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## EXPLORING THE PHENOMENON OF REDUPLICATION: A CROSS-LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF REPETITIVE STRUCTURES

**Summary.** This work is an attempt to study the phenomenon of doubling monosyllabic and two-syllable words that may represent different parts of speech in the English, French and Ukrainian languages, analyze peculiarities of reduplication of nouns and other parts of speech. Examples of different types of reduplication and their application are presented. The article also considers variants of doubling words from semantic and stylistic points of view. To conduct the research, a mixed research methodology has been used: continuous sampling method, comparative method, method of observation.

Doubling raises two considerations related to form and meaning. In terms of form, the term "reduplicant" is broadly used to refer to the part of a word that is repeated, while "stem" is used to refer to the part of a word that provides the source material for reduplication. The article examines key issues concerning the reduplicative form, the theory of base-duplicate identity, the form of duplicates, and the factors that should be considered when determining the base of reduplication. A defining feature of reduplication is that it involves copying part of a word. This linguistic phenomenon gives rise to a wide variety of mechanism that explain how repetition occurs.

It is stated reduplication is characteristic of many speech styles, although it predominates in the language of children. The biggest number of reduplicants were found in the French language, with English comes the second. In Ukrainian, this linguistic phenomenon is not so frequent, although it is typical of poetic or expressive speech. Reduplication as a language technique and a way of forming new language units is a little studied subject. The mechanism of such word formation, the meaning and function of reduplicates require more careful consideration, as a widespread phenomenon. The study of reduplication aroused our interest from the point of view of understanding a number of properties associated with the process of word formation.

**Key words:** reduplication, repetition, phonomorphological phenomenon, sound imitation, children's speech.

**Introduction.** What is reduplication? The word is exactly synonymous to "duplication". Both of these words came to the European languages from classical Latin: reduplication (English, French), редуплікація (Ukrainian). Today, "reduplication" is almost an academic term. It often appears in the fields such as art, philosophy, linguistics and genetics.

As a linguistic phenomenon, reduplication is not unique to the mentioned languages, it may convey grammatical functions and is used in lexical derivatives to create semantic forms in many

languages of the world. It is a limitless resource for individual creativity and formation of linguistic meaning.

In linguistics, reduplication refers to the complete or partial repetition of phonological material within a word that serves a semantic or grammatical function. Reduplication is an effective morphological tool in hundreds of languages of the world.

The prevalence and frequency of reduplication varies from language to language. In the language systems where reduplication is a used type of word formation, it is closely related to sound reproduction. Reduplication can serve different functions in different languages. As a linguistic phenomenon, it is widespread in more than 300 ethnic languages of Indonesia, in Australia, South Asia and in some parts of Africa, the Caucasus and the Amazon regions.

The purpose of our research is to find out the peculiarities of reduplication and reduplication forms in the English, French and Ukrainian languages and in the children's speech in particular. In our work, we'll consider reduplication as a phonomorphological phenomenon which consists in the doubling of the initial syllable (partial reduplication): cacao, poupon, toton, or the whole root (full reduplication): boubou, gaga, you-you. Currently, the problem of reduplication is relevant and is discussed not only in domestic, but in foreign linguistics too.

The object of the research is reduplicatives which, according to researchers, are most often used in an informal, reduced style of speech, where colloquial words and words characteristic of children's speech are distinguished.

**The method.** The material of this research is reduplicative formations, selected by the continuous sampling method from monolingual and bilingual dictionaries of the modern English, French and Ukrainian languages, including online dictionaries, as well as observation of children speaking these languages aged 1 to 3 years. The total sample of words was about 210. In this work, we analyzed reduplicatives, which were divided into thematic-connotative blocks.

Reduplication is a phonomorphological phenomenon consisting in doubling initial composition (partial reduplication) or the whole root (complete reduplication). The case of reduplication is repetition, that is, the doubling of the entire word; the formation of such forms intersects with word formation. With reduplication a vowel in the root may be repeated, but it may also be replaced by another vowel. This phenomenon is inherent in languages of different structure. The functions of reduplication are diverse: it can express grammatical meaning

and act as a means of variation of lexical meaning, conveying intensity, diminution and so on.

