

**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO**

**TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC QUẢN LÝ VÀ CÔNG NGHỆ HẢI PHÒNG**



# **KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP**

**NGÀNH : NGÔN NGỮ ANH – NHẬT**

**Sinh viên : Vũ Thị Mai**

**HẢI PHÒNG – 2023**

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**A STUDY ON THE REDUPLICATIVES IN ENGLISH  
AND VIETNAMESE**

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**Sinh viên : Vũ Thị Mai**

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**HẢI PHÒNG – 2023**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Reduplication is phonologically described as reduplicated segments (sequences of consonants or vowels). In morphology, reduplication is the repetition of a syllable, a morpheme or a word. Reduplication is one of the ways to create new words, so it exists in many languages, especially in Vietnamese. However, reduplication is not productive in English . This study focuses on reduplicatives used in English and in Vietnamese. The main aim is to collect, classify and analyse the reduplicatives and the second aim of this study is to help the learners especially language learners improve their knowledge of English and Vietnamese reduplicatives. The research consists of three main parts containing the theoretical background, the classification of reduplicatives, reduplicatives in English and in Vietnamese; meaning and usage of reduplicatives. To carry out this research, the following methods are applied: collective method, analytical method and comparative method.

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Student

Vũ Thị Mai

## **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Rationale of the study**

Reduplication is a word-formation process in which meaning is expressed by repeating all or part of a word. The study of reduplication has generated a great deal of interest in terms of understanding a number of properties associated with the word-formation process. As with morphology in general, two considerations that arise in reduplication are related to form and meaning. As for form, the term “reduplicant” has been widely used to refer to the repeated portion of a word, while “base” is used to refer to the portion of the word that provides the source material for repetition. There are three key issues regarding reduplicative form for which theories of reduplication aim to account: segmental identity effects between base and reduplicant, the shape of reduplicants, and factors to consider in identifying the base of reduplication. The definitive feature of reduplication that it involves copying a portion of the word has generated a large variety of mechanisms to account for how repetition takes place. Besides, there are many aspects of language that one might be interested in learning. During the course of learning English, the researcher has chance to deal with many aspects of English language and she found it interesting when learning how to combine the meaningful units into large units that also convey meaning. In addition, speaker’s linguistics knowledge permits him to combine phonemes into morphemes, morphemes into words, or rather word compounds that carry meaning of some kind from lexical meanings of individuals or from their structural meanings. In fact, compounding or word composition is one of the productive types of word-formation in modern English language.

Compound words are consisting of a least two stems, which occur, in the language as free forms. In a compound word, the immediate constituents obtain the integrity and structural cohesion that make them function in a sentence as a separate lexical unit.

In compound words, reduplication is a special way to create new words both in English and Vietnamese. Reduplicative compounds are used in many ways. That is the reason why we decide to choose the subject entitle *“Reduplicatives in English and in Vietnamese”* with a hope that this study will make a small contribute to learning reduplications.

## **2. Aims of Study**

The first aim of this study is to help the learners especially language learners improve their knowledge of English and Vietnamese reduplicatives.

The main aim is to collect, classify and analyse the reduplicatives.

## **3. Methods of the Study**

To do this study the researcher uses these methods:

- Collective method
- Analytical method
- Comparative method

## **4. Scope of the Study**

Because of the time limitation, I can't give all the aspects of the word in English and Vietnamese. I just focus on some of the main points. The main points include an overview of reduplicatives and their classification and usage of them in literature. The focus here should be restricted to a discussion of compounds base on reduplication in English and Vietnamese.

## **5. Design of the Study**

The study is designed into three main parts:

Part I: Introduction

Part II: Development

Chapter 1: Literature review

Chapter 2: Reduplicatives in English and in Vietnamese

Chapter 3: Meaning and usage of reduplicatives

Part III: Conclusion



## PART II: DEVELOPMENT

### CHAPTER 1: LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 1.1. An overview of reduplicative

A *reduplicative* is a word or lexeme (such as *mama*) that contains two identical or very similar parts. Words such as these are also called *tautonyms*.

The morphological and phonological process of forming a compound word by repeating all or part of it is known as *reduplication*. The repeated element is called a *reduplicant*.

In linguistics, reduplication is a morphological process in which the root or stem of a word (or part of it) or even the whole word is repeated exactly or with a slight change.

Reduplication is used in inflections to convey a grammatical function, such as plurality, intensification, etc., and in lexical derivation to create new words. It is often used when a speaker adopts a tone more "expressive" or figurative than ordinary speech and is also often, but not exclusively, iconic in meaning. Reduplication is found in a wide range of languages and language groups, though its level of linguistic productivity varies. Reduplication is found in a wide variety of languages, as exemplified below. Examples of it can be found at least as far back as Sumerian, where it was used in forming some color terms, e.g. *babbar* "white", *kukku* "black".

#### 1.2. Definition of Reduplicatives

**Reduplication** is a linguistic term that refers to the repetition of a word **to create a new word with a modified meaning**. In many languages, including English, reduplication is used to convey a range of meanings, such as intensification, pluralization, or repetition. Examples of reduplication in English include words like "chitchat," "zigzag," and "pitter-patter." Reduplication is a common feature in many languages around the world and plays an important role in understanding the structure and evolution of language.

Did you notice the repeated use of the word *definition* in the sentence above? That was an example of reduplication. The repetition of the word perhaps implied that the definition would be more official in some way.

Sometimes, reduplication repeats an entire word—like in the definition example and other times, it only repeats part of the word. Whether it's a whole word or a word piece (such as the first letter or some other sound), reduplication is a **morphological process** where the root or stem of a word is repeated.

In lexicology, Anstrushina, G.B., et.al. (1986: 6) state that:

- The word is a unit of speech, which serves the purposes of human communication.
- The word can be perceived as the total of the sounds, which comprise it.
- The word viewed structurally, possesses several characteristics.

To support their concepts, they based on distinguishing between the internal and the external structures of the word. The external structure of the word means the morphological structure. For example, in the word “impression”, the following morphemes can be: the prefix “im-“. The root “press” and the noun – forming suffix “-ion”. The internal structure of the word or its meaning is commonly referred to as the word's semantic structure. In addition, this is the word's main aspect. Another structural aspect of the word is its unity. The word possesses both external and internal unity. All that Anstrushina, G. B., et.al, said about the word can be summed up as follows: *The word is a speech unit used for the purposes of human communication, materially representing a group of sounds, possessing a meaning susceptible to grammatical employment and characterized by formal and semantic unity.*

In Vietnamese, there are also some definitions of a word given by some authors. In Hoang Tat Truong (1993), Palmer noted that a word is marked if not by “spaces” or “pauses”, at least by some features of the sound system of language. The definition seems to be the most satisfactory is that the word is the fundamental unit of language. It is a dialectical unity of form and content.

