0. Introduction

The Ngeq are an ethnic minority group in Southern Laos living along the slopes of the western Annam Cordillera. They are located along the Se Kong River which has its headwaters in Vietnam and flows through the provinces of Saravane and Attopeu. While most of the Ngeq are along the Se Kong River in the province of Saravane, many have fled as refugees to the tributaries of the Se Done River and to the Pakse area. Their language belongs to the Katuic branch of Mon-Khmer (Thomas and Headley 1970). Ngeq, Ngkriang, and Khiang are considered dialects of one language, with Khiang bordering on the Alak, and Ngeq in the middle between Ngkriang and Ta Oi. They belong to a group of tribes which call themselves "Brou" (not to be confused with the linguistic group called Brou in Vietnam). At one time they are said to have populated the land near the great "Mother of Waters", the Mekong, which presently separates Thailand and Laos through most of Laos' southern boundary. But now they are found in the mountains along the eastern rivers of Saravane province.

Previous work in reduplication has been done in similar tribal languages by Richard Watson and Elizabeth Banker of the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Vietnam. They have described reduplication in Pacoh and Bahnar respectively, one a language of the Katuic branch and the other the Bahnaric branch of Mon-Khmer (R. Watson, 1966b, Banker, 1964).
1. REDUPLICATED ADVERBIAL DESCRIPTIVES

Adverbial descriptives modify verbs and adjectives. These are an important distinctive in Ngeq as well as other related languages of the area. To speak "Brou" as they do one must use these descriptives. One can communicate freely and still not use these couplets of reduplication. But to use the language idiomatically, one must use these freely because they have a description for nearly every kind of action and every kind of "goodness" and "badness".

One could say Qo reek kook 'She's smoking'. But that would not convey much of the meaning of how she is doing it. Does she have a wad of tobacco wrapped up in a leaf to be smoke? She's standing? Sitting? They would say, Qo, reek k00k tElq bElq 'She's puffing on her pipe sitting on the floor with her hands around the pipe.' 'Sitting on the floor with her hands around the pipe' is all conveyed in the reduplicated descriptive word tElq bElq, descriptive of how she is smoking.

Reduplicated adverbial descriptives may be used in the same way as adverbial adjectives. The following sentences show the similar functions of reduplicated adverbial descriptives and adverbial adjectives illustrating it with the clause root: (ngaaq: Actor: "they"; y00q waay Action: "to go weed"; re: goal: "field"; toor loor: Condition of Goal: "to be clean")

1) Description of Action:

ngaaq y00q waay re toor loor 'they went to weed clean bald' "they went to remove all the stubble from the field."
(Actor - Action - Goal - Descriptive)

ngaaq y00q waay re haqaac 'they went to weed the field clean' "they went to clear the field."

ngaaq y00q waay re d0ng haqaac taat 2aat 'They went to weed field let clear clean' "They went to clear the field completely clean"
(Actor - Action - Goal - Adjective)

2) Description of Goal:

re qan ngaaq y00q waay nkay toor loor 'field which they went to weed that clean bald.' "The field which they went to weed is clean bald."
(Goal - qan - Actor - Action - nkay - Descriptive)

re qan ngaaq y00q waay nkay haqaac: 'field which they went to weed that clear' "The field which they
went to clear is nice and clean."
(Goal - qan - Actor - Action - nkay - Adjective)

3) Questioned Actor:

ngaay ngaay yyaq qan y00q waay rE toor loor 'They they who which went to weed field clean bald?'
"Who was it who went to the field to weed it clean bald?"
(Actor - Question (who) - Action - Goal - Descriptive).

ngaay ngaay yyaq qan y00q waay rE haaqae 'They they who which went to weed field clear.'
"Who was it that went to weed the field clear?"
(Actor - Question (who) - Action - Goal - Adjective)

This sentence poses semantic difficulties as it is not known if the field will be cleared or not. Usually a reduplicated descriptive is not used in a question, especially if there is uncertainty about the completeness of the action.

4) Questioned purpose:

qimEh ngaay y00q waay rE toor loor 'why they do to weed field clean bald.'
"why did they go to the field to weed it clean bald?"
(qimEh - Actor - Action - Goal - Descriptive)

qimEh ngaay y00q waay rE haaqae? 'Why did they go to weed the field clear?'
(qimEh - Actor - Action - Goal - Adjective)

With these sentences likewise, since they are in question form, it is not presupposed that the work will be complete.

5) Emphasized Condition:

toor loor rE qan jA ngaay y00q waay nkay 'clean bald field which already they went to weed that.'
"That field which they went to weed is clean bald."
(Descriptive - Goal - qan - jA - Actor - Action - nkay)

haaqaqae rE qan jA ngaay y00q waay nkay 'clear field which already they went to weed that.'
"The field is clear which they went to weed."
(Adjective - Goal - qan - jA - Actor - Action - nkay)

The action in these sentences is predicated on the Condition, the first sentence using a Verbal Descriptive, the second sentence using an adverbial Verbal Adjective.
6) Completed Action:

\[\text{ngaay y00q waay rE toor loor tooe \text{ 'they went to weed field clean bald all.'}}\]
\[\text{"They went to the fields to weed them clean bald."} \]
\[\text{(Actor - Action - Goal - Verbal Desc. - tooe)}\]

\[\text{ngaay y00q waay rE haqaac tooe \text{ 'They went to finish clearing their fields.'}}\]
\[\text{"They went to finish clearing their fields."} \]
\[\text{(Actor - Action - Goal - Verbal Adjective - tooe)}\]

7) Deleted goal:

\[\text{qan ngaay waay nkay toor loor \text{ 'what they weeded that clean bald.'}}\]
\[\text{"What they weeded is clean bald."} \]
\[\text{(qan - Actor - Action - nkay - Verbal Descriptive)}\]

\[\text{qan ngaay waay nkay haqaac \text{ 'what they weeded that clear'}}\]
\[\text{"What they weeded is clear."} \]
\[\text{(qan - Actor - Action - nkay - Verbal Adjective.)}\]

