A Trace of Contact: Morphological reduplication in Bahamian Creole
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Reduplicated Adjectives and Adverbs
If the meaning of the input is X, then the reduplicated output is likely to mean “very X”.
1. In deyz gohn ay tel ya iz **plentiy-plentiy** tiyngz ta sey bowt. (Andros)
In days gone I tell you is plenty-plenty things to say 'bout
In relation to the past, I tell you there is a great deal to talk about.

2. Hiy doz wohk **plentiy-plentiy**.
He does walk plenty-plenty
He walks a lot.

Test for Reduplicated Adjectives and Adverbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical property</th>
<th>adj.; adv. hahd --&gt; hahd-hahd - very hard</th>
<th>adj. sik --&gt; sik-sik - very sick</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dimension</td>
<td>adj. wayd --&gt; wayd-wayd - very wide</td>
<td>adj. fat --&gt; fat-fat - very fat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colour</td>
<td>adj. blak --&gt; blak-blak - very black; very dark in relation to complexion</td>
<td>adj. rehd --&gt; rehd-rehd - very red; deep red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>adj. owl --&gt; owl-owl - very old</td>
<td>adj. yong --&gt; yong-yong - very young</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>adj.; adv. nays --&gt; nays-nays - very nice</td>
<td>adj.; adv. bahd --&gt; bahd-bahd - very bad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Propensity</td>
<td>adj.; adv. styuwpid --&gt; styuwpid-styuwpid - very stupid</td>
<td>adj. hapiy --&gt; hapiy-hapiy - very happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>adj.; adv. fahs --&gt; fahs-fahs - very fast</td>
<td>adj.; adv. slow --&gt; slow-slow - very slow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distributive
3. Da res a da piypul gyadarin **won-won** kohtan. (Holm, 1982)
The rest of the people gathering one-one cotton
The rest of the people are {gathering/ harvesting} sparse cotton.
**Won-won** is Pan-creole (Holm, 1982).

Succession
4. Da prinsapal kohl dem in hiy ohfis **won-won**.
The principal call them in he office one-one
The principal called them into his office {one by one/ individually}.

5. **Won-won**, da prinsapul kohl dem in hiy ohfis.
One-one the principal call them in he office
One by one, the principal called them into his office.

7. *Da prinsapul kohl dem in hiy ohfis won.

Succession
8. Da animal dem gohn in da ahk **tuw-tuw**.
The animal them gone in the ark two-two
The animals went into the ark {two by two/in pairs}.

9. !! toytiyn-toyiyn
Intensification
10. Ay yuwsta woyk-woyk. (Andros)
I used to work-work
I used to work {very hard / a lot}.

11. Dat da fah in da bak. Ya wohk-wohk. (Crooked Island)
That COP far in the back. You walk-walk
That is far in the back. You (have to) walk a lot (to get there).

12a)*siy-siy
b)*tiyngk-tiyngk
c)*now-now

13. Shiyz a chat-chat.
She’s a chat-chat
She is a very talkative person.

Continuation/ Repetition

T
He been tease-tease me
He {teased/ used to tease} me continually.

15. Hiy biyn tiyz miy.
He been tease me
He teased me.

M
16. Hiy ga tiyz-tiyz miy if ay duw dat.
He MOD tease-tease me if I do that
He will tease me continually if I do that.

17. Hiy ga tiyz miy if ay duw dat.
He MOD tease me if I do that
He will tease me if I do that.

A
18. Hiy doz tiyz-tiyz miy.
He ASP tease-tease me
He (habitually) teases me a lot.

19. Hiy doz tiyz miy.
He does tease me
He teases me (on occasion).

20a) *Hiy tiyzin-tiyzin miy.
b) *Hiy tiyz-tiyz miy.

Lexically Determined Reduplications
21. It iyng iyziy ta bak-bak in diyz nara striyt.
It ain’t easy to back-back in these narrow street
It is not easy to reverse on these narrow streets.

22. Da dohkta gatiy ekzamin iy bang-bang.
The doctor MOD examine he bang-bang
The doctor has to examine his penis.

23. Miyng wohng now bon-bon.
I ain’t want no burn-burn
I do not want any burnt food.
24. Uwnliy won chick-chick savayv.
Only one chick-chick survive
Only one chick survived.

English
n. chick [+bird, +young, +small]

Bahamian Creole
n. chick [+bird, +young] ---> reduplication ---> n.chick-chick [+bird, +young, +small]

Curse-curse can’t hurt me
Name-calling cannot hurt me.


27a) * Tiyz-tyiz kyahng hoyt miy.
b) * Pley-pley neva hoyt iniywon.

This is a play-play sewing machine
This is a toy sewing machine.

29. Dis sowin mashiyn pley-pley.
This sewing machine play-play
This sewing machine is {a toy/not real}.

30. Ay gat som swiyt sip-sip fa yuw.
I got some sweet sip-sip for you
I have some sweet gossip for you.

31. Iy sok-sok kuz iy sik.
She suck-suck ‘cause she sick
She is gaunt because she is sick.

32. Hiyz a aylan mahn sow hiy now hah ta pley tyuwn-tyuwn.
He’s a island man so he know how to play tune-tune
He is an island man so he knows how to play the concertina.

Final Comments

• Bahamian Creole uses total reduplication.
• Inflectional reduplications outnumber derivational ones.
• There is not a clear relationship between inflection and production.
• Reduplication serves a variety of semantic functions in Bahamian Creole, including distribution, intensification, diminution, continuation and repetition.
• Based on this Bahamian data, intensification is most common.
• Four major syntactic categories are affected by reduplication - nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.