



A Study of Word Reduplication in Descriptive Essay of Korean BIPA Students at the Advanced Level

Agus Sulaeman¹

sultanwahyu13@gmail.com
Muhammadiyah University of Tangerang

Kim Dong Hoon

donghoonkim@hufs.ac.kr
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Korea

Ahmad Sultan Wahyu Hidayat

ahmadsultanmu@gmail.com
Tangerang Raya University, Banten

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Abstract: This study aims to describe the use of reduplication which includes form, function, and meaning in essays written by South Korean BIPA learners. The research study focused on how the ability to write descriptive essays uses repetition words in building a complete and effective narrative. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach with content analysis techniques on student essay data on the theme of natural and cultural phenomena. The results of this study found that repetition of whole reduplication words (aluruh) is the most dominant form used, especially to express plural or collective meanings. In addition, the use of affixed reduplication was also found to express duration or intensity, as well as partial reduplication in certain words. These findings indicate that although Korean students have a strong basic understanding of Indonesian morphology, the tendency of use is still limited to general forms. The results of this study are expected to contribute to the development of BIPA teaching materials, especially in enriching learners' understanding of the variations in grammatical meanings of reduplication so that the messages conveyed are more specific, accurate, and do not cause ambiguity in professional written communication.

Keywords: Word reduplication, Descriptive Essay, Korean BIPA students, written communication

INTRODUCTION

Indonesian holds a crucial position as both the national and official language of the country, serving as a unifying force for the diversity of ethnicities and cultures across the archipelago. History records that Indonesian is rooted in Malay, which for centuries served as a lingua franca for inter-island trade and communication. Syamsi et al. (2025) also emphasized that official recognition through the 1928 Youth

Pledge and the 1945 Constitution made Indonesian a symbol of national identity that strengthens national unity.

As the primary medium for conveying ideas, concepts, and feelings, language continues to evolve to meet the needs of its users. One of the most common linguistic phenomena in everyday communication is reduplication, or the process of repeating words. Research (Prasetyawan, 2014) also

¹ Corresponding Author

explains that language can be studied from three main perspectives: form, function, and meaning, all of which are interrelated in supporting language's role as a means of social interaction. Reduplication is not merely the repetition of sounds, but rather a morphemic process capable of changing or expanding the basic meaning of a word to convey a more specific message. In the context of education and literacy, understanding reduplication is crucial because of its widespread use in various types of texts (Lestari et al., 2024).

According to (Setiaji et al., 2019), mastery of reduplication forms significantly influences a person's ability to construct effective sentences. If reduplication is used inappropriately or inappropriately in context, the intended message can be ambiguous or even misinterpreted by the reader. Therefore, an in-depth study of how reduplication is applied in writing, both by native speakers of a particular dialect and by foreign language learners, is an interesting topic to research. In this article, we will examine A comprehensive analysis of reduplication theory and its relationship to data findings from Korean dialect documents and student essays. This study focuses not only on the forms of reduplication that occur, but also on how the function and meaning of this repetition are used to construct a coherent and comprehensible narrative.

Reduplication, or the process of repeating words, is understood as a highly productive word-formation mechanism in Indonesian grammar. According to Fradana (2018), reduplication is a morphemic process involving the repetition of a base form, either in whole or in part. Its main characteristics include: a clear base form, a meaningful connection to the original word, variation in the form of repetition, and the ability to alter grammatical function (Idris et al., 2022).

Based on the mechanism, there are four main types of reduplication in Indonesian, namely complete reduplication which occurs when the entire basic form of a word is repeated without any changes in elements at all, partial reduplication known as *dwipurwa*, this type only repeats part of the syllable in its basic form, affixed reduplication which involves the addition of affixes (suffixes) to the repeated word, sound-changing reduplication which occurs by involving the entire basic form, but one of its

elements experiences a change in vowel or consonant (Sopacua et al., 2022).

The meaning of reduplication includes the meaning of many, unconditional/although meaning, the meaning of resembling (imitation), repeated actions, actions carried out casually, the meaning of reciprocity, to the intensity of feelings. (Putri, 2017) added that reduplication has the characteristic of not changing the word class or word class (limited derivative). Simply put, reduplication is the process of repeating language units as a phonological and grammatical tool.

In BIPA learning, students are required to write descriptive essays that describe an object in words so that readers can imagine its shape, color, sound, smell, atmosphere, and impression. (Anggini, 2022). Descriptive essays are essays that describe or depict an object, place, person, atmosphere, or thing in detail with words. The goal is for readers to feel as if they can see, hear, smell, touch, or feel the object being described, even though it is not in front of them.

(Septiana, 2022) writing skills in BIPA are the ability of learners to express ideas, thoughts, and information into Indonesian writing appropriately, according to rules and context. (Downing.L, 2015) Reduplication in descriptive writing is the repetition of words used to give a clearer, stronger, or more varied effect when describing something, in descriptive writing, reduplication makes the writing more "alive" and readers can more easily imagine an event or an incident described by a writer.

The ability to write descriptive essays is the ability to describe objects, places, people, or situations in detailed, structured, and vivid writing. It's not just about being able to write, but also about making the reader "see" through words.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. A qualitative descriptive approach is one that does not use statistical methods, but rather relies on qualitative evidence, where the data collected is in the form of words and images, rather than numbers. This method was chosen because the research aims to

This study describes in detail the form, function, and meaning of reduplication in Indonesian without involving statistical calculations. The research data consists of words, phrases, and sentences containing

reduplication obtained from 6 descriptive essays written by South Korean students.

