



The Grammaticalization of the English to-infinitive

By Kristina Schmelzer

GRIN Verlag GmbH Dez 2013, 2013. Taschenbuch. Book
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 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies -
 Linguistics, grade: 1,7, RWTH Aachen University (Anglistische
 Sprachwissenschaft), course: Grammaticalization, language:
 English, abstract: Grammaticalization means the transition of a
 lexical, autonomous form to a grammatical, dependent form. It
 is a process in which syntactic structures develop out of free
 discourse structures and that extends over long time periods (cf.
 Diewald 1997: 11). Hardly any phenomenon of linguistics has
 raised as many questions as the grammaticalization of the
 infinitive. The English language differentiates between two
 infinitive types: The bare infinitive, which is only left in certain
 constructions, is sometimes described as a sort of grammatical
 fossil (Curme 1931: 456, quoted in Duffley 1992: 12) and the to-
 infinitive, on the other hand, demonstrates the widely-used form
 of the infinitive. Haspelmath (1989: 287) gives a glimpse into the
 prevalent view, that the [to-] infinitive is the basic and unmarked
 form of the verb, which carries no meaning of its own. The
 influential linguist Roman Jakobson states the definition as
 follows: Among all...



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