

Zaria Journal of Liberal Arts (ZAJOLA)

Faculty of Arts, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

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Vol. 11, No. 2, December 2023

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Zaria Journal of Liberal Arts (ZAJOLA) is a peer-reviewed journal, published bi-annually by the Faculty of Arts, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. The journal welcomes manuscript of original articles, from scholars around the globe, in the various areas of Liberal Arts. The articles may be product of descriptive or analytical research, field research notes, reviews of publications and printed materials, drawn from, but not limited to Languages and Linguistics; Law; Environmental Sciences, Education; Management Studies; Cultural and Literally Studies; Theatre Arts; Philosophy; Religion; History and Strategic Studies; Archaeology and Heritage Studies; Developmental Studies and Social Sciences.

All manuscripts submitted for publication should adopt APA 8th Edition Style of referencing. The manuscripts should be typed double-spaced with sufficient margins and should count between 4,000 and 6,000 words, including the abstract, references, and appendices. The Manuscripts should not be under consideration for publication in any other research outlet.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

This Edition of *Zaria Journal of Liberal Arts* marks the end of the year 2023. In this Edition, there are twelve well written articles by distinguished scholars.

The Edition opens with Ibrahim Muhammad Abdullahi's article on the implications of the New Normal on 21st century African novel and the impact of ICT. In a related study, Saleh Ahmad Abdullahi explores a semiotic approach of Emoji characters as used in WhatsApp chat messages. Through Ahmed Yerima's *Pari* and Fosudo's *Another Episode of Trauma*, Oladolapo Ojediran and Olayinka Magbagbeola interrogate enraged voices and social realities in Nigeria.

In linguistics, Hassan Usman Gadaka carries out a morphological analysis of Polar tone in Gudi and Yaya dialects of Ngamo language while Abdulrahman Umar works on the semantic aspects of repudiation in Basa language.

Ezekwesiri Okebugwu Nwosu, Nwaoha Chimaroke Chizoba and Tobeckukwu Odunze are concerned about the attack on Igbo indigenous religion. To them, this act can be defined as imperialism while Azuka Felix God's presence and Emily Oghale God's presence are concerned with the issues and perspectives in teaching and learning in urban society with the integration of multimedia, developmental and career guidance.

In his article on archaeology, Ogunlade Simeon Oluwole assesses some potential heritage sites in Nigeria. Following this is the article of Eraye Chistopher Michael and Jimoh Buhari Edun. The two scholars examine the implications of forest crime on socio economic development in Boki local government area of Cross River State. Alawode Musa Ajibola, on his own, examines the ideological nexus between Zaria and Ife Art schools.

In French studies, Tajudeen Abodunrin Osunniran and Hannah Kojusola Kuponiyi bring out the linguistic characteristics and discursive functions of filler words in French and Yoruba films. In a related field, Aliyy Abolaji Abdulrazaq carries out a reflection of lexical gaps in some translation works by Yoruba translators.

It is important to note that the view and opinions presented in these articles are solely those of the authors. Happy reading.

Prof. Abubakar Sule Sani

Editor-in-chief

30th November, 2023

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Semantic Aspects of Reduplication in Basa

Abdulrahman Umar

Abstract

This paper seeks to examine the semantic aspect of reduplication in Basa. It explores meanings of the reduplicated forms and focuses on notions brought by full and partial reduplication. The paper begins by looking at the Basa language, its people, as well as, the theoretical framework on which the research is hinged. The aim is to undertake a descriptive study of reduplication in the Basa language by accounting for the various semantics of reduplication in the language by highlighting the processes of both full and partial root reduplication in the language. Un-Obstructive Participant Observation Method and Un-Obstructive Non-Participant Observation Method of data collection procedure were employed as means of gathering data for the study. In the light of the foregoing, this study found that there exist semantics of full and partial reduplication in the Basa language. It is also discovered that the semantic components of full reduplication in the Basa language include intensification, emphasis, repeated action, numerals and pluralization. On the other hand, the semantic component of partial reduplication in the Basa language is adverbs, adjectives at prefixal and suffixal levels.

