

**Acquisition of reduplication in Indonesian.**  
**The case study of an Indonesian-Italian bilingual child**

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The phenomenon of reduplication is very widespread in the acquisition of language as a device used by children to reproduce in an easy way the adult syllable structure in a stage when they are still unable to produce 'words' (see Fee and Ingram, 1980). It is attested in many languages regardless of the fact that these languages employ reduplication as a grammatical feature or not. If a number of studies has been carried out on the phonological reduplication in children, the same has not happened for the acquisition of grammatical reduplication in general, and in Indonesian in particular, except for few notes in Dardjowidjono (2000).

This paper observes the emergence of reduplication as a phonological and a grammatical feature drawing from the data of a bilingual Indonesian-Italian child. This case study allows the discussion on the acquisition of this feature in Indonesian, and at the same time observes the phenomenon in a less studied language dyad where patterns of crosslinguistic influence occur in the language production of the bilingual. The bilingual Indonesian-Italian child, Guglielmo, observed from the age of eight months till the age of 6 years, has undergone several types of crosslinguistic influence and the observation of a linguistic feature like that of reduplication seems to be particularly interesting to analyse being one of the main differences the two languages the child is exposed to displays.

The occurrences of reduplication will be analysed and then classified on the basis of function and of type and then its development will be compared with the data of the monolingual child language acquisition database of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. The objective is to understand how bilingual and monolingual children acquire reduplication in Indonesian both as a phonological and as a grammatical feature and in particular how Guglielmo, exposed to two starkly different languages acquires it. In Italian reduplication is not considered a morphological pattern used like in Indonesian to express some grammatical features like plurality, variety, intensity and continuity, pluractionality, distribution and so on. All these functions are expressed in Italian through nominal and verbal inflection. The occurrence of few cases of Italian words, both nouns and verbs reduplicated at a very early stage like *palla-palla* 'balls', *libri-libri* 'various books' and *corre-corre* 'is running fast and everywhere' by the bilingual child, poses the question whether the child is already aware of the reduplication as a grammatical feature to express plurality and variety and intensity and continuity. The functions of plurality and intensity are known to be acquired relatively early by the monolingual children and being this the stage where Indonesian is dominant in Guglielmo, it is possible that it exerts a stronger crosslinguistic influence on Italian. The alternative explanation could be that the emergence of reduplication responds to an iconic function and therefore is felt more salient. If this is the case it can be predicted that reduplicated words occur in both language contexts regardless of the various grammatical functions. From the observation of the utterances containing reduplicated words in the speech of Guglielmo, I will try to describe what kinds

of reduplication occur, which features of reduplication Indonesian children use and in a parallel way whether these features are acquired at the same time by the bilingual child where cross-linguistic influence might play a role.

A further step of this research is to observe whether there is a parallelism between the pattern of acquisition of reduplication in the bilingual child and that of Italian second language learners of Indonesian.

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