
Intensifying evidentials: impoliteness by reduplication

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While **impoliteness** is typically considered a sociocultural phenomenon dependent on context, recent developments attest that it can be analyzed in the realm of **grammar** (Jain 2021, van Olmen et al. 2024). The present paper goes a step further and presents a highly abstract, evidential mood that conveys both reportative (R) evidentiality and impolite attitude. Morphosemantically it arises by reduplication ('RR') as an intensification strategy in Bulgarian (also Turkish):

- (1) Al bi-l pročē-l knig (Bulgarian)
 Ali aux- read- book

REP REP

≈ 'It was **reported** to the speaker that p =[Ali read a book], but the speaker conveys that p is **ridiculous**'

Proposal: While simple R are emotionally and epistemically neutral (conveying a report), RR are semantically **specified for impoliteness**. The negative emotive attitude towards p is neither doubt (*pace* Sauerland & Schenner 2007), nor disbelief (*pace* Sener 2011): (i) corpus results show that RR can convey that p is **true but stupid**; (ii) disbelief can be neutral or even polite, but RR never is either.

The impolite properties are conventionalized and contributed by **reduplication**, which conveys **intensification** of degree (e.g. Inkelas & Zoll 2005), in this case—of the reportative's distancing effect (Sonnenhauser & Meermann 2015). At the same time, the expression is still evidential in that it is necessarily reportative, showing that the structure is not just lexicalized, but is compositional. This is captured by the following structure (following Sener 2011).

- (2) [REDUP [REP p]]

This work highlights puzzles in the linguistic (not just social/contextual) coding of intensification, reduplication, evidentiality, impoliteness, and emotions.

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