



Francesca Masini* and Simone Mattiola

Syntactic discontinuous reduplication with antonymic pairs: a case study from Italian

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Abstract: This article aims at giving a comprehensive account of a so far undescribed reduplicative pattern in Italian named *syntactic discontinuous reduplication with antonymic pairs* (SDRA). This pattern, characterized by the non-contiguous repetition of the same element within a larger fixed configuration defined by two spatial antonyms, can be schematized as $\langle X_i \text{ Adv}_1 X_i \text{ Adv}_2 \rangle$, where Adv_1 and Adv_2 are antonyms (e.g., *di qua* ‘here’ ~ *di là* ‘there’). After describing its formal and functional properties, based on naturally occurring data extracted from the *Italian Web 2016* corpus, the SDRA is analyzed as an independent ‘construction’ in the Construction Grammar sense. This construction is claimed to convey a general value of ‘plurality’ and to have developed a polysemy network of daughter constructions expressing more specific functions such as ‘distributivity,’ ‘related variety,’ and ‘dispersion.’ In addition, we propose considering the SDRA a ‘multiple source construction,’ originating from the blending of two independent constructions: syntactic reduplication and irreversible binomials with antonymic adverbs. Finally, we discuss SDRA-like patterns in other typologically different languages (Russian, Modern Hebrew, Mandarin Chinese, German), pointing out similarities and differences, and paving the way to a more systematic study of discontinuous reduplication in a crosslinguistic perspective.

Keywords: antonyms; Construction Grammar; discontinuity; Italian; reduplication

1 Introduction

Reduplication has been broadly investigated in both theoretical and typological studies (cf., among many others, Hurch 2005; Inkelas and Zoll 2005; Kallergi 2015; Moravcsik 1978; Rubino 2013; Stolz et al. 2011; Urdze 2018). A considerable

*Corresponding author: Francesca Masini, Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Culture Moderne, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, Via Cartoleria 5, 40124 Bologna, Italy, E-mail: francesca.masini@unibo.it

Simone Mattiola, Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Culture Moderne, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy, E-mail: simone.mattiola@unibo.it

amount of knowledge has been accumulated in recent years about this phenomenon, in all its manifestations, leading to a number of classifications. The most widely known classification is probably the one distinguishing between partial and full reduplication, but we know of other special types such as *echo-reduplication* or *automatic reduplication* (cf. e.g., Inkelas 2014; Rubino 2005). This contribution focuses on one of these special types, namely *discontinuous reduplication* (henceforth DR). DR is defined by Velupillai (2012: 101) as a kind of reduplication “where other morphological material may appear between the reduplicant and the base” (cf. also Rubino 2005: 17).¹ See for instance (1), where the two copies are connected via the linker *-ng*.

- (1) Manila Bay Creoles (Creole, Spanish-lexified; Philippines)
buníta ‘beautiful’ > *buníta-ng-buníta* ‘very beautiful’
 (Grant 2003: 205)

More specifically, this article aims at giving a comprehensive account of a specific instance of DR attested in the Italian language, which we dub here *syntactic discontinuous reduplication with antonymic pairs* (henceforth SDRA). SDRA is a pattern characterized by the non-contiguous repetition of the same element within a larger fixed configuration defined by a pair of spatial antonyms. See the following examples.²

- (2) *I segni erano spariti e, **cerca di qua, cerca di là**, nessuno ha avuto il coraggio di continuare senza.*
 ‘The signs had disappeared and, after searching in all directions [lit. **search here, search there**], no one had the courage to continue without them.’
- (3) *Una è il “terrorismo islamico” con tutto il suo corredo di Osama, Al Zarkawi, Al Qaida, **cellule qua, cellule là**, attentati a Sharm El Sheik, Amman, Londra, ovunque. Sempre solo la versione di comodo dei veri terroristi.*
 ‘One [fundamental thing] is “Islamic terrorism” with its complement of Osama, Al Zarkawi, Al Qaida, cells everywhere [lit. **cells here, cells there**], attacks in Sharm El Sheik, Amman, London, everywhere. Always and only the convenient version of the true terrorists.’

The SDRA consists in the repetition of an item X (*cerca* ‘search’ in [2] and *cellule* ‘cells’ in [3]) within a larger configuration built around a pair of spatial, deictic

¹ For a first typological sketch of discontinuous reduplication, see Mattiola and Masini (forthcoming).

² Unless otherwise specified, all Italian examples mentioned in the article are taken from the *itTenTen16* (or *Italian Web 2016*) corpus available on the Sketch Engine. See also Section 3.

adverbs with opposite meaning. This pattern can be schematized as follows: $\langle X_i \text{ Adv}_1 X_i \text{ Adv}_2 \rangle$, where Adv_1 and Adv_2 are opposites. In (2), this schema is instantiated by *cerca di qua, cerca di là* ‘search here, search there’, whereas in (3) by *cellule qua, cellule là* ‘cells here, cells there’. Within the SDRA we can therefore recognize the presence of two different elements: (i) a repetitive/reduplicative pattern (X is repeated) and (ii) an antonymic pair of adverbs occurring in the same syntagmatic environment.

This article explores in detail the formal and semantic properties of this pattern in Italian by combining theory and corpus data, with the addition of some (still very preliminary) crosslinguistic data. First, in Section 2 we discuss the status of SDRA as an instance of *reduplication*, against the background of recent work in the field. Then, after describing the corpus-based methodology adopted for the analysis in Section 3, we illustrate the main formal characteristics of SDRA in Italian, focusing on the properties of the repeated element and the syntactic status of the whole pattern (Section 4), with a brief detour into a seemingly related pattern (Section 4.1). Section 5 analyzes the functions and sub-functions that SDRA can express. In Section 6, we propose a Construction Grammar analysis of the SDRA, which is claimed to qualify as a ‘multiple source construction’ that develops a network of sub-constructions, on the basis of relevant form-meaning associations. Finally, in Section 7, we take a cursory look at other languages to see if SDRA is a language-specific pattern or conversely can be found elsewhere, and with which functions. Section 8 contains some concluding remarks.

2 Reduplication as a gradient phenomenon

To which extent can we regard SDRA as *reduplication*? Reduplication is generally considered as “[t]he systematic repetition of phonological material within a word for semantic or grammatical purposes” (Rubino 2005: 11). However, the SDRA clearly goes beyond the word level: it cannot be defined as “repetition of phonological material within a word”, but rather as repetition of phonological material within a syntactic domain. Consequently, it is legitimate to question its status as a reduplicative pattern, even more so if we think of its non-contiguous nature. In fact, if we regard reduplication as something that pertains morphology only, it is contradictory to talk about *syntactic reduplication*. However, there are good reasons to support our terminological choice of using the label *reduplication* for a syntactic pattern, following other scholars such as Wierzbicka (1986).

Indeed, morphological reduplication and syntactic repetition are related phenomena in that, despite the different domains of application, they both imply the duplication of some kind of linguistic element, which makes it difficult

sometimes to draw a line between the two. We all have in mind clear instances of (morphological) reduplication and clear instances of (syntactic) repetition, but at the same time the boundary delimiting these two phenomena is not clear-cut, as already observed, among others, by Gil (2005), Stolz et al. (2011), and, more recently, Freywald and Finkbeiner (2018: 4): “the boundary between reduplication and repetition appears to be quite fuzzy [...]. Thus, instead of a clear-cut categorial distinction we rather find a nebulous transition zone.”

