

The *Journal of Chinese Linguistics* vol.47, no.1 (January 2019): 193-226
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The polysemous *liáh* 力 in Early Modern Southern Min and its contemporary fate.
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THE POLYSEMOUS *LIÁH* 力 IN EARLY MODERN SOUTHERN MIN
AND ITS CONTEMPORARY FATE¹

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ABSTRACT

Based on Early Modern Southern Min texts from Ming and Qing dynasties, this paper studies the different functions of *liáh* 力 in Southern Min and the grammaticalisation pathways that led to the polysemantism. The morpheme *liáh* could appear as a content verb meaning ‘to catch’ or a polyfunctional case marker in Early Modern Southern Min; while in Contemporary Southern Min, its verb use has become overwhelming, and its grammatical uses are mostly fossilised. This paper hypothesises the grammaticalisation pathways of *liáh* by examining ambiguous constructions, and proposes that the fossilisation of the grammatical functions started with South-Western varieties of Southern Min, in which *liáh* was transcribed with the character 掠. The history of this word is worthy of the attention of typological studies.

Acknowledgments The research leading to this paper has received funding from the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) for the project entitled “*Typologization of synchronic and diachronic processes in Southern Min, a Sinitic language*” (TYSOMIN), n° 11-ISH2-001-01, a bilateral cooperative project with the National Science Council of Taiwan (NSC), Principal investigator, Hilary Chappell and Co-investigator, Alain Peyraube. I would like to thank both of the investigators, Hilary Chappell and Alain Peyraube, for their useful comments regarding this paper. My sincere gratitude is also dedicated to Professor Lien Chin-fa and my colleague, Song Na, for their insightful discussions over the subject. I would also like to thank the anonymous reviewer for her/his detailed suggestions and corrections. All faults are mine.

There is no conflict of interest to publish this paper in *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*.

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早期閩南語中“力”*liáh*字之多重功能及其現代命運

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摘要

本文立足于明清閩南語文獻研究近代閩南語“力”*liáh*的多重功能以及引致其多義性之語法化路徑。在早期閩南語中，“力”既是表“捉、拿”的動詞，亦是一個多功能的格標記。然而在當代閩南語中，“力”的動詞功能尤為顯著，其格標記用法則幾乎喪失能產性。本文通過研究存在句法或語義歧義的結構討論“力”的語法化進程，並提出其格標記功能的喪失是從西南部的閩南語開始的。研究“力”的歷史可為語言類型學提供有用的材料。

關鍵詞

早期閩南語 荔鏡記 賓語標記 語法化 受動性等第