Grammaticalization

“Syntactic change” Lyle Campbell, pp. 226ff.

9.2.1 Reanalysis

“Reanalysis changes the underlying structure of a syntactic construction, but does not modify surface manifestation.” (227)

Reanalysis of Finnish resulting in a new postposition (‘Adessive’ is a locative case):

(1) miehe-n rinna-lla (Old Finnish)
    man-GENITIVE chest-Adessive
    ‘on the man’s chest’ (Original)

(2) miehe-n rinna-lla
    man-GENITIVE POSTPOSITION-Adessive
    ‘beside the man’ (Reanalyzed)

9.2.2 Extension

“Extension results in changes in surface manifestation, but does not involve immediate modification of underlying structure.” (227)

First example: Finnish subordinate clauses

Old Finnish

(3) näen miehe-m tule-va-m
    I.see man-Acc.Sg come-Part-Acc.sg
    ‘I see the man who is coming’

Later, -m > -n finally, making the new accusative singular (now, -n) and the genitive singular -n homophonous. This means that (4) now has two possible grammatical interpretations:
[3) after the sound change]

==>(4) näen miehe-n tule-van
(4a) I.see man-Acc-Sg come-Part  
(4b) I.see man-Gen.Sg come-Part  
‘I see the man who is coming’

“This led to a change in which the older interpretation in (4a) was eventually eliminated and this subordinate clause construction was reanalyzed as (4b). That is, miehe-n was reinterpreted not as the direct object (in [the] accusative case) of the verb näen ‘I see’ as it had originally been in Old Finnish (as in the example in (3)), but as the subject (in [the] genitive case) of the participle tule-van (as in (4b)). The change is somewhat like starting with the equivalent of *I saw the man coming* and changing it to *I saw the man’s coming.*”

(4) näen [miehe-n [ø tule-van]]
(4a) I.see [man-Acc-Sg [ø come-Part]]
‘I see [the man [who is coming]]’

==>(4) näen [miehe-n tule-van]
(4b) I.see [man-Gen.Sg come-Part]  
‘I see [the man’s coming]’

Extension of the reinterpreted form to new contexts:
Old Finnish
(5) näin venee-t purjehti-va-t
   ‘I saw the boats that sail’

Modern Finnish
(6) näin vene-i-den purjehti-van
   I.saw boat-Pl-Gen sail-Part
   ‘I saw the boats that sail’