Introduction

Reduplication is a morphological process in which the root, stem of a word or a part of it is repeated. In many languages, reduplication is used in inflections to convey grammatical functions and in lexical derivations to create semantic forms. Tannen (1987) views it to be a limitless resource for individual creativity and the central linguistic meaning making strategy. Linguistic forms of reduplication at the lexical level have long been explored by formalist theories. Wang (2005) states that there is a general tendency among linguists to overlook its functions at the level of discourse. Rastall (2004) sees most reduplication forms that appear in the media as ephemeral in the sense that they tend to appear as word plays that do not ‘enter the language’ and stresses the need for studies to look at reduplications beyond their lexical level. Previous studies refer to reduplication as a repetition that leads to construction of a new word (Khan et al., 2016; Inkelas & Downing, 2015; and Jafari & Biria, 2015). Such repetition usually takes place with a change in a vowel or consonant. Therefore, Katamba (2006) observed reduplication as a process of affixation (more specifically, the addition of a morpheme to the

beginning, middle, or end of a root). Ibrahim (1973) considered that duplication of one letter, word, or sentence suggests several linguistic functions. Regier (1994) argued that the semantics of reduplication has some elements which are universal to all languages, i.e., a common semantic network with different structures covering different regions. Similarly, Kauffman (2018) argued that languages from most families reflect the richness and uniqueness of language, thoughts, and culture. This is particularly expressed by those who use this form to create plurals, amplify meaning, change verb tenses, or invent words to describe tangible or intangible parts of the world around us (p. 5). Additionally, Kauffman (2018) consider reduplication as a funny and extremely interesting aspect of languages. This study attempts to examine the semantic aspects of Basa reduplication.

The Concept of Reduplication

Katamba (1993:182) describes reduplication as a process of constituent copying, meaning that it is a rule that makes a copy of some constituents, e.g. a word, and attaches it to a pre-existing token of the constituent. For example, reduplication in Hausa as in the case of other languages indicates among other things plurality 'Rubutu writing *-rubuce – rubuce* writings express repetition or frequency of event, *kullum* daily- *kullum–kullum* everyday add intensity, *safe* morning – *Sassafe* very early in the morning and decreased intensity, *Ruwa* water – *Ruwa – Ruwa* watery. Muhammad & Ahmad (2001) sees reduplication as a process generally employed, with self-evident symbolism, to indicate such concepts as distribution, plurality, repetition, customary activity, continuance and decreased intensity. In their own opinion, Syal & Jindal (2010) see reduplication as words formed out of two such elements as are almost alike. Adding that, these elements may either be identical or only slightly different. In a different description of the term reduplication, Newman (2000) is of the view that, it can be viewed from two perspectives; (1) Functional and degree of productivity, and (2) Nature of the (morph) phonological process. Going forward, he adds that; reduplication serves to describe both (a) Active functional processes (productive or partially productive) and (b) The results of such reduplicative process (synchronically frozen). In the case of Basa, both active and frozen reduplicated forms exist and are similar to the description of Hausa forms as described by Newman (2000:508)

where he states that, “active reduplication refers to word formation rules in which reduplication function as a synchronically recognizable derivational or inflectional process”. On the other hand, he sees frozen reduplication as, “words that phonologically have a reduplicated structure, but which from a synchronic point of view constitute essentially unanalyzable simple lexical stems (Newman 2000:509). In the same vein, Basa operates both active and frozen forms with the same rules of formation, as noted in respect of Hausa by Yakasai (2012) “as far as Hausa reduplication is concerned, both frozen and active forms operate with the same rules of formation. In full reduplication, the reduplicant identified as the whole base, whereas in partial reduplication reduplicative morpheme constitute a syllable added to the base or at least one base consonant that is copied”.

Brief History of Basa Language

Basa language is classified as belonging to Kainji family under the sub-phylum Western-Kainji known as Rubusa (Basa Benue) (Croizer & Blench, 1992:32). The Basa people live in the central part of Nigeria. According to 2006 census, Basa has the population of 224, 829. From 2006 to date (number of speakers has increased). The Basa people are found in the Federal Capital Territory comprising: Kwali, Abuja, Gwagwalada, Kuje, Bwari, and Municipal. It is also found in Kogi State, Nassarawa State, Niger State and Benue State (Imoh, 2015). However, in the course of carrying out this research, the researcher discovered that, in Niger State, apart from (Basa Kontagora) in Kontagora Local Government, Basa people can also be found in three Local Government Areas namely; Shiroro, Bosso and Rafi, and they are known as *Bassa Gummana* which is believed to be the birth place of the Basas. In Shiroro, they are found in: Basa, Roro, Gwada, Gwadarra, Rumache, Alawa, Shee, Tudun-Baturiya and Ibiri. In Bosso, they can be found in areas like Tudun-Fulani, Tudun-Natsira and Texaco area of Maitumbi. While in Rafi, they can be found in Kagara and Yakila. The Basa language is one of the Nigerian languages that are highly under-described compared to major languages such as; Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba.

