

## Contrastive Analysis Of Adjective Reduplication In Indonesian And Chinese

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### Abstract

*This study aims to describe the similarities and differences in adjective reduplication forms between Indonesian (BI) and Mandarin (BM). The method applied in this study is descriptive qualitative research with a contrastive analysis approach. Data were collected through literature review and documentation methods, and subsequently analyzed morphologically. The results reveal similarities in the "AA" reduplication pattern found in both languages. However, notable differences were also identified. Mandarin has polysyllabic adjective reduplication forms categorized into several distinct patterns, namely "ABB," "AAB," "AABB," "ABAB," and "A里AB." In contrast, Indonesian adjective reduplication includes affixed reduplication and sound-changing reduplication. This research contributes to the teaching and learning of Indonesian and Mandarin, particularly in enhancing learners' understanding of adjective reduplication forms in both languages.*

**Keywords:** Contrastive Analysis, Adjective Reduplication, Form, BI, BM

### INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most essential communication tools for humans, enabling us to convey our intentions, thoughts, feelings, and ideas to others. The more languages we master, the broader our perspective and social interactions become across various groups of people. Thus, there is no doubt that language plays a crucial role in human life.

The advancement of technology and globalization has positively impacted Indonesia,

231

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notably strengthening its position on the international stage. Indonesia's interactions with other nations and its strategic role in global affairs have further reinforced the significance of the Indonesian language as a globally recognized means of communication. This development has attracted foreigners to learn Indonesian for various purposes, including political communication, business, arts and culture, and tourism. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has not only enhanced bilateral relations between China and Indonesia but also significantly contributed to the expansion of Indonesian language education in China. The establishment of Indonesian language departments in numerous Chinese universities, along with the increasing number of students majoring in Indonesian language and literature, clearly demonstrates the growing interest among Chinese youth. Additionally, adults, especially professionals, also possess practical motivations to learn Indonesian, generally aiming to enhance their competitiveness in securing positions within preferred foreign companies. Currently, proficiency in Indonesian and relevant certification are becoming increasingly critical criteria in recruitment processes across various industries. Therefore, the significance of Indonesian language learning in China is becoming increasingly evident and critical. However, comprehensively mastering a language involves not only oral communication skills but also the ability to read and write with deep understanding. The four interconnected aspects—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—constitute a complete language proficiency, fundamentally supported by grammar.

Grammar refers to the set of rules that govern how words are structured into phrases, clauses, and sentences within a language, whether spoken or written. Proper grammar is crucial for accurately and effectively conveying meaning. Incorrect usage of grammar can result in ambiguous, confusing, or incorrect messages, leading to communication failures, as the intended meaning may not be clearly understood by the receiver. Grammar encompasses various aspects, including morphology, syntax, and occasionally phonology and semantics. Morphology studies the internal structure of words and the formation of words, with the morpheme as the smallest unit of morphological analysis.

Moreover, a morpheme represents the smallest meaningful unit in language and cannot be further subdivided into smaller meaningful parts. According to Keraf (1987, p. 51), morphemes can exist as whole words or as parts of words, such as affixes. Additionally, morphemes can be classified as either free morphemes, which can stand independently, or bound morphemes, which must combine with other morphemes to create words. Processes involving words in morphology are referred to as morphemic or morphological processes, which include various methods of word formation such as affixation, reduplication, compounding, conversion, and internal modification.



Reduplicated words are those formed through the process of reduplication. According to Chaer (2009), reduplication is a word formation process involving the repetition of a base word, which can occur fully, partially, or with phonological changes. Sudaryanto (1993) defines reduplication as a derivational process resulting in a new word with a meaning different from its original form through repetition of part or all of the word elements. Ramlan (1987) describes reduplication as a process in which words undergo repetition either entirely or partially, intended to convey plural meaning, emphasis, variety, or refinement of meaning.

Based on these definitions, reduplication in Indonesian can be summarized as a morphological process involving repetition of either part or the entire base word, either completely, partially, or accompanied by phonological alterations. This process produces new words with grammatical meanings such as plurality, emphasis, variety, or emotional nuances. Reduplication plays an essential role in the Indonesian language by enriching vocabulary, providing nuanced meanings, and facilitating clearer and more specific communication.

