

REDUPLICATION IN URHOBO

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FACULTY OF ARTS

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AUGUST, 2023

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
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REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF ARTS
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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that **EYABUNOR FAVOUR OGHENEKEVWE**, a student of the Department of Linguistics Studies, with matriculation number **ART1801491** has completed the requirements for coursework and research for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in the University of Benin. The work embodied in this project is original and has not been submitted in part or whole to any other university or institution.

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to God Almighty, who is the wellspring of knowledge and inspiration.

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ABSTRACT

Reduplication is a prevalent morphological process in language that involves the repetition of all or part of a word. This research examines the reduplication processes in the Urhobo language, a Niger-Congo language spoken in Nigeria. By incorporating the morphological doubling theoretical framework, this study meticulously examines diverse reduplication patterns along with their semantic and grammatical functions. This study offers insights into how reduplication contributes to word formation and meaning in Urhobo. The research also explores the syntactic constraints that govern reduplication in the language, providing insights into the linguistic structure of Urhobo. By investigating reduplication in Urhobo, this research enhances our understanding of morphological processes and contributes to the broader field of linguistics.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of the background of reduplication processes in Urhobo language, a concise history of the Urhobo language, statement of problem, research questions, aim and objectives, significance of study, scope, limitations, and method of data collection.

1.1 Background of Study

Language is a complex tapestry that connects the various cultures and histories of the various groups around the world. Reduplication is a fascinating phenomenon in this rich linguistic environment, providing a window into the structural complexity and diverse creative expressions of different languages. One of these fascinating languages is Urhobo, which is spoken by the Urhobo people, who are mainly found in Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

The study of reduplication processes in the Urhobo language presents an enthralling and essential endeavor for linguists and researchers alike. Reduplication, which is frequently described as the repetition of a word's

component parts, plays a significant role in shaping the meaning, syntax, and phonological structure of words and phrases in Urhobo. It is a linguistics feature that has intrigued scholars due to its versatility and widespread occurrence across the world's languages.

According to McCarthy (1981), reduplication refers to the “repetition of some material within a word, either in whole or in part”. In general, reduplication has two main types that are common to all languages, which are full and partial reduplication. These two types are different by the way they are formed. The full reduplication can be formed by repeating the root word. Example in English Language; “bye-bye” which indicate “goodbye”. while the partial reduplication involved repeating part of the word. Example in English Language, “Zig-zag”.Reduplication can serves various purposes, such as indicating plurality, intensifying the meaning, expressing repeated actions, or marking grammatical distinctions.

Reduplication is the accepted term in the literature, however other terms like "cloning," "doubling," "duplication," and "repetition" are occasionally used interchangeably (Wikipedia, 2009). Various languages employ reduplication

to varied degrees. It can be changed in two different ways: as a procedure or as an addition. It is regarded as a typical method of pluralizing nouns.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Reduplication is a significant linguistic phenomenon in many languages, including Urhobo language. Despite its rich linguistic features, the reduplication processes in Urhobo language is not fully explored. The problem at hand is the lack of comprehensive research on certain aspects of reduplication in Urhobo, hindering a thorough understanding of the language morphological Processes.

1.3 Research Questions

1. What are the different types of reduplication in Urhobo?
2. How do the various reduplication patterns in Urhobo determine the meaning and classes of words?
3. What are the underlying morphological principles governing reduplication in Urhobo?
4. Are there any syntactic constraints on reduplication in Urhobo?

1.4 Aim and Objectives

The research is designed to significantly advance our understanding of reduplication in the Urhobo language. The primary objectives are as follow:

1. Identify and classify the different types of reduplication in Urhobo.
2. Analyze the semantic, pragmatic and grammatical functions of reduplication in the language.
3. Examine the morphological principles that govern reduplication in Urhobo.
4. Investigate any syntactic constraints or limitations on reduplication.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study of reduplication in the Urhobo language holds several important implications. Firstly, it will enhance our understanding of the language's structure and provide a foundation for future linguistics research in Urhobo. Additionally, the finding will contribute to the boarder field of typology, as reduplication is a widespread phenomenon in languages worldwide. The research will also be beneficial to language documentation and perseveration of traditional language knowledge and cultural heritage.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This research will focus exclusively on the reduplication processes in Urhobo, investigating the various forms of reduplication and their functions. It will involve extensive data collection for native speakers, linguistics analysis of reduplicated forms, with relevant theoretical framework. This study will not delve into other aspects of Urhobo grammar or unrelated linguistics phenomenon.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

The study limitations will include constraints on resources and time, which may restrict the depth of analysis for certain aspects of reduplication.

1.8 Language Background: Historical Context of Urhobo Language

The Urhobo language is a Niger-Congo language spoken primarily by the Urhobo people, an ethnic group residing in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. It is one of the major languages spoken in Delta State, Nigeria. The language belongs to the Edoid group, which is a subgroup of the larger Niger-Congo language family. Like many languages, Urhobo has different dialects spoken

in various parts of the Urhobo-speaking region. These dialects have some variations in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. Some of the major Urhobo dialects include Ughelli, Agbarho, Ethiope, Okpe, and Isoko. It has a rich history and cultural heritage, influenced by interactions with neighboring ethnic groups and historical trade routes in the region. For generations, they have preserved their history, traditions, and cultural expressions through oral storytelling and the language played a crucial role in transmitting knowledge, folklore, and customs from one generation to the next.

The history of the Urhobo language is intertwined with the history of the Urhobo people themselves. Historically, the Urhobo people are believed to have migrated from ancient Benin City, a powerful kingdom in present-day Nigeria. Over time, some groups migrated from Benin to the Delta region, settling along the Niger River and its tributaries. As they interacted with neighboring ethnic groups, their language evolved and acquired distinct features, forming the basis of what we now know as the Urhobo language. The neighboring ethnic groups include, Isoko, Edo, Ijaw, itsekiri and others.

