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SOME NOTES ON ARABIC REDUPLICATED VERBAL ROOTS

Abstract

The paper discusses the main semantic characteristics of the reduplicated four-consonantal verbal roots in Arabic, as well as the issues of the relationship between two-consonantal and reduplicated four-consonantal verbs. The aim of the research conducted on the Arabic language material was to more clearly outline the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the relationship between the roots under consideration. In general, for the formation of reduplicated four-consonantal roots, doubling of two root consonant phonemes is used, i.e., reduplication of two-consonantal verbal roots. The above-mentioned model is very productive in Arabic as well as in other Semitic languages. Analyzing Arabic language material has found and considered 349 verbal roots; among them were two-consonantal geminated verbs (214 units) as well as four-consonantal reduplicated ones (135 units).   They form three groups, in particular: a.115 units that do not have reduplicated four-consonantal correlates have been identified,b. a small group of 36 units was found, which, on the contrary, do not have the corresponding two-consonantal roots, and finally, 99 units of pairs were identified, represented by both geminated two-consonantal and reduplicated four-consonantal roots.   As a result of the semantic analysis of the considered roots, we can conclude the following: two consonantal verbal roots, which do not have reduplicated correlated ones, are characterized by semantic diversity. As for the reduplicated roots. most of them include two broad semantic groups, namely: a large part of them convey the semantics of intensive actions, and the other part is phonetic imitative ones - that is, onomatopoetic verbal roots.

Keywords: *reduplicated, verbal roots, Arabic, the relationship between two-consonantal and reduplicated verbs, semantic characteristics*

1. The paper discusses the main semantic characteristics of the reduplicated four-consonantal verbal roots in Arabic, as well as the issues of the relationship between two-consonantal and reduplicated four-consonantal verbal roots.   The aim of the research conducted on the Arabic language material was to more clearly outline the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the relationship between the roots under consideration.

2. The origin of four-consonantal roots in Semitic languages.

First of all, we are focused on the analysis of data taken from the Arabic language, but I guess the problem should be considered in the Common Semitic context regarding

comparing material from the other Semitic languages. The relevance of the issue is due to the specific nature of the Semitic root since the semantics of the root are determined by consonant phonemes and vowels, which are relational elements that clarify the meaning of the root and also form some grammatical categories. In this context, it is important to identify the general trends in the origin and development of multi-consonantal roots, to discuss the different ways of their formation, as well as to consider the relationship between the roots concerning two, three, or four-consonant phonemes. It should be noted that the issue of the origin of Semitic multiliteral roots, in general, remains open to debate, although it is certain that three-consonantal (triliteral) verbal roots have a dominative position in the Semitic morphological system. As for four-consonantal (quadriliteral) verbal roots, they might be regarded as a result of the widening of two-consonantal (biliteral) and three-consonantal (triliteral) roots in different ways.[1] In this connection, the most useful ways are the reduplication of biliteral roots, formed by the doubling of two consonants (xy > xyxy) and adding of a fourth radical on the triconsonantal verbal roots, formed by doubling of the final radical (xyz > xyzz) or through inserting a resonant consonant (x- r-yz). This kind of forming of four-consonantal verbs exists in all Semitic languages, e.g., classical Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic, Ethiopic, etc., as well as in Modern South Arabian and other peripheral ones.[2]

3. Formation and semantics of reduplicated Semitic roots.

In general, for the formation of reduplicated four-consonantal roots, doubling of two root consonant phonemes is used, i.e., reduplication of two-consonantal verbal roots (xy > xyxy). The above-mentioned model is very productive in Arabic as well as in other Semitic languages. The consideration of four-consonantal reduplicated verbal roots formed by the doubling of biliteral roots allows the definition of two groups for them. Thus: 1. the first group consists of the reduplicated four-consonantal verbal roots with the meaning of "intensive" action. and 2. the second group includes an inconsiderable number of phonetic imitative words, i.e., onomatopoetic verbal roots.

As for the semantic characteristics of reduplicated four-consonantal Semitic roots, most of them include two broad semantic groups, in particular: a large part of them convey the semantics of intensive actions, and the other part are phonetic imitative ones - that is onomatopoetic verbal roots. It should be underlined that four-consonantal onomatopoetic verbs are characterized as ones with a high level of motivation. It should be pointed out, that reduplicated verbs with meaning of "intensive" action are very numerous as well as onomatopoetic verbal roots with imitative meanings. All they are widespread enough in different Semitic languages; quite a large amount of reduplicated roots with meaning of "intensive" action or phonetic imitative verbs (=belonged to both groups) might be found

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[1] Б. М. Гранде, Введение в сравнительное изучение семитских языков. Москва: «Восточная литература» РАН, 1972. с. 178. A. Heidel The System of the Quadriliteral Verb in Akkadian. Chicago: University of *Chicago* Press, 1940, p.134. G.E. Weil, Un Essai d'Analyse Quantifiée. Triliteralite Fonctionnelle ou Biliteralite Fondamentale. Des Racines Verbales Hébraiques. „Revue d'Histoire et de Philosophie Religieuses", №3-4, Strasbourg, 1979, p. 284.