Generally speaking, the absence of clear-cut categories and boundaries leads to regard traditional modules of grammar as poles of a continuum and to treat linguistic facts in terms of prototypicality, or canonicity. The same view has been applied to reduplication. In particular, both a prototypical and a canonical approach to reduplication are described and discussed by Stolz (2018). As for the former, Stolz (2018) posits 8 criteria which define *prototypical reduplication* (taken from Stolz et al. 2015: 826), summarized in Table 1. As for the canonical approach, which refers to the framework of Canonical Typology (cf. e.g., Corbett 2005), Stolz (2018) postulates 13 criteria that define *canonical reduplication*, summarized in Table 2.³

Table 1: Criteria for *prototypical reduplication* (adapted from Stolz 2018: 221).

i	exactly one linguistic sign is involved (as domain)
ii	the construction is strictly binary
iii	absolute phonological identity of the constituents applies in quantity and
iv	quality of their segments
v	the constituents are syntagmatically adjacent
vi	without rendering any other structural unit discontinuous
vii	the construction is different from the singleton units in terms of their semantics and/or
	functions
viii	the construction has the status of a syntactic word

3 The difference between the two approaches lies in what follows: the *prototype* is the best, most representative exemplar of a (fuzzy) category (cf. Croft and Cruse 2004; Rosch 1978), revolving around the prototype itself, which is therefore attested (and, ideally, the most frequent type); the *canon* is the best example within a theoretical space of logical possibilities, which serves basically as a “tool of measurement”, as Stolz (2018: 225) puts it, hence “canonical instances (the best examples, those most closely matching the canon) may well not be the most frequent. They may indeed be extremely rare, or even non-existent” (Corbett 2005: 26). For our current purposes, there is no need to commit to one approach or the other, since our intent is to discuss the status of SDRA within the ongoing debate on the nature and delimitation of reduplicative phenomena.

Table 2: Criteria for *canonical reduplication* (adapted from Stolz 2018: 232).

C1	A is copied as A'
C2	A precedes A'
C3	A and A' are immediately adjacent to each other
C4	multiple images are ruled out
C5	A and A' are syntactic words
C6	A and A' are identical prosodically
C7	A and A' are identical phonologically (segmental level)
C8	A and A' are identical morphologically
C9	A and A' are identical syntactically
C10	A and A' are identical semantically
C11	the meaning/function of the reduplicative construction is different from both that of A and that of A'
C12	the meaning/function of the reduplicative construction is different from that of the sum of meanings/functions of A + A'
C13	the meaning/function of the reduplicative construction is associated with the iconicity of quantity

Let us have a look at these criteria, defining the *prototype* and the *canon*, respectively, and compare them with the properties of the SDRA. As for the prototypical approach, the SDRA meets 5 criteria out of 8: more specifically, the SDRA does not conform to criteria v/vi (adjacency) and viii (wordhood of the whole construction). As for the canonical approach, the SDRA meets 11 criteria out of 13: in particular, C3 (adjacency) and C5 (wordhood of constituents) are not met.

Wordhood of the whole construction is not met because the SDRA is larger than a word, as we have already said. Wordhood of constituents is also not met because, as we will see in Section 4, the SDRA applies not only to single words but also to larger units (phrases, even clauses), although in a minority of cases. As concerns adjacency, the SDRA is obviously not composed of two adjacent units because the reduplicative pattern intertwines with the antonymic adverbial pair and, consequently, the first adverb breaks the integrity of the repetition. However, it is worth noting that Stolz (2018) himself justifies this criterion stating that:

A' is best recognizable as an image of A if it can be directly compared to the reduplicand. Therefore, the image should be close to the reduplicand in terms of temporal and topological distance. The further away A' is from A in speech, the more their relationship comes to resemble that of anaphor, i.e., A+A' do not form a tight unit with a distinct constructional meaning or function. (Stolz 2018: 227)

In this sense, the SDRA can be regarded as a pattern in which the repeated element A' is sufficiently close to A not to be understood as an anaphor. Nevertheless, Stolz (2018: 227) also notes that “immediate adjacency [...] is canonical whereas A X A' (with X = intercalation of *any size*) is non-canonical to the extent that it is doubtful

whether the sequence can be classified as reduplication, in the first place” (emphasis ours). In this respect, we may note that, in the SDRA, the distance between the repeated elements is not filled by just any intercalation; rather, the repetition is performed within a fixed syntactic pattern defined by the two adverbs, which makes the whole construction much less occasional and unconstrained than free, discourse-level repetition (see Section 6 for a theoretical proposal that aims at accounting for these properties).

In conclusion, the majority of criteria is met by the SDRA in both cases, which speaks in favor of considering the pattern in question as reduplicative indeed. Overall, it is reasonable to claim that we are in front of a case of non-prototypical and/or non-canonical reduplication.

3 Methodology

Our analysis of SDRA in Italian is based on a dataset composed of naturally occurring data extracted from the *itTenTen16* (or *Italian Web 2016*) corpus, searched through the Sketch Engine platform (<https://www.sketchengine.eu/>). *itTenTen16* is a very large corpus (4.9 billion words), the largest currently available for the Italian language, and is made of texts automatically collected from the web (formal texts, like Wikipedia entries, and informal texts, like blog comments). These properties (large size and variety of text types, including close-to-spoken texts) make *itTenTen16* ideal to search for ‘non-mainstream’ patterns (in terms of frequency of use) typical of informal registers like SDRA.

To extract the data, we elaborated 8 CQL queries featuring 8 different adverbial pairs, listed in (4) (in alphabetical order).

- (4)
- a. *a destra* ‘to the right’ ~ *a sinistra/manca* ‘to the left’
 - b. *di qua* ‘here, this way’ ~ *di là* ‘there, that way’
 - c. *di qui* ‘here, this way’ ~ *di là/lì* ‘there, that way’
 - d. *di sotto* ‘down(wards), downstairs’ ~ *di sopra* ‘up(wards), upstairs’
 - e. *di su* ‘from above’ ~ *di giù* ‘from below’
 - f. *qua* ‘here’ ~ *là* ‘there’
 - g. *qui* ‘here’ ~ *lì* ‘there’
 - h. *su* ‘up(wards)’ ~ *giù* ‘down(wards)’

The pairs were chosen, based on our intuition, among the more common spatial opposites in Italian that could be compatible with the SDRA, although some (e.g., [4b]) are definitely more common than others (e.g., [4e]).⁴

⁴ We do not claim the list to be exhaustive: there might well be other pairs occurring with the SDRA.

The results were first automatically filtered and then manually cleaned. The final dataset amounts to 319 items,⁵ which were annotated according to the following features:

- (i) the type of adverbial pair
- (ii) the item being repeated (X)
- (iii) the complexity of X (one word vs. more than one word)
- (iv) the lexical category of X (when X is a single word or a phrase)
- (v) the grammatical features of X (e.g., number, TAM values, etc.)
- (vi) the function or semantic value of the whole structure

The results of the analysis of features (i)–(v) are discussed in Section 4, while we turn to functional properties (vi) in Section 5.

4 Formal properties of SDRA

As already noted in Section 1, the SDRA consists in the repetition of an item X within a larger configuration built around a pair of spatial adverbs with opposite meaning, and can be schematized as follows:

- (5) $\langle X_i \text{ Adv}_1 X_i \text{ Adv}_2 \rangle$
where $\text{Adv}_1 = \text{opposite of } \text{Adv}_2$

The adverbial pair featuring in the SDRA can vary. As explained in Section 3, we focused on 8 pairs (the ones used in our corpus queries, cf. [4]), which however turned out to have an uneven distribution within the SDRA. Table 3 shows the 8 adverbial pairs ranked according to their frequency.

Table 3: Adverbial pairs within the SDRA and their frequency in our dataset.

