Pasichnyk N.,
Candidate of Philological Sciences,
Associate Professor of the Department of Theory and Practice of Translation,
Volodymyr Hnatiuk Ternopil National Pedagogical University

Puha O.,
Lecturer of the Department of Foreign Languages,
National University Lviv Polytechnic

Kuzan H.,
Candidate of Philological Sciences,
Associate Professor of the Department of Foreign Languages,
National University Lviv Polytechnic

THE PROBLEM OF NEGATION AS A GRAMMATICAL CATEGORY

Summary. The article explores the grammatical category of negation in author's discourse as a phenomenon which has not been sufficiently researched yet. The scope of negation can be indicated by means of contrastive stress, which narrows down the scope of negation to the constituent that receives the focus, leaving the rest of the clause presupposed. Having analyzed the theoretical material which reflects already accumulated scientific knowledge in the sphere of investigation of negation and having formulated our own vision of the problem it is possible to make the following conclusions. It is defined that the category of negation is a very complicated and multifaceted issue in the sphere of logic as well as in the sphere of linguistics. It is possible to single out the following definitions of negation in logic and linguistics. Negation is a competent and independent category concerning affirmation and makes a dialectical unity with it. Negation as a logical notion is an expression of the negative relations between the notions with the help of special language means. Negation is a logical operation in the result of which instead of an utterance A we have an utterance not-A, or vice versa. Negation is the expression of the fact, that the effort to establish the connection between two ideas failed. The fact is that on the surface level the utterance may be affirmative while on the deep level it may be negative and vice versa. All the components of the field are divided into affixal and nonaffixal negators, among which nonaffixal negators have a multileveled system and take a kernel position. The means of expressing negation as a grammatical category constitute a hierarchically organized system of heterogeneous language units combined by a similar semantic function. So, negation is one of the main philosophical categories as time, space and number that represent basic characteristics of the material world. Negation as a logical notion is an expression of the negative relations between the notions with the help of special language means. In language, as in the objective reality, negation correlates with affirmation and makes a pair category with it.

Key words: negation, negation paradigm, double negation, complex negation, multiple negation, dialectical unity, affirmation.

Problem statement. Negation as a grammatical category embraces negative words and negative fields they form. The category of negation is one of the main categories of the material reality and that is why it is possible to determine it as a general category that can be examined both in logic and linguistics.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The problem of negation has been much discussed from different angles. For example, I. Kant and Aristotle examined the issue of equality and nonequality between negative and affirmative statements. E. Klima investigated the place of negation in the structure of grammar. G. Tottie dedicated his investigation to the contrastive analysis of negation in the English speech and writing. V. Bondarenko studied negation as a lexico-grammatical category. V. Mykhaylenko considers negation as a notional category in diachrony, negation as a communicative marker in diachrony and models of "not" description in diachrony [1, p. 151].

According to R. Quirk a negative form may be said to govern or determine the occurrence of a non-assertive form only if the latter is within the scope of the negation, either within the stretch of language over which the negative meaning operates [2, p. 173]. The scope of negation normally extends from the negative word itself to the end of the clause, or to the beginning of a final adjunct. The subject and any adjuncts occurring before the predication normally lie outside it. The operator is sometimes within, and sometimes outside, the scope. In cognitive approaches to negation, the notion of scope must be further understood as a complex conceptualization process that arises from the interaction of two predicates or structures [3, p. 46].

Objective. The objective of the article is to investigate the grammatical category of negation at morphological language level.

Main findings. In O. Jespersen's opinion, delimiting the field of negation is a difficult task, as it is theoretically possible to take either a semantic or a formal approach to the problem. Using semantic criteria alone would pose serious problems, because of the existence of so-called inherent negatives, that is, lexical items with inherent negative meaning though positive in form [4, p. 36]. To such words belong *absent, fail, lack, forget, exclude.* Apart from the mostly practical difficulty of listing such words there is more serious theoretical objection to including them in a study of negatives. Though we naturally look upon them as the negative *(fail –not succeed)* we may logically invert the order *(succeed – not fail).*

Although evidence from psycholinguistic experiments suggests that certain words are basic, or unmarked with respect to negativ-

ity, such as *long, good, happy,* whereas their counterparts *short, bad, sad* are marked, or contain the negative element, it is uneasy to decide which items can be classified as negative both from a semantic and formal point of view [2, p. 36]. Words that compose the category of negation may be divided into nonaffixal and affixal (words containing the negative prefixes in-, un-, dis-, and non-, the suffixes –less and –out) on the ground that first are lexically stable and thus form closed classes *(no, not, neither, nobody, none)* and the rest have productive affixes [2, p. 37].