Adjectives constitute a word class used to describe, modify, or provide additional information about nouns or pronouns. They provide further detail regarding the qualities, states, or characteristics of an object or person, making descriptions more precise and specific. Analysis of reduplication cannot be separated from examining adjective reduplication. Examples of adjective reduplication in Indonesian are as follows:

Gadis itu cantik cantik. ( I )

S      P

In sentence ( I ), “cantik-cantik” (beautiful-beautiful) is a reduplication of the adjective “cantik” (beautiful), categorized as complete reduplication (Dwilingga), which involves repeating the entire base word without phoneme changes or affixation. Its meaning implies plurality or abundance, referring to the described noun, and its syntactic function in this sentence is as the predicate.

Dia mengangkat tangan setinggi-tingginya. ( II )

S    P    O    K

In sentence ( II ), “setinggi-tingginya” (as high as possible) represents reduplication of the adjective “tinggi” (high), classified as affixed reduplication with the affixes (se-nya). This type of reduplication involves repetition combined with affixation either on the first or second part of the repeated word. Its meaning denotes “the highest level achievable,” and its syntactic function in this sentence is adverbial.

Interestingly, adjective reduplication is not only found in Indonesian but also in Mandarin.



Mandarin is an official language in China, as well as one of the six official languages of the United Nations. Generally, “Mandarin” refers to the variety of spoken Chinese primarily used in northern and southwestern China and widely understood throughout other regions. It utilizes the unique Hanzi script, one of the world's oldest writing systems. Although resembling pictograms and ideograms, Hanzi is not an orthographic system. Each character, composed of specific strokes, represents a syllable and generally has a distinct meaning. Therefore, the Hanzi script is also described as a syllabic script (音节字 yīnjiēzì) or morphemic script (词素字 císzùzì or 语素字 yǔszùzì), where each character corresponds to one morpheme (Chandra, 2016, p.78).

The following are examples of adjective reduplication in Mandarin:

他的房间 干干净净(的). (Ⅲ)

S      P  
↓      ↓

Artinya: Kamarnya bersih-bersih.

In sentence (Ⅲ), “干干净净” (gāngān jìngjìng, meaning very clean) is the reduplication of the adjective “干净” (gānjìng, meaning clean). This type of reduplication follows the AABB pattern, involving repetition of both syllables, creating a compound or reduplicated form. Each syllable is repeated after its initial occurrence. Its meaning and syntactic function align with the concept of plurality or intensity, similar to “cantik-cantik” (beautiful-beautiful) in sentence ( I ). When learners use the AABB reduplication pattern in sentences, it is usually followed by the particle “的” (de).

他 站得 笔直笔直(的). (Ⅳ)

S    P      K  
↓    ↓      ↓

Artinya: Dia berdiri tegak-tegak

In sentence (Ⅳ), “笔直笔直” (bǐzhí bǐzhí, meaning very upright or perfectly straight) is the reduplication of the adjective “笔直” (bǐzhí, meaning upright). This reduplication follows the ABAB pattern, repeating the two morphemes entirely. Unlike the AABB pattern, the ABAB pattern places the repeated syllables directly following the original two syllables. Its meaning conveys intensity or emphasis regarding the described quality. While its syntactic function aligns with adverbial modification, similar to “setinggi-tingginya” (as high as possible) in sentence ( Ⅱ ), its semantic content differs significantly. Learners using the ABAB reduplication pattern should also include the particle “的” (de) in sentence structures.



According to 孙景涛 (2008) 重叠是一种形态构词手段, 在重叠过程中, 一个形式得到重复, 从而产生出一个新的意义, 重叠的运作是为了给某一特定意义以形式载体, 重叠是在语音与语法 (或语义) 的界面上运作的形态构词机制。chóngdié shì yī zhǒng xíngtài gòu cí shǒuduàn, zài chóngdié guòchéng zhōng, yīgè xíngshì dédào chóngfù, cóng'ér chǎnshēng chū yīgè xīn de yìyì, chóngdié de yùnzùo shì wèile gěi mǒu yī tèdìng yìyì yǐ xíngshì zàitǐ, chóngdié shì zài yǔyīn yǔ yǔfǎ (huò yǔyì) de jièmiàn shàng yùnzùo de xíngtài gòu cí jīzhì. Meaning: Reduplication is one of the methods of word formation in morphology. Through the reduplication process, a repeated form produces new meanings distinct from its original form. The use of reduplication provides additional specific meanings or nuances beyond the initial form, acting as a mechanism linking phonetics with grammar and semantics.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that reduplication plays a significant role in language learning, both in Indonesian and Mandarin. Studying reduplication is essential for comprehensively understanding the complexities of both languages, particularly concerning word formation and meaning. By mastering reduplication, learners can more effectively grasp how language functions and how it conveys various meanings and nuances. This research specifically aims to elucidate the similarities and differences of adjective reduplication forms in Indonesian and Mandarin from a morphological perspective, offering valuable insights and assistance to language learners in both China and Indonesia.

