

stance marker *no* serves to soften the proposition, whereas the stance marker *si* tends to add something dismissive to the proposition as in (1). That is, while the formal change in the grammaticalization from nominalizer to stance marker is common to each other i.e. formally unidirectional, the semantic change in the process is contrasting: the Japanese *no* is a kind of softener, positively oriented, but *si* is a kind of dismissive, negatively oriented i.e. semantically not necessarily unidirectional.

Considering these observable changes, even genetically related Japanese and Okinawan come under scrutiny and underline the need for a fuller investigation into both syntactic and semantic unidirectionality in grammaticalization.

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