The content or meaning of the word is not identical to notion, but it may reflect human notion and in this sense many be considered as the form of their existence. Semantically, Nguyen Hoa (2004) defined word as follows: *words are regarded as the smallest indivisible meaningful unit of a language, which can operate immediately.*

So far have there been many definitions about word from different aspects. Among them, the most common one is that word is the smallest independent and meaningful unit of a language.

### **1.3. Characteristics of a word**

Reduplicatives can rhyme but aren't required to. They likely have a figure of sound represented in them, as alliteration (repetition of consonants) and assonance (repetition of vowel sounds) would be common in a word or phrase that doesn't change much among its parts, such as in this by Patrick B. Oliphant, "Correct me if I'm wrong: the gizmo is connected to the *fling-flang* connected to the watzis-watzis connected to the doo-dad connected to the *ding dong*."

We can consider some following characteristics of a word.

a. *The word is an indivisible unit.*

Sapir point out the very important characteristics of the word is its indivisibility. It cannot be cut without a disturbance of meaning, one or two other or both of the several parts remaining as a helpless waif a comparison of the article "a" and the prefix \*a-\* in a lion" and alive". A lion is a word group because we can separate its elements and insert other words between them such as: "a living lion" or "a dead lion", etc. but alive is a word, it is uninterruptible, i.e. structurally impermeable: nothing can be inserted between its elements.

b. *The word may consist of one or more morphemes.*

When it consists of one morpheme only, then it cannot be broken down into smaller meaningful units, for example, dog, hand, work, etc. These are 10 called simple words, which are typically minimum free forms, in the sense that they may stand by themselves and yet act as minimally complete utterances, for example, in answer to a question. When words consist of more than one morpheme, they

may be either complex or compound. Complex words may be broken down into one free form and one or more bound forms such as: dog-s, happi-ly, quick-er, whereas compound words consist of more than one free form such as: black + bird, green + house, swimming + pool, etc.

c. *The word occurs typically in the structure of phrases.*

According to the hierarchy adopted by Jackson, H & Amvella, E., morphemes are used to build words, words to build phrases, phrases to build clauses, clauses to build sentences. This is the typical mapping of lower level into higher-level units. However, in a typical mapping, a higher-level unit may be used in a lower level unit.

For example: a clause "who came late may be used like an adjective (word) to modify the head noun "man" in a sentence such as "the man who came late was my brother". Thus, we shall still regard such unit as a sequence of words, it has merely shifted levels.

d. *Another important characteristic of each word is that it should belong to a specific word class or part of speech* where the same form appears in more than one class, as frequently happens in English, we regard the various occurrences as separate words, for example, smoke (verb) as distinct from smoke (noun). It may even be suggested that a word is defined by two factors: its semantic "nucleus and the class to which it belongs.

e. *The last characteristic of the word is the word can be positional mobile.* It means that a word may have different positions in the structure of a sentence.

For example: The boy walked slowly up the hill.

Slowly, the boy walked up the hill

## **1.4. Classification of words**

### ***1.4.1. According to the semantic and grammatical aspect***

The distinction between **semantic** and **grammatical** looks at the degree to which a phenomenon involves the meaning versus the structure of language.

Semantics relates to the meaning of language, so semantic reduplication is the use of repetition to enhance or change meaning. An example of semantical reduplication is seen in the way someone may repeat a word but replace the beginning with the sound "schm-" (e.g., car schmar). This could express that the speaker doesn't really care for the car. Besides, content words (lexical or notion words) are words whose lexical meaning is clear (noun, verb, adjective, adverb)

Grammatical words refers to the **structure of language**, and so grammatical function is something that controls or alters the form of language. An example is the way Malay repeats words to express plurality (remember *rumah-rumah*).

As previously mentioned, the purpose of reduplication in English is largely semantic. The Persian language, however, uses reduplication as a derivational (form-changing) means to change the base word into another grammatical category.

The following are Persian words that change category with reduplication:

Tond = fast (adjective; e.g., something is fast)

Tond - tond = fast (adverb; e.g., something is moving in a fast manner)

Dæst = group (noun)

Dæaste - dæaste = in groups (adverb)

#### ***1.4.2. According to the morphological and phonological structure***

Sharon Inkelas wrote in "Studies on Reduplication" that there are two separate methods, producing two different types or subsets of reduplication: phonological duplication and morphological reduplication.

- Simple words are words which consist of a free morpheme with or without an inflectional morpheme.

For example: sing, smoke, work, ect.

- Derived words or complex words which consist of either a free root or bound root with derivational morpheme.

For example: multiply, production, manager, ect.

- Compound words are words which consist of least two free root morphemes with or without derivational morpheme.

For example: black board, green house, ect.

- Phonological duplication serves a phonological purpose; morphological reduplication serves a morphological process (either by being a word-formation process itself or by enabling another word-formation process to take place...).

- Phonological duplication involves a single phonological segment...; morphological reduplication involves an entire morphological constituent (affix, root, stem, word), potentially truncated to a prosodic constituent (mora, syllable, foot).

- Phonological duplication involves, by definition, phonological identity, while morphological reduplication involves semantic, not necessarily phonological, identity.

- Phonological duplication is local (a copied consonant is a copy of the closest consonant, for example), while morphological reduplication is not necessarily local.

#### ***1.4.3. According to the parts of speech (grammatical category)***

In this part we have noun, verb, adjective, adverb, ect.

#### ***1.4.4. According to the stylistic aspect of the language***

There are three main types: informal, formal and neutral words.

- *Type 1: informal words*

We have four main sub-groups: colloquial words, dialect words, vulgarism and slang words (general and special slang words)

- Colloquial words are used in everyday, unconstrained conversation, rather than in formal speech or academic writing. They are often shortened form.

For example: wanna = want to

Mum = mother

Dad = father

- Dialect words are regional forms of English, they belong to only a certain

territory or locality.

For example: brass = money

Niver = never

- “Slang” is “a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people”. Slang words are metaphors, jocular, often used with a coarse mocking, cynical coloring. Slang are often used by young people.

For example: buck – dollar

salty – jealous.

- Vulgarisms are coarse and rough words used by some uneducated people and are not generally used in public.

For example: damn it

- *Type 2: formal words*

This type has 4 sub-groups: learned words (bookish words), archaic or poetic words. Technical term or professional terminology, and non-assimilated foreign words.

- Learned words: mainly associated with printed pages. Most of them are Latin, Greek and French.

