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Grammaticalization and the Permeability of Composite Renarrative Forms in Modern Bulgarian

Abstract: The article examines the permeability of composite renarrative forms in the active and passive voice in Modern Bulgarian. Two cases of permeability are distinguished: 1) those due to the insertion of clitic dative and accusative personal pronouns and of se, a particle with a pronominal origin, and 2) permeability due to the insertion of the interrogative particle li and stressed particles, parenthetical remarks, adverbs, and clauses. In addition, an overview is provided of the specific and generalized models of permeability, illustrated by examples from language corpora and the Internet. The conclusions highlight both the common and the specific features of the permeability of composite renarrative verb forms. To substantiate this, I rely on examples obtained from language corpora and the Internet, encompassing short personal pronouns, adverbs, particles like se and li, parenthetic expressions, clauses, as well as composite forms where permeability is not feasible. Several cases are identified where insertion of the same linguistic elements is possible in two places. The examples and models presented, along with the resulting conclusions, prove that the process of grammaticalization in the Bulgarian verb paradigm is not fully accomplished at a formal level. This is evidenced by the fact that composite forms are permeable by other elements. I apply one of C. Lehmann's parameters of grammaticalization claiming that, with the progresses of grammaticalization, both the ability to rearrange elements and the permeability by other linguistic units decreases.

Keywords: permeability; insertion; renarrative; composite verb forms; clitics

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