

# A transferentive connective marker *-etaka* in Korean: Perspectives of Grammaticalization and Pragmatics

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## Abstract

This paper aims to address the developmental path of functions and semantics of a connective marker *-etaka* in Korean from perspectives of grammaticalization and pragmatics. This paper focuses on transferentives, emphasis, and condition of *-etaka*. The path of grammatical evolution of *-etaka* is [lexical verb > functional category > affix]. The mechanism of FFV (Focus Frame of Variation) will illustrate its transferentives, based on the contact or separation between TR (Trajector) and LM (Landmark). This paper also argues that the directionality into an attitude stance-marker *-etakanun* from emphasis and condition of *-etaka* proceeds towards a domain of discourse from a domain of text, increasing subjectification of the speaker.

## 1 Introduction

The source lexeme of the connective marker *-etaka* in Korean is a verb *takuta*. The verb *takuta* etymologically denotes ‘to have’ or ‘to possess.’ In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century it acquires the meaning ‘to approximate’ or ‘to draw near.’ In terms of etymological persistence, *-etaka* is construed as ‘having the properties of the preceding verb and drawing near the goal.’

A connective marker *-etaka* has been researched by K-G Lee (2004), Rhee (1996), Yae (2015), Zhang (2015), inter alios. The connective marker *-etaka* is composed of [-e, NF + *takuta*, V + a, Conn]. The connective marker *-etaka* designates transferentives, enumeration, emphasis, causality, and condition. Due to the limit of the space, this paper deals with transferentives (completion and incompletion) and condition of *-etaka*. The connective marker *-etaka* links a preceding verb with a verb or a clause that follows *-etaka*. Grammatical and pragmatic approaches will clarify the path of the developmental continuum of *-etaka*.

## 2. Constructions of *-etaka*

The connective marker *-etaka* denotes the

completion transferentive, the incompletion transferentive, and condition. The example in (1) elaborates the completion transferentive: the completion of the first event *kokilul capassta* ‘caught a fish’ and transition towards the second event *nohchyessta* ‘missed it.’

### (1) Completion transferentive:

*ku-nun koki-lul cap-ass-taka*  
*nohchy-ess-ta*  
he-Nom fish-Acc catch-Pst-taka  
miss-Pst-Dec  
‘He caught a fish but missed it.’

The example in (2) describes the incompletion transferentive: *kunun inmwunkwanulo kata* ‘he is going to the building of Humanities’ is not a completed action at the point where he changed his direction to the library.

### (2) Incompletion transferentive:

*ku-nun inmwunkwan-ulo ka-taka*  
*palkelum-ul tolly-e*  
*tosekwan-ulo hyangha-yss-ta*  
He-Top the.building.of.the.humanities-to go-taka  
step-Acc turn-NF  
library-to head.for-Pst-Dec  
‘He stopped going to the building of Humanities in the middle and headed for the library.’

The connective marker *-etaka* also denotes condition as shown in (3). *Nolkiman hata* ‘you only play’ is the protasis for the apodosis *nakceyhanta* ‘you will fail in the examination.’

### (3) Condition:

*nol-ki-man ha-taka nakceyha-n-ta*  
play-Nmn-only do-taka fail.in-Fut-Dec  
‘You will fail in the examination if you only play.’

The connective marker *-etaka* is directly attached to the preceding verbs in the examples above. Therefore, we can conclude that *-etaka* has grammaticalized from the connective marker to the postposition as shown in (4).

(4) Lexical stage	>	Functional stage	>	Affixal stage
		connective marker	>	postposition
<i>takuta</i>	>	<i>-etaka</i>	>	<i>-etaka</i>

### 3. Discussion

#### 3.1. Frame of focus

The completion and incompletion transferentive connective markers of *-etaka* discussed in section 2 are characterized by the LM1 on the surface and TR in association with the LM1. Therefore, the distance between TR with LM1 in the completion and incompletion transferentives of *-etaka*, is decided by adjusting the FFV.

In (1), the LM1 is *ku* ‘he’ and the TR is *koki* ‘fish.’ The LM1 *ku* ‘he’ on the surface contacts the TR *koki* ‘fish’ and then the TR *koki* ‘fish’ gets out of the LM1 *ku* ‘he’ and transfers to the LM2 (the impact point of the fish). The contact point of TR and LM1 is a turning point where the fish was caught and missed, and thus TR transferred its action toward the LM2. In the completion transferentive, the association of TR and LM1 is induced by the telescopic focus of frame.

In the incompletion transferentive in (2), the TR *ku* ‘he’ does not contact the LM1 *inmwunkwan* ‘the building of the humanities’ when the TR *ku* ‘he’ transfers his movement toward the LM2 *tosekwan* ‘the library’ at the turning point. The separation of TR with LM1 is clarified by adjusting the frame to the microscopic focus.

#### 3.2. Subjectification

The completion transferentive in (1) and the incompletion transferentive in (2) describe the events objectively while the conditional example in (3) is a hypothesis created by speaker’s evaluation on the increase of subjectification.

### 4. Pragmatic approach

#### 4.1 Attitude Stance

*-Etaka*, attached to verbs in (1) and (2), cannot be deleted while the transferentive connective marker *-etaka* in (5) can be deleted without affecting the grammatical status of the sentence.

- (5) *nolay-pwum phal-a han phwun tuw phwun mo-a-taka sikkwu-tul mek-ye-sali-ko*  
 song-labor sell-NF one penny two penny  
 gather-NF-taka family-Pl feed-NF-save-Conn  
 ‘I support my family by saving even one or two pennies from singing a song and ...’

It is argued that the transferentive connective marker *-etaka* in (5) functions as an emphasis marker of the event it describes, representing the attitude stance of the speaker.

#### 4.2. Negative-stance marker

The condition example in (3) is repeated in (6), adding a particle *nun* to *-etaka*.

- (6) Condition:

*nol-ki-man ha-taka-nun nakceyha-n-ta*  
 play-Nmn-only do-taka-particle fail.in-Fut-Dec  
 ‘You will fail in the examination if you only play.’

In the conditional context, *-etakanun* indicates the negative point of view of the speaker, that is, the negative stance marker.

Regarding the attitude stance of the speaker, *-etakanun* is summarized as in (7).

- (7) Attitude stance-marker of *-etakanun*:

- a. transferentive > emphatic attitude-stance marker  
 b. condition > negative attitude-stance marker

### 5. Conclusion

This paper has discussed grammaticalization and pragmaticization of *-etaka*. This paper has employed the mechanisms of FFV and subjectification to account for transferentives and a conditional marker of *-etaka*. In the pragmatic stage of developmental path, *-etakanun* has marked a stance of the speaker to show his/her attitude: emphasis and a negative point of view.

### References

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