CHAPTER 7

From Nominal Predicate to Deictic Clausal Highlighter: The Development of hina ‘like’

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1 Introduction

The element ‘like’ holds a special position in the literature on grammaticalization in English, where it has developed as a hedge and as a quotative or reportative marker, among other uses, in addition to its original meaning of marking similarity (Meehan 1991; Romaine and Lange 1991). I will return to this below. In the Quechua of Puno (Southern Peru, almost on the border with Bolivia), the element hina ‘like’ similarly has undergone a number of changes in its distribution and grammatical use, which are however quite different from what has happened in English. This paper outlines these changes. To give just one example, the use of hina as a deictic clausal highlighter is illustrated in (1). A deictic clausal highlighter points to the content of a specific clause in the context of a larger construction.

(1) Para-chun- pis  hina  llank’a-lla-saq. 
    rain-HORT.3SG-ADD LIKE work-LIM-FUT.1SG
    ‘Even if it rains I will work.’

Here hina functions as a subordinating element following the conditional clause, which has full inflection.

The form hina’s spectacular extension in meanings goes much beyond that of its English counterpart ‘like’, but it has not developed into a quotative like its English counterpart. A first approach to understanding the range of uses for hina analyzed here is the consideration of the fact that many lexical items in Quechua are multifunctional; however, the range of uses of hina exceeds that of most other items, as far as I can establish, and includes adopted functions of marking discourse deixis, in terms of marking relations between references to states of affairs in succeeding clauses.

Puno Quechua is a variety of Southern Peruvian Quechua, and as far as I know, it is mutually intelligible with the well-known and prestigious variety spoken in Cuzco, as well as with the varieties spoken in Bolivia. All these
varieties share a number of Quechua II morphological characteristics, but have as a special feature the series of ejective and aspirated stops, which set them apart from Quechua I varieties, and also from Ayacucho Quechua (Adelaar and Muysken 2004, 183–191). The varieties spoken in Puno and Arequipa are characterized by a high number of morphological and lexical borrowings from Aymara (Adelaar and Muysken 2004, 187). This is the result of the fact that in this area Aymara was spoken as a dominant language until fairly recently. The present paper will also explore the possibility that the changes in the distribution of *hina* are related to the strong Aymara substrate in Puno Quechua, and compare *hina* with the Cuzco Quechua complementizer / clausal highlighter *chay-qa* ‘that-TOP’.

The present paper is based on unpublished fieldwork data from the town of Lampa (near Juliaca), published data from nearby Ayaviri (Muysken 1985), and published Puno Quechua textual data (Büttner, Cointet & Chuquimamani 1984).¹ I worked with fifteen speakers in Lampa, the large majority of them teenagers (six were members of a local soccer team that I sponsored with a new ball, several others were girls from the local secondary school, and a few young adults were members of a local study and discussion group). In Ayaviri I worked with three adult males.² The methodology employed was a combination of elicited translations from Spanish, elicited appropriateness judgments of examples constructed by me or provided by others, and elicited translations to Spanish of examples offered by me. Both in Lampa and in Ayaviri, Quechua is used very frequently in daily life, by people with an indigenous ethnicity as well as mestizos, and therefore there were no problems in terms of working on the language.

2 The Grammaticalization of ‘like’ in English

Meehan (1991) and Romaine and Lange (1991), apparently independently from one another, have drawn attention to the fact that English ‘like’ has developed from a preposition marking similarity to a ‘marker of reported speech and thought’, to use Romaine and Lange’s term. In the model proposed by Romaine and Lange, there is a chain of developments, roughly as in figure 7.1. The meaning of ‘like’ develops from a propositional preposition (‘someone like Mary’) to a textual conjunction (‘Winston tastes good like a cigarette should.’),

¹ Examples cited from Büttner, Cointet & Chuquimamani (1984) are marked in the text as YA with a page number.
² Their assistance is gratefully acknowledged here.