The data collection technique was carried out through the content analysis method, namely by carefully reading the descriptive text and then recording data relevant to the research focus. The collected data were then analyzed using qualitative analysis techniques through the stages of data reduction, classification of reduplication types,

interpretation of function and meaning, and drawing conclusions. With this method, the research is expected to be able to provide a systematic and in-depth picture of the use of reduplication in various writing contexts so that the data can be classified as descriptive text according to the research source.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings of research data from 6 descriptive text data are classified in the table below:

Data Table

The Use of Reduplication in Korean Students' Compositions That Have Been Analyzed.

No	Data	Reduplication Intact	Reduplication Affixes	Reduplication Changing Sound
1.	JK	"children who is still small"	not found	not found
		"children about the importance of maintaining natural"s		
		. "sign-sign of an eruption"	not found	not found
2.	KI	"K-pop songs"	"years-the year before debut"	
3.	KHE	"water that pools on the roads-road"	not found	not found
4.	JL	"lately it's raining"	not found	not found
5.	LJ	"ingredients experience"	"daily habits"	not found
6.	PJ	"the temperature suddenlyget off at evening"	not found	not found
		"the temperature suddenlyget off at evening"	not found	not found
		"the temperature suddenlyget off at evening"	not found	not found

Discussion of Research Results

1. In the data of student 1 (KJ) there are two complete reduplications.

a) The first complete reduplication is in the sentences "children who are still small" and "children about the importance of preserving nature." Reduplication occurs in the word "children" because the root word is repeated completely, thus forming "children." In Indonesian, this means many children or a group of young people.

b) The second complete reduplication is in the form of the sentence "signs of an eruption." Reduplication occurs in the word "sign" because the root word gets complete repetition, so that the word forms "signs". In Indonesian, this means symptoms or indications that something will happen.

2. In student data 2 (KI) there are two types of reduplication, namely one complete reduplication and one affix reduplication.

a) The first example of reduplication is the sentence "K-pop songs." Reduplication occurs in the word "lagu" because the root word is repeated in its entirety, forming "lagu-lagu." In Indonesian, this means a collection of more than one song.

b) The second reduplication, which is affix reduplication, is the sentence "many years before debut." Reduplication occurs in the word "year" because the base word is repeated and also receives the prefix affix (ber-), so the word "year" forms "many years." In Indonesian, this means a very long duration of time.

3. In the data of student 3 (KHE) there are two types of reduplication, namely one complete reduplication and one partial reduplication.

a) The first reduplication occurs in the sentence "water that pools on the streets." Reduplication occurs in the word "jalan" (street) because the root word is repeated in its entirety, thus forming "jalan-jalan" (roads). In Indonesian, this means recreational activities or traveling around.

b) The second type of reduplication, which is partial reduplication, is the sentence "several causes." Reduplication occurs from the root word "berapa," which is categorized as partial repetition, forming "beberapa." In

Indonesian, this means an indefinite number or more than one.

4. In the data of student 4 (JL) there are two types of reduplication, namely one complete reduplication and one partial reduplication.

a) The first reduplication is the sentence "lately it's raining." Reduplication occurs in the word "akhir" because the root word is repeated in its entirety, forming "akhir-akhir." In Indonesian, this means the time when rain has just fallen.

b) The second type of reduplication, which is partial reduplication, is the sentence "in several areas." Reduplication occurs from the root word "berapa," which is categorized as partial repetition, forming "beberapa." In Indonesian, this means an indefinite number or more than one.

5. In the data of student 5 (LJ) there are two types of reduplication, namely one complete reduplication and one affix reduplication.

a) The first example of reduplication is the sentence "natural materials." Reduplication occurs with the word "material" because the root word "material" is repeated in its entirety, thus forming "bahan-bahan." In Indonesian, this word refers to various types of natural materials or objects.

b) The second reduplication is the reduplication of affixes, which occurs in the sentence "daily habits." Reduplication occurs in the word "hari" because it is repeated and also receives the prefix affix (se-), thus forming "sehari-hari." In Indonesian, this means something that is routine or done every day.

6. In the data of student 6 (PJ), there are two types of reduplication, namely three complete reduplications and one affix reduplication.

a) The first complete reduplication is the sentence "the temperature suddenly dropped at night." Reduplication occurs in the word "tiba" (abruptly) because the root word is repeated completely, thus forming "tiba" (suddenly). In Indonesian, this means something that happens suddenly.

b) The second complete reduplication occurs in the sentence "plants and flowers." Reduplication occurs in the word "bunga"

because the root word "bunga" is repeated completely, thus forming "bunga-bunga." In Indonesian, this means a collection of many flowering plants.

- c) The third complete reduplication occurs in the sentence "people wear coats." Reduplication occurs in the word "people" because the root word is repeated completely, thus forming "people-people." In Indonesian, this means a plural or large number of human subjects.
- d) The last reduplication is the reduplication of affixes in the sentence "flowers that have a warm temperature". Reduplication occurs in the word "flowers" because the base word

The word is repeated and also gets the prefix (ber-), so that the word forms "berbunga-bunga". In Indonesian, this means the state of a plant that is producing flowers.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data analysis conducted on Korean students' essays, it can be concluded that the use of reduplication is a crucial morphological element that helps students in constructing Indonesian narratives, with the main findings showing the dominance of whole reduplication as the main means to express plurality or frequency. Although these foreign learners tend to choose the simplest form of reduplication, they have also been able to integrate affixed and partial reduplication appropriately to express adverbs of time, routine, and indefinite number, which proves the systematic development of grammatical competence. Overall, mastery of this reduplication strengthens the sentence structure in their essays, but there is still a need for in-depth material related to more complex variations of reduplication, such as repetition of sound changes, so that Korean students' writing skills can reach a level of fluency equivalent to native speakers and minimize the risk of misinterpretation in broader communication contexts.

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