Antonymic adverbial pairs	Translation	Freq. (<i>n</i> ^o)	Freq. (%)
<i>X_i dī qua X_i dī là</i>	here, this way ~ there, that way	142	44.5
<i>X_i qua X_i là</i>	here ~ there	72	22.6
<i>X_i dī qui X_i dī là/lì</i>	here, this way ~ there, that way	40	12.5
<i>X_i a destra X_i a sinistra/manca</i>	to the right ~ to the left	22	6.9
<i>X_i qui X_i lì</i>	here ~ there	21	6.6
<i>X_i su X_i giù</i>	up(wards) ~ down(wards)	19	6.0
<i>X_i dī su X_i dī giù</i>	from above ~ from below	2	0.6
<i>X_i dī sotto X_i dī sopra</i>	down(wards), downstairs ~ up(wards), upstairs	1	0.3
Total		319	100

5 The dataset is freely available at: <http://amsacta.unibo.it/6613/>.

In our dataset, the adverbial pair *X_i di qua X_i di là* is undoubtedly the most frequent covering almost half of the total amount of occurrences. The *X_i qua X_i là* and *X_i di qui X_i di là/li* pairs also display a fairly high frequency: 22.6% and 12.5%, respectively. All other adverbial pairs are remarkably less frequent, in particular the three pairs denoting a vertical indexical orientation (*X_i su X_i giù*, *X_i di su X_i di giù*, *X_i di sotto X_i di sopra*) are quite rare in the corpus (6.9% all together). In general, we might say that the pairs featuring the items *qua ~ là* (and secondarily *qui ~ lì*) are by far the most closely associated with the SDRA.

Turning now to the properties of the repeated element, X, our results show that the vast majority of the items occurring in the SDRA are hapaxes. Out of 319 cases, we have 271 types and 247 hapaxes (amounting to 91% of the types).⁶ Only 24 types occur more than once in the corpus and only 6 occur more than twice. The items occurring more than twice are all verbs and also the single most frequent item is a verb, i.e., the inflected form *cerca* ‘search.3SG.PRS.IND,’ with 9 occurrences. Because of the high number of hapaxes and the fact that we cannot identify a clear ‘leader X’ in our dataset, we are probably in front of a productive pattern that can be filled by a wide variety of items.

In the great majority of the cases, X is a one-word-level item (254 out of 319 examples, i.e., 79.6%), like (2) and (3) in Section 1. However, we also find cases in which X corresponds to more than one single (written) word (65 out of 319 examples, i.e., 20.4%), such as phrasal or phrase-like units ([6] and [7]) or even clauses ([8] and [9]).

- (6) *Perché siamo partiti con la testa piena della propaganda fascista, i russi mangiano i bambini, i russi qua, i russi là e invece abbiamo trovato una popolazione di una dignità assoluta veramente.*

‘Because we left with our heads full of fascist propaganda, Russians eat children, Russians do this, Russians do that [lit. **the Russians here, the Russians there**] and instead we found a people with an outright dignity, really.’

- (7) *Ho atteso la pubblicazione in Italia di questo libro per ben due anni. Non facevo altro che sentir parlare di questo **Jake Wethers di qua Jake Wethers di là** [...]*

⁶ The types here are intended as non-lemmatized items: X may correspond to different inflected forms of one and the same lexeme (e.g., the lexeme GIRARE ‘go around’ appears in the forms *gira* 3SG.PRS.IND, *girai* 1SG.PST.IND, and *girò* 3SG.PST.IND), and we are interested in keeping them separate since the use of a specific form may turn out to be significant (cf. also below).

'I waited for the publication of this book in Italy for two years. All I did was hear everyone talking about this Jake Wethers [lit. hear talking of this **Jake Wethers here Jake Wethers there**] [...]'

- (8) *Adesso stanno tutti lì a lisciarsela per bene, **ci scusi di qua, ci scusi di là**, [...]*
 'Now they are all there buttering her up, **we're sorry here, we're sorry there** [...]'

- (9) *Ancora un'entrata mancata: **chi russa di qua chi russa di là**, tutti dormono come ghiri e nessuno ha visto.*
 'Another missed entrance: people snoring here, people snoring there [lit. **who snores here, who snores there**], everybody is sleeping like a log, and nobody saw it (the sun).'

When X is a word or a phrase, it is usually a verbal or nominal element, in 148 (46.4%) and 136 (42.7%) cases, respectively. But we also find a few occurrences of other lexical categories (cf. Table 4).

Table 4: Lexical category of X in our dataset.

Lexical category	Freq. (n°)	Freq. (%)
Verb (or VP)	148	46.4
Noun (or NP)	136	42.6
<i>Common noun</i>	94	29.5
<i>Proper noun</i>	42	13.1
Adverb	10	3.1
Adjective	4	1.3
Pronoun	4	1.3
Onomatopoeia	2	0.6
Exclamation	1	0.3
– ^a	14	4.4
Total	319	100

^aThese are clauses. Values in italics indicate sub-values of the higher-level value "Noun (or NP).

Nominal elements include both common nouns, like *calci* 'kicks' in (10), and proper nouns, like Bono (the U2 singer) in (11).

- (10) *ma forse Bruxelles in toto andrebbe presa a calci, **calci di qua, calci di là**.*
 'but maybe the whole Bruxelles [=European parliament] should be kicked at, kicked all the way down [lit. **kicks here, kicks there**].'

- (11) *Tutti bravi a parlare, **Bono di qua, Bono di là** ...*
 'Everyone's talking, **Bono here, Bono there** ...'

Another aspect we considered in annotating our dataset concerns the grammatical features of the repeated element within the SDRA. In particular, we focus on verbs and nouns, since they are by far the most frequent categories (284 out of 319 items, i.e., 89%). As for nominal Xs, proper nouns obviously occur in the singular form, but also common nouns tend to occur more frequently in the singular rather than in the plural (62 vs. 32 occurrences). As for verbs, they occur in a variety of inflected forms, more specifically, in 19 different forms. However, they reveal a striking tendency to occur in the present indicative singular form, especially in the third (cf. *gira* go_around.3SG.PRS.IND in [12]) and second (cf. *corri* run.2SG.PRS.IND in [13]) person, as reported in Table 5.

- (12) [...] *ma gira di qui, gira di là ci ritroviamo al punto di partenza ...*
 ‘[...] but after going around here and there [lit. **go_around here, go_around there**] we end up where we had started ...’
- (13) *Poi ho ripreso la ricerca della casa. Un altro lavoro. Fissa appuntamenti, corri di qua, corri di là ...*
 ‘Then I started again looking for a house. Another job. Setting appointments, running here and there [lit. **run here, run there**] ...’

Table 5: Most frequent grammatical features of verbs in the SDRA.

Verbal features	Freq. (n°)	Freq. (%)
3SG.PRS.IND	83	56.1
2SG.PRS.IND	22	14.9
1SG.PRS.IND	12	8.1
Other (14) forms	31	20.9
Total	148	100

Interestingly, the two most frequent verb forms found within the SDRA – 3SG.PRS.IND and 2SG.PRS.IND – are homophonous with the second person singular imperative form of those verbs, namely the same kind of form that has been often regarded as a specific (morphomic) stem with its own place within Italian morphological constructions (Rainer 2001; Thornton 2005: 157–160) as well as other lexical constructions (such as the VeV construction: *scappa e fuggi* lit. run_away and run_away ‘quick’; cf. Masini and Thornton 2008). This might be hinting at the fact that X tends to appear in some sort of “underspecified” or “unmarked” form within the SDRA. Indeed, the grammatical features of X are not necessarily anchored to the outside syntactic environment (see also below). Let us take Example (12): here we have a plurality of participants to which *gira* also refers (people go around here and there and end up where they had started), but the (singular) form of the verb does not reflect this plurality.

From the data presented so far, it clearly emerges that Xs are generally (albeit not necessarily) word-level items, and, more specifically, verbs and nouns which tend to appear in some sort of unmarked form. But what is the role of the SDRA within the larger syntactic configurations it appears in?

