

REDUPLICATION IN PERSIAN: A MORPHOLOGICAL DOUBLING APPROACH*

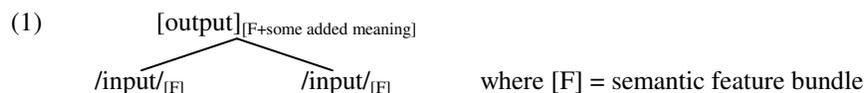
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1. Introduction

This paper takes three distinct kinds of reduplication in Persian and argues that together they provide strong support for Morphological Doubling Theory (Inkelas and Zoll 2000, 2005). The three types of reduplication we consider are: echo reduplication, intensive reduplication, and indifference reduplication. We discuss each in turn giving descriptive information and showing how the construction is modeled within Morphological Doubling Theory. We also present and discuss analogous constructions from Persian and other languages.

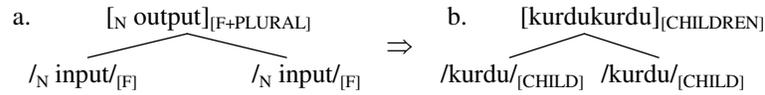
1.1 Morphological Doubling Theory

Inkelas and Zoll (2005 and references cited therein) have developed Morphological Doubling Theory as an alternative to theories of reduplication which involve phonological copying. Under phonological copying approaches (see, for example, Marantz 1982, McCarthy and Prince 1993/2001), a reduplicant is an affix onto which features or segments of the base are copied. In contrast, under Morphological Doubling Theory (MDT), reduplication involves semantic rather than phonological identity. The units involved are morphological constituents which are spelled out independently, resulting in the appearance of copying. In some cases one or more of the units involved may be subject to independent phonological modification. The model for a reduplicated construction under MDT is shown in (1) where two daughters bearing the same morphosemantic features are combined to yield some additional component of meaning:

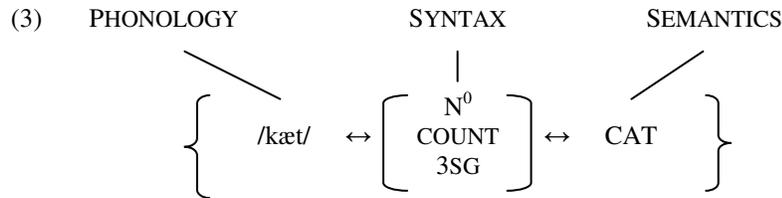


Let us take, as an example, plural formation in Warlpiri which involves the total reduplication of a nominal base: *kurdu* 'child' \Rightarrow *kurdukurdu* 'children'. The MDT analysis of this phenomenon is shown in (2) where we see that two nouns with the same semantic features are spelled out identically to yield a plural meaning:

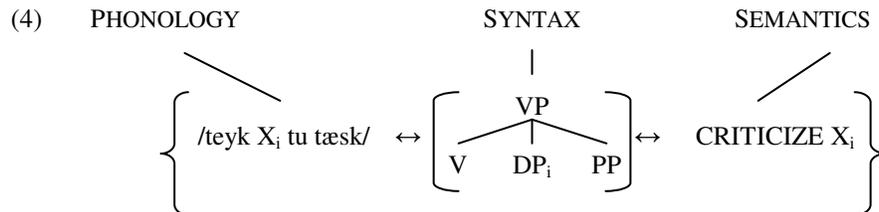
* We would like to thank David Pentland, Kevin Russell, and the audience at the 2006 CLA meeting. The following abbreviations are used for the data: CL = classifier, COMP = comparative, DUR = durative, EMPH = emphasis marker, EZ = ezafe vowel, INDEF = indefinite, NEG = negation, OM = object marker, PART = participle, PL = plural, PRES = present, SBJ = subjunctive, SG = singular, '+' in the examples separates the two parts of a compound verb.

