

Reduplication and hypercharacterizing suffix-doubling in child language

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The aim of this contribution is to focus on morphological aspects of reduplication and hypercharacterizing suffix-doubling and show how they differ from each other and from the respective adult languages. The child data used for this paper are longitudinal and come from the international “Cross-linguistic Project on Pre- and Protomorphology in Language Acquisition” and within this project predominantly from the authors’ languages French, German, Polish and Russian.

After excluding early phonological, onomatopoeic and filler-like (pseudo)reduplications we’ll deal with morphologically meaningful reduplications which express iteration and other imperfective aspectual meanings, such as R. *kap-kap-kap* ‘is dripping’ (from *kap-a-t* ‘to drip’, G. *bau-bau-bau* ‘is building’ (from *bau-en* ‘to build’).

Suffix-doubling in the strict sense occurs in adult-like and idiosyncratic recursiveness of diminutives and in hypercharacterization, where two synonymous suffixes follow each other in a non-adult-like way, e.g. G. *Erbs-i-ss-en* ‘pea-DIM-PL-PL’, *Auto-s-n* ‘car-PL-PL’. In such cases, always the less productive suffix is followed by a more productive one.

