Linguistic Techniques for Global Language Development

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Abstract

The linguistic techniques of global language development are the main aim of this study. To achieve this goal, the Anaang language was used as the pilot study since there are thousands of languages in the world. Anaang Language belongs to the Benue Congo sub-family group of Niger-Congo, as stated by Greenberg. In this light, coinages by translation, coinages by composition, coinages by affixation, coinages by description, borrowing, blending, clipping, reduplication, etc. Out of the above, reduplication has been spotted for in-depth research. Therefore, 40 Anaang indigenes, eight residents of the five variants speech community, were engaged in the research using voice tape to interview them randomly. Eventually, we realized that total and partial reduplication will serve as a major technique for global language development, as the phenomenon of language is equal and applicable to all languages in the world.

Keywords: Coinages, Reduplication and Techniques.

Introduction:

The process of modernization has been used to create thousands of new words that are contemporary to our time. This will enable the language to discuss all facts of modern life, including education, science, technology, literature, etc. The English language employed this method to become an international language that can discuss all aspects of life around the world. This modernization of the language can be achieved through borrowing, translation, coinages, semantics, extension, compounding, reduplication, and blending. It enables the language to communicate with the modern world and fit properly into the space of time in all aspects of its endeavour. It is language planning that occurs when a language is to be expanded so that its lexicon can meet its expected functions. Modernization is often implemented when a group gains independence from a colonial government or when the educational policy needs the use of such languages, as in the Nigerian case. In the case above, the potential force in achieving the goal of modernization is in developing the lexicon of the language so that it may enable the language to discuss contemporary issues. As expounded by Nyarks (2022:139), Every language that is not developed needs enrichment of its vocabulary. As such, every undeveloped language should develop its literary capacity through lexical achievement; otherwise, the language concerned runs the risk of dying out.

As such, the language planners will focus on the creation of new lists and new terms that must be agreed upon by the generality of the people. This case of language planning is seen in nearly all languages, as implemented in English, French, Hungarian, and Japanese. While Hungarians used internal processes to create new lexical items, English and Japanese adopted borrowing techniques to achieve modernization. Modernization can be achieved through various

vocabulary developments, such as semantically motivated coinages: coinage by affixation, coinage by restructuring, coinage by composition, coinage by translation, coinage by description, borrowing blending, clipping, compounding, reduplication, etc. In this study, reduplication shall be the main topic of discussion as a technique of language development.

Coinage is the process of inventing new words or phrases to stand for an expression that does not have a name in a particular language. Coinage involves using various items of a language to form words or expressions. The items so combined may be mere sounds, meaning-bearing fragments of words (known as morphemes), or whole words.

Semantically motivated coinage is made possible by combining two or three words bearing close meaning in the same language to give meaning to a term or description in another language. They are coinage by affixation, coinage by composition, coinage by description, coinage by restructuring, and coinage by translation. Coinages by affixation derive from affixes. They are added to words to convey another or more meaning. There are three divisions of affixes. These are prefixes, infixes, and suffixes.

Theory of Instrument:

The theory of instrumentalism was propounded by Punya Sloka Ray and Valter Tauli, as cited by Mesthrie et al. (2000). This theory observes language as "mere tools for communication, imperfect in their natural state; this means that language can be evaluated, changed, developed, and new words can be created." Tauli, in Mesthrie et al. (2000), one of the advocates, observes that language can be evaluated concerning its efficiency. This fact is established on the premise that linguists can make valuable judgements about languages by eliminating illogical constructs, and unclear structure (ambiguity), and evaluating what must not be in the language but concrete linguistic features from the point of view of economy, clarity, elasticity, etc.

Furthermore, Tauli points out that the central aim of language planning is a methodological improvement of the linguistic system based on a language idea that is characterised not only by linguistic efficiency (which may be easy to learn and use) and communicative adequacy but also by uniformity and beauty.

Later, she observes that linguistic engineering is sometimes used to refer to the approach that often concentrates on changes affecting the language corpus and perceives language planning as a mere technical linguistic exercise. She notes that some of the non-linguistic measures that affect the creation of artificial language include a lack of political and economic power and a negative attitude among the people. Derived from the framework highlighted by these scholars, this study adopts the theory of instrumentalism as its major theoretical framework to achieve the goal of providing strategies towards modernization in Anaang. As confirmed by Nyarks (2022:65), "Through the process of modernization, thousands of new words that are contemporary to our times are brought to use".

Research instrument:

In the research, extracts of 122 words from the NERDC 2000 template, a glossary of registers of different professions, welding, education, medicine, petrochemical engineering, etc., were used. Others were lexical materials, the two orthographies of Anaang, books, journals, and individuals.

Method of data collection:

The Anaang community was the primary setting from which we gathered our data. The secondary source was the use of lexical and documentary materials. Most of the documents were derived from the internet, such as the registers of medicine. Finally, the researcher's intuition as a native speaker who lived in the language community from birth had been of immense contribution to the data collection.

