

Reduplication in Kuraŋɔ

May 9, 2015

One of Kuraŋɔ’s hallmarks is its reduplicative system. It has multiple reduplicative processes.

1 Intensification

Semantically, this reduplicative process results in an intensification of the meaning of the morpheme. This more or less restricts where reduplication can or can not occur—it is common on intensifiable parts of speech like adjectives, and very rare on less-intensifiable parts of speech like verbs. The reduplicative template varies based on how many syllables¹ are in the stem.

1.1 One and two-syllable stems

One and two-syllable stems are copied and reduplicated entirely².

Original Form	Reduplicated Form
ga -ti -xu si ‘I like someone.’	ga -titi -xu si ‘I love someone.’
ga -ŋa -ka si ‘I am unhappy.’	ga -ŋa -kaka si ‘I am miserable.’
ʔari -gɔɔ rɔ ‘Please leave.’	ʔari -gɔɔ rɔrɔ ‘Go away!’
ni- ʔaŋa -mi si ri? ‘What is your name?’	ni- ʔaŋa -mi si riri? ‘I really need to know your name.’

Table 1: One-syllable stem reduplication

¹Syllable being one vowel and its onset, or one grapheme in the *kuraito* orthography.

²Forms in these tables ignore phonological rules and represent underlying forms.

Original Form	Reduplicated Form
gaku 'good'	gakugaku 'very good'
gaŋa 'bad'	gaŋagaŋa 'very bad'
ʔaɸa 'Yes.'	ʔaɸaʔaɸa 'Of course!'
ʔiʔi 'No.'	ʔiʔiʔiʔi 'Absolutely not!'
kari -su 'sleepy'	karikari -su 'exhausted'

Table 2: Two-syllable stem reduplication

1.2 Three-syllable stems and up

Stems that are three syllables or over undergo opposite-edge reduplication of two syllables. These two syllables are selected right-to-left and then prefixed.

Original Form	Reduplicated Form
ʔinakara -su 'boring'	karaʔinakara -su 'extremely boring'

Table 3: Three-syllable and up stem reduplication

2 Pluralization

Pluralization is caused by opposite-edge reduplication. One syllable from the beginning of the word is suffixed to denote a plural entity.

Original Form	Reduplicated Form
ʔoʔati 'dog'	ʔoʔatiʔo 'dogs'
mirɔ 'cat'	mirɔmi 'cats'
ɸaaβu 'home'	ɸaaβuɸa 'homes'
di 'day'	didi 'days'

Table 4: Pluralization