

# The Function of Contrastive Reduplication

*Example: I'll make the tuna salad, and you make the SALAD-salad.*  
(Ghomeshi et al. 2004: 311)

The purpose of the reduplication is not to repeat or duplicate lexical elements for the intensive use but it is mentioned to feature semantic characters that help prevent the ambiguity to establish the prototypical association of the described denotation.

In the example sentence given above, the word salad is reduplicated to single out the specific prototypical meaning of a salad. By implementing the use of CR, the speaker is aiming to prevent the wider generalisation of the chosen word by reduplicating it.

The following figure displays possible associations that are related to the reduplicated word. The figure is based on a survey conducted by Song and Lee in 2011:

Linguistic phenomenon in the field of morphology that is used to modify a reduplication of a lexical element in order to separate between meanings of ambiguous words and phrases. The contrastive reduplication is rather used in spoken colloquial English and is much rarer to find in written corpora.

*What the speaker says:*

I'll make the tuna salad, and you make the SALAD-salad.

*What the speaker means:*

I will make the tuna salad, and you should make the green salad.



Song; Lee 2011: 449

The position of the green salad in the middle indicates that it is the best example of a salad and is mainly associated when hearing the word. Therefore, it is referred to be the prototype of the “salad” category.

Contrastive Reduplication is mainly restricted to spoken colloquial language and includes the implementation of specific intonation that supports the effect of emphasising the underlying meaning of the word in context. The reduplication of the word helps to separate between meanings of ambiguous lexical elements. This academic poster only includes the prototypical type of contrastive reduplication but further types are: *literal*, *value-added/intensifying types of contrastive reduplication*.

## References

- Ghomeshi, J., Jackendoff, R., Rosen, N., & Russell, K. (2004). Contrastive focus reduplication in English (the salad-salad paper). *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 22(2), 307-357.
- Huang, Y. (2015). Lexical cloning in English: A neo-Gricean lexical pragmatic analysis. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 86, 80-85.
- Song, M., & Lee, C. (2011, September). CF-reduplication in English: Dynamic prototypes & contrastive focus effects. In *Semantics and Linguistic Theory* (Vol. 21, pp. 444-462).
- Widlitzki, B. (2016). Talk talk, not just small talk. Exploring English contrastive focus reduplication with the help of corpora. *ICAME Journal*, 40(1), 119-142.