IDENTIFYING THE PRAGMATIC MEANING OF REDUPLICATION IN SOME SELECTED ENGLISH SENTENCES

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Abstract - Language is a vital means of communication changing through time and this change may be reflected in the appearance of new vocabulary items represented by word-formation processes .Reduplication , one of those fertile processes , is a linguistic phenomenon found in morphological and phonological levels. However, it is rarely found in pragmatics. Accordingly , the current paper is concerned with the pragmatic level of reduplication in English .The main problem is attributed to the fact that EFL learners may figure out the morphological and phonological levels of reduplication in some English sentences, yet they may not be able to understand the pragmatic meaning of reduplication due to certain extra-linguistic factors. The essential aim of this paper is to describe reduplication in English and to show its intended meaning in some English sentences. The procedure followed in this paper is to describe this phenomenon according to morphological and phonological aspects in English and Thomas's Model of meaning (1995) is adopted in this paper. The data are collected from TV., internet and YouTube. This paper has come up with the following conclusions : (1) it is possible for EFL learners to figure out reduplication in terms of morphology and phonology ; (2) it is difficult for EFL learners to understand reduplication in terms of pragmatic aspects due to the extra –linguistic factors; (3) it is found that reduplication is rarely existed in pragmatics

Index Terms - EFL , morphology , phonology , pragmatics , reduplication.

I. INTRODUCTION

Reduplication is among the processes that found in English and it is one of six main kinds of grammatical processes. It is used with various forms to achieve various purposes: morphological semantic, phonological and syntactic.(Crystal ,2006:228)
The current section describes certain terms including pragmatics , levels of meaning , reduplication , its uses and types.

1.1. Pragmatics

Pragmatics focuses on what is not explicitly stated and on how we interpret utterances in situational contexts .They are concerned not so much with the sense of what is said as with its force , that is with what is communicated by the manner and style of an utterance(Finch ,2000:20). Pragmatics is concerned with three-termed relations ,namely (a) linguistic form , (b) the communicative function and (c) the context in which these linguistic forms can have communicative functions (Fillmore ,1981:14).Levinson (1983:19) adds that pragmatics is the study of those relations between language and context which might be grammaticalized or encoded in the structure of language.

1.2.Levels of Meaning

According to Thomas (1995:3) , there are two levels of meaning that are related to the core of the study .The first level is called " abstract meaning "which is concerned with what a word , phrase and sentence could mean (e.g. the dictionary meaning of words or phrases).The second level of meaning is that the pragmatic meaning which refers to the speaker's communicative intention .For example the abstract meaning of "zigzag" is twisted, curved if it indicates roads. Yet the pragmatic meaning of "zigzag" is crooked , dishonest if it refers to persons.

1.3. Reduplication

Reduplication is a word –formation process by which a prefix is created by repeating the first consonant and vowel of a base (Katambu, 1999:220).On the other hand , reduplication is often described phonologically in one of the two different ways: either (a) as reduplicated segments (sequences of consonants /vowels) or (b) as reduplicated prosodic units. It is also described morphologically as reduplication of linguistic constituents (i.e., words, stems roots) (Stageberg,1981:727).

1.4. Types of Reduplication

Reduplication can be classified into several types ,these types include the following :
1. Full reduplication involves the exact repetition of a sound or a word, e.g. pee – pee ,bye-bye, choo -choo.
2. Partial reduplication involves reduplication of only a word, e, g.: chit –chat ,flip-flop , hip-hop.

1.5.Functions of Reduplication

Katamba (2006:180) states that reduplication is generally employed to indicate certain concepts like: distribution , plurality , intensity , …etc.

1.6. Intensity

Reduplication may show the intensity of a particular action. For example,
a. Have you brought the whole luggage with you ?
b. Yes ,I did

1.7.Plurality

Reduplication may show plurality of a particular event .For example,I have pooh- pooh feeling towards marriage

1.8. Emphasis

Reduplication is used to indicate emphasis action. For example,

a. Is your husband good person ?

b. Do you mean goody-goody ?

1.9. Contrast

A word is repeated to obtain meaning usually when the first noun is stressed to indicate a literal idea. For example,

a .Is that carrot cheese cake or carrot cake –cake ?

b.It is a carrot cake – cake.

1.10. Imitation

Reduplication may imitate sounds of objects. For example tick –tick , brum – brum (Quirk,1973:143)

II. METHODOLOGY

The current section is about the practical part of the study which provides research methodology, data analysis and results and discussion of the study.