## METHOD

The research method employed in this study is descriptive qualitative research utilizing a contrastive analysis approach. The descriptive qualitative method was selected due to the study's objective to systematically, comprehensively, and accurately describe the similarities and differences of adjective reduplication in Indonesian and Mandarin. Contrastive analysis was employed to identify and analyze linguistic similarities and differences between the two languages.

This research was conducted in several stages as follows:

### 1. Data Collection

The data used in this study were gathered through literature review and documentation. The researcher compiled various references, including books, scholarly articles, journals, and other written materials related to adjective reduplication concepts in both Indonesian and Mandarin. Additionally, sentence examples illustrating adjective reduplication phenomena in both languages were collected.



## 2. Data Analysis Technique

After data collection, the data were analyzed using contrastive analysis techniques, comprising the following stages:

### a. Data Classification

This stage involved classifying adjective reduplication patterns in Indonesian and Mandarin based on the literature review findings. These patterns were categorized into specific reduplication forms, including full reduplication, affixed reduplication, and sound-changing reduplication in Indonesian, as well as “AA,” “ABB,” “AAB,” “AABB,” “ABAB,” and “A里AB” patterns in Mandarin.

### b. Contrastive Analysis

In this stage, an in-depth analysis of the classified data was conducted to identify similarities and differences between adjective reduplication in Indonesian and Mandarin. The analysis focused primarily on morphological aspects, specifically word structures and repetition patterns.

### c. Interpretation of Analysis Results

Upon identifying the similarities and differences, the researcher interpreted these findings by referring to relevant linguistic theories. This interpretation aimed to explain the underlying linguistic reasons for the similarities and differences, and their practical implications for teaching Indonesian to Mandarin speakers and vice versa.

## 3. Data Presentation

The analysis results were presented through systematic descriptive narratives and comparative tables to facilitate understanding of the similarities and differences between adjective reduplication forms in Indonesian and Mandarin.

Thus, this qualitative descriptive method combined with a contrastive analysis approach provided a clear, detailed, and academically sound representation of adjective reduplication characteristics in both languages, benefiting the teaching and learning of Indonesian and Mandarin.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

### RESULTS Adjective Reduplication in Indonesian

In Indonesian, various types of reduplication are utilized both in daily conversation and written forms. Generally, reduplication in Indonesian is categorized into several main types: full reduplication (dwilingga), partial reduplication (dwipurwa), pseudo reduplication, sound-changing



reduplication, and affixed reduplication. Specifically, adjective reduplication in Indonesian comprises three main types: full reduplication, affixed reduplication, and sound-changing reduplication. These types are explained as follows:

a. Full Reduplication

Full or pure reduplication in Indonesian involves repeating the entire base form of a word without any changes. Examples include:

| Base Word          | Reduplicated Form |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| cantik (beautiful) | cantik-cantik     |
| hitam (black)      | hitam-hitam       |
| panjang (long)     | panjang-panjang   |

b. Affixed Reduplication

Affixed reduplication is a process that involves repeating the base word with the addition of affixes. Affixes can be added either to one or both parts of the repeated words. Examples include:

1) “se+ base word reduplication+nya”

**Base Word Reduplicated Form**

besar (big) sebesar-besarnya

tinggi (tall) setinggi-tingginya

cepat (fast) secepat-cepatnya

2) “ke+ base word reduplication+an”

**Base Word Reduplicated Form**

merah (red) kemerah-merahan

kuning (yellow) kekuning-kuningan



asam (sour) keasam-asaman

3) “base word reduplication+an”

| Base Word       | Reduplicated Form |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| terang (bright) | terang-terangan   |
| kecil (small)   | kecil-kecilan     |
| mudah (easy)    | mudah-mudahan     |

4) “ber+base word reduplication”

| Base Word         | Reduplicated Form |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| malas (lazy)      | bermalas-malas    |
| susah (difficult) | bersusah-susah    |
| sakit (sick)      | bersakit-sakit    |

