



Semantic Functions Of Reduplication In English And Uzbek Languages.

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Abstract: This article discusses semantic functions of reduplication in English and Uzbek languages. Drawing on a comprehensive analysis of linguistic studies and examples from various sources, the research investigates various semantic aspects of reduplication across world languages and examines 16 prominent semantic functions in English and Uzbek languages. The insights in the article pave the way for a deeper comprehension of the dynamic and multifaceted nature of reduplication in diverse linguistic landscapes.

Key words: reduplication, semantic functions, plurality, distribution, collectivity, reciprocity, diversity, augmentation, diminution, intensification, attenuation, similarity, aimlessness, continuation, repetition, pretence, specificity, indefiniteness

INTRODUCTION. Semantic and functional characteristics of reduplication are not as extensive as their morphological and phonological counterparts. The article discusses the universal functions of reduplication within the framework of global languages, focusing primarily on their morphological and phonological aspects. Subsequently, the article scrutinizes whether these universal functions are manifested through reduplicative constructions in English and Uzbek languages and, explores any additional or distinctive semantic tasks beyond the universal ones.

MATERIALS AND METHODS. While the semantic aspects of reduplication and their linguistic functions have been explored in various fields, there remains a limited scope of research in this area. Nonetheless, several scholars have contributed to this field. For instance, B. Uspenskiy has investigated the four main semantic features expressed through reduplication (augmentation,



diminution, intensification, and attenuation) [6], while Y. Fedayeva [8] has focused on the function of expressing indefinite quantity. I. Melchuk [2: 273-288], in his research, has delved into the semantic aspects of reduplication, particularly emphasizing its exceptional cases and functions that have been overlooked in general studies. Additionally, Sharon Ikelas has discussed the diverse grammatical functions of reduplication [5:217]. Until now, discussions on the functions of reduplication from other sources have primarily emphasized its expressive functions in various languages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. In a specific sense, it has been identified that reduplication serves various semantic functions across numerous languages worldwide. In recent research, reduplicative elements in 108 languages have been found to exhibit a total of 45 distinct functions. We have compiled the most frequently encountered 16 functions below, drawing examples that align with each semantic task from studies conducted by scholars who have investigated reduplication both across languages and within individual languages [1, 3, 4, 7].

1. Plurality:

rumah – house; *rumah-rumah* – houses (Malay language, Malaysia)

anak – child; *anak-anak* – children (Indonesian language, Indonesia)

2. Distribution:

dú – ten; *dú-dú* – each of ten (Twi language, Ghana)

baláy – house; *baláybaláy* – each house (Hiligaynon language, Philippines)

3. Collectivity:

sanga – nine; *sanga-sangane* – all nine (Javanese language, Indonesia)

bar – two; *barbar* – both (Pacoh language, Laos)

4. Reciprocity:

palu- urmoq – to beat; *mipalupalu* – to beat each other (Yami language, Taiwan)

hormati – to respect; *hormat-menghormati* – to respect each other (Malay language, Malaysia)

5. Diversity:



havlú – towel; *havlú mavlú* – towel and similar things (Turkish language, Turkey)

кumэп – book, *кumэп-мумэп* – books and similar things (Kyrgyz language, Kyrgyzstan)

6. Augmentation:

ketír – many; *ketír-ketír* – very many (Nubian Arabic language, Sudan)

kihi – corner; *kihikihi* – zigzag (Hawaiian language, Hawaii)

7. Diminution:

wer – river; *walawer* – small river (Agta language, Philippines)

8. Intensification:

кызыл – red, *кызыл-кызыл* – very red (Kazakh language, Kazakhstan)

давно – long ago; *давным-давно* – very long ago (Russian language, Russia)

9. Attenuation:

maji – water; *maji-maji* – a bit wet (Swahili language, Tanzania)

magwalis – to sweep; *magwaliswalis* – to sweep a bit (Tagalog language, Philippines)

10. Similarity:

langit – sky, heaven; *langitlangit* – ceiling (Indonesian language, Indonesia)

11. Aimlessness and Vagueness:

duduk – to sit; *duduk-duduk* – to sit without doing anything (Malay language, Malaysia)

fura – dizzy; *furafura* – to wander (Japanese language, Japan)

12. Continuation:

taak – to talk; *taak-taak* – to continue talking (Jamaican Creole language, Jamaica)

mün – to drink; *münmün* – to continue drinking (North Ambrym language, Vanuatu)

13. Repetition:

biit – to hit; *biit-biit* – to hit repeatedly (Fijian language, Fiji)

leume – to come; *leume* – to repeatedly come back (Rotuman language, Fiji)

14. Pretence:

qaqay – to be sick; *qaqay-qay* – to pretend to be sick (Pacoh language, Laos)



15. Specificity:

mor – mother; *mormor* – grandmother (Norwegian language, Norway)

ruoka – food; *ruokaruoka* – healthy food (Sudanese Arabic language, Sudan)

16. Indefiniteness:

mmooy – which; *mmooy-mmooy* – any (Mapun language, Philippines)

saha – who; *sahasaha* – anyone (Sudanese Arabic language, Sudan)

In this study, we specifically examine the manifestation of 16 most prevalent functions of reduplication in English and Uzbek, drawing on reduplicative materials from both languages.

1. Plurality (Ko'plik):

English: -

Uzbek: *Sening **bola-chaqang** bor, akam yo'q deysan, men kimman, katta xolangning erimanmi?* (T.M. "Shaytanat")

2. Distribution (Taqsimot):

English: *It was topped with a slice of ham, a layer of plastic cheese and served with pickled onions and chips, the latter being of the **fifty-fifty** variety, that is: fifty per cent potato and fifty per cent grease.* (P.W. "Roads that move")

Uzbek: *Asta o'rnidan turib, **juft-juft** bolishlar zichlab yig'ilgan tokchani bo'shata boshladi.* (G.A. "Oy qiz")

3. Collectivity (Jamlash):

English: -

Uzbek: *Juda ko'p **qalang'i-qasang'iga** madad qo'lini cho'zdi.* (N.Q. "Unutilgan sohillar")

4. Reciprocity (Birgalik):

English: -

Uzbek: -

5. Diversity (Xilma-xillik):

English: -

Uzbek: *Demak, bular bozorga **meva-cheva** olib keluvchi dehqonlar emas.* (T.M. "Shaytanat")

6. Augmentation (Miqdorning ortishi):



English: -

Uzbek: *Namat allaqaysi bir musofir ko'p qo'nadigan choyxonadan chiqqan eski namat bo'lib, butun badani tanchalar, ustun o'rinlari uchun **ilma-teshik** bo'lgan Maxzumi tushmagur olarda ko'rmay olgan ekan.* (G'.G'. "Shum-bola")

7. Diminution (Miqdorning kamayishi):

English: -

Uzbek: *Ham dam olib kelamiz, ham **oz-moz** pulli bo'lib – Zo'r-u!* (N.A. "Tengsizlik")

8. Intensification (Darajaning ortishi):

English: ***Super-duper** moon expected in August.* (The Telegraph, 14 July, 2014)

Uzbek: *Axir hammasi **aniq-tiniq** ko'rinib turibdi-ku.* (A.M. "So'nggi chora")

9. Attenuation (Darajaning kamayishi):

English: *Once upon a time there was a **teeny-tiny** woman who lived in a teeny-tiny house in a **teeny-tiny** village.* (Joseph Jacobs "English Fairy Tale")

Uzbek: *Orqa safdagi qizlar chimmatini ko'tarib o'tirganlaridan ularning yuzlarini **sal-pal** ko'rsa bo'lardi.* (A.Ch. "Kecha va kunduz")

10. Similarity (O'xshashlik):

English: -

Uzbek: -

11. Aimlessness and Vagueness (Beqarorlik):

English: *You don't know what a loss you're inflicting on yourself; you don't know what trouble and mortification you're causing me by this **shilly-shally** conduct of yours.* (W.C. "No name")

Uzbek: -

12. Continuation (Davomiylik):

English: *Ten-year-old Lewis goes to live with his uncle in a creaky old house that contains a mysterious **ticktock** noise.* (Los Angeles Times, 2 Apr, 2021)

Uzbek: *Sog'indim, Xatni dugonalarim bilan **kula-kula** yozdigu, jo'natdik.* (G.S. "Siz o'shami?")

