

Unexpected morphosyntax in Dutch and Afrikaans varieties

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REEDS dialect workshop, Amsterdam
29 June 2023

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Aim of the talk

- ▶ Present two unrelated morphosyntactic phenomena in varieties of Dutch and Afrikaans, which:

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- ▶ Present two unrelated morphosyntactic phenomena in varieties of Dutch and Afrikaans, which:
 - ▶ Show variation between and within these two closely related languages

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 - ▶ Show variation between and within these two closely related languages
 - ▶ Have previously received hardly any attention

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Aim of the talk

- ▶ Present two unrelated morphosyntactic phenomena in varieties of Dutch and Afrikaans, which:
 - ▶ Show variation between and within these two closely related languages
 - ▶ Have previously received hardly any attention
 - ▶ Can guide us in formalising certain aspects of language change

Introduction

Unexpected morphosyntax

- ▶ Both phenomena are cases of ‘unexpected’ morphosyntax

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Unexpected morphosyntax

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 - ▶ Displaced morphology in non-finite verb clusters

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Unexpected morphosyntax

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 - ▶ Displaced morphology in non-finite verb clusters
 - ▶ (Inflectional patterns within) reduplication

Introduction

Non-finite verb clusters

- (1) a. Hij zal niet **hoeven te gaan** voetballen.
he will not need to go play.football
- b. Hij zal niet **te hoeven gaan** voetballen.
he will not to need go play.football
- c. Hij zal niet **hoeven gaan te** voetballen.
he will not need go to play.football
- d. Hij zal niet **hoeven te gaan te** voetballen.
he will not need to go to play.football
- e. Hij zal niet **hoeven gaan** voetballen.
he will not need go play.football
'He won't have to go and play football.'

Introduction

(Inflectional patterns within) reduplication

- (2) a. Nee, maar ik heb echt **gewerkt-gewerkt**.
No, but I have really GEwork-GEwork
'No, but I have really, properly, worked.'
- b. ??Nee, maar ik heb echt **gewerkt-werkt**.
No, but I have really GE-worked
- c. *Nee, maar ik heb echt **werkt-gewerkt**.
No but I have really worked-GEworked

Introduction

Language change

- ▶ Both phenomena are cases of language change, namely:

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 - ▶ Grammaticalisation

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Language change

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 - ▶ Grammaticalisation
 - ▶ Language contact and innovation

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 - ▶ Grammaticalisation
 - ▶ Language contact and innovation
 - ▶ Pragmaticalisation and expressivity

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Overarching goals

- ▶ Make a precise inventory of the *differences* between Dutch and Afrikaans morphosyntax

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- ▶ Formalise grammaticalisation, pragmaticalisation and language change through contact
- ▶ Formalise expressive morphosyntax

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Non-finite verb clusters: introduction

- ▶ Dutch and Afrikaans are verb clustering languages

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- ▶ In Afrikaans, pseudocoordination also occurs in verb clusters (*V and V*)

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- ▶ Both languages show inter- and intraspeaker variation in the morphosyntax of some of these verb clusters

Non-finite verb clusters: introduction

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- ▶ In Afrikaans, pseudocoordination also occurs in verb clusters (*V and V*)
- ▶ Both languages show inter- and intraspeaker variation in the morphosyntax of some of these verb clusters
- ▶ Particularly so in clusters containing semi-lexical verbs

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Non-finite verb clusters: the phenomenon in Dutch

Selection requirements of lexical versus functional verbs:

- (3) Hij heeft **besloten** *te werken*.
He has decided to work
'He has decided to work.'

Non-finite verb clusters: the phenomenon in Dutch

Selection requirements of lexical versus functional verbs:

- (4) Hij heeft **besloten** *te werken*.
He has decided to work
'He has decided to work.'
- (5) Hij heeft **moeten** (**te*) *werken*.
He has must to work
'He had to work.'

Non-finite verb clusters: the phenomenon in Dutch

Certain clustering verbs exhibit optionality:

- (6) Hij zal niet **hoeven** (*te*) *werken*.
he will not need to work
'He won't need to work.'