Formulas for transformations:

1. Description of action: (Actor - Action - Goal - Condition)
2. Descriptive of goal: (Goal - qan - Actor - Action - nkay - Condition)
3. Questioned actor: (Actor - Interrogative - Action - Goal - Condition)
4. Questioned purpose: (qihmEh - Actor - Action - Goal - Condition)
5. Emphasized condition: (Condition - Goal - qan -JA - Actor - Action - nkay)
7. Deleted goal: ( qan - Actor - Action - nkay - Condition)

1.2. Intonation

The adverbial descriptive is the highest point of the clause or sentence intonation. Usually two syllables make up the descriptive. The syllable patterns are: CV(F) CV(F), or CV(C)CV(F). The main syllable may begin with a consonant cluster of two or three consonants, which in a descriptive reduplication would be reduplicated intact. In a reduplicated couplet the last syllable of the couplet receives the greatest stress of the word and has the highest intonation of the clause or sentence. The first word or syllable of the couplet is usually on a level tone like the rest of the clause or sentence; the last syllable receives greater stress, higher intonation and longer duration.
1.3. Forms

1.3 REDUPLICATION OF ROOTS

1.31 CV(F) CV(F)

The following words may be reduplicated by replacing the first consonant with "t", giving the pattern: tV(F) CV(F). They may also be reduplicated in the pattern: tV(F) taCV(F). The latter pattern is used to describe a continued state over a period of time, or a continual characteristic. The latter pattern is considered the more pleasing to listen to, but it is improper to use such a form to stress dis-graceful or improper qualities. Most of the following may also take the Pluralizing formula (section 1.32.1). The choice of pattern depends mostly on the fitness of the meaning. If the sentence already indicates a large number of participants it is improper to amplify it further with reduplications.

In some cases the semantic relation between the root and the reduplication is not immediately apparent.

Throughout this paper cited forms are arranged in terms of their final consonant as stop-nasals-liquids-open, and from front to back.

Vowel order proceeds from front to back and from high to low:

1. nyaap -- fire beginning to flame up
   taap nyaap -- unkempt, straggling hair

2. qIIt -- many, lots of all kind; as grass growing in a field
   tIIt qIIt; tIIt taqIIt -- an unweeded untidy field; the most of anything

3. cEc -- a new sore, still bloody
   tEc cEc -- a deep anger inside of long standing

4. caac -- white
   taac caac -- very white; whiteness all over

5. cuo -- to put the head down in the water, to duck quickly
   tuc cuo -- blackest; blackish

6. nguk -- large well-formed point
   tuk nguk, tuk tanguk -- large, well-formed; as a rhino's horn, bamboo shoot, mountain

7. muk -- sprouting out nicely
   tuk muk -- well-formed
8. *ngook* -- the highest protrusion from the top of a house
    *took ngook* -- protruding out and above everything else

9. *lok* -- to peel off
    *tok lok* -- thin
    *tok talok* -- characteristic thinness

10. *kiq* -- many people going in a group
    *tliq kiq* -- crowded together with many people

11. *jaq* -- fun
    *taq jaq* -- fun, enjoyable, beautiful (said if one wants to be ambiguous as to what specific fun or beauty was enjoyed)

12. *kraq* -- whole grain rice
    *taq kraq* -- fully up, full faced up (as something on a large drying tray)

13. *laaq* -- level with something
    *taaq laaq; taaq talaaq* -- spread out completely, covering completely, smoothly, same height

14. *wenq* -- lying down in an arched position
    *tenq wenq* -- arched back

15. *nyongq* -- anger
    *tonq nyongq* -- furiously angry

16. *aelq* -- jumping around
    *telq aelq* -- jumping, bobbing around, as children when playing

17. *pilq* -- flat, pug-nosed
    *tiiq pilq* -- sitting with legs down flat

18. *maayq* -- one
    *taayq maayq* -- the one most beautiful girl

19. *jaawq* -- stepping out with the first foot
    *taawq jaawq* -- one fellow who stands out as the most handsome in group, well-dressed

20. *maam* -- sausage
    *taam maam* -- protruding from mouth (as a bone out of a dog's mouth)

21. *pum* -- a large ulcer
    *tum pum* -- ulcerous over a large area

22. *suam* -- wet (as of a dewy field)
    *tuam suam* -- many places where there is stubble sticking up field
23. cAOn -- throning people
   tAOn cAOn -- throngs, great crowds

24. cEn -- to make tabu a certain kind of food
   tEn cEn -- ugly teeth

25. kAA -- small
   tAA kAA -- a great thronging crowd

26. liing -- to pour out water
   tting liing -- a great expanse of water

27. ngEng -- crooked neck
   tEng ngEng -- crooked

28. hIIng -- a woman carrying large basket
   tIIng hIIng -- a woman bent over carrying a large basket

29. kAAng -- hard (as center of log)
   tAAng kAAng -- stuck, hard to pull out

30. yAAng -- getting up
   tAAng yAAng -- tall, taller than others

31. jung' -- feet
   tung jung -- the curve of the bottom parts (as when one lays in a hammock)

32. ngong -- teasing, bullying words
   tong ngong -- large bodied (as elephant)

33. mong -- living
   tong mong -- tender leaves sprouting out

34. mEr -- beautiful
   tEr mEr -- beauty of a girl

35. yIIr -- large trees
   tIIr yIIr -- tallness of a tree above others

36. wIIr -- large lips
   tIIr wIIr -- ugliness of someone's lips

37. yAAr -- a beautiful tree
   tAAr yAAr -- the most beautiful of a group

38. lAar -- well covered, laid out well
   tAar lAar -- smoothly covered all over, level