(2) *Warlpiri***1.2 Lexical Entries, Constructional Schemas, and Idioms**

In this study, we treat constructional schemas of the kind shown in (1) and (2) above as lexical entries. In so doing we follow Jackendoff's (1997, 2002) view of lexical entries as correspondence rules between phonology, syntax, and semantics. The lexical entry for the word *cat*, for example, is as follows:



Jackendoff proposes to treat idioms in the same way, namely as lexical entries that contain a phonological, syntactic, and semantic component. Idioms may involve more than one word, contain variable positions, and have non-compositional semantics. The following lexical entry for the idiom *to take someone to task*, adapted from Jackendoff (2002:170.14), illustrates all of these points:



The constructional schemas that we propose for the three types of reduplication in Persian can be viewed as idioms in Jackendoff's sense.

2. Pattern 1: Echo Reduplication

Echo Reduplication (ER) in Persian involves the compounding of nouns, adjectives, and adverbs, where the first segment of the base is replaced by /m-/ or /p-/ in the reduplicant (Ghaniabadi 2005):



As noted by Inkelas and Zoll (2005), this construction is a “virtually pan-Asian” phenomenon found in Turkish, Armenian, and Abkhaz (with *m*-replacement), as well as Kolami and Telugu (*gi*-replacement, Inkelas and Zoll 2005:42). Lidz (2001) discusses the construction in Kannada, and Keane (2001) analyzes ER in Tamil, noting that it also occurs in other Dravidian languages as well as in Bengali and Hindi. In all cases it extends the denotation of a word (or phrase) to mean “and related stuff” or “X and the like.”

2.1 The Overwriting Segment: /m-/ vs. /p-/

Cross-linguistically, echo words must maintain a minimal non-identity from their bases. Examples are shown from Persian (6a&b). Where the non-identity requirement is not at issue, there is m/p optionality with /m-/ being the preferred choice. An example of this optionality is shown in (6c):

- | | | | | |
|-----|----|--------------------------|---|--|
| (6) | | <u>BASE</u> | ⇒ | <u>ER FORM</u> |
| | a. | <i>pir</i>
'old' | ⇒ | <i>pir-mir</i>
'old and stuff' |
| | | <i>bâlâ</i>
'above' | ⇒ | <i>bâlâ-mâlâ</i>
'somewhere above' |
| | b. | <i>mive</i>
'fruit' | ⇒ | <i>mive-pive</i>
'fruit and so forth' |
| | c. | <i>tarâzu</i>
'scale' | ⇒ | <i>tarâzu-marâzu, tarâzu-parâzu</i>
'scale and so on' |

2.2 Lexical Categories That Undergo ER

Nouns most commonly undergo ER in Persian but adjectives and spatial/temporal adverbs may also be echo-reduplicated:

- | | | | | |
|-----|----|---|---|---|
| (7) | a. | Ns: <i>kâhu</i>
'lettuce' | ⇒ | <i>kâhu-m/pâhu</i>
'lettuce and so on' |
| | b. | Adjs: <i>zarif</i>
'slender' | ⇒ | <i>zarif-m/parif</i>
'slender and stuff' |
| | c. | Adv: <i>nazdik</i>
'near (time/place)' | ⇒ | <i>nazdik-m/pazdik</i>
'somewhere/sometime near' |

2.3 Analogous Constructions

There are a number of compounding processes across languages to which ER bears a resemblance. We discuss these in turn.

Synonym compounds

Synonym compounds involve the combination of two nouns that are similar in meaning but not form. This kind of compound can be found in Hindi, Khmer, Vietnamese, and Mandarin (see Mortensen 2003:4 for references; see also Ourn and Haiman 2000, Inkelas and Zoll 2005). In some synonym compounds like those in Hmong, the meaning of the whole is the same as the meaning of the parts:

- (8) a. caij+nyoog ⇒ caij-nyoog
 time+time 'time'
- b. ncauj+lu ⇒ ncauj-lu
 mouth+mouth 'mouth'

[Mortensen 2003:3.3]

In other synonym compounds like those in Hindi exemplified in (9), the meaning of the whole is the same as the meaning of ER: "N, etc."

- (9) a. tan-badan body-body 'body, etc.'
- b. vivâh-šâdi marriage-marriage 'marriage, etc.'
- c. dhan-daulat money-money 'money, etc.'

[Singh 1982:346.5-7]

The synonym compounds above involve nouns that differ with respect to whether they are native to Hindi or not. Typically, the first noun is a native Hindi word while the second is of Perso-Arabic origin. Inkelas and Zoll (2005:61.51) give the following constructional schema for these compounds in which the two elements of the compound share the same meaning but are distinguished by the feature [+/-native]:

- (10)
- $$\begin{array}{c} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Syntax} = \text{N} \\ \text{Semantics} = \text{'x, etc.'} \end{array} \right] \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Syntax} = \text{N} \\ \text{Semantics} = \text{'x'} \\ \text{Stratum} = \text{+Native} \end{array} \right] \quad \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Syntax} = \text{N} \\ \text{Semantics} = \text{'x'} \\ \text{Stratum} = \text{- Native} \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

Co-compounds

Another compounding pattern found throughout Eurasia involves combining two words that express closely associated concepts (words which express "natural coordination") deriving a meaning that is more general than the meaning of the parts (see Wälchli 2005). These co-compounds may bear markers of overt coordination but nevertheless function more like a word than a phrase. The meaning relation is one of hyponymy in which the compound is a hypernym (or superordinate) of its parts. Examples of co-compounds from Chuvash and Komi are given below:

- (11) *Chuvash*
 a. sēt-šu milk-butter 'dairy'
 b. erex-sāra vodka/wine-beer 'alcoholic beverages'
 [Wälchli 2005:141]
- (12) *Komi (Uralic)*
 Myj **lun-voj** vaj.e, ninəm on teđ.
 what **day-night** bring.PRES3SG nothing NEG:2SG know
 'Nobody knows what the **future** will bring.'
 [Wälchli 2005:10.5]

Wälchli considers echo-words to be very similar to co-compounds "as they mainly occur in the same languages as co-compounds ... and as they are used in similar contexts as co-compounds..." (2005:169). They are also similar to what he calls "imitative co-compounds" in which the second member is meaningless and phonologically similar to the first but not in a way that is derivable by rule (section 5.2.6, p. 147).

All these kinds of compounding, (see, for example, Shaki 1967), can be found in Persian:

- (13) *Synonym compounds in Persian*
 a. pič-o-tâb lit. twist-and-twirl 'complication'
 b. jang-o-jedâl lit. war-and-battle 'hostilities'
- (14) *Co-compounds in Persian*
 a. xâhar barâdar lit. sister brother 'siblings'
 b. âb-o jâru lit. water-and broom 'cleaning/preparation'
- (15) *Imitative co-compounds in Persian*
 a. čarb-o-čili 'very/too oily' (from *čarb* 'oily')
 b. pul-o-pale 'wealth' (from *pul* 'money')

The meaning relation between the parts of the above compounds in Persian is one of co-hyponymy in which the compound is a hypernym of its parts. Notice that in almost all cases, the overt marker of coordination intervenes between the two copies, although it does not affect the word status of compounds.

Numerical compounds

Numerical compounds in Persian also represent the same meaning relation, i.e. co-hyponyms evoking hypernyms. These compounds, shown in (16), must be followed by a classifier, unlike regular numerals which are a little more flexible in this regard:

- (16) a. do-se qâšoq šekar b. panj-šiš jeld ketâb
 two-three spoon sugar five-six volume book
 'a few spoonfuls of sugar' 'about five or six books'
- c. haft-haš-tâ medâd
 seven-eight-CL pencil
 'about seven or eight pencils'

Mortensen (2003) reports that Hmong has the same type of compounding:

- (17) a. ob+peb ⇒ ob-peb
 two+three 'a few'
- b. cuaj+kaum ⇒ cuaj-kaum
 nine+ten 'many; however many'
- [Mortensen 2003:6.9]

Associative compounds

Associative compounds in Persian are also similar to ER in that they yield the meaning “and related stuff/people”. Associative compounds involve a DP followed by the pronoun *inâ* ‘these’ (this+PL):

- (18) a. parde inâ b. âqâ-ye Tehrâni inâ
 curtain these sir-EZ Tehrani these
 ‘curtains and related stuff’ ‘Mr. Tehrani and his family/friends’

The purpose of our discussion of these various sorts of compounds in Persian is to suggest that ER can be viewed as one specialized type of them. That is, if ER is related to synonym compounds and co-compounds, then it cannot be a purely phonological phenomenon. MDT can account for all such constructions in the same way.

2.4 Constructional Schema

In (19) we give the constructional schema for ER in Persian. This construction requires two daughters with identical semantic features and yields the meaning “and related stuff”. We use the feature [+N] to distinguish nouns, adjectives, and adverbs from prepositions and verbs. Notice that the second copy must have a rule to account for the overwriting of the fixed elements (i.e. /m-/ and /p-/). We do not give this rule here. Also left for further research is the fact that some affixes (e.g. plural marking and the comparative) appear after the whole compound rather than on each copy (see Ghaniabadi 2005).

- (19)
- $$\begin{array}{c} \text{[+N]}_{\text{[F+ 'and related stuff']}} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \text{[+N]}_{\text{[F]}} \quad \quad \quad \text{[+N } m/p\text{-]}_{\text{[F]}} \end{array}$$

3. Pattern 2: Intensive Reduplication

In this pattern, adjectives in Persian are duplicated and linked to each other via the Ezafe vowel:

- (20) *sefid* ⇒ *sefid-e sefid*
 ‘white’ ‘completely/pure white’

3.3 Distribution of Intensive Reduplication

Intensive reduplicated forms occur predominantly in predicative position, as shown in (25), although they may also be used attributively, as shown in (26):

- (25) **kalâfe-ye-kalâfe** bud-am, bedun-e in ke be-dun-am
agitated-EZ-agitated was-1SG without-EZ this that SBJ-know-1SG

če kâr mi-tun-am bo-kon-am.
what work DUR-able-1SG SBJ-do-1SG

'I was completely agitated, without knowing what I could do.'

[Source: *Daštâ-ye Xâkestari* ('Grey Deserts'),
http://berke.persianblog.com/1384_8_berke_archive.html]

- (26) Samâne jun! âbji-y [gol-e-gol]-e man! xošhâl
Samane dear sister-EZ flower-EZ-flower-EZ I happy

šod-am dânešgâh qabul šod-i ...
became-1SG university accepted became-2SG

'Dear Samane! My very best sister! I was happy that you were accepted at university ...'

[Source: *Siyâvaš va dustân* ('Siyavash and friends'),
<http://www.fonix.blogfa.com/>]

3.4 Analogous Constructions

Many languages use full or partial reduplication of adjectives to indicate intensification or emphasis:

- (27) *Mongolian*
a. khav-khar 'coal black'
b. chiv-chimeegüi 'completely silent'
c. uv-ulaan 'bright red'
[Bosson 1964:110, cited in Inkelas and Zoll 2005:42]
- (28) *Tagalog*
a. basag-basag 'broken to smithereens' (from *basag* 'broken')
b. butas-butas 'full of holes' (from *butas* 'having a hole')
c. punit-punit 'thoroughly torn' (from *punit* 'torn')
[Schachter and Otnes 1972:234]
- (29) *Turkish*
a. kap-kara 'pitch black' (from *kara* 'dark')
b. bem-bejaz 'bright white' (from *bejaz* 'white')
c. ter-temiz 'spotless' (from *temiz* 'clean')
[Wedel 1999:1]

4.1 The intervening element: *ke*

The particle *ke* has many functions in Persian. It can introduce (a) a subordinate clause, (b) a relative clause, (c) the apodosis in a conditional, and (d) can serve as a marker of emphasis:

- (33) a. Sinâ goft **ke** Ali mi-r-e
 Sina said.3SG that Ali DUR-go-3SG
 ‘Sina said that Ali will go.’
- b. aks-i **ke** tu majalle bud
 picture-INDEF that in magazine was.3SG
 ‘The picture that was in the magazine.’
- c. age raft-an **ke** âli-ye.
 if left-3PL that excellent-is
 ‘It’s excellent if they’ve left.’
- d. man **ke** mi-r-am.
 I EMPH DUR-go-1SG
 ‘Me, I’m going.’

The use of *ke* in the IKC is not obviously related to any of those given above. One of the virtues of the morphological doubling approach is that we can treat *ke* in the IKC as a meaningless intervening element, much like the overwriting segment /m ~ p/ in ER or the Ezafe vowel in IR.

4.2 Lexical Categories That Undergo Indifference Reduplication

Only verbs can appear in the IKC. They can be inflected for any tense/aspect/mood (see Sadat-Tehrani 2003:51-2 for a full range of examples). An example in the simple past is provided in (32) above. Morphologically complex tenses such as the pluperfect which combines a participial form of the main verb with a form of the verb *to be* can also undergo this reduplication:

- (34) *Pluperfect*
 umad-e bud-an **ke** umad-e bud-an.
 came-PART were-3PL that came-PART be.PAST-3PL
 ‘I don’t care that they’d come.’

The copying of morphologically complex verbs is significant given that with compound verbs only the verbal part is reduplicated. (See Ghomeshi and Massam 1994, Dabir-Moghaddam 1997, and Folli et al 2005 for more on compound verbs.) This shows that the process is sensitive to lexical category:

- (35) jiq+zad ke zad.
 shout+hit.3SG that hit.3SG
 ‘I don’t care that s/he shouted.’

The default word order for sentences in Persian is SOV but it is also a language in which scrambling occurs (see Karimi 2005). In cases where the verb is not sentence-final, the IKC nevertheless copies the verb showing that it is lexical category and not linear order which is relevant for this construction:

- (36) Speaker 1: be-hešun na-dâd pul-o.
 to-them NEG-gave.3SG money-OM
 ‘S/he didn’t give them the money.’
- Speaker 2: na-dâd pul-o ke na-dâd.
 NEG-gave.3SG money-OM that NEG-gave.3SG
 ‘I don’t care that s/he didn’t give them the money.’

In most cases, however, the pre-*ke* constituent consists only of a verb since the proposition has already been introduced into the discourse context and thus constitutes given information and need not be repeated.

While the IKC almost always involves identity between two verbs, the durative aspect presents an exception. Both within the durative present and the durative past, the copied verb may appear in the subjunctive (see (37b)) rather than being an exact morphological copy of the first verb:

- (37) *Durative past*
- a. dâšt-an mi-raft-an ke mi-raft-an.
 had-3PL DUR-left-3PL that DUR-left-3PL
 ‘I don’t care that they were leaving.’
- b. dâšt-an mi-raft-an ke be-r-an.
 had-3PL DUR-left-3PL that SBJ-go-3PL
 ‘I don’t care that they were leaving.’

We return to this fact in the conclusion as something that the morphological doubling approach is particularly well-suited to handle.

4.3 Analogous Constructions

There are a number of constructions cross-linguistically that bear a resemblance to the IKC. We start with a construction in Japanese in which a predicate is copied and repeated after *koto wa*:

- (38) Speaker 1: kono okasi oisii ne.
 this cake tasty
 ‘This cake is tasty, isn’t it?’

shm-reduplicated sequence cannot appear in an argument position (see (42)) or be moved from one (see (43)):

- (42) a. **Money, schmoney* is a concept.
 b. **Money, schmoney* ruins everything.
 [Grohmann and Nevins 2004:158.36]

