

## The Grammaticalization of Modal Particles in Shanghainese

Weifeng Han & Dingxu Shi  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

This paper depicts the grammaticalization path of  $hi^{23}k\tilde{a}^{34}$  'he says' in Shanghainese. It is proposed that, from the original quotative use, a reportive use of  $hi^{23}k\tilde{a}^{34}$  was developed in the sentence final position with an obscured source of information indicative of speaker's doubt about the proposition (Han & Shi 2012). The reportive clause was then integrated with its preceding propositional clause and evolved itself into a modal particle expressing the counter-expecting meaning of denial (Yap et al. 2010), based on which  $hi^{23}k\tilde{a}^{34}$  was further grammaticalized into the new sole-purpose topic marking particle of counter-expectation through 'position lowering' (Qiang 2010). The emergence of  $hi^{23}k\tilde{a}^{34}$  as a topic particle, as well as a modal particle, is driven by intralinguistic needs for functional variety and form specialization. Such a path (see Figure1) is claimed to be elegant and practical since not only the stages involved gracefully follow the five principles of grammaticalization by Hopper (1991; 1996), the novel evolution (or revolution) of  $hi^{23}k\tilde{a}^{34}$  as a topic marking particle is also helpful for the analysis of similar patterns across languages.

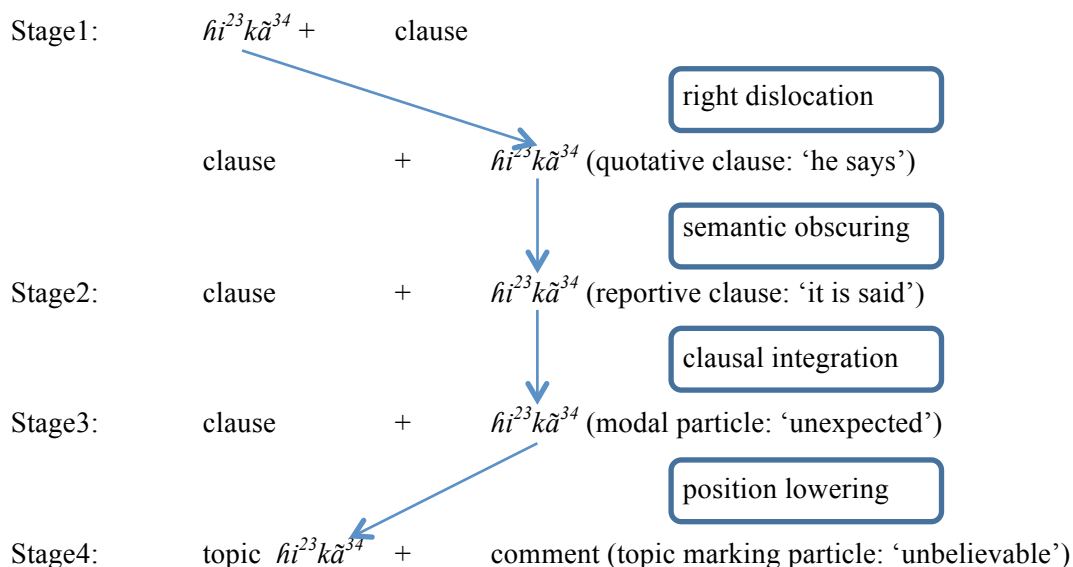


Figure 1: The grammaticalization of  $hi^{23}k\tilde{a}^{34}$

**Key words:**  $hi^{23}k\tilde{a}^{34}$ , Shanghainese, modal particle, topic marking particle, grammaticalization

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