



## An Analysis of the Mental Properties of Pure Reduplications in Malay language

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### Abstrakt

As all languages have a system of reduplication, Malay language is no exception. This study investigates 5 different mental forms of the pure plural form of Malay language.

**Key words:** reduplication, bahasa melayu, orang, linguistic category

The goal of this research is to look at the structure and semantic features of reduplicated nouns and verbs in Classical Malay literature from the 1500s, which is considered the most standard and ideal period in Malay literature (Teeuw, 1959). Because there has been little research on the link between the usage of reduplication in Classical Malay and Modern Malay, a diachronic comparison will be undertaken.

Reduplication (Rubino, 2011) can be described as the repeated use of phonological information inside a word for semantic or grammatical objectives. It is a widespread phenomena seen in many language families, including Austronesian languages like Malay. Reduplication occurs in a variety of patterns and has a variety of meanings that vary according to the categories of grammar of the words.

Reduplication is a common morphological method in Bahasa Melayu . The process of duplication, according to Tham (1990), is used "to either create derivative meanings or extend the meaning of a linguistic category by connotation." Almost all language categories, involving as nouns, verbs, adjectives, numbers, and particles, may be replicated in Bahasa Melayu. In this approach, the employment of the suffixes [me], [be], and [ter] is considered to be more important in terms of grammatical function than meaning.

In Bahasa Melayu, there are two reduplication patterns:

1. Total/stem reduplication

For example: *orang* becomes *orang-orang*



## 2. Partial reduplication

For example: *terang* becomes *terang-benderang*

Reduplication serves several functions in BM (the following functions and examples are not exhaustive):

### 1. To show plurality

For example:

Base word	Meaning	Reduplicant	Meaning
<i>kereta</i>	a car	<i>kerete-kereta</i>	cars
<i>jari</i>	a finger	<i>jari-jemari</i>	all fingers
<i>pokok</i>	a tree	<i>pokok-pokok</i>	trees
<i>buku</i>	a book	<i>buku-buku</i>	books

### 2. To create new words

For example:

Base word	Meaning	Reduplicant	Meaning
<i>mata</i>	eye	<i>mata-mata</i>	spy
<i>langit</i>	sky	<i>angit-langit</i>	ceiling
<i>agar</i>	so that	<i>agar-agar</i>	jelly

### 3. To show continuous action

For example:

Base word	Meaning	Reduplicant	Meaning
<i>pukul</i>	to hit	<i>memukul-mukul</i>	to hit continuously
<i>cari</i>	to search	<i>mencari-cari</i>	to search continuously

### 4. To show aimlessness of action

For example:

Base word	Meaning	Reduplicant	Meaning
<i>esak</i>	to sob	<i>teresak-esak</i>	to sob aimlessly
<i>tanya</i>	to ask	<i>tertanya-tanya</i>	to ask aimlessly
<i>lari</i>	to run	<i>terlari-lari</i>	to run aimlessly

### 5. To show indefiniteness

For example:

Base word	Meaning	Reduplicant	Meaning
<i>mana</i>	where	<i>mana-mana</i>	wherever
<i>bila</i>	when	<i>bila-bila</i>	whenever



<i>lama</i>	long (time)	<i>lama-lama</i>	eventually; sooner or later
<i>lain</i>	others	<i>lain-lain</i>	everything else

Overall, reduplication is a popular word construction strategy in many languages, and as previously said, there are various ways to reduplicate. The emphasis here is on instances from Austronesian languages in general since this language family is a unique characteristic of the problem. Even yet, considering the vastness of the Austronesian language family, there are limitations to how much can be written about reduplication in a short essay. Nonetheless, it is anticipated that the examples provided will suffice to demonstrate, first, that reduplication can be whole (using the entire word) or partial (including pieces of a word such as its opening sounds), and second, that reduplication is employed for a variety of grammatical reasons.

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