A comparison of reduplication in Limonese Creole and Akan

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Introduction

Limonese Creole (LC) is a second-generation English-based Creole descend Creole (JC). For several decades preceding and following the turn of the 20th 10 000 Afro-Caribbeans, mostly from Jamaica, immigrated to Limon, Costa 1 railway to the capital, San José. After the completion of the railroad, mos remained to work for the United Fruit Company (Bryce-Laporte, 1993; Herz 1993). When these Jamaicans came to Catholic Spanish-speaking Costa Rica, them not only their families but also much of their social infrastructure, inclu Protestant churches, and social clubs in which English and JC were spoken. years, the Afro-Limonese maintained a mostly separate society. Thus, the local and over time began to develop distinctly from JC.1 Herzfeld (1978:193) indicat of the Jamaican immigrants "came mostly from the mesolectal ranks of JC spe be due to the fact that they were being hired by an American company and m positions that required literacy. In fact, there are a number of quite common l of JC which occur only infrequently in normal LC discourse. Thus, the JC bas correspond to forms of be for the copula in LC basilectal speech. Also, spe varieties of LC only rarely use a + verb to indicate progressive aspect (e.g., Shi They more commonly use be + verb-in (Shi iz gowin).²

Aspects of the historical development of LC can be traced back thro languages of West Africa, including Akan, spoken primarily in Ghana and th For example, the use and forms of reduplication in LC show a limited number c same phenomena in varieties of Akan, including Asante-Twi, Fante, and Akual of the Kwa language group of the Niger-Congo family. It is not only in the u that LC and Akan share features; in addition, they share the use of ideophones a well as common lexical items (Winkler & Obeng, 2000).

Mufwene (1990, 1996), among others (e.g. Hall, 1966; Holm, 1988; Thomason etc), has posited that early Creole development was influenced at some leve languages spoken by its first speakers. In this chapter, we follow Mufwent Principle, which allows for contributions from both substrate and superstrate la from the bioprogram:

Structural features have been predetermined to a large extent (but not excharacteristics of the vernaculars spoken by the populations that founded the col they developed ... the only influences in competition are structures of the lexisubstrate languages; the language bioprogram or Universal Grammar, which conceived of as operating exclusively in children, regulates the selection of struftom among the options in competition among the language varieties in contact (84, 8).

Holm (1988:89) similarly accepts a broader vision of the influences on Creole devel

Studies of reduplication in Creoles and African languages reveal semantic categoria to each other than to those in European languages, although there are indeed parall suggesting the influence of language universals.

For a more detailed account of the sociolinguistic and historical background of the Afro-Limon Herzfeld (1978), Purcell (1993), and Winkler (1998).

For other examples of differences between JC and LC see Herzfeld (1978).

Accordingly, this work will describe similarities in the use and structure of reduplication in LC and Akan which may have been the result of substrate influence during the development of JC, the progenitor of LC (§2). In addition, important differences in these systems will be noted which point to additional contributions to the development of reduplication in JC which were passed on to LC.

1 Historical evidence supporting Akan influence

We have chosen to explore the influence of West African languages on reduplication from LC, presumably inherited from JC, because sufficient historical evidence exists to support the influence of the Akan/Asante people in West Africa and in Jamaica. Support for Akan/Twi dominance on the plantations of Jamaica has long been established (Alleyne 1993; Le Page & Tabouret-Keller 1985; McWhorter 1997b; Mufwene 1996); however, in this particular case, dominance was political in nature and not numeric: "there is evidence among Maroons and among Jamaicans in general of an inter-African syncretism and assimilation taking place within a broader framework of Asante (or Koromanti) dominance" (Alleyne 1993:177). Additionally, the influence of Kwa speakers had a greater effect in Jamaica than in some of the other English-Creole speaking areas (e.g. Barbados) because the shift from homestead farming to large-scale plantations occurred earlier in the development of JC, thus widening the gap between the number of Africans and Europeans and lessening the contact opportunities for acquisition of the lexifier language by the slaves (Mufwene 1996).

The Akan influence in Jamaica is evident from its impact on JC. According to Le Page & Tabouret-Keller (1985:47), "the largest number of Africanisms recorded in DJE [Dictionary of Jamaican English] are from the Akan (Gold Coast) languages, especially from Twi and Ewe." Cassidy & Le Page, in fact, dedicate considerable discussion to the phonological and lexical similarities between Twi and JC in their introduction to DJE (1980).

