

Reduplication in Bantoid

Ibrahim Njoya

University of Yaoundé 1

Reduplication is a renowned characteristic of West African Languages, Bantu languages in particular as attested in current literature. Reduplication consists of doubling some component of a morphological base – parent material – for some grammatical purpose (Inkelas & Downing 2015). A substantial amount of reference works in Bantu show that verbs, adverbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, demonstratives, and numerals can reduplicate to mark specific semantic purpose (see e.g. Ibrahim forthcoming, 2015, Hyman, Inkelas & Sibanda 2009; Downing 2000, 2001, 2003, 2006; Kaplan 2006; Matondo 2006; Hyman & Mtenje 1999, Mtenje 2007, Inkelas & Zoll 2005). To my knowledge, although there is significant evidence of the presence and use of reduplication in Bantoid languages (Schaub 1985 (Vengo), Kiessling 2012 (Isu, Zhoa), Yamungeu, forthcoming (ηgiməkwəʔə)), less is known about the typology of reduplication in Bantoid. Thus, the fundamental goal of this research is to make a significant contribution that will help improve the understanding of the typology of reduplication in Bantoid in comparison with Bantu languages. The following research will comprise: a general overview of reduplication cross-bantoid; formal and functional properties of reduplication in Bantoid, laying an emphasis on the behavior of tones and NCs within reduplicatives; and the implication of typology to a generalized approach of reduplication in Bantoid as compared to Bantu.