- Archaic or poetic words: used in historical novels or in poetry when the authors want to create a particular period atmosphere. They are old English.

For example: morn = morning

Eve = evening

- Technical term of professional terminology

Technical terms are words or phrases that people use in a specific career field. These terms can be any word, phrase or acronym that has a specialized meaning within a particular field of expertise, such as words for equipment, personnel, software or processes.

- Non-assimilated foreign words: borrowed from other languages which still remain their spelling and pronunciation.

- *Type 3: Neutral words*

Neutral words are used in all kinds of situations neither formal nor informal, in both written and spoken communication. Neutral words are mostly native words.

**1.5. Word – formation**

Word-formation is the process of building new words from the material already existing in the language according to certain structural and semantic patterns and formulae.

➤ **Basic processes of word-formation:**

1. Affixation
2. Compounding
3. Reduplication
4. Shortening
5. Conversion
6. Sound imitation
7. Back derivation
8. Sound and stress interchange
9. Words from names

**1.5.1. Affixation**

- *Affixation is the formation of new words with the help of affixes.*

E.g. dis-agree-ment

❖ **Types of affixation:**

Affixation can be divided into 2 types: prefixation and suffixation

- **Prefixation:** is the word formation with the help of prefixes.

E.g. disapprove

- **Suffixation:** is the word formation with the help of suffixes.

E.g. approvalal

*Table 1: Examples of Derivational Morphemes*

Word class change	Affix	Example
Suffixes		



N – V	-ate	Affection - Affectionate
N – V	-en	Fright – Frighten
N – V	-ify	Terror – Terrify
N – V	-ise/ ize	Empathy – Empathize
V – A	-able	Laugh – Laughable
V – A	-ive	Create – Creative
V – A	-less	Lift – Liftless
V – A	-ing	Interest – Interesting
N – A	-al	Nation – National
N – A	-ic	History – Historic
N – A	-ous	Danger – Dangerous
N – A	-ial	President – Presidential
A – Adv	-ly	Quietly
<b>Prefixes</b>		
N – N	-Ex	President – Ex President
A – A	-Im	Possible – Impossible
A – A	-Un	Happy – Unhappy
V – V		Tie – Untie
V – V	-Re	Play – Replay
V – V	-Dis	Play – Display

### ***1.5.2. Compounding***

In grammar, compounding, also called composition, is when two or more words are combined together to form a new word. For example, the word underground is a combination of the words “under” and “ground”.

+ The first way is based on the parts of speech

*Table 2: Ways of combining a compound word*

<b>Compound</b>	<b>+noun</b>	<b>+verb</b>	<b>+adjective</b>	<b>+adverb</b>
-----------------	--------------	--------------	-------------------	----------------

Noun	Mailbox	Dropkick	Seasick	No case
Verb	Living room	Dive-bomb	No case	Check-in
Adjective	Full moon	Dry-clean	Blue-green	No case
Adverb	Back-talk	Over-work	Off-white	In-to

Through the table 2, we can classify compound into: compound noun (some special compound noun (V + Adv = N), compound verb, compound adjective, compound adverb, compound preposition, compound pronoun and compound conjunction.

+ The second way is based on the meaning of the compound we have two types:

- Motivated compound: Compound words are motivated through the individual lexical meanings of their components and the meaning of the structure. In motivated compound words the native speaker can see a connection between the lexical meanings of the stems and the meaning of the order and arrangement of components of the word.

For example: housekeeper, zookeeper, school leaver, ect.

- Non – motivated compounds: are those whose meaning cannot be deduced from the meaning of the parts, there is no relation between the meaning of the compound and the meaning of its - parts.

For example: once in blue moon = rarely

+ Another way is based on the structure. There are two main types of this. They are simple compounds and derivational compounds.

- Simple compounds are words, which consists of only free bases.

For example: backache, armchair, etc.

- Derivational compounds are words, which consists of free bases and derivational morphemes.

For example: hard working; kind - hearted,

The last way is based on the relations between the components. There are two types: coordinative compounds and subordinate compounds.

- Coordinative compounds are those of which are equal.

For example: fifty - fifty, bye - bye, etc.

### **1.5.3. Reduplication**

Reduplication is a linguistic term that refers to the repetition of a word to create a new word with a modified meaning.

Reduplication is a common feature in many languages around the world and plays an important role in understanding the structure and evolution of language.

In many languages, including English, reduplication is used to convey a range of meanings, such as intensification or repetition.

For example: chit-chat (gossip), zig-zag ; ping – pong (table tennis), hush – hush (secret), ect.

### **1.5.4. Conversion**

Conversion happens when a word changes from one word class to another. For instance, the verb *to google* is formed from the noun *Google*; or the noun *read* (as in *a good read*) is formed from the verb *to read*. Conversion most often involves a change from one word class to another. The major kinds of conversion are N – V, V – N, A – N and A – V.

For example:

- Noun to Verb: bottle (The wine was brewed in France but bottled in Hong Kong.); butter (Don't butter the bread for me. I prefer jam.)
- Verb to Noun: hit (He scored a hit in his first shot.); cheat (He used some cheats in the computer game to make him win easier.); must (It is a must for you to visit the Forbidden City if you go to Beijing.)
- Adjective to Noun: regular (I am one of the regulars at the pubs.); final (It is obvious that the LA Lakers will enter the NBA Finals.); crazy (Stop shouting and running around like a crazy.)
- Adjective to Verb: empty (Can you empty the bin for me, please?); dirty (Don't sit on the floor. You might dirty your dress.); dry (Caught in

the rain, we were soaked to the skin. We dried ourselves beside the fireplace.)

- Adjective to Verb: the poor, the rich, the disable, ect.
- Adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections and even affixes can all act as bases for conversion as in “to up price” (preposition – verb), the hereafter (adv – noun).

Moreover, many of these word classes can undergo conversion into more than one other word class.

Finally, it should be noted that even whole phrase might undergo conversion and act as a noun, or as an adjective.

### ***1.5.5. Shortening***

#### ***1.5.5.1. Definition***

In linguistics, shortening is the word formation process which consists in the reduction of a word to one of its parts. It is also known as truncation.

Shortening is the way of creating a new word from a word of a phrase by leaving out a part or some parts, without the change of meaning or word class of the word.

#### ***1.5.5.2. Classification of shortening.***

##### ***1.5.5.2.1. Abbreviation***

###### **a. Acronyms :**

Acronyms are the words built from the initials of several words.

E.g.    am            : Ante Meridiem  
          pm            : Post Meridiem  
          B.B.C        VOV    VOA        WHO  
          UNESCO    FAO    NATO        UFO

❖ *2 cases of acronyms:*

+ **monograms:** based on the letters in one design.

+ **homonymy-based acronyms:** based on the identical sounds of words and letters.

E.g.    I.C

**b. Clipping.**

Clipping denotes the subtraction of one or more syllables from a word.

E.g. phone : telephone  
photo : photograph

□ **Types of clipping:**

- **Initial clipping:** the first part of a word is clipped.

E.g. phone plane  
copter cello

- **Final clipping:** the last part of a word is clipped.

E.g. lab bike  
gym fan  
gent ad

- **Initio-final clipping :** both the first and the last part of a word are clipped.

E.g. fridge  
flu

- **Medial clipping :** the medial part of a word is clipped.

E.g. maths specs  
H-bomb V-day  
A-bomb

- **Elliptico - conversional clipping:** There is a combination of ellipsis, conversion and clipping.

E.g. perm (n/v) prelim  
doc pop

*1.5.5.2.2. Blending*

Blending is a special type of shortening where parts of words are telescoped and merge into one new word.

E.g. smog brunch bedsit

motel                      Oxbridge                      Eurasia

### **1.5.6.    *Back – Derivation***

Back-formation or reversion involves the shortening of a longer by subtraction of a suffix (normally the suffix “er”, or “ing”).

For example:

Editor (N) – Edit (V)

Worker (N) – Work (V)

### **1.5.7.    *Sound - imitation***

Sound - imitation is the formation of a word through imitation of a sound associated with that word. For example, the word **buzz** imitates the sound of some flying insects. And the word **splash** is like the sound made by something falling into water. Both *buzz* and *splash* are sound-imitations. Words coined by this interesting type of word building are made by imitating different kind of sounds: animals, birds, insects, human....

For example:

-Words showing animals: mew – mew, ect

-Word showing actions made by men: ha – ha

-Word showing a large bell: ding-dong

-Word showing a clock: tick-tock

### **1.5.8.    *Word from names***

This kind of word comes from words, which is considered as human beings' characters.

For example:

Bụt (denotes a person who is kind and gentle)

Hoạn Thu (denotes a person who is jealous)

Rabbit (denoted a person who is fainthearted)

### **1.5.9.    *Sound and stress interchange***

#### **1.5.9.1.    *Sound interchange.***

- Sound interchange refers to the word-formation in which the new word is formed by changing the root vowel or consonant of the old word.

E.g. speak - speech

sing - song

- It may be combined with affixation.

E.g. strong - strength

wide - width

#### 1.5.9.2. *Stress interchange*

- The new word is built by changing the place/ position of stress on the old word.

E.g. 'export (n) - ex'port (v)

'rebel (n) - re'bel (v)

- With nouns and adjectives, stress is put on the first syllable.
- With the verbs, stress is put on the second syllable.

E.g. 'perfect (a) - per'fect (v)

'record (n) - re'cord (v)

'object (n) - o'bject (v)

'present (a) - pre'sent (v)

## **CHAPTER 2: REDUPLICATIVES IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

### **2.1. Definition**

#### ***2.1.1. Definition of English reduplications***

Reduplicative, in linguistics, is a morphological process by which the root or stem of a word, or part of a it, is repeated.

In lexicology, reduplication is the special way of forming the new word by doubling one stem with or without the change of a vowel or a consonant. In other words, in reduplication new words are made by doubling a stem, either without any phonetic change as in bye - bye, or with a variation of the root-vowel or consonant as in ping - pong, chit-chat, etc.

According to Richards, J & et.al (1985: 241). Reduplication is the repetition of a syllable, a morpheme or a word.

Another definition by crystal, D. may be easier: reduplication is a word or lexeme that contains two identical or very similar parts.

For example: Goody - goody (some one who behaves in a way intended to please people in authority)

In addition to phonological description, reduplication often needs to be describe morphologically as a reduplication of linguistic constituents (words, stem, and roots). As a result, reduplication is interesting theoretically, as it involves the interface between phonology and morphology. The base is the word (or part of a word) that is to be repeated. The reduplicated element is called the reduplicant. In some languages, reduplication can occur more than one, resulting in a tripled form.

In morphology, "reduplication is the repetition of a syllable, a morpheme or a word" (Nguyen, 2004). Reduplication is one of the ways to create new words, so it exists in many languages, it helps to make our mother tongue melodious not only in literature but in everyday speech as well. How about in English? Reduplication rarely occurs in English and is primarily used in words that reflect sounds or noises such as "click clack".



Although these above definitions are expressed in different ways they have the same meaning: reduplication is a way of forming new words by doubling the stem with or without phonetic change. This process is called reduplicative process.

### **2.1.2. Definition of Vietnamese reduplication**

While it is not productive in English, reduplication is found abundantly in Vietnamese. However, the definition of “từ láy” in Vietnamese is a little bit different from this in English.

Reduplication (láy âm) in Vietnamese consists of several patterns and is used extensively to create từ láy (“reduplicative”). This article outlines some common patterns of reduplication and their function. Reduplication in Vietnamese can involve some alterations of rimes, consonants (initials and finals) and tones.

Reduplicative modes in which words or parts of it is repeated.

For example: xanh xanh (Lighter than blue); xinh xinh (kind of pretty)

## **2.2. Characteristics of reduplicative**

Reduplicatives can rhyme but aren't required to. They likely have a figure of sound represented in them, as alliteration (repetition of consonants) and assonance (repetition of vowel sounds) would be common in a word or phrase that doesn't change much among its parts. Reduplication is the combination of at least two words, thus its characteristics of reduplications:

- General feature:

Reduplicated structure expresses general meaning of attributed process which is shown by synonymous meaning or same semantic field between two elements.

For example: xinh xinh	bye – bye
Xanh xanh	bon – bon (go fast/ drive fast)
Cao cao	teeny-weeny (tiny)

Element feature: Root element is able to stand alone and combine with other element if there is appropriate.

Reduplicated elements consist of:

- Full reduplication: the root is fully repeated

For example: mãi mãi

bye-bye

Luôn luôn

choo-choo (the noise a train makes)

- Partial reduplication: consist of alliterative reduplication and rhyme.

For example: xôn xao

flip-flop (type of shoes)

Chậm chạp

zig-zag (sinuous)

## 2.3. Classification of reduplicative

### 2.3.1. *English reduplicative*

According to Nguyen (2004), we should distinguish reduplication from compound words because reduplication also consists of two parts, but otherwise in most cases it fails to satisfy the definition of a compound word. Some of them contain only one free morpheme, the other constituents being a variation of this. In other cases, both constituents are jocular pseudo-morphemes, meaningless and fanciful sound clusters which never occur elsewhere. Nguyen (2004) states that it is a very mixed group which consists of three main subgroups: reduplicative compounds proper, ablaut combinations, and rhyme combinations.

#### 2.3.1.1. *Reduplicative compounds proper*

Reduplicative compounds proper (also called exact reduplication): contains usual free forms, onomatopoeic stems and pseudo-morphemes.

- None-imitative words may be used in reduplication and possess a ironical ring, but they are not numerous and occur only in colloquial speech.

For example: pretty-pretty (affectedly pretty)

goody-goody (sentimentally and affectedly good)

never-never (an ellipsis of a phrase never-never system)

- Onomatopoeic repetition exists but it is not very extensive

For example: hush-hush (secret); murmur (to speak or say very quietly)

- In some exact reduplication, the constituents are pseudo-morphemes which do not occur elsewhere. blah-blah (nonsense, idle talk). People often say blah, blah, blah when they do not want to repeat what somebody has said or written.

For example: quack-quack (duck)

Pops-Pops (poppa)

Bye-bye

Choo-choo (a train)

Night-night (good night)

No-no (no)

### 2.3.1.2. *Ablaut combinations*

Ablaut combinations: are twin forms consisting of one basic morpheme (usually the second), sometimes a pseudo-morpheme which is repeated in the other constituent with a different vowel. In ablaut reduplications, the first vowel is almost always a high vowel (typically *i* as in *hit*) and the reduplicated vowel is a low vowel (typically *æ* as in *cat* or *ɒ* as in *top*). The typical changes are:

- /i/ – /a/: chit-chat (gossipy talk)  
dilly-dally (waste time)  
knick-knack (small articles of ornament)  
riff-raff (the mob)  
shilly-shally (hesitate),  
pitter-patter (a quick light knocking sound)

The two properties that characterize Ablaut reduplication in English (*chit-chat*, *dilly-dally*) are: (1) identical vowel quantity in the stressed syllabic peaks, (2) maximally distinct vowel qualities in the two halves, with [I] appearing most commonly to the left and a low vowel to the right. In addition, Ablaut reduplicatives are described as having a trochaic contour, yet there is a great deal of uncertainty regarding the stress on the second part of the formation. Historically, Ablaut reduplication appeared long after Copy reduplication (*boo-boo*, *yo-yo*) and flourished during the Renaissance; its productivity declined sharply in the twentieth century.

Besides, Three-part ablaut sequences are less numerous, but are attested, e.g. *tic-tac-toe* (a game), *bing-bang-boom* (easy to finish), *bish-bash-bosh* (bingo) and "Live, Laugh, Love". Spike Milligan's poem *On the Ning Nang*

Nong achieves comic effect by varying the ordering of vowels in such triples: There's a Nong Nang Ning/ Where the trees go Ping!

- /ɪ-/ɔ/: ding-dong (said of the sound of the bell)
  - ping-pong (table-tennis)
  - sing-song (monotonous voice)
  - tip-top (first-rate)
  - criss-cross (to move or exist in a pattern of lines crossing something or each other)

### 2.3.1.3. *Rhyme combinations*

English speakers use certain rhyme combinations, another type of informal reduplication, in specific circumstances. English speakers have been creating rhyming duplications for hundreds of years, and it is usually done for fun. Rhyme combinations are twin forms consisting of two elements (most often two pseudo-morphemes) which are joined to rhyme.

For example: Easy-peasy (very easy)

Helter-skelter (scatter)

Razzle-dazzle (noticeable activity or very colorful appearance  
Intended to attract attention),

Lovey-dovey (darling),

Harum-scarum (disorganized),

Helter-skelter (in disordered haste),

Hoity-toity (snobbish)

Hurry-scurry (great hurry)

Hurdy-gurdy (a small organ),

Namby-pamby (weakly sentimental),

Willy-nilly (compulsorily)

In terms of functions, most linguists agree that English reduplications are either colloquial, slang or nursery words and markedly expressive and emotional (the emotion is not expressed in the constituents but suggested by the whole pattern) (Nguyen, 2004). Reduplications depend on sound-symbolism so much

that their phonetic make-up plays the most important role in their functioning. In ablaut combinations, both groups (/ɪ-/æ/ and /ɪ-/ɔ/) are based on sound symbolism expressing polarity, they symbolize to and fro rhythm (criss-cross), or suggest hesitation (shilly-shally), and the semantically predominant group are the words meaning idle talk, such as bibble-babble, chit-chat, clitter-clatter, etc. In the third subgroup (rhyme combinations), the semantically predominant group are the words denoting disorder, trickery, teasing names for persons, and some playful nursery words.

Besides three main kinds of reduplication given above, there are other new kinds: shm - reduplication and Comparative reduplication, Intensificatory reduplication, Contrastive focus reduplication.

#### 2.3.1.4. *Shm - reduplicative*

Shm - reduplicatives can be used with most any word; e.g. baby-shmaby, cancer-shmancer and fancy-shmancy. This process is a feature of American English from Yiddish, starting among the American Jews of New York City, then the New York dialect and then the whole country.

Of the above types, only shm - reduplication is productive, meaning that examples of the first three are fixed forms and new forms are not easily accepted.

Shm - reduplication is a form of reduplication in which the original word or its first syllable (the base) is repeated with the copy (the reduplicant) beginning with shm - (sometimes schm -), pronounced ( ).

The construction is generally used to indicate irony, derision or skepticism with respect to comments about the discussed object.

For example: he is just a baby

Baby-shmaby. He is already five years old.

Fancy-schmacy (something fancy yet not so fancy)

#### 2.3.1.5. *Comparative reduplication*

The reduplication of the comparative indicates that the comparative is becoming more true over time, meaning roughly "John's apple looked progressively redder as time went on." In particular, this construction

does *not* mean that John's apple is redder than some other apple, which would be a possible interpretation in the absence of reduplication, e.g. in "John's apple looked redder." With reduplication, the comparison is of the object being compared to itself over time. Comparative reduplication always combines the reduplicated comparative with "and". This construction is common in speech and is used even in formal speech settings, but it is less common in formal written texts. Although English has simple constructs with similar meanings, such as "John's apple looked ever redder," these simpler constructs are rarely used in comparison with the reduplicative form. Comparative reduplication is fully productive and clearly changes the meaning of any comparative to a temporal one, despite the absence of any time-related words in the construction. For example, the temporal meaning of "The frug seemed wuggier and wuggier" is clear: despite not knowing what a frug is or what wugginess is, it is easy to grasp that the apparent wugginess of the frug was increasing over time, as indicated by the reduplication of the comparative "wuggier".

