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PAITAYA MEESAT : A STUDY OF AUXILIARY VERBS DEVELOPED FROM VERBS IN THAI.

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This is a diachronic study of the words /khory/ , /khuan/ , /tʰɔ̃ŋ/ , /dáj/ , /ná:/ , and /ʔá:t/ , which can function synchronically both as verbs and pre - nominal auxiliaries . The data used are samples of historical document , which have been published . The documents dated from the Sukhothai period to the present reign of King Rama IX . It covers the time during BE . 1926 - BE. 2537 . The focus of the study is the grammaticalization process which affects these six lexical items.

The study reveals that these six auxiliaries can be classified into 2 groups according to the types of verb from which they have developed . /khory/ , /tʰɔ̃ŋ/ , /dáj/ , and /ʔá:t/ are grammaticalized from transitive verbs . /khuan/ , and /ná:/ are grammaticalized from intransitive verbs . Three types of semantic change are found to have occurred in the process . These are what Bybee et al (1994) called metaphorical extension , meaning generalization and absorption of contextual meaning . Although /khory/ , /khuan/ , /tʰɔ̃ŋ/ , /dáj/ , /ná:/ , and /ʔá:t/ are all grammaticalized into auxiliaries , /ná:/ seems to have gone the furthest to become a recurrent component in a compounding process which changes a verb into an adjective .

According to the data , /dáj/ has been found as an auxiliary since the Sukhothai period . /khory/ is found occurring as aspectual auxiliary in the Ayutthaya document . /khuan/ , and /tʰɔ̃ŋ/ are found as auxiliaries in the document during the reign of King Rama I . /ʔá:t/ is not found as an auxiliary until the reign of King Rama V . For /ná:/ , even though its use as an epistemic auxiliary is not found in the data collected until the reign of King Rama V , the fact that it has been grammaticalized to the point of becoming a recurrent prefix-like component of a compound can be an indication that its development into a pre - nominal auxiliary could have started earlier than the other five items in this lexical set , i.e.before the Sukhothai period . The thesis concludes with an etymological description of /khory/ , /khuan/ , /tʰɔ̃ŋ/ , /dáj/ , /ná:/ , and /ʔá:t/ .

ภาควิชา.....ภาษาไทย.....

ลายมือชื่อนิสิต..... ทัศน สวัสดิ์.....

สาขาวิชา.....ภาษาไทย.....

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ปีการศึกษา..... 2540.....

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