



On the extended uses of evidential markers in Korean: Diachronic and discourse perspectives

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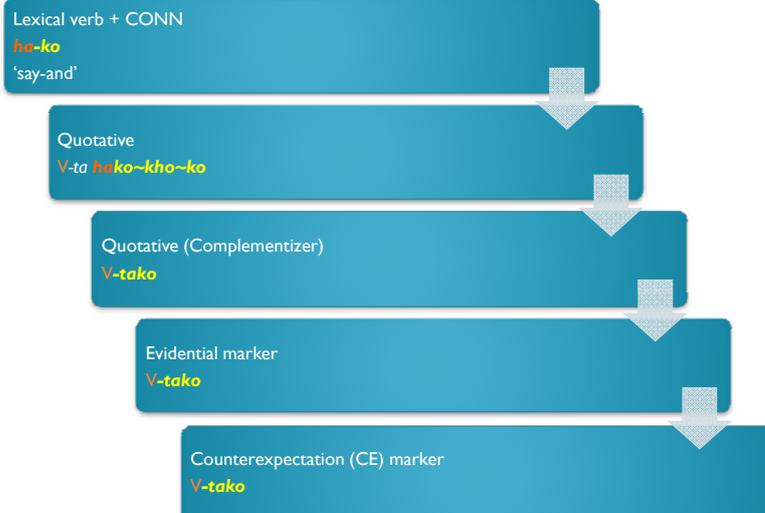
Objectives (1)

- To investigate the diachronic development of evidentiality (and counterexpectation) markers *-tako*, *-tamyē*, *-tamyense* and *-tanta* in Korean.
 - These markers are derived from constructions involving the initial presence and subsequent elision of the lexical verb *ha* ‘say’.
 - This analysis can contribute to our understanding of the relationship between evidentiality and mirativity, particularly from constructions involving ‘say’ verbs.

Objectives (2)

- To examine how evidentiality markers *-tako*, *-tamyē*, *-tamyense* and *-tanta* are used to negotiate epistemic footing in Korean discourse.
 - This also addresses the question of why the Korean language develops different types of evidentiality markers that are derived from ‘say’ verbs and that draw on the same morphosyntactic mechanisms for the grammaticalization of these ‘say’-type evidential markers.

Grammaticalization of evidential marker *tako*



Grammaticalization of evidential marker *tako*



ha-ko 'say-CONN' > Quotative *tako*

- The process involves the grammaticalization of *ha-ko*, a combination of the lexical verb *ha* 'say' and connective *-ko* 'and', which developed into quotative *hako ~ kho ~ ko*.
- Quotative uses of *hako* were attested as early as the 15th century (with *-kho* as an occasional phonological variant), and further phonological reduction yielded quotative *-ko* in the 17th century, a form that increased in productivity from the 18th century onward (see Kim 2003; also cited in Sohn 2009: 133).
- As its frequency of use increased significantly in the 18th century, quotative *-ko* began to often combine with the declarative particle *-ta* in the preceding complement clause to form complementizer *-tako* (see Rhee 2011).

Lexical verb *ha* ‘say’ + Connective *-ko* ‘and’

- (1) *wang-i nwiuchy-e pulli-si-ntay [timaniho-ita] ha-ko*
king-NOM regret-and call-SH-and [apologize-DEC] say-and
ani o-nila
not come-DEC

‘The king regretted and called them (his sons) again, but they didn’t come, saying: “We apologize.”’

(*Welinsekpo* 1459; cited in Sohn 2009: 129)

Quotative *hako*

- (2) *taycwung-tAlh-i ta wuz-umye wang-to wuz-umye nilo-tAy*
people-PL-NOM all laugh-and king-also laugh-and speak-and
[i aki kongtek-ul teunos-ta] hAko nilo-tAy
[this baby charity-ACC practice-DEC] QT say-and
nay sto samsip man nyang kum-ulo
1SG also 30 ten.thousand measuring.unit gold-with
motAn cwung-nim-nay-lAl kongyanghA-mye
all monk-HON-PL-ACC serve-and

15th century *hako*

‘Everyone laughed; the king also laughed, and said:
“This baby does (Buddhist) charity” and he said: I will also
serve all monks with three hundred thousand *nyang* of gold’