The Basa language has orthographies designed by missionaries who were non linguist for the sole purpose of translating the Bible and other Christian literature such as; the Pilgrim’s Progress (authored by John Bunyan year?), The Way of Salvation, Abstracts of the Bible years?, etc. This, they did by devising primers to enable users of these materials to learn how to spell, read and write. Basa is a language that is still infant in the linguistic research; it is in dear need of

investigation to bring out the linguistic features it holds for the advancement of the language.

Methodology

The aim of this research is to bring out the structure of word reduplication in Basa Language. Therefore, the following data collection procedure was employed as means of gathering information for the research. The un-Obstructive participant observation method was used where a mini tape recorder (Sony/midget) was used to record the conversation. The information gathered was later transcribed and used for the purpose of the research. In addition,, un-obstructive non-participant observation method was used. Here, the researcher only listens to respondents' as they speak, with or without a recorder and later transcribes their utterances as source of information for the data. The method was employed by the researcher and the information obtained was later transcribed and used as a data for the research. A total of nine (9) respondents that are Native Speakers of the language were males and females were interviewed. The respondents were reached out to, in three villages of Bassa, Rumache and Ibiri in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger state. At least three Basa native speakers were interviewed in each of the three selected villages and settlements in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State. This is because Shiroro is believed to be the root of the Basas. The researcher used the random sampling technique in the three villages and settlements (Basa, Rumache and Ibiri) identified as among areas where the Basas are residing in Shiroro Local Government Area. The number of female respondent is six which is more than the males having three. This is because language thrives very well in the mouth of women. This refers that a total of nine (9) people in all were selected and they are between the ages of 60 to 80 years and are among the elders who are competent in the language some of whom are degree holders in the languages.

Model of Approach

The study is done within the framework of descriptive approach. The aim here is to describe the general nature of reduplication in the Basa language. Empirical study of reduplication in the Basa language would open areas for further

theoretical researches. Therefore, the research follows Descriptive Model as presented in Nida (1952).

Semantic Aspects of Reduplication in Basa

Naylor (1984:178) sees reduplication as a semantic system based on aspectual contrasts mediated by the iconicity of the duplicated form that is its morphological realization (in Kiyomi 1993:12). Reduplication may be analyzed at phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic levels (Yakasai, 2012:142). It is based on this assertion that this study choose to initiate discussion on the semantic aspects of reduplication in Basa. Going forward, the regularity of semantic properties attributed to the reduplicated forms corresponds with the degree of productivity of reduplicative patterns. Reduplication is used to express a number of meanings which will be related to their categorical frame. This section presents the semantics of reduplication in full and partial forms that are expressed by te active and non-active reduplication and the meaning of the reduplicated form is compared with the meaning of the non-reduplicated form in Basa language.

Semantics of Full Reduplication

Full reduplication in the Basa language expresses meanings such as pluralization, intensification, emphasis, repeated action, distribution and frequency.

Pluralization

A noun is used to refer to a person, thing (living or nonliving) or quality (Yusuf (2011:4). Plural on the other hand, refers to a change in form of a word, usually by adding a suffix to indicate a change in its grammatical function. Here are some examples:

Word Form Reduplicated Form Gloss

1.(a) ùnróngàh	asangà-sangàa	corn storks
(c) beràa	beràagi-beràagi	a combination of various plants
(d) sahn	sahngi-sahngi	purchases
(e) rhemàh	emaghi-màghi	various forms of building

Reduplication is full when the whole base or word form is reduplicated. From the examples above, all the fully reduplicated nouns indicate plural meaning. Examples (1a-e) are regular formatives that express plurality when fully reduplicated.