39. bEEl -- eating crookedly (as a cow chews cud)
   tEEl bEEl -- with food still in cheeks eating with stuffed cheeks
40. ngul -- silent
tul ngul -- sitting silently, not looking anywhere or saying anything

41. yul -- to let down
tul yul -- hanging high up in a tree, hanging down from a high place

42. yol -- taking hold of a branch and letting oneself down
tol yol -- suspended from high up

43. yool -- to suspend hook from pole
tool yool -- suspended from pole above water

44. yool -- feet coming down
tool yool -- coming down swinging

45. quul -- a hot feeling inside
tuul quul -- painful, feverish, swollen, hot feeling in stomach

46. buul -- dark, dingy, hidden
tuul buul -- opaque, dim, indistinct, overcast, smudged

47. PI -- fire burning
tI PI -- sitting along without talking, motionless

48. krA -- on back
tA krA -- lying on back with feet up (as dead bird)

1.31.2 CV(F) → CV(F) → CV(F)

The following words may be reduplicated by replacing the first consonant with /c/

1. duk -- lying down pouting
euk duk -- large rump

2. tIIt -- disinterested in what is going on about
cIIt tIIt -- undisturbed by all around (as baby sleeping)

3. nAh -- filled
cAh nAh -- fulness (as one filled from eating)

4. doq -- sunny
cOq doq -- rump up, bending over digging

5. dok -- flat
eok dok -- laid out, sick
1.31.3 PARTIALLY REDUPLICATED DISYLLABLES

Certain disyllabic words reduplicated only part of their root. There is no regularity to these forms:

1. oahO -- to open mouth
toh hoh; toh tahOh -- open mouthed

2. kampoop -- to sleep on stomach
roop roop -- sleeping on stomach

3. oakaAang -- to be stiff (as one in a seizure of epilepsy)
tAang kAang -- tough, cannot be pulled out

1.31.4 MISCELLANEOUS MONOSYLLABLES

1. louk -- bamboo shoots rotting
pouk louk -- discarded

2. muul -- mildewed
muul mAaak -- mildewed, dirty, smudgy, filthy

3. bEEl -- crooked chewing
booI bEEl -- stuffed cheeks

1.31.5 CVC CV→harCVC harCV

Descriptives having a basic pattern CVC CV take the pluralizing amplification formula harCVC harCV.

1. lumq lu -- a bulge in one place
harlumq harlu -- many places with bulges

2. bomq lo -- putting food into mouth
harbomq harlo -- many people filling their mouths with food

1.31.6 CVC→paCVC paCVC

This adds the prefix pa- to the reduplicated forms.

1. buamq -- flabby cheeks
pabuamq pabuamq -- elderly person eating with sagging cheeks

1.31.7 SIMPLE DOUBLING

The following words are reduplicated without change.

1. tok -- down
tok tok -- inclined with trail leading downward
2. *diq* -- short  
   *diq diq* -- shortness

3. *kiq kqoq* -- hobbling  
   *kiq kiq kqoq kqoq* -- walking along as a lame man on knees

4. *luq* -- pull  
   *luq luq* -- naked, all pulled off; nakedness

5. *cuq ciq* -- ripe  
   *cuq cuq ciq ciq* -- ready to eat, pick

6. *cuaq* -- call pigs  
   *cuaq cuaq* call for pigs to come

7. *nyuq* -- afraid  
   *nyuq nyuq* -- fearful

8. *suam* -- wet  
   *suam suam* -- wet from walking through dewy field

9. *tIng* -- up  
   *tIng tIng* -- ascending trail, going up an incline

10. *cung* -- long  
    *cung cung* -- longness

11. *kal* -- support  
    *kal kal* -- putting up wood supporting underside

12. *nyir* -- blinking  
    *nyir nyir* -- blinking constantly

13. *wEEw* -- crooked  
    *wEEw wEEw* -- twisted all out of shape

14. *IIAw* -- bland  
    *IIAw IIAw* -- tasteless

1.32 ROOTLESS REDUPLICATIONS

Many adverbial descriptives have the form of reduplicatives, but have no identifiable simple root.

1.32.1 tVF CVF

The following words appear in only this one pattern. They cannot take the pluralizing or habitual reduplicative patterns (see 1.32.3) because they are words which already describe a great quantity or a characteristic which cannot be amplified.
1. *tik lik* — close together, tightly
2. *teik reik* — striped, lines
3. *tAak rAak* — camouflaged, painted in many places
4. *tuuk puuk* — white, faded (as when many leaves have fallen to the ground)
5. *tuak muak* — largeness of fishhead
6. *took rook* — covered with stones; many stones protruding above the rest; a river with rapids wider than the rest
7. *tAAo k LAook* — long, sprawled out; chest and neck
8. *tIq hIq* — hot, large slab of rock
9. *tawq jawq* — thin skinny
10. *tiim biim* — full, house full of guests
11. *tIIAm mIIAm* — messy, unkempt; a lot of grass growing
12. *tAam cAam* — many people arriving
13. *tir tir* — level, smooth
14. *tEEer mEEer* — beautiful
15. *tar qar* — much fruit on a tree, vastness (many people walking in rows)
16. *tuur suur* — ornamented fancy dressing
17. *tur qur* — vastness of water: the noise of rushing water
18. *til pil* — blindly groping for something in the darkness
19. *tuul muul* — mirage-like, thinking a shadow is something else
20. *tool qool* — many people, the vastness of a crowd
21. *tool ngool* — large slab of rock, road bed
22. *tuy suy* — running faster than the rest, spreading fast (as smoke from gun or truck)
23. *tooy looy* — as fire beginning to start
24. *tEEw hEEw* — incessant pain, want something badly
25. *taaw caaw* — whiteness, beautiful (as an elephant's tusk).

1.32.2 SIMPLE DOUBLING

The following, apparently, onomatopoetic, words are simply doubled.

