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Areal Typology and Grammaticalization: Processes of Grammaticalization Based on Nouns and Verbs in East and South East Asian Languages

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Grammaticalization processes in East and mainland South East Asian languages show remarkable areal parallels between the verb and the noun. Since language contact increases processes of reanalysis it supports grammaticalization and its areal similarity. Grammaticalization processes are governed by attractor positions (cf. 1.1.3.) and pathways of grammaticalization. The former is a good parameter for making areal distinctions, the latter is of areal relevance only within the domain of attractor positions, grammaticalization processes are not necessarily slow and gradual. The distribution of attractor positions to each other is governed by the principles of relevance and generality (Bybee 1985).

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