

## THE PHENOMENON OF REDUPLICATION IN ENGLISH AND KARAKALPAK: A CROSS-LINGUISTIC STUDY

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Reduplication is a linguistic phenomenon that involves the repetition of all or part of a word to create a new form. It is a pervasive phenomenon across human languages, and it has long been an area of significant linguistic interest. This article explores the reduplication in English and Karakalpak. It focuses on the types of reduplication, their semantic features, and the similarities and differences between the two languages. The introduction provides an overview of the topic, followed by a literature review of reduplication in English and Karakalpak, including the types of reduplication and their semantic features. The discussion section compares and contrasts the two languages, highlighting similarities and differences in their use of reduplication. The article concludes with a summary of the findings and their implications for future research. Overall, this article contributes to our understanding of reduplication as a linguistic phenomenon and sheds light on its use in two distinct languages.*

**Keywords:** *Karakalpak reduplication, English reduplication, Cross-linguistic study, Types of reduplication, Semantics*

Reduplication is a common occurrence in all languages and can impact various linguistic units. This phenomenon has been studied in different fields of linguistic and social science, leading to various approaches to understanding it. According to Sapir, reduplication is “repetition of all or part of the radical element.” [6]. Consequently, Carl Rubino describes reduplication as “the repetition of phonological material within

a word for semantic or grammatical purposes” [5]. Moravcsik defines reduplication as “a pattern where the double or multiple occurrence of a sound string, syllable, morpheme, or word within a larger syntagmatic unit is in systematic contrast with its single occurrence, with the iterated elements filling functionally non-distinct positions” [4]. Nowadays, reduplication is a widely used morphological device in human languages. To fully comprehend the structure and evolution of reduplication, a cross-linguistic approach is both necessary and feasible.

Reduplication can be total or partial. In her linguistic work concerning reduplicative constructions, Moravcsik notes for the subdivision of reiteration:

“Reiteration may be either total or partial: it is total if it involves the repetition of the whole semantic-syntactic or of the whole phonetic-phonological string whose meaning is correspondingly changed; and it is partial if involves the reiteration of only part of the semantic-syntactic or phonetic-phonological constituent whose meaning is accordingly modified.” [4].

She also claims that “partial reduplicative constructions” can be further categorized into different subtypes based on how the specific part “to be reduplicated is defined”. Here are some examples of total (1) and partial (2) reduplications in English:

(1) *bye-bye*

*goody-goody*

*no-no*

*night-night*

*zero-zero*

(2) *rip-rip*

*ping-pong*

*crinkle-crinkle*

*happy-clappy*

*namby-pamby*

In their study titled "Contrastive Focus Reduplication in English (The Salad-Salad Paper)", Jila Ghomeshi et al. observe that there exist at least six other types with varying degrees of productivity:

- a. 'Baby-talk' reduplication, e.g., *choo-choo, night-night, din-din, bow-wow, wee-wee*.
- a. Multiple partial reduplications, e.g., *hap-hap-happy* (as in song lyrics)
- c. Deprecative reduplication, e.g., *table-shmable, hocus-pocus, mumbo jumbo, fuddy-duddy, wishy-washy, dilly-dally, flim-flam, riff-raff, harum-scarum*.
- d. 'Rhyme combinations': *super-duper, willy-nilly, pall-mall, hanky-panky, itsy-bitsy, fiddle-faddle, hoity-toity, lovey-dovey, okey-dokey, walkie-talkie, keepie-uppie*.
- e. 'Ablaut combinations': *ding-dong, flim-flam, hip-hop, jibber-jabber, kit-kat, mish-mash, ping-pong, riff-raff, sing-song, tick-tock, zig-zag*.
- f. Intensive reduplication: *You are sick sick sick!*

Ghomeshi et al. introduce another category of reduplication called contrastive reduplication. This involves the repetition of words or phrases, such as "It's tuna salad, not SALAD-salad" or "Do you LIKE-HIM-like him?" [3].

Reduplication is a morphological process in which a word or part of it is repeated exactly or with slight changes. In English, reduplication is not grammatically productive, meaning it is not used to create new forms of words. However, it is a common feature in many languages around the world. The semantic aspects of reduplication in English include diminution(3), repetition(4), intensity(5), baby register, scattering, contempt, lack of control, lack of specificity, and continuity(6) [1]. According to Sapir, reduplications "indicate such concepts as distribution, plurality, repetition, customary activity, increase of size, added intensity, continuance" [6].

(3) *teeny-weeny*

*teensy-weensy*

*itsy-bitsy*

*itty-bitty*

(4) *boogie-woogie*

*ping-pong*

*ding-dong*

*splish-splash*

(5) *super-duper*

*tip-top*

(6) *dilly-dally*

*pitter-patter*

In most cases, reduplication is used to create new words with a different meaning from the original word. For example, in English, "chitchat" means "small talk," while "chat" means "talk." In this case, the reduplication changes the meaning of the word.

Reduplication is a common phenomenon in the Karakalpak language [8]. Bekbergenov states that reduplicative words are similar to pair words by their forms as they both consist of two paired components [2]. These are examples of reduplicative words (7) and pair words (8) and given below. They show that both entities exhibit a fundamental duality characterized by the presence of two components that are paired together.