As a matter of fact, the syntactic status of the SDRA may vary. In some cases, the pattern behaves as a phrase naturally embedded in the argument structure of the clause. See for instance (14), where both *tagliano di qua*, *tagliano di là* (lit. cut here, cut there) and *mettono su*, *mettono giù* (lit. put up, put down) are basically complex predicates agreeing with the subject *tutti* ‘everybody’; or (15), where *mani di qua*, *mani di là* (lit. hands here, hands there) is the object of the verb *stringeva* (shake.3SG.PST.IND).

- (14) [...] *tutti vanno a ricercare, e poi pubblicano le ricerche che fanno, ma con un metodo secondo noi abbastanza sbagliato: cioè tagliano di qua, tagliano di là, mettono su, mettono giù e fanno saltare fuori il loro discorso, il discorso che vogliono loro.*

‘[...] everybody does their research and then publish it, but with a method that we deem fairly wrong: that is, they cut here and there [lit. **cut here, cut there**], put here and there [lit. **put up, put down**] and they come up with a discourse, the one they want.’

- (15) *Il commendatore [...] riceveva, ringraziava, stringeva mani di qua, mani di là [...]*

‘The *commendatore*⁷ [...] was welcoming, thanking, shaking a lot of hands [lit. **hands here, hands there**] [...]’

In some other cases, the pattern behaves as a separate predicative element with the same function of a subordinate clause.⁸

- (16) *La mattina, cerca Primpellino di qua, cerca Primpellino di là, lo trovano inginocchiato per terra fra le gambe della mucca, e succhiava, succhiava il latte.*

‘In the morning, after looking for Primpellino everywhere [lit. **look_for Primpellino here, look_for Primpellino there**], they found him kneeling on the ground between the cow’s legs, and sucking, sucking milk.’

⁷ An official title awarded for service to one’s country.

⁸ Although we are dealing with written language here, we may nevertheless observe that the ‘prosody’ of examples like (14) and (16) would differ: for instance, in the latter case the SDRA would be preceded and followed by a rather long pause (reflected here by orthographic commas), which would not occur in the former.

Cases like (16) are described by De Santis (2014) as *expressive reduplication*, denoting continuative aspect and used to create a consecutive (but sometimes also concessive or hypothetical) interclausal relationship in the absence of an overt subordination marker. The structure is deemed typical of spoken language and fairy tales. Although De Santis (2014) speaks about verbs, a similar effect can be obtained with nouns:

- (17) *Con la prossima finanziaria, tagli di qui, tagli di là non avrò più occhi per piangere.*
 ‘At the next budget law, after/considering all this cutting [lit. **cuts here, cuts there**], I’ll cry my eyes out’

The SDRA with nouns often appears in verbless sentences, especially in combination with other nouns or clauses (or both), as in (18):

- (18) *saliamo a Caserta vecchia pieghe, pieghe e ancora pieghe arriviamo fin su un bel panorama, foto qui, foto là!*
 ‘We climb [by motorbike] towards Casertavecchia, bends and bends again, we reach the top, a nice panorama, a lot of pictures [lit. **picture(s) here, picture(s) there!**]’

Finally, we note that the SDRA often appears in lists, not only of the type in (18), where the pattern is juxtaposed to other phrases (such as *arriviamo fin su* ‘(we) reach the top’ or *un bel panorama* ‘a nice panorama’), but also of the type illustrated in the following examples, where we find a series of SDRAs, hosting either the same X (19) or different Xs (20) (cf. also [14] above):

- (19) *E’ da due giorni che si parla solo ed esclusivamente di “biscotto”, biscotto di qua, biscotto di là, biscotto di su, biscotto di giù ... Come se avessimo già vinto la partita con l’Irlanda [...]*
 ‘In the last two days people have been talking solely and exclusively of “biscuit”,⁹ biscuit all the time [lit. **biscuit here, biscuit there, biscuit from above, biscuit from below**] ... As if we had already won the match against Ireland [...]
- (20) *[...] in questo mese di Dicembre che si presenta come mese di “particolari movimenti,” corri di qua, corri di là, prepara qua, prepara là, fai qua, fai là, poi arriviamo a Natale che siamo molte volte stanchi e dissipati [...]*

⁹ In Italian sports jargon, *biscotto* ‘biscuit’ refers to a form of match fixing.

‘[...] in this month of December, which is a month of “special movements,” with all that running, preparing and doing [lit. **run here, run there, prepare here, prepare there, do here, do there**], then Christmas comes, and we are often tired and dispersed [...]’

This list structure, quite recurrent in our data, strengthens the expressiveness and emphasis the construction already displays (cf. also Section 5).

4.1 A related pattern

During the manual checking of the data extracted from the corpus, we encountered a number of examples that conform to what seems to be a related pattern to the SDRA. In this related pattern, schematized in (21), X is not repeated; rather, what we find is the combination of two semantically related items, X and Y.

- (21) <X Adv₁ Y Adv₂>
where Adv₁ = **opposite of** Adv₂
 & *where* X = **semantically related to** Y

See Examples (22) and (23), where X and Y are co-hyponyms (types of verbal expressions) and antonyms, respectively:

- (22) *Berlusconi e gli juventini si incontrano in albergo la mattina. Sorrisi, strette di mano, **complimenti di qua, battute di là***
 ‘Berlusconi and the Juventus guys meet at the hotel in the morning. Smiles, handshakes, many compliments and jokes going on [lit. **compliments here, jokes there**]’
- (23) *Con questo sistema resta il problema della matematica, **sottrazioni qui, addizioni lì** ed è facile sbagliarsi mentre con le banconote sbagliarsi è quasi impossibile.*
 ‘With this system, the math problem remains – a lot of subtractions and additions [lit. **subtractions here, additions there**] and it’s easy to make a mistake – whereas with banknotes it’s nearly impossible to make a mistake’

Since this pattern does not entail a strict case of repetition, we excluded these cases from our dataset, which was intended to reflect ‘core’ SDRA cases. However, it is reasonable to regard this pattern as closely related to the SDRA considering their formal and functional resemblance. In this respect, it is worth mentioning the proposal put forward by Inkelas and Zoll (2005: 59–65), who advocate for a unified

approach of proper reduplication and constructions featuring semantically related elements, most notably synonyms but also items connected by other types of relationships, such as near-synonymy, subset, opposition. Under this view, “pure reduplication is simply one point along the cline of semantic similarity” (Inkelas and Zoll 2005: 62).

5 Functions of SDRA

After presenting the main formal characteristics of SDRA, we now focus on the functions expressed by this pattern in Italian (cf. point [vi] in Section 3).¹⁰

Semantically speaking, the SDRA turns out to express a set of closely related functions all associated with the notion of *plurality* and, more in general, *intensification*. It is noteworthy that these are functions that proper reduplication very frequently encodes crosslinguistically (cf. Moravcsik 1978, among others). More specifically, we identified four functions:

- (i) distributivity
- (ii) related variety
- (iii) dispersion
- (iv) additive plurality

Before presenting and exemplifying each function, it is interesting to look at their frequency within our dataset. As Table 6 illustrates, the functions are not equally represented.¹¹

Table 6: Frequency of functions in our dataset.

Functions	Freq. (<i>n</i> ^o)	Freq. (%)
Distributivity	196	61.4
Related variety	101	31.7
Dispersion	21	6.6
Additive plurality	1	0.3
Total	319	100

¹⁰ For our current purposes, we focus on semantic aspects, leaving a more thorough discourse-pragmatic analysis – which would be indeed highly desirable – to future research.

¹¹ The proposed functional classification and the annotation of the data rely on the authors’ intuition. Each example in the dataset was annotated by the two authors independently. In case of disagreement, the (few) cases were discussed and resolved.

Distributivity and related variety are the most frequent functions covering, together, approximately 93% of the occurrences. In particular, distributivity is by far the most represented function conveyed by the SDRA.

