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Reduplication in Hundung-Tangkhul

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Introduction

Reduplication is the repetition of all or part of a lexical item (Abbi, 1992). According to Abbi, duplicating a morpheme or a word to coin new words and express various grammatical aspects is a common phenomenon with the languages of the Tibeto-Burman family.

Depending on the nature of the repeated unit, reduplication can be divided as complete or partial. It functions as a single lexical unit.

Expressive is a type of reduplication which includes onomatopoeic, mimics, imitative and sound symbolism.

Onomatopoeic and imitative is a sub-type of reduplication that represents any kind of natural sound, action, manner, etc. Onomatopoeic words may or may not be reduplicated.

Another type of reduplication is echo word which is reduplicated partially that either the initial phoneme or the syllable of the base is replaced by another phoneme or the syllable. Onomatopoeic and echo words are used to give more color to the characters in novels and short stories and to the speech.

Language

Hundung-Tangkhul is a Tibeto-Burman language of the Kuki-Chin-Naga subgroup spoken in Hundung village, Ukhrul District which is 81 km away from Imphal. This village is near the heart of Ukhrul town which is 3km apart from it. Hundung village is divided as Upper Hundung and Lower Hundung. This article mainly focuses on the data taken from Lower Hundung which is slightly different from Upper Hundung. It has a population of 2200 with 470 household. Previous scholars working on Tangkhul language, viz., Pettigrew (1979), Luikham (1974), Bhat (1969), Arokianathan (1987), David (2003).

Reduplication

According to Abbi (1992), reduplication is divided into two types, namely, morphological reduplication and lexical reduplication. Morphological reduplication is where the minimally meaningful and segmentally indivisible morphemes are constituted of iterated syllable which constitutes a single morpheme. Morphological reduplication is further divided into expressive, in

which onomatopoeic, sound symbolisms, mimic words, imitative and ideophone are included. Lexical reduplication can be constructed into three different types. They are echo formation, compound word and word reduplication.

Expressive

Reduplication of expressive may be complete or partial. These are shown below.

a. Complete reduplicated expressive:

Completely reduplicated expressive are those which do not allow morphemic division, that is, they always occur in reduplicated forms. There are large numbers of expressive found in Hundung-Tangkhul. They are shown below

Root+REDU

/la la/ ‘twitching/shaking intermittently; feeling in pressing hard absorbing objects’

/so so/ ‘feeling shocked with extremely bad or good news or looks; restless with anxiety, worry, etc.’

/t^haŋ t^haŋ/ ‘speak loudly without hesitation and pause’

/ne ne/ ‘very expert and/or lucky in doing anything’

b. Partially reduplicated expressive:

There are few number of partially reduplicated expressive in Hundung-Tangkhul. They are illustrated below.

/ri rin/ ‘walking carefully, esp. on muddy or slippery paths’

/ɲese ɲesa/ ‘muttering, uttering, complaining unceasingly’

Onomatopoeic and Imitative

Onomatopoeic or imitative denotes a sound or an object which gives out a sound (Bloomfield, 1935). These forms are nothing but imitative as they copy the sounds of natural phenomenon as well as actions. Onomatopoeic and imitative are examples of complete reduplications.

The following onomatopoeic and imitative words in Hundung-Tangkhul are given below.

Root+E

/tuŋ tuŋ/ ‘sound of gun-fire’

/tutru tutru/ ‘sound signaling dogs to come’

/meu meu/ ‘cat’s mewling sound’

There are a good number of expressive indicating the five senses of perception-hearing, sight, touch, taste and smell. There are also other types of senses-emotional or physical in Hundung-Tangkhul.

i. Sense of hearing.

The expressive pertaining to the sense of hearing includes the acoustic noises made by animals and humans, noises made by natural phenomenon, noises made by miscellaneous inanimate objects that particular aspect.

a. Animal noises.

/mtu mtu / 'dogs barking sound'

/me me/ 'sound signaling cats to come'

b. Noises made by humans.

/he he/ 'giggling sound'

/ɲese ɲese/ 'muttering, uttering, complaining unceasingly'

c. Noises made by natural phenomenon.

/co co/ 'drizzling'

/kruŋ kruŋ/ 'sound of a thunder'

/so so/ 'sound of raining'

d. Noises made by inanimate object.

/cu cu/ 'noise produced in breaking crispy things'

/prek prek/ 'bursting sound of burning firewood'

ii. Sense of sight

Expressive of sight in Hundung-Tangkhul usually refers to flickering, glittering, shimmering etc of certain objects.

/p^hi p^hi/ 'twinkling'

/he he/ 'glare, unbearable to the eye'

iii. Sense of touch

These expressive indicate the sense of feeling one gets while touching an object in Hundung-Tangkhul.

/mua mua/ ‘extremely sharp, such as edge of a knife which causes tickling sensation when touch’

/pua pua/ ‘feeling in rubbing surface with eruptions like toad’s skin’

iv. Sense of smell and taste.

Hundung-Tangkhul makes use of expressive for good and bad taste or smell.

/hi hi/ ‘strong smell causing irritation in the nose’

/sa sa/ ‘burning sensation of extremely hot chilly’

v. Other senses-emotional/physical.

Expressive indicating the various emotional and physical feelings like happiness, anxiety, loneliness, anger, etc.

/k^he k^he/ ‘feeling of foreign particle in the eye’

/tu tu/ ‘beating of heart due to belonging or depression’

Echo Formation

Echo formation simply refers to a situation in which the second ‘word’ in the paired construction is an echo of the base word and has no individual occurrence of its own.

Structure of Echo Words

An echo word does not really exist anywhere outside the process in which it is mentioned as a dependent, contingent and affixal fact as Abbi (1992) maintains. It simply expressed the meaning ‘et cetera’, ‘things similar to’, ‘plurality’ so on. An echo word may be divided into two parts- the stable base and the divergent base or replaced part. In most cases the stable bases are the derivative/formative prefix or the nominalizer *a*, *kə~kʰə* in Hundung-Tangkhul. In echo construction of compound words, the stable base is always the first root/constituent of the base word. Since, there are some problems to formulate a rule in echo formation so we simply list all the replacers as:

Type of Replacing the Phoneme or Syllable of the Base Word

a. Replace-/uu < a/

- i. əɽuu-əɽa ‘medicine-medicines, liquor, drugs, etc’

medicine-E

- ii. əkʰuu-əkʰa ‘power-dust, granules, scraps, powder, etc’

powder-E

- iii. əsuu-əsa ‘rag-rags, useless things’

rag-E

- iv. ciɽuu-cifa ‘dust-dust, dirt, scraps’

dust-E

- v. əkʰəɽuu-əkʰəɽa ‘rope-ropes, threads, wires, creepers, etc’

rope-E

- vi. k^hərɯ-k^həra ‘turn-turn, twist, pull, etc’

turn-E

- vii. k^həməcɯ-k^həməca ‘fright-fright, worry, etc’

fright-E

- b. Replace-/ɯ < e/

- i. əkɯ-əke ‘insect-germs, insects, etc’

insect-E

- ii. əzɯkɯn-əzɯke ‘corner-every nook and corner’

corner-E

- iii. rɯzɯ-rɯze ‘snake-reptiles’

snake-E

- c. Replace-/c < r/

- i. əcui-ərui ‘piece-smaller, less important things/persons’

piece-E

- ii. əco-əro ‘manner-manner, mentality, movement, etc’

manner-E

- d. Replace-/e < a/

- i. əse-əra 'intestine-body parts inside the abdomen'

intestine-E

- ii. əme-əma 'starting point-beginning'

begin-E

- iii. kũce-kũna 'worm-worms, reptiles'

worm-E

- e. Replace-/uŋ < a/

- i. k^həcuŋ-k^həca 'many-most'

many-E

- ii. kəp^huŋ-kəp^ha 'hill-landscape, scenery'

hill-E

Compound Words

Compound words are repetitions at the semantic level in the sense that the two words are conjoined to form a compound. According to Abbi (1980), compound words are instances of partial reduplication because the paired construction in which the second word is not an exact repetition of the first but has some similarity or relationship to the first word either on the semantic or on the phonetic level. Each constituent word has its own meaning and can be used independently in sentences. The combined word may or may not retain their original meaning to some extent.

According to the type of semantic relationship between the constituents, compound words may be sub-divided into following three ways:

a. Polymers-

Polymers are expressive components which are closely related. This type of expression is found plenty in Hundung-Tangkhul. Some of the most widely used polymers are given below.

- i. kə-so kə-ta ‘food/diet’

NMZ-drink NMZ-eat

- ii. suna lupa ‘wealth’

gold wealth

- iii. kə-te kə-ka ‘travel’

NMZ-go NMZ-up

b. Compounding synonyms.

Compounding synonyms are words which the constituent have common field of association denoting generality or denoting modified meaning. Here, consider the following examples.

- i. kə-ceo kə-caŋ ‘suffering, pain, etc

NMZ-tire NMZ-tire

- ii. k^huŋ-p^he k^huŋ-p^haŋ ‘utensils’

plate-leg plate-branch

c. Compounding of antonyms.

Compounding of antonyms are the forms of two constituents having some association or which express entirely a new meaning.

