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The Grammaticalization of the English to-infinitive

By Kristina Schmelzer

GRIN Verlag GmbH Dez 2013, 2013. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 213x136x10 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1,7, RWTH Aachen University (Anglistische Sprachwissenschaft), course: Grammaticalization, language: English, abstract: Grammaticalization means the transition of a lexical, autonomous form to a grammatical, dependent form. It is a process in which syntactic structures develop out of free discourse structures and that extends over long time periods (cf. Diewald 1997: 11). Hardly any phenomenon of linguistics has raised as many questions as the grammaticalization of the infinitive. The English language differentiates between two infinitive types: The bare infinitive, which is only left in certain constructions, is sometimes described as a sort of grammatical fossil (Curme 1931: 456, quoted in Duffley 1992: 12) and the to-infinitive, on the other hand, demonstrates the widely-used form of the infinitive. Haspelmath (1989: 287) gives a glimpse into the prevalent view, that the [to-] infinitive is the basic and unmarked form of the verb, which carries no meaning of its own. The influential linguist Roman Jakobson states the definition as follows: Among all...



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