

Clause Reduction and Grammaticalization in Japanese
— How are new auxiliary verbs produced? —

Shigehiro Kato

(Hokkaido University / ILCAA Joint Researcher)

New auxiliary verbs have been formed chiefly by compounding grammatical nouns with copula verbs or light verbs in the Japanese language. Since Japanese is a rigid verb-final language, a sentence-final verb is regarded as a sentence head which forms a main sentence. But the grammaticalization making a sentence-final verb and its preceding noun into an auxiliary verb changes the whole sentence from complex sentence into simple sentence. This kind of clause reduction promotes the subordinate to the main clause, and this is a typical example of insubordination. In this study several types of grammaticalization making auxiliary verbs in Japanese will be proposed and analyzed. We will also discuss the stump-clause type, which looks like an incomplete or unfinished sentence but is preferred in colloquial style.