[2] M. Gotsiridze, M. Meparishvili, Some Notes on Semitic Four-Consonantal Verbal Roots. The Near East and Georgia XI, Tbilisi, 2018. p. 40. M. Meparishvili, Multiconsonantal Verbal Roots in Semitic Languages, Academician Thomas V. Gamkrelidze 90, Tbilisi, 2019. p.249-250.

in Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic, Ethio-Semitic, Modern South-Arabian languages etc. It indicates that common tendencies occur everywhere.

There are represented some illustrative examples of reduplicated verbal roots with the meaning of "intensive" action (a.) and phonetic imitative i.e. onomatopoetic roots (b.) from different Semitic languages:

(a.): Hebrew: bilbel "to confuse", nidned "to rock, to shake"

Arabic: bazbaza "to take away and carry away" > bazza "take away"

Harsusi: damdama "to grope" > damma "to look all over"

Tigre: balbala "to rattle, to claffer"

Aramaic: bazbez (bzbz) "squander ones fortune"

(b.) Hebrew: ḥirḥer „ to cough, cough out"; piṭpeṭ "to chatter", biqbeq "to mutter, mumble"; rišreš "to rustle", zimzem „to buzz, hum", riʿreʿ „to bubble",

Arabic: zamzama "to make noise, rattle, mutter, mumble, grumble", barbara „to cry, shout; grumble, mutter, mumble"; to mutter, mumble ", baqbaqa a. „mutter, mumble (water)" and b. „to chatter", masmasa "to lick" (cf. massa „to suck"), ğarğara "to make noise, thunder, rattle" hamhama and gamgama "to mutter".

Tigre: balbala "to rattle, claffer";

Harsusi: gargara "to gargle, to gurgle", barbara „to make incomprehensible sounds"

dafdafa "to pat quickly", dagdaga "to tap, make a tapping noise");

Harari (Ethiopic): xarxara "to make gurgling sounds";

Amharic (Ethiopic): šokašoka " to whisper".[3]

4.   The quantitative indexis of considered verbal roots in Arabic. The relationship between Arabic two-consonantal geminated and four-consonantal reduplicated verbal roots.

The aim of the research conducted on the Arabic language material was to briefly touch upon the issue of the origin of reduplicated roots, indicate the ways of their origin and forming, describe the semantic features of such roots, and also more clearly outline the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the relationship between the two-consonantal and four-consonantal reduplicated verbal roots. As mentioned above, in general, for the formation of reduplicated roots, the doubling of two root consonant phonemes is used. This model is very productive in Arabic as well as in other Semitic languages.

An analysis of Arabic language material has found and considered 349 verbal roots, among them two consonantal geminated verbs -214 units, as well as four consonantal reduplicated ones -135 units.   They all form three groups, particularly a. first group: 115 units that do not have reduplicated four-consonantal correlates have been identified, b. second group: a small group of 36 units were found, which, on the contrary, do not have the corresponding two-consonantal roots, and finally, c. third group: 99 units of pairs were identified, represented by the both geminated two-consonantal and reduplicated four-consonantal ones. I guess it is necessary to briefly consider and discuss each group separately, describe their semantic characteristics, and also provide several illustrative examples.

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[3] M. Gotsiridze, M. Meparishvili, 2018.   Op.cit. pp. 40, 42; M. Meparishvili, 2019. Op.cit, pp. 249-250.