Due to the region's historical interactions with various ethnic groups and external influences, Urhobo has borrowed some words from other languages. Additionally, contact with European colonial powers and modern globalization has also introduced new vocabulary into the language.

Before the arrival of European colonial powers, the Urhobo people lived in autonomous communities and city-states with distinct cultural identities. The Urhobo language served as a unifying factor within these communities and facilitated trade and communication with neighboring groups.

The late 19th century brought British colonial rule to Nigeria, significantly affecting the Urhobo language and culture. English was imposed as the language of administration, education, and communication, leading to a decline in the use of indigenous languages, including Urhobo, in formal settings. In the mid to late 20th century, there was a growing awareness of the need to preserve indigenous languages and cultures. Efforts were made by linguists, scholars, and cultural organizations to document, standardize, and promote the Urhobo language. Educational initiatives were introduced to teach the language in schools, and publications in Urhobo became more

widespread. These endeavors aim to ensure the continuity and vitality of the Urhobo language and its cultural significance within the community.

Urhobo is characterized by its unique linguistic features, including rich vowel system, tonality, and complex verbal morphology.

1.9 Research Methodology

To achieve the stated objectives, data will be collected through the primary and secondary method. The primary method involved elicitate session with native speakers of the language and the secondary include examination of authentic linguistic corpora. The collected data will be analyzed qualitatively to reveal patterns and meanings associated with reduplication in Urhobo.

CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter contains reviews done by different some researchers or linguist on the topic reduplication and a comprehensive study of the types and function of reduplications in Urhobo language.

2.1 Conceptual Review

Concept of Reduplication

Reduplication is a linguistic word for the most frequent morphological operation in the majority of the world's languages. A linguistic phenomena in which all or part of a word is repeated to produce a new word form. The spectrum of patterns extends from copying a single segment to copying full sentences. This procedure can take place in a wide range of languages and can perform a number of different tasks, including signaling plurality, amplifying meaning, or generating new words with various connotations. In a nutshell, we may say that reduplication is a morphological process in which a word's root or base is repeated entirely or in part while having its semantics altered.

Reduplication has attracted the attention of linguists because of its prevalence in human languages, particularly in phonology and morphology. The

definition of reduplication differs since reduplication has been studied by several researchers from a variety of angles.

Marantz (1982:437) defines reduplication as "a morphological process that involves the total or partial repetition of a morpheme or a sequence of morphemes in order to derive a new form." Marantz emphasizes reduplication as a morphological process, which is how languages generate new words and word structures. The repetition might be complete or partial, and it can involve a single morpheme or a string of morphemes. To repeatedly alter an existing form so that it has the same meaning as the original.

According to Yip (1989:1), reduplication is a "morphological process in which some part of a word is repeated to form a new word with a related meaning." R. Yip (1986) is a linguist who has studied reduplication in various languages. She analyzes reduplication in Chinese, emphasizing on the tonal patterns involved, in her work "The Tonal Phonology of Chinese." She noticed that reduplication serves a number of purposes in Chinese, including intensification, pluralization, and the creation of new words. However, the

tonal patterns involved in reduplication are crucial to understanding the meanings conveyed.

According to Abbi (1992), reduplication is "a morphological process whereby all or part of a word is repeated to create a new word or form." Moravcsik (1992) and Abbi's definitions are comparable. Reduplication, according to Moravcsik, is "the morphological process by which a word or stem is repeated with some degree of phonological and or morphological modification, resulting in a new word with a related meaning." Both of these linguists place a strong emphasis on the recurrence of a word or a word's component as a defining characteristic of reduplication. However, unlike Moravcsik's definition, which emphasizes phonological and morphological modifications, Abbi's definition does not specify the level or type of modification that may be present alongside the repetition. However, both definitions agree that reduplication entails the creation of a new word.

Spencer and Zwicky (1998) studied reduplication as a morphological operation that is a type of affixation of a prosodic template to a stem, followed

by copying of that stem and associating it to the template. The two writers look at reduplication as an aspect of phonological copying.

Bauer (2003: 242), Reduplication is "the process by which some or all of a word is repeated to produce a new word or a new form of the same word." He offers a study of reduplication typology, formal characteristics, and linguistic functions. Additionally, he notes that reduplication can be used for a number of purposes, including word formation and intensification. For instance, he makes a distinction between total reduplication, which includes copying the entire stem, and partial reduplication, which requires copying only a portion of the stem. He also talks about the phonological modifications that reduplication might bring about, such as adjustments to vowel quality, tone, or stress patterns. He points out that these modifications may influence how a term is understood, perhaps by implying multiplicity or intensification.

Crystal (2003) describes reduplication as a process of repetition whereby the form of a prefix/suffix reflects certain phonological characteristics of the root. Crystal (2003) again observes that reduplication is a morphological process whereby a process of repetition occurs.

Rubino (2005), reduplication is a systematic repetitions of phonological material within a word for semantic or grammatical purposes". He describes the different formal. Typed of reduplication found in the Languages of the world, and also give an overview of the semantic and grammatical functions reduplication may serve.

According to Gil (2005), reduplication appears to have a variety of conventions, such as reinforcement, reiteration, recurrence, or repetition, but it distinguishes one from the other in specific qualities. Three of these qualities are listed by him as follows: It is merely morphological in nature, its wider structure concerns with the repetition of word roots, and its repeating elements are frequently juxtaposed.

