

# Reduplication in Suwawa Language

Sania R. Suhadak<sup>1</sup>, Herman Didipu<sup>2</sup>, Yeyen Sofia<sup>3</sup>, Fristi S. Oki<sup>4</sup>, Tiara S. Kamaru<sup>5</sup>, Eka Safitri<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup>Jurusa Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo, Indonesia

herdi.ung@gmail.com

**Abstract**—This study aims at describing the forms of reduplication in the Suwawa Language. Data in this study were gathered from native speakers of the Suwawa language who lived in Suwawa, Bone Bolango Regency, Gorontalo Province. Data were collected through observation, interview, and note-taking techniques. The collected data were then analyzed qualitatively by following the stages of data analysis by Miles, Huberman, & Saldana (2014), consisting of data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing or data verification. Based on the results of data analysis, the researchers found five forms of reduplication in the Suwawa language: (1) complete reduplication, which can be divided into (a) complete reduplication of basic words and (b) complete reduplication with affixes, (2) reduplication with affixes, (3) reduplication with sound changing, (4) partial reduplication, which can be divided into (a) partial reduplication of one syllable and (b) partial reduplication of two syllables, and (5) pseudo reduplication.

**Keywords**—reduplication, Suwawa language

## I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country that is rich in local languages. The latest data from the Center for Data and Statistics of Education and Culture (Indonesian: *Pusat Data dan Statistik Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan*) show that there are 750 local languages spread across 34 provinces in Indonesia (KEMDIKBUD, 2019). It further confirms Indonesia as a plural country because one of the indicators of plurality is the diversity of local languages.

One of the local languages in Indonesia that can still be found in use is the Suwawa language. It is a local language in Gorontalo Province. Besides the Suwawa language, there are 3 other local languages in Gorontalo Province, namely Gorontalo, Atinggola, and Bulango languages. Of the 4 languages in Gorontalo, the Suwawa language is considered the oldest.

Although it is considered the oldest language in Gorontalo, the position of the Suwawa language is currently getting marginalized. The results of a study conducted by Darmawati (2019) show that the condition of the viability of the Suwawa language is in an endangered situation. One of the causes is the low awareness of the speaking community, especially the younger generation, to use the Suwawa language in their daily communication or interaction. Generally, the younger generation feels ashamed to speak the Suwawa language because it is considered outdated. Moreover, there is an assumption among the younger generation that people who speak the Suwawa language are considered old-fashioned and out of date.

This reality is surely very concerning. Therefore, it needs serious responses from all parties to continue to

make efforts to revive and preserve the Suwawa language. One of the efforts that can be carried out is to intensify research activities on the Suwawa language from various perspectives. Efforts to conduct research and study on the Suwawa language have admittedly been carried out for a long time. However, it must be also admitted that the number of these studies is still quite limited. Some of the results of studies that have been carried out are presented in the following.

Umar (2017) has conducted a study entitled “*Factors and Strategies for Preventing Marginalization of the Suwawa Language in Gorontalo Province*.” This study was published in *Litera*, Vol. 16, No. 1, April 2017. The study aimed at describing the factors and strategies for preventing the marginalization of the Suwawa language in Gorontalo Province. In the study, he concluded 2 important points. First, the marginalization of the Suwawa language is caused by (1) conceptual factors, (2) operational factors, (3) attitude factors, and (4) language attitude factors. Second, the marginalization prevention strategy for the Suwawa language can be carried out through (1) education, (2) scientific activities, and (3) community services.

In addition, Firdaus (2018) has also conducted a study entitled “*The Extinction Pressure of the Suwawa Language: Analyzing the Viability of the Suwawa Language*.” The purpose of this study was to determine the characteristics of the respondents and the viability status of the Suwawa language based on the relationship between the average index value and the characteristics of the respondents. The research method applied in the study was a descriptive quantitative method. The measuring instrument employed to analyze the viability status of the Suwawa language was a Likert scale. The obtained data were analyzed further by the compare mean test utilizing SPSS v. 23. The viability status of the Suwawa language was determined by the results of the calculation of the sub-index group with the four variable characteristics of the respondents: gender, age, education, and occupation. The results of the study indicated that the viability status of the Suwawa language was classified as stable and steady but endangered and included in the index line 4-5 based on its visualization in the spider diagram. The mean total index was 0.61. This value was obtained from the comparison of the average between indexes based on the categories of gender, age, education, and occupation.