By *distributivity* we mean the expression of plurality (either of entities or situations) distributed over space, time, or participants. We could identify two subtypes of distributivity depending on the lexical category of the repeated element. We have *distributive plurality* with nouns (24) and *distributive pluractionality* (cf. Mattiolo 2019) with verbs (25) and action nouns (26).

- (24) *Come si difende il corpo? Pensando come fanno gli altri, **idiozie di qua, idiozie di là?***
 ‘How does the body protect itself? Thinking, like the others do, stupid things all the way down [lit. **stupid_things here, stupid_things there**]?’
- (25) [...] *in quell’area costruiranno una cinquantina di alloggi Ater e, **scava qua scava là, è spuntato il materiale.***
 ‘[...] in that area they’ll build some 50 ATER apartments, and, because of all that digging [lit. **dig here, dig there**] the material [toxic waste] peeped out.’
- (26) *Mi sai tu dire che cosa avviene in questi giorno [sic] intorno a noi? Io non mi ci raccapezzo più. Ordini, contro-ordini, **spostamenti di qua, spostamenti di là.***
 ‘Can you tell me what’s going on around here these days? I’m quite at a loss. Orders, counter-orders, movements here and there [lit. **movements here, movements there**]’

The second most frequent function of SDRA is what we term here *related variety*, which expresses a plurality of entities that are different from each other but at the same time share a particular property (thus acting as some sort of *co-hyponyms*, so to speak). See Examples (27) and (28) below.

- (27) [...] *la FilMauro di Aurelio De Laurentiis sta per mandare in centinaia di sale un cinepanettone primavera-estate di Neri Parenti, il regista dei **Natale di qua Natale di là.***
 ‘[...] Aurelio De Laurentiis’ FilMauro is about to release in hundreds of cinemas a spring-summer *cinepanettone* [=Christmas family film] by Neri Parenti, the director of this and that Christmas family film [lit. **Christmas here, Christmas there**]’

- (28) *Ora poi facciamo attenzione che ogni iniziativa ha e avrà un aggettivo imprescindibile: “Europeo.” Giornata Europea contro la sclerosi multipla, Giornata Europea contro la leucemia, giornata europea contro il fumo, sciopero europeo, **giornata europea di qua, giornata europea di là.*** ‘And consider that now each event has and will have an inevitable adjective: “European.” European Day against multiple sclerosis, European Day against leukemia, European Day against smoking, European strike, all possible sorts of European Days [lit. **European Day here, European Day there.**].’

In (27), *Natale* ‘Christmas’ refers to family movies released at Christmas, whose titles typically contain the word *Natale* (*Vacanze di Natale* ‘Christmas holidays’, *Natale a Miami* ‘Christmas in Miami’, and so on): the SDRA *Natale di qua Natale di là* refers to a multitude of these farcical comedies, which are united by the very same stereotypes and schemas. Example (28), on the other hand, is interesting because it contains a list exemplifying different kinds of *European Days*, which already conveys a sense of related variety. Within this structure, the SDRA is inserted at the end, where it acts as a ‘general extender’. General extenders are expressions (such as *and stuff like that, etcetera*) which indicate “additional members of a list, set, or category [and combine] with a named exemplar (or exemplars)” (Overstreet 1999: 11). They are typically found at the end of lists (cf. Masini et al. 2018). See for instance (29) (taken from Overstreet 1999), where *and everything* refers to everything that belongs to a higher-level category that is inferred from the list of items preceding it (*name, address*), in this case something like ‘(any) useful contact information’.

- (29) *Make sure your bag has a tag with your name and address and everything* (Overstreet 1999: 5)

The expression *giornata europea di qua, giornata europea di là* in (28) seems to have precisely this ‘general extender’ function, by virtue of its position at the end of a list.

In addition to these cases, we found several occurrences of what we propose to regard as a subtype of the ‘related variety’ function. Quite often, SDRA is used to refer to a heterogeneous group of complex, implicit speech acts revolving around the repeated element X. In other words, X represents the salient element (possibly the topic) of a series of speech acts, pronounced by the same speaker or by different speakers, whose content needs to be inferred. The following example is a case in point: here the speaker is complaining about the fact that people cannot do anything better than talking about communists all the time.

- (30) *sapete dire solo comunisticomunisti di qua comunisti di làquanta tristezza ...*
 ‘you are only able to say communists**communists here communists there**such a sadness ...’

The reason why we decided to include these cases in related variety is that, ultimately, the function they express is to represent a plurality of entities (speech acts) that are different from each other but share a given property (the topic, i.e., X), thus falling under the definition of related variety we gave above.

The two less frequent functions we identified are *dispersion* and *additive plurality*. By additive plurality, here, we mean the most prototypical meaning of plural, that is, several entities in opposition to a single entity, which is, however, represented by only one example in our dataset (31).

- (31) *Sì, però quando dovrai rinnovare il permesso di soggiorno loro ti chiedono CUD¹² di qua CUD di là [...]*
 ‘Yes, but when you’ll need to renew your residence permit, they’ll ask you all your CUDs [lit. **CUD here CUD there**] [...]

By *dispersion*, instead, we intend the expression of a limited plurality scattered over space, time, or participants. We identified two different situations in which this dispersion value is expressed. The first is found when X is a nominal item (32), whereas the second is represented by cases where X is a clause introduced by *chi* ‘who’ (33).

- (32) *fino alla mezza stavo benissimo, poi ho iniziato a sentire un po’ di stanchezza, un doloretto qua, un doloretto là. Alla fine mi sono dovuto fermare.*
 ‘Until half [of the marathon] I was feeling great, then I started feeling some tiredness, **a little pain here, a little pain there**. Eventually, I had to stop.’
- (33) *Stufo, delle parole, chi dice qua, chi dice là*
 ‘(I got) fed up with words, people saying this and that [lit. **who says here, who says there**]

Overall, it seems to us that dispersion represents the opposite pole of distributivity in terms of plurality. The difference between these two functions is therefore similar to the difference between paucal and plural values in nominal number (few vs. several).

¹² In Italy, CUD is a bureaucratic document certifying the annual income of an employee and is required for an income tax declaration.

To conclude this section, it may be useful to add some tentative observations on the connotative and pragmatic side of the SDRA, although this is not the focus of the present contribution. The SDRA is obviously an *expressive* way to express plurality (in the wide sense intended here), which often brings about other effects. One of these effects is a slightly disparaging value that emerges in some cases (cf. e.g., [26] or [28]). A derogatory connotation is attributed to other types of reduplication (especially echo-reduplication) crosslinguistically (cf. Moravcsik 1978: 323–324; Stolz et al. 2011: 134; Wiese and Polat 2016). In our case, it might be due to an inferential reading of *excess*. Another effect is, quite obviously, emphasis. This is also reflected by the fact that additive (i.e., standard, unmarked) plurality is not expressed by SDRA, which is clearly linked to more *intense* pluralities.

6 A constructionist analysis of SDRA

After describing the main formal and functional characteristics of the SDRA in Italian, we now attempt at giving a theoretical account of this structure. Framing our analysis within Construction Grammar (Fillmore et al. 1988; Goldberg 1995, 2006; Hilpert 2014; Hoffmann and Trousdale 2013), we may obviously ask: is SDRA a *construction*? Following Goldberg (2006), a construction is generally defined as follows:

Any linguistic pattern is recognized as a construction as long as *some aspect of its form or function is not strictly predictable from its component parts or from other constructions recognized to exist*. In addition, patterns are stored as constructions even if they are fully predictable as long as they occur with sufficient frequency. (Goldberg 2006: 5, emphasis ours)

Indeed, we can say that the SDRA in Italian shows unpredictable and idiosyncratic properties.

At the semantic level, the SDRA has a non-compositional (albeit partially iconic) meaning, since its overall semantics cannot be computed by the mere sum of the meanings of its component parts. Let us take again Examples (2) and (3), repeated here for convenience as (34) and (35).

