

THE CONSTRUCTIONALIZATION OF  
A SET OF CONNECTIVES IN CHINESE

Zhan Fangqiong

*East China Normal University, Shanghai*

ABSTRACT

In Modern Chinese, *shì* is found as part of the composition of a set of connectives, e.g. *kěshì* ‘but,’ *yàoshì* ‘if.’ The previous research (Dong 2004, etc.) assumes that the development of the set underwent the process of lexicalization (Lehmann 2002): the syntactic strings [Y COP] lost their internal constituency and fused into one unit over time. This paper, however, in the light of Brinton and Traugott’s (2005) criteria for distinguishing lexicalization and grammaticalization, and Traugott and Trousdale’s (2013) hypothesis of constructionalization, argues that the copula *shì* coalescing with the preceding lexemes and changing into a bound morpheme underwent grammatical constructionalization rather than what Lehmann calls lexicalization. I argue that the process of change involves grammatical constructionalization, based on the analyses of generality/schematicity, productivity and compositionality. I also

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**Abbreviations** This paper uses the following abbreviations: ASSOC = Associative; CL = Classifier; COP = Copula; EMP = Emphatic; FM = Focus marker; INTERR=Interrogative; NOM = Nominalization/Nominalizer; NP = Noun phrase; PERF = Perfective; PL1 = First person Plural; PL3= Third person Plural; PTCL= Particle; REL = Relativizer; RES = Resultative; S = Clause; SEM = Semantics; SG1 =First person singular; SG2 = Second person singular; SG3 = Third person singular; VP = Verbal phrase.

**Acknowledgment** The author would like to thank Elizabeth Traugott and Chaofen Sun for their invaluable guidance and countless inspiring discussions of the issues, and the anonymous reviewers for their illuminating feedback and comments. This work was supported by Shanghai Philosophy and Social Science Planning Project (2014EYY003).

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

**Zhan Fangqiong** [zhjade2000@gmail.com]; 3663 North Zhongshan Rd, International College of Chinese Studies, East China Normal University, Shanghai 200062, China.

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consider pragmatic inferencing and analogy to be the motivation and reanalysis, analogization and subjectification to be the mechanisms of the process of constructionalization.

KEYWORDS

Connectives    Lexicalization    Constructionalization

# 汉语连词的构式化进程

詹芳琼

华东师范大学, 上海

## 提要

在现代汉语中,“是”是一组连接词如“可是”“但是”的组成部分。前人的研究(董秀芳 2004 等)认为这一系列连词的发展经历了词汇化过程(Lehmann 2002)即结构字符串[Y COP]随着时间推移逐渐失去了他们的内部组合性并融合成一个语素单位。本文采用 Brinton and Traugott (2005)区分词汇化和语法化的标准,以及 Traugott and Trousdale (2013)的构式化理论,论证了系词“是”跟前面的语素 Y 结合,变成粘着语素经历了语法构式化而非 Lehmann 所谓的词汇化。本文从图式性,能产性和组合性这三个构式化维度来论证该变化是个语法构式化过程,并指出语用推测和类比是该变化的动因,而重新分析,类比化和主观化则是该变化的机制。

## 主题词

连词 词汇化 构式化

*The Journal of Chinese Linguistics* vol.45, no.1 (January 2017): 104-144

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0091-3723/2017/4501-04: The constructionalization of a set of connectives in Chinese