Kasim *et al.* (1981) has also conducted a study on the linguistic structure of the Suwawa language. The results of their study were published by the Center for Language Development (Indonesian: *Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa*). The study examined the internal structure of the Suwawa language which includes aspects

of phonology, morphology, and syntax. The broad scope of this study makes it not too deep to explore the internal structure of the Suwawa language. For this reason, it is deemed necessary to conduct more studies investigating the internal elements of the Suwawa language so that a more in-depth and comprehensive description can be obtained.

In this study, the researchers focus more on one of the linguistic aspects of the Suwawa language, namely the reduplication system or word repetition. The main purpose of this study is to describe the forms of reduplication in the Suwawa language. This study is expected to provide a positive contribution to the development of the Suwawa language. In addition, the results of this study can be practically used as a learning material for the local content concerning the Suwawa language.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Reduplication is a linguistic phenomenon that is shared by almost every language in the world. As a result, the discussion of reduplication in almost all languages is an interesting topic to study. Although each language has different characteristics of the form and meaning of reduplication, the basic concepts of reduplication have similarities. Some of them are described in the following. Nadarajan (2006) defines reduplication as a morphological process in which a lexeme or root is repeated completely or partially to form a new word. A similar statement is expressed by Finegan (2015) that reduplication is a process of repeating morphemes or parts of morphemes to create new words with different meanings and categories.

Inclass & Downing (2015) view reduplication as the multiplication or repetition of some basic morphological components for several morphological purposes. The purposes rely on several linguistic properties, such as basic words, syllables, or words, which serve as the basis for reduplication. Specifically, Morshed (2019) mentions that the original word that becomes the basis of repetition is called "reduplicand". Meanwhile, the word that is repeated, either modified or unmodified, is called "reduplicant". Furthermore, the word that is produced through this process is called "reduplicative".

## III. METHODS

In this study, the researchers applied a qualitative descriptive method. This method was used to describe specifically the forms of reduplication of the Suwawa language. The data came from the speech of the people in the Suwawa area. To collect data, the researchers employed observation and note-taking techniques. The collected data were then analyzed using the technique of data analysis put forward by Miles, Huberman, & Saldana (2014), consisting of data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing or data verification.

## IV. FINDINGS

Based on the results of data analysis, the researchers found five forms of reduplication in the Suwawa language: (1) complete reduplication, which can be divided into (a) complete reduplication of basic words and (b) complete reduplication with affixes, (2) reduplication with affixes,

(3) reduplication with sound changing, (4) partial reduplication, which can be divided into (a) partial reduplication of one syllable and (b) partial reduplication of two syllables, and (5) pseudo reduplication.

For more details, the following is an explanation of the findings regarding the forms of reduplication in the Suwawa language.

### A. Complete Reduplication

Complete reduplication is the form of repetition of the basic word or basic form in full without changing the form of the word or form. In this study, the researchers found two types of complete reduplication: (1) complete reduplication of basic words and (2) complete reduplication with affixes. The following is a description of these two sub-forms.

#### 1) Complete Reduplication of Basic Words

Complete reduplication of basic words is a complete repetition of basic words or root words without undergoing an affixation process. The following are examples of complete reduplication of basic words in the Suwawa language.

TABLE I  
DATA PRESENTING COMPLETE REDUPLICATION OF BASIC WORDS

Basic Words	Basic Form	Reduplication Form
<i>danga</i> 'crawl (like a horse)'	-	<i>danga-danga</i> 'piggyback'
<i>Lopoti'a</i> 'piece'	-	<i>lopoti'a-lopoti'a</i> 'pieces'
<i>Layigo</i> 'house'	-	<i>Layigo-layigo</i> 'houses'

The basic word *danga* is repeated in its entirety, making it *danga-danga*. The basic word *lopoti'a* is also repeated as a whole so that it becomes *lopoti'a-lopoti'a*. Similarly, the word *layigo* is repeated in its entirety to become *layigo-layigo*. These basic words do not undergo affixation. In other words, they immediately form reduplications.