Wang (2005), reduplication is a morphological process in which a word's root, stem, or a portion of it is repeated. He claims that reduplication is often used in various languages to communicate grammatical functions through inflection and as lexical derivations to create semantic forms. He continues by saying that linguists typically prefer to overlook its functions at the discourse level.

According to Nadarajan (2007), reduplication is the process through which some components of a base word (segment, syllable, or morpheme) are repeated to the left or right of the word, or occasionally in the midst. Reduplication, according to Ramlan (2009), is the complete or partial repetition of a grammatical unit, with or without phonemic modification.

Aronoff and Fudeman (2011), reduplication is the process of copying a continuous substring from a word's beginning or finish. Reduplication is a technique that many languages used for inflectional or derivational goals. They point out that reduplication serves as a particularly effective form of plurality in the Austronesian language of the Ilokano.

Lành, (2016), in reduplication, a word or part of a word is repeatedly repeated (but not necessarily) for morphological or syntactic reason.

According to Arokoyo (2018), “reduplication is a typical morphological process in which a word or phrase is repeated in its entirety or in part to create new words”. She continues by describing reduplication as the act of replicating the base or a portion of the base and attaching it to the base either before or after.

2.2 Types of Reduplication Processes in Urhobo Language

Total and partial reduplication are the two basic types of reduplication that occur across all languages. Reduplication, however, is divided into eight types by Kauffman (2015), including full, partial, infant speech, rhyming, ablaut, onomatopoeic, name doubling, and shm-reduplication. Examples from many languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Javanese, Persian, Malay, Hawaiian, Turkish, and others are used to create these categories.

Aziza(2007), identify two types of reduplications process in Urhobo Language which include full and partial reduplication. This study discovered different types of reduplication terms in the Urhobo language, including full reduplication and partial reduplication, based on research and observations of native speakers.

Full Reduplication

This type of reduplication is also known as total or complete or exact to reduplication. Total reduplication is a specific type of reduplication where the entire base word is duplicated to create the reduplicated form. In total reduplication, the repeated part of the word is exactly the same as the original

base. This type of reduplication is the most common in Urhobo. Consider the following examples of total reduplication in Urhobo.

Example: The Urhobo word “kemu” means “thing”

when reduplicated “kemu-kemu” it means “everything”

Another example “kukpe” means “year”

When reduplicated “kukpe-kukpe” means “year by year”.

More example; “kede” means “day”

When repeated ,“kede-kede” it means “everyday or day by day”

Partial Reduplication

It is also referred to as selective or limited reduplication. This kind of reduplication is distinct from full reduplication. Only a portion of a word or phrase is repeated in order to emphasize a point, communicate a message, or fulfill grammatical requirements. It entails merely repeating a word's beginning or ending.

Example;

The Urhobo word “bue” which means “scape”

When it is reduplicated, it is “buebu” meaning “many”

Another example; “fu” means “quench”

When reduplicated, “fuefü” means “quiet”

More example, “isha” means “brown bean”

“ishasha” means “black pepper”.

2.3 Functions of Reduplication in Urhobo Language

Reduplication serves many different purposes such as total meaning shift, word creation, marking of number (plurality), marking of tense, attenuation, intensity, derivation of temporal adverbs, etc. The Urhobo language's reduplication system serves a number of purposes that improve the expressive and communicative power of the language. Reduplication in Urhobo mostly serves the following purposes: intensification, adjective and adverb construction, emphasis, and entire meaning shift.

1. Intensification

It is one of the functions of reduplications in Urhobo language. In the Urhobo language, to create an intensified form, reduplication involves repeating a word or portion of the word, commonly the initial syllable. When words are reduplicated it allows speakers to express strong emotions and create more vivid and powerful descriptions in their communication. Consider the following examples.

- a). Jesu “jesus” “Jesu-jesu”. Jesus
- b). Biko “ please” “biko Biko” “ continuously pleading”

2. Formation of Adjectives

In Urhobo, reduplication serves a function in creating adjectives by repeating a base word or a part of it. This repetition typically involves doubling the initial syllable or a specific portion of the word. When reduplication is applied to a noun or verb, it transforms it into an adjective, allowing speakers to describe something with an intensified or amplified quality related to the base word. The following examples are considered.

Verb	Gloss	Adjective	Gloss
------	-------	-----------	-------

- a). “Guo” Dissolve “Guoguo” “Weak or sluggish”
- b). “Gbe” Dance “Gbegbe” “Dirty”

3. Formation of Adverbs

In the Urhobo language, the formation of adverbs through reduplication is a common process. In the Urhobo language, adverbs are formed through reduplication processes. This involves repeating part or all of a word to create an adverb. For example, an adjective like "bu"

becomes "búbú" meaning “clumsy” through reduplication,

and a verb like "bede" meaning “never”

becomes "bede-bede" meaning “continuously.”

4. Emphasis

In the Urhobo language, reduplication functions as a powerful tool for emphasis. The repetition adds emphasis to adjectives, adverbs, and some verbs, allowing speakers to highlight the degree or intensity of the described

quality or action. This emphasis serves to create a stronger emotional impact, express heightened feelings, or stress the importance of a particular concept or idea.

5. Total meaning change

Reduplication in languages like Urhobo serves the primary function of completely changing the meaning of a word. By repeating part or all of the word, it intensifies or modifies its original meaning, conveying different degrees, manners, or frequencies of the action or quality described. This results in a significant alteration of the overall meaning.

Example

Root word	Gloss	Reduplicated	Gloss
a). “Agba”	“oil bean seed”	“agbagba”	“Cross”
b). “Da”	“Drink”	“Dádá”	“Sharp”

2.4 Theoretical Framework

There are several theoretical frameworks that can be used to analyze reduplication in Urhobo language, including Morphological Doubling Theory (MDT) and Prosodic Template Theory (PTT). The theoretical framework used for this work is Morphological Doubling Theory (MDT) Proposed by Sharon Inkelas and Cheryl Zoll in 2005.