**Literature review.** Many linguists have devoted their works to the analysis of reduplication in different languages, but there is still no precise definition of this concept and its role, function and significance in the language. However, it can be argued that reduplication is more widespread than it might seem at first glance.

Taranenko [1, 507] defines reduplication (lat. reduplication – doubling), repetition or doubling as full or (more often) partial repetition of the root, base or entire word, sometimes an affix without change or with some change in their sound composition as a way of creating new words, phraseological units, syntactic constructions or as a way of expressing grammatical meanings with semantic strengthening of these units. Plyusch [2] specifies this phenomenon as a method of word formation that coins new lexical units by repeating words with one base and adding another base with affixes (suffixes, prefixes), and presents the classification of words formed by reduplication, according to morphological characteristics. Inkelas [3, 175] states that reduplication tends to have wide semantic scope. “Like derivational morphology, reduplication tends to alter event-internal meaning. And like derivational morphology, reduplication has a predilection for occurring in phonological proximity to the root”. Mellesmoen and Urbanczyk [4, 170] are adopting a phonological approach to reduplication, in which the reduplicative morpheme is “a segmentally empty prosodic unit..., that is filled by segmental fission of an input segment to multiple output segments”. Ukrainian researcher Nikolashina [5, 43] points out that reduplicated words in the artistic text allow you to convey a larger amount of information, both substantive and emotional-evaluative.

**Discussion.** The complexity and ambiguity of the linguistic essence of reduplication is evidenced by the different views of scientists on this class of derivatives, so it becomes necessary to determine the features of reduplication formations. Inkelas [6, 1146] distinguishes two separate methods, two different types of reduplication: phonological and morphological. Phonological duplication is a local duplication which includes one phonological segment (for example, a copied consonant is a copy of the nearest consonant); while morphological duplication is not necessarily local. It includes the entire morphological constituent (affix, root, stem, word).

Often words or expressions whose syllables are repeated are associated with the speech of a child. The most important processes in the development of children's speech fall on the period from 20 months to 3 years. The first speech is predominantly separate chains of sounds, often reduplicated, as well as pseudo-words – sound complexes devoid of any meaning. At 10–12 months, a few more words-sentences are gradually added to the vocalizations. This preparatory stage of language acquisition at the level of phonetics gradually changes and is indicated by the appearance of children's words with a special structure, which is mainly two-syllable words with full or partial reduplication: *Eng: mommy, yum yum; Ukr: баба, тато, цяця; Fr: mémé, pépé, joujou* and sound imitations. Words are not yet distinguished as nominative units, but are part of single-word sentences (word-sentences). They are associated with the first noticeable steps of the child's active speech activity, which perform important functions for the child's socialization: pragmatic (the child uses words to attract the attention of an adult in order to get the desired thing), factual (to maintain contact with others), emotionally expressive (child enjoys speaking),

etc. The phonetic incompetence of the child, associated with the physiological characteristics of the formation of the articulatory apparatus, is most noticeable to those around him, forcing the child to seek replacements for sounds that are difficult for him. Formally, sentence words resemble nominative and imperative sentences, in which words are presented in frozen forms: *Ukr: dai'dai* in the meaning of “give”; *Eng. dada, baba, baby, woof woof; Fr. dada, baba, dodo, donne, doudou*, but without expressing the grammatical meanings of these forms. Word-forming activity and attention to the semantics of words begins especially after 2.5 years, reaching a peak at 3.5–5 years. The child becomes an active member of language interaction with adults [7, 27–28].

It should be mentioned that reduplicated words are present not only in children's language. Such words can also appear in slang or in the usual conversational style and over time they replenish the commonly used vocabulary:

*So, I'll go and watch Camilla twirl round in a tutu, which believe me, not a very pretty sight* [8, 95].

*I feel like a complete dodo.*

*Je vous faisais faire des trucs, à vous deux les zozos, pour que vous ne vous sentiez pas inutiles.*

*Hier soir il s'est enlacé tout seul sous le patio... Comme s'il roulait une pelle langoureuse à une nana, sauf qu'il était tout seul* [9, 214].