- i. k^hə-uŋ k^hə-va 'journey'

NMZ-come NMZ-go

- ii. ə-vu ə-va 'parents'

FX-mother FX-father

- iii. məʃe məja 'day and night'

day night

- iv. kə-su k^hə-rin 'death'

NMZ-die NMZ-live

Word Reduplication

Word reduplication is the repetition of the base word either partially or completely. Complete reduplication refers to all those reduplicated structures which consist of two identical iterated words. On the other hand, when some part of the base word is repeated, it is called partial reduplication.

a. Complete word reduplication-

In Hundung-Tangkhul, complete word reduplication may be at the stem level or at root level. The reduplicated form may be of the following forms which consists of two identical roots, as in R -RR

- i. k^hu village k^hu k^hu respective/every villages

- ii. lo paddy field lo lo respective fields

They can occur in sentences.

- i. ve-t^huŋ k^hu k^hu-le te-je
 he-PL village village-LOC go-RL
 ‘We go to every village.’

- ii. ve-t^huŋ lo lo-le va-je
 he-PL field field-LOC go-RL
 ‘They go to different fields.’

b. Partial reduplication.

In this type of reduplication the last syllable of the root is partially reduplicated by replacing the initial consonant.

Examples are given below.

- i. mərə-ca < məraca
 equal-REDU very equal
- ii. məreo-ceo < məreoceo
 jolly-REDU very jolly
- iii. məsu-tu < məsutu
 narrow-REDU very narrow (as hole or path)

Here, the last syllable /ra/ in /məra/, /reo/ in /məreo/ and /su/ in /məsu/, the initial consonant /r/ in /ra/ and /reo/ and /s/ in /su/ are replaced by consonant /c/ and /t/ respectively. And the replaced syllable is reduplicated.

In the above examples we have seen that word reduplication may be either complete or partial, either at the stem level or root level. We can also examine in the morpho-semantic and syntactic properties of word reduplication in Hundung-Tangkhul.

a. Habitual Meaning.

The adverbials which are derived from stative verb by suffixing adverb marker /*ne~te*/ are reduplicated and they convey the habitual meaning.

For example:

i. ve ca sa-te mo-je

he tea hot-ADV drink-RL

‘He drank hot tea’.

ii. ve ca kə-sa kə-sa-ne mo-je

he tea NMZ-hot NMZ-hot-ADV drink-RL

‘Habitually, he drank tea hot.’

b. Plurality Meaning.

Complete reduplication of Wh-question words expresses the meaning of plurality.

For example:

- i. ne k^hivuu ni-caŋ-lo

you what mind-want-Q.MK

‘What do you want’?

- ii. ne k^hivuu k^hivuu ni-caŋ-lo

you what what mind-want-Q.MK

‘What do you want’?

c. Simultaneity.

Simultaneity identifies synchronization of two events/actions at a particular point of time, i.e., continuity of two events/actions.

For example:

- i. tombə kə-t^ho kə-t^ho-ne te-leje

tomba NMZ-kick NMZ-kick-ADV go-RL

‘Tomba went while kicking’.

- ii. meri o o-te co-leje

mary look look-ADV cry-RL

‘Mary cried while looking.’

In the above two examples, the sentence shows the synchronization of two events/actions, i.e., the verb *kə-t^ho* ‘kick’ and *teleje* ‘went’ in sentence (i) and *o*

‘look’ and *coleje* ‘cry’ in sentence (ii) are the two events/actions done at a particular point of time.

d. Distributive Meaning.

Reduplication of a noun also indicates the meaning of distributiveness.

For example:

- i. ve-t^huŋ-ne k^hu k^hu-le te-lo

3rdP-PL-NOM village village-LOC go-IMP

‘We go to every village.’

- ii. lari-hi ʃiŋ ʃiŋ-le jua-lo

book-ddt house house-LOC distribute-IMP

‘Distribute the book to every house.’

The above sentences without any particular lexical item express the meaning of distributiveness which is indicated by the repetition of nouns *k^hu k^hu* ‘village’ and *ʃiŋ ʃiŋ* ‘house’ in the sentences (i) and (ii) respectively.

e. Repetition.

Some adverbials when they are reduplicated are used to convey the meaning of repetition.

For example:

- i. ve o-uŋ lui-je

he look-return again-RL

‘He looked back’.

ii. ve o-uj o-uj lui-je

he look-return look-return again-RL

‘He looked again and again.’

In the sentences, (ii) the verb *o-uj* ‘look’ conveys the meaning of repetition of an action.

Conclusion

From the description presented, we can conclude that reduplication plays an important role in Hundung-Tangkhul. Echo formation and onomatopoeic expressions are by-product of reduplication. Onomatopoeic and imitative are different in Hundung-Tangkhul since they are the imitations of natural sounds.

ABBREVIATION

ADV.	Adverb
E.	Echo
FX.	Formative prefix
IMP.	Imperative
LOC.	Locative
NMZ.	Nominalizer
NOM.	Nominative

Q.MK. Question Marker

R. Root

REDU. Reduplication

RL. Realis

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