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Title: Reduplication in Thai: Form and Function

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Abstract Topic: Reduplication in Thai: Form and Function

Reduplication is a linguistic phenomenon whereby a lexical item is repeated and expanded so that its grammatical functions could be varied. It is a common linguistic characteristics in South East Asian, South Asian, and Australian languages (Abbi 1992, Fabricius 1998). There are two types of reduplication process: complete and partial. In Thai the two types can be found. The instances of the complete one are illustrated in the word *keng keng* 'clever' in the phrase *dek keng keng* 'clever children', *chaa chaa* 'slowly' in the phrase *phuut chaa chaa* 'speak slowly'. Besides, the partial form can be seen the word *yaak jon* 'poor', *suay ngaam* 'beautiful'. This paper will highlight the two type forms in relation to their grammatical functions in Thai. The study corpus obtained from a few contemporary sources like Thai mass media on-line, the articles and columns from the Thai magazine *Kun stree*, and idiomatic sayings are analysed. The findings show that the complete type which affects the word classification display descriptive, mood-imperative function and the partial type shows no change in lexical classification but for word-meaning emphasis only. The study will create language awareness in terms of the usage of adverbial form in Thai imperative utterances and the higher mastery of Thai words