#### 2.3.1.6. *Intensificatory reduplication*

Examples like a big, big problem, a long, long way, or very difficult are instances of intensificatory reduplication. This type of reduplication is used to intensify the meaning of the original word. It's a way of expressing that something is not just big or long, but very big or very long. This type of reduplication is typically used only with a narrow range of words, and the meaning can often be inferred even if the specific combination is not a standard idiomatic expression. The more common items include gradable adjectives (e.g., big, great, deep, bad, old), along with intensificatory adverbs (e.g., very, really, so) and determiners (e.g., much). This is only possible for pre-head modifiers, and not with other syntactic functions.

#### 2.3.1.7. *Contrastive focus reduplication*

Exact reduplication can be used with contrastive focus (generally where the first noun is stressed) to indicate a literal, as opposed to figurative, example of a noun, or perhaps a sort of Platonic ideal of the noun, as in "Is that carrot

cheesecake or carrot CAKE-cake?". This is similar to the Finnish use mentioned above. Furthermore, it is used to contrast "real" or "pure" things against imitations or less pure forms. For example, at a coffee shop one may be asked, "Do you want soy milk?" and respond, "No, I want milk milk." This gives the idea that they want "real" milk.

### 2.3.2. *Vietnamese reduplicative*

While it is not productive in English, reduplication is found abundantly in Vietnamese. However, the definition of “từ láy” in Vietnamese is a little bit different from this in English. According to Mai, Vu, & Hoang (1997), in Vietnamese, reduplicative words are phonetically repeated (called “điệp”), but they still have some different feature (called “đôi”), for example: đỏ đẫm as the same onset consonant but different rhymes. In “người người”, “nhà nhà”, they are only repeated the entire word without any differences, therefore, they are reduplicative forms of word, not the reduplicative words.

Vietnamese reduplicative words can be divided into three groups based on the number of syllables they contain:

- **Two-syllable (bi-syllabic) reduplicative words**

For example: xanh xanh (bluish)

Thanh thanh ( delicate)

Âm ấm (luke warm)

- **Three-syllable (tri-syllabic) reduplicative words**

For example: sạch sành sanh

- **Four-syllable reduplicative words**

For example: lúng ta lúng túng

Among them, the bi-syllabic is the most important group because they make up more than 98% amount of Vietnamese reduplicative words (Le, Nguyen, & Roussanaly, n.d.). Therefore, in this paper, I would like to take a long, hard look at bi-syllabic reduplicative words in Vietnamese. In this group, we have two types of reduplication: full reduplication and partial reduplication.

### 2.3.2.1. *Full reduplication*

This type is very similar to the case of reduplicative compounds proper in English which consists of two constituents identical in sound and spelling.

Full reduplication consists of the reduplicative words whose phonetic feature is not identical. They are divided into 3 subclasses.

#### 2.3.2.1.1. *Full reduplicative in which all segments and tone are repeated*

This type contains two identical elements in which one is pronounced in a stronger or longer way.

For example:

- (1) Người (people) – Người người
- (2) Vui (happy) – Vui vui
- (3) Nơi (place) – Nơi Nơi
- (4) Đêm (night) – Đêm đêm
- (5) Buồn (sad) – buồn buồn

The full reduplication of the base and the tone above helps create reduplicative compounds with mild and attenuative meaning.

For example:

- (6) Đi (go) – Đi đi lại lại  
Lại (come)
- (7) Cười (smile) – Cười cười nói nói  
Nói (speak)

(6) and (7) are in fact, the alternation of two bi – syllabic combination, indicating the concept of repeated action or the alternation of actions happening simultaneously.

Sometimes, trisyllabic reduplicatives can be generated from monosyllabic roots. This type of reduplication is partly productive. If the root syllable is checked, the coda of the second syllable would be a homorganic nasal. Deviated from this is sạch sành sanh, which has become idiomatic and fixed.

For example:

- (1) Sạch (clear) – Sạch sành sanh



(2) Sắt (very close) – Sắt sần sật

(3) Hót (Very trendy) – Hót hòn họt

### 2.3.2.1.2. *Full reduplication with alternate tone*

In Vietnamese, we have these tones: ngang, huyền, nặng, ngã, and sắc. All of them make Vietnamese reduplication more vivid and color.

Bằng tone (ngang, huyền) precedes trắc tone (hỏi, sắc, ngã nặng) based on the following rule:

Bằng	Trắc	
1. Ngang	Hỏi	Sắc
2. Huyền	Ngã	Nặng

For example:

(1). Đò đỏ, ra rả, thoang thoảng, lay láy, đầu đầu, phơi phơi.

(2). Sừng sững, lững thững, nhẹ nhẹ, ngò ngợ, vành vành

### 2.3.2.2. *Partial reduplicative*

Partial reduplication is the case where only a portion of the root is copied, with this, two sub – types are taken into account: Initial reduplication with alternate rhyme and Rhyme reduplication with alternate initial consonant.

#### 2.3.2.2.1. *Alliterative reduplicative.*

In fact, there is a category is called prefixing reduplication. As in English, combination of this kind consists of one basic morpheme, sometimes a pseudo – morpheme that is repeated in the order constituent with a different vowels. With this type of reduplication, there exists one basic morpheme which can occur as a free phrase and this is often the first element in a pair. The other element is a pseudo – morpheme which cannot occur elsewhere. There are also cases where two pseudo – morphemes, meaningless as individuals, help create the combination. Actually, their structural meaning builds up the meaning of the whole pattern.

Alliterative reduplication: bập bênh, đẹp đẽ, ngỡ ngác, say sưa, vò vập, hấp háy, bông bênh, xơ xác, lung linh... We should pay attention to the main vowel alternation rule in some reduplicative words:

- u – i: cữ kĩ, xù xì, tùm tùm, mồm mồm..
- ô – ê: ngô nghê, hôn hên, xô xê...
- o – e: vò ve, khò khè, nhỏ nhẻ...
- i – a: rỉ rả, xí xóa, hí hoáy...
- u – ă: tung tăng, vùng vằng, thủng thủng...
- u – ơ: ngu ngơ, khù khờ, cùn cùn...
- ô – a: hóc hác, ngọt ngọt, mộc mạc...
- ê – a: nghêu ngao, rề rà, xuề xòa...

#### 2.3.2.2.2. *Rhyme reduplication with alternate initial consonant*

Combination of this consists of two elements as those in English. However, they can either be two pseudo – morphemes with no lexical meaning or one basic morpheme functioning as a free unit with some certain lexical meaning and one reduplicative morpheme bearing inly the structural meaning, going with the base.