5) “ter+base word reduplication”

| Base Word    | Reduplicated Form |
|--------------|-------------------|
| gila (crazy) | tergila-gila      |

c. Sound-Changing Reduplication

Sound-changing reduplication is a type of reduplication in which a change in sound or phoneme occurs when a word is repeated. In adjective reduplication, this change can occur in vowels or consonants. Examples are as follows:

| Base Word              | Reduplicated Form |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| bolak (back and forth) | bolak-balik       |

|               |                 |             |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Vowel Changes | kocar (chaotic) | kocar-kacir |
|               | ketar (nervous) | ketar-ketir |

## Consonant Changes

| Base Word        | Reduplicated Form |
|------------------|-------------------|
| kacau (chaotic)  | kacau-balau       |
| kusut (tangled)  | kusut-musut       |
| ramah (friendly) | ramah-tamah       |

**Adjective Reduplication in Chinese**

In Chinese, reduplication (重叠, chóngdié) is the repetition of words or parts of words for various purposes, such as emphasizing meaning, showing repeated or brief actions, or changing the meaning of words. There are several types of reduplication in Chinese, including verb, adjective, and noun/measure word reduplication. These reduplications each have different patterns. Adjective reduplication in Chinese can be divided into monosyllabic reduplication and polysyllabic reduplication. Examples are as follows:

## a. Monosyllabic Reduplication

## 1) Pattern “AA”

The AA reduplication pattern is a monosyllable repetition or called monosyllabic reduplication. This type of reduplication in Chinese refers to the repetition of a single word (monosyllabic) without the addition of affixes. Examples are as follows:

| Base Adjective | Reduplicated Form | Meaning        |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 慢 (màn)        | 慢慢 (mànmàn)       | slowly         |
| 红 (hóng)       | 红红 (hónghóng)     | red            |
| 重 (zhòng)      | 重重 (zhòngzhòng)   | heavy/emphatic |

## b. Biosyllabic Reduplication

Biosyllabic reduplication in Chinese refers to the repetition of words consisting of two



syllables (two Hanzi characters). Examples are as follows:

### 1) The “ABB” pattern

The ABB reduplication pattern is the repetition of two morphemes that undergo compounding and word repetition. However, only the syllable on the right is repeated.

| Compound Morphemes      | Reduplicated Form            | Meaning   |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 亮晶 ( <i>liàngjīng</i> ) | 亮晶晶 ( <i>liàngjīngjīng</i> ) | sparkling |
| 灰蒙 ( <i>huīmēng</i> )   | 灰蒙蒙 ( <i>huīmēngmēng</i> )   | greyish   |
| 凉飕 ( <i>liángsōu</i> )  | 凉飕飕 ( <i>liángsōusōu</i> )   | chilly    |

### 2) Pattern “AAB”

The AAB reduplication pattern is the repetition of two morphemes that experience merging or compounding and repetition of words. However, only the syllable on the left is repeated.

| Compound Morphemes    | Reduplicated Form        | Meaning         |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 麻亮 ( <i>máliàng</i> ) | 麻麻亮 ( <i>mámáliàng</i> ) | somewhat bright |

### 3) Pattern “AABB”

The AABB reduplication pattern is the repetition of two morphemes that experience word combining or compounding and word repetition. Unlike the AAB and ABB patterns, the AABB pattern

| Compound Morphemes    | Reduplicated Form              | Meaning     |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 干净 ( <i>gānjìng</i> ) | 干干净净 ( <i>gāngānjìngjìng</i> ) | very clean  |
| 清楚 ( <i>qīngchǔ</i> ) | 清清楚楚 ( <i>qīngqīngchǔchǔ</i> ) | very clear  |
| 热闹 ( <i>rènao</i> )   | 热热闹闹 ( <i>rèrèrènaonào</i> )   | very lively |

### 4) Pattern “ABAB”

The ABAB reduplication pattern is the repetition of two morphemes that experience word combining or compounding and word repetition. Just like the AABB pattern, this ABAB pattern has both syllables repeated. However, the two repeated syllables are combined and placed behind the two initial syllables.

| Compound Morphemes     | Reduplicated Form                | Meaning   |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 冷静 ( <i>lěngjìng</i> ) | 冷静冷静 ( <i>lěngjìnglěngjìng</i> ) | calm down |



| Compound Morphemes | Reduplicated Form         | Meaning          |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 雪白 (xuěbái)        | 雪白雪白 (xuěbáixuěbái)       | pure white       |
| 凉快 (liángkuai)     | 凉快凉快 (liángkuailiángkuai) | cool, refreshing |