- (34) *I segni erano spariti e, **cerca di qua, cerca di là**, nessuno ha avuto il coraggio di continuare senza.*
 ‘The signs had disappeared and, after searching in all directions [lit. **search here, search there**], no one had the courage to continue without them.’

- (35) *Una è il “terrorismo islamico” con tutto il suo corredo di Osama, Al Zarkawi, Al Qaida, cellule qua, cellule là, attentati a Sharm El Sheik, Amman, Londra, ovunque. Sempre solo la versione di comodo dei veri terroristi.*
 ‘One [fundamental thing] is “Islamic terrorism” with its complement of Osama, Al Zarkawi, Al Qaida, cells everywhere [lit. **cells here, cells there**], attacks in Sharm El Sheik, Amman, London, everywhere. Always and only the convenient version of the true terrorists.’

If we interpret the two occurrences of the SDRA in (34) and (35) literally, we obtain a spatial reading in which X occurs/is (depending on its category) first *di qua* ‘here’ and then *di là* ‘there’. In other words, when X is a verb as in (34), we would have a reading where the action occurs twice in two opposite locations identified by the two deictic adverbs. When X is a noun in (35), we would have a reading with two referents (denoted by X) found in two opposite locations identified by the two deictic adverbs. This means that in (34) the agent looks for the signs in two indexical locations (*cerca di qua, cerca di là*), and that in (35) there are terroristic cells placed in two indexical locations (*cellule qua, cellule là*). In actual fact, this is not the semantic interpretation we get. Rather, both (34) and (35) have a distributive meaning: ‘searching repeatedly, in all directions’ and ‘cells everywhere, in every place’, respectively. In (35), this interpretation is even strengthened by the presence of the adverb *ovunque* ‘everywhere’ at the end of the list of cities in which a terroristic attack took place.

At the formal level, we have some idiosyncratic properties and constraints as well. Firstly, and quite obviously, the two Xs are constrained in that they must be identical. Secondly, the antonymic adverbial pairs are lexically fixed and cannot be reversed. In other words, they must appear exactly as reported in Table 3. A search for the reversed $\langle X_i \text{ di là } X_i \text{ di qua} \rangle$ pattern within our corpus gives zero results (cf. also below). Thirdly, the whole pattern seems to be endowed with a certain degree of internal cohesion, since it is not found interrupted by other linguistic material. Our intuition is that there might also be a specific prosodic contour associated with the SDRA (cf. footnote 8), which however does not apply to our current data which are taken from a corpus of written Italian. This hypothesis should be tested with data from spoken language.

In sum, the SDRA has more than one idiosyncratic aspect in terms of both form and function. An issue that must be discussed at this point is the predictability “from other constructions recognized to exist,” as the quotation from Goldberg (2006: 5) above reminds us.

We have already observed in Section 1 that, within the SDRA, we can recognize two different patterns: a repetitive/reduplicative pattern, and a pattern involving an antonymic pair of adverbs (which we now know to be irreversible). These

patterns need to be briefly discussed, since both happen to occur in isolation in Italian, and can reasonably be analyzed as independent constructions of which the SDRA appears to be a mix.

On the one hand, reduplicative constructions are attested in Italian and convey a number of different functions, among which intensification (36), contrastive focus (37), and pluractionality (38), but also distributivity (39) and continuous aspect (40)–(41) (cf. among others, Bertinetto 2001; De Santis 2011, 2014; Grandi 2017; Rossi 2011; Stolz et al. 2011; Thornton 2008; Wierzbicka 1986).

- (36) **lungo lungo** (lit. long long) ‘very long’
(Grandi 2017: 60)
- (37) **caffè caffè** (lit. coffee coffee) ‘true coffee’
(Wierzbicka 1986: 297)
- (38) **copia copia** (lit. copy copy) ‘generalized copying’
(Thornton 2008: 209)
- (39) *E allora perché dovrei andare a una cena di lavoro, a una cena che sia lavoro, a una cena pallosissima in cui si parlerà di **lavoro lavoro lavoro***
‘So, why should I go to a business dinner, to a dinner which is work, to a deadly boring dinner where we’ll be talking about work, work, and work [lit. **work work work**]’
(itTenTen16)
- (40) *Ora, come sempre, io **lavoro lavoro** fino ad azzerare i pensieri!*
‘Now, as always, I (just) keep on working [lit. **work work**] until I reset my thoughts!’
(itTenTen16)
- (41) *E così, **cammina cammina**, il femminismo è arrivato a incidere sul pensiero di Jurgen Habermas*
‘So, day after day [lit. **walk walk**], feminism ended up affecting Jurgen Habermas’ thought’
(De Santis 2014: 185)

On the other hand, the same antonymic adverbial pairs involved in the SDRA may also occur in isolation linked by the conjunction *e* ‘and’, resulting in *irreversible binomials* (Malkiel 1959; cf. Masini 2006 for a constructionist analysis of these expressions in Italian) meaning ‘here and there/hither and thither/everywhere’. Most of these irreversible binomials exhibit assonance and display a rhyming

pattern (e.g., *di qua e di là* ‘here and there’), as is often the case with these expressions. They basically express a generalizing function (in the sense of Wälchli 2005: 139, who describes “generalizing co-compounds” as structures whose “parts express the extreme opposite poles of which the whole consists”) (42) and a dispersive function (namely, limited, scattered plurality) (43).

(42) *Le guardie accorrevano di qua e di là*
 ‘Guards were rushing (from) **everywhere**’

(43) *Singole poesie sono state pubblicate qua e là su libri o fanzines*
 ‘Single poems were published **here and there** in books or fanzines’

Among the pairs considered in the present article, the most frequent binomial expression in the *itTenTen16* corpus is, by far, *qua e là* ‘here and there’ (32,996 occurrences), followed by *su e giù* ‘up and down’ (12,478) and *a destra e a sinistra/manca* ‘to the right and to the left’ (9,156), whereas *di qua e di là* ‘here and there’ (the most frequent in the SDRA) is less common (4,461).¹³

The question now is: could the SDRA be in fact *predictable* from (the unification of) the two mentioned independent constructions, i.e., a reduplicative pattern and antonymic adverbial irreversible binomials? Indeed, this might be the case. However, there are several pieces of evidence supporting the proposal of conceiving the SDRA as an independent construction in Italian.

First, despite being a marginal pattern, the SDRA is reasonably attested in our corpus and, most importantly, productive in terms of type frequency, since it can be filled by a variety of Xs (see Section 4). Second, it displays one function which cannot be traced back to either reduplicative patterns or antonymic adverbial binomials, i.e., related variety. Third, the binomials display the conjunction *e* ‘and’ which is not present in the SDRA. Finally, the SDRA displays a marked preference for the *di qua ~ di là* pair, whereas this pair is comparatively much less common than other pairs in the corresponding binomial version: if the SDRA were the unification of the reduplicative and the binomial constructions, we would expect the frequency of the pairs within the SDRA to mirror their frequency within the binomials. For all these reasons, we propose to analyze the SDRA as an independent (abstract) construction, namely as a complex sign with its own properties that is part of our linguistic competence.

An advantage of a constructionist analysis to the SDRA is that we may account for the fact that the SDRA displays recurrent form-meaning associations: these can be analyzed quite straightforwardly as a network of related constructions motivated

¹³ Frequency data were obtained by automatic searches for the phrases in question, the results were not manually checked.

by a more general SDRA mother construction, to which they are linked via polysemous inheritance links. In other words, in our mental representation the SDRA is a polysemous construction that develops different plurality-related senses, each of which is associated with specific formal requirements or tendencies.