**Subgroups of reduplicated words.** We tried to identify several subgroups of reduplicated words. The largest subgroup consists of nouns. The research has shown that both adults and children use reduplicative nouns. Most often, these are words related to family, home, everyday life. For example: *Eng: bye-bye, bla-bla, night night, wee-wee; Fr: mémé, pépé, tonton, ta-ta, bébé, dodo, dada, etc.*

*You could make a big boo-boo if you leap to any drastic conclusions.*

*They're chasing superyacht jobs for the love of bling-bling and not for the love of sailing.*

*Qui sait pourtant que les électeurs qui déchantent existent, mais aucun n'a encore mis de pancarte “cocu de Trumpe” sur sa pelouse... Ils jouent à cache-cache avec les médias* [10, 7].

*Antoine était un maniaque de l'entretien. Jardinier, bricoleur, pêcheur, nounou, gardien de la maison, c'était un écrivain échoué là que Maman avait recueilli* [9, 172].

The next largest group by a number of presented units is a group of words expressing onomatopoeia of mechanisms or objects. The words of this group can be used to replace the names of phenomena and, thus, to simplify the language. Some of them are onomatopoeic formations: *choo-choo – ту-ту, ploc-ploc – кан-кан, frou-frou, bla-bla, murmur, tonton, tin-tin, тук-тук, цок-цок.*

Another group of reduplicates is represented by the sounds produced by birds and animals. They are most often found in children's speech. In the offered examples the word is formed by a complete repetition of the reduplicate: *meow-meow – miaou-miaou, – мяу-мяу; woof-woof – оуах-оуах – гав-гав; chirp-chirp – cui-cui – чик-чирик; quack-quack – croa-croa – ква-ква; groin-groin – gruik-gruik – хрю-хрю.* Children's songs can be a vivid illustration:

*Hey diddle diddle,*

*The cat and the fiddle,*

*The cow jumped over the moon.*

*The little dog laughed to see such sport,*

*And the dish ran away with the spoon.* [11]

*Dans la forêt lointaine  
On entend le coucou  
Du haut de son grand chêne  
Il répond au hibou  
Coucou coucou  
Coucou hibou coucou  
Coucou coucou  
Coucou hibou coucou* [12].  
*Крокодили-дили-дили  
Пропливали-али-али,  
Черепяху-аху  
Налякали-али-али* [13].

*Люлі-люлі-люлята, засніть мої малята!* [14]

We can say that the reduplication of an attribute or circumstance is aimed at an expressive-quantitative change in meaning. Some words are formed by complete repetition of the reduplicant: *Eng: goody-goody, chop-chop; Fr: vite-vite, très-très, Ukr: дуже-дуже, швидко-швидко*. Such formations have, as a rule, an expressive function.

*She couldn't have said why, but the bland and goody-goody description put her back up* [8, 60].

*A happy ending to a so-so season.*

*Et comprendre la crise financière est très très difficile.*

*Maluene observe que les garçons font semblant d'être des wesh wesh* [15].

*І сумно-сумно в хаті стало* [16, 168].

*Тополею стала. Не вернулася додому, Не дїждала пари;  
Тонка-тонка та висока —До самої хмари* [16, 174].

*Сидів-сидів у запічку московським, поки лилася кров, поки змагання велося за життя там, на Вкраїні* [14, 554].

Many reduplicated words are characterized by the phenomenon of polysemy, that is, many of them have more than one meaning. For example, the word "bobo", taken out of context, cannot be understood correctly, because it has several meanings: small morning, bourgeois, bohemian, liberal.

*Tout bobo a son remède (proverbe) (sore).*

*C'est n'est qu'un bobo! (wound).*

*Juliette et ses copines habitent un quartier bobo de Paris, Adèle et Hélène une banlieue de classes moyennes. (smart)* [9, 29].

*Le bobo est plutôt de gauche et il est plutôt poilu de la gueule. (a successful young man).*

In the 21st century, this word entered French society as a term for success. In the press, television, radio, literature, in the speeches of politicians, it acquires different shades: for some, "bobo" is a modern avatar of the bourgeoisie, the new dominant of French society. To others, he is a hypocritical socialist, a naïve leftist elector, or an individual who blindly follows the latest trends, whether in consumer goods or political ideas.

