

The grammaticalization of prepositional objects:

In Ibero-Romance, the preposition *ad* denotes human/animate direct objects. The wide distribution of this construction (Zamboni (1993)) suggests that the grammaticalization goes back to proto-Romance/Latin, and so I compare the oldest varieties of Ibero-Romance and establish the proto-Romance patterns, namely that 1) often the head predicates are ambiguous between being two-place and three-place predicates, whose prepositional objects are ambiguous between being direct and indirect respectively 2) *ad* is statistically predominant with human/animate objects 3) *ad* usually marks emphatic, rather than generic, objects 4) *ad* is always attested with personal pronouns. As this construction seems to be related to indirect objects (1), I analyse the Latin corpora for the grammaticalization of *ad* as the marker of indirect objects (Pinkster (1990:200-202), Adams (2010:266-267)), and the genesis of this construction could be due to the fact that 1) certain three-place predicates in Latin become two-place in Romance e.g. Latin *clamare* > Portuguese *chamar* (Meyer-Lubke (1900:387)), Spanish *llamar* (Zorraquino (1976:561)) 2) the *ad*-PPs of these Latin predicates almost always have human/animate reference 3) these *ad*-PPs are usually more emphatic than the morphological dative/accusative, even if they are functionally equivalent 4) in late Christian Latin, pronominal objects are almost always headed by *ad*.

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