These requirements or tendencies were found for all the functions we illustrated in Section 5 (except for additive plurality, for which we have one single occurrence). The SDRA with distributive meaning is typically conveyed by two sets of items yielding the two sub-meanings: distributive plurality is generally expressed through bare nouns that can be either in their singular or plural form, whereas distributive pluractionality through bare verbs in the third or second person singular present indicative form as well as action nominals (cf. Examples [24], [25], and [26] in Section 5). The function of related variety, instead, is mostly associated with bare nouns (especially singular, cf. [27] and [28] in Section 5), but also open to verbs (in no particular form) and other parts of speech, as well as to phrasal items and clauses (due to the ‘speech act’ subtype, cf. [30] in Section 5), unlike distributivity. Finally, dispersion is clearly associated with expressions featuring singular nouns preceded by an indefinite determiner and by clauses introduced by *chi* ‘who’ (cf. [32] and [33] in Section 5).

The network of daughter constructions can be schematized as in Figure 1 (where construction is abbreviated as Cxn), where we find the abstract SDRA Cxn licensing three sub-constructions which are more specific in terms of both function and formal requirements, as just described.

Conceiving the SDRA as an independent construction does not mean denying its link with the reduplicative construction and the antonymic adverbial binomial construction. Indeed, the SDRA construction might have actually originated from some sort of *blending* between the two constructions, with some adjustments (e.g., the loss of the conjunction *e* ‘and’). The SDRA could therefore be regarded as a case of *multiple source construction* (Van de Velde et al. 2015). Then, once the new construction is established, it acquired a life of its own, and hence new properties, among which the capacity of developing new senses (e.g., related variety).

Under this view, the related <X Adv₁ Y Adv₂> pattern we discussed in Section 4.1 may also find an explanation: this pattern displays semantically related elements (X and Y) instead of the repetition of the same element X (see [22]: *complimenti di qua, battute di là* ‘many compliments and jokes going on’ [lit. compliments here, jokes there]), but if we accept that reduplication proper and other similar constructions featuring semantically related words are actually part of the same abstract mechanism, as proposed by Inkelas and Zoll (2005), then this pattern might be considered as a construction related to the SDRA Cxn. In fact, as suggested by an anonymous reviewer, the very occurrence of <X Adv₁ Y Adv₂> expressions provides still another argument in favor of the view that the SDRA Cxn

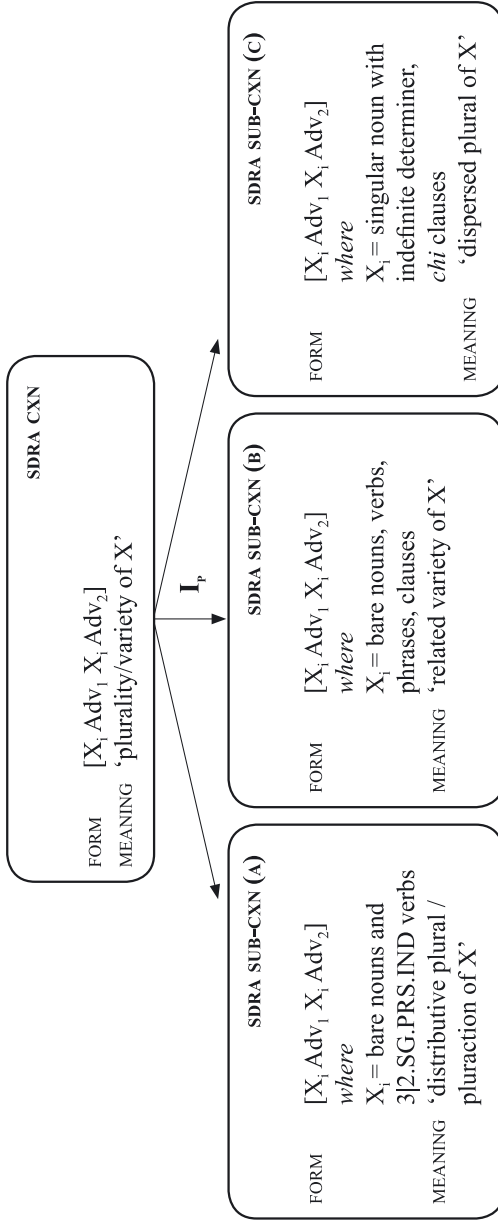


Figure 1: SDRA constructional network.

represents a construction in its own right, since these systematic ‘deviations’ from the core SDRA Cxn are only interpretable because the higher-level construction is already established. The exact nature of the synchronic relation between the two constructions (e.g., daughter construction, sister construction, allostruction) depends on the specific properties of the related pattern under discussion, which were not analyzed in detail here. We leave this question open to future research.

7 A crosslinguistic tour

Given the analysis presented in previous sections, the SDRA would seem to be a rather peculiar construction, which is most likely to be language-specific and, thus, limited to Italian. However, a very preliminary crosslinguistic look revealed the presence of SDRA or SDRA-like patterns in other, typologically different, languages.

For instance, we found an example of what seems to be a case of SDRA in Russian (taken from the *ruTenTen11*, or *Russian Web 2011*, corpus, searched via Sketch Engine):

- (44) Russian
- | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <i>Pri</i> | <i>ètom,</i> | <i>tusovka</i> | <i>tuda,</i> | <i>tusovka</i> | <i>sjuda,</i> |
| by | this.SG.M.PRP | get-together | there | get-together | here |
| <i>vse</i> | <i>begajut</i> | <i>s</i> | <i>flagami,</i> | <i>ura,</i> | <i>ura,</i> |
| all | run.3PL.PRS | with | flag.PL.INS | hurray | hurray |
| <i>dogovorilis’</i> | <i>s</i> | <i>kitajcami.</i> | | | |
| agree.3PL.PST | with | Chinese.PL.INS | | | |
| <i>Gde,</i> | <i>kto,</i> | <i>čego,</i> | <i>ne</i> | <i>očen’</i> | <i>ponjatno.</i> |
| where | who | what | not | very | understandable |
- ‘At the same time, **a lot of get-togethers**, everyone running with flags, hurray, hurray, we found an agreement with the Chinese. Where, who, what, it’s not very clear.’

The only difference we can point out between this example and the SDRA in Italian is that in (44) we have a reversed order of the antonymic adverbs: in Italian we find the order X_i (*di*) *qua* X_i (*di*) *là* ‘ X_i here X_i there’, whereas in the Russian example the order is X_i *tuda* X_i *sjuda* ‘ X_i there X_i here’. Note that, in Russian, the corresponding compound involving the same antonymic pair also displays this order: *tuda-sjuda* (lit. there-here) ‘everywhere.’

We also found an interesting example in (spoken) Modern Hebrew (45), taken from Inbar (2020) (glosses and translation like in the original).

- (45) Modern Hebrew
- | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| <i>(hem</i> | <i>adain)</i> | <i>ʔotsim</i> | <i>lit'om</i> | <i>me=ha=χaim</i> | | | |
| (they | still) | want.PL | to.taste | from=the=life | | | |
| <i>hem</i> | <i>adain</i> | <i>ʔotsim</i> | <i>ze</i> | | | | |
| they | still | want.PL | this | | | | |
| <i>baχusim</i> | <i>bne</i> | <i>esvim</i> | <i>ve</i> | <i>ftaim</i> | <i>esvim</i> | <i>ve</i> | <i>falof</i> |
| guys | sons.of | twenty | and | two | twenty | and | three |
| <i>ata</i> | <i>mevin</i> | / | | | | | |
| you.SGM | understand.SGM | / | | | | | |
| <i>ze</i> | <i>ʔotse</i> | <i>lilmod</i> | | | | | |
| this | want.SGM | to.study | | | | | |
| <i>ze</i> | <i>ʔotse</i> | <i>po</i> | | | | | |
| this | want.SGM | here | | | | | |
| <i>ze</i> | <i>ʔotse</i> | <i>fam</i> | | | | | |
| this | want.SGM | there | | | | | |
- ‘They still want a taste of life. They still want this. Guys twenty-two years old, twenty-three, you understand? One wants to study, **one wants this, one wants that.**’
(Inbar 2020: 655)

This Modern Hebrew example resembles the Italian SDRA at both the semantic and the formal level. Interestingly, in (45), the SDRA pattern is found at the end of a list, which is a property we noticed for Italian, too (cf. Section 4, Examples [19] and [20]; Section 5, Example [28]).