## 5) Pattern “A里AB”

The process of forming this A里AB pattern, comes from two single morphemes that experience the process of compounding, then adding the word “里” (not affixed), after that it just undergoes a reduplication process. The reduplication results that occur in the A里AB pattern are classified as left syllable reduplication, because the morpheme is repeated in the left syllable.

| Compound Morphemes | Reduplicated Form   | Meaning       |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 糊涂 (hútú)          | 糊里糊涂 (húlǐhútú)     | confused      |
| 啰嗦 (luōsuo)        | 啰里啰嗦 (luōlǐluōsuo)  | long-winded   |
| 娇气 (jiāoqì)        | 娇里娇气 (jiāolǐjiāoqì) | oversensitive |

## DISCUSSION

Based on the findings above, the following conclusions can be drawn:

**Similarity of Adjective Reduplication Forms in Indonesian (BI) and Chinese (BM) Has the form “AA”**

a. Both languages share the “AA” reduplication pattern

**No Base Form (BI) Base Form (BM) Reduplicated Form (BI) Reduplicated Form (BM)**

|   |       |          |             |               |
|---|-------|----------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | basah | 湿 (shī)  | basah-basah | 湿湿 (shīshī)   |
| 2 | pahit | 苦 (kǔ)   | pahit-pahit | 苦苦 (kǔkǔ)     |
| 3 | cepat | 快 (kuài) | cepat-cepat | 快快 (kuàikuài) |



Example Sentences:

(1) BI: Dia basah-basah pulang dari sekolah.

BM: 他湿湿地从学校回来。(Tā shīshī de cóng xuéxiào huílái.)

Meaning: She got wet coming home from school.

(2) BI: Pahit-pahit pun diminum olehnya.

BM: 他连苦苦的也喝了。(Tā lián kǔkǔ de yě hē le.)

Meaning: Bitter medicine was taken by him.

(3) BI: Cepat-cepat dia pergi menuju ke kantor bosnya.

BM: 他快地跑去老板的办公室。(Tā kuàikuài pǎo qù lǎobǎn de bàngōngshì.)

Meaning: He quickly made his way to his boss's office.

### Differences in Adjective Reduplication Forms in Indonesian (BI) and Chinese (BM)

a. Adjective reduplication in BM has polysyllabic reduplication which can be divided into “ABB” pattern, “AAB” pattern, “AABB” pattern, ‘ABAB’ pattern, and “A里AB” pattern, but adjective reduplication in BI has no such polysyllabic reduplication.

b. Adjective reduplication in BI has sound-changing reduplication and affixed reduplication which can be divided into the pattern “se+reduplication of the base word+nya”, the pattern “ke+reduplication of the base word+an”, the pattern “reduplication of the base word +an”, the pattern “ber+reduplication of the base word”, and the pattern “ter+reduplication of the base word”, while adjective reduplication in BM does not have these reduplications. Example:

(1) Ia memberikan kebebasan sebesar-besarnya kepada anaknya.

Meaning: He gave his son as much freedom as possible.

(2) Wajahnya tampak kemerah-merahan setelah berlari di bawah terik matahari.

Meaning: His face looked ruddy after running in the hot sun.

(3) Laki-laki itu sangat tampan, membuat perempuan tergila-gila.

Meaning: The man was very handsome, making women crazy.

(4) Kamu coba buka usaha kecil-kecilan saja.

Meaning: You can try to open a small business.

(5) Kami lari kocar-kacir setelah musuh menyerang.

Meaning: We ran in disarray after the enemy attacked.



## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and discussion of adjective reduplication in Indonesian and Chinese, it can be concluded that there are significant similarities and differences between the two languages. Similarities are found in the “AA” reduplication pattern used in both languages. However, striking differences are seen in the types of adjective reduplication patterns in both languages. Chinese has some special patterns that are not found in Indonesian, such as “ABB” pattern, “AAB” pattern, “AABB” pattern, ‘ABAB’ pattern, and “A里AB” pattern. These patterns display the uniqueness of adjective reduplication in Mandarin, especially in terms of polysyllabic repetition with various morphological structure variations.

On the other hand, Indonesian has adjective reduplication with different variations, which include affixed reduplication and sound-changing reduplication. These variations reflect the morphological richness of Indonesian which is used to convey plural meaning, intensity, diversity, as well as certain affective nuances.

From a practical point of view, the results of this study provide important benefits in learning both languages, especially in teaching morphological concepts and enriching learners' understanding of the structure of adjective reduplication. and reduplication By understanding the similarities and differences of reduplication in Indonesian and Mandarin, learners can more easily master both languages more effectively and deeply.

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