Intensification

Intensification is said to modify the meaning of the intensified item in a more extreme direction, much like adding lexical intensifiers such as ‘really’ and ‘very’. Intensification marks out the situation as remarkable, out of the ordinary, worth telling about. The full-reduplication have intensifies the meaning of the base or word form. Degree word ‘very’ is added to the stem meaning to represent the meaning of the reduplicated form as exemplified below:

Word Form	Reduplicated Form	Gloss
2. (a) únpàh	únpàh-únpàh	very bonny
(b) ù'ùmbú	ùmbú-ùmbú	very skinny
(c) àhshe	àhshe-àhshe	very big eye ball
(d) alli	alli-alli	very mighty
(e) ùshàkà	shàkan-shàkàh	very big
(f) màneh	màneh-màneh	very watery soup
(g) bangwà	bangwan-bangwà	very early morning
(h) kyàtù	kyàtù –kyàtù	very closely

Here, all the examples cited above (2a-h) undergo full reduplication which intensifies the meaning of the stem. The degree word ‘very’ is used to signify the extent or degree of intensity. The reduplication forms create the degree of intensity which inevitably brings out the meaning as expressed through adjectives and adverbs. Example (2a-b) depict adjective of condition a person or thing is in, (2c, d & e) represent adjective of size indicating the body size of a person and or thing. However, (2f & h) indicate the adverbial of manner, while (2g) is an adverbial of time (temporal adverb).

Emphasis

Emphasis is use to mark importance or significance, through either intensity of expression or linguistic features such as ‘stress’ and ‘intonation’. Full-reduplicated forms emphasize the meaning of the base. This is found in the category of adverb. Here are some examples:

Word Form	Reduplicated Form	Gloss
3. (a) byèràh	byèràh-byèràh	today-today
(b) erràh	errà-erràh	just yesterday
(c) bi'i	bi'i-bi'i	tomorrow-tomorrow
(d) iròhmòh	iròhmòh-ròhmòh	just a day b/4 yesterday
(e) nhureh	nhure-hureh	just next two days
(f) binàbàh	binàbàh-nàbàh	now-now
(g) eratù	eratù-ràtù	just last year

The major category in play here is temporal adverb. Here, the full-reduplicated temporal adverbs in example (3a-g) emphasize the non-reduplicated temporal adverbs formation in a straight forward fashion. It indicates that, the reduplicated forms emphasize the meaning of the stem.

Repeated Action

Here, action of the base has to be repeated in other to have full reduplication, as a result of which additional meaning is achieved. This can be found in dynamic nouns and frequentatives indicating repeated action. As can be seen in examples (4a, b & c):

Word Form	Reduplicated Form	Gloss
4.(a) tangàh	tangih-tangih	picking aimlessly
(b) rhi'emi	n'emin emi	drumming
(c) à'oh	à'oh-à'oh	group of little children

Frequency

A small number of verbal nouns including those that denote things rather than actions, from their plurals by means of reduplication and adding a short /i/: there are called 'pseudo plurals' and listed among 'frequentative.' This is in line with Newman (2000:197) as in the case of Hausa. This sentiment is being shared by the Basa language. Below are some examples of frequentatives in the language.

Word Form	Reduplicated Form	Gloss
5.(a) kinàh	ekinanghi-kinàghi	digging different holes
(b) hùmàh	ihùmanghi-hùmanghi	trappings
(c) ryà	ryàghi-ryàghi	eating different variety of food
(d) emà	emangi-emangi	drumming of different form of instruments
(e) epà	epàgi-epàgi	cutting

Example (5) above captures how frequency is been archived in Basa reduplication. In (5a), the reduplicate form has its initial *-e* vowel has been deleted. This is brought about by the fact that the Basa language allows for internal modification in its reduplicative system. While, example (5c-e) are fully reduplicated depicting the frequency of actions undertaken.

Distribution

Distribution is said to be the action of sharing something out among a number of recipients or the way in which something is shared out among a group or spread over an area. It is instructive to state that, reduplicated numerals in Basa also express the notion of distribution. Here are some examples:

Word Form	Reduplicated Form	Gloss
6.(a) makkah	makahkah- makahkah	one by one
(b) opàh	opàh-opàh	ten-each
(c) ryàwò	ryàwò-ryàwò	bit by bit

Examples (6a-c) shows a distribution pattern in which all the reduplicated forms refers to each and individual or items to be shared among persons either one to each, ten to an individual or to be shared in bits.

Semantics of Partial Reduplication in Basa

Partially reduplicated forms also express meanings. From the data collected so far, it is evident that, the only meaning express here is plurality with *-CV-* and *-CVC-* reduplicants added at the infixal level to produce a reduplicated form that expresses plurality as can be seen in examples 7 and 8.

Pluralization

Looking at the morphology of partial reduplication in the Basa language, the semantics of partial reduplication with *-CV-* and *-CVC-* infixal express plurality as exemplified in (7) and (8):

-CV- Infixal Reduplicant

Infixal reduplication is seen as a situation where the reduplicative morpheme (-CV) is inserted inside the base form. Category of noun, undergo -CV- infixal reduplication. Some trisyllabic nouns form plurality by infixing -CV- as exemplified in (7a-f).

Singular	Plural	Gloss
7.(a) ùbe	ebebe	rivers
(b) mani	mamani	water
(c) kyekòpe	nkòkòe	small baskets
(d) ketògòh	ntòtògwàh	calabashes
(e) kewàdù	nwuàwàdù	catfish
(f) kashiki	shishiki	chairs

All the examples cited in (7a-f) have to do with -CV- infixal reduplication. This involves exact copy of CV syllable in the base form. The reduplication here is regular partial reduplication. However, the morphology of the Basa language is indeed a complex one, the reduplication process also allow other internal modifications within the base as earlier seen on typological patterns of full reduplication. Looking at the example (7c) we would see that the syllable in the word form *kye-* has been deleted and the *n-* consonant *has* been attached to the reduplicated form. It can also be observed that the syllable *ke* in example (7d & e) has been deleted and replaced with the *n-* consonant. The syllable *ka* is deleted and replaced with *shi* in the initial point of the reduplicated form in example (7f). Also, the *u-* vowel sound has been replaced with *e-* at the beginning, as can be seen in example (7a).

-CVC- Infixal Reduplicant

Similar to the -CV- infixal reduplication, the -CVC- reduplicative morpheme is copied from the base form and inserted within the reduplicated form. The -CVC- infixal reduplicative morpheme in the Basa language may appear with or without modification as exemplified in (8).

Singular	Plural	Gloss
8.(a) kepanghà	npàpanghà	small barns
(b) ù'òh	eh'òh'òh	deaths
(c) unyàh	ehyanyàh	roads
(d) kenùbù	nnùnnùbù	pots

Here, example (8a-b) indicates -CVC- infixal reduplication without modification, while (8c-d) exemplify -CVC- infixal reduplication with phonological modification, indicating the influence of phonology on morphology. It can be observed that, the second syllable of the base has been reduplicated and the first syllable *ke-* has been deleted and replaced with a nasal sound *n-* in examples (8a & d). While, in examples (8b & c) the initial syllable *u-* has been deleted and is replaced by *eh-* sound at the initial part of the reduplicated form.

Table 1: Semantics of Reduplication in Basa
SEMANTICS OF REDUPLICATION IN BASA

WORD CLASS	FULL	PARTIAL
	SEMANTICS OF FULL REDUPLICATION	SEMANTICS OF PARTIAL REDUPLICATION
Noun	Pluralization	Pluralization
Adjective	Intensification	-
Verb	Repeated Action	-
Adverb	Emphasis	-
Numerals	Distribution	-
Dynamic Noun/Frequentatives	Repeated Action/Frequency	-

The first column of the table above consist of the lexical category of noun that comes with one semantic function i.e. the semantics of pluralization which is associated with active form of regular full and modified partial. The second column illustrates the lexical category of adjectives with sematic of intensification in an active form of regular full. The third column carries the lexical category of verb, coming with sematic of repeated action in active form of regular full, and

with -CV and -CVC- reduplicants and semantics of repeated action in an active form. The fourth column contains the lexical category of Adverb, presenting the semantics of emphasis in both full and modified in active forms. Next is the fifth column that consists of the lexical category of numerals, coming with semantics of distribution in regular full fashion and in an active form. Followed by the sixth column, which falls within the lexical category of Dynamic Noun/Frequentatives, it has the semantic function of repeated action/frequency.

Conclusion

Conclusively, the paper examines the semantic aspects of reduplication in Basa language. It found that there exist the semantics of full and partial reduplication in Basa language. It also discovered that the semantic components of full reduplication in Basa language includes; intensification, emphasis, repeated action, numerals and pluralization. On the other hand, the semantic component of partial reduplication in the Basa language is pluralization at prefixal and suffixes levels. In the research, full and partial reduplication in the Basa Language were identified. Tone patterns were indicated by signifying either high, low or falling tone, as the case may be. In analyzing the data, the varieties of reduplication patterns collected were subjected to intensive descriptions of their internal structure aiming at elucidating what additional elaborations were expected to come out with generalizations on reduplication. In some cases, the data begged for analysis because it is not done explicitly in the source study. In other cases, the data have to be reanalyzed in order to fit with the approach assumed in this work. Also, information gathered by the researcher were analyzed based on affixation: prefix, suffix and infix as identified in Basa Language.

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