

从语法化和方言接触看马来西亚华语“几”

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摘要

马来西亚华语中副词“几”的用法较为广泛。从语法化及语言接触的角度探讨这一用法发现, 马来西亚华语“几”的副词用法是受中国南方方言特别是粤语的影响所致。马来西亚华语副词“几”主要有三种用法: (a)表询问, 用于疑问句; (b)表任一程度; (c)表程度高。另外, 马来西亚华语“几+动/形+(一)下”结构用法也很普遍。马来西亚华语“几”的副词用法的产生与“几”的语法化具有密切关系。“几”从表数量到表程度, 是一个由客观数量到主观程度的演变历程。中国大陆普通话已经没有程度副词“几”的用法, 但是中国南方方言的“几”的这种用法却比较普遍, 尤其是粤语。马来西亚华语“几”的副词用法是受粤语的影响而形成的, 是方言接触的结果, 马来西亚华语“几”的副词用法复制了粤语中“几”的这种用法, 是一种语法复制现象。

关键词

马来西亚华语 程度副词“几” 语法化 方言接触 语法复制

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Ji IN MALAYSIA MANDARIN: A PERSPECTIVE FROM DIALECT
CONTACT AND GRAMMATICALIZATION

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ABSTRACT

Compared with its counterpart in Mainland China Mandarin, the degree adverb *jǐ* 几 in Malaysia Mandarin is not only widely used, but also commonly found in unique constructions such as “*jǐ* + verb/adjective + *yíxià*”. From the perspectives of grammaticalization and language contact, this paper argues that the usage of the degree adverb *jǐ* in Malaysia Mandarin has been influenced by the southern Chinese dialects, especially Cantonese, and represents as a case of “grammatical replication” (Heine and Kuteva 2003). Specifically, this study finds that the degree adverb *jǐ* in Malaysia Mandarin has three main functions: (a) to indicate a general degree in interrogative sentences; (b) to indicate any degree; (c) to indicate a high degree. Moreover, this study investigates the historical development of *jǐ* and proposes that its evolution from a quantity word to a (subjective) degree adverb is a process of grammaticalization. Finally, based on an investigation of Chinese southern dialects where *jǐ* can be used as a degree adverb, as well as the language situation in Malaysia, this study proposes that the unique features of *jǐ* in Malaysia Mandarin can be attributed to the Cantonese spoken in Malaysia via language contact, and the whole process is a result of grammatical replication.

KEYWORDS

Malaysian Mandarin Degree adverb *ji* Grammaticalization Dialect contact Grammatical replication