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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.

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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