

NOMINAL REDUPLICATION IN HAUSA AND YORUBA LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This paper carefully examines nominal reduplication process in Hausa and Yoruba languages. As presented in the paper, the term 'Nominal' refers to any grammatical category having a syntactic function, like that of noun or noun phrase. While the term 'Reduplication' is one of the morphological processes, by which all or part of a form is replicated. Reduplication is divided into two (i) complete and (ii) partial reduplication in the two languages. The process changes one of the grammatical form to another. For instance changing adjectives, adverb, verb, noun to another nominal form ie. noun in both languages. This reduplication process, either complete or partial, normally change grammatical category of a word or reduce the intensity in function of that word class among the two languages. In complete and partial reduplication, there are situations where singular is changed to plural or stratify gender and number in the process.

Keywords: Hausa, Yoruba, Reduplication, Languages.

Introduction

The article discusses one of the three main morphological processes, i.e. Affixation, Reduplication and Modification in Hausa and Yoruba languages. According to Greenberg classification of African languages (1963), Hausa language belongs to Chadic family, which is a sub-group of Afro-Asiatic. Yoruba is classified under Benue-Congo language, mainly spoken in the western and some parts of the northern Nigeria. The Hausa counterpart is spoken mainly in the northern part of Nigeria. Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo are considered as the three major languages in Nigeria. The term 'nominal' refers to any grammatical category that has a syntactic function, like that of noun or noun phrase. In other sense, it may refer to words which have attributes of nouns, but not all, Crystals (1988). The term 'reduplication' can be defined as a process whereby another shade of meaning in produced through the reduplication of the whole or part of the base form.

Reduplication is divided into two;

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- (i) complete reduplication and
- (ii) partial reduplication.

In the process of reduplication, derivation and formation of new nominal is enhanced in the two languages. The process also changes one grammatical form to another like changing adjective, adverb, verb, to another nominal form. It also reduces the intensification function of the particular word to a lesser function among the two languages.

The term ‘NOMINAL’

The term nominal is used in some grammatical description as a substitute for noun. e.g nominal group, noun phrase e.t.c in more restricted sense, it refers to words which have some attributes of nouns but not all Crystal (1988).

A nominal in other word, could be any part of speech having a syntactic function like that of a noun or noun phrase. In straight forward analysis, a nominal may be that grammatical item which is capable of changing a word from another word class into a noun especially by derivation.

The term ‘REDUPLICATION’

The term reduplication is a morphological process by which all or parts of a form is repeated. Matthews (2007) in more wider sense, define reduplication as the second morphological process that operate in the formation of new word. It is a process whereby another shade of meaning is produced by reduplicating whole or part of the root. Viz it is divided into two namely: complete reduplication and partial reduplication.

Complete Reduplication

Refers to a situation whereby a segment of the reduplicated form is exactly like the original; consider these examples of complete reduplication in Hausa language.

(i) Verb complete reduplication in Hausa language;

<u>verb form</u>		<u>plural form</u>
wanke 'wash'	-	wanke-wanke
jifa 'throw'	-	jife-jife

tona 'dig'	-	tone-tone
zagi 'abuse'	-	zage-zage
mari 'slap'	-	mare-mare

In normal process the verb reduplication in Hausa language effect changes in the word forms, from singular to plural form as shown above. There are changes also taking place in the vowels of the singular forms to that of plural forms, as: a \longrightarrow e, i \longrightarrow e

(ii) Adjective complete reduplication in Hausa language;

sabo 'new'	-	sabo-sabo 'a bid new'	fairly new/seemingly new
fari 'white'	-	fari-fari 'a bit white'	fairly white/seemingly white
danye 'raw'	-	danye-danye 'a bit raw'	fairly raw/seemingly raw
sanyi 'cold'	-	sanyi-sanyi 'a bit cold'	fairly cold/seemingly cold
gurgu 'cripple'	-	gurgu-gurgu 'a bit cripple'	seemingly cripple

The complete adjective reduplication in Hausa, changes or reduces the intensity of adjective in its function.

(iii) Adverb complete reduplication in Hausa language;

sauri 'fast'	-	sauri-sauri 'a bit fast'
sama 'up'/high	-	sama-sama 'a bit up' higher

ahankali 'gradually'	-	'ahankali-hankali 'a bit gradually'	more gradually
tsakiya - 'mid'		tsakiya-tsakiya 'a bit mid'	inner
duhu 'dark'	-	duhu-duhu 'a bit dark'	darker

Also the adverb complete reduplication in Hausa seems to perform the same function like that of adjective. Where it changes or reduces the intensity of the adverb in its function.

(iv) Noun complete reduplication in Hausa language:

yaro 'a boy/child'	-	yaro-yaro 'young man'
nama 'meat'	-	nama-nama 'meaty/partly meat'
wari 'odour'	-	wari-wari 'smelly/a bit smelling'
kashi 'bone'	-	kashi-kashi 'bonny/partly bone'
ruwa 'water'	-	ruwa-ruwa 'watery/partly watery'

Consider these examples of complete reduplication in Yoruba language;

Noun complete in Yoruba language:

omo 'child'	-	omoomo 'grand child'
iya 'mother'	-	iyaiya 'grand mother'
ile 'house'	-	ile-ile 'house by house'

osu	-	ososu
‘month’		‘monthly’
igba	-	igbaigba
‘time’		‘timely/periodically’

In this process, the original noun forms either change to another noun with entirely different meaning, or completely change the word class.

