

**Genre-specificity of some grammaticalization processes in Korean: A contrastive study with  
Japanese**

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Korean and Japanese are known to exhibit much similarity synchronically in lexico-grammatical structures as well as diachronically in grammaticalization processes. Beyond superficial similarities, however, some conspicuous differences have been observed.

In this paper, particular attention will be paid to some grammaticalization processes commonly observed in both languages where Korean recapitulates the process previously undergone in Japanese but manifests greater genre-restrictedness. The grammaticalization processes in question are the following:

- (I) Evolution from progressive marking to ‘perfect’ marking
- (II) Evolution from attributive form to sentence-final form

The grammaticalization process in (I) is a process being undergone by the Korean progressive/resultative marker *-ko issta*, apparently in a similar manner to its Japanese counterpart *-te iru*. The grammaticalization process in (II) is a process being undergone by Korean attributive predicate forms, e.g. *-ko kath-un* (be like-attributive), in a similar manner to their Japanese counterparts, e.g. *mitai-na* (be like-attributive), though attributive and sentence-final predicate forms in Japanese became virtually non-distinct except adjectives ending in *-na* due to the merger of attributive and sentence-final forms that happened in the history of the language.

Interestingly, both processes (I) and (II) tend to be restricted to some specific genres, (e.g. written (I), newspaper articles and columns (I); primarily written (II), TV subtitles, blogs (II)) and do not readily seem to proceed “all the way”, i.e. across genres. This paper points to language-internal and language-external factors responsible for the genre-restrictedness in Korean grammaticalization processes.