For example:

Tham – tham lam (greedy)

Khóc – khóc lóc (cry)

Khom – Lom khom (be bent)

In example listed above, the basic element is determined either in initial or final position. Rhyming prefixes and the same are present in following examples:

For example:

Bâng khuâng

Loắt choắt (very small)

Lim dim (half closed)

Bồn chồn (fevered)

Bầy hầy (dirty)

With this kind of rhyming reduplication, an alliterative harmony is often found. The most common are as follows:

- (l) – (đ): lênh đênh (drift)  
lốm đốm (dotted)  
linh đình (hearty)
- (l) – (k): luông cuông (at a loss)  
luẩn quẩn (hang around)  
leng keng (sound of a bell)
- (l) – (t): lung túng (confused)  
linh tinh (miscellaneous)  
lẻ tẻ (sporadic)
- (c) – (nh): càu nhàu (grumble)  
cằn nhằn (grumble)
- (b) – (r): bủn rủn (flaccid)  
bứt rứt (uneasy)

#### 2.3.2.3. *Multiple reduplicative*

Beside the two constituents of Vietnamese reduplicatives, they are found in partial and full reduplication, than in multiple reduplication three, usually four, sometimes six elements are present.

- **Three-syllable (tri-syllabic) reduplicative words**

For example: sạch sành sanh (very clear)

Sát sàt sạt (very close)

cỏn còn con (very small)

- **Four-syllable reduplicative words**

For example: lúng ta lúng túng (puzzled)

nhí nha nhí nhảnh (lively)

hót ha hót hải (very hurry)

- **Six-syllable reduplicative words**

For example: lòi thối lỏi thối lòi thối (untidy)

bối rối bối rối bối rối (confused)

All these compounds are used with much ironic and derogatory connotation.

Firstly, it may be observed in multiple compounds that root itself is a two – element reduplication of either the alliterative or rhyming sub – types in partial reduplication.

Secondly, the first element of the four – element reduplication is an exact copy of the first element of root. The second element is formed by using the same initial consonant of the second element.

## **2.4. Formation of reduplicatives**

### **2.4.1. Full reduplicative**

In general both English and Vietnamese reduplication formation process can follow this formula  $FR = 2 Ro$  (1)

In which: FR: full reduplication

Ro: root

However, because of tonal system in Vietnamese the formula (1) can be changed into:

$FR = 2 Ro + \text{tone}$  (2) or  $FR = 2Ro + \text{modified tone}$  (3).

The modified tone in Vietnamese is divided into two groups: high level ([ˈ], [ʔ]) and low level ([-], [˜], [ˌ]).

For example:

(1) ack - ack (anti aircraft fire)

Bang - bang (sound of gun)

buồn buồn (rather sad)

(2) cào cào

Chuồn chuồn

(3) đỏ đỏ (somewhat red)

loảng xoảng (sound of breaking or falling to the ground)

### **2.4.2. Partial reduplicative**

#### **2.4.2.1. Ablaut reduplicative**

In the ablaut reduplicative, the first vowel is most always a high vowel and the reduplicated ablaut variant of the vowel is a low vowel. This is the type where the vowel changes.

For example:

[i]- [a]: chit-chat (gossip)

Tick-tack (soft sound of o'clock)

Hi ha

Xí xoá

[i]-[o]: hip-hop (rap music culture)

Dingdong (sound of bell)

Others: hee-haw (sound of a donkey)

See saw (playground equipment)

Hóc hác

Mũm mĩm

#### 2.4.2.2. *Rhyme reduplicative*

In this type, the initial consonant (or consonant cluster) is replaced by another (C1VC -C2VC).

For example:

[h]-[t]: hoity – toity (grandiose)

hotsy-totsy (attractive)

hấp tấp

[t]-[m]: tussy-mussy (colloquial)

tít mít

### 2.4.3. *Multiple reduplicative*

These kinds of reduplication are found much more in Vietnamese than in English. In Vietnamese there are some formulating for this type. Let us consider some:

For four - syllables reduplicative:

- The first formulate is AB'AB in which B' is the derivation of B, AB is the root.

If the two first syllables are [ʔ], the two following syllable are [-].

E.g: căn nhặ́n căn nhặ́n, etc

If the two first syllables are [‘], the two following syllable are [.]

E.g: trứ́c trặ́c trứ́c trặ́c, etc

- The second formulate is ABAC like in: bợ̉ xiên bợ̉ xẹọ, chua lòe chua loét, etc.

- The third one is AABB such as ù ù cặ̣c cặ̣c, hặ́m hặ́m hẹ̣ hẹ̣, etc.

For triplication: affect one time on one morpheme or syllable in Vietnamese and in English this kind of triplication is formed by adding “a” or an ablaut.

E.g: In English: tic - tac – toe

Rat - a -tat

Pit - a - pat

In Vietnamese: sặ́t → sặ́t sặ́n sặ́t

sặ́ch → sặ́ch sặ́nh sặ́nh

dự́ng → dự́ng dự́ng dự́ng

### 2.4.4. *Other formation*

In English, there are two extra formation process of reduplication in which the – ma - infix or shm/ schm can be added.

For example: baby - shmaby

Car - shmar

Purple -ma-ple

## CHAPTER 3: FUNCTION AND USAGE OF REDUPLICATIVES

### 3.1. Function of reduplicative

#### 3.1.1. *Function of English reduplicative*

In terms of functions, most linguists agree that English reduplications are either colloquial, slang or nursery words and markedly expressive and emotional (the emotion is not expressed in the constituents but suggested by the whole pattern) (Nguyen, 2004). Reduplications depend on sound-symbolism so much that their phonetic make-up plays the most important role in their functioning.

In ablaut combinations, both groups (/ɪ-/æ/ and /ɪ-/ɔ/) are based on sound symbolism expressing polarity, they symbolize to and fro rhythm (criss-cross), or suggest hesitation (shilly - shally), and the semantically predominant group are the words meaning idle talk, such as *bibble - babble, chit-chat, clitter-clatter*, etc. In the third subgroup (rhyme combinations), the semantically predominant group are the words denoting disorder, trickery, teasing names for persons, and some playful nursery words.

#### 3.1.2. *Function of Vietnamese reduplicative*

Reduplication in Vietnamese has multiple semantic functions (Nguyen, T.C., 1999; Nguyen, T.G., 2003, as cited in Tang, 2007) in comparison with English reduplication which is primarily used in words that reflect sounds or noises (Thompson, 1965, as cited in Tang, 2007).

- When a verb is repeated, this reduplication indicates movement.  
For example: *Gật (đầu) – gật gật (đầu)*
- For an adjective reduplication, it can imply a lesser degree of quality.  
For example: *xinh (pretty) - xinh xinh (kind of/ less pretty),  
xanh (blue) – xanh xanh (The lighter blue)*
- Some certain nouns can be reduplicated to indicate reoccurrence or multiple instances.