Non-finite verb clusters: the phenomenon in Dutch

Certain clustering verbs exhibit optionality:

- (6) Hij zal niet **hoeven** (*te*) *werken*.
he will not need to work
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- ▶ I claim that these verbs are semi-lexical

Non-finite verb clusters: the phenomenon in Dutch

- (7)
- a. Hij zal niet **hoeven te gaan** voetballen.
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 - b. Hij zal niet **te hoeven gaan** voetballen.
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► Completely ungrammatical with lexical or functional verbs

Non-finite verb clusters: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- ▶ A set of clustering verbs in Afrikaans occur in pseudocoordination constructions (*V and V*)

Non-finite verb clusters: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

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- ▶ *Loop* ‘walk’, *sit* ‘sit’, *staan* ‘stand’, and *lê* ‘lie’

Non-finite verb clusters: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- ▶ A set of clustering verbs in Afrikaans occur in pseudocoordination constructions (*V and V*)
- ▶ *Loop* ‘walk’, *sit* ‘sit’, *staan* ‘stand’, and *lê* ‘lie’
- ▶ These verbs indicate progressive aspect

Non-finite verb clusters: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- (8) a. Ek het **loop en koop** die boek.
I have walk and buy the book
- b. Ek het **loop koop** die boek.
I have walk buy the book
'I went to buy the book.'

Non-finite verb clusters: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- (9) a. Ek het **loop en koop** die boek.
I have walk and buy the book
- b. Ek het **loop koop** die boek.
I have walk buy the book
'I went to buy the book.'
- (10) a. Ek het **sit/ staan/ lê en lees** die boek.
I have sit stand lie and read the book
- b. %Ek het **sit/ staan/ lê lees** die boek.
I have sit stand lie read the book

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► These verbs often express the perspective of the speaker

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- ▶ The type of morphosyntactic variation and optionality we see in both languages is due to ongoing language change

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- ▶ I.e. Dutch *hoeven* and Afrikaans *loop* are **semi-lexical verbs** that are currently grammaticalising further

Non-finite verb clusters: variation and optionality

- ▶ The type of morphosyntactic variation and optionality we see in both languages is due to ongoing language change
- ▶ I.e. Dutch *hoeven* and Afrikaans *loop* are **semi-lexical verbs** that are currently grammaticalising further
- ▶ This ongoing change causes variation between and within speakers

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Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

Theoretical assumptions

- ▶ A lexical item is a featureless root; a functional item is a (bundle of) functional feature(s) (Halle & Marantz 1993; Harley & Noyer 1999; Borer 2005a)

Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

Theoretical assumptions

- ▶ A lexical item is a featureless root; a functional item is a (bundle of) functional feature(s) (Halle & Marantz 1993; Harley & Noyer 1999; Borer 2005a)
- ▶ Semi-lexicality is the result of a root being inserted in the functional domain of another root (Klockmann 2017; Cavirani-Pots 2020; see also Song 2019)

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Theoretical assumptions

- ▶ A lexical item is a featureless root; a functional item is a (bundle of) functional feature(s) (Halle & Marantz 1993; Harley & Noyer 1999; Borer 2005a)
- ▶ Semi-lexicality is the result of a root being inserted in the functional domain of another root (Klockmann 2017; Cavirani-Pots 2020; see also Song 2019)
- ▶ *v* and *n* are mere categorizers of roots, not introducing any arguments (Kratzer 1996; Lin 2001; Marantz 2005; Bowers 2010; Lohndal 2014; cf. Borer 2005b)

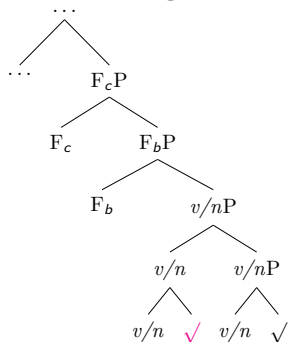
Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

Main proposal

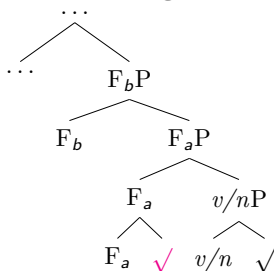
- ▶ There are two stages of semi-lexicality, which are early steps on a grammaticalisation path

Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

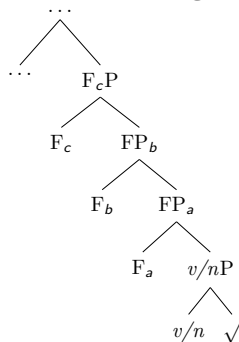
Semi-lex stage I



Semi-lex stage II



Functional stage



→ The **root in pink** is the semi-lexically used root

Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

- ▶ Revision of standard grammaticalisation path (cf. Hopper & Traugott 1993)

$$(11) \quad A_{lexical} > B_{functional} / A_{lexical} (> B_{functional})$$

Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

- ▶ Revision of standard grammaticalisation path (cf. Hopper & Traugott 1993)

Stage	Vocabulary items
Stage 0	$A_{lexical}$
Stage I	$A_{lexical}$ + semi-lexical use _{stage I} of $A_{lexical}$
Stage II	$A_{lexical}$ + semi-lexical use _{stage II} of $A_{lexical}$
Stage III	$B_{functional}$ (+ $A_{lexical}$)

Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

Illustration of the account

- ▶ The Dutch verb *hoeven* ‘need’ adds modality (functional behaviour)

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- ▶ But still optionally selects a *te*-complement (lexical behaviour)

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- ▶ The Dutch verb *hoeven* ‘need’ adds modality (functional behaviour)
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- ▶ *Proposal*: *Hoeven* is currently grammaticalising from stage I of semi-lexicity into stage II of semi-lexicity

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Illustration of the account

- ▶ The Dutch verb *hoeven* ‘need’ adds modality (functional behaviour)
- ▶ But still optionally selects a *te*-complement (lexical behaviour)
- ▶ *Proposal*: *Hoeven* is currently grammaticalising from stage I of semi-lexicality into stage II of semi-lexicality
- ▶ This idea is supported by diachronic evidence (Van de Velde 2017)

Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

Illustration of the account

- ▶ *te* is the spell out of *v* (*v* is a mere verbaliser)

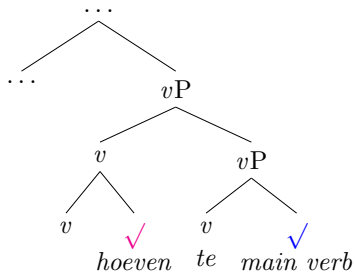
Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

Illustration of the account

- ▶ *te* is the spell out of *v* (*v* is a mere verbaliser)
- ▶ *Hoeven* can be used semi-lexically due to its lexical semantics that contains modality

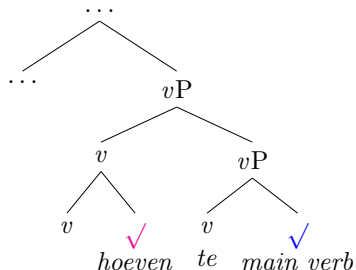
Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

(12) **Semi-lexical stage I of *hoeven***



Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

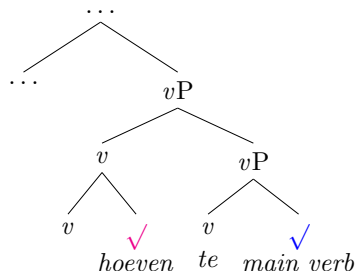
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- ▶ When *hoeven* is in stage I of semi-lexicity, the *v* with which the root of *hoeven* is merged imposes its selection requirements: a *te*-infinitive

Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

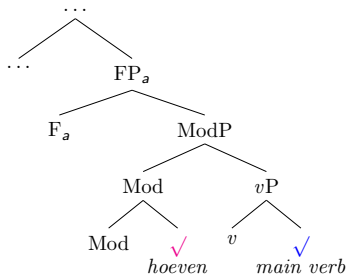
(12) **Semi-lexical stage I of *hoeven***



- ▶ When *hoeven* is in stage I of semi-lexicity, the *v* with which the root of *hoeven* is merged imposes its selection requirements: a *te*-infinitive
- ▶ The lower *v* (the one of the main verb of the sentence) is spelled out as *te*

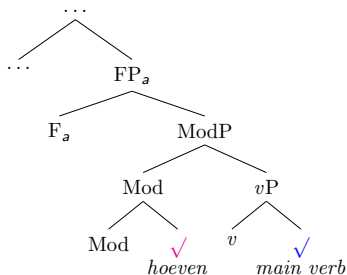
Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

(13) Semi-lexical stage II



Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

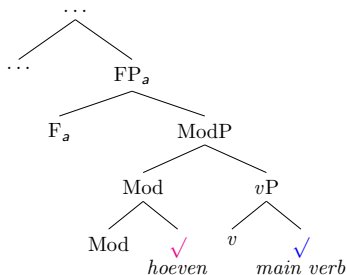
(13) Semi-lexical stage II



- ▶ *Hoeven* is no longer verbalised, but forms a complex head with Mod

Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

(13) Semi-lexical stage II



- ▶ *Hoeven* is no longer verbalised, but forms a complex head with Mod
- ▶ It has lost its selectional properties: *hoeven* combines with a bare infinitive

Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

Bigger picture

- ▶ In this account of semi-lexicality, the two ‘verbal’ roots look like a verbal compound

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- ▶ It can thus serve as a stepping stone for the analysis of other ‘compound-like’ structures

Non-finite verb clusters: the analysis

Bigger picture

- ▶ In this account of semi-lexicality, the two ‘verbal’ roots look like a verbal compound
- ▶ It can thus serve as a stepping stone for the analysis of other ‘compound-like’ structures
- ▶ One such phenomenon is reduplication

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Reduplication: introduction

- ▶ Reduplication is a cross-linguistically common process in which a part of a word (partial reduplication – PR) or an entire word (total reduplication – TR) is reduplicated

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'to drop' → 'to drop repeatedly'

Lusaamia

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Oxu-lakasy-a → **oxu-lakasya-lakasya**
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Lusaamia

Kurdu → **kurdu-kurdu**
'child' → 'children'

Walrpiri

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Walrpiri

- ▶ Reduplication has a range of semantic effects (pluralisation, emphasis, frequency, repetition) (Kiyomi 1993)

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Walrpiri

- ▶ Reduplication has a range of semantic effects (pluralisation, emphasis, frequency, repetition) (Kiyomi 1993)
- ▶ It is very often found in creole languages

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Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

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- ▶ In Afrikaans, TR is a highly productive phenomenon
- ▶ It has been mentioned as one of the main morphological divergences from Dutch
- ▶ It is more common in spoken than in written language

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

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- ▶ E.g. verbal reduplication: can lead to an iterative interpretation

(14) Die seuntjie **skop-skop** teen die deur.
the boy kick-kick against the door
'The boy keeps on kicking the door.'

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- ▶ Joint work with Engela De Villiers

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- ▶ Joint work with Engela De Villiers
- ▶ Besides the iterative function in verbal reduplication, two other types of verbal reduplication exist in Afrikaans:
 1. Contrastive Reduplication (CR)
 2. *Kamma* Reduplication (KR)

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- ▶ CR is used to indicate the prototypical nature or realness of what is referred to (e.g. Gimeshi et al. 2004)

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Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- ▶ CR is used to indicate the prototypical nature or realness of what is referred to (e.g. Gimeshi et al. 2004)
- ▶ *Kamma* is an Afrikaans word that is used to indicate when something/someone is fake/pretending
- ▶ This is also the semantic effect in what we labeled KR

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- (15) Die kelners **BEDIEN** **bedien** die kos, dis nie 'n
the waiters serve serve the food it's not a
buffet nie.
buffet not
'The waiters are really serving the food, it is not a
buffet-style meal.'

CR

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- (16) Die kelners **BEDIEN bedien** die kos, dis nie 'n
the waiters serve serve the food it's not a
buffet nie.
buffet not
'The waiters are really serving the food, it is not a
buffet-style meal.' CR
- (17) Die kelner **bedien-bedien**, maar niemand het kos
the waiter serves-serves but nobody has food
nie.
not
'The waiter pretends to serve the customers, but no one
is getting their food.' KR

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

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► Both types of reduplication are cases of expressive language

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- ▶ Cf. CR in German and Dutch is mostly restricted to infinitives (Frankowsky 2022; Cavirani-Pots & Dirix 2023)

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- ▶ One potential reason for verbal reduplication to be so productive is the fact that Afrikaans hardly has verbal inflection
- ▶ Cf. CR in German and Dutch is mostly restricted to infinitives (Frankowsky 2022; Cavirani-Pots & Dirix 2023)
- ▶ One type of verbal inflection Afrikaans does still have is the perfect participle marker *ge-*

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- ▶ Applying reduplication to a perfect participle form, we get the following pattern:

