

REDUPLICATED VERBS IN MANIPURI

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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, **dy/dyk^hoy** 'I/we' and **mð/mðk^hoy** 'he or she/they' the 1st/3rd person pronominal pronouns are deleted. In the case of command, the subject **nðŋ** '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. REDUDLICATED 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) c̄t-le c̄t-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) p^hðm-me p^hðm-me

sit-asp.simp.

'I am sitting/We are sitting'

In the sentences, (1) to (3), the subject $\partial y/\partial yk^{hoy}$ 'I/We' (first person singular and plural) and $m\partial/m\partial k^{hoy}$ '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) $\partial y/\partial yk^{hoy}$ c\partial t-le $\partial y/\partial yk^{hoy}$ c\partial t-le

I/we go-asp.simp.

'I am going/We are going'

(5) $\partial y/\partial yk^{hoy}$ tum-me $\partial y/\partial yk^{hoy}$ tum-me

I/we sleep-asp.simp.

'I am sleeping/We are sleeping'

(6) $\partial y/\partial yk^{hoy}$ p^h\partial m-me $\partial y/\partial yk^{hoy}$ p^h\partial m-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) $m\partial/m\partial k^{hoy}$ c\partial t-le $m\partial/m\partial k^{hoy}$ c\partial t-le

he/they go-asp.simp.

'He is going/They are going'

(8) $m\partial/m\partial k^{hoy}$ tum-me $m\partial/m\partial k^{hoy}$ tum-me

he/they sleep-asp.simp.

'He is sleeping/They are sleeping'

(9) $m\partial/m\partial k^{hoy}$ p^h\partial m-me $m\partial/m\partial k^{hoy}$ p^h\partial m-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; ηo; -u~mu~pu~ηu~yu; and -ru~lu/ to the action oriented verb root as shown in (10) to (12).

(10) cət-lo cət-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 **nɔŋ** 'you' the second person is omitted. The underlying structure of the above sentences (10) to (12) are as shown in (13) to (15).

(13) nɔŋ cət-lo nɔŋ cət-lo

you go-comd.

'You go'

(14) nɔŋ ca-ro nɔŋ ca-ro

you eat-comd.

'You take it/have it'

(15) nɔŋ lak-o nɔŋ lak-o

you come-comd.

'You come'

2.3. Request

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

(16) leŋ-bi-ro leŋ-bi-ro

go-hon.-comd.

'please go'

(17) lak-pi-ro lak-pi-ro ' '

come-hon.-comd.

Please come'

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

(18) ɔdom leŋ-bi-ro leŋ-bi-ro 'You please go'

You(hon.)go-hon.-comd.

(19) som lak-pi-ro lak-pi-ro 'You please come'

You(hon.)come-hon.-comd.

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; ɲo; -u~mu~pu~ɲu~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

asp.	aspect
asp.simp.	simple aspect
comd.	command
hon.	honorific

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