

Reduplication in Ndemli

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This article proposes a new way of looking at the phenomenon of reduplication in Ndemli [502]. Its major objectives are twofold: first it presents data from several typical reduplication constructions (both total and partial reduplication) showing that Ndemli often uses reduplication to derive new words, namely, nouns, adjectives and adverbs from other grammatical categories. Reduplication is used here to intensify adjectives and adverbs and to express inflectional functions such as continuity. Second, I revisit Ndjendje's (2013) analysis of reduplication in Ndemli providing support for some of her claims suggesting a new analytical approach that accommodate the wider range of data elicited so far on Ndemli reduplication. My proposal, as for partial reduplicated forms, is that the reduplicant is the CVC shape of the base and all tones are copied. For total reduplication all segmental elements of the base are copied, and there a predominance of the high tone in words that increase size or intensity.