#### 2) Complete Reduplication with Affixes

Different from the complete reduplication of the basic words, this type of reduplication undergoes an affixation process before forming a reduplication. As a result, the morphological series is that the basic word undergoes affixation and then the affixed form is repeated in its entirety. It can be seen in the following table.

TABLE II  
DATA PRESENTING COMPLETE REDUPLICATION WITH AFFIXES

Basic Words	Basic Form	Reduplication Form
<i>iyomo</i> 'to smile'	<i>iyoma'o</i> 'smiling'	<i>iyoma'o-iyoma'o</i> 'smiling alone'
<i>otimo</i> 'to laugh'	<i>otima'o</i> 'laughing'	<i>otimao-otimao</i> 'laughing alone'
<i>tete'o</i> 'to run'	<i>tete'a'o</i> 'running'	<i>tete'a'o-tete'a'o</i> 'running around'
<i>tambati</i> 'to answer'	<i>tambatiya</i> 'answer'	<i>tambatiya-tambatiya</i> 'answers'

<i>tumula</i> 'to plant'	<i>pinomula</i> 'plant'	<i>pinomula-pinomula</i> 'plants'
<i>gutato</i> 'sibling'	<i>mogutato</i> 'sibling relation'	<i>mogutato-mogutato</i> 'siblings'

The table above shows the process of forming complete reduplication with affixes. The basic word that becomes the root is affixed and then is repeated in full. The word *iyomo* becomes *iyoma'o* which is then repeated in its entirety to become *iyoma'o-iyoma'o*. Similarly, the word *otimo* is affixed to become *otima'o* and repeated to become *otima'o-otima'o*. It is likewise what happens to the words *tete'o*, *tambati*, *tumula*, and *gutato*.

#### B. Reduplication with Affixes

Reduplication with affixes is a form of repetition of basic words by adding affixes to the repeated basic words. The morphological process is that the basic word is added with the same basic word but has added an affix. For more details on the form of reduplication with affixes, it can be seen in the following table.

TABLE III  
REDUPLICATION WITH AFFIXES

Basic Words	Basic Form	Reduplication Form
<i>tolu</i> 'three'	<i>toludo</i>	<i>tolu-toludo</i> 'three by three'
<i>toga</i> 'light'	<i>togana</i>	<i>toga-togana</i> 'lights'
<i>batu</i> 'rock'	<i>batuwana</i>	<i>batu-batuwana</i> 'rocks'
<i>wuha</i> 'rain'	<i>wuhana</i>	<i>wuha-wuhana</i> 'wet from the rain'
<i>Biji</i> 'seed'	<i>bijiyana</i>	<i>biji-bijiyana</i> 'grains'
<i>tuho</i> 'to hide'	<i>tuho'o</i>	<i>tuho-tuho'o</i> 'secretly'

The data presented above show the form of reduplication with affixes. The form involves two parts in the reduplication form. The first is the form of basic words and the second is also the form of basic words that have undergone affixation. As seen in the table above, the first element is the basic words *tolu*, *toga*, *batu*, *wuha*, *biji*, and *tuho*. Meanwhile, the second element is the basic word that has undergone affixes, namely *toludo*, *togana*, *batuwana*, *wuhana*, *nijiyana*, and *tuho'o*. The combination of the two elements forms reduplications with affixes, namely *tolu-toludo*, *toga-togana*, *batu-batuwana*, *wuha-wuhana*, *biji-bijiyana*, *tuho-tuho'o*.

#### C. Reduplication with Sound Changing

Reduplication with sound changing is a form of word repetition that undergoes variations in sound changes in the second part of the reduplication form. This form of reduplication is almost similar to that of complete reduplication with affixes. The difference is that the second part in this form of reduplication is the basic word that has been affixed and then undergoes a sound change. For more details, it can be seen in the following table.

TABLE IV  
DATA PRESENTING REDUPLICATION WITH SOUND CHANGING

Basic Words	Basic Form	Reduplication Form
<i>tete'o</i> 'to run'	<i>tete'a'o</i> 'running'	<i>tete'a'o-tete'ai</i> 'running around'
<i>li'ido</i> 'to roll'	<i>li'ida'o</i> 'rolling'	<i>li'ida'o-li'idai</i> 'rolling around'

The morphological process of the data presented above is that the basic word *tete'o* is added with an affix to become *tete'a'o*. After that, the basic form is repeated intact by changing the final vowel sound to *tete'ai*. As a result, its reduplication form is *tete'a'o-tete'ai*. Likewise, in the basic word *li'ido*, it is added with an affix to become *li'ida'o*, and then the final vowel sound is changed, resulting in *li'ida'o-li'idai*.

