

Replicative Processes: Morphology

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Reduplication as Alliteration and Rhyme: Yip (1999)

Claim:

“The real core of reduplication is an attempt to produce sequences that rhyme and alliterate [...] Rather than involving an abstract affix, reduplication is *caused* by RHYME and ALLITERATE constraints.” (p. 1)

- (1) ALLITERATE:
Output must contain at least one pair of adjacent syllables with identical onsets.
- (2) RHYME:
Output must contain at least one pair of adjacent syllables with identical rhymes.

Observation:

Prefixal reduplicants take their segmental material from the beginning of the word, suffixal reduplicants take their segmental material from the end of the word.

- (3) Tagalog:
 - a. lākad la-lākad ‘walking’
 - b. takboh tā-takboh ‘will run’
- (4) Kamaiura:
 - a. o-huka o-huka-huka ‘he kept laughing’
 - b. je-umirik je-umiri-miri-k ‘I tie up repeatedly’
- (5) Not found:
 - a. *bo-takboh
 - b. *bunita-bu

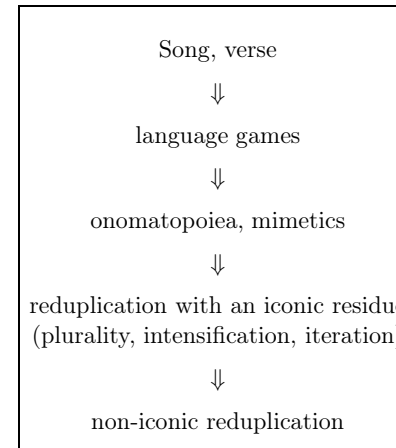
Note:

Markedness constraints (‘phonology’) can selectively intervene and blur this simple picture.

- (6) *Patterns and Rankings*:
 - a. ALLITERATE ≫ RHYME ≫ MARKEDNESS:
hop hop, hi? hop lop

- b. RHYME ≫ ALLITERATE ≫ MARKEDNESS:
hop hop, hi? hop lop
- c. ALLITERATE ≫ MARKEDNESS ≫ RHYME:
hi? hop
- d. RHYME ≫ MARKEDNESS ≫ ALLITERATE:
hop lop
- e. MARKEDNESS ≫ RHYME ≫ ALLITERATE:
hop
- f. MARKEDNESS ≫ ALLITERATE ≫ RHYME:
hop

(7) *A continuum:*



Question:

Why does rhyme in poetry avoid onset identity?

Holtman’s (1996) answer:

There is a high-ranked constraint ONSET DISSIMILARITY effective here.

Yip’s answer:

Given ALLITERATE, this is unlikely. Rather: “Alliterate is low-ranked and thus not observed, and chance occurrence of complete syllable repetitions are avoided for semantic and stylistic reasons; indeed rhymes like *diverse/reverse* or *design/resign*, where the syllable repetition does not lead to word repetition, are perfectly acceptable.” (p. 7)

Yip, Moira (1999): Reduplication as Alliteration and Rhyme, *GLOT International* 4(8), 1 & 7.