

## AN ANALYSIS OF REDUPLICATION IN THE SINDHI LANGUAGE FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF MORPHOLOGICAL DOUBLING THEORY

**Ali Raza<sup>1</sup>**

MPhil Linguist Scholar, Department of English, Hamdard University, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan

**Abdul Sattar<sup>2</sup>**

MPhil Linguist Scholar, Department of English, Hamdard University, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan

**Kamran Ali<sup>3</sup>**

BS English Language and Literature Student at University of Sindh (UoS) Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan

**Nasrullah<sup>4</sup>**

BS English Language and Literature Student at University of Sindh (UoS) Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan

**Corresponding Author's Email [ar2929725@gmail.com](mailto:ar2929725@gmail.com)**

### Abstract

*Reduplication is the morphological process in a number of living languages in the world. This study analyzed reduplication and its types in Sindhi language. Sindhi is one of the oldest spoken language and it is a native language of Sindhi speakers. The use of reduplication in Sindhi Language is analyzed from the perspective of morphological doubling theory. It has been used to analyze function of total reduplication, partial reduplication, and non-sensical reduplication in Sindhi language. The data were collected through observation of native speakers of Sindhi language with examples such as /kəḏhənkəḏhən/ کڏهن کڏهن "Sometimes" (total reduplication), /pe:nve:n/ پين وين "Pen" (Partial reduplication), and /bʰobʰo/ بپ بپ "non-sense talk" (Non-sensical reduplication). The results showed that in Sindhi language reduplication is used in daily routine communication.*

**Key Words:** Reduplication, Sindhi language, Total Reduplication, Partial Reduplication, Non-sensical Reduplication, Morphological Doubling Theory

### 1. Introduction

Reduplication is morphological procedure where an entire or part of the base or root word is duplicated (Al Mahmoud, 2014). Total reduplication occurs where whole word is repeated while partial reduplication takes place when a part of the word is duplicated (Jaafar & Ahmad, 2013). Reduplication is considered as one of the morphological word-formation processes of creating new words where a whole or part of unbound morphemes are taken and attached to the root words through adding or changing a few syllables (Sims et al., 2010). Kauffman (2015) stated that reduplication in linguistics is a pattern since an ancient Greek uses in existing languages that are spoken all around the world, creating new words in morphology. According to Inkelas and Downing (2015) reduplication is a process that is determined to create new word through a base form of the original word. Reduplication is a significant as a base word and aspect in linguistics (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011).

Khalid (2015) asserted that it is an important mechanism that plays a vital role in word-formation in many of existing languages in the world. Similarly, according to Abbi (2001) reduplication is as word-formation process by adding a double syllable or same duplicating a single syllable to base word (phonological word), with respect to time language is not static but it is process of evolution and transformational journey. Reduplication is a common aspect to languages that enriches vocabulary productively (Parimalagantham, 2009).

Crawford (2015) opined that in many of the frequent spoken languages around the world, it is used productively such as Indonesian, Philippines, Australian, and South Asia.

Frequently Reduplication is also source to create a new words and with new grammatical rules and regulations of the same words with use of affixes. Linguists investigate its functions at the level of the morphological, phonological, and semantic in different existing languages. Thus, reduplication is a boundless source of creating new words from base words (Tannen, 1987). Reduplication signifies a doubling or copying of the same words either entirely or partially to stress upon specific propositions both in written as well as verbal form producing a completely new element.

At semantic level, reduplication functions differently; from phonological perspectives complete and partial lexical reduplication to repetition of an entire phrases and sentences. They are categorized in number of ways, such as coping root word as it is, i.e. in Sindhi /kədʱi: kədʱi/ کڏهن کڏهن ‘sometimes’, /pɑ:ni: pɑ:ni/ پاني پاني ‘water’, /kərkər/ ڪر ڪر ‘to do’, /pəlpəl/ پل پل ‘every time’ total reduplication. On the other hand when an item is added to base or root word, partial reduplication takes place. Furthermore, Partial reduplication can be placed into two dimensions: at first level it comes with a little bit change in the word. For example, /ma:ni: wa:ni/ ماني واني (Meal), /kita:bvita:b/ ڪتاب و ڪتاب ‘Book’, /pʰəŋŋi: vəŋŋi/ ڦٽي وڻي ‘Comb’. It is called the echo or partial compounding when these types of words indicate the repetition or rhyming of actual word with the different initial consonants e.g. dɪnʰ ‘day’ /dɪnʰ vɔdɪnʰ / ‘day by day’ (Kachru, 1990, P.62) whereas at the second level of partial reduplication the repeated word is in an actual case meaningless but has semantic influence of base word over second word for example, /galhmuhar/ ڳالهه مهار (talk) in this word muhar مهار means ‘face’ or ‘dimension’ when it comes with ڳالهه influenced semantically (Rahma, 2009).