Akan influence, however, was not limited to vocabulary. McWhorter (1997a:83) points out syntactic parallels between JC and West African languages, and Alleyne (1993) notes similarities in the phonology. Alleyne further notes that "it can be demonstrated that not just the pitch, intonation, and timbre, but entire functioning languages were carried to Jamaica, and can still be found there even now" (1993:171). Presumably, these traits were carried to Limon, Costa Rica with the massive immigration of JC speakers.

2 General structure of reduplication in LC and Akan

The use of reduplication in LC is not nearly as common as in the Akan-speaking areas of West Africa, neither in frequency nor in extensiveness of function.³ Reduplication in current varieties of LC is more restricted than in Akan and is generally limited to indicating intensification, iteration, or duration, pluralization and in a very limited way, derivation. In Akan, reduplication is a very productive process and is used quite commonly for a variety of functions including intensification of adjectives and adverbs, repetition or duration of an action, pluralization, shifting the morphological or syntactic category of a word, and changing the meaning of a word.

Additionally, reduplication in LC is limited in the string that may be reduplicated: the complete stem of the word must be repeated. In Akan, there are numerous reduplications in which only part of a stem is repeated:

The LC data used in this study originates from two primary sources: a naturally-occurring corpus of interviews and candid recordings of 43 native-speakers of LC in Limon, Costa Rica. Examples were also gleaned from publications and master's and doctoral dissertations, many of which contained lengthy transcriptions of LC speech Language examples from these sources will be individually cited. The remaining examples were collected by author Winkler. In addition, a number of examples were obtained from an LC native-speaker during sessions for the purpose of eliciting lexical items for an LC dictionary being written by Portilla, and during a brief session to elicit additional examples of reduplication. Because only limited solicitation of reduplicated forms was performed, no claims are made that certain forms do not exist. Thanks are due to LC native speaker Marcia Reid Chambers for her examples and infinite patience. The Akan data were collected from author Samuel Obeng, a native speaker of Twi and other varieties of Akan.

(1) kaw / kekaw 'to bite / bite several times or several things' fir / fifir 'to go out / to go out several times' dore / dodore 'to be fat / several people / animals becoming fat'

There seems to be no limit, however, on the number of times a stem may be r or Akan as will be demonstrated in the examples offered throughout this paper.

When comparing LC and Akan, we focused on two types of redupl retentions. Calques occur when the source language pattern is maintained, by borrowing language are substituted for the original language of the express Retentions, on the other hand, occur when both the language structure and J language are maintained by the borrowing language; for example, Twi potopo been retained in LC and JC as potopoto 'muddy'. Although reduplicated reter possible examples of calques are quite common. For instance, the Twi word very young' is directly calqued into LC as likl-likl⁶ with the same meaning as t This is not to exclude the possibility that these forms may have arisen independent of the possibility that these forms may have arisen independent of the possibility that these forms are also in language. Such as a possibility that these forms may have arisen independent and retentions of West African structures as will be discussed in language.

The following sections will describe the different functions of reduplication processes associated with it.

3 Functions of reduplication in Limon Creole and Akan

3.1 Intensification

In LC, the employment of reduplication for intensification is quite common. In be restricted to the reduplication of prenominal (2) and predicate adjectives (3) a

(2) Mi granimaada mariid to a blak-blak-blak man
15 grandmother married to a black-black man

'My grandmother was marri-

(3) Jiemz tráng-tráng James strong-strong

'James is very strong' ('

(4) We yu vex-vex op so fa? what 2S vex-vex up so for

'W

In LC, reduplication can also be used to show the "limitedness" or "smallness' discussed (Wright-Murray, 1974):

(5) wan-wán grien a kokó one-one grain of cocoa

'a few isc

All of this holds true for Akan as well. However, where in Akan the redu adjective of quality modifying a plural noun, the adjective is both pluralized and

(6) nipa kese' / nnipa akese-akese
person big (=important) / PL-person big-big

'big person, important person / big per

7) abofra tuntum / mmofra tuntum-tuntum child black / PL-child black-black

'black

Examples in Twi are written in its standard orthography which includes the letters e and o of these two letters is not necessarily identical to that of the corresponding IPA symbols.

The lexical item potopoto is also found in present-day varieties of Baule and Yoruba (Hol from Cassidy & LePage (1980).

⁶ Velarization of medial stops is not uncommon in LC, JC, and Akan.

Because many LC speakers can easily range from basilect to acrolect, there will be occas the orthography which reflect the mixture of forms used. Words that are distinctly acr appear in standard English orthography.