The doubling that occurs in situations like total reduplication is called "morphological doubling," which is a morphologically mandated and driven doubling. It may focus on an entire word, a stem, a root, or even an affix.

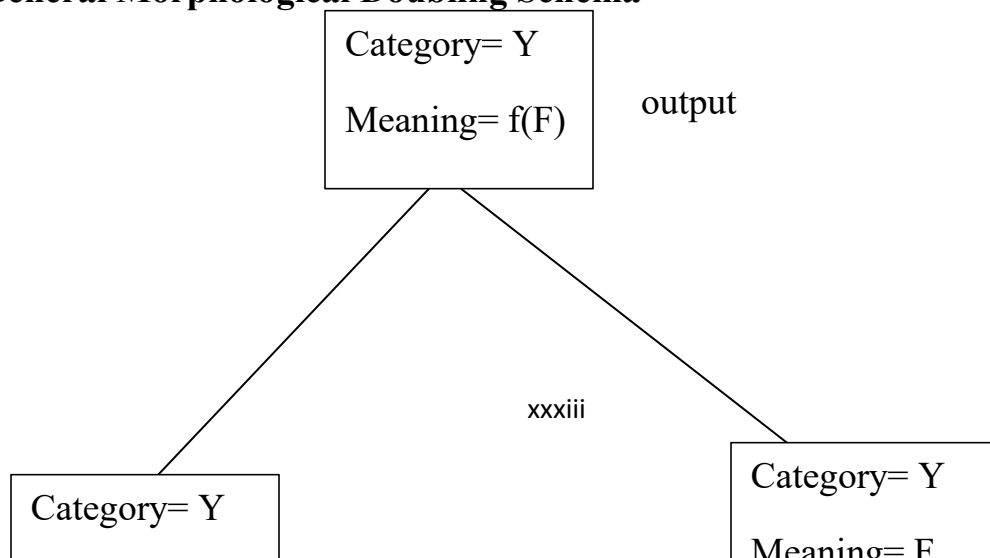
According to the Morphological Doubling Theory (MDT), reduplication is the occurrence twice (or more) of a morphological ingredient that fits a specific morphosemantic description. According to Morphological Doubling Theory, the reduplicant and base are both produced by the morphology as part of a construction that also embodies semantic and phonological generalizations about the output of reduplication, unlike previous theories in which the reduplicant is treated as an abstract morpheme, RED, whose substance is provided by phonological copying (e.g. Marantz 1982, Steriade 1988) or correspondence (e.g. McCarthy and Prince 1995). They contend that identity

at the morphosyntactic level, not phonological level, is what drives reduplication. The primary thesis of MDT is that reduplication occurs when a constituent of a given semantic description is called for twice by morphology, with the possibility of phonological alteration of one or both constituents. They concentrate on the implications of grammatical doubling or duplication within words, also known as morphological reduplication, a subtype of reduplication.

The Morphological Doubling Theory makes the following two claims:

1. A reduplication formation requires morphological components (affix, root, stem), not phonological ones (mora, syllable, or foot).
2. Reduplication requires semantic identity of its daughters rather than phonological identity.

General Morphological Doubling Schema

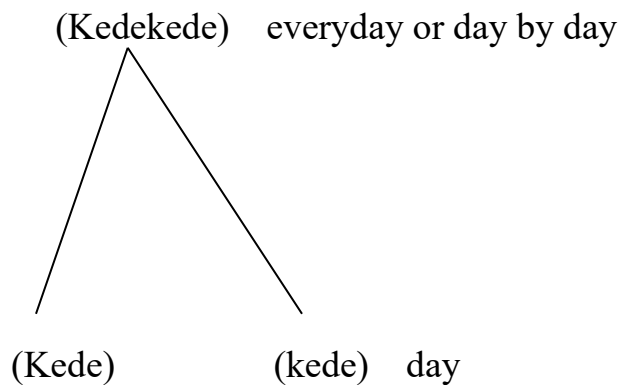


input

input

The construction demonstrates the precise schematic for semantic identity. Only semantic similarity between the two sisters (inputs) is required.

The reduplicated form is the output in the structure above, where the inputs are morphological components. Consider the following Urhobo illustration:



In the aforementioned illustration, the morphological component (kede), which in Urhobo is a stem, is paired. These components have the same semantic meaning. The result (kedekede) has some additional significance. The word originally meant "day," but with reduplication it now means "day by day or everyday."

2.5 Empirical Studies

Aziza (2007) distinguishes between partial and full reduplication, which can be used to Urhobo nouns or verbs. Using a descriptive methodology, Aziza (2010) looks into the word formation processes in Urhobo. The study demonstrates that Urhobo, like all other languages, uses several morphological approaches to increase its vocabulary. Affixation, reduplication, compounding, borrowing, and coinage are the methods frequently used in Urhobo.

According to Ekenerho (2014), the Ika and Urhobo languages reduplicate words to create nouns, adverbs, and adjectives. Ejobee (2018) explores the morphological processes and ramifications of reduplicated word construction. He lists the different ways reduplication can be used in Urhobo, including how it can be used as an intensifier, a preposition, an adjective, an adverb, a noun, a preposition, a tense marker, a plural marker, a lexical category changer, a compound word builder, how it can change the meaning of the

reduplicated root words, and more. He applied the templatic morphology theory of consonants and vowels to the Urhobo language.

