

# **A formal model of diachronic verbal semantics**

Eystein Dahl, Università di Bergen

This paper represents an attempt to reconcile the insights of two largely independent traditions, formally oriented semantics and functionally oriented grammaticalization research. Drawing on the model outlined in my previous paper, I explore how this basically synchronic framework can be applied to diachronic data, in particular to account for the development of verbal tense/aspect categories in different Indo-European languages. The issues this paper sets out to discuss include the following:

- To what extent can the usage-based approach to semantic change be incorporated in a formally oriented framework?
- To what extent does the formal approach to verbal semantics advocated in the present work contribute to clarifying the notoriously controversial role of Unidirectionality in semantic change?
- How do semantic and systemic factors interact in semantic change?
- What is the role of lexical semantic factors and event structure in grammatical change?