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The repetition of the adjective in the following Akan utterance has two functions: to indicate the plurality of the noun and to intensify the quality of the adjective:

(8) mmofra tuntum-tuntum

PL-child black-black-black

'very black children'

With predicate adjectives, reduplication in LC may be used to indicate the completive nature of the condition described:

(9) Di kyar mashop-mashop

mash up-mash up the car

'The car is completely wrecked' (Wright-Murray, 1974)

In both LC and Akan, roots may be repeated more than once. Several factors affect the number of repetitions produced, for example, the level of intensity the speaker wishes to convey, the extent of quality being reduplicated, or the character of the quantity being discussed. There appears to be no limit on the number of times a stem may be repeated in either LC (10) or Akan (11):

(10) It waz ogli-ogli-ogli. 3s was ugly-ugly-ugly

When da earth when the earth gwain to

going to

aal yu sii iz dis kraka-kraka-kraka!

2s see is this IDEO (x4)

'It was very ugly. When the earth was shaking you heard crack crackcrack crack!'

shiek

shake

(11) Me nana Obarima baa waree

tun-tun-tum8

1s grandparent female marry-PAST man black-black-black

'My grandmother was married to a very black man'

3.2 Pluralization

The morphological process of reduplicating nouns for pluralization occurs in both LC (12-14) and Akan (15, 16), though it is certainly more productive in Akan:

(12) Wata ipa faya-faya outsayd de what-a heap-of fire-fire outside there

'What a great number of fires there are outside'

(13) Go tek up dem ipa ashes-ashes vu go take up 3P heap-of ashes-ashes 2s

av tro abowt have thrown all about

'Go and pick up the heaps of ashes you have thrown all over'

(14) Kodo-kodo gwain a go de mi an elbow-elbow 1s and 2s going to go there

'Arm in arm you and I will go there together'

(14) is particularly interesting, involving a Spanish word (codo). Because practically all LC speakers are bilingual, they commonly borrow from Spanish and codeswitch to Spanish.

In Akan, the reduplicated forms may also be inflected:

(15) akwadaa > nkwadaa > nkwadaa-nkwadaa child

> PL-child > PL-child-PL-child

'child > children > many children'

(16) aboawa > mmoawa > mmoawa-mmoawa > PL-germs > PL-germs-PL-germs

'germ > germs > many germs'

3.3 Iteration and duration

Reduplication of the verb by speakers of both LC (17-20) and Akan (21-25) is used to signal either continuous, lengthy actions or actions repeated over and over:

(17) i rien-rien

3s rain-rain 'It rains continuously' (Wright-Murray, 1974)

(18) Da rasta dem dodgin-dodgin-dodgin owt to da duor wan to da i the rasta PL dodging (x4) out to the door one to the waa sii if dem kud pik op somting wantsee if 3P could pick up something 'The Rastas were continuously one after another, to see if they c

(19) Di tiicha laik biit-biit the teacher like beat-beat

'The teacher whips constantly'

(20) Yu avto jompin-jompin have to jumping-jumping

'You have to

Note that in LC examples (18) and (20), the root of the reduplicated verb is th This is another feature in which LC and JC differ. The not-uncommon preser inflection -in throughout LC speech reflects the fact that certain aspects of LC examples were attested in which the root without the progressive inflection in: *jomp-jumpin. As demonstrated here, Akan reduplication involves the r which is then inflected:

(21) esese wohuri-huri

must 2s-jump-jump

'You ha

(22) Se merekohoa, esese mehye-hye-hye baage akesee mm if 1s-am-prog-go-there if-must 1s-pack-pack-pack bag-PL big If I am going down there, I

In Akan, unlike in LC, reduplicated verbs inflect for person. Reduplication show agreement with plural subjects or objects. Thus, in (23), the singular su singular verb nyin, but the plural subject mmofra requires a plural verb, so n In (24), the singular verb fre requires a singular object abofra, whereas the plu fre-fre requires the plural object mmofra:

(23) Abofra no anyin / Mmofra no anvin-vin child the has-grown / PL-child the have-grow-grow

The child has grown / The

(24) Fre abofra no / Fre-fre mmofra no call child the / call-call PL-child the

'Call the cl

The following Akan example, analogous to LC (18), involves the reduplicat First, the word for 'Rasta' is reduplicated to show the dreadlock nature of braids). Second, both verbs pue 'to go out' and hwe 'to see,' along with the are reduplicated. These examples clearly show that reduplication is quite prod