1. *carook carook* — pouring water into a glass
2. *kruaq kruaq* — stomach growling
3. *tongq tongq* — pounding nail into something
4. *paang paang* — hitting the water
5. *puaq puaq* — cutting the grass quickly to finish
6. *phruaq phruaq* — fish splashing on the surface of water

1.32.3 NORMAL WIDE SPECTRUM REDUPLICATION

The following words take the full spectrum of reduplication, including the simple patterns tV(F) CV(F) and tV(F) tCV(F), the pluralizing pattern harCi(F) harCV(F) and the habitual state pattern (par)Ci(F) parCV(F). The pluralizing
pattern indicates that the number of the things or people involved is a large number, or that there are groups of large numbers involved. The habitual state pattern indicates that what is described is the usual state or action being done in great numbers. It has the meaning of large numbers, as well as pluralizing and habituating the action characteristic of the thing described. Some of these words have identifiable roots but are listed together here for convenience.

1. taap nyaaap; taap tanyaap -- unkempt hair (e.g. of a demented person); uncut, uncared for, as a field which is unweeded; a stack of wood
   harnyiap harnyaaap -- unkempt hair of many demented people, uncut, uncombed
   parnyiap parnyaaap -- many people characteristically having unkempt hair

2. tIIt qIIt; tIIt taqIIt the most
   harqiiit harqIIt -- large quantities of things
   parqiiit parqIIt -- characteristic abundance possessions of the rich

3. tup bup; tup tabup -- introverted, untalkative person
   harbip harbup -- many untalkative people together
   parbip parbup; bip parbup -- many usually untalkative people

4. tIIt kriIIt; tIIt takrIIt -- piles here and there, coils of rope
   harkriit harkrIIt -- many piles of rope, coils, many piles of stone
   parkriit parkrIIt; kriit parkrIIt -- a person standing with rope wound all around

5. tot lot; tot talot -- largeness, stubbiness (of finger)
   harliit harlot -- a handful of large stubby fingers, many large stubby things sticking out
   parliit parlot, lit parlot -- large hands, of stubby fingers

6. taac caac; taac tacaac -- whiteness
   harcaic haracaaac -- many white places
   parcic parcaac; oic parcaac -- many leprous spots

7. tukk mug; tuuk tamuk -- well-formed growth (of a bamboo shoot)
   harmik harmuk -- many good-looking sprouts
   parmik parmuk; mkik parmuk -- a clump of bamboo with characteristically well formed bamboo shoots
8. tuk nguk; tuk tanguk -- tall mountain
    harngik harnguk -- a many peaked mountain
    parngik parnguk; ngik parnguk -- many mountains with
    many peaks

9. tok kok; tok takok -- sitting watch, taking care of
    things
    harhik harkok -- many chilled people huddled around fire
    parkik parkok; kik parkok -- many people, chickens
    huddled up together

10. tok mok; tok tamok -- someone waiting for a handout
    harmik harmok -- many children waiting for handouts
    parmik parmok, mik parmok -- as a beggar constantly
    asking for handouts

11. tAOk hAOk; tAOk tahAOk -- deepness of cavity; of ulcer,
    of wound, crater
    harhik harhAOk -- stealthily taking rice from the table
    until it is all gone
    parhik parhAOk; hik parhAOk -- describing someone who
    constantly takes rice from the basket until it is all
    gone

12. tAAq ngaAq; tAAq tangAAq -- crookedness
    harngiiq harngAAq -- many people sitting in chairs
    parngiiq parngAAq -- tables and chairs lying around

13. toq joq; toq tajoq -- bursting out
    harjiq harjoq -- many people with diarrhea
    parjiq parjoq -- a group of women carrying fire wood on
    their backs

14. toq moq; toq tamoq -- well-formed shoots coming up well
    harmiq harmoq -- a lot of bamboo shoots coming well
    parmiq parmoq; miq parmoq -- a clump of bamboo where
    shoots come up well

15. tuamq kruamq; tuamq takruamq -- thin from lack of food
    harkrimq harkruamq -- many people thin from starvation
    parkrimq parkruamq; krimq parkruamq -- many thin and
    starving people

16. tomq lomq; tomq talomq -- beauty of hair and head
    harlimq harlomq -- many beautiful people
    parlimq parlomq; limq parlomq -- beautiful people running

17. tomq ngomq; tomq tangomq -- stillness of posture (because
    of pain)
harnigimq harngomq -- a group of people afraid to go outside
parngimq parngomq; ngimq parngomq -- people constantly afraid to go out of the house

18. tAq ngAq; tAq tangAq -- sitting proudly in chair (straight)
   harnigiq harnigAq -- many people sitting straight up in chairs proudly
   parngigq parngAq; ngigq parngAq -- people sitting proudly

19. tomq somq; tomq tasmomq -- bushiness of a beard
   harsimq harsomq -- many men with bushy beards
   parbimq parbomq -- many bees nests in many places

20. tEnq wEnq; tEnq tawEnq -- crooked; curled up, sleeping with arched backs
    harwingq harwEnq -- many people sleeping curled up
    parwingq parwEnq; winq parwEnq -- animals sleeping with head tucked in

21. tongq pongq; tongq tapongq -- openness of a wound
    harpingq harponq -- many places with open wounds, clumps of trees
    parpingq parpongq; pingq parpongq -- clumps here and there

22. tElq bElq; tElq tabElq -- near the edge, ready to topple over
    harbILq harbElq -- many people with mouths stuffed, food ready to fall out
    parbILq parbElq; bilq parbElq -- persons who eat with stuffed mouths

23. tElq qElq; tElq taqElq -- shortness
    harqILq harqElq -- many children playing together
    parqILq parqElq -- children who congregate together

24. tElq mElq; tElq tamElq -- beauty of a young girl
    harmILq harmElq -- many beautiful girls
    parmilq parmElq; milq parmElq -- many girls of well-known beauty

25. tElq ngElq; tElq tangElq -- sleeping undisturbedly, soundly
    harngilq harngeElq -- many children lying down
    parngilq parngElq; ngilq parngElq -- one who sleeps completely undisturbed

For the remainder of this list only the tV(F) CV(F) pattern will be given.
The other patterns can be constructed on the analogy of the preceding words.

