

## Chapter 9

### REDUPLICATION

There are various meanings attributed to reduplication in Malay and Indonesian. The reduplication of nouns and pronouns most commonly shows individuality as opposed to unity. The reduplication of adjectives and adverbs shows intensity or emphasis, and the reduplication of verbs, repetitiveness, continuation or generality. Other more restrictive meanings also occur and are included in the discussion which follows. It should be remembered, however, that since reduplication can show a wide variety of meanings, it may not always be possible to distinguish among the various meanings for any one use. More than one of the potential meanings may be possible at any one time.

#### 9.1 Reduplication of nouns (i) Singular and plural meanings

The reduplication of nouns is often interpreted as indicating plurality. In other words, if *pelabuhan* means "port", then *pelabuhan-pelabuhan* means "ports". This, however, is not the case. The nonreduplicated form of the noun may have both singular and plural interpretations depending on its context and use. The true function of noun reduplication is to show individuality within a group. Examine the following utterances.

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| <p>1. <i>Singapura menjadi <b>pelabuhan</b> yang utama di Asia Tenggara.</i></p> <p>Singapore became the main <b>port</b> in Southeast Asia.</p>         | <p>1. <i>Singapura menjadi <b>pelabuhan</b> yang utama di Asia Tenggara.</i></p> <p>Singapore became the main <b>port</b> in Southeast Asia.</p>           |
| <p>2. <i>Pedagang dari seluruh dunia datang ke <b>pelabuhan</b> Malaysia.</i></p> <p>Traders from all over the world came to Malaysian <b>ports</b>.</p> | <p>2. <i>Pedagang dari seluruh dunia datang ke <b>pelabuhan</b> Indonesia.</i></p> <p>Traders from all over the world came to Indonesian <b>ports</b>.</p> |

*Pelabuhan* in the two preceding utterances means both "port" and "ports". What is important in the use of nonreduplicated nouns is that the referent is considered unitary. In utterance 2 the Malaysian/Indonesian ports, no