

An overview of quotative constructions in various Macedonian dialects

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In this talk I will give an overview of how reported speech in various Macedonian dialects is marked using different quotative constructions, based on a preliminary analysis of recordings of folk stories and other narratives collected in Macedonia. There are three speech verbs involved: *reče* ('say', perfective stem), *veli* ('say', standard imperfective stem) and *vika* ('say', non-standard imperfective stem), and one quotative marker with a simulative origin: *kao* (from *kako* 'how').

I show that the speech *reče* is grammaticalizing into a quotative marker: i) it gets iterated multiple times throughout a discourse report, ii) it gets combined with other speech verbs, iii) it tends to occur following the first phonological word of the discourse report, iv) it loses its inflection and v) it gets phonetically reduced. Interestingly, the first property, the iteration of a verb throughout a discourse report, illustrated in (1), is also found with the speech verbs *veli* and *vika*.

- 1) *Vika* na ženata: "Sea," *reče*, "čekaj ja *ke* mu kažam *niv*," *reče*, "drug pat."
vika na žena-ta sea **reče** čekaj
say.IPFV.PRS.3SG to wife-DET.F now say.PFV.3SG
ja ke= mu= kaža-m niv reče
1SG.NOM FUT= 3SG.M.DAT= tell.PFV-
PRS.1SG 3PL.DAT say.PFV.3SG drug pat
other time
'He told his wife: "Now," he said, "wait, I will," he said, "show them!"'
(Jordanoska & Contreras Roa, forthcoming)

That is to say, there are examples such as (1), in which not *reče*, but rather *vika* or *veli* get repeated several times within the quote. However, those verbs do not seem to have the additional four properties that *reče* has that point towards grammaticalization. Thus, this seems to be a general property of these speech verbs. I will explore the idea that it is possibly exactly this property that allows them to grammaticalize further into quotative markers, which for *reče* is the case.

Finally, it should be noted that the use of quotatives and quotative verbs is colloquial. It does not occur in careful speech, and not all consultants who were recorded used it. *Reče*, the quotative marker from a verbal origin, was used by older speakers telling folk stories, while the quotative marker from a simulative origin, *kao*, was used by younger, urban speakers telling personal narratives.