4.1. Semantic analysis of Arabic two-consonantal roots; first group.

The first group is formed by 115 units of two-consonantal geminated verbal roots that do not have reduplicated four-consonantal correlates. Thus, they can be described as so-called "odd" ones. Here are represented some of them, e.g.: btt, bdd, bṭṭ, rxx, rdd, rss, bxx, bzz, tff, ṯll, rmm, rnn, rkk, ḥnn, ḥzz, sff, sdd, srr, xff, xṭṭ, xbb, xdd, štt, šnn, škk, šqq, zll, znn, ʻqq, ʻff, gzz, gff, gṭṭ, etc. These roots are characterized by semantic diversity, so there are some illustrative egsamples: "to close, lock" (sdd), "to mend, repair " (zmm) , "drive away, turn out" (rdd), "to be week, feeble" (rkk), "to be light, to become light" (xff), "to immerse, dip, plung" (gṭṭ), "to decay, to rot" (rmm), "to be reverent, dutifull; to be kind" (brr), "to make happy, gladden" (srr), "to be thin, delicate, fine" (rqq), "to be refrain, abstain" (ʻff), "to feel tender, sympathy, to sympathize, feel compassion" (ḥnn), "to spit" (tff), " to be scattered, dispersed, be dissolved" (štt), "to be thin, delicate, fine" (rqq), "to slip" (zll), "to swallow" (sff), "to spil" (šnn), "to trot hourse" (xbb), "to draw,trace" (xṭṭ) , "to mix with water, dilute" (rxx) etc. These Arabic two-consonantal verbal roots without reduplicated correlates are characterized by semantic diversity, expressing different meanings; among them, as a rule, are monovalent or bivalent verbs. In my opinion, is very important to outline, that so-called "odd" two-consonantal roots also express the semantics of intensive actions, and phonetic imitative meanings, e.g., "snore" (gṭṭ), "to rustle" (ḥff), "to make noise, rattle, mutter, mumble, grumble" (znn), "to snore" (bxx), "to pierce, transfix" (škk), "to fit tightly together, press together, compress" (rss), "to cut off, sever" (bṭṭ), "to cut" (gzz), etc.

4.2. Semantic analysis of Arabic reduplicated roots; second and third groups.

As mentioned above, the second group is formed by 36 units of four-consonantal reduplicated verbal roots that do not have two-consonantal geminated correlates. Thus, they can be described as so-called "odd" ones. They are 26% of all Arabic reduplicated verbal roots (=135 units). As for the semantic characteristics, most of them include two broad semantic groups, in particular: a large part of them convey the semantics of intensive actions, and the other part are phonetic imitative ones - that is onomatopoetic verbal roots, which are ones with high-level of motivation. Arabic onomatopoetic verbal roots with imitative meaning might be put into two sub-divisions, particularly imitative words, expressing sounds produced by human beings and imitative ones produced by nature, animals, birds, etc. Here are some illustrations, e.g.:

"to laugh, (hʼhʼ), "rattel; thunder" (ʼlʼl), "to mumble, grumble (mhmh), "to low, bellow" (mʼmʼ), "to rattle, mutter, to mumble, grumble" (thth), "to cry, make noise, to rattle, mutter" (ǧʼǧʼ), "to twitter" (sqsq), "to square" (sʼsʼ), "to chatter" (ṯrṯr), "to stammer" (tʼtʼ), etc. (b); ones with the semantics of "intensive" actions – 15 units, e.g.: " to shake violently" (ʼzʼz), "to break, shatter, smash" (ṯhṯh), "to pound, bray, grind, to powder" (ksks), "to convulse, rook" (zʼzʼ), "to roll one's eyes" (rʼrʼ), "to tikle, crush, to chew, munch" (dgdg), etc.

The third group, which consists of 99 pairs of Arabic two-consonantal and reduplicated verbal roots (that is, 74% of all reduplicated roots), is very interesting and numerous. As for the semantic characteristics, most of the considered pairs include two broad semantic

groups, in particular: a large part of them convey the semantics of intensive actions, and the other part is phonetic imitative ones - onomatopoetic verbs. It's important to outline that some pairs have absolutely identical meanings, while others somewhat differ from each other. There are represented several examples illustrating the above-mentioned:

<u>a.</u> Illustrative examples of two-consonantal and reduplicated roots with identical meanings:

1. db| dbdb a. dabba "to nock"   b. dabdaba "to nock"

2. dn| dndn a. dn "to buzz, hum" b. dndn "to buzz, hum"

3. xn|xnxn a. xanna "to nasalize, speak nazally, speak throug the nose" b. Xanxana "to nasalize, speak nazally, speak through the nose"

<u>b.</u> Examples of two-consonantal and reduplicated roots with a little modified meaning:

1. tx | txtx a. taxxa "to become sour, ferment b. taxtaxa "to become sour; to rot, decay"

2. ḥk | ḥk ḥk a. ḥakka "to rub, scratch off" b. ḥakḥaka "to rub, scratch off, rub with something sharp"

3. bq bqbq a. baqqa "to gurgle, buble, splatter, chatter" b. baqbaqa "mumble (water)"

5. Conclusions

Considering everything mentioned above, several conclusions can be presented: the model of the formation of reduplicated roots by doubling two consonants is very productive in Arabic, as well as in other Semitic languages; the number of such roots is 135 units, of which one-fourth has no two-consonantal correlates, and three-quarters -99- in the form of pairs. The analyzed pairs reveal both absolutely identical and somewhat different meanings. As a result of the semantic analysis of the two-consonantal and reduplicated roots, we can conclude that the two-consonantal roots that do not have correlates are characterized by semantic diversity, and most of the reduplicated ones mainly cover two semantic layers; some of them convey the semantics of "intensive" action, and the second part is onomatopoeic, onomatopoeic roots.