Ling 97: Morphological Change
Syllabus

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OH: W 3:30 – 4:30 or by appointment

1. Goal of this Tutorial

In this tutorial we'll examine two of the principal types of language change:
analogy and *grammaticalization*.

We're all familiar with analogies (e.g. foot : sock :: hand : X, X = glove), but
we'll see just how prevalent analogy is in language change (e.g. it's why we use
cows rather than *kine* for the plural of *cow*, why for many people *dove* -- instead
of the inherited *dived* -- is the past tense for *dive*, and why many others say
[fɛbjuɛɹi] for *February*). Grammaticalization is the process by which "content"
words become "function" words, which resulted in the creation of the English
modals (*can*, *may*, *must*, etc.), the Romance inflectional future (e.g. Lat *cantare
habeo* → Fr. *chanterai*), and the English expressions *try and* and *be gonna*.

Our focus will be on examining the various types of phenomena within each type
of change, and then looking critically at the current theoretical attempts to explain
them (and hopefully coming up with some of our own explanations along the
way).   In the end, we'll look at whether these two processes are really, as has
recently been suggested, part of a single process of language "optimization".

2. Schedule

<u>Week 1</u>: Introduction to language change, types of analogy	<u>HW</u>: Problem set #1 <u>Reading</u>: Hock - ch.9 & 10, Kuryłowicz – "The Nature of the so-called Analogical Processes"
<u>Week 2</u>: Are there principles of analogical change? Can we predict which types of analogical change are more likely to occur?	<u>HW</u>: Problem set #2 <u>Reading</u>: Garrett (2006) – "Paradigmatic Uniformity and Markedness", Albright (2006) – "Explaining universal tendencies and language particulars in analogical change"
<u>Week 3</u>: What drives paradigm leveling? Does UG want uniform paradigms?	<u>HW</u>: Problem set #3 <u>Reading</u>: Hopper & Traugott – ch. 1 & 3.3
<u>Week 4</u>: Introduction to	<u>HW</u>: Problem set #4

grammaticalization, types of grammaticalization	<u>Reading</u>: Hopper & Traugott – ch. 5, Haspelmath – "On directionality in language change with particular reference to grammaticalization"
<u>Week 5</u>: What enables grammaticalization to occur? Is grammaticalization unidirectional?	<u>HW</u>: Problem set #5 <u>Reading</u>: Kiparsky (2006) – "Grammaticalization as Optimization"
<u>Week 6</u>: Wrap-up of grammaticalization. Are analogy and grammaticalization part of a single process ("optimization")?	<u>HW</u>: Final paper (5-10 double-spaced pages) due by end of reading period

3. Requirements

- We'll usually have 1-2 required readings for each week, which will relate to the topic(s) to be discussed that week.
- For the first five weeks there will be short problem sets which will require application of what we've covered in class that week.
- Everyone will write a short final paper (5-10 double-spaced pages) on a topic of his or her choice (but relating to some aspect of what we cover in the tutorial). Possible topics include the analysis of an example of analogical change or grammaticalization that we have not discussed in class and that has not been covered in the readings.

- All readings and problem sets will be posted on the web: www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~kplaster.

4. Grading

- Attendance and participation: 25%
- Problem sets (5):   50%
- Final paper: 25%