequency</th>
<th>Rel. frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sur-</td>
<td>4/67</td>
<td>5,97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contre-</td>
<td>5/20</td>
<td>25,00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entre-</td>
<td>0/51</td>
<td>0,00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. More advanced prefixation degree in French than in Dutch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Abs. frequency</th>
<th>Rel. frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sur-</td>
<td>48/67</td>
<td>71,64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contre-</td>
<td>15/20</td>
<td>75,00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entre-</td>
<td>14/51</td>
<td>27,45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES