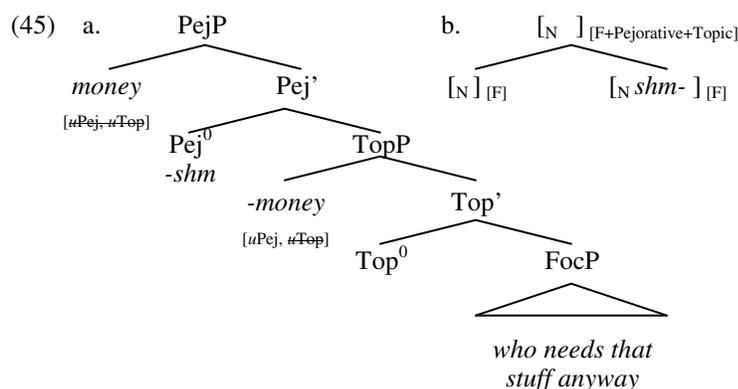
- (43) a. *Who needs *money schmoney* (anyway)?
 b. **Money, schmoney*, who needs ----- (anyway)?
 [Grohmann and Nevins 2004:158.34]

Grohmann and Nevins write that *shm*-reduplication is “employed when there is a salient discourse topic, and the speaker wishes to reflect a dismissive attitude towards that topic;” (p. 147). Thus they base-generate the reduplicated element in a topic position, noting that it may either be resumed clause-internally or can function as a clause-external topic:

- (44) a. *Money, schmoney*, who needs that stuff (anyway)?
 b. *Breakfast, shmreakfast*, look at the score for God’s sake!
 [Grohmann and Nevins 2004:158.35]

They account for the reduplication by movement from Topic Phrase (TopP) to a projection they label Pejorative Phrase (PejP). This projection can be realized in a number of ways: by a funny sound following the moved constituent or by a non-linguistic gesture such as a smirk or raised eyebrows. When the head of this projection contains *shm-*, the head and tail of the chain created by movement are both spelled out resulting in reduplication.

We note that under a view in which syntax is the manipulation of features, the structure submitted to PF for Grohmann and Nevins is something quite similar to a constructional schema: it involves identity of features that receive the same phonetic realization and added features such as [+Topic] and [+Pejorative]. We give a constructional schema in (45) for the sake of comparison:



4.4 Constructional Schema

The constructional schema for the IKC is more complex than the two we have seen above:

$$(46) \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{[TP.2] [indifference towards proposition expressed in TP.1]} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ \text{[TP.1 ... [V]}_{[F]} \dots \text{]} + ke \quad \text{[V]}_{[F]} \end{array}$$

In this schema the two sisters are not of the same syntactic category. One is a clause (TP.1) containing a verb and the other is just a verb sharing the same set of semantic features as the first verb. The particle *ke* appears as a fixed and invariant element within the schema. The resulting construct is a clause (TP.2) in which indifference is expressed towards the proposition denoted by TP.1.

5. Conclusion

In this paper we have presented three patterns of reduplication, all of which are productive and yet at the same time have an idiomatic flavour. We have argued that Inkelas and Zoll's Morphological Doubling Theory, whereby reduplication is analyzed as identity of semantic features, can best capture the facts. We have shown that MDT allows us to capture similarities between ER and the family of compounding constructions that often occurs within the same languages that have ER. We have shown that MDT can handle reduplication containing fixed elements (e.g. *Ezafe*, *ke*). This is an advantage as the *Ezafe* vowel does not normally appear between intensifiers and adjectives and the particle *ke* does not carry any of its normal meanings within the IKC. We have seen that morphologically complex items can reduplicate – something that does not present a problem for MDT. We have seen that Persian reduplication often involves non-adjacency between base and reduplicant and sometimes involves (morpho-phonological) non-identity between base and reduplicant (as in the case of the IKC and the durative aspect). Both of these facts are problematic for phonological theories of reduplication. Finally, under MDT the meaning of reduplication does not have to be attributed to the reduplicant but can be posited as a property of the construction as a whole.

Adopting MDT allows us to analyze Persian reduplication constructions as productive idioms: items with non-compositional semantics that are merged as chunks into larger syntactic structures. That we are able to capture both the productivity and the idiosyncracies of these reduplication constructions is a distinct advantage over theories that have come before.

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