

Reduplication of Nouns in Mayrinax Atayal

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Abstract

Reduplicant forms of nouns vary in Mayrinax Atayal. Nouns to be reduplicated to express plurality, and there are two forms of it, that is, Ca and leftward reduplication. For Ca reduplication in Mayrinax Atayal which Huang (2000) mentions in her book, which is used to form location noun or future tense as (2). During the field work, one more usage of Ca reduplication is found, and this usage can pattern with other noun reduplication which is used to indicate plurality as (1). Some specific type of words can only have Ca reduplication, and some other words can only have leftward reduplication depending on carrying distributive meaning or not. In terms of the leftward reduplication forms, they do not share an obvious template for its RED. In that case, under the framework of Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky 1993, McCarthy and Prince 1993a, b), I suggest that the variations of reduplicant of noun are due to the effect of the need of fulfilling prosodic well-formedness and morphological well-formedness, therefore, alignment constraints (of General Alignment (McCarthy and Prince, 1993)) and constraints like PARSE- μ and FT-BIN are applied for analysis.

Leftward reduplication of noun has several forms, CV ((6)&(7)), CVC (5), CVCV (3), and CVV (4). Because the average size of reduplicants is CVC, which is one of the leftward reduplication forms, others are one segment bigger or smaller than this average size. Therefore I assume there are some reasons causing this change in size. Red-augment aligning constraint RED- $\sigma\mu$ -RIGHTSEG (which require a reduplicant to right-aligns with a heavy/close syllable) and ALIGN-ROOT-LEFT (which requires the root to be left-aligned with the left edge of a prosodic word) are used to capture this idea.

The two constraints are applied to restrict the augment size from “being too big or too small”. With the restriction of augment size, another factor, say, prosodic, will activate for further modification. Among (a) \underline{CV}^μ - \underline{CV}^μ \underline{CV}^μ \underline{CV}^μ C, (b) \underline{CV}^μ C $^\mu$ - \underline{CV}^μ C $^\mu$ \underline{CV}^μ C and (c) \underline{CV}^μ \underline{CV}^μ - \underline{CV}^μ \underline{CV}^μ C, reduplicated words have even number of moras except for (c), so I further assume the prosodic factor just mentioned is the need for reduplicated words be binary footed. Next, another alignment constraint, ALIGN-FT-LEFT, is applied to avoid misalignment between a foot and a syllable such as (\underline{CV}^μ)(\underline{C}^μ - \underline{CV}^μ)(\underline{C}^μ \underline{CV}^μ C) (a pair of parentheses represent a foot). Finally, to avoid WEIGHTBYPOSITION taking place in the reduplicant such as *(\underline{CV}^μ C $^\mu$)-(\underline{CV}^μ \underline{CV}^μ C) which is one of the candidates for CVCVC words, faithfulness constraint IDENTLINK- μ -BR is used to make sure moras can faithfully mapping between Base and Reduplicant. In conclusion, after the discussion, the crucial ranking IDENTLINK- μ -BR \gg RED- $\sigma\mu$ -RIGHTSEG \gg PARSE- μ \gg FT-BIN \gg ALIGN-ROOT-LEFT is concluded for the analysis of reduplication of noun.

- (1) /kiʔman/ ‘weed’ → /ka-kiʔman/ ‘weed everywhere’
- (2) /qalup/ ‘to hunt’ → /qa-qalup-an/ ‘the place where to hunt’
- (3) /ʔimuy/ ‘house’ → /ʔimu-ʔimuy/ ‘a lot of houses’
- (4) /ruas/ ‘paper’ → /rua-ruas/ ‘a lot of papers’
- (5) /ʔiŋhaʔ/ ‘they’ → /ʔiŋ-ʔiŋhaʔ/ ‘a lot of them’
- (6) /kahuniq/ ‘a tree’ → /ka-kahuniq/ ‘forest’
- (7) /quqiluh/ ‘a banana’ → /qu-quqiluh/ ‘a lot of bananas’
- (8) /kuj/ ‘bug’ → /kuj-kuj/ ‘a lot of bugs’
- (9) /heiŋ/ ‘salt’ → /hei-heiŋ/ ‘salt everywhere’
- (10) → /ha-heiŋ/ ‘salt everywhere (in the soup)’

Selected References:

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