(*Sekposangcel* 釋譜詳節 1447; cited in Sohn 2009: 132)

Quotative *-kho*

- (3) *ku pskuy pALAm-i pwul-e pen-i mwi-enAl*
that time wind-NOM blow-and banner-NOM move-and
hAn cyung-un nilo-tAy [pALAm-i mwi-nA-ta]-kho
one monk TOP say-and [wind-NOM move-IND-DEC]-QT
hAn cyung-un nilo-tAy [pen-i mwui-nA-ta] hAya
one monk TOP say-and [banner-NOM move-IND-DEC] say
uylon-Al mati-ani-khenul
discussion-ACC stop-NEG-and

‘At that time a wind blew and so a banner was moving;
one monk said: “**Wind is moving**”; another monk said:
“Banner is moving.” They didn’t stop arguing ...’

(*Yuckco* 1496: 57; cited in Sohn 2009: 133)

Quotative (complementizer) *-ko*

- (4) [*sasip ye in-i cwuk-ta*]-*ko* *hA-ni*
[forty over people-NOM die-DEC]-QT say-and
insim-i teok hangpok-ti ani hA-ni
people-NOM more surrender-COMP NEG do-and

‘Since someone said **that around forty people died**,
people were more determined not to surrender’

(*Sansengilki* 1636; cited in Sohn 2009: 134)

Complementizer *tako*

- (5) *tang-uy Hyencong-i [ci-ess]-tako*
Tang.dynasty-GEN King.Hyencong-NOM [write-PST]-QT
ha-nun senin-ul nolayha-n mukok
say-ADN ancestor-ACC sing-ADN song

‘The song about the ancestor that King Hyencong of Tang dynasty was said **to write**’

(*Pingpingcen* 18th century)

18th century *tako*

Complementizer *tako*

- (6) [*hAnpen silsuywu hA-yes*]-*tako*
[once mistake make-PST]-COMP
naynom-uy mal-pelus-i ku-l-hal-sywu-ka
2SG-GEN word-way-NOM that-ACC-do-possible-NOM
is-ta-n malka
exist-DEC-ADN SFP

‘Just because I made a mistake once,
how could you say such a thing!’

(*Sincayhyopansolisasel2* 496, 19th century; cited in Nam 2010: 121)

19th century *tako*

Hearsay evidential *tako*

- (7) [Ilpon-un dongpyeng cwyunpi-ka ta toy-yass]-*tako*
[Japan-TOP collect.army preparation-NOM all become-PST]-EVID

'It is said that Japan finished the preparation for recruiting the army.'

(*Twukeynseng* 1912)

Early 20th century *tako*

Confirmation-seeking *tako*

- (8) A: *Yenghuy-ka wuli-pan-eyse ceil yepp-e.*
Yenghuy-NOM 1PL-class-in most pretty-SFP
'Yenghuy is most beautiful in our class.'
- B: [Yenghuy-ka wuli-pan-eyse ceil yepp]-*tako*?
[Yenghuy-NOM 1PL-class-in most pretty]-EVID

'Did you say (that) Yenghuy is most beautiful in our class?'

(Jeon 1996: 901)

Mid-20th century *tako*

Evidential *takwu*

Contemporary Korean *takwu*

- (9) A: *ttak ikey nwuwu-si-n-ke-ya*
just like.this lie-HON-ADN-NOMZ-SFP
Kuntey, salam-tul-i kulen mal isscanha,
by.the.way man-PL-NOM such word DM
tolaka-si-l-ttay-ka toy-myen
die-HON-ADN-time-NOM become-when
cengsin-i wa-ss-ta ka-ss-ta han-takwu
mind-NOM come-PST-DEC go-PST-DEC do-EVID
- ‘He is lying just like this. By the way, people usually say like this, you know. **It is said** that when a man is about to pass away, the mind strays.’
- B: *Ung*
‘Yes.’

Counterexpectation *tako*

- (10) [*yeca-ka wucwu pihayngsa-lul ha-keyss-tako!?*]
[woman-NOM astronaut-ACC do-be.willing]-CE
Lit. ‘**It’s said** a woman is willing to become an astronaut!’

‘How dare a woman become an astronaut!?’

(Yu 2002: 116)

Contemporary Korean *tako*

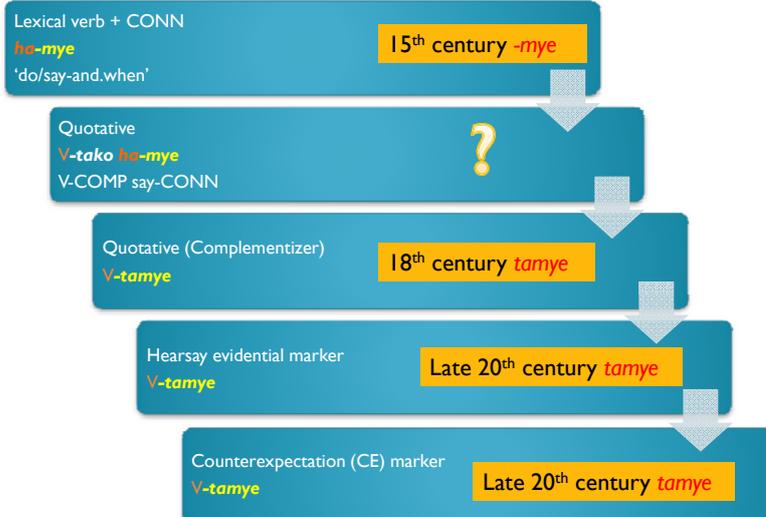
Grammaticalization of *tako*

Figure 1. The grammaticalization of *tako* in Old, Middle and Modern Korean

<u>Old Korean</u>	<u>Middle Korean</u>	<u>Modern Korean</u>
Lexical <i>ha-ko</i> 'say-and'	Quotative <i>hako</i> ~ <i>kho</i> (15 th c.) Quotative <i>-ko</i> (17 th c.)	Complementizer <i>-tako</i> (18 th c.) Evidential <i>-tako</i> (early 20 th c.) Confirmation-seeking <i>-tako</i> (mid-20 th c.) Counterexpectation <i>-tako</i> (late 20 th c.)

SAY > QT > EVID > CE

Grammaticalization of evidential marker *tamye*



Connective *-mye* > Evidential *tamye*

- Like *-ko*, *-mye* was a productive connective in Old Korean, with the temporal meaning ‘and when’.
- In combination with the declarative sentence-ender *-ta* of the preceding complement clause, a new complementizer *tamye* emerged.
- Complementizer *tamye* may have emerged as a phonological reduction of *tako ha-myē* (COMP *say*-CONN) (see Rhee 2011).

Connective (and complementizer) *mye*

(11) [sayng-Al to-ha]-*mye* [hayng-Al niluwa-ta]-*mye*
[life-ACC law-do]-COMP [action-ACC say-DEC]-CONN
yong-Al niluw-at-ta hAya-si-nAl
courage-ACC say-PST-DEC say-SH-and

‘(Buddha told us) **to abide by the law** (lit. ‘live a life according to the law’), **and when referring to action**, (he) told (us) to act with courage’

(Wenkakkyeng 1465)

15th century *-mye*

Quotative complementizer *tamye*

- (12) [pwuin-uy toli-nun pwumo-ka upsu-myen
[wife-GEN duty-TOP parents-NOM NEG.exist-when
pamey tang-ey naylici anhnun]-*tamye*
at.night house-LOC get NEG.do]-**EVID.COMP**
toli-lul cikita cwuk-ess-ta
duty-ACC do die-PST-DEC

18th century *-tamye*

'Saying that the duty of a wife is not to get out of the house at night when there are no parents around, she died doing her duty.'

(Pingpingdyen 18th century)

tako **ha-mye** > tamye

Quotative complementizer *tamye*

- (13) [amoto chinha-n salAm-to up]-*tamye*
[nobody close-ADN person-also NEG.exist-**EVID.COMP**
sikol-sa-nAn ahAy-ka mwusen poli-i]
country.live-ADNchild-NOM what thing-NOM]
iss-ye olna-was-nAnya?
exist-SEQ come-PST-Q

Early 20th century *-tamye*

'While saying that there is no close friend, what has brought you, the child living in the county, here?'

(Komokwha 1908)

tako **ha-mye** > tamye

Hearsay evidential *tamye*

(14) *uh ani [cip sa-n]-tamye?*
uh by.the.way [house buy-IMPF]-HEARSAY

‘Uh, by the way, you’re buying a house, [I hear, is it true?]