For example: *Ngày - ngày ngày (day day) implies many days or all days.*

- In Vietnamese, to express disparaging meaning we use “*iếc*” symbolization or words consist of “*eo*”

For example: Hát – hát hiếc

Kịch – kịch kiếc

Lươn – lươn lẹo

Xiên – xiên xẹo

- Reduplicatives express the blunt of physical conditions.

For example: Loảng xoảng

Lục đục

- Besides these above meanings, Vietnamese reduplicatives also express the generalization meaning.

For example: Cây – cây cối

Chùa – chùa chiền

### 3.2. Usage of reduplicatives

Derived from the flexible variation, reduplicative has been widely used in both spoken and written language. Usually, the word leaf will be used to describe, emphasize the beauty of the landscape or the shape of things, and at the same time express emotions, moods, conditions, sounds... With its characteristics, reduplication creates a new form of words makes language various and vivid. Thus, reduplication is used widely in daily speech as well as in literature. Reduplication is often used as a literary device in poetry and other compositions. The focus in this part is the usage of reduplication on literary works to understand more about it. Many poets and writers are fond of using reduplication in their works.

In Vietnamese, many famous writers use reduplicative in their poems. We can give some names: Xuan Dieu, To Huu, Nguyen Du, ect.

For example:

“Buồn trông cửa biển chiều hôm

Thuyền ai *thấp thoáng* cánh buồm *xa xa*

Buồn trông ngọn nước mới sa

Hoa trôi *man mác* biết là về đâu?

Buồn trông nội cỏ *dầu dầu*



Chân mây mặt đất một màu *xanh xanh*  
Buồn trông gió cuốn mặt ghềnh  
*Ầm ầm* tiếng sóng kêu quanh ghế ngồi »

(Truyện Kiều, Nguyễn Du)

Chú bé *loắt choắt*  
Cái xác *xinh xinh*  
Cái chân *thoăn thoắt*  
Cái đầu *ngênh ngênh*.

(Lượm, Tô Hữu)

Ao thu *lạnh lẽo* nước trong veo  
Một chiếc thuyền câu bé *tẻo teo*.  
Sóng biếc theo làn hơi gợn tí  
Lá vàng trước gió sẽ đưa vèo.  
Tầng mây *lơ lửng* trời xanh ngắt  
Ngõ trúc *quanh co* khách vắng teo.  
Tựa gối, buồn nằm lâu chẳng được  
Cá đâu đớp động dưới chân bèo.

(Thu Điếu, Nguyễn Khuyến)

Reduplicatives are used as symbolism method with the purpose of increasing its symbolism, makes the words vivid and easy to come into readers' mind.

“Những chùm thảo quả đỏ chon chót, bóng bầy như chứa lửa, chứa nắng”.

(mùa thảo quả, p45)

From these above examples, we can recognize the rate of using reduplicative compounds a lot.

Together with the variety of Vietnamese reduplication in literature, many English writers also use reduplication as a device. Especially, the name of Shakespeare. W, who was fond of reduplications, used them not just for comic effect, but also at critical dramatic moments. Some well - known

examples: the weird sisters in Macbeth will meet again, "when the hurly – burly 's done, when the battle's lost and won".

Hurly - burly" signals the sisters' contempt for human effort.

In Hamlet, Claudius admits that it was a mistake to bury Polonius in secret haste: we have done but greenly, in kugger - mugger to inter him". In The First Part of King Henry the Fourth, the Catholic Hotspur complains that the great pagan magician Glendower speaks "such a deal of skimble - skamble stuff, as puts me from my faith". A less famous but still wonderful reduplicative appears in All's Well That Ends Well, where the braggart soldier and go the wars: "he wears his honor in a box unseen, that hugs his kicky- wicky here at home, spending his manly marrow in her arms, which should sustain the bound and high curvet, of Mar's fiery steed."

In other poems:

Into this Universe, and Why not knowing  
Nor Whence, like Water *willy – nilly* flowing  
And out of it, as Wind along the Waste  
I know not Wither, *willy – nilly* blowing

(The rubayat of Omar Khayyam)

In The Street Lawyer, we can look at these quotations:

“Just another street burn in from the cold happened all the time in downtown Washington. But we had security guards to deal with the “*riff – raff*”.

“I dreaded the neat little rows of pink phone messages Polly had my desk, the memos from higher – ups being, the noisy *chit – chat* from the gossipers and the inevitable “how you do in?” from friends and those genuinely concerned and those who couldn’t care less.”

“I gave myself *fifty – fifty* odds of being arrested with the week.”

## **PART III: CONCLUSION**

### **1. Conclusion**

In conclusion, reduplication is an interesting phenomenon that exists in many languages, especially in Vietnamese, it makes our mother tongue harmonious because it is used not only as a literary device but also in everyday conversations. Through the study, we see that Vietnamese reduplicative words are much more than English in quantity and there are a lot of differences between Vietnamese and English reduplications in terms of forms and functions.

In chapter 1, the study has dealt with some theoretical backgrounds about definition, characteristics, classification of words, word – formation and word meaning with the aims at providing readers with a brief overview on words.

Next chapter 2, the researcher has pointed out the definition of English and Vietnamese reduplicatives, the ways to classify and build up them, therefore the readers can understand more about them.

Finally, chapter 3 presents the meaning and usage of reduplicatives by giving examples with the purpose of making study more practical.

Furthermore, the findings show the similarities and differences in forms and functions of reduplication in English and Vietnamese

About the forms, both reduplicatives in English and Vietnamese have full reduplicatives and partial reduplicatives.

About the function, both reduplicatives in English and Vietnamese are used in daily life and the literacy and poetry works.

However, in Vietnamese reduplicatives, we can see that the reduplicatives will be more complicated than reduplicatives in English.

- About the form: reduplicatives in English just have two – syllables and in Viet Nam have two – syllables, three – syllables, four syllables and sometimes six – syllables. Furthermore, in Vietnamese, we have some tones: ngang, huyền, nặng, ngã and sắc.

- About the function: In Vietnamese, reduplicatives are used mainly in poems and daily life. In English, reduplicative are used more often in written than in daily life.

## **2. Suggestions for further studies**

In this study, the author focuses mainly on the background of reduplicatives and presents some main points of them. Because of the time- limitation and the researcher's ability, this study cannot deal with all the aspects of reduplicatives. The researcher hope that this topic will be further studied in various aspects of reduplicatives in more details and its result can help learners to understand more about English and Vietnamese reduplicatives.

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