2.6 Concern of the Present Studies

This current study seeks to understand existing patterns as well as discover new reduplication patterns. Using the morphological doubling theoretical framework, these works will examine the fundamental morphological rules guiding the processes and analyze the syntactic constraints that affect how they are carried out.

CHAPTER THREE

DATA COLLECTION AND PRESENTATION

3.0 Introduction

This chapter focused on data collection of reduplication processes in the Urhobo language. The chapter focuses on carefully gathered data from various sources, including narratives from native speakers, written texts, and contemporary language usage. Collaboration with native speakers ensures the accuracy and authenticity of the data. The collected data is translated.

3.1 Source of Data

The data for the study on reduplication processes in the Urhobo language is sourced from various channels. The various channels include the primary method and the secondary method.

3.2 Primary Method

The primary method used for data collection in the study of reduplication processes in the Urhobo language is direct interactions with native speakers.

This involves engaging with proficient speakers of the language and eliciting narratives and examples that showcase the usage of reduplication in everyday conversations and traditional contexts. By directly involving native speakers, the study ensures the authenticity and accuracy of the data collected, providing valuable insights into the linguistic and cultural significance of reduplication in the Urhobo language.

3.3 Secondary Method

The secondary method used for data collection in the study of reduplication processes in the Urhobo language includes analyzing written texts such as literature and historical documents.

3.4 Instrumentation

Instrumentation refers to the tools, equipment, and techniques used to collect data in a research study. In the context of the investigation on reduplication processes in the Urhobo language, instrumentation would involve the specific methods and tools used for data collection, such as audio or video recording devices for capturing native speakers' narratives, pen, books and word list.

3.5 Data Presentation

Root word	New word	Gloss
1. Kémù	kémù kémù	'everything'
2. Kukpe	kukpe kukpe	'year by year'
3. Kede	kẹde kẹde	'everyday'
4. Biko	Biko Biko	'please'
5. Kasa	kasa kasa	'anywhere'
6. Korho	korho korho	'every city'
7. Koka	koka koka	'different style'
8. Kiruo	kiruo kiruo	'different job'
9. Bẹde	bẹde bẹde	'continuously'
10. Bi	bibi	'aimlessly'
11. Djah	Djá djá	'peppery'
12. Bọro	bọro bọro	'warm'
13. Fe	féfé	'empty'
14. Gén	gén gén	'very thin'
15. Gue	gue gue	'frighten'

16. Guo	Guoguo	'Weak/sluggish'
17. Gró	grogró	'long /tall'
18. Koko	Kókórókó	'firmly/ tight'
19. Gídí	gídígídí	'eager'
20. Vwẹghẹ	vwẹghẹ vwẹghẹ	'flat'
21. Vwiọ	vwiọ vwiọ	'straight'
22. Zighi	zighi-zighi	'Rough or roughly'
23. Pué.	puépué	'clean'
24. Rié	rié-rié	'entice'
25. Ódó	ódódó	'flower'
26. Ohwó	ohwóhwó	'each other'
27. Mie	miemie	'sweet'
28. Kpono	kponokpono	'lumpy'
29. Kpata	kpata kpata	'quickly'
30. Kọke	kọke kọke	'always/anytime'
31. Kota	kota kota	'every word'
32. Kohwo	kohwo kohwo	'anybody'
33. Jesú	Jesú Jesú	'Jesus'

34.Krén	krén krén	‘short’
35.Wádò	wádò wádò	‘greeting’
36.Oko	Okókó	‘corner’
37.Éke	ékekete	‘Carmel’
38.Ekuá	ekuákuá	‘Property’
39.Ephe	ephephe	‘Ringworm’
40.Emie	emiemie	‘Sweetness’
41.Kene	Ikenekene	‘Hide and seek’
42.Ago	agógó	‘bell’
43.Ísha	Ísháshá	‘spices’
44.tolo	Itolotolo	‘turkey’
45.Emé	emémérha	‘gently’
46.Phié	phiephié	‘at all’
47.Gbe	gbegbé	‘dirty’
48.Ko	koko	‘together’
49.Ógbo	ógbòrígbò	‘monitor lizard’
50.Okoko	okokoroko	‘cock’
51.Náná	náná náná	‘now, just now’

52.Pata	patapata	‘anyhow’
53.Phoro	phorophoro	‘Not clearly’
54.Ohwó	ohwohwó	‘Each other’
55.Okpurhu	okpurhukpurhu	‘owl’
56.Ópho	óphopho	‘Pepper soup’
57.Óvwro	óvwrovwro	‘Co wife’
58.Kóravwo	kóravwokóravwo	‘Anything’
59.Ókre	ókrekre	‘Shortness’
60.Uphe	upheuphe	‘Outside’
61.Óvwo	óvwovwo	‘Evening’
62.Ghwo	ghwoghwo	‘Announce’
63.Bú	Búbú	awkward, clumsy
64.Owhoko	owhokowhoko	‘Abundance’
65.Djìrì	djìrìdjìro	‘Cold’
66.Gbo	gbogbó	Rotten
67.Den	denden	‘gentle’
68. Kpó	kpókpó	‘fresh/new’
69.Ga	Ogāgān	‘strong, hard, tough’

70.Papa	paparapa	‘flat’
71.Pete	peṭepeṭe	‘watery’
72.Poḱo	poḱopoḱo	‘robust’
73.Kaká	káká kaá	‘absolutely not’
74.Vrhén	wo vrhé wo vrhé	‘get up’

Conclusion

The data collection process from native speakers in the Urhobo language was a meticulous and insightful endeavor. By engaging with fluent speakers of the language, we were able to delve into the complex world of reduplication. Our sample of participants represented a diverse range of ages and dialects, ensuring a comprehensive coverage of linguistic variations. Through interactive interviews and recordings, we obtained a rich dataset that captured the authentic usage of reduplication in various contexts.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, we will examine the collected data to uncover patterns, trends, and insights related to reduplication in Urhobo. By employing the morphological doubling theoretical framework, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of how reduplication functions and its significance within the linguistic and cultural context of the Urhobo community. It is classified into the various word classes, types and discussed the morphological principles and syntactic constraints influencing reduplication processes in the language.