(Kim 2011: 439)

Downgrades
the speaker’s
epistemic footing

Acknowledges
the addressee’s
epistemic authority

Elicits addressee’s alignment

Counterexpectation *tamye*

(15) [*ku-ka manhi aphu*]-*tamye?*
[3SG-NOM very be.sick]-CE

‘I heard he is very sick, is it true?’

(Lee 2006: 248)

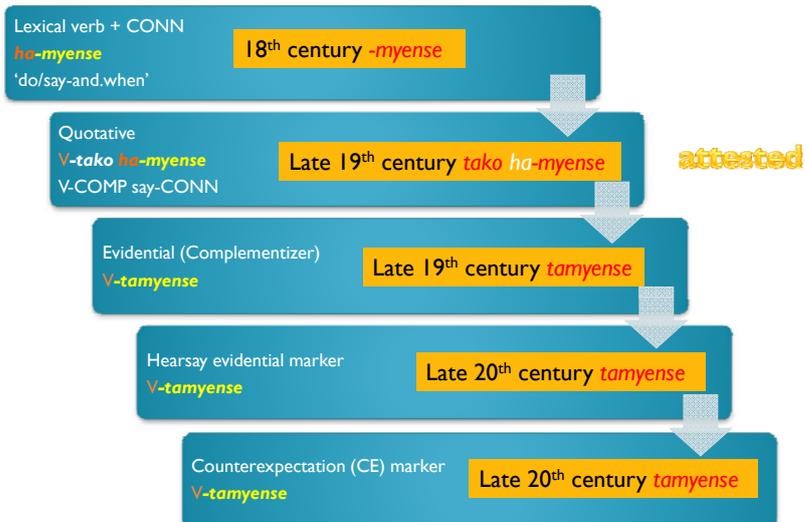
Evidential + Surprise
+ elicitation of addressee’s
epistemic knowledge

Grammaticalization of *tamye*

Figure 2. The grammaticalization of *tamye* in Middle and Modern Korean

Old Korean	Middle Korean	Modern Korean
Lexical source unknown	Connective <i>-mye</i> (15 th c.)	No example found in our corpus <i>tako ha-mye</i> > <i>tamye</i>
		Quotative complementizer <i>tamye</i> (18 th c.) Hearsay evidential <i>tamye</i> (early 20 th c.) --with a confirmation-seeking function Counterexpectation <i>tamye</i> (late 20 th c.)
Affiliative move: Elicits alignment		
SAY-CONN > QT > EVID > CE		

Grammaticalization of evidential marker *tamyense*



From *myense* to evidential and counterexpectation marker *-tamyense*

- Connective *-myense* is the more emphatic counterpart of connective *-mye*.
- Complementizer *tamyense* appears to have emerged via clause-combining as follows:
 - *VP-tako + ha-myense* (VP-COMP + say-CONN')
 - *> VP-tamyense* (VP-EVID.COMP)
- The meaning conveyed by *tako ha-myense* is similar to that of *tamyense*, namely, it serves as a subordinator-type complementizer somewhat equivalent to English temporal connective *and when*, with reportative and evidential overtones.
- Complementizers *tako ha-myense* and *tamyense* both occur in the same text as phonological variants.
- In Contemporary Korean, complementizer *tamyense* has also developed an evidential function, and in mirative contexts, *tamyense* yields a counterexpectation reading.

Connective *myense*

(16) *syeyisyok-i* *hwangnyen-kwa* *kamcho*
 brother-in-law-NOM oriental.medicine-and oriental.medicine
talhi-n *mul-lo* *ahAy* *kAsna-myensye*
 boil-ADN water-with child give.birth.to-when
cyekcyek *mek-y-e* *pAysok-uy*
 much give-let-SEQ stomach-GEN
teleon kes *mek-un* *stongul* *nu-i-nAni*
 dirty NOMZ eat-ADN dung-ACC defecate let-SFP

‘When I gave birth to a child, my brother-in-law let me drink a lot of water boiled with oriental medicine, and this helped cleanse my stomach (lit. ‘let me defecate dung’).’

