

**Reduplication from cross-linguistic perspective**

Pavol Štekauer and Lívía Körtvélyessy

Department of British and US Studies, P.J. Šafárik University, Košice, Slovakia

[pavel.stekauer@upjs.sk](mailto:pavel.stekauer@upjs.sk)   livia.kortvelyessy@upjs.sk

While reduplication is employed by both inflection and derivation in various languages the paper concentrates exclusively on its role in word-formation. Cross-linguistic research into word-formation characteristics of 55 languages of the world has shown that 44 of them, i.e., 80% make use – more or less productively – of the process of reduplication for the formation of new words (Stekauer et al., to appear). In some of the sample languages, reduplication plays a central role by being the most productive word-formation process, such as Amele. In others, it is one of the most important word-formation processes, for example, Ilocano, Karao, Clallam, Kwakw'ala, Mandarin Chinese, Telugu, Bahasa Indonesia, Pipil, Swahili, Tamil, and Hausa. In other languages, the role of reduplication is negligible or totally unproductive. They primarily include all Indo-European languages in the sample, and also Slavey, Bardi, Ket, Lakhota, Maipure, Malayalam, Tatar, East Dangla, Tzotzil, Udihe, Hindi, and West Greenlandic.

The paper presents different approaches to reduplication and gives examples of ambiguous cases. Subsequently, it provides an overview of various types of reduplication, like simple reduplication, reduplication combined with affixation or compounding, complete and partial reduplication, echo-compounding, various formal subtypes of partial reduplication (preposing, postposing, infixing, partial accompanied with stem modification, etc.) and complete reduplication (root, stem and word reduplication). Furthermore, the process is examined from the point of view of word-classes because, in fact, all types of words (verbs, nouns, adjectives, numerals, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions) can occur in the reduplicated form. Attention is also paid to multiple reduplication and to the distribution and segmental structure of the reduplicated material. The final part of the paper discusses the diversity of semantic functions served by reduplication. All the individual points of the paper are illustrated with copious examples. The paper concludes with a proposal of a few universals drawn on the basis of our research.

**References:**

Pavol Štekauer, Salvador Valera, Livia Körtvélyessy (to appear). Word-Formation in the World's Languages. A typological survey. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.