

## **Occurrence, function and meaning of reduplication in Indonesian: data from acquisition and translation**

One of the core features of Indonesian morphology is reduplication, which Italian speakers learning Indonesian often describe as a peculiar characteristic of this 'easy' language. A common stereotype about Indonesian is that some superficial descriptions of the language consider reduplication a 'funny' way to indicate pluralisation, since repeating a word simply implies its plural meaning due to its iconicity.

Italian learners of Indonesian seem to produce full reduplication of Indonesian nouns easily and transparently, morphologically speaking, because it is a word-formation process where the meaning of the resulting complex word can be easily and directly predicted from the meanings of its constituent parts. Conversely, Italian speakers, for whom nominal number is obligatory, tend to overuse reduplication, ignoring the fact that it is not obligatory. Other problems arise when reduplication is applied to other parts of speech and their morphologically complex forms, which imply morphophonemic changes. Italian learners rarely produce these forms until they reach semi-proficiency and sometimes fail to understand their function and meaning when translating from Indonesian to Italian.

These production and interpretation 'errors' can be observed in acquisition data and are compared to reduplication in written Indonesian. By examining evidence of reduplication in three contemporary Indonesian literary texts that have been translated into Italian, this paper aims to address the following questions: To what extent does overt reduplication occur in Indonesian? How are its function and meaning expressed in Italian? Conversely, can a lack of reduplication convey plurality? And how does this relate to language acquisition?