#### D. Partial Reduplication

A partial reduplication is a form of word repetition in which only some elements are repeated. Based on the results of this study, there are two types of partial reduplication in the Suwawa language: (2) partial reduplication of one syllable and (2) partial reduplication of two syllables. For more detail, it is shown in the following.

##### 1) Partial Reduplication of One Syllable

Partial reduplication of one syllable occurs if the repeated is the first syllable of the basic word. This can be seen in the following table.

TABLE V  
DATA PRESENTING PARTIAL REDUPLICATION OF ONE SYLLABLE

Basic Words	Basic Form	Reduplication Form
<i>bu'ido</i> 'mount'	-	<b><i>bu</i></b> <i>bu'ido</i> 'mountain'
<i>layigo</i> 'house'	-	<b><i>la</i></b> <i>layigo</i> 'housing area'
<i>po'ela</i> 'to remember'	-	<b><i>po</i></b> <i>po'ela</i> 'reminder'
<i>butola</i> 'to argue'	-	<b><i>bu</i></b> <i>butola</i> 'arguing with each other'
<i>bilogo</i> 'to see'	-	<b><i>bi</i></b> <i>bilogo</i> 'vision'
<i>gimo'a</i> 'to gather'	-	<b><i>gi</i></b> <i>gimo'a</i> 'gathering'
<i>yinda</i> 'dish'	-	<b><i>yi</i></b> <i>yinda</i> 'banquet'
<i>dingga</i> 'partner'	-	<b><i>di</i></b> <i>dingga</i> 'in pairs'
<i>limbata</i> 'to exchange'	-	<b><i>li</i></b> <i>limbata</i> 'exchanging each other'
<i>wumbada</i> 'to punch'	-	<b><i>wu</i></b> <i>wumbada</i> 'punch each other'

In the table, the first syllable of the basic words *bu'ido*, *layigo*, *po'ela*, *butola*, *bilogo*, *gimo'a*, *yinda*, *dingga*, *limbata*, and *wumbada* is repeated, namely [bu], [la], [po], [bu], [bi], [gi], [yi], [di], [li], and [wu], respectively. As a result, the reduplication form of those words is ***bu****bu'ido*, ***la****layigo*, ***po****po'ela*, ***bu****butola*, ***bi****bilogo*, ***gi****gimo'a*, ***yi****yinda*, ***di****dingga*, ***li****limbata*, and ***wu****wumbada*, respectively.

2) *Partial Reduplication of Two Syllables*

Partial reduplication of two syllables occurs if the repeated is the first two syllables of the basic word. The following are examples of partial reduplication of two syllables in the Suwawa language.

TABLE VI  
DATA PRESENTING PARTIAL REDUPLICATION OF TWO SYLLABLES

Basic Words	Basic Form	Reduplication Form
<i>hiboboto</i> 'to fight'	-	<i>hibo-hiboboto</i> 'a fight'
<i>bilogo</i> 'to see'	-	<i>bilo-bilogo</i> 'to have a look'
<i>tombilu</i> 'to tell a story'	-	<i>tombi-tombilu</i> 'to tell a story without an audience'
<i>kalajapa</i> 'to work'	-	<i>kala-kalajapa</i> 'work first'
<i>lopoto</i> 'to cut'	-	<i>lopo-lopoto</i> 'to be dismembered'
<i>iyomo</i> 'to smile'	-	<i>iyoyomo</i> 'smiling each other'
<i>legedo</i> 'poem/pantun'	-	<i>lege-leggedo</i> 'exchanging poem/pantun'
<i>buango</i> 'hole'	-	<i>bua-buango</i> 'to be perforated'
<i>tibando</i> 'to lie down'	-	<i>tiba-tibando</i> 'lying down'
<i>pi'uwo</i> 'to fold'	-	<i>pi'u-pi'uwo</i> 'folding'

