

A Layered-structure-semantics-based Analysis of the Functional Extension of *Shall*

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This article analyzes the historical change of the English modal auxiliary *shall*, in which its semantic function shifted from proposition-describing one to modality-related one, and demonstrates that this functional change can be characterized in terms of the notions of grammaticalization, semantic bleaching, subjectification and intersubjectification. A Linguistic expression most often undergoes subjectification in the course of grammaticalization (and semantic bleaching). This is true of the historical development of *shall*. *Shall* lost its situation-describing function, and instead it acquired modality-expressing one (namely, the speaker's mental attitude at the moment of speech). The present study, on the basis of the universal semantics of the layered structure of the utterance, accounts for this functional change in a comprehensive and systematic fashion.