(*Dwuchangkyeng* 1711)

18th century *-myense*

Quotative complementizer *tako ha-myensye*

(VP-EVID.COMP < VP-COMP say-CONN)

- (17) [*alasya kongkwan-ey chyulniphA-n*]-*tako* *ha-myensye*
[Russia embassy-at come.and.go-PRES]-**COMP** **say-CONN**
liyengsil kangcAyung-ulpoko hA-nAn mal-i
Lee Youngsil Kang Jaeung-DAT say-ADN word-NOM

‘While claiming that he regularly goes to the Russian Embassy, what he said to Lee Youngsil and Kang Jaeung is that ...’

(*Toklipsinmwun* 獨立新聞 523, 1896)

Late 19th century –*tako ha-myense*

Quotative complementizer *tamyensye*

(VP-EVID.COMP)

- (18) [*inmin-ul pohohA-yacw-n*]-*tamyense*
[people-ACC protect-BEN-PRES]-**EVID.COMP**
ile-n kes-ul pAlkhy-ecwu-cian-nAn kes-un
like.this-ADN thing-ACC clarify-BEN-NEG-ADN thing-TOP

‘While claiming that they (as civil servants) are protecting the people, that they do not clarify this kind of matter (i.e. taxes imposed on Koreans by Chinese) is (neglecting their job)’

(*Toklipsinmwun* 獨立新聞 1858, 1896)

Occurs in the same text
as *-tako hamyense*
and with similar meaning

Late 19th century –*tako ha-myense*

Hearsay evidential *tamyense*

(19) *mac-a-yo. mal-i kulekhey manh-tamyense-yo?*
 correct-IE-POL word-NOM so much-HEARSAY-POL

‘(That’s) correct. (They) talk (about others) so much like that,
I hear, isn’t it true?

Evidential
 -- more forceful
 than *tamye*

Acknowledges the
 addressee’s
 epistemic right

(Kim 2011:451)

Late 20th century –*tamyense*

Counterexpectation *tamyense*

Late 20th century –*tamyense*

(20) A: *yenghwa-po-le ka*
 movie-see-CONV go
 ‘I’m going to the movies.’

B: *mwe? [ne aphu]-tamyense*
 what? [2SG be.sick]-CE

‘What? **Didn’t you say you are sick?**’

Evidential
 -- more forceful
 than *tamye*

Challenges
 the addressee’s
 prior utterance
 -- tends to express
 more negative affect
 than *tamye*

Grammaticalization of *tamyense*

Figure 4. The grammaticalization of *tamyense* in Middle and Modern Korean

<u>Old Korean</u>	<u>Middle Korean</u>	<u>Modern Korean</u>
Lexical source unknown	Connective <i>-myense</i> (18 th c.)	
		Quotative complementizer <i>tako-ha-myense</i> (late 19 th c.)
		Quotative complementizer <i>tamyense</i> ((late 19 th c.)
		Hearsay evidential <i>tamyense</i> (late 20 th c.)
		Counterexpectation <i>tamyense</i> (late 20 th c.)

Disaffiliative move:

Appears to elicit disalignment

but often is an attempt to reintroduce alignment

SAY-CONN > QT > EVID > CE

Grammaticalization of evidential marker *tanta*

Lexical verb + TENSE + SFP

ha-n-ta

'do/say-PRES-DEC'

Quotative (Complementizer)

V-tako ha-n-ta

V-COMP say-PRES-DEC

18th century *tako ha-hanta*

Hearsay evidential marker

V-tanta

19th century *tanta*

*Counterexpectation (CE) marker

**V-tanta*

Not attested

Quotative complementizer *tako hA-n-ta*

(VP-COMP say-PRES-DEC)

- (21) *cincwu sek-sem-ul cwu-ko kunye-lul*
pearl three-bag-ACC give-and she-ACC
sa-ss-tako ha-n-ta
buy-PST-COMP say-PRES-DEC

'It is said (someone) bought her by giving three bags of pearls'

(*Pingpingcen* 18th century)

18th century *-tanta*

Hearsay evidential *tanta*

- (22) *Chunhyang-a sepangnim-i o-sy-ess-tanta*
PN-HORT husband-NOM come-HON-PST-EVID

'Chunhyang! I heard that your husband came.'