As seen in the table, the first two syllables of the basic words *hiboboto*, *bilogo*, *tombilu*, *kalajapa*, *lopoto*, *iyomo*, *legedo*, *buango*, *tibando*, and *pi'uwo* are repeated, namely [*hibo*], [*bilo*], [*tombi*], [*kala*], [*lopo*], [*iyoy*], [*lege*], [*bua*], [*tiba*], and [*pi'u*], respectively. As a result, the reduplication form of those words is *hibo-hiboboto*, *bilo-bilogo*, *tombi-tombilu*, *kala-kalajapa*, *lopo-lopoto*, *iyoyomo*, *lege-leggedo*, *bua-buango*, *tiba-tibando*, and *pi'u-pi'uwo*, respectively.

E. *Pseudo-Reduplication*

Pseudo-reduplication is a form of word repetition that does not have a basic word or basic form. This means that pseudo-reduplication cannot be distributed over the basic word or its basic form. This type of reduplication is formed directly with two elements of the same word. Repeated words cannot stand alone because they have no meaning, making them not be able to be used in communication. This form of reduplication is very limited in number. Therefore, only a few examples of pseudo-reduplication can be found in the Suwawa language, as presented in the following table.

TABLE VII  
DATA PRESENTING PSEUDO-REDUPLICATION

Basic Words	Basic Form	Reduplication Form
-	-	<i>ngande-ngande</i> 'earring'
-	-	<i>mbare-mbare</i> 'to be drunk'
-	-	<i>wayi-wayi</i>

		'younger brother/sister'
-	-	<i>danga-danga</i> 'to crawl'
-	-	<i>giya-giya</i> 'older brother/sister'

The reduplication forms of *ngande-ngande*, *mbare-mbare*, *wayi-wayi*, *danga-danga*, and *giya-giya* cannot be distributed on the basic words *ngande*, *mbare*, *wayi*, *danga*, and *giya* because these words have no meaning so that the words will not be found their use in conversation.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The reduplication in the Suwawa language has the respective characteristics that distinguish it from other languages in the world. Based on the results of this study, the researchers found five forms of reduplication in the Suwawa language: (1) complete reduplication, which can be divided into (a) complete reduplication of basic words and (b) complete reduplication with affixes, (2) reduplication with affixes, (3) reduplication with sound changing, (4) partial reduplication, which can be divided into (a) partial reduplication of one syllable and (b) partial reduplication of two syllables, and (5) pseudo reduplication.

There are many other aspects of the Suwawa language that need to be studied in depth. For this reason, more studies are needed that specifically examine the internal structure of the Suwawa language. By doing so, it is expected that there will be more and more documentation of the Suwawa language as an effort to conserve the Suwawa language.

References

- [1] Darmawati, M.R. "Vitalitas Bahasa Suwawa", Laporan Penelitian, 2019.
- [2] Finegan, E. 2015. "Language: Its Structure and Use," Seventh Edition. Cengage Learning
- [3] Firdaus, W. "Tekanan Kepunahan Bahasa Suwawa: Analisis Tingkat Daya Hidup Bahasa", *Metalingua*, Vol. 16 No. 2, Desember 2018:307-314.
- [4] Inkelas, S., Downing, L. J. "What is Reduplication? Typology and Analysis Part 1/2: The Typology of Reduplication", *Language and Linguistics Compass* 9/12 (2015): 502-515.
- [5] Kasim, M.M., dkk. 1981. "Struktur Bahasa Suwawa". Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa.
- [6] Kemdikbud. 2019. "Statistik Kebahasaan 2019". Jakarta: Pusat Data dan Statistik Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan.
- [7] Miles, M.B., Huberman A.M., Saldana J. 2014. "Qualitative data analysis: a methods sourcebook – Third edition." SAGE Publications
- [8] Morshed, Sarwar, "English Reduplicative Loans in Bangla", *Parole: Journal of Linguistics and Education*, 9 (2), 2019, 117-123, 2019.
- [9] Nadarajan, Shanthi. "A Crosslinguistic Study Of Reduplication", *Arizona Working Papers in SLAT – Vol.13*, 2006.
- [10] Umar, F.A.R. "Faktor dan Strategi Pencegahan Pemarjinalan Bahasa Suwawa di Provinsi Gorontalo", *LITERA*, Volume 16, Nomor 1, April 2017.