*Le style de vie bobo est aujourd'hui très à la mode chez les jeunes diplômés.*

Other examples, *coco* – it can mean an egg, a bean, cocaine, a head, a belly; *toto* – a parasite, a machine, a child.

**Results.** The meanings of polysemic reduplicates change depending on the context in which they are used. Concepts can radically change and present certain difficulties during translation.

The ratio of the parts of the language of the presented units is also interesting. The most quantitative group of reduplicatives is nouns, 44% of all found reduplicatives. Exclamations and onomatopoeia make up 34%, verbs – 13%, adjectives – 9%. Of course, this sample

is not complete, because the phenomenon of reduplication is quite variable, which is not always recorded in dictionaries.

**Conclusions and prospects for further research.** So, we can say that the range of the use of reduplication is wide. It is characteristic of many speech styles, although it predominates in the language of children. Children's words are used not only by children, but also by adults in order to communicate with them. They are well remembered, rhythmic and have an emotional color. Reduplication is not limited to phonological features; it is a combination of phonological, morphosyntactic, syntactic and lexical factors. Thus, reduplication is a rather flexible tool of discourse. In the examples above, the reduplicated words act as intensifiers—they describe things that are somehow more real, true, intense, or strong. These are mostly adjectives with the meaning of strengthening the attribute, verbs with the meaning of continuity of the process, etc. We came to the conclusion that reduplication is typical for all styles of language: literary and bookish, conversational, it is characteristic of the speech of adults and children, however, we did not find examples of the use of reduplicated words in scientific literature, since scientific terms are devoid of expressive and stylistic coloring. Analyzing the languages in question, we may state that the biggest number of reduplicants were found in the French language, English comes the second. In Ukrainian, this linguistic phenomenon is not frequent and is typical of poetic or expressive speech.

The meaning and function of reduplicates in different languages require careful consideration. In our opinion, the prospect for further research is study of a number of properties associated with the mechanism of word formation in modern languages.

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**Верховцова О. М., Іщенко О. В. Редуплікація в різних мовах: порівняльне дослідження повторення в лінгвістичних системах**

**Анотація.** У цій роботі зроблено спробу дослідити явище подвоєння односкладових і двоскладових слів, які можуть представляти різні частини мови в англійській, французькій та українській мовах, та проаналізувати особливості редуплікованих форм іменників та інших частин мови. Подано приклади різних типів редуплікації та їх застосування. У статті також розглянуто варіанти подвоєння слів з точки зору семантики та стилістики.

Ураховуючи специфіку об'єкта та предмета дослідження були використані: метод суцільної вибірки, зіставний метод та метод спостереження.

Лінгвістичний феномен редуплікації пов'язаний з формою та значенням. З точки зору форми, термін «редуплікант» широко використовується для позначення частини слова, яка повторюється, тоді як «основа»

використовується для позначення частини слова, яка забезпечує вихідний матеріал для повторення. У статті розглядаються ключові питання, що стосуються редуплікативної форми, теорії ідентичності бази-дублікату, форми дублікатів та факторів, які слід враховувати при визначенні бази редуплікації. Визначальною особливістю повторення є те, що воно передбачає копіювання частини слова. Це лінгвістичне явище породжує широкий спектр механізмів, які пояснюють, як відбувається повторення.

Встановлено, що редуплікація характерна для багатьох стилів мовлення, як літературного, так і розмовного, переважаючи в мові дітей. Найбільше редуплікантів виявлено у французькій мові. В англійській мові подвоєння є достатньо популярним семантичним та стилістичним засобом. В українській мові це лінгвістичне явище не таке поширене, хоча воно характерне для поетичного чи експресивного мовлення. Редуплікація викликає інтерес з точки зору розуміння ряду властивостей, пов'язаних з процесом словотворення та вбачається перспективною темою, як мовний прийом і спосіб утворення нових мовних одиниць.

**Ключові слова:** редуплікація, повтор, фонеморфологічне явище, звуконаслідування, мовлення дітей.