Still another case that is worth discussing comes from Mandarin Chinese, where we can find sentences like (46):

- (46) Mandarin Chinese
- | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <i>yǒu-xiē</i> | <i>guānyuán</i> | <i>yī-tiān</i> | <i>dōu</i> | <i>shì</i> | <i>chī-a</i> |
| be-some | officials | one-day | all | be | eat-and |
| <i>hē-a,</i> | <i>zhèr</i> | <i>pǎo</i> | <i>nàr</i> | <i>cuàn</i> | |
| drink-and | here | run | there | flee | |
- ‘There are some officials who only eat and drink, **run here and there** all day long’ (*zhTenTen11*, example retrieved and glossed by Shanshan Huang)

From a semantic point of view, (46) displays the main function conveyed by SDRA in Italian, namely distributivity (‘run here and there, everywhere’). However, there is a formal difference with Italian SDRA: while the latter requires the repetition of the same element X, in the Mandarin Chinese example we do not have a repetition strictly speaking, but two synonyms (‘run’ and ‘flee’). This example is therefore

similar to the SDRA-related pattern discussed in Section 4.1, where X is not repeated but combined with a semantically related element Y. In this respect, see the following example from the *itTenTen16* corpus, which contains two elements (X and Y) very close in meaning to those displayed in (46):

- (47) *Sempre sotto l'incubo d'essersi dimenticato di qualche cosa ... E poi, corri di qua, scappa di là*
 'With the constant nightmare of having forgotten something ... And then, **running and fleeing here and there** [lit. **run here, flee there**]'

Of course, these isolated examples from Russian, Modern Hebrew, and Chinese tell us little about the real presence and extension of a hypothetical SDRA construction in these languages. Notwithstanding this, they provide evidence for the presence of patterns with strong formal and semantic resemblance with the Italian SDRA in other languages, which calls for further crosslinguistic investigation.

One last case that deserves some discussion comes from German. Finkbeiner (2015, 2017) analyzes in detail a construction she calls *N hin, N her* 'N thither, N hither'. See for example (48).

- (48) German
Emanzipation hin, Emanzipation her, der Cartellverband bleibt, was er immer gewesen ist, ein Männerverein.
 (Kleine Zeitung, 05.05.1997)
 '**Women's liberation thither, women's liberation hither, the Cartell association remains what is always has been, a men's club.**'
 (Finkbeiner 2015: 90)

Obviously, this pattern shares several properties with the SDRA in Italian (including the possibility to host two non-identical but semantically related nouns, cf. Section 4.1), but at the same time displays some dissimilarities.

At the formal level, the *N hin, N her* construction can host only nouns at the word level (no noun phrases allowed). Syntactically, the pattern as a whole is juxtaposed to a main clause and mostly occurs in the "left outer field" position (Finkbeiner 2015: 96), unlike the Italian SDRA, which displays a more flexible behavior. More marginally, the antonymic adverbs are reversed with respect to Italian: we have X_i (*di*) *qua* X_i (*di*) *là* (X_i here X_i there) in Italian while X_i *hin* X_i *her* (X_i there X_i here) in German, as in Russian.

At the functional level there are differences too: Finkbeiner (2015: 97) claims that the *N hin, N her* construction has two semantic readings plus pragmatic values. On the one hand, it has a concessive reading, defined as "a semantic relation between two propositions p and q, which both are entailed, but which normally – according to a speaker's previous experience, world knowledge,

etc. – are expected to be mutually incompatible” (Finkbeiner 2015: 97). Hence, the sentence in (48) can be paraphrased as follows: ‘Although we are an equal rights society, the Cartell association remains what it always has been, a men’s club.’ The other reading of *N hin, N her* is concessive conditionality: concessive conditionals “relate a set of antecedent conditions to a consequent [and] the consequent is asserted to be true under any of the conditions specified in the antecedent” (König 1986: 231, quoted in Finkbeiner 2015: 97). Thus, Example (49) below can be paraphrased as: ‘Whether there was a spelling reform or not: What really interests the true Mainz resident is neither clarified by the Duden nor by anyone else. Is it Määnz or Meenz?’ (Finkbeiner 2015: 97).

- (49) **Rechtschreibreform hin, Rechtschreibreform her:** *Was den wahren Mainzer bewegt, kann weder der Duden, noch sonst jemand final klären. Heißt es nun Määnz oder Meenz?* (Rhein-Zeitung, 14 August 2004)
‘Spelling reform thither, spelling reform hither: What really interests the true Mainz resident is neither clarified by the Duden nor by anyone else. Is it Määnz or Meenz?’
 (Finkbeiner 2015: 97)

Beside these semantic functions, *N hin, N her* also has some pragmatic values. At the discourse and interactional levels, it has the function of “construing textual coherence” and “expressing subjectification and stance taking” (Finkbeiner 2015: 104). In particular, the syntactic configuration of the construction “contributes to its pragmatic status as a discourse marker,” which has the role of positioning the speaker “with respect to a state of affairs that is part of the discourse universe, creating the expectation that a contrasting attitude will be presented in the subsequent utterance (the juxtaposed main clause)” (Finkbeiner 2015: 103–104).¹⁴

In conclusion, what emerges from this brief crosslinguistic tour is that, while the Italian SDRA is a language-specific device with its own specific properties, other languages present similar patterns that involve the same building blocks (the reduplicative pattern on the one hand, the antonymic adverbial pair on the other) and might share some of its functions. Obviously, these patterns will also have their own specific (especially functional) properties. One hypothesis that might be worth

¹⁴ An anonymous reviewer kindly pointed out that there is another pattern in German which seems to be more closely corresponding to the Italian construction under investigation here. The German pattern in question is <X hier X da> ‘X here X there,’ which seems to occur quite regularly in informal spoken German, according to the anonymous reviewer’s experience, e.g., *Er nervt mich echt mit seinen Spitzfindigkeiten, Sonderwünsche hier, Sonderwünsche da* ‘He really gets on my nerves with his nitpicking, special wishes here, special wishes there.’ The reviewer notes that German also displays the corresponding adverbial binomial, namely the collocation *hier und da* ‘here and there.’

testing is the common origin of these patterns as multiple source constructions, as we proposed for the Italian case in Section 6: our prediction would be that languages that display SDRA-like structures also display (or displayed), as independent constructions, some reduplicative pattern and an antonymic adverbial pair pattern (irreversible binomials or compounds).

8 Conclusions

In this article, we identified a – so far undescribed – pattern in Italian that qualifies as an instance of both *syntactic reduplication* and *discontinuous reduplication*. Since this pattern is characterized by the non-adjacent repetition of the same item within a larger fixed configuration defined by a pair of antonymic spatial adverbs, we called this structure *syntactic discontinuous reduplication with antonymic pairs* (SDRA). The SDRA conveys a general value of plurality and develops a network of sub-constructions that express more specific functions such as *distributivity*, *related variety*, and *dispersion*. By virtue of its idiosyncratic properties, we analyzed the SDRA as a *construction* in the sense of Construction Grammar. We also proposed regarding the SDRA as a *multiple source construction* that has originated from the blending of two independent constructions: syntactic reduplication on the one hand and irreversible binomials with antonymic adverbs on the other. SDRA-like patterns are found in other languages, too. However, despite their resemblance to the structure analyzed here, they also display their own distinctive features. A broader crosslinguistic investigation would be necessary to assess the actual spreading of SDRA-like patterns in different languages and to test our hypothesis about its ‘multiple source’ emergence.

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