4.1 Classification of Words into Word Classes

Noun

This study considers nouns and their morphological structure to be crucial since some nouns in Urhobo undergo reduplication. A noun is a word that represents a person, place, thing, or idea. In the context of the Urhobo language, nouns would be words that refer to specific entities, whether they are tangible objects, abstract concepts, living beings, or places. It is observed in the collected data that Reduplication processes occur in noun. In the Urhobo language, reduplication processes involving nouns are used to convey

different shades of meaning, intensification, plurality, or to indicate a specific type of the noun. Some of the nouns observed include;

N	Gloss
75. Ekuakua	Property
76. Ephephe	Ringworm
77. Ékekete	Carmel
78. Óvwovwo	Evening
79. Emiemie	Sweetness
80. Ikenekene	Hide and seek
81. Agógó	Bell
82. Ísháshá	Black pepper
83. Itolotolo	Turkey
84. Kasa kasa	Anywhere
85. Korho korho	Every town
86. Kota kota	Every word
87. Ógborígbo	monitor lizard
88. Okokoroko	Cock

89.Ohwóhwó	Each other
90.Okpurhukpurhu	Owl
91.Óphopho	Pepper soup

Pronoun

Pronouns are words that are used to replace nouns in sentences, making language more efficient by avoiding repetition. They refer to someone or something that has already been mentioned or is understood from the context.

Urhobo language also have pronoun such as;

Kohwokohwo	Anybody
------------	---------

Kóravwokóravwo	Anything
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Verb

A verb is a type of word that expresses an action, occurrence, or state of being. It's a fundamental part of speech in language. Reduplication of verbs is also common in Urhobo. It's used to indicate continuous or repeated action, intensify the action, or sometimes to create a different aspect of the verb's meaning.

V.	Gloss
Biko biko	Please
Guegue	Frighten
Ghwoghwo	Announce
Rherhe	swim
Rhurhu	cover

Adjective

Adjectives describe or modify nouns, providing more information about their qualities. In Urhobo, reduplication with adjectives can be used to emphasize the quality or intensity of the adjective, or to indicate a higher degree of the described characteristic. Reduplication of adjectives can also convey a sense of intensification or exaggeration. The repeated form of the adjective suggests that the quality being described is more pronounced.

Example;

Adj	Gloss
------------	--------------

a) dádá	sharp
b) Bọrọ bọrọ	Warm
c) Búbú	awkward, clumsy
d) Djádjá	peppery
e) Fefe	Empty
f) Fuefu	Quiet
g) Guoguo	Weak/ sluggish
h) Grogró	Tall/ long
i) Hwahwa	Narrow
j) Gbogbó	Rotten
k) Gbegbé	Dirty
l) Ghwaghwó	Old
m) Kpọnọ kpọnọ	Lumpy
n) Kpókpo	fresh/new
o) Ókrékre	Shortness
p) Odjírídjíro	cold
q) Ogagan	Strong, hard, tough
r) Paparapa	flat

- | | |
|--------------|--------|
| s) Pẹtẹpẹtẹ | watery |
| t) Pọkọ pọkọ | robust |
| u) Denden | Gentle |

Adverb

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. They tell us how, when, where, or to what extent something happens. Reduplication of adverbs in Urhobo is used to indicate the repetition or prolongation of an action described by the adverb. The following examples are considered.

Adv.	Gloss
a) Bẹḍe-bẹḍe	continuously
b) Emémérha	Gently
c) Kẹḍe kẹḍe	everyday/daily
d) Phiéphié	At all
e) Koko	Together
f) Kókórókó	Firmly/tightly
g) Koke koke	Always
h) Kpatakpata	Quickly

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| i) Kpekpereke | till dawn |
| j) Náná náná | now, just now |
| k) Patapata | anyhow |
| l) Phorophoro | Not clearly |

Types of Reduplication

The two major types of reduplication was discussed in previous chapter, but it is noticed in the collected data that there are more than two types of Reduplication in Urhobo language and the other types will be discussed below.

The various types of reduplication noticed include, full Reduplication, partial reduplication, ablaut Reduplication, Ideophone Reduplication.

Total Reduplication

Total reduplication is the morphological process where the reduplicant and the base are identical at the segmental level (Ngunga 2002: 105). It is called full reduplication because the entire word is repeated. This type of reduplication is the most common in Urhobo. Since most word classes undergo total reduplication. Consider the following examples of total reduplication in Urhobo language.