26. tAalq mAAalq -- ugly-faced person
27. tolq ngolq -- one sitting off by himself
28. toolq ngoolq -- perched on top
29. tIIrq hIIrq -- with rump up (as when hoeing the ground, digging, weeding)
30. toorq boorq -- mounds
31. tawq hewa -- small hole
32. tawq bawq -- wan and thin
33. tawq oawq -- something sticking out of an expanse, protruding out after burning off a field, out of the water
34. tawq ngawq small, dwarfed person, animal
35. taq jaaq -- handsome, well-dressed
36. tIlm bIIlm -- thorn stuck in foot; threateningly beside the trail
37. tIlm mIIlm -- puffy, overgrown, large facial features
38. tIIAm krIIAm -- large growth in a field
39. tIIAm sIIAm -- small grassy clump in a field
40. tAam mAam -- bulging mouth full of food
41. tBng ngBng -- crookedness of the neck, twisted in pain
42. taAng jAAng -- standing straightly
43. tAum nyuAm -- high uncut grass (longer than tIIAm sIIAm) too tall to pass
44. taAng wAAng -- object across the trail, stream; uncrossable because of obstacle
45. taAang pAaang -- wide sheets of things, large sheets
46. tuung luung -- largeness of hole
47. toong ngoong -- large bodied
48. taAl lAal -- staring, large eyed
49. tul qul -- a big person
50. tol lol -- openness of a wound
51. tIIr yIIr -- largeness, large possessions
52. tAAr yAAr -- large tree (larger than those around)
53. tor mor -- beautiful (of a girl)
54. tor nyor -- angry, cows standing around chewing cud
55. too r joor -- perched up high, in tree, on top of things
56. too loor -- bald, well-burned off, without growth, a field where rice will not grow
57. tong krong -- coiled up
58. tI pi -- off by oneself
59. to ko -- perched on the edge, on edge of a fire

1.32.4 FULL SPECTRUM WITH CV(F), caCV(F) SIMPLE FORMS

The following differ from the normal patterns in that they have /c/ rather than /t/ in the simple patterns.

1. cuuk tuuk; cuuk catuuk -- largeness of stomach
1. cuuk tuuk; cuuk catuuk -- largeness of stomach
   hartiik harruuk -- many people with pot-bellied stomachs
   partiik partuuk; tiik partuuk -- bloated (as dead pigs)

2. cong nong; cong canong -- standing with pack on back
   harning harnong many people with packs on their backs
   (said to a group, meaning, "make yourself at home")
   parning parnong, ning parnong -- heavy; as when one
   carries a casket to burial

3. cuul nuul; cuul canuul -- largeness of stomach
   harniil harnuul -- many pot-bellied people
   parniil parnaul; niil parnaul -- many people who are
   big stomached

4. cul nul, cul canuul -- largeness of stomach, pregnant
   woman
   harniil harnuul -- fatness of many people, many pregnant
   women
   parniil parnaul, nil parnaul -- many women far advanced
   in pregnancy

5. cA00s dA00s; eA00s cadA00s -- overgrown, too big for
   one's age
   hardis hardA00s -- many people wearing clothes too
   big for them; many big tigers
   pairis pardA00s; dis pardA00s -- big tigers passing
   along

1.32.5 FULL SPECTRUM WITH SIMPLE DOUBLING

   The following has doubling dok...dok..., dorq...dorq
   in the simple form, and in the pluralizing and habitual
   state forms it drops the dok.

   1. dok dorq dok dorq -- playfulness of a group of small
      children, animals
      hardirq hardorq -- many small pigs together
      pardirq pardorq -- many small pigs together starting
      to walk

1.32.6 LACKING HABITUAL STATE

   The following take the full spectrum of reduplication
   except the habitual state pattern. The last example
   has cV(F) and caCV(F) in its simple forms

   1. tuup muup -- large cheeks, swollen from toothache or
      jaw infection
      harmitip harmuup -- swollen cheeks
2. tAap ngAap--lying down undisturbed
   harngip harngAap--many adult lying down
3. tum lum--swollen
   harlim harlum--a small pig giving birth to a lot of
   baby pigs
4. tolq molq--beautiful
   harmilq harmolq--many good looking pigs
5. tAq kArAq--largeness of grain, wholeness
   harkrAq harkrAq--teeming with living things (in the
   water)
6. tIIIn qIIIn--many possessions
   harqiIn harqiIn--abundance of things
7. tAar tAar; tAar talAar--level or beautifully covered,
   even mats
   harlir harlAar--many places where there are stone
   slabs exposed smoothness, levelness over a wide area
8. cul tul; cul catul--largeness of a person
   harril hartul--a litter of large pigs

1.32.7 LACKING PLURALIZING

The following take the full spectrum of reduplication except the pluralizing pattern.

1. took look; took talook--bouncing of a ball; running of
   a child
   parlik parlook--the characteristic of children to
   bounce up and down while running

2. tAng yAng; tAng tayAng--go and come back without
   getting expectation fulfilled
   parying paryAng--several people returning empty handed

3. tar qar; tar taqar--in a line, lined up walking
   parqir parqar--many people in a line who cannot get up
   an ascent

4. teER ceER; teER tacEER--a diagonal cut, diagonalness
   of a stick or stone, diamond shaped corner
   parcir parceER--a diagonal cut; characteristically not
   straight

1.32.8 FULL SPECTRUM WITH Y-FINAL ROOTS

Words with final /y/ change the /y/ to /l/ after /i/,
giving the pluralizing pattern harCIl harCVy and the
habitual state pattern (par)CIl parCVy

1. tuy nguy; tuy tanguy--not much fun, unenjoyable
   harngiIl harnguy--many people not having much fun
2. toy kroy; toy takroy--as a baby chick sitting
   shivering
harkril harkroy -- many chicks around with feathers ruffled up shivering.

1.32.9 OTHER VARIANTS

The following words have /ii/ alternating with /Aaa/ in the root.

1. tiit jiit; tiit tajiit -- much fruit on a tree, small fruit
   harjiit harjAAat -- much fruit on a tree, large fruit
   parjiit parjAAat -- a tree that is always bearing
   luscious large fruit

2. tiik wiik; tiik tawiik -- crookedly, as a snake lying motionless
   harwiik harwAAak -- many snakes winding along
   parwiik parwAAak -- many snakes winding along

2. REDUPLICATED NOUNS

Semantic reduplicating of nouns is used to make a noun less specific, more collective, more generic. Occasionally there may be a phonological resemblance between the two parts of the reduplicated noun (or 'couplet'), but phonological resemblance is rare. A couplet is generally composed of two near-synonyms, or two words from the same semantic field, or a noun and an empty word. (cf. R. Watson 1966b, Dcrothy Thomas 1966). A couplet may be used when speaking generally about a class of items. It is improper to use a couplet when speaking about a specific item or when one has the item in hand. Not all nouns have couplet partners.

2.1 FUNCTION

Nouns that cannot be used in a couplet can only be used as the noun head in a noun phrase. Other nouns can also be used to modify another preceding noun. On the whole, each of the following nouns which has a complement may also be used in modifying something else. Those which cannot be used as modifiers are a special class of nouns and will not be taken up in this study. The following sentences show the varied use of the reduplicated noun couplet, illustrating it with the clause root:

(Actor: ngaan 'they'; Action: y00q su go 'look for'; Goal: krE ouanq 'vine'. The action is a verb phrase (Auxiliary predicate + Main Predicate), and the goal is a noun phrase (Main Noun + Auxiliary Noun).
1) General Statement of fact:

\[\text{ngaay y00q su krE cuang 'they went look vines-vines'}\]
\[\quad "\text{They went to look for the vines."}\]
\[\text{(Actor - Action - Goal)}\]

2) Goal Emphasis:

\[\text{ngaay y00q su krE su cuang 'they went look vines look vines'}\]
\[\quad "\text{They went to look for vines."}\]

3) Question of Actor:

\[\text{ngaay ngaay yyaq y00q su krE su cuang 'they they who went looking vines looking vines'}\]
\[\quad "\text{Who is that looking for vines?"}\]
\[\text{(Actor - ngaay yyaq - Main Action - Main Goal - Main Action - Aux. Goal)}\]

4) Action in Doubt:

\[\text{a00m ngaay y00q su krE su cuang 'know they went look vines look vines'}\]
\[\quad "\text{I don't know but what they went to look for vines."}\]
\[\text{(a00m - Actor - Aux. Action - Main,Act. - Main Goal - Main Action + Aux. Goal)}\]

5. Emphatic emphasis on Actor:

\[\text{ngaay hAyq y00q su krE cuang 'they did go looking vines-vines'}\]
\[\quad "\text{Sure it was they who went looking for vines."}\]

Questioned Actor:

\[\text{ngaay qE y00q su krE cuang 'they question went looking vines-vines'}\]
\[\quad "\text{Was it they who went looking for vines?"}\]
\[\text{(Actor - hAyq/qE - Action - Goal)}\]

6. Questioned Action:

\[\text{ngaay y00q su krE cuang qE 'they went looking vines-vines question'}\]
\[\quad "\text{Did they go looking for vines?"}\]

Surety of Action:

\[\text{ngaay y00q su krE cuang hAyq 'they went looking for vines-vines sure'}\]
\[\quad "\text{Yes they did go looking for vines."}\]
\[\text{(Actor - Action - Goal - qE/hAyq)}\]
7. Questioned Auxiliary Action:

\texttt{ngaay yooq qE su krE su cuang} 'they went question looking vines looking vines' "Have they left (yet), looking for vines?"

(Actor - Aux. Action $\dagger$ qE - Main Action -Main Action - Aux. Goal)

8. Noun Phrase:

\texttt{ngaay qan yooq su krE cuang} 'those who went lodging vines-vines "Those who went looking for vines..."

(Actor + qan + Action + Goal)

9. Questioned direction:

\texttt{karna mu ngaay yooq su krE cuang} 'which trail they go looking vines-vines.' "Which way did they go looking for vines."

Questioned Auxiliary Action:

\texttt{qamEh ngaay yooq su krE cuang} 'why they go looking for vines-vines', "Why did they go looking for vines?"

(karna mu/ qamEh + Actor + Action + Goal)

A simple noun may appear by itself as Goal in any of the above transformations, but the Main Action is not repeated, and there is no Auxiliary Goal.

In the following the item is in hand and so cannot be reduplicated.

\texttt{cung qa krE nne} 'long excl. vine this' "This vine is long!"

2.2 INTONATION

The noun reduplications in Ngeq do not change the intonation pattern of the sentences. When an auxiliary noun falls at the end of the sentence, it takes normal falling intonation to complete the sentence.

2.3 FORMS

In the following examples the first word given is the Main Noun and the second is the Auxiliary Noun, and their meanings are also given in that order. This is then followed by the general meaning of the reduplicated couplet. Where only one specific meaning is given, it may be taken as the meaning of both of the nouns, or that the second noun is empty. Where only one meaning is
given (as in 4.), the couplet as a whole means the same as its parts.