(25) Na mpese-mpese foo no pue-pue nwaa-nwaa-nwaa rehwe-hwe FOC Rasta-Rasta-PL the go-out-go-out slowly-slowly-slowly look-look se won nsa

that their hand will touch some if

'The Rastas were continuously c one after another to see if they co

3.4 Derivation

Kouwenberg & LaCharité (2001, this volume) describe a type of reduplication to be unrelated to substrate influence, which they term "X-like" reduplication the use of reduplication to cause a change in the class of a root noun or verl shift in meaning for a root adjective. "The semantic effect is to produce the at (in the case of nouns), activity (in the case of verbs), or property (in the case of by the base as a characteristic attribute" (Kouwenberg & LaCharité, 2001:12 reduplicated is monosyllabic, then the phoneme /i/ will be added to the root X-like reduplication contrasts in meaning with the simple reduplication of th this type of reduplication are also found in LC, as in (26-28). Note that the roc eat', and shiek 'to shake' occur in LC, whereas *joki, *nyami, and *shieki do not to meet the 2-syllable constraint as it is in JC:

(26) jogi-jogi / joki-joki man 'a man characterized by jokes, a clown' (Winkler 1998)

The stem for the word 'black' in Akan is either tuntum, of which tumm is a reduced form. One could, depending on the degree of blackness, have partial or complete reduplication. Thus, tuntumtuntum is blacker than tuntumtum.

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- (27) im nyami-nyami 'He's a glutton' (Wright-Murray, 1974)
- (28) im shieki-shieki 'He's very shaky' (Wright-Murray, 1974)

Although other examples of the use of reduplication for the purpose of a shift in word class were not attested in the LC data, this is not an uncommon process in Akan, where the reduplication of nouns is most often used to facilitate a change in the class of the word, as in (29), where reduplication creates a denominal adjective:⁹

(29) dua / nnuennua 'tree / woody'

3.5 Non-existent base forms

There are a number of examples of reduplications in LC for which the unreduplicated form of the root stem does not exist separate from the reduplicated form:

(29) tukutuku 'small, but well built' (Winkler, 1998; Portilla, 1995); *tuku mumu 'dummy'; *mu posoposo 'very old'; *poso finkefinke 'very skinny'; *finke djagadjaga 'very dirty, untidy'; *djaga

Some of these are phonetically unaltered retentions from Akan. This is true of tukutuku, mumu, and posoposo (30), although the meaning of mumu in Akan is broader, encompassing 'stupid, deaf, ugly looking, acting'. Phonological change (consonant voicing) has altered one Akan reduplicated form: LC djagadjaga seems to derive from Akan kyakakyaka 'very untidy'. Simplex forms exist in Akan only for tukutuku and posoposo: tukuu 'big' and posoo 'old.'

(30) Menim nea enti a akwakora poso-poso yi rehwe-hwe me saa

1s-NEG-know what why old-man old-old this prog-look-look 1s that way

'I don't know why this very old man is looking for me'

In the great majority of cases, reduplication in LC is the simple repetition of a freestanding root word; however, there are a number of examples for which the root exists in a phonetically different form:

(31) I duonnuo wai dis roko-roko man luk pan mi fa
15 don't know why this rock-rock man look on 15 for
'I don't know why this very old man [with a rock face] is looking at me'

3.6 Sarcasm

LC appears to have a use of reduplication not identified in Akan—for derogatory expressions or sarcasm. However, this use was only attested once in the corpus: in (32), the expression *priti-priti* is used to denote that the boy being spoken of is only good for his looks and nothing else. The tonal pattern consists of a series of high tones with some key lowering in the second set.

(32) Da yuut nou, dei not gwain an work naw in dowz stuor, dei duon wan the youth now 3P NEG going and work nou in those store 3P don't want da priti-priti bwaidem kom an sii dem workin intu no stuor the pretty-pretty boy PL come and see 3P working inside no store

"The youths now, they are not going to work in those stores, they don't want the very pretty boys to come and see them working in any store'

3.7 Prosody in Limonese Creole and Akan reduplication

Prosodic features play a significant role in reduplication in both Akan and LC features found in the data include key lowering, downdrifting, and downstepp

In the reduplications with a series of syllables characterized by low ton clear examples of key lowering are noted. Key lowering describes a prog pitch lowering of low tones that continues down to the bottom of the spe repeated for sufficient duration. It applies both to LC (33) and Akan (34). It unreduplicated forms have LL structure and the reduplicated forms have LI Due to the successive low tones, the pitch drop is so considerable that it reac speaker's pitch range.

