

## Quadrisyllabic Reduplication in Taiwanese

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This paper discusses adjective reduplications in Taiwanese, a Southern Min dialect spoken in Taiwan. In this language, disyllabic adjectives can often be reduplicated into quadrisyllabic forms. In that event, the position of the reduplicant is closely related to semantic function. Consider the following examples:

Base: *tshing khi* ‘clean’

(1) *tshing tshing khi khi* ‘very clean’

(2) *tshing khi tshing khi* ‘a bit clean’

The quadrisyllabic string in (1) displays an emphatic function, meaning ‘very clean’, whereas that in (2) shows a weakening function, meaning ‘a bit clean’. In other words, given AB (*tshing khi*) as the base, the reduplicated AABB is a semantically strong form, while the reduplicated ABAB is a semantically weak form. In terms of the Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky 1993/2004), this paper proposes a set of constraints to account for this difference; in particular, Adjacency-BR, which requires the reduplicant to be adjacent to its corresponding base (Lunden 2004), and Align-R, which requires the right edge of the reduplicant to coincide with the right edge of the prosodic word (McCarthy and Prince 1993). Cophonologies (as proposed by Anttila and Cho 1998, Inkelas and Zoll 2007, among others) are found in these quadrisyllabic reduplications, as listed below.

(3) Cophonology A: Adjacency-BR >> Align-R

(4) Cophonology B: Align-R >> Adjacency-BR

Cophonology A applies to the strong forms, deriving AABB, while Cophonology B operates in the weak forms, deriving ABAB. In addition, this paper also discusses such forms as ABAC and ABCB, which semantically also serve to stress, but requires further constraints. This paper engages in the study of the peculiar reduplicant orders and its semantic correlates, and explores a general theory of reduplication.

More Examples of Quadrisyllabic Reduplication

Table 1. AB→AABB、ABAB

Base	Reduplication	
AB	AABB (emphatic function)	ABAB (weakening function)
<i>lo so</i> 'long-winded'	<i>lo lo so so</i> 'very long-winded'	<i>lo so lo so</i> 'a bit long-winded'
<i>huann hi</i> 'happy'	<i>huann huann hi hi</i> 'very happy'	<i>huann hi huann hi</i> 'a bit happy'

Table 2. ABC→ABAC

Base	Reduplication
ABC	ABAC (emphatic function)
<i>bo li iu</i> 'without reasons'	<i>bo li bo iu</i> 'without any reasons' (stressed meaning)
<i>ho sim i</i> 'kindhearted'	<i>ho sim ho i</i> 'very kindhearted'

Table 3. ABC→ABCB

Base	Reduplication
ABC	ABCB (emphatic function)
<i>kha tshiu nng</i> 'legs and hands are exhausted'	<i>kha nng tshiu nng</i> 'legs and hands are very exhausted'
<i>tshi peh tsa</i> 'early morning'	<i>tshi tsa peh tsa</i> 'very early morning'

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