Verb phrase complete reduplication in Yoruba language:

pana	-	pana-pana
‘to quench fire’		‘fire service/fire bridge’
peja	-	peja-peja
‘to catch fish’		‘fisherman’
dana	-	dana-dana
‘to rob with arms’		‘armed robber’
wole		wole-wole
‘to inspect a house’		‘sanity inspector/sanitation officer’
gbohun	-	gbohun-gbohun
‘to amplify a voice/ to echo a voice’		‘amplifier’

In the above Yoruba examples, the verb phrase when reduplicated, change pattern of the phrase to a verbal noun.

an adjective or verb complete reduplication in Yoruba:

fuke	-	fuke-fuke
‘soft’		‘softness’
rudu	-	rudu-rudu
‘confuse’		‘confusion/disorder’
laiye	-	laiye-laiye
‘ever’		‘forever’

pata	-	pata-pata
‘complete/total’		‘completely/totally’

In this process, the complete reduplication of either adjectives, adverb, or noun in Yoruba, change the word form from its original form to a nominal (noun).

Partial Reduplication

Partial reduplication refers to a situation whereby only part of the root is repeated or reduplicated in order to have a different word structure and meaning. There are number of verbs nouns, adjectives or adverbs in which only the initial, medial or final segment is repeated to make the difference.

Consider the following examples of partial reduplication in Hausa language:

Verb partial reduplication in Hausa language:

<u>verb</u>	<u>masculine</u> (noun)	<u>feminine</u>	<u>plural</u> (noun)
wanke ‘wash’	wankekke ‘washed one’	wankakiyya	wankakku
buga ‘beat’	bugagge ‘beaten one’	bugaggagiya	bugaggu
ture ‘push’	turarre ‘pushed one’	turarriya	turarru
rage ‘reduce’	ragagge ‘reduced one’	ragaggagiya	ragaggu

In the process of partial reduplication in Hausa, the verb form is partially reduplicated to form a noun. And also to specify masculine feminine and plural forms in the new noun forms. With the final vowel ‘a’ of the original base changed to either vowel ‘a’ or ‘e’ in masculine and feminine form while in plural form the vowel change to ‘u’.

Noun partial reduplication in Hausa language:

batu	-	batutuwa
‘issue’		‘issues’

cuta 'disease'	-	cututtuka 'diseases'
aji 'class'	-	ajujuwa 'classes'
laifi 'offence'	-	laifuffuka 'offences'

In this process of partial reduplication in Hausa language, there is a kind of attaching suffixes, ie -'uwa' an 'uka' to the partially reduplicated end segment of the word, and the noun form changes to plural noun.

Verb partial reduplication in Hausa, with no specification to gender, it only specify singular to plural form.

yanka 'cut'	-	yanyanka 'cut several times'
fasa 'break'	-	faffasa 'break several times'
saye 'buy'	-	sassaye 'buy completely/several times'
matsa 'squeeze'	-	mammatsa 'squeeze several times'

Consider the examples of partial reduplication in Yoruba language.

Verb partial reduplication in Yoruba language:

lo 'to go'	-	lilo 'going away/departure'
ta 'to sell'	-	tita 'for sale'
je 'to eat'	-	jije 'edible'

mu	-	mimu
'to drink'		'drinkable'

In the above examples in Yoruba, partial reduplication of verb. It changes the verb form to adjective form.

Adjective partial reduplication in Yoruba language:

The process of changing the simple adjective in Yoruba culminate into a more complex adjective.

buru	-	buburu
'wicked'		'more wicked'
kuru	-	kukuru
'short'		'more shorter'
po	-	pupo
'many'		'much more'
dara	-	didara
'final'		'very fine/best'

This process of partial reduplication as presented above, in the two language occur by reduplicating the first consonant of the reduplicated form. And mostly a front vowel 'i' or a back vowel 'u' are inserted in the process to give another different word structure or shade of meaning compared to the original base form.

As observed in the presentation of the nominal reduplication in both Hausa and Yoruba verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc are either completely reduplicated or partially reduplicated in the languages. This process produces a lexeme, but in some instances there are cases of change in vowel form, or infixing a bound morpheme after reduplication of the lexeme.

Conclusion

From the three morphological processes of word formation, ie Affixation, Reduplication and Modification, the paper considered reduplication process in Hausa and Yoruba two types of reduplicate. Complete and partial reduplication were identified and illustrated. The reduplication process lead to derivation and formation of nominal in the two languages illustrated. The processes also change a grammatical category of a word, like changing adjective, adverb, noun etc. a nominal categories. The paper also observed the process of

reducing the intensification function of a word, to a lesser function among the two languages. The writing also expresses how reduplication change a grammatical item to specify a gender function, plurality intensification of action etc in a nominal derivation.

Observation

Despite the fact that HAUSA AND YORUBA are entirely from different African language groups, the paper has revealed to some extent how nominal reduplication occur among the two languages. For instance, Mu'azu (2003:10) observes that Hausa is a gender language, while Yoruba from an investigation is not. This really shows that the gender language among African languages are more in acquisition than the none gender ones.

It is recommended that a lot of scholarly researches be undertaken in these languages to explain more about these complexities.

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