

Worralak Weerayuth 2013: A Diachronic Syntactic Study of pay and maa.

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The aims of this study are to classify the motion verb pay and maa and the adverb pay and maa based on Lexicase Dependency Grammar and to study the grammaticalization of pay and maa. In this research, data were collected from documents from Sukhothai period to present-day language. It is found that the words pay and maa form homophonous verbs and the adverbs. There are 4 pairs of motion verbs pay and maa in Thai. They are: 1) pay₁ and maa₁ functioning as motion intransitive verbs which are one-argument verbs. 2) pay₂ and maa₂ functioning as motion intransitive verbs which require a prepositional phrase which indicates location. 3) pay₃ and maa₃ functioning as motion intransitive verbs which require a locational noun. 4) pay₄ and maa₄ functioning as motion intransitive verbs which must be followed by a verb.

It is found there are 4 adverbs pay and 3 adverbs maa. They are: 1) The adverbs pay₅ and maa₅ expressing direction, following a motion verb and a communication verb; 2) The adverbs pay₆ and maa₆ showing perfective aspect which follow a telic verb and a stative verb; 3) The adverbs pay₇ and maa₇ showing continuous action which follow an atelic verb; 4) The adverb pay₈ showing a speaker's attitudes which follow a stative verb. The motion verbs and the adverbs pay and maa are different in their syntactic distributions and meanings. The motion verbs pay and maa reflect the characteristics of verbs and express motion in meaning while the adverbs pay and maa do not show any characteristic of verbs.

The diachronic study of pay and maa reveals that the motion verbs and the adverbs pay and maa first occurred in Sukhothai period, except for the adverb maa₇ which was first found in Ayutthaya period. When comparing the distribution of the motion verbs and the adverbs pay and maa, It is found that the verbs pay₄ and maa₄ show the highest frequency in all periods and have tendency to increase. The verbs pay₂ and maa₂ tend to decrease while the verbs pay₃ and maa₃ tend to increase. The adverb maa₆ decrease while the adverbs maa₅ and maa₇ dramatically increase in the present-day usage. The usage of the adverbs pay and maa continuously increase over time. There is a tendency to increase as a result of grammaticalization which is continuous and not yet incomplete.

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