



Repetitive and reflexive: semantic and cross-linguistic relations

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The label “repetitive” is used in this paper for a one-time repetition of an event, for instance, *John wrote the letter again* or *John rewrote the letter*. This meaning can be expressed cross-linguistically in the following ways: by the use of free lexemes, for example, the adverb *again*, by the use of special affixes, for example, *re-*, and by the use of serial verb constructions. The markers that have the repetitive usage are often polysemous, irrespective of their morphosyntactic structure. However, not all types of such polysemy are wellknown. This paper therefore deals with the nontrivial combination of the repetitive meaning and the reflexive one in the same marker. This type of polysemy is a feature of Oceanic languages (cf. *mein* Tawala, [Ezard 1997:136]; *anoo* in Maori, [Bauer 1999:165]; *-ris* in Paamese, [Lichtenberk 1991]). However, it is also attested in some other genetic and areal groups such as, West-Caucasian languages in Europe (cf. *-ž-* in Kabardian, [Colarusso 1992:120]) and Pama-Njungan languages in Australia (cf. *-bu* in Bandjalang, [Geytenbeek 1971:14], [Crowley 1978:136]).

The semantic relationship between the idea of repetition and the idea of reflexivity is unclear and some special explanation is necessary for explaining the nature of this relationship. One of the logically possible interpretations is that both meanings are indirectly connected to each other through the idea of return, that is, to some situation or to some participant. Another logically possible interpretation is that repetition and reflexivity are connected through the idea of identity, that is, two situations or two participants.

The cross-linguistic data put forward some arguments, for and against both interpretations. Some additional problems are that all these cases have heterogeneous formal structures which necessitate the need for a special discussion of their comparability, and the variation of their semantic interpretation in different cases.

References:

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