According to Mangrio (2022) the concept partial or echo reduplication is also an alternative to phonetic root word or words. It has also multiple phonological aspects that seem interesting to the speakers in their ordinary communication. Reduplication also takes place at different levels: words, phrases, and sentences and at that they are known as lexical, phrasal, and syntactical reduplications (Hurch, 2005). Reduplication transforms human beings’ sensual and emotional aspects. Thus it is a linguistic term that enriches language features and representation in particular context (Kajitani, 2005). Morvacsik (1992) defines duplication as a one of language processes which consists of total or partial double repetition of syllable, word, and phrases. With this perspective to express emotional or sensual expression through language. It can also be used to point out intensity, completeness, and plurality. According to Huch (2005) in the recent years in the field of linguistics, reduplication has been analyzed as a central focus of language production.

### Research Objectives

- To investigate the different types of reduplication in Sindhi language.
- To comprehend the partial and total, and non-sensical reduplication.

### Research Questions

- What are types of reduplication in Sindhi language?
- How the formation of reduplication is classified in partial, total, and non-sensical?

### Significance of the Study

The present study on reduplication in Sindhi language, analyzed through morphological Doubling theory (MDT). It holds the prominent importance for the field of Sindhi linguistics and morphology. This study analyzed morphological structure and word formation in Sindhi language. It also provides a detailed understanding of reduplication. Present study contributes to documenting and to preserve Sindhi language and its diversity. Overall, the research offers an important insights of language structure, its use, and deeper comprehensive analysis of language diversity in Sindhi language and functions of reduplication into Sindhi language as a morphological process.

## 2. Literature Review

### Sindhi language

The initial source for human beings to communicate with each other is language. It is only language through which people share their thoughts, feelings, emotions, experiences, and also can be used to trade with people of other countries. Language never remains in the static position but it is evolutionary. Pakistan came into being on the map of world in 1947. It is the multicultural federation of four provinces which have different languages, cultures, civilizations, and historical identifications (David et al., 2017). Sindhi is considered one of the oldest and most spoken language of Indo-Aryan languages in Pakistan and in other states of the world (Cole, 2005). It is a native tongue of millions of people and indigenous language of Indus valley civilization (Allana, 2002; Jatoti, 1968). Regarding its foundation, various theories have been pioneered by language scholars. An exploration of the vocabulary, root words and grammatical rules and regulation suggest that Sindhi is Sanskrit language. On the other hand, NG. Shirt of Hyderabad (2012), one of the founders of research in Sindhi language, stated that Sindhi language is originally a daughter of Sanskrit language.

There is another group of scholars who are of view that Sindhi is older than a Sanskrit language in this region. The history of Sindhi language which is widely spoken throughout the province of Pakistan and other regions too, is in an actual case older than Sanskrit and directly or indirectly (Siraj, 1959). Junejo (2009), one of the researcher of Sindhi language stated that it can be claimed there was an existence of Sindhi language during the beginning of BC period. Allana (2002) stated that different scholars have different opinions on the huge historical perspective of Sindhi language. With respect to time Sindhi language evolved its rich words and literature in various ages of its history. Allana (2014) opined that Sindhi language remained under an influence of Persian language when it was an official language and thousands of words took place in Sindhi language. During the arrival of Islam, Sindhi language was not only spoken but available in alphabets (Allana, 1993).

### Morphology

Morphology is one of the basic levels of linguistics that focuses on formation of words by in language (Rahayu, & Eka, 2021). The word morphology derived from Greek word morphe (form) whereas logy means (study), in linguistics it means scientific study of how words are created or coined (Rahayu, & Eka, 2021). Another definition of morphology is given by one of the scholars is that it is investigation of various components or forms of words in any living language is called morphology. It deals with word-formation process through which new words are coined which are technically known as morphemes. It comprises of many elements with itself like in words: walk, walks, walked, walkable, walking all such words comprise one word 'walk' others are elements and all such elements are morphemes technically.

### Morphological Doubling Theory (MDT)

In Morphological Doubling Theory (MDT) reduplication is analyzed as repetition of part of word or as a whole word (As prefix, root, and whole word) based on its structure and semantic. It is a copy of portion of words that convey meaning too (Nkelas, 2005). Morphological Doubling Theory takes place that reduplication occurs when the morphology requires a specified feature of specific semantic description is repeated. In morphology both reduplicant (repeated part) and root (an original part) are actually features of structure and that structure carries shared meaning and as well as sound pattern. It conveys different meaning when in compound word both root and repeated part of the word are joined. Baure (2001) stated that the additional feature put between base and repeated parts "interfix". This interfix basically joins two compound words in Sindhi language as well as in other languages. Interfix is analyzed in reduplication. This analysis provides a complete theoretical framework for the

present research paper about morpho-semantic analysis of lexical reduplication that occurs in Sindhi language.

### Reduplication

Reduplication is a morphological process through which new words are formed by attaching part of the word or full word is added (Brinton et al., 2000). The process to create reduplication is determined through root word or part of word (Inkelas & Downing, 2015). Khalid (2015) opined that reduplication plays a significant role in word formation process in world's many living languages. It is frequently used in all living languages in the world (Crawford, 2015). Reduplication can bring change in meaning but still remains related to base or root word meaning (Sneddon, 1996). Furthermore reduplication is categorized into three major types: total reduplication which refers to the whole word is repeated (Kauffman, 2015, p. 3). For example in Sindhi in Sindhi /kadhenkadhen/ ڪڏهن ڪڏهن "sometimes". Partial reduplication refers to half or part of word is repeated such as from base word wahine "woman" and waahine "women". It also occurs in many of other languages in the world productively (Kauffman, 2015, p.3). On the other hand, non-sensical referred to semanticless function but phonologically it is used to function in an informal context.

Broad studies have been done on various languages of the world in reduplication perspectives and less studies are available when it comes to languages spoken in Pakistan. Yoshika (2017) is one of the important studies on reduplication regarding regional languages which are spoken in Pakistan. Thus the central focus of the present study on reduplication in Sindhi language which is spoken widely in Sindh, Pakistan.

### 3. Methodology

The data for the current study has been collected from the native speakers of Sindhi language. Furthermore, the data was collected through observation from natural setting such as public gathering, friendships, and family members. The sampling technique for collecting data was observation. The researcher has also included examples of the words from Sindhi reduplication that are part of Sindhi lexicon are also spoken at different contexts by local speakers of Sindhi language. There are 23 examples of reduplication of Sindhi language in the sample size for the current study. Keeping in a view Inkelas (2005) Morphological Doubling Theory (MDT), the focus of the study was only on the reduplicated elements of the utterances from the target locality.

#### Data Analysis

The researcher has analyzed the collected data based on examples of reduplication in Sindhi used by local speakers of Sindhi language. The data was categorized into total, partial, and non-sensical reduplication that is commonly used in Sindhi language.

#### Total and partial reduplication

Lieber (2009) opined reduplication is the morphological aspect of every living language that refers to words which are created by adding part of the word to base word or repetition of the same word. She was of view that the whole root word is repeated same, it is known as full or total reduplication. On the other hand in partial reduplication half or part of the word is attached.

#### Total reduplication

S No	Sindhi Reduplication	English Word	Grammatical Function
1.	/kəɖ <sup>h</sup> ənkəɖ <sup>h</sup> ən/ ڪڏهن ڪڏهن	Sometimes	Adverb
2.	/dʒəl.dɪdʒəl.di/ جلدي جلدي	Quickly	Adverb

3.	/ba:rba:r/ بار بار	Repeatedly	Adverb
4.	/ma:tʰma:tʰ/ ماڻ ماڻ	Quite	Adjective
5.	/ro:zro:z/ روز روز	Daily	Adverb/Adjective
6.	/kəθi: kəθi:/ ڪٿي ڪٿي	Where	Adverb
7.	/pa:ŋipa:ŋi/ پاڻي پاڻي	Water	Noun
8.	/kɪta:bkɪta:b/ ڪتاب ڪتاب	Book	Noun
9.	/sa:fsa:f/ صاف صاف	Plain	Adjective
10.	/əʃʔəʃ/ اچ اچ	To come	Verb
11.	/buɖʰa: buɖʰa:/ ٻڌا ٻڌا	To tell	Verb
12.	/bæskərbæskər/ بس بس ڪر	To stop	Verb

### ***Humair jaldi jaldi notes likhi warta***

#### **Humair hurriedly wrote down notes.**

Total reduplication creates a new word by repeating a root word in morphological process. Sindhi language uses compound concept as a word formation /sa:fsa:f/ as an example. This compound word /sa:f/ has two free morphemes. This word is reduplication of the base word and it functions as a total reduplication in Sindhi language. It also functions as a repetition of action. The word falls in parts of speech “Adjective” means “Plain”. Grammatically, it does not change but it functions to provide emphasis. Moreover, it is used in an informal context.

### **Partial Reduplication**

S No	Sindhi Reduplication	English word	Grammatical Function
1.	/pe:sawɛ:sa/ پيسا وپيسا	Money	Noun
2.	/no:kriwɔ:kri/ نوڪري و نوڪري	Job	Noun
3.	/tʃa:nhwa:ih/ چانهه وانهه	Tea	Noun
4.	/dɔsto:st/ دوست و دوست	Friend	Noun
5.	/pe:nwin/ پين وين	Pen	Noun
6.	/ba:rwa:r/ ٻار وار	Children	Noun
7.	/dʒʰɪɾo: bɪɾo: kəɾəŋ/ جهيڙو ٻيڙو ڪرڻ	To fight	Verb
8.	/fa:ltu: wa:ltu:/ فالتو والتو	Unnecessary	Adjective

### ***Kaleem nokri wukri lae paisa gad kry tho***

#### **Kaleem is saving/collecting money for the job.**

This is compound word which is comprised of two morphemes. The base word “nokri” in grammar is a noun. Moreover, it is a Partial Reduplication because it has specified meaning whereas “wukri” is semanticless but phonologically it exists in this situation.

### **Non-sensical reduplication**

S No	Sindhi Reduplication	English Word	Grammatical Function
1.	/bʰɔbʰɔ/ ٻٻ ٻٻ	Dog barking sound	Interjection
2.	/dɔmɔm/ ڊم ڊم	silly nonsense	Interjection
3.	/la la/ لا لا	lullaby tone	Interjection

### ***Ali bhein bhein kry pyo ghar main***

#### **Ali is mumbling at home.**

Non-sensical reduplication is used to repeat the part of word or whole word but it gives a playful effect rather than conveying meaning. Non-sensical is considered a part of Total



reduplication but it does not have any logical connection with it. It is an example of compound word in Sindhi language. This word has two morphemes. For example the word “bhein” is a part of first word “bhein”.

#### 4. Findings

The findings of this present study reveal that the use of reduplication and its types is creative as a word formation process in Sindhi language. The data analysis shows reduplication is productive and it enriches vocabulary of Sindhi language. Furthermore the findings of the study indicate different types of reduplication in Sindhi language which are used in daily routine communication. The use of reduplication and its various types has been investigated in living languages such as Punjabi, Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto, English, Philippine, Indonesian, and others too.

The findings also show that reduplication functions different purposes in Sindhi language. It has also been analyzed that total reduplication is not only bound to noun but it also functions as verb, adjective, adverb. When reduplication comes to verb, it is used to emphasize and intensify action of the verbs. Total reduplication in Sindhi language is used to show repetition of an action. On the other hand, partial reduplication is also used to serve different grammatical functions such as noun, verb, and adjective. The findings also reveal use of partial reduplication as productive and it is used to contribute in language. It is used to serve an important role in daily basis communication of native speakers of Sindhi language. Furthermore, enlisted words in the tables show use of total and partial reduplications in Sindhi language as a word formation process.

#### 5. Conclusion

The research study analyzed the application of reduplication in Sindhi language. Three categories have been analyzed: Total reduplication, partial reduplication, and non-sensical reduplication including its contextual applications. The data analysis clearly showed that in Sindhi, reduplication is productively used and it enriches Sindhi language vocabulary. Speakers of Sindhi language use reduplication including total and partial reduplication types. Even in some ways for emphasis over action, reduplication is used in Sindhi language.

#### References

- Amerian, M., & Jofi, L. (2015). Key concepts and basic notes on narratology and narrative. *Scientific Journal of Review*, 4(10), 182-192.
- Amin, M., & Ali, Z. (2021). Phonological and morphological variations between Lasi and Standard Sindhi. *Hor J. Hum. & Soc. Sci. Res*, 3(2), 181-194.
- Ananta, B. D. B., & Andini, T. M. (2024). Narratology Tzvetan Todorov Perspective In Dazai Osamu's Film Adaptation “The Fallen Angel” Directed By Genjiro Arato. *EDUJ: English Education Journal*, 2(2), 31-43.
- David, M. K., Ali, M., & Baloch, G. M. (2017). Language shift or maintenance: The case of the Sindhi language in Pakistan. *Language Problems and Language Planning*, 41(1), 26-45.
- Dolatpour Lakeh, T., & Shabani, M. (2023). Total Reduplication in Tati within the Framework of Morphological Doubling Theory. *Persian Language and Iranian Dialects*, 8(1), 115-142.
- Jalbani, Z. A. (2021). A Brief Review of Research on the Sindhi Language. *Makhz (Research Journal)*, 2(4), 535-551.
- Mazengia Beyene, S. (2021). Reduplication in Oromo. In *Grammatical and sociolinguistic aspects of Ethiopian languages* (pp. 245-268). John Benjamins Publishing Company.

- Mustafa, F. (2022). Evidence of (in) applicability of Morphological Doubling Theory in Acehnese reduplication. *EduLite: Journal of English Education, Literature and Culture*, 7(2), 342-355.
- Rahayu, F. E. S., & Eka, F. (2021). Introduction to English morphology. *Samarinda: Repository Universitas Mulawarman*.
- Rahman, M. U. (2009). Sindhi morphology and noun inflections. In *Proceedings of the Conference on Language & Technology* (pp. 74-81).