Negation can be treated as a phenomenon opposed to affirmation in various strata and on different levels of the language structure. On the semantic level there is always an opposition of positive and negative (antonymic relations), as in examples above: *good-bad, thin-thick.* On the morphological level when the affix denotes negation:

1) negative prefix + root: legal – illegal, regular – irregular;

2) root + negative suffix: worth – worthless.

The prefix *un-* is the most frequent means of expressing negation, the particle – *not*, negative pronouns – *no one, nobody, nothing;* the conjunction – *neither nor* [1, p. 151].

All these means constitute the negative paradigm in Modern English. The Modern English sentence is considered to be mononegative and employs a preverbial particle combined with an auxiliary/modal *have* and *be* makes the whole sentence negative.

The two subsets of the negative expressions differ in several aspects. From the syntactic point of view, nonaffixal negation normally confers sentence negation, because it is followed by positive tag-questions and *neither* and *not…either*-tags,

whereas affixal negation only negates a constituent and confers constituent negation, as is followed by the same kinds of tags as affirmative sentences, and tags with *so, too.*

But if we try to define this difference in a translated variant we'll see that the most suitable translations will be alike and only with constituent negation.

However, sentences with affixal and nonaffixal negation may be semantically equivalent.

At the same time concerning the question of affixal and nonaffixal negation it is necessary to examine what kind of equivalence holds between sentences with affixal and nonaffixal negation and the ways of their translation.

In Modern English there is a tendency of the preference for adjectives with prefixal negation in written language *(It is untrue)* and the preference of the constructions such as *It is not true* in spoken language [5, p. 58]. He claims that such evidence is to a large extent conditioned by the different discourse strategies used in speech and writing. Affixal negation and nonaffixal negation do not always have the same meaning and may be ambiguous: *not easy –нелегкий* and *uneasy – незручний, стурбований.*

Therefore the use of affixal and nonaffixal negation in English is governed by a number of constraints and besides the relations between English and Ukrainian affixal and nonaffixal negation are not direct taking into consideration their interpretations.

Returning to the determination of negative words it is necessary to mention, that negative words are defined as what Gunnel Tottie describes as "formally and semantically negative expressions", that is the negative words *no, not, n't, never, neither, nor, no one, none, nowhere, nobody, nothing;* in addition to the words containing the negative prefixes *in-, un-, dis-, a-, non-;* and the words containing the suffix *–less,* and the word *without* [5, p. 204]. He was the first to establish the difference between affixal (morphological) negation and nonaffixal (syntactic) negation and calculate the frequency of syntactic negation types.

The grammatical category of negation is the unity of similar grammatical meanings signified by appropriate grammatical formants. Negation is an expression, with the help of lexical, phraseological, and syntactic means of that fact that the connection between the elements of a statement does not exist in reality (is expressed in speech as non existent). As the same time it should be stressed that the affirmation of non-action or non-knowledge or non-awareness is more emphatic than affirmation proper: when using a negative form, something may be affirmed even strongly. In other words, negation may be defined as:

A grammatical term denoting the process of transformation of an affirmative statement into a negative one.

– A component of a sentence meaning, which points to a non-existent connection between parts of a sentence.

– The process that turns an affirmative statement into its opposite denial.

– Contradicting a sentence meaning or its parts [5, p. 204].

In broad semantic terms negation can be expressed in morphologic and syntactic ways in natural language. The main problem involved in the identification and classification of negative words has been the lack of correspondence between word content and word form. For example, there are words with no overt mark of negation *(absent, fail, lack, and forget)* but which, however, are generally understood to convey a negative meaning, and also, there are cases where there is a lack of fit between the grammatical structure of an utterance and its force. In the later case, we may have negative utterances with the force of agreement, or conversely, affirmative utterances with the force of refusals.

E. Klima was the first to attempt to establish a formal distinction between words that could be identified as negative both in form and meaning and words that are negative in meaning but not in form [6, p. 248]. Since then, the tests of co-ocurrence of negative words with nonassertive terms, such as *any* and *either* in coordinated structures and the combination with positive tags, have been standardly applied to identify what have been called explicit negatives.

By explicit negatives the following group of negative words is understood: *not, n't, no, nobody, no one, nowhere, nothing.* These words are negative in meaning, they are marked morphologically for negation and the follow cooccurence restrictions that single them out as syntactically negative.

So, R. Quirk and S. Greenbaum refer to them as to clