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Lexical Reduplication in Literary Works of Ashangbam Minaketan

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ASHANGBAM MINAKETAN

Abstract

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Lexical Reduplication in Literary Works of Ashangbam Minaketan

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This paper attempts to discuss the lexical reduplication only. Also, the focus is more on word reduplication in the literary works of Ashangbam Minaketan, a prominent writer of the modern Manipuri literature. The paper deals with word reduplication and its types as complete, partial and discontinuous word reduplication. Complete word reduplication can be further subdivided into the class maintaining type and the class changing type.

1. Introduction

Reduplication is the repetition of all or a part of a lexical item carrying a semantic meaning. Reduplication refers to a word formation process that repeats all or part of a word or phrase (Paul de Lancy, 2006). There are two types of reduplication namely, morphological reduplication and lexical reduplication.

Morphological reduplication refers to the minimally meaningful and segmentally indivisible morphemes which are constituted of iterated syllables (Abbi, 1992). Thus, it comprises of base and iterated part together to form a single morpheme.

For instances:

<i>krik-krik</i>	‘sound of rubbing stone’,	(Aseibagi Seiroi, p.30.)
<i>u-u</i>	‘sound of blowing wind’,	(Vasantagi Seireng, p.34)
<i>kukru-kukru</i>	‘cooing of pigeon’,	(Aseibagi Nitaipod, p.42)

The above examples show that the non-duplicated words *krik*, *u*, *kukru*, do not give the meaning of ‘Sound of rubbing stone’, ‘Sound of blowing wind’, ‘Sound of pigeon’ when the base and iterated words combined together, they give the meaning of ‘Sound of rubbing stone’, ‘Sound of blowing wind’, ‘Sound of pigeon’.

Lexical reduplication refers to the repetition of any sequence of phonological units comprising a word. Lexical reduplication can be analyzed in two ways:

- (a) Complete lexical reduplication
- (b) Partial lexical reduplication

(a) Complete lexical reduplication: It constitutes of two identical words. It is the phenomenon when a single word or clause is repeated once in the same sentence without any phonological or morphological variations.

lisiŋ - lisiŋ

thousand - thousand

t ^h əwan	lisiŋ	lisiŋ	t ^h okpəgum	‘like thousands of stars shinning’
star	thousand	thousand	shine like	(Vasanta Seireng, p.7)

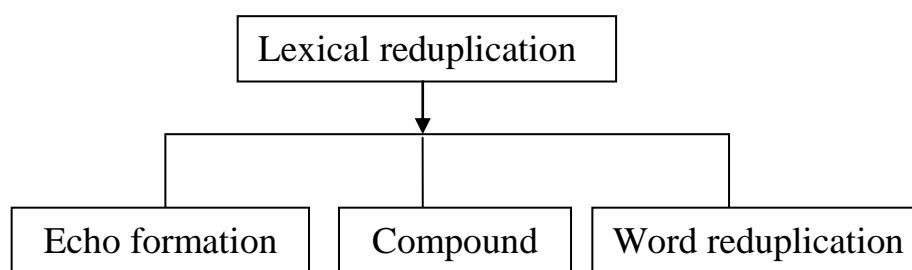
(b) Partial lexical reduplication: It constitutes of partial repetition of a syllable in a word.

həi-nəm	ləi-nəm	‘sweet smell of flowers and fruits’
fruit -smell	flower-smell	(Aseibagi Nitaipod, p.17)

The above example shows that the repetition took place in second syllable and the first syllable remains as it. Further, lexical reduplication can be analysed in three types based on the structure of the word.

2. Types of Lexical Reduplication

Lexical reduplication can be presented diagrammatically as shown below.



Echo- formation

It is a partially repeated form of the base word in which it is formed by the pairs of words. Each word is formed by two syllables, in which the second syllable remains same but changes take place in first syllable. It is also formed by the pair of words, in which the second word in the paired construction doesn't have any meaning of its own.

mirət - narət - ‘surreptitiously’ (Aseibagi Seiroi, p.3)

pidət - padət -

‘orphan’

(Aseibagi Jaybhai, p.46)

Compound

In compound lexical reduplication, two different lexical items, which have the same meaning, are used as a compound word to make a style of expression. They are literally very effective in expression.

taujiŋ-həiraŋ

‘fruit’ (Aseibagi Seiroi, p.10)

sinjel-ləiraŋ

‘flower’ (Aseibagi Nitaipod, p.14)

korəu-numit

‘sun’ (Vasanta Seireng, p.56)

Word reduplication

Word reduplication refers to the complete or partial reduplication. One of the most important kinds of reduplication under lexical reduplication is word reduplication, which is prime concern of the current paper.

3. Word reduplication and its types

Word reduplication and its types can be presented diagrammatically as (Abbi, 1975):

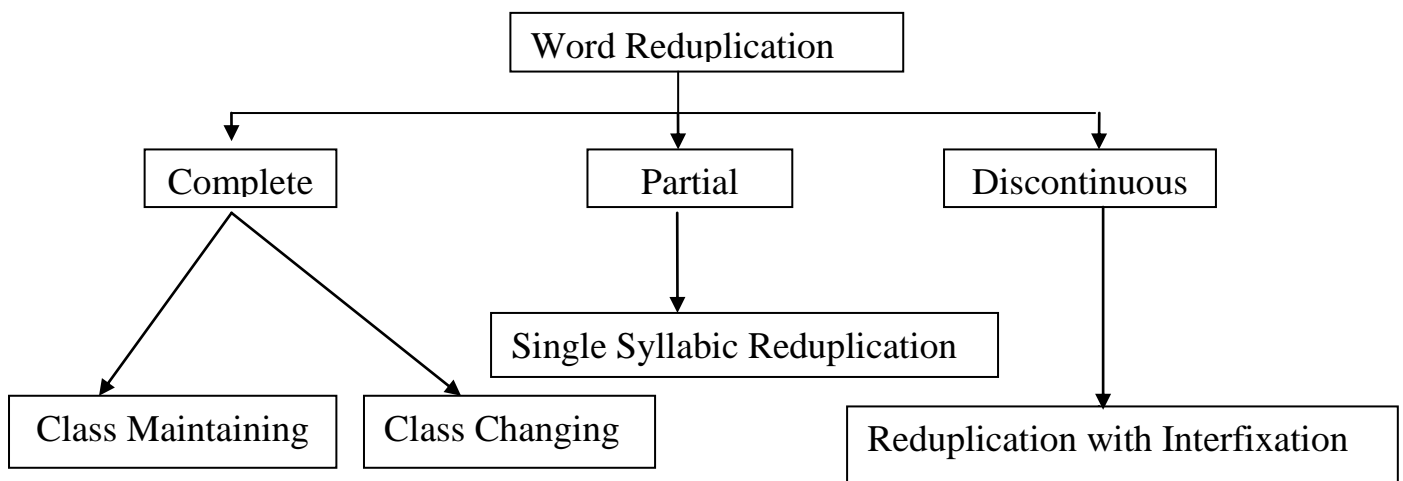


Diagram: **word reduplication**

Complete word reduplication can be further subdivided into:

- (i) The class maintaining type
- (ii) The class changing type.

In the class maintaining type, complete word reduplication remains in the same grammatical class of their non-iterated base. For instance;

(a) *təpnə* 'slowly' is an adverb and (Vasanta Seireng, p.18)

təpnə-təpnə 'slowly slowly' is also an adverb.

(b) *k^həllu* 'think' is a verb

k^həllu-k^həllu 'think think' it also a verb.

(c) *jug* 'century' is a noun

jug-jug 'century century' is also a noun (Sri Krishna Cheityadev p.8)

In the above example (a) the non-duplicated word '*təpnə*' is an adverb, base and iterated part combine together that is '*təpnə-təpnə*' is also an adverb. Therefore, it shows that both share the same grammatical class. In example (b) the non-duplicated word '*k^həllu*' is a verb, base and iterated part combine together that is '*k^həllu-k^həllu*' also a verb. Therefore, it shows that both share the same grammatical class. In example (c) the non-duplicated word '*jug*' is a noun, base and iterated part combine together that is '*jug-jug*' also a noun. Therefore, it shows that both share the same grammatical class.

In the class changing type, complete word reduplication refers to those constructions when the reduplicated structure enters a different grammatical class from that of its non-reduplicated base. But in Manipuri such types of class changing of lexical reduplication are not found in the literary works of Ashangbam Minaketan.

Partial Word Reduplication

Word reduplication can also be constituted by duplicating a part of the word (generally a syllable). Examples:

(i) *put^hok - pusin* 'carry something outside and inside'

(Meitei Lairol, p.1)

(ii) *cinja - təmja* 'the place where the hill and the valley meet'

(Aseibagi Jaibhai, p.15)

- (iii) həinəm - ləinəm 'sweet smell of flowers and fruits'
(Aseibagi Nitaipod, p.17)

Discontinuous Word Reduplication

Word reduplication can be constituted by discontinuing the two iterated words, by a link verb 'ni'.

əranbə - ni- əranbə 'that is wrong' (Aseibagi Seiroi, p.8)

məhakt^həŋ - ni-məhakt^həŋ 'for him/her' (Sanarik Pareng, p.122)

The above examples show that the two iterated word are joined by a link verb 'ni'.

4. Conclusion

The present study is an attempt to identify lexical reduplication as a stylistic device in the literary works of Ashangbam Minaketan. It also analyses echo word, compound and word reduplication. The data presented reveals that Ashangbam Minaketan has used well refined, appropriate reduplicative words to beautify his writing. The choice of words by Ashangbam Minaketan plays a very significant role in presenting his works and concepts. Such a type of presentation brings the readers very close to the writer.

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