- (18)
- a. Hy het **gewerk gewerk**.
he has GE-work GE-work
'He has pretended to work.'
 - b. Hy het **gewerk werk**.
he has GE-work work
'He has really worked.'
 - c. *Hy het **werk gewerk**.
he has work GE-work

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Afrikaans

- ▶ Applying reduplication to a perfect participle form, we get the following pattern:

- (19)
- a. Hy het **gewerk gewerk**.
he has GE-work GE-work
'He has pretended to work.' → KR
 - b. Hy het **gewerk werk**.
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Reduplication: the phenomenon in Dutch

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Reduplication: the phenomenon in Dutch

- ▶ In Dutch, reduplication is a relatively new phenomenon, probably due to language contact with English
- ▶ It is restricted to informal, mostly spoken language
- ▶ Reduplication of the intensification type exist with adjectives and adverbs
- ▶ Verbal reduplication seems limited to the CR type (Cavirani-Pots & Dirix 2023)

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Dutch

- (20) Je hebt kijken en je hebt **kijken** **kijken**.
you have look.INF and you have look.INF look.INF
'There is looking and there is really looking at
something.'

(2019 Campaign *Vlaamse Stichting Verkeerskunde*)

Reduplication: the phenomenon in Dutch

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(21) **Praat praat** met haar, waarmee ik bedoel dat je
talk talk with her with.which I mean that you
een tweegesprek voert.
a conversation.in.two executes
'Literally talk with her, with which I mean a (proper)
conversation in two.'

(SoNaR, untitled document)

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'No, but I have really, properly, worked.'
 - ??Nee, maar ik heb echt **gewerkt-werkt**.
No, but I have really GE-worked
 - *Nee, maar ik heb echt **werkt-gewerkt**.
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 - c. *Nee, maar ik heb echt **werkt-gewerkt**.
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- ▶ Difference between two languages: circumfix vs prefix, and bigger syntactic freedom of Afrikaans *ge-* (De Vos 2004; Conradie 2017; Biberauer & Cavirani-Pots 2023)

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- ▶ Following Moravcsik (1978), he proposes that each reduplicating process can be characterized by a skeleton
- ▶ The skeleton of a reduplication rule is a so-called RED morpheme
- ▶ Hence, reduplication is the affixation of a skeleton to a stem

Reduplication: towards an analysis

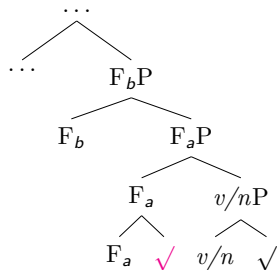
Marantz (1982)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & t & a & k & k & i \\ & & | & | & | & | & | \\ CVC & + & CVC & CV & & & \\ \rightarrow & & | & | & | & & \\ CVC & & + & & & & \\ & & t & a & k & k & i \\ & & | & | & | & | & | \\ CVC & + & CVC & CV & & & \\ = & & & & & & taktakki \end{array}$$

- ▶ It's not clear how this works for TR, as there need to exist many skeletons for all possible lengths of reduplicated elements
- ▶ The idea of a RED morpheme present/absent in the lexicon of a language is unattractive

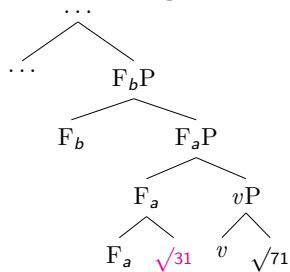
Reduplication: towards an analysis

Semi-lex stage II

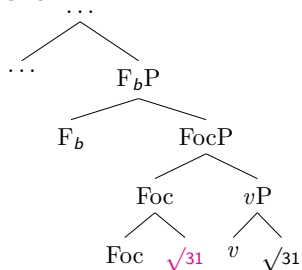


Reduplication: towards an analysis

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- ▶ Two unrelated phenomena which show variation between and in varieties of Dutch and Afrikaans
- ▶ Both phenomena are cases of language change
- ▶ A better understanding of these phenomena will benefit the formalisation of grammaticalisation/pragmaticalisation and language change through contact

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- ▶ *Future work I*: concise data collection and formal analysis of the underlying structure(s), and their expressive meaning
- ▶ *Future work II*: see how this analysis can be adapted for other types of compound structures (e.g. elative compounds *bereleuk* lit. bear-nice ‘very nice’)

Baie dankie vir/veel dank aan:

Engela De Villiers & Peter Dirix