

初探台灣閩南語「死」的語用歷程及其語法化  
The Pragmatics and Grammaticalization of Taiwan Southern Min 「死」<sup>1</sup>

Yi-Hsiu Chen

[g9351003@mail.nhcue.edu.tw](mailto:g9351003@mail.nhcue.edu.tw)

National Hsinchu University of Education -Graduate Institute of Taiwan Languages &  
Language Education(TLLE)

Abstract

The lexeme *SI*, meaning ‘die’<sup>2</sup>, has four word-classes, noun, verb, adjective and adverb. We often replaced by other euphemisms, aside from reporting a death situation is hardly used by speakers to directly address the death of family or friends. *SI* been used as an evaluative indicator, which delineates an extreme extent. One article indicated that the semantic and cognitive structure of *SI* as an evaluative indicator in Hakka, particularly on the conceptual links between the spaces evoked due to the expectation contravention(Lai,2004).

This study focuses on the Pragmatics and Grammaticalization in Southern Min about *SI*. In the first, development of *SI* from a predicate denoting death to an evaluative indicator denoting extremity demonstrates a case of subjectification proposed by Traugott(1995). At the 允言 *Ún-giân* ê 台語文網頁, we found 246 lexical entries. For example, 促死人、食死死、反死、孤死酸 etc. These linguistic entries not mean ‘die’, evoked at the point of discourse. Four scenarios can be deduced with regard to the mental processes involved with the usage of *SI* (Lai,2004).We will add or reduce the different pramatic-discourse functions are claimed to be associated with the scenario.

Keyword: Southern Min ; Pragmatics ; Grammaticalization

---

<sup>1</sup> *SI*, the tone is ‘4’ by TLPA, like the 4<sup>th</sup> tone in Hanyu Pinyin.

<sup>2</sup> The Chinese word form is 「死」