Root words**Reduplicated form**

Kede	Day	kẹḁ kẹḁ	everyday
Kupkpe	year	Kupkpe kupkpe	Year by year
Kpata	fast	kpatakpata	Quickly
Poko	fat	pọkọ pọkọ	robust
Kpó	dry	kpókpo	fresh/new
owhoko	plenty	owhokowhoko	'Abundance'
Bẹḁ	never	Bẹḁ-bẹḁ	'forever'
Bú	be plentiful	búbú	awkward, clumsy
Guo	dissolve	Guoguo	Weak/ sluggish
Wádò	well done	wádò wádò	greetings

Using Morphological Doubling Theory, we show a structure of total reduplication below;

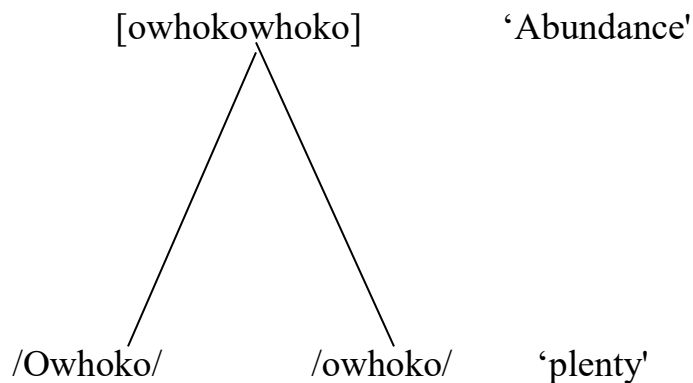
[Kupkpe kupkpe] 'Year by year'



/Kupkpe/ /kukpe/ 'year'

According to MDT, the morphology demands for two identical inputs of "year" (/kukpe/), which when combined yields the word "every" (/kukpe-kukpe/). In terms of semantics, the inputs are the same. In Urhobo, this morphological doubling marks a change in meaning for morphological reasons. The input's semantic value is "every." After complete reduplication, this meaning is changed to "every year."

Another structure will be illustrated below;



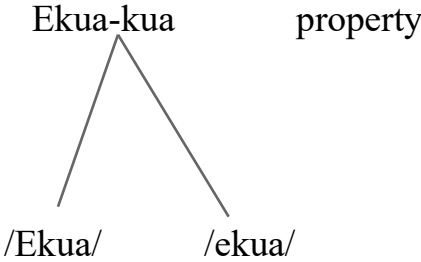
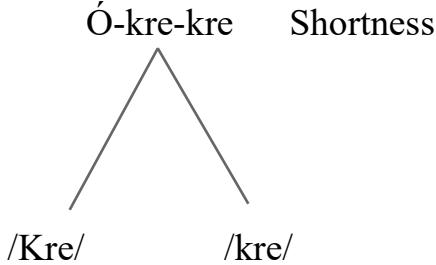
The two sisters are semantically identical and coupled together to add some additional meaning.

Partial Reduplication

Partial reduplication is a form of reduplication where only part of the base is reduplicated. Partial reduplication is not very common in Urhobo. The following are a few examples of partial reduplication in Urhobo.

Root	Reduplicated form	Gloss
1. Ókre	ókre-kre	Shortness
2. Kókó	Kókó-rókó	firmly
3. Éke	éke-kete	'Carmel'
4. Kpereke	Kpe-kpereke	till dawn
5. Papa	papa-rapa	'flat'
6. ekua	ekua-kua	'Property'
7. ephe	ephe-phe	'Ringworm'
8. emie	emie+mie	'Sweetness'
9. kpevwẹ	kpe-kpevwị	shallow

The examples of partial reduplication is realized. Derivational affixes *ó* – and *k-* are not reduplicated. In example (4) there is addition of the sound */te/* for easier articulation. Consider the following examples of morphological doubling theory in partial reduplication:



The examples illustrates MDT approach to reduplication of the stem ‘kre’ and ‘ekua’ in Urhobo. The base and the reduplicant have the same semantic description.

Ablaut Reduplication

Ablaut reduplication is a linguistic phenomenon where a word is repeated with a slight alteration in its vowel sound, often to create a different grammatical form or convey a specific meaning. An observation was made in the collection of data from native speakers and linguistic corpora and it was discovered that there are more than 2 types of reduplication, ablaut Reduplication was notice. There following examples are ablaut Reduplication;

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| a) Kpé | Knit(v) | ikpe-kpa | shelf (n) |
| b) Ghwa | Carry (v) | ghwa-ghwó | old (n) |
| c) Óná | Skill (n) | óná-nó | question (n) |
| d) Rha | Unite (v) | rha-rhe | borne (hole) (v) |

Ideophone Reduplication

Ideophone reduplication is the process of repeating ideophones—words that vividly depict sensory experiences. This repetition intensifies the ideophone's meaning, creating a more pronounced and vivid sensory effect in language. It has been noticed that the Urhobo language have ideophone which are mentioned below;

- a) gegerege very high
- b) géngén very thin
- c) gídígídí eager, impatient
- d) gogorogo very tall/high
- e) gbogborogbon very long, tall or huge
- f) tighitighi tangled state
- g) yaghayagha rough

4.2 Morphological Principles

Morphological principles are the underlying rules and patterns that govern the structure and formation of words in a language. These rules involve combining smaller units called morphemes, which include prefixes, suffixes, and other elements, to create meaningful words. These principles dictate how these elements are added to base words, to convey specific meanings or grammatical functions. It has also been observed that the collected data undergo some morphological principles which includes the following;

1. **Affixation:** Affixation is a linguistic process where prefixes, suffixes, infixes, or circumfixes are added to a base word to create new words or modify the meaning or grammatical function of the base word. It is notice that some of the words collected have some modification of affixes. This observation will be examine below;

a). Prefixation: Prefixation is a linguistic process where a prefix, which is a group of letters attached to the beginning of a word, modifies the meaning of the base word. Prefixes are commonly used in language to create new words or alter the sense of existing words. In Urhobo some words attached affix to the beginning of the stem to modify its meaning. The following are examples of prefixation in Urhobo.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| a) I-tolo-tolo | 'Turkey' |
| b) I-kene-kene | 'Hide and seek' |
| c) e-mie-mie | 'Sweetness |
| d) ú-phiá-phiá | cane/whip |

In the context of ú-phiá-phiá, the prefix "ú-" followed by the repeated morpheme "phiá" seems to indicate a specific action or quality associated with the word "cane/whip."