2.1. Participants

The study includes (50) Iraqi undergraduate students, (25) of the department of English /college of Education Ibn Rushd for social sciences/University of Baghdad and (25) of the department of English /college of Languages/University of Baghdad. .They are chosen randomly and they are studying Morphology in the fourth year. The participant's ages range from 20-47.They are selected from both morning and evening studies .See table (1) II.II Materials

The materials used for this study consist of ten pairs of colloquial dialogues of different everyday life situations which are downloaded from the internet and analyzed by adopting Thomas' model of meaning . See table (2)

2.2. Procedures

A suggested approach or model for the current study is based on Thomas' model of meaning (1995). The selected colloquial dialogue vary in length and number of utterances .Thus , ten utterances have been selected from TV, Internet, and YouTube which represent everyday language of colloquial dialogues.

III. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Ten common informal utterances will be analyzed and discussed in this section:

(1)Topsy-Turvy

1.a My house is all topsy –turvy.

1.b Wars topsy-turvied everything in our country.

In (1.a) the abstract meaning of reduplication indicates a state of a great confusion whereas (1.b) has the pragmatic meaning of reduplication that indicates destruction and demolition .

(2) Hush –hush

2.a They were desperate to keep the marriage hush –hush.

2.b The company hush –hushed many transactions.

The abstract meaning of reduplication " hush-hush" in (2.a) entails confidential on secret whereas the pragmatic meaning of reduplication in (2.b) indicates illegal manipulation.

(3)Lovey-dovey

3.a They are lovy-dovy couples.

3.b The lovy –dovied man lives in a big palace.

The reduplication " lovy –dovy" in (3.a) carries the abstract meaning that refers to very affectionate man while in (3.b) the reduplication carries the pragmatic meaning which refers to a very eccentric man.

(4) Nitty -gritty

4.a Let's get down to the nitty-gritty.

4.b The manager imposed strict nitty –gritty on his staff.

The reduplication " nighty-gritty" in (4.a) has the meaning of basic details while the second reduplication in (4.b) has the meaning of instructions and directions.

(5) Wheeler-dealer

5.a My brother is a bit of a wheeler-dealer.

5.b Our boss is a big wheeler –dealer.

The abstract meaning of the reduplication in (5.a) means that my brother does a lot of jobs while the pragmatic meaning of the (5.b) reduplication means that our boss is a dishonest person.

(6) Boo-boo

6.a I do not need you to fix every boo-boo

6.b I sat next to the boo-boo in pink.

The meaning of reduplication in (6.a) is that it refers to a mistake or a problem ;yet the intended meaning of the reduplication in (6.b) is that it refers to a beautiful lady.

(7) Gee-gee

7.a He won some money on the gee-gee.

7.b The children gee-geed for more ice cream.

The abstract meaning of reduplication in (7.a) refers to horses. However, the intended meaning of reduplication in (7.b) means that the children ask for ice cream impatiently.

(8) Fiddle-faddle

8.a Do not fiddle-faddle talk seriously.

8.b Do not fiddle-faddle with me.

Reduplication in (8.a) means that you should not talk about trivial matters, whereas the intended meaning of reduplication in (8.b) means that you should not behave like a fool.

(9) Riff-raff

9.a We do not want any riff raff to move into the area.

9.b The company riff-raffed many workforce into the country.

Reduplication in (9.a) means that we do not want any worthless people who come to the area which represents the abstract meaning , while in (9.b) the pragmatic meaning of reduplication means that the company entered many workforce illegally.

(10) Zig-zag

10.a We travel along a zig-zag path .

10.b. The company has zigzagged a lot of commercial dealings.

The abstract meaning of reduplication in (10.a) means that we travel along the twisted and curved road, whereas the intended meaning of reduplication in (10.b) indicates that the company has made a lot of suspicious transactions.

CONCLUSION

This paper has come up with the following conclusions:

1. EFL and ESL learners may face difficulties in understanding the intended meaning of reduplication due to the extra-linguistic nature of pragmatics.
2. EFL and ESL learners may find it easy to figure out reduplication in terms of morphology and phonology due to the linguistic aspects of these disciplines.
3. These reduplications are derived from colloquial and slang nature and they are mostly used in everyday language.
4. Reduplications are of different types including full and partial.
5. Reduplications perform different functions including intensity, , emphasis , plurality, contrast and imitation.

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Variable		No. of Students
Gender	Male	20
	Female	30
Age	20-47	
	Total	50

Table (1) Distribution of Participants according to Gender and Age variables

Types of Reduplication		Percentage	Types of Meaning		Percentage
Total Reduplication	40	20%	Abstract	70	35%
Partial Reduplication	60	30%	Pragmatic	30	15%

Table (2) Distribution of Participants' responses

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