Linguistic Techniques for Global Language Development:

Linguistics is the scientific study of languages. Applied linguistics is the application of the theories of linguistics to the study of languages. It is the interdisciplinary field of linguistics that identifies, investigates, and gives solutions to language-related real-life situations. In this study, linguistic techniques for global language development will be discussed. There are various linguistic techniques discovered so far, such as coinages by affixation, coinages by restructuring, coinages by description, coinages by composition, coinages by translation, reduplication, blending, clipping, compounding, etc. Furthermore, the concentration will be on reduplication as other techniques will be discussed in further studies. Moreover, since there are thousands of languages across the world, one indigenous language, the Anaang language, which is so glaring for a global illustration, shall be used.

Reduplication:

This is a new word development process that entails the repetition of the base of the word to create a specific meaning. Spencer, in Mensah (2011), regards reduplication as an affixation process in which some parts of a base are repeated to the left, to the right, or occasionally in the middle. Reduplication is a technique that plays a prominent role in global language development. Udondata (2006) considers reduplication as a feature in various circumstances in Anaang, including verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. This is a process that causes a word to repeat. This process is phrase development, mostly in nouns, which is used in creating diverse parts of speech such as verbs, adverbs, adjectives, etc., as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Reduplication (Nyarks, 2014, p. 171)

S No.	Root word	Meaning	Reduplicated word	Transcription	Types of reduplication
1.	kọk	vomit	kọkọk	/kɔkɔk/	partial
2.	nwàn	dry	nwà nwàn	/ŋʷà ŋʷàn/	partial
3.	mìa	beat	miamìa	/miamìa/	total
4.	kúm	piercing	kúkúm	/kúkúm/	partial
5.	túa	cry	tuàtuà	/tuàtuà/	total
6.	yàm	sell	yàyam	/jàjam/	partial
7.	tía	kick	tiàtià	/ tiàtià/	total
8.	gwèd	write	gwègwèd	/gʷègʷèd/	partial
9	tuák	hit	tuátuák	/tuátuák/	partial
10.	anọ	give	anọ anọ	/anɔ anɔ/	partial
11.	kwe	cover	kwekwe	/kʷékʷé/	total
12.	kpé	judge	kpé kpé	/kpé kpé/	partial

Apart from the statements in the examples above (table 1), reduplication can also be used as a verb interrogative to ask questions as shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Reduplication – interrogatives (p. 172)

S No.	Root Word	Meaning	Reduplicated Word	Transcription	Republication pattern
1.	kan	lie	ákákáñ?	/ákákáɲ/	Partial
2.	chin	reject	áchíchíñ?	/átʃíːtʃíɲ/	-do-
3.	to	plant	àtọtọ?	/àtɔtɔ/	-do-
4.	fiad	spit	fíafíád?	/fĩaːfĩæ̃d/	-do-
5.	do	marry	ádọdọ?	/ádɔdɔ/	-do-
6.	na	sleep	ánááná?	/ànáːnæ̃/	-do-
7.	gwed	write	ágwégwéd?	/ágʷégʷéd/	-do-
8.	sak	laugh	ácháchák	/átʃátʃák/	-do-
9.	yam	sell	áyáyám?	/àjáːjám/	-do-
10.	togho	quarrel	àtọghọ?	/àtɔRɔ/	-do-
11.	dogho	sick	àdọdọghọ?	/àdɔdɔRɔ/	-do-
12.	sagha	walk	ásáságha?	/ásásáRá/	-do-
13.	kwagha	bend	ákwákwaghá?	/ákwákwáRá/	-do-

Through this device of duplication, adjectives could equally be created out of some nouns as shown in the table below:

Table 3: Reduplication – Adjectives (p. 173)

S No.	Root word	Meaning	Reduplicated words (Adjectives)	Transcription	Republication pattern
1.	àgwén	black	àgwé gwén	/ágʷégʷen/	Partial
2.	ńcháád	dry	ńchááńcháád	/ntʃaːdntʃaːd/	Total
3.	ńtébé	smell	ńtébé-ntébé	/ntébé-ntébé/	-do-
4.	àgwá	green	águágwá	/ágʷaːgʷaː/	Partial
5.	nyioñ	tall	nyioñ-yioñ	/ɲjiɔŋ-jiɔŋ/	-do-

Technical words for verbs, adjectives and adverbs could then be created from this technique in the ways in the tables below:

Table 4: Adverbs (p. 174)

S No.	Root word	Meaning	Reduplicated words (Adjectives)	Transcription	Republication pattern
1.	sọbọ	Fast	nsọbọ-nsọbọ	/nsɔbɔnsɔbɔ/	Total
2.	néñ	Just	nnéñ-nnéñ	/nnéñ-nnéñ/	-do-
3.	émém	Peace	émém émém	/émém émém/	-do-
4.	úkó	Authority	úkó úkó	/úkó úkó/	-do-
5.	úkpúno	Respect	úkpúno úkpúno	/úkpúno úkpúno/	-do-