13. Repetition (Takroriylik):

English: -



Uzbek: *Ammo hamma bilmasayam, siz yaxshi bilasiz; o'zbek alohida pul bermasayam, **qistir-qistir** bor ekan, quruq qolmasligimiz tayin.* (Kun.uz, 13.06.2016)

14. Pretence (Taqlid):

English: -

Uzbek: *Endi **g'oz-g'oz** tura boshlagan qizaloq osma belanchakda.* (Sh.T. "Tongdagi ko'lanka")

15. Specificity (Aniqlik):

English: *Sometimes there is a recognized smell, like when your daughter smelled her **pop-pop's** aftershave on the first anniversary of his passing.* (S.A. "Shalom, my love")

Uzbek: -

16. Indefiniteness (Noaniqlik):

English: -

Uzbek: ***Erta-indin** sel kelyapti quduqlarning zaryadini tugatish kerakmi, yo'qmi?* (A.M. "Chinor")

In the analyzed examples above, we observe the distribution of reduplication across 16 semantic features in English and Uzbek languages. The table below illustrates how reduplication is categorized based on these features in both languages:

	Semantic features	English	Uzbek
1	Plularity (Ko'plik)	-	+
2	Distribution (Taqsimot)	+	+
3	Collectivity (Jamlash)	-	+
4	Reciprocity (Birgalik)	-	-
5	Diversity (Xilma-xillik)	-	+
6	Augmentation (Miqdorning ortishi)	-	+
7	Diminution (Miqdorning kamayishi)	-	+
8	Intensification (Darajaning ortishi)	+	+
9	Attenuation (Darajaning kamayishi)	+	+
10	Similarity (O'xshashlik)	-	-



11	Aimlessness and vagueness (Beqarorlik)	+	-
12	Continuation (Davomiylik)	+	+
13	Repetition (Takroriylik)	-	+
14	Pretence (Taqlid)	-	+
15	Specificity (Aniqlik)	+	-
16	Indifinitiness (Noaniqlik)	-	+

+ Presence of a feature; - Absence of a feature;

It is clear from this table that 6 of the 16 most common features of reduplication are found in English and 12 in Uzbek. In both languages, distribution, intensification, attenuation and continuation are expressed by reduplication. However, reciprocity and similarity are not expressed by means of reduplication in both languages.

Moreover, B. Uspensky, in studying the cross-linguistic semantic features of reduplication, emphasizes the presence of the linguistic universal known as “linguistic universal”: “If by means of reduplication decrease of quantity or degree may be expressed in a language, there are cases in that language in which reduplication expresses an increase of quantity or degree (in other words, it is assumed that there exists no language in which reduplication would express exclusively a decrease of quantity or degree).” According to this linguistic universal, if a language uses reduplication to express a decrease in intensity or quantity, there are instances where the same language utilizes reduplication to indicate an increase in intensity or quantity. Contrarily, when expressed with another term, reduplication in a particular language may not exclusively convey a decrease in intensity or quantity.

B. Uspensky’s proposed universality has been observed to hold true to a considerable extent for both English and Uzbek languages, as illustrated in Table 2. In English, as indicated in the table, the reduplication of a marker may lead to both an increase and a decrease in intensity or quantity. Conversely, in Uzbek, the reduplication of a marker is evidenced to result in both an increase and a decrease in intensity or quantity, corroborating that neither augmentation nor diminution is exclusively conveyed through reduplication in the language. In



conclusion, B. Uspensky's overarching idea of linguistic universal finds resonance in the examples from English and Uzbek languages, providing further support for his proposed linguistic universality.

CONCLUSION. Thus, we observe the following generalisations specific to the semantic functions of reduplicatives:

when nouns are reduplicated, they become singular, plural or collective nouns;
when verbs and adverbs are reduplicated, they show continuation or repetition of action;

when adjectives are reduplicated, they increase in degree/quantity;

when a word representing something small is reduplicated, it becomes even smaller in meaning;

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