ABSTRACT: This paper is a functional investigation of grammaticalization processes that underlie the development of a number of connectives in Portuguese, with special attention to the item ainda. We argue that the cline space > time > text is a strong cognitive motivation to the development of these connectives. According to the cline, spatial deictics, related to “real world” concepts, develop more abstract concepts belonging to the world of texts. The data presented in this paper also suggest the existence of cognitive-communicative strategies related to speaker-addressee negotiation that motivate change.