(*Chunhyangcen* 19th century)

19th century *-tanta*

Hearsay evidential *tanta*

- (23) A: *hwatong hakwen ta-nye*
 hwatong private.institute go-DEC
 ‘I go to *Hwatong*, a private institute.’
- B: *eti-ya?*
 where-Q
 ‘Where?’
- C: *achasan-yek-ey iss-tanta*
 achasan (N) station-LOC exist-EVID
 ‘I heard that the institute is near Achanan station.’

(Sejong Spoken corpus)

Contemporary Korean –*tanta*

Grammaticalization of *tanta*

Figure 4. The grammaticalization of *tanta* in Middle and Modern Korean

<u>Old Korean</u>	<u>Middle Korean</u>	<u>Modern Korean</u>
Lexical source unknown	(no connective function)	Quotative complementizer <i>tako-ha-n-ta</i> (18 th c.) Hearsay evidential <i>tanta</i> (19 th c.)
		*Counterexpectation <i>tanta</i> (not attested)

‘SAY’ > QT > EVID

Quotative *tanun*

To present the writer's own experience with some details left to the reader's imagination

(24) *Yang-i* *kkway* *manh-tela-kwuyo.*
volume-NOM pretty much-QT-SFP

Twul-i *mek-taka* *namkye-ss-ta-nun...*
two-NOM eat-while leave-PST-DEC.PRES:ATTR

'The volume (of the food) was pretty much.
We left it while two of us ate it (*saying*) ...'

(Horie 2012)

Contemporary Korean –*tanun*

Tanun is used in informal written discourse such as on the internet, email, and letters between friends, but is hardly used in spoken discourse.

Diachronic distribution frequency of *tako*, *tamye*, *tamyense* and *tanta*

The historical data is based largely on the UNICONC (Korean historical corpus), which is comprised of 6,606,332 words from 18th and 19th century texts and 2,209,352 words from 20th century texts.

Table 1. Frequency of *tako*, *tamye*, *tamyense*, *tanta* over time

Period	<i>tako</i>	<i>tamye</i>	<i>tamyense</i>	<i>tanta</i>
18 th C ~	4	0	0	1
Late 18 th ~19 th C.	287	1	0	34
Late 19 th C.	2254	1	0	1
Early 20 th C.	2497	21	1	85

Evidential tokens(N = 37)

- As the frequency of quotative *ko* increased between 18th century and 19th century (See Sohn 2012), the frequency of new complementizer *tako* also increased sharply in the same period.
- In the late 19th century, the frequency of *tako* increased drastically as a new colloquial style emerged in Korean literature along with modern style newspapers such as *Toklipsinmun* ‘independence.’
- The vast majority of *tako* as a complementizer (with a raw token frequency of 2211 tokens) in this period are found in *Toklipsinmun*.
- *Tako* was also frequently used in the early 20th century (with raw token frequency of 2497 tokens) with evidential uses of *tako* emerging (33 tokens in the headlines of *Tayhanmayilsinpo*, a Korean daily newspaper). This seems to be due to the nature of this newspaper where hearsay and reported speech style are frequently used.

- *Tamye* also developed into a complementizer in the 18th century but the frequency of *tamye* was much lower than that of *tako*.
- *Tanta* has also been used as an evidential marker since the 18th century, but it was seldom used in formal registers such as newspapers. Note that *tanta* occurred only once in our data from the late 19th century, where the source was mainly dependent on newspapers.
- However, it is striking to note that the majority of *tamye* and *tanta* occurs in *sinsosel* ‘new novels’ which emerged in Korean literature in the early 20th century, whereas the majority of *tako* in the 19th and early 20th century is found in newspapers such as *Toklipsinmun* and *Tayhanmayilsinpo*.
- There was only one token of complementizer *tamyense* in the early 20th century. Both complementizers *tamye* and *tamyense* had evidential nuance but they did not develop into evidential markers until the early 20th century.