Table 5: Reduplication of forms of verbs and adverbs (p. 175)

S No.	Registers	Anaang coined words	Adverbs	Transcription	Gloss
1.	Acidic	àsíd	àsíd ásíd	/àsíd ásíd	Total
2.	Corrosive (ad)	kólósíf	kólósif-kólósíf	/kólósif-kólósíf/	Total
3.	Electrolytic	èléktlolítík	èléktlólítík-èléctlolítík	/èléktlólítík-èléctlolítík/	-do-
4.	Soluble	sólúblé	sólúblé-sólúblé	/sólúblé-sólúblé/	-do-
5.	Sulfuric	súlfrik	sulfrik-sulfrik	/sulfrik-sulfrik/	-do-
6.	Toxic	toksik	tóksík-tóksík	/tɔksík-tɔksík/	-do-
7.	Hygroscopic	híglóskópík	híglóskópík-hyglóskópík	/híglóskópík-hyglóskópík/	-do-
8.	Solidus	sólídús	sólídús-sólidús	/sɔlídús-sɔlidús/	-do-

Analysis of Reduplication:

In this research, it has been discovered that the reduplication techniques of developing new words in languages are most favourable to parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. This is because the above parts of speech are open-class elements. According to Nyarks (2019:4-5),

Parts of speech are further divided into two classes. There are open and closed elements. Open classes, as the name implies, are parts of speech that are unlimited in expansion and can accommodate new items as members of their class. A new creation of words can be added to them, provided such words perform the function of such a part of speech. Examples of the open class comprise nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. Closed class items... are parts of speech that are specific and fixed in number. They do not accept new words in their class. Examples are pronouns, prepositions, and conjunctions. Some of the words that the root is repeating as reduplicated words are total, while those that some phonemes have aligned are partial.

Reduplication is related to affixation morphologically. This is because in its morphos-syntactic analysis, it forms a category such as plural, and its linear position relating to the stem involves prefixes and suffixes. As Michael I. and Obot J. (2001:180) put it, "phonologically, reduplication is a phenomenon involving phonological identity between "reduplicant" and "base," to which they adjoin. As aforementioned, reduplication involves a word creation process that reproduces a total or an aspect of a word." There are two types of reduplication: total and partial.

Total Reduplication:

Total reduplication contains the doubling of the whole word. There is a complete resemblance of the base and the reduplicated word. Examples are as shown below:

i.	/míà/	'slap'	[miàmià]	'to slap'
ii.	/túà/	'cry'	[tuàtuá]	'keep crying'
iii.	/tià/	'kick'	[tiátíá]	'by kicking'
iv.	/ano/	'give'	[ànɔànɔ]	'is a gift'
v.	/tá/	'chew'	[tátá]	'by chewing'
vi.	/kpà/	'cut'	[kpàkpà]	'by cutting'
vii.	/úkó/	'authority'	[úkóúkó]	'authoritatively'
viii.	/émèm/	'peace	[èmémèmèm]	'peacefully'

Partial Reduplication in Anaang:

Partial reduplication is the repetition of part or an aspect of the word. Put another way, it is the repetition of the initial syllable of the root word or base with or without modification. So in this case almost as copying the whole word as in the case of total reduplication, the first syllable will be copied while other segments are left behind. Let us consider some examples below:

i.	/nyàm/ 'sell'	[nyà:yàm]	'by selling'
ii.	/àtébé/ 'smell'	[àte:tèbè]	'it is smelling'
iii.	/àgwá/ 'green'	[agwágwá]	'greenish'
iv.	/nchaad/'dry'	[ncha: chad]	'dryness'
v.	/kan/'deny'	[kà:kàn]	'deny'

Sound deleting as a result of partial reduplication:

i.	/ɲàm/	-	/ɲà:jàm/	-	I am selling	-	/m/
ii.	/agʷá/	-	/agʷá:gʷá/	-	greenish	-	/a/
iii.	/ɲion/	-	/ɲion:jion/	-	long length	-	/n/
iv.	/ntʃáád/	-	/ntʃáád:tʃáád	-	dryness	-	/n/

Conclusion:

Linguistics, which is the scientific study of languages, has given room for the application of theories, mainly for the enhancement and consolidation of further studies in languages. Language, as the raw material of our research, is dynamic and needs regular development so that it may regulate very well with the pace of development in science and technology since it is the instrument of transmission and communication. This is then the main aim of this research and our absolute desire for language development. Anaang is one of the underdeveloped languages that need urgent attention to avoid extinction. The ball has been set rolling, using the parameters of reduplication to develop all languages. This study will serve as a road map for linguists all over the world to employ as a technique in developing various languages.

Recommendations:

Reduplication is recommended to linguists as a technique for the modernization of underdeveloped languages. It serves as an internal strategy that does not require foreign adoptions and new learning.

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