

The future of *want*

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Goal

- We investigate *want* in Brazilian Portuguese, Dutch, and Mandarin Chinese.
- In these three languages, *want* has acquired an additional future-like interpretation, which reflects a known diachronic change (Bybee et al. 1994, a.o.), providing a unique synchronic perspective on grammaticalization.

Broader questions

1. What are the differences between attitude verbs and modals? (Hintikka 1969, von Stechow 2006, Bogal-Albritton 2016; Villalta 2008, Kratzer 2006, 2013; Moulton 2009)
2. What happens at various stages of grammaticalization? (Traugott 1989, von Stechow 1995, Hacquard 2013, a.o.)
3. What is the semantics of the future? (Copley 2008, 2009, 2010; Kissine 2008, Klecha 2011, 2014; Giannakidou & Mari 2017, etc.)

Future-like *want* coexists with desire *want*

- (1) Brazilian Portuguese (BP)
- a. João **quer** sair. b. O café está **querendo** acabar.
 John wants to.leave the coffee is wanting to.end
 'John wants to leave.' 'The coffee is about to run out.'
- (2) Dutch (D)
- a. Jan **wil** vertrekken. b. De koffie **wil** nog wel opraken.
 Jan wants leave the coffee wants still WEL run.out
 'John wants to leave.' 'The coffee will probably run out.'
- (3) Mandarin Chinese (MC)
- a. John **yao** likai. b. Kafei **yao** wan le.
 John want leave coffee want finish LE
 'John wants to leave.' 'The coffee is about to run out.'

We provide syntactic and semantic evidence to show that the future-like meaning is not merely a metaphorical extension.

No thematic relation with the subject

Evidence from clausal idioms

- (4)a. A casa {está **querendo**/*deseja} cair. [BP]
 the house is wanting wish} to.fall.
 'An undesirable event is about to happen.'
 (lit. 'The house wants to fall.')
- b. De aap {**wil**/*wenst} vandaag nog wel uit de mouw komen.
 the monkey wants/ wishes today still WEL out the sleeve come
 'The truth will come out today.' [D]
 (lit. 'The monkey is going to come out of the sleeve today.')
- c. Shengmi {**yao**/*kewang} zhu-cheng shufan le. [MC]
 raw.rice want/desire cook-become cooked.rice LE
 'An undesired change is about to happen.'
 (lit. 'The rice is going to be cooked.')

Compatible with weather predicates

- (5) a. Está **querendo** chover. [BP]
 is wanting to.rain
 'It is about to rain.'
- b. Het **wil** hier nog wel regenen. [D]
 it wants here still WEL rain
 'It will probably rain here.'
- c. **Yao** xia yu le. [MC]
 want fall rain LE
 'It is going to rain.'

Future-like *want* takes smaller complements

Desire *want*, not future-like *want*, takes complements with overt subjects.

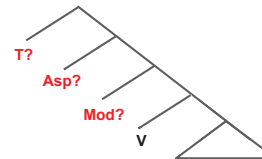
- (6)a. O João está **querendo** [que o café acabe hoje]. [BP]
 the John is wanting that the coffee end.SUBJ today
 b. Jan **wil** [dat de koffie vandaag opdraakt]. [D]
 Jan wants that the coffee today runs.out
 c. John **yao** [kafei jintian he-wan]. [MC]
 John want coffee today drink-finish
 'John wants the coffee to run out today.'
- (7)a. *pro_{exp} está **querendo** [que o café acabar]. [BP]
 pro_{exp} is wanting that the coffee to.end.SUBJ
 b. ??Het **wil** nog wel [dat de koffie vandaag opdraakt]. [D]
 it wants still WEL that the coffee today runs.out
 c. ***Yao** [kafei jintian he-wan] (le). [MC]
 want coffee today drink-finish LE
 Intended: 'The coffee is about to run out (today).'

BP future-like *want* cannot embed aspectual morphology:

- (8)a. O café **quis** {**ter* acabar/ acabar} ontem. [BP]
 the coffee wanted to.have end/ to.end} yesterday
 'The coffee was about to run out yesterday.'
- b. O João {**quis**/ pode} *ter* tocado piano. (X root; ✓ epi)
 the John wanted/can.PST have played piano
 'John {wanted to/might} have played piano.'

Interim conclusion: future-like want behaves like a functional element

Consistent with an upward model of grammaticalization.
 (Roberts & Roussou 2003, van Gelderen 2009, LaBarge 2016; Hacquard & Courmane 2016, a.o. Grano 2017 on the diachronic dimension of restructuring).



What kind of functional element?

Different functional elements associated with future-like meaning:

- 1) Modal (Palmer 1987, Copley 2008, Klecha 2014, Giannakidou & Mari 2013, 2017)
- 2) Aspect: Progressive/Prospective (Copley 2008, Matthewson 2011).
- 3) Tense (Kissine 2008)

Future-like *want*: Tense/Aspect/Modal marker?

Ongoingness requirement diagnostic

Context: Workers are unpacking their tools to demolish a wall.
 (9) The wall {will fall/is going to fall/*is falling}.

Modal subordination diagnostics (Binnick 1971, Roberts 1989, Klecha 2011, 2014)

- (10) A wolf may come in. It {*will/would/*is going to} eat you.
 (11) Don't go near the bomb! It {will/might/%is going to} explode. (if you go near it)

Table 1. Results for **BP**, **D**, and **MC**:

	Ongoingness requirement	Modal sub (wolf)	Modal sub (bomb)
BP querer	✓	X	X
D willen	X	?	?
MC yao	X	✓	X
<i>will</i>	X	✓	✓
<i>going to</i>	X	✓	X
<i>progressive</i>	✓	X	X
<i>about to</i>	✓	X	X

Generalizations

- **Querer** behaves like **Asp**
- **Willen** ?
- **Yao** behaves like **Mod**

Conclusion: want in BP, D, and MC has acquired an additional future-like meaning, which behaves like a functional element.

BP querer seems to have an aspectual semantics. **MC yao** resembles a modal element. So far, no evidence has been found that **D willen** is either aspectual or modal.

Further question: Role of additional morphemes?

- **D wil+wel(PRT)+eens** (sometimes) has a habitual reading (Barbiers 1995, Rooryck 2017)
- (12) De koffie **wil** wel eens opraken.
 the coffee wants WEL sometimes run.out
 'The coffee tends to run out.'
- **MC** particles *le*, *de* help future-like **yao**.
- (13) John **yao** shengbing #(le).
 John want be.sick LE
 'John is going to be sick.'
- **BP** progressive morphology helps future-like **querer**.
- (14) O café {**quer**/ está **querendo**} acabar
 The coffee wants is wanting to.end
 'The coffee is about to run out.'