

LANGUAGE IN INDIA

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Volume 9 : 10 October 2009

ISSN 1930-2940

Managing Editor: M. S. Thirumalai, Ph.D.

Editors: B. Mallikarjun, Ph.D.

Sam Mohanlal, Ph.D.

B. A. Sharada, Ph.D.

A. R. Fatihi, Ph.D.

Lakhan Gusain, Ph.D.

K. Karunakaran, Ph.D.

Jennifer Marie Bayer, Ph.D.

NOUN REDUPLICATION IN TAMIL AND KANNADA

A. Boologa Rambai, Ph.D.

NOUN REDUPLICATION IN TAMIL AND KANNADA

A. Boologa Rambai, Ph.D.

Introduction

Reduplication is a pan-Indian linguistic feature in word formation. The process is defined as “the process of all or part of the lexical item repeated as a syllable, morpheme or word with in a larger syntactic unit carrying a semantic modification.”

Lawral J. Brinton, in his *Structure of English - An Introduction* (1991, p.91) defines it as “Reduplication is an initial process similar to derivation in which the initial syllable or the entire word is doubled, exactly or with a slight morphological change.” S. Kiyomi explains Reduplication as “Given a word with a phonological form X then reduplication refers Xx or xX (where a part of X and x can appear either just before X or inside x. There are two conditions: Xx of xX must be semantically related to x and Xx or xX must be predicative”.

Abbi (1992) discusses two types of reduplication, viz., Morphological and Lexical reduplication. She further divides the lexical reduplication into three types: Echo-Formation, Compounds and Word-Reduplication.

Reduplication may be further classified into three types: Complete, Partial and Discontinuous Reduplication.

Reduplication may be defined as “the total or partial bimodal reduplication meaning there by repetition of the base of the word or the stem. Either a syllable or a constituent of a word or of the whole may iterate”. Whatever may be the unit of repetition the end result is a new word has no parallel in its non reduplicated counterpart.

The Focus of This Article

Tamil and Kannada belong to the same language group, the Dravidian family. Both languages are treated as sister languages. The present paper highlights the Noun reduplication in Tamil and Kannada. This study of reduplicated structure in Tamil and Kannada reveals the fact that though reduplication is a general morphological feature of the language, some specifications can be drawn from the functional point of view and as a result from the semantic point of view as well.

This is an attempt to study the Reduplicated Noun from the point of view of occurrence in the language, its function and semantic interpretation in Kannada and Tamil. These two languages have the following parts of speech: Noun, Pronoun, Verb, Adverb, Adjective, Conjunction, Postposition and Interjection. The formation of Reduplication occurs in almost all the above said parts of speech. This paper briefly deals with the Noun Reduplication in Tamil and Kannada.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

49

9 : 10 October 2009

A. Boologa Rambai, Ph.D.

Noun Reduplication in Tamil and Kannada

Noun Reduplication

Noun, which is the primary item of the parts of speech, reduplicates and gives different meanings, both in Tamil and Kannada.

I. Common Nouns Reduplicated and the Meanings Indicated by Them:

- i) All the kinship terms of Nouns are reduplicated and give the addressive meaning. E.g. ‘appa’ in Tamil and ‘appa’ in Kannada are the kinship terms which mean “Father” in both the languages. When it reduplicates as appaa... appaa... in Tamil and appaa... appaa... in Kannada it expresses the meaning addressive. Like this the Proper Names are reduplicated and indicated the meaning “addressive”.
- ii) The nouns like ‘paampu’ which means “snake” in Tamil (Ta.) and ‘haavu’ in (Ka.) reduplicates and give the meaning of caution.

E.g. From Tamil

paampuu... paampuu... “Oh! Snake Snake”.

E.g. From Kannada

haavu... haavu... “Oh! Snake Snake”

Like this, the nouns ‘tiruTan’ “Thief”, ‘pooliisu’ “Police”, ‘buudham,’ etc., are reduplicated and give the meaning caution.

iii) The Commercial nouns like ‘kattarikkaay’ in (Ta.) ‘badanekaay’ in (Ka.) means “Brinjal” ‘veNdaikkay’ in (Ta.) ‘benDakaay’ in (Ka.) means “Ladies finger,” etc., are reduplicated and draw the attention of the people.

E.g. From Tamil

Kattirikaa... kattirikaa... “Brinjal”

E.g. From Kannada

Badanekaay... badanekaay... “Brinjal”

- iv) Both in Tamil and Kannada the names of the places are reduplicated and give the Emphatic meaning. That is, to point out a particular place on the bus, importance of that particular place.

E.g. From Tamil

Madhuree... madhuree... "The place Madurai"

E.g. From Kannada

BengaLuur... BengaLuur... "The place Bangalore"

- v) The verbal nouns like 'veelai' in (Ta.) 'kelsa' in (Ka.) means "Work" 'kasTam' in (Ta.) 'kasTaa' in (Ka.) means "Difficulties," etc., are reduplicated and express the meaning of irritation.

E.g. From Tamil

Veelai veelai oree veelai "Work, work always work."
kasTam kasTam eppa paaru kasTam "Difficulty, difficulty
always difficulty"

E.g. From Kannada

Kelsa... kelsa... baari kelsa "Work, work always work."
kasTaa... kasTaa baari kasTaa "Difficulty, difficulty
always difficulty"

- vi) The nouns like 'vaattu' which means "Swan"/"Duck", 'kazhutai' which means "Donkey", 'kuNTu' which means "Fatty", 'payttiyam' which means "Mad Man/Lady," etc are reduplicated and give the ironical meaning. These types of nouns are not reduplicated in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Vaattu... vaattu... "Swan oh! Swan"
Kazhutai... kazhutai "Donkey oh! Donkey"
Payttiyam... payttiyam "Mad oh! Mad"
kuNTu... kuNTu "Fatty oh! Fatty"

- vii) Both Tamil and Kannada, the Interrogative nouns like ‘yaar’ “Who” ‘enku’ “Where” ‘eppa’ “When” ‘enna’ “What” etc are repeatedly coming and give the meaning of emotion.

E.g. From Tamil

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Yaaru... yaaru... | “Who? Who?” |
| Enkee... enkee... | “Where? Where?” |
| Eppa... eppa... | “When? When?” |
| Enna... enna... | “What? What?” |

E.g. From Kannada

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Yaar... yaar... | “Who? Who?” |
| Yaavaaga... yaavaaga... | “When? When?” |

- viii) Both in Tamil and Kannada, the names of the Gods raamaa, kaNNaa, sivaa, etc and the kinship nouns amma, appa are reduplicated and give the meanings of emotion and relieving of burdens. The other kinds of kinship terms are not reduplicated in both the languages.

E.g. From Tamil

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Siva... sivaa... | “Oh! God Siva” |
| Raama... raamaa | “Oh! God Ram” |
| Appappaa.... | “I cannot express it” |
| Ammammaa... | “I cannot express” |

E.g. From Kannada

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Shiva... shiva | “Oh! God Siva” |
| Raama... raamaa | “Oh! God Ram” |
| Appappaa.... | “I cannot express it” |
| Ammammaa... | “I cannot express” |

- ix) Both in Tamil and Kannada, the exclamatory noun ‘ayyoo’ “alas” reduplicates and gives the sympathetic meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ayyoo... ayyoo... | “Oh! What a pity” |
|-------------------|-------------------|

E.g. From Kannada

Ayyoo... ayyoo... “Oh! What a pity”

- x) The Common Nouns like ‘kizham’ in (Ta.) ‘muduka’ in (Ka.) which means “Old People” ‘karmam’ which means “fruits of deeds” ‘saniyan’ which means “Troublesome person” etc., are reduplicated and give the meaning of irritation or expressing the hatefulness.

E.g. From Tamil

Kezham... kezham... “Old one old one”
Saniyan... saniyan... “Trouble some one”
Karmam... karmam... “Fruits of deeds”

E.g. From Kannada

Muduka... muduka... “Old one old one”

- xi) Sometimes individuals reduplicate some words of their choice to give the meaning of irritation. That irritation reveals some past time incidents or events and make the hearer to become frightened by uttering the noun repeatedly. This type of construction is not possible in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

takaDu... takaDu... “Piece of iron”

- xii) Some kinds of nouns like ‘kanchi’ “Watery food” ‘kandal’ “rags, torn cloth” followed by the postposition ‘taan’ are reduplicated in (Ta.) and give idiomatic meaning. This type of construction is not possible in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Ini katai kandal... kandaltaan... “Your story (fate) is just like rags now! You are almost finished!”

Inimee nii kanchi... kanchitann “Your story (fate) is just like porridge now! You are almost finished!”

- xiii) The temporal Nouns like ‘aaNDu’/ ‘varusham’ in (Ta.) ‘varSa’ in (Ka.) means “Year” ‘dinam’ in (Ta.) ‘dinaa’ in (Ka.) K “Day” ‘nittam’ “Daily” etc., are reduplicated and give the meaning of continuity.

E.g. From Tamil

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Varushaa...varusham | “Each and every year” |
| aaNDuaaNDui kaalamaa | “Traditionally” |
| nittam nittam | “Daily” |

E.g. From Kannada

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| VaruSa...varuSa | “Each and every year” |
| Dina... dinaa.. | “Daily” |

- xiv) Nouns like ‘paNam’ in (Ta.) ‘rakka’ in (Ka.), ‘niyaayam’ in (Ta.) and ‘nyaaya’ in Kannada are followed by postposition ‘-taan’ in (Ta.) and ‘-ne’ in Kannada and are reduplicated to give the meanings emphasis and compulsion.

E.g. From Tamil

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| paNam... paNamtaan... | “Money only Money” |
| niyaayam... niyaayamtann... | “Justice only justice” |

E.g. From Kannada

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Rakka... rakkane... | “Money only Money” |
| Nyaaya... nyaayane... | “Justice only justice” |

- xv) The nouns that praise and greet like ‘vaazhka’ ‘vaLarka’ “praising” in (Ta.) are reduplicated and give the meaning of excitement. This type of reduplication is not possible in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Talaivar vaazhka... vaazhka... “Leader you live more days”

By the influence of this reduplication the English words like ‘jolly’, ‘happy’ etc., are reduplicated and reveal the meaning of great happiness, great enjoyment and over excitement.
E.g. Hay jolly... jolly...

Idiomatic Meaning in Reduplication

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

9 : 10 October 2009

A. Boologa Rambai, Ph.D.

Noun Reduplication in Tamil and Kannada

The following nouns are reduplicated in the sentences and give some idiomatic meaning.

- i) In Tamil the qualitative nouns like ‘paccai’ “Green” reduplicated with the particles ‘-aaka’ “To become” and give the idiomatic meaning. This is not possible in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan paccai paccaiyaakap peecinaan “He talked vulgarly.”

- ii) In Tamil the portative nouns (In Tamil it is called as cinaippeyar) like ‘kaadhu’ “Ear”, ‘kaN’ “Eye” etc., are reduplicated and give the idiomatic meaning. This is not possible in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

avaL tirumaNam kaadhum kaadhum vaittaaRpool naTantatu
“Her marriage was happened very secretly.”

avaL kuzhandaiyai kaNNukku kaNNaaka vaLarttaaL
“She brought up the child very carefully.”

- iii) In Tamil the Inanimate Noun ‘vaazhai’ “Banana”/ “plantain” combined with the particles ‘aTi’ and ‘taan’ are reduplicated and these give some idiomatic meaning. This type of construction is not possible in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan kuTumbam vaazhaiyaDi vaazhaiyaaka tazhaittatu
“His family prosperous likes anything.”

- iv) In Tamil the mass noun ‘puyal’ “Storm” and the non-human noun ‘ciTTu’ “Sparrow” are reduplicated and give some idiomatic meaning. This is not possible in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan puyal puyalaakap puRappaTTaaL
“She started like a storm.”

avaL ciTTu ciTTaakap paRantaasL
“She has done her work very fast, like a sparrow”

- v) The Abstract Noun ‘alai’ in (Ta.) ‘ale’ in (Ka.) means “Wave” and is reduplicated to give some idiomatic meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Karunaanidhiyaip paarkka makkaL kuuTTaam alai alaiyaaka
Vandadu.
“To see Karunanidhi, the people came like waves.”

E.g. From Kannada

Ale aleyante bandaru “People came like waves.”

- vi) In Tamil the Noun ‘kuuzh’ “Semi-Liquid food” is reduplicated to express some idiomatic meaning. The same thing is expressed by ‘cuur’ which means “piece” in Kannada to express some idiomatic meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Kuzhandai kaaril aTipaTTu kuuzh kuuzh aakiyadu
“The child became like semi-liquid in the accident. (The condition of the body of the child was like semi-liquid food.”

E.g. From Kannada

Cuurc cuuraagi nooyitu “It became pieces.”

- vii) In Tamil, the Temporal Noun ‘vidiyal’ “Dawn” is reduplicated to express the idiomatic meaning. This type of construction is not possible in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan vidiya vidiyak kaN muzhittup paTittaan
“He woke-up the whole night and study”

- viii) In Tamil the Material Noun ‘muttu’ “Pearl” ‘maNi’ “Bell” are in combination with the particle ‘aaka’ reduplicated and it indicates the idiomatic meaning. In Kannada ‘muddu’ means “Fresh” is reduplicated and indicates the idiomatic meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

kaNNan muttu muttaakak kaNNiir vaDittaan

“KaNNan weeps like anything”
Kuzhandai maNi maNiyaakap peeciyatu
“The Child is talking very clearly”

E.g. From Kannada

Mogu muddu muddaagidee “Child is so cute”

- ix) In Tamil the Noun ‘aTukku’ “Portion” is in combination with the particle ‘aaka’ reduplicated and it indicates the idiomatic meaning. In Kannada the noun ‘matte’ means “again” is reduplicated and it indicates the idiomatic meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan aTukkaTukkaaka poy connaan
“He tells lies continuously”

E.g. From Kannada

Matte matteheNuu mattaLige janma kaTTaLu
“Who has the birth of female child continuously”

- x) In Tamil the Noun ‘maNi’ means “bell” which in combination with the particle ‘-aaka’ is reduplicated and it indicates the idiomatic meaning. This type is not found in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan kuzhantai maNimaNiyaakap peeciyadu
“His child speaks very clearly”

- xi) The Interrogative Noun ‘enna’ in (Ta.) ‘eenu’ in (Ka.) means “What’ is reduplicated and they convey the idiomatic meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan varuvataRkkuL ennaennavoomellaam naTantuviTtatu
“Before his arrival so many things happened”

E.g. From Kannada

Eeneena kelsa maaDide “What all works you did?”

- xii) In Tamil the Natural Noun ‘malai’ “Mountain” is reduplicated and it expresses the idiomatic meaning. This type is not found in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Avanukku selvam malaimalaiyaak kuvintatu
“The wealth is coming like anything to him”

- xiii) The Noun ‘vaazh’ “Fame” is reduplicated and it indicates the idiomatic meaning. This type is not found in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Vaazh vaazhinnu kattaatee
“Don’t shout like anything”

- xiv) Both in Tamil and Kannada the noun ‘tuNDu’ “piece” is reduplicated and it indicates the idiomatic meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

tuNDU tuNDaakiRuveen jaakiratai
“Be careful I’ll spoil your life”

E.g. From Kannada

tuNDu tuNDaagi kattarisida “He cuts like anything”

III Adjectival Meaning

The following nouns are reduplicated in the sentence and they give the adjectival meaning and function as an adjective.

- i) In Tamil the portative nouns ‘kulai’/ ‘kottu’/ ‘caram’ / ‘caTai’ “Wreath of a flower” are reduplicated in a sentence in combination with the particle ‘aaka’ “To become” and indicate the adjectival meaning. In Kannada the noun ‘hosa’ means “Fresh” is reduplicated in the sentences in combination with the particle ‘-aagi’ and indicates the adjectival meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

9 : 10 October 2009

A. Boologa Rambai, Ph.D.

Noun Reduplication in Tamil and Kannada

Kulaikulaiyaakap puutta senkaandal puu
“The red species of Malabar lily blooms as bunches”
Avan tooTTattil muntiri kottu kottaakak kaayttiruntau
“In his garden the graphs are in bunches”

E.g. From Kannada

Hosa hosadaagi ivee “They are very fresh”

- ii) In Tamil the Measurement Noun ‘paTi’ “Measurement” is in combination with the particle ‘aaka’ is reduplicated and indicates the adjectival meaning. In Kannada the Numerical Noun ‘ondu’ which means “One” is reduplicated and indicates the adjectival meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan vaazhkkaiyil paTippaTiyaaka munneRinaan
“He gradually develops in his life”

E.g. From Kannada

Ondondaagi daTioda “He closed one by one”

- iii) The Demonstrative Noun ‘vidham’ in (Ta.) ‘vidha’ in kannada means “Kind” is in combination with the particle ‘aaka’ in (Ta.) ‘-aagi’ in (Ka.) repeatedly coming and giving the adjectival meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Avanukku ovvaru paTattileeyum vidhavidhamaana keeracter
“In each and every film his role is a different one”

E.g. From Kannada

Vidha vidhaagiruvudu “In each and every film his role is a
different one”

- iv) The Neuter Noun ‘kuTTi’ in (Ta.) ‘saNNa’ in Kannada means “Small” and ‘kuDam’ in Tamil ‘koDa’ in Kannada means “Small pot” are reduplicated and indicate the adjectival meaning. In the above two the nouns ‘kuDam’ occurs with the particle ‘-aaka’ in the sentence.

E.g. From Tamil

Avaiyellam kuTTikkuTTi kataikaL
“Those are very small stories”
kaDavulukku kuDamkuDamaakat taNNiir uuRRinaarkaL
“People are pouring pots of water to God”

E.g. From Kannada

saNNa saNNa kategaLu “Those are very small stories”
koDa koDa niiru suridaru “People pour pots of
water to God”

- v) The Noun ‘taarai’ in (Ta.) ‘dhaare’ in Kannada means “continuous.” It is in combination with the particle ‘-aaka’ in Tamil ‘-aagi’ in (Ka.) and give the adjectival meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Avav kaNkaliruntu taarai taaraiyaakak kaNNir vantatu
“He wept like anything”

E.g. From Kannada

Dhaare dhaareyaagi harigitu “He wept like anything”

- vi) The Quality Noun ‘vaNNam’ in (Ta.) ‘baNNa’ in (Ka.) means “Color” is reduplicated and it indicates the adjectival meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

vaNNa vaNNak kanavukaL “Colorful dreams”

E.g. From Kannada

baNNa baNNavaagi kanasu gaadivee “Colourful dreams”

IV Adverbial Meaning

The following Nouns are reduplicated and they give the adverbial meaning

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

9 : 10 October 2009

A. Boologa Rambai, Ph.D.

Noun Reduplication in Tamil and Kannada

and function as an adverb.

- i) The Adverbial Noun 'veekam' in (Ta.) 'veega' in (Ka.) means "Speed" is in combination with the particle '-aaka' in (Ta.) '-aagi' in Kannada in the sentences are reduplicated and indicate the adverbial meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan veeka veekamaaka ooTinaan "He ran very speedily"

E.g. From Kannada

Veega veegavaagi oDida "Ran very fast"

- ii) In Tamil the Abstract Noun 'aacai' "Desire", 'koopam' "Anger", 'azhukai' "Weeping" etc., are in combination with the particle 'aaka' in the sentences and are reduplicated. They indicate the adverbial meaning. In Kannada the Abstract Noun 'siTTu' means "anger." It is in combination with the particle '-aagi' in the sentences when reduplicated and they indicate the adverbial meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Aacaiacaiyaa irukku "It is too desirable"
Koopamkoopamaa varutu "I got too much angry"
Azhukaiazhukaiyaa varutu "I felt too weepy"

E.g. From Kannada

siTTu siTTaagi noda "He gave with anger"

- iii) In Tamil the Temporal Noun 'talaimuRai' "Tradition" is in combination with the particle 'aaka' in the sentences reduplicated and these express the adverbial meaning. It conveys the continuity of the action. Instead of this Kannada language speakers use 'talemaarininda bandidee'.

E.g. From Tamil

talaimuRaitalaimuRaiyaakap pinpaRRapaTTu varukiRatu
"It is followed by traditionally from generation to generation
Continuously."

- iv) In Tamil the Noun 'tuNDu' "Piece" is in combination with the particle 'aaka' in sentences that are reduplicated and these indicate the adverbial meaning. Like this in Kannada the Noun 'tuNDu' means "piece." It is in combination with the particle "-aagi" in sentences and gives the adverbial meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan pazhattai tuNDu tuNDaaka veTTinaan
"He cuts the fruit in to pieces"

E.g. From Kannada

tuNDu tuNDaagi kattarisida "He cuts into pieces"

- v) Both in Tamil and Kannada the portative Noun 'pakkam' in (Ta.) 'pakka' in (Ka.) which means "Page" is in combination with the particle 'aaka' in (Ta.). These are reduplicated in sentences and indicate the adverbial meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan pakkam pakkammaka ezhutittaLLinaan
"He writes so many pages"

E.g. From Kannada

Pakka pakkadalli bareda "He wrote so many pages"

- IV) Regarding the Temporal Noun, when it reduplicates the meaning given by it is from the broad sense to the particular sense and the particular sense to the broad sense in Tamil. The Noun 'kaalam' "Time"/ "Season" reduplicates and indicates the meaning of sense from the broad sense to the particular sense. But in Kannada the Temporal Noun 'kaalam' which means "Time" reduplicates and gives the meaning continuous.

E.g. From Tamil

Kaalaakaalattil tirumaNam naTakkanum
"The marriage should taken place at a particular time"

E.g. From Kannada

Kaala kaaladivda bandide "It has come from age"

In Tamil, the Noun 'vidiyal' "Dawn" reduplicates and indicates the meaning from the particular sense to the broad sense. This type of construction is not found in Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Vidiya vidiyak kalyaaNam
"The marriage is taken place over the whole night"

- V) Both in Tamil and Kannada, regarding the Numeral Noun, the Countable Noun 'kooDi' "Crore", 'laksham' "Lakh", 'kaTTu' "Bundle" are reduplicated and give the uncountable meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

kooDikooDiyaap paNam "Crores of Money"
lakshalakshamaa paNam "Lakhs of money"
kaTTukkaTTaap paNam "Bundles of money"

E.g. From Kannada

kooTi kooTi janariddaru "Crores of People are there"
laksha laksha janariddaru "lakhs of people are there"

The Cardinal Numerical Noun 'oNnu' in (Ta.) 'ondu' in (Ka.) which means "One" is reduplicated and indicate the emphatic meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

oNnu oNNuaak koTu "Give one by one"

E.g. From Kannada

Ondondagi koDi "Give one by one"

The ordinal Numerical Noun 'oru' in (Ta.) 'obbu' in (Ka.) means "one" is reduplicated and indicates the meaning of wholeness.

E. g, From Tamil

Ovvaru maadamum "Each and every month"

E.g. From Kannada

Obbobbaru “Each and every person”

The Noun ‘mudhal’ “First” is reduplicated and expresses the earlier/first occurrence meaning.

E.g. From Tamil

Mudhanmudhalil idu toTankiyatu japaanil
“At first it was started in Japan”

E.g. From Kannada

moTTa modalaaki idu piraaramba koTTidu jappaanalli
“At first it was started in Japan”

Like the Ordinal Numerals the Personal Pronouns like ‘avan’ “He”, ‘avaL’ “She” etc., are reduplicated and give the single to whole meaning and the vice versa in Tamil. This type of construction is not reduplicated in ‘avan’ and ‘avaL’ in Kannada but it is possible with the honorific and the Plural Noun ‘avar’ “He”.

E.g. From Tamil

Avan avanaa ceyvaan “Each and every one will do it”

E.g. From Kannada

Avaravaraagi maaDu ballaru “Each and every one will do this”

- VII) In Tamil, regarding the Demonstrative noun ‘anta’ “That”, ‘inta’ “This” are reduplicated and give the specific meaning. In Kannada the Demonstrative Noun ‘yaavu’ means “What” is reduplicated and indicates the meaning of specific.

E.g. From Tamil

Entaenta veelaiyai eppaappa ceyyanumoo anta anta veelaiyai
appaappa ceyyanum
“At what time what work is going to be done, that time that
work will be done in that particular time”

E.g. From Kannada

Language in India www.languageinindia.com

9 : 10 October 2009

A. Boologa Rambai, Ph.D.

Noun Reduplication in Tamil and Kannada

Yaavu yaavu samayadalli “At what time”

- VIII) In Tamil, the interrogative nouns are reduplicated and give the plural meaning for the singular one and vice versa. The nouns ‘yaar’ “Who”, ‘eppaDi’ “How”, and ‘enna’ “What” are reduplicated and indicate the plural meaning. The same thing happens in Kannada also. The Interrogative Noun ‘yaar’ means “Who”, is reduplicated and it gives the meaning of plurality.

E.g. From Tamil

Yaar yaaroo vantaanga “So many persons were come here”

E.g. From Kannada

Yaar yaar bandiddaaree “So many persons were come here”

- IX) The Abstract Noun and the Quality Nouns like ‘veyiloo veyil’ “So hot” ‘tangamoo tangam’ “So much gold” ‘paccaiyo paccai’ “Greenish” etc are reduplicated and give the excessive meaning in Tamil. Like this in Kannada the Abstract Nouns like ‘hasi’ which means “wet” ‘kempu’ which means “reddish” ‘bangaravee bangara’ which means “Good Gold” ‘aloode aloodu’ “Too much cry” etc., are reduplicated and indicate the excessive meaning.
- X) The Nouns which are used for pointing out the colors reduplicated and indicated the emphatic meaning in Tamil and Kannada.

E.g. From Tamil

Paccaipaceel enRa tooTTam “Greenish Garden”

E.g. From Kannada

Kempu kempaagidee “It is reddish”

Conclusion

- i) Both in Tamil and Kannada Nouns are reduplicated and the process indicates the following meanings: addressive, caution, draws the attention of the people, meanings of irritation, emphasis, unbearable, emotional, hatefulness, and idiomatic adjectival and adverbial.

- ii) Some Nouns are reduplicated in Tamil which indicate idiomatic meanings, which is not possible in Kannada. In several cases, this holds true not only for the idiomatic meanings but also for some other types of meanings.
- iii) Some Nouns are reduplicated both in Tamil and Kannada but the constructions of these may be different.
- iv) Eventhough both the languages are belong to the same language group within the same family, they maintaining different structures in reduplication in several contexts.

References

1. Abbi, A. 1992 "Reduplication in South Asian Languages" An Areal, Typological and Historical Study, New Delhi, Allied publishers.
2. Annamalai, E. 1980 "Structure Harmony and Its Diachronic Differentiation". In Subramaniam, S.V. Irulappan, K.M. (eds.) Heritage of the Tamil Language and Grammar. International Institute of Tamil Studies (I.I.T.S). Madras.
3. Kiyumi, Selsuko 1995 "A New Approach of Reduplication: A Semantic Study of Noun and Verb Reduplication in Malaya - Polynesian Languages" pp.1145 – 1167, Linguistics, vol. No.33.
4. Lawral J. Britan 1991 "Structure of English- An Introduction"
5. Manjudar, S.D. 2001 "Verb Reduplication in Asamiya" IJDL, DLA. Vol.30 No.2 June pp. 217-225.
6. Paramasivam, K. 1982 "Ikkaalat tamil marapu", Annam, Sivagangai
7. Thomas Lehmann 1989 "A Grammar of Modern Tamil", PILC, Pondicheery.

A. Boologa Rambai
Department of Tamil & Translation Studies
Dravidian University
Kuppam – 517 425
Andhra Pradesh, India

Language in India www.languageinindia.com
9 : 10 October 2009
A. Boologa Rambai, Ph.D.
Noun Reduplication in Tamil and Kannada