1. tip k00ng--rice basket, lump of cooked rice; rice ready to eat
2. poop pannyA0h--small deer (roe deer), large deer; deer
3. siit sAq--resins; sealers for baskets and boats
4. preet k100y--bananas
5. h11t ya--tobacco; tobaccos
6. pAAt s0ng--grass, growth (small); weeds
7. mat moh--eye, nose; face
8. hannaat harrong--shooting instruments; guns
9. mmaat cakuuy--people
10. kut kooy--frogs, lizards; crawling things
11. tuut tawaq--pithy edible tree hearts, similar to heart of banana tree
12. hampeej tanyiw--anteaters
13. lot iaang--truck, chassis; vehicle with engine
14. mic oarah--ants
15. sEc suuy--meat
16. prEc diiw--peppers, garlic; spices
17. r00c 100m--abdomen, liver; heart, center of emotions
18. qiik cuur--pigs
19. qiik ndruuy--pigs, chickens; domesticated animals
20. dik luuy--squash, gourd, edible squashes
21. katiak kallaay--dirt, earth; ground
22. wiak tarpak--work, business to do; labor, something to do
23. pak saay--beads
24. kallaak kallias--forks in the trail; forks
25. harluk harkuul--covering, blanket; blankets
26. nnuuk nniang--nets without handles, nets, nets on frames
27. kabuok kaleng--pipe, things on stem; pipes
28. nok nuar--hoe, weeding knife; weeding instruments
29. harp0k harpu--shelters in the rice field; shelters
30. tual lo0k tual la--pestles
31. k0k nk0--pipe, bamboo tube; pipe for smoking, water pipes
32. h00k daaw--spear, sword; weapons of war
33. mb00k mbuul--cloths woven for covering; blankets
34. pr00g kraas--squirrels; tree climbing animals
35. triig karr0k--water buffalo, cows; sacrificial animals
36. aeq kadial--child, wife; immediate family
37. aeq k00n--children; descendants
38. dAAq d00ng--water; places to fish, trap, drink or bathe
39. praq jeeng--silver, gold; money
40. plAAq leemq--fish, tiger; game animals
41. paaq pong--edible roots
42. taaq naam--iron, metal; metals
43. koq prAA--machetes; large knives
44. sce yOh--skirt, blouse; women's clothing
45. sce leemq sce chim--baby tiger, baby bird; baby wild animals
46. qEEm qaay--younger, older; siblings of the same sex
47. nam paang--rice granaries
48. maam tareel--percussion musical instruments
49. raam ruung--traps for fish
50. qAAm pAAy--unhusked rice, cooked rice; rice to eat
51. raam sii--traps for fish
52. karrum kane00r--below the house; ground under the house
53. huar toom huar to0k--streams
54. kampan kampul--elderly women
55. nang sian nang s0--letter
56. khEEm khuuy--percussion musical instruments (borrowed from Lao)
57. wan harwaak--possessions
58. nyon ny00k--airplanes
59. ting kAan ting o00ng--beads
60. duik cA0On r00k--nets set inside of fish traps
61. han00n hanaq--places to sleep; beds
62. bAAany priim--beard, growth; whiskers
63. priing kana00ng--logs lying down; large logs
64. ciang tuuq--elephants
65. takiang tanyang--lamps
66. kaniang kabaang--teeth, mouth; inside of mouth
67. harteeng hartuuk--wall boards; walls
68. kooy rEEng kooy ro0t--lizards
69. carIng carAAaq--dense growth, jungle; jungles
70. carIng praang--shelf above the fireplace for drying things, rafters; places above for putting things
71. saang trung--carrying baskets for water gourds
72. nhaang ntot--bones, carcass; frame, bones
73. jung te--feet, hands; members
74. plang JAa--grass for roofing, branches used for roofing; roofing materials
75. pong kam--edible roots
76. pong kok pong laaw--tapioca root, laaw root, edible roots
77. tong d00ng tong day--tender ends of the tree; sprouts edible leaves
78. dwong dEH--house, pots; utensils
79. trig terriang--fish
80. song hap--pants, shirt; men's clothing
81. n00ng harl00s--shrimps
82. ng0ng nAAAs--shrimps
83. pr00ng mbaak--arm, shoulder
84. harp00ng parjaang--shore; place to cross; crossing
85. kadal kAAq--wii:
86. bil bo--rats
87. tantool nkai--supporting piles, corner posts; support of house
88. tiar patay--fish
89. taniar tapaang--floor slats; flooring
90. sabIy sabaay--cured cabbage
91. tangay takaay--days
92. cabAay tamul--soup, vegetables; tasty things
93. callaay call0H--loin cloth, cloth that comes off; loin cloths
94. wIy nsaay wIy mno--to have friends
95. salaay sal00y--fields which have been planted for a year already (don't have to cut down the big timber again to make field)
96. ndruuy ndra--chickens
97. b00y saay--salt
98. capias caniay--small knives
99. santias santong--sprouts, tender shoots; sprouts of trees
100. canAas calang--combs
101. pannAas pannaan--jackfruit
102. bas biak--hooks for fishing
103. quus tuuy--fire
104. quus qAAq--fire
105. ruus bu--fields which have been left to grow wild
106. mih tung--aunt, uncle, aunts and uncles
107. tapEH tampl0--fireplace, ashes; kitchen
108. dEH pangAaan--pots, plates, eating utensils
109. sEH mbEEq--horses, goats
110. tajAah tajil--open fields; used land
111. karah kamoony--charcoal
112. taroOH tarhAaak--waterfalls
113. karuh kalo0m--a basket for carrying clothing
114. koh kiing--mountain, slopes; mountains
115. parmOH talE--kh00ngs and gongs; items of wealth and used in feasts, festivals, funerals and other functions
116. kandroH kal00--traps in the field
117. parl0H parthAa--door, ladder; entrances, exits
118. ceingA0h cinkA0h--spoon, ladle; spoons
119. pannyA0h harm00y--deer
120. parl0H parluk--door
121. troOH ri--baskets which women carry hung over shoulder
122. tiaw luung--back carrying baskets
123. cEEw ouq--pepper sauce
124. mEEw tok--feline animals, cats
125. praw ku--spirits, ghosts; spirits of the dead
126. kataaw kannoooc--sugar cane, that which can be peeled; cane
127. eakE c0--dogs, dogs; canine animals
128. karsE karmI--a vine rope, a hand rope; ropes
129. krE ouang--vines
130. tabI hangIp--night, darkness; night
131. nang sI nang s0--letter
132. pIA sok--head, hair; head
133. *canna* parrEEk—food, things to smoke; satisfying things of life
134. *hala* halAq—leaves
135. *sabu* sabAq—soap
136. *kO no kO noor*—discarded water-carrying tubes
137. *bi bo bi baAL*—fetishes
138. *kalho halto*—vegetables
139. *pO plang*—corn, roofing grass; stalks still standing
140. *karkO nnyooy*—husked rice
141. *harqO call00k*—rafts made out of bamboo tubes; rafts
142. *tam0 tamAq*—stones
143. *sO paakka*—pencil, pen; writing instruments

3. REDUPLICATED VERBS

Phonological reduplication of verbs appears only with reciprocal action.

3.1 FUNCTION

Reduplicated verbs do not take objects and are used only in simple sentences:

1. ngaay *tarsu su* "They are looking for each other."
   
   (Actor + Reciprocal Reduplicated Verb)

3.2 INTONATION

The beginning of the sentence is said on a level tone; the end of the reduplication is given considerable emphasis, with higher pitch.

3.3 FORMS

Reciprocal action takes place between two people with simultaneous action done to each other or first one doing one thing for another and then the other person doing the same thing for the first person. The two actions may be done at the same time. The normal reduplication pattern is tarCV(F) CV(F), except in no.14, 27, 40.

1. *taroOOp c0Op*—look at each other secretively (as boy and girl)
2. *tark0Op k0Op*—take hold of each other
3. *tarpia tia*—edge each other's mat
4. *tarpria pia*—ride each other's stick; as children change off and play with each other's riding-horse stick
5. *tart ia*—threaten to strike each other with a
6. tarpEt pEt--kick each other with the toe
7. tarkat kat--cut each other's hair
8. tarquat quut--strike each other
9. tarkuat kuat--check on each other
10. tarsuat suat--cut each other
11. tarhoot hoot--blow on each other; cause healing to each other
12. tarkOot koot--hug each other
13. tarbiq biq--try to do work when sleepy
14. barbEs bEs--hire someone to kill another
15. tarteEa teEs--sell each other
16. tartrEe trEs--taste a little of each other's food (soup)
17. tarb00q b00q--sing to each other
18. tarliak liak--undress each other
19. tarteek teek--lead each other
20. tarcareEek carEek--split each other's wood
21. tarcuk cuk--gossip about each other
22. tart0k t0k--be afraid of each other

23. tarwiq wiq--pinch each other
24. tardiq diq--take turns riding on each other
25. tarpeq peq--cut each other with machete
26. tarbAq bAq--children sing to each other
27. sarSok sok--fist fight with each other
28. tarliq liq--push with the heel on each other
29. tarkaaq kaaq--dip out for each other (sharing the catch of fish, etc.)
30. tarluq luq--pull each other
31. tarnyuq nyuq--fear each other
32. tarpAOq pAOq--carry for each other (taking turns with each other's loads)
33. tarpO0q y00q--go together (as husband and wife)
34. tarcoli c00m--know each other
35. tarcoom coom--complain about each other
36. tarpien pian--trade with each other
37. tarbenn bien--have each other (in marriage)
38. tarwiq viq--sleeping curled up on each other
39. taroon toon--accuse each to another, suspect each other

40. caruum rum--meet each other, run into each other
41. tarpanoony noony--go back on a promise together
42. tarwiing wiing--return things to each other
43. tardeeng deeng--take each other in marriage
44. tarseEng seEng--vie with each other
45. tarwaAng waAng--give a small amount to each other
46. tarhAang kAang--block each other's way
47. tarbang bang--hide behind each other
48. tartang tang--bet each other
49. taroon aoon--burn each other
50. tarny0ng ny0ng--praise each other
51. tarDEel deel--lick each other
52. tarheel heel--love each other
53. tarqool qool--gossip about each other
54. tarkuur kuur--curse each other
55. tarpoor poor--help each other
56. tarweh weh--divide up for each other
57. tarweeth weeth--strike each other with small stick or switch
58. tartu tu--leave each other (go away from a prospective partner)
59. tarmE me--look at each other
60. tarngo ngo--sitting with each other
61. tarsu su-- look for each other
62. tarlua lua--keep what has been borrowed from each other
63. tarjah jah--count on not getting anything from going with each other
1. This paper was written at a workshop held in Nhatrang October 1969, under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

Initial study of the Ngeq language was done by Mr. Labuff. Further work and translation was done by Nakamura and others from Japan. The author and his wife began work in Saravane in September 1967, working with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship. Work was initiated with several tribal group of southern Laos by the Mission Evangelique and has been continued by the O.M.F. since 1959.

This present work is based on informant work done with Mr. Vene Sivilay presently living in Houei Bang Yawq. He speaks the dialect which is used by the Representative of the Ngeq to the government of Laos. A resettlement village has been established about ten miles from Pakse in the province of Se Done. Other villages where there are Ngeq present are the villages at Kilometers 14, km.22 and km.23 though the latter would group themselves with the Ngkriang, as would others in the villages along the Saigon-Pakse Road. The Ngkriang may be found in the villages on this road at km.15 1/2 km.16, km.24 and in the Leprosy Rehabilitation Village at km.30.

REFERENCES