b). **Suffixation:** Suffixation is a linguistic process where a suffix, which is a group of letters added to the end of a word, modifies the meaning or grammatical function of the base word. It is observed that some words are added to the stem after being reduplicated. The following examples of suffixation in urhobo;

- a) Odji-dji-ro ‘cold’
- b) Emé-mér-haá ‘Gently’
- c) káká- ka-á ‘absolutely not’
- d) éke-ke-te ‘Carmel’

It is observed that the ‘ro’ is the suffix added to the stem ‘odiji’ when reduplicated it means ‘cold’. Same also goes with ‘ememerha’ and ‘kaka-ka-á’. The suffix is ‘rha’ and ‘a’. It is added to the stem /eme/ and /kaka/to become ‘gently or be very careful’ and ‘absolutely not’.

c). **Infixation:** Infixation is also observed in the collected data of Urhobo. Infixation is a linguistic process where an affix, called an infix, is inserted within a base word to modify its meaning. Unlike prefixes (added at the beginning) or suffixes (added at the end), infixes are placed within the word itself.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| a) Fu-e-fu | Quiet |
| b) ógbo-rí-gbo | 'monitor lizard' |
| c) bi-e-bí | black |
| d) bu-e-bu | many |

The following examples aforementioned show the insertion of an affix within the base word. The sound /e/ and /ri/ is added to the stem /fu/ and /ógbó/ when reduplicated to modify its meaning.

d). **Circumfixation:** Circumfixation is a linguistic phenomenon where an affix, which can be a prefix and a suffix, is added to a base word simultaneously to create a new word. Unlike typical affixation, where prefixes or suffixes are added separately, circumfixation involves attaching elements to both the beginning and the end of a word simultaneously. In the collected

data it is also noticed that there is circumfix in Urhobo. Here are few examples;

- a) O-gā-gā-n ‘strong, hard, tough’

The prefix ‘o’ and the suffix ‘n’ is added to the stem after been reduplicated

2. Frequency and Regularity: The frequency of reduplication in a language and its regularity can vary. Some languages might have highly regular reduplication processes, while others might exhibit more irregular patterns. In the case of Urhobo the regular Reduplication is constant than that of irregular.

Example include;

- a) weghe vweghe ‘flat’
b) vwio-vwio ‘straight’
c) zighi-zighi ‘Rough or roughly’
d) koka koka ‘different style’
e) kiruo kiruo ‘different job’

4.3 Syntactic Constraints or Limitations on Reduplication in Urhobo

Syntactic constraints or limitations on reduplication processes refer to the

grammatical rules or structures within a language that influence how reduplication can be used in sentences. These constraints determine where and how reduplicated forms can be inserted into larger syntactic structures. Below explain few of this limitations.

1. Position in Sentence: Reduplicated elements in Urhobo generally maintain their original position within the sentence structure. This means that when a word is reduplicated, the repeated portion would typically appear in the same position as it would without reduplication. For instance, the Urhobo word "biko" meaning "please", If reduplicated as "biko-biko," the repeated element "biko" would still maintain its position within the sentence structure, just as it would in its non-reduplicated form.

2. Grammatical Category: It is observed that certain reduplication forms in the Urhobo is limited to specific grammatical categories, such as nouns, verbs, adverb and adjectives. This means that not all words can undergo reduplication in the language.

3. Semantic Compatibility: It refers to the concept that the repeated portion of a word should make sense and be relevant to the meaning of the original word.

The reduplicated words in Urhobo align with the meaning of the word being reduplicated.

4.4 Conclusion

The study of reduplication processes in the Urhobo language provides a comprehensive understanding of linguistic and cultural dynamics. It reveals a tapestry of morphological principles that govern how repetition modifies meaning, conveying nuances deeply rooted in Urhobo communication. The study of morphological patterns, including affixation, regularity and irregularity, phonological harmony. Syntactic constraints reveal the language's ability to balance grammatical precision with artistic expression, contributing to discourse flow and coherence.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

This final chapter presents a summary and conclusion to the study. The study was about reduplication in Urhobo using the Morphological Doubling Theory. The study set out four objectives that guided data analysis. In this chapter, the research findings are briefly discussed and conclusion made in relation to research questions, and objectives.

5.1 Summary of Findings

In summary, the study on reduplication processes in the Urhobo language has revealed a rich array of morphological and semantic phenomena. Various

types of reduplication, such as full, partial, ablaut and Ideophone reduplication, were identified, each serving distinct linguistic functions. The research uncovered that reduplication plays a crucial role in emphasis, intensification, formation of adverbs and adjectives, and overall total meaning change.

Based on the Morphological Doubling Theory, Chapter 4 offers a thorough investigation of morphological reduplication in Urhobo. This chapter covered the numerous forms of reduplication in Urhobo. The most prevalent kind of reduplication in Urhobo was shown to be total or full mode. As was established, reduplication in Urhobo has specific semantic implications. This shows that morphological doubling has occurred. The base and the reduplicant most frequently had meaningful correspondence in the data that were studied. This indicates that, as implied by MDT, the semantic value of the base and the reduplicant are equivalent. Additionally, words are divided into grammatical categories. The adverb, adjective, verb, and noun. Reduplication in Urhobo was found to occur most frequently in nouns, adverbs, and adjectives.

In conclusion, the study's findings emphasize the importance of reduplication as a linguistic strategy for expressing nuanced meaning in the Urhobo

language. The discoveries not only improve our understanding of the language itself but also advance our understanding of linguistic complexity and diversity in its entirety. The study paves the way for further research on reduplication in other languages and promotes a deeper investigation of morphological processes and their subtle influence on the development of languages all over the world.

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