(7) *taw-taw* ‘mountains, heap’

*adam-madam* ‘people’

*at-mat* ‘horses’

*qalın-malın* ‘dowry’

*kiyiz-piyiz* ‘felt, a certain amount of felt, something like felt’

(8) *ata-ana* ‘parents’

*keli-kelsap* ‘mortar’

*kóz-qulaq* ‘all eyes and ears, very attentive’

*dúnya-mal* ‘wealth, fortune’

However, Bekbergenov says that reduplicative words differ significantly from pair words semantically and structurally. He also enumerates several distinctive characteristics of reduplicative words in order to differentiate them from pair words. Firstly, pair words are formed from two different bases, while reduplicative words are

formed by repeating one word. Secondly, a noteworthy contrast between pair words and reduplicative words is that while the second component of some pair words lacks semantic significance, the second component of reduplicative words always bears meaning due to its repetition of the first component. Another characteristic that distinguishes pair words from reduplicative words is that while the former generally consists of two components (with few exceptions such as “*ashna-yar-dos* ‘acquaintances, spouse and friends’, *hayal-bala-shağa* ‘family; wife and children’, *gälle-bas-sıraq* ‘beef’, *bir-eki-úsh* ‘one two three’, *ayt-toy-mereke* ‘celebrations’”), the latter typically comprises three or more components, particularly in the case of onomatopoeic words and interjection, as in (9). The author also discusses the semantic and syntactic attributes as well as the etymology of both types of words [2].

(9) *pay-pay-pay-pay* ‘expression of surprise, delight’

In scholarly research concerning reduplicative words, Nazhimov delineates two primary types of reduplicative words in Karakalpak: full and partial [10]. Full reduplication is the repetition of an entire word, stem, or root, while partial reduplication involves the repetition of only part of the word. The following examples illustrate instances of full reduplication (10) and partial reduplication (11).

(10) *oyın-oyın* ‘games, toys’

*tóbe-tóbe* ‘mountains, hills’

*pada-pada* ‘herds’

*kúnde-kúnde* ‘everyday’

*qızıq-qızıq* ‘very interesting’

*mayda-mayda* ‘small, little, tiny’

(11) *ash-ashlıq* ‘hunger’

*ústi-ústine* ‘top by top’

*kózbe-kóz* ‘face to face’

*úyme-úy* ‘to all houses’

Alternatively, Bekbergenov subdivides reduplicative words into four general categories: identical, non-identical, rhymed, and intensive [2].

"Identical reduplicative words" are words that are created through reduplication, involving the exact duplication of the base word without any alteration. These types of words are commonly utilized to place emphasis on certain attributes such as plurality and continuity. Some examples of identical reduplicative words in Karakalpak are *qalta-qalta* 'sacks', *júz-júz* 'hundreds', *tartınıp-tartınıp* 'be shy continuously', *bara-bara* 'day by day, from time to time', *sulıw-sulıw* 'very beautiful', *ayta-ayta* 'repeating'.

Non-identical reduplicative words are formed through the reduplication of a word in which the two components comprising the word differ morphologically. During the process of this reduplication, it is possible that either one or both of the components may exhibit differences in their morphological structure when compared to the original base word. Below are examples of non-identical reduplicative words (12).

- (12) *ashtan-ash* 'starving'  
*qaraptan-qarap* 'out of the blue'  
*orınlı-ornına* 'in order'  
*bolar-bolmas* 'out of the blue'

Reduplicative words that bear connotations of abandonment are formed by the repetition of a word with a change or insertion of the initial consonant in the second component, thereby resulting in a unique, reduplicated word. Typically, the initial consonant of the second component is either labial "m," "b," or "p" or anterior "s" [9]. Some examples of these reduplications in Karakalpak *palaw-salaw* 'treats, food, meals', *ağash-pağash* 'thickets of trees, wood', *nan-pan* 'bread', *kitap-sitap* 'books', *egin-pegin* 'crops', *qoy-poy* 'sheep'.

C-type reduplications are moderately numerous and very uniform in Karakalpak [7]. "Intensive reduplicative words" are comprised of words that primarily serve to form the intensive degree of adjectives and some adverbs [2]. In other words, the intensive degree of adjectives or adverbs is formed by reduplication (repetition) of the adjectives. This reduplication process can be full or partial, with the first of the repeated words truncated to a single syllable and closed by a consonant. Usually, this consonant

is a bilabial voiceless "p", while on some occasions it may be a nasal "m" or a "whistling s." There are some turkologists who believe that the first element in reduplicated adjectives, such as the word *qıp-qızıl* 'red', may represent the formation of a prefix. However, it should be noted that these first elements are common to all adjectives and cannot be viewed as prefixes since a distinct prefix is formed for each adjective in correspondence to the initial consonant of the second component [9]. Some examples of intensive reduplications in Karakalpak *up-uzın* 'very long', *qap-qara* 'black', *qıp-qızıl* 'red', *úp-úlken* 'huge, massive, very big', *sup-sultw* 'very beautiful', *map-mayda* 'tiny'.

There are both similarities and differences in the use of reduplication in English and Karakalpak. Both languages use reduplication as a word formation process. In English and Karakalpak there are examples of partial reduplication, where only part of the word is repeated. Reduplication in English are used for emphasis or intensification as in Karakalpak. However, there are some differences. Firstly, English has a wider range of reduplication types than Karakalpak. Secondly, Karakalpak has less examples of reduplication for rhyming or alliterative effect than English. Thirdly, Karakalpak language has more examples of reduplication for pluralization than English. Lastly, the phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics of reduplication differ between English and Karakalpak. Overall, while there are some similarities in the use of reduplication in English and Karakalpak, there are also significant differences in the types and functions of reduplication in each language.

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