

## **The morphotonology of reduplication in Akan**

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*Reduplication, being basically a morphological phenomenon, is intrinsically tied in with varied phonological processes and can redundantly be studied from both morphological and phonological viewpoints. Looking at it from the morphological perspective, reduplication is essentially an affixation process but from phonological standpoint the reduplicant is unspecified for both segmental and prosodic melodies. And as is deducible from the literature, the reduplicative template in all the languages of the world tends to copy the segmental melody of the base but receives its prosodic content by default. Consequent upon universal properties of the reduplicative template, we focus on the morphotonology of the reduplicant in Akan demonstrating in the central portions of this paper that notwithstanding the general assumption that the reduplicative template is underspecified for prosodic melody in phonological representations, it does not invariably receive its prosodic content, particularly its tone melody, at the phonetic stage by default in Akan.*

*Two main types of reduplication, prefixing and suffixing reduplication, are known to be distinguishable in the languages of the world. However, it is indeed axiomatic in the literature that lexemes in Akan consistently prefix their reduplicative template to the base. Based on the pattern of the tone melodies of the reduplicated lexic in Akan, we demonstrate in this paper that the affixal site of the reduplicative template in Akan is parametric. It can be either prefixed or suffixed to the base depending not only upon the word class to which the base belongs but also upon the class to which the base belongs within that word class. What is more, we demonstrate in this paper that Akan operates both partial and total reduplication and then argue that a type of total reduplication emerges at the phonetic surface in Akan in a way that elicits the label cloning rather than total reduplication.*