Table 2. Frequency of discourse functions of *tako*, *tamye*, *tamyense*, and *tanta* in Contemporary Korean

	EVID	CS (confirmation-seeking)	CE (counterexpectation)
<i>tako</i>	1151	84	23
<i>tamye</i>	31	13	2
<i>tamyense</i>	23	10	1
<i>tanta</i>	5	0	0

Pathways in the development of Korean ‘say’ evidential (and often counterexpectation) markers

- Given the agglutinative nature of the Korean language, the versatile ‘say’ verb *ha* could easily combine with the connectives that follow it, and also with the complementizers that precede it, and through an iterative process of phonological reduction, semantic extension and syntactic reanalysis, this contributes to the formation of new complementizers that later develop into evidential (and often) counterexpectation markers.
- In sum, we see following grammaticalization cycles:
 - **Cycle 1:** QUOT *ha-ko* ~ *kho-ko* > COMP *ta (ha)-ko* > EVID *tako* > CE *tako*
 - **Cycle 2:** COMP *tako ha-mye* > *tamye* > EVID *tamye* > CE *tamye*
 - **Cycle 3:** COMP *tako ha-myense* > *tamyense* > EVID *tamyense* > CE *tamyense*
 - **Cycle 4:** COMP *tako ha-n-ta* > EVID *tanta*

- Context plays an important role in preserving and even enhancing the evidential meaning of these complementizers, with or without the overt expression of the *ha* ‘say’ morpheme, and it is context too that sometimes pushes these evidential complementizers toward a mirative or counterexpectation interpretation.
- In Korean, the ‘say’ grammatical markers consistently appear in utterance-final position—for example, complementizer *tako. tamyē* and *tamyense* occur after the complement clause, and after grammaticalizing into evidential and counterexpectation markers, *tako. tamyē* and *tamyense* also occur after the erstwhile complement clause that is now reanalyzed as the finite main clause.
- The utterance-final position serves as an ideal landing site for the speaker’s utterance-final prosody and subsequent reanalyses of complementizers as speaker stance markers (inclusive of evidential and counterexpectation markers).

Negotiating epistemic rights to information

Participants mutually monitor one another’s epistemic rights moment by moment and shift their choices of evidential markers according to their updated assessments.

Evidential markers can function as an interactive device for redistributing the participants’ epistemic rights and reorganizing the participation framework of the moment.

- 1) *tako*: used by speakers to claim their epistemic rights to information (upgrading)
- 2) *tanta*: used by speakers to claim their epistemic rights to information (neutral; weaker than *tako*)
- 3) *tamyense*: used by speakers to further downgrade the strength their epistemic stance (stronger than *tamyē*; often with a causal meaning (and can be used to assign blaming on the addressee))
- 4) *tamyē*: **also** used by speakers to downgrade the strength of their epistemic stance

Degree of epistemic strength to information (in decreasing order):

tako >> *tanta* >> *tamyense* >> *tamyē*

- To claim the speaker's epistemic rights to information (**upgrading**): *tako*

--> based on speaker's thoughts and belief

Two women had a conversation about a dinner which their male colleagues had yesterday. B thinks that their male colleagues ate too much, but A claims that that is usual for men, and they didn't eat too much based on what she has heard and knows. C agrees with A.

- (25) A: *mwe-ka chungkyek i-yeyyo?*
 what-TOP shock COP-SFP
 'What is striking to you?'
- B: *nemwu an ccokum mek-eseyo*
 too not little eat-SFP
 'They ate too much.'
- A: *Namca-tul-un pothong seys-i ka-se pothong*
 man -PL-TOP usually Three-NOM go-SEQ usually
O inpwun mek -nun-tako.
 five servings eat-PRES-EVID
 'It is said three of the men usually go and eat five servings.'
- B: *e*
 'Yes'
- C: *kipon-i han o-inpwun mek -ci an-ha-yo?*
 default-NOM about five-serving eat - Particle not-do-SFP
 'They (=three of the men) usually go and eat five servings, don't they?'

- To claim the speaker's epistemic rights to information
 (**weaker than tako**): *tanta*

--> based on Hearsay

Two females having a conversation about themselves.

- (26) A: *mwusun il iss-e? nwuka aph-untey?*
 what.thing exist-SFP who sick-SFP
 'What's going on? Who is sick?'
- B: *nay-ka aphu-tanta*
 1SG-NOM sick-EVID
 'I hear people say I am sick.'
 'I hear the doctor say I am sick.'

Why does a language sometimes need more than one evidential marker?

- Some languages allow speakers to make explicit linguistic distinctions between:
 - Objective vs. subjective stance
 - Subjective vs. intersubjective uses
 - Finer calibrations of epistemic strengths

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