

# Emergence of the Unmarked und Fixed Segmentism

Jochen Trommer  
University of Leipzig

<http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~jtrommer>  
`jtrommer@uni-leipzig.de`

Reduplikation, Universität Leipzig

October 26, 2006

# Yoruba Reduplication with Fixed Segmentism

## Verb

lo	'to go'
dùn	'to be tasty,sweet'
gbóná	'to be warm,hot'
dára	'to be good'

## Nominalization

li-lo
dí-dùn
gbí-gbóna
dí-dara

# i als Default-Vokal

”Pulleyblank (1988) argues instead that i is a default, a result of late fill-in of an empty V slot in the reduplicative affix. Independent evidence for i’s default status comes, inter alia, from the phonology of loan words, which usually resolve unsyllabifiable sequences by epenthesizing i: *gírámà* ‘grammar’ (Alderete et al., 1999:13)

# Relevante Constraint

**REDUCE:** Minimize the duration of short vowels

**Vokalkürze:** hohe/reduzierte Vokale  $\succ$  nichthohe/volle Vokale

⇒  i/ə

---

**SEG-HEAD** Every head of a syllable must itself be headed

ə ist merkmalslos

⇒  ə

# Yoruba in Alderete et al. (1999)

<b>Input:</b> RED-jɛ	IDENT <sub>IO</sub>	SEG-HEAD	REDUCE	IDENT <sub>BR</sub>
☞ a. <b>ji</b> -jɛ				*
b. <b>jɛ</b> -jɛ			*!	
c. <b>jə</b> -ji		*!		*
c. <b>ji</b> -ji	*			

# Tübatulabal

pitita	<b>?i-</b> pitita	'to turn over'
to:yan	<b>?o:-</b> doyan	'he is copulating'
ʃiʔiwɪ	<b>?i-</b> ʃiʔiwɪ	'it looks different'
ʔa:baʔiw	<b>?a:-</b> ʔabaʔiw	'it is showing'

# Tübatulabal in Alderete et al. (1999)

Input: RED-toyan	MAX <sub>IO</sub>	ONSET	*C-PLACE	MAX <sub>BR</sub>
☞ a. ?o:-doyan				****
b. to:-doyan			*!	***
c. o:-doyan		*!		****

# English Shm-Reduplication

## Examples:

Time, **schmime**, said Pappa irritably. (Isaac Asimov, 2nd Foundation)

**A:** I have to tell you, madam,  
that your son is suffering from an Oedipus complex.

**B:** Oedipus, **Schmoedipus!**  
What does it matter so long as he loves his mother? (apocryphal)

gravity-**schmavity** (Wonderbra advertisement)

Dark side **schmark** side! (Angel)

## Meanings and usages:

Negate, deride, dismiss, or diminish whatever was just said

Reject or deny the importance of the word that undergoes shm-reduplication

Reassure, or downplay a situation/problem

(<http://www.ai.mit.edu/projects/dm/shm/>)



# Shm-Reduplication $\neq$ Emergence of the Unmarked

**jm** ist kein unmarkierter Onset

# Shm-Reduplication in Alderete et al. (1999)

<b>Input:</b> table-RED- $\int$ m	PHONOTAKTIK	MAX <sub>IO</sub>	MAX <sub>BR</sub>
☞ a. table- $\int$ mable			t
b. table-table		$\int$ !m	
c. $\int$ mable-table		t!	$\int$ m
d. $\int$ mable- $\int$ mable		t !	
e. table- $\int$ mtable	*!		

# Problem

“There is some overlap at the phonology/morphology boundary. For example, Yoruba *i* or Tübatulabal *ʔ* could in principle be analyzed either as phonological TETU or morphological affixation – though affixation would fail to account for the correlations with independently motivated defaults.”  
(Alderete et al., 1999:fn.27)