- (33) Der av blak man duon nuo nutin, nutin-nutin-nutin of therehave black man don't know nothing, nothing (x4) of 'There are Black men who don't know a
- (34) efie house there PERF-be untidy-untidy-untidy "The hou

Downdrifting involves the lowering of the pitch of high tones that alternate v and Akan, because reduplicated forms repeat the tonal structure of the except in some unusual cases, both high tone and low tone placement c examples (35) and (36), the tonal pattern for both taakin-taakin-taakin-taaki is H-L-H-L-H-L. The high tones fall in pitch throughout the redupresence of the intervening low tones. In these examples, the second high t than the first high tone. Because of the preceding low tones, the descent ir high tone is greater.

- (35) It's jos evalastin taakin-taakin-taakin...
 It's just everlasting talking (x4) 'It's just
- (36) Won kàsá-kàsá-kàsá-kàsá a entoasom
 3P talk-talk-talk which 3s-not-fall ear in 'It's just continuous ta'

Downstepping involves a high tone whose pitch height is lowered. Two ki are identified: (a) automatic downstepping in which the lowering of the h phonologically, since an overt low tone brings down the pitch of the follo (b) non-automatic downstepping, in which the pitch height of successive hig by low tones get lowered. In a downdrift situation, whenever there is a desc by a preceding low tone, the high tone whose pitch has been lowered is class downstep. Examples follow for LC (37) and Akan (38):

- (37) Y que colera! De uno we yu av to wietin-weitin, cho!
 [Spanish] that one which 2s have to waiting-waiting oh
 'How irritating! For that one you have
- (38) Ne se ye fítá-fítá-fítá-fítá
 3s teethbe white-white-white 'H

In these cases, the tonal pattern on the reduplication is H throughout. The pitones are lower than those of the initial high tones. This cannot be termed I the descent in pitch is slight and does not come close to the bottom of the speak

In LC, tone alone may be the distinctive feature between two reduplications with different meanings as illustrated here:

(39) a gud-gúd gón / a gúd-gúd gon a good-good gun / a good-good gun 'a real gun (i.e. not a toy) / a very good gun

Normal Akan phonological processes contribute to the dissimilarity between the root and the reduplication. The prefix /n/ is a plural marker; and causes the voiced stop /d/ of the root to assimilate into nasal /n/. In addition, in Akan reduplication, low -ATR vowels influenced by following +ATR vowels change to /e/. These processes combine to create the reduplicated form nnuennua [PL-tree-PL-tree] 'woody.'

4 Current trends in Limonese Creole and Akan usage

The productive use of reduplication in LC has been diminishing somewhat over the years, and it is clear that the full spectrum and structure of reduplications in JC were not fully maintained in LC. Nor are either JC or LC systems exact replicas of systems like Akan or other West African languages. Furthermore, as LC begins to borrow more and more from the acrolect because of renewed access to standard varieties of English, reduplicated forms are being replaced by SE forms by certain groups within the community. In the corpus collected by the second author (Winkler, 1998), it was noted that only 44% of the interviews and the candid recordings of the male informants, contained examples of reduplication; for the women, it was more than half (57%). It may be that because many men have traditionally worked outside of the community (on vacation cruise ships and in the USA), that access to other varieties of English has encouraged the use of standard manners of expressing what was once expressed by reduplication.

Age also plays a role in the decline of reduplication in LC and in fact, in the use of the language itself. Because LC speakers now live in a predominantly Spanish-speaking community, and because virtually all LC speakers also speak Spanish, intermarriage has increased. The children of these unions are less likely to speak LC though they tend to maintain a passive understanding of it. Because many of the community's children are also receiving classes in English as a second language in the public schools, impact from the acrolect is likely to increase,

accompanied by a reduction in the use of reduplication.

Unlike in LC, there is no evidence to show that the use of reduplication in Akan is on the decline. Reduplication is a deep-rooted part of the language. Correct use of reduplication, especially in formal genres, like poetry, formal discourse, and proverbs, is considered good speech, an act of creativity, part of the prestige variety of the language. This is not true of LC. Thus, a review of almost 300 LC proverbs (Herzfeld, 1991; Herzfeld & Perry, 1996, Wright-Murray, 1974) provides not a single example of reduplication.

5 Summary

It is clear, that the system of reduplication in LC, a system which is itself a subset of JC, is greatly reduced from that of Akan. Not only is reduplication less productive in LC, but the full spectrum of reduplication types found in Akan are not present in current varieties of LC, and there are reduplications in LC which may not be attributed to substrate influence. Thus, X-like reduplication, which is found in both JC and LC, cannot be explained by an Akan substrate. There are, however features which appear to be shared, for example there are some calques and retentions of specific lexemes from Akan in LC, in addition to sharing prosodic processes like key lowering and downdrift.

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