REDUPLICATED VERBS IN MANIPURI

Bidyarani Mayengbam

ABSTRACT

This paper studies on reduplicated verbs in Manipuri, a Tibeto-Burman language. Reduplications are generally constructed in subject-objectless structure. Reduplicated verbs are formed by the repetition of verbs and they are different from other reduplication of nouns, adjectives and adverbs. All Manipuri reduplicated verbs are complete reduplication and are used very commonly in speech such as informative statement, command and request. In the case of informative statement of reduplicated verbs, ḍy/ḍykʰoy ‘I/we’ and mō/mōkʰoy ‘he or she/they’ the 1st/3rd person pronominal pronouns are deleted. In the case of command, the subject nōŋ ‘you’ the 2nd person is omitted. In Request the honorific marker -bi-pi is added to the verb root.

KEYWORDS: Reduplication, Morphological, Lexical, Partial and Complete.

1. INTRODUCTION

Reduplication is a term in morphology for a process of repetition whereby the form of a prefix/suffix reflects certain phonological characteristics of the root (Crystal, 1985). Reduplication, by definition stands for repetition of all or a part of a lexical item carrying a semantic modification (Anvita, 1994). Reduplication is that repetition, the result of which constituted the unit word. The entire repeated construction work as a unit morpheme as well as a unit word. These are called expressive (Abbi, 1980). Expressive are a kind of morphological reduplication. Reduplication is of two types namely, Morphological reduplication and Lexical reduplication. Expressive manifests feelings, sensations, perceptions pertaining to five senses, manner of an action and disorder liners are morphological reduplication while lexical reduplication or word reduplication with specific types of meaning is another important features, which has originated due to language contact. It is of two types namely Partial and Complete. Partial are formed in echo words and mimic words. Complete refers to the phenomenon when a single word or clause is repeated once in the same sentence.
without any phonological or morphological variations (Yashwanta, 2000). With the concept of the above modern linguists, this paper presents that Manipuri reduplicated verbs are complete type of reduplication as described in the following sections.

2. REDUNDICATED VERBS IN MANIPURI

Reduplicated verbs are generally constructed in subject-objectless structure. They are formed by the repetition of verbs and different from other reduplication of nouns, adjectives and adverbs. All Manipuri reduplicated verbs are complete reduplication and are used very commonly in speech. Complete reduplicated verbs refer to the phenomenon when a single verb is repeated once in the same sentence without any phonological or morphological changes or variations. There are three different types of sentence constructions, which are grammatically possible such as informative statement, command and request. These are discussed below.

2.1. Informative statement

It informs the addressee by a speaker about an action or event as shown in (1) to (3).

(1) cōt-le cōt-le
    go-asp.simp.
    ‘I am going/We are going’

(2) tum-me tum-me
    sleep-asp.simp.
    ‘I am sleeping/We are sleeping’

(3) pʰōm-me pʰōm-me
    sit-asp.simp.
    ‘I am sitting/We are sitting’
In the sentences, (1) to (3), the subject əy/əykʰoy ‘I/We’ (first person singular and plural) and mə/məkʰoy ‘he/she or they’ (third person singular and plural) are omitted. The underlying structure of the above sentences is as shown in (4) to (6).

(4) əy/əykʰoy cət-le əy/əykʰoy cət-le
   I/we go-asp.simp.
   ‘I am going/We are going’

(5) əy/əykʰoy tum-me əy/əykʰoy tum-me
   I/we sleep-asp.simp.
   ‘I am sleeping/We are sleeping’

(6) əy/əykʰoy pʰəm-me əy/əykʰoy pʰəm-me
   I/we sit-asp.simp.
   ‘I am sitting/We are sitting’

Another underlying structure of the sentences (1) to (3) is as shown in (7) to (9).

(7) mə/məkʰoy cət-le mə/məkʰoy cət-le
   he/they go-asp.simp.
   ‘He is going/They are going’

(8) mə/məkʰoy tum-me mə/məkʰoy tum-me
   he/they sleep-asp.simp.
   ‘He is sleeping/They are sleeping’

(9) mə/məkʰoy pʰəm-me mə/məkʰoy pʰəm-me
   he/they sit-asp.simp.
   ‘He is sitting /They are sitting’
The sentences from (4) to (9) show the actual underlying structure of the reduplication. It, therefore, can be concluded that in the case of informative statement of reduplicated verbs, the first and third person pronominal pronouns are deleted.

2.2. Command

In the case of command, the subject is definitely a second person though it is not overtly in the structure and such type of repetition is very commonly used in speech. Command is formed by the suffixation of /-lo-ro; -o-mo-po; ṇo; -u-mu-pu-ŋu-ğu/ and -ru-lu/ to the action oriented verb root as shown in (10) to (12).

(10) cōt-lo cōt-lo
    go-comd.
    ‘go’

(11) ca-ro ca-ro
    eat-comd.
    have it/take ‘it’

(12) lak-o lak-o
    come-comd.
    ‘come’

In such type of construction, the subject nōŋ ‘you’ the second person is omitted. The underlying structure of the above sentences (10) to (12) are as shown in (13) to (15).

(13) nōŋ cōt-lo nōŋ cōt-lo
    you go-comd.
    ‘You go’

(14) nōŋ ca-ro nōŋ ca-ro
    you eat-comd.
‘You take it/have it’

(15) नों लक-अ नों लक-अ
you come-comd.

‘You come’

2.3. Request

It is formed by adding honorific marker -bi-pī to verb root as shown in (16) and (17).

(16) लें-बी-रो लें-बी-रो
     गो-हон.-कम्ड.
     ‘please go’

(17) लाक-पी-रो लाक-पी-रो
     ‘
     कौम-होन.-कम्ड.
     Please come’

The underlying structure of the above sentences (16) and (17) are as shown in (18) and (19).

(18) ओडोम लें-बी-रो लें-बी-रो ‘You please go’
     यू-होन.-गो-होन.-कम्ड.

(19) सोम लाक-पी-रो लाक-पी-रो ‘You please come’
     यू-होन.-कौम-होन.-कम्ड.

3. CONCLUSION

In Manipuri reduplicated verbs are generally constructed in subject-objectless structure. Reduplicated verbs are formed by the repetition of verbs and they are different from other reduplication of nouns, adjectives and adverbs. All Manipuri reduplicated verbs are complete reduplication and are used very commonly in speech namely informative statement, command and request. In the informative
statement of reduplicated verbs, the first and third person pronominal pronouns are deleted while in command, the second person pronominal pronoun is omitted. Command is formed by the suffixation of /lo-ro; o-mo-po; no; u-mu-pu-ŋu-yu; and –ru-lu/ to the action oriented verb root. However in request the honorific marker -bi-pi is added to the verb root.

ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>asp.</td>
<td>aspect</td>
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<td>asp.simp.</td>
<td>simple aspect</td>
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<tr>
<td>cmd.</td>
<td>command</td>
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<tr>
<td>hon.</td>
<td>honorific</td>
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REFERENCES


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bidyarani Mayengbam has an M.A. in Linguistics, B.Ed. and Ph.D from the University of Manipur. She was formerly working as a Junior Resource Person in LDCIL-CIIL, Mysore and she is currently working as a project fellow in Linguistics Department, Manipur University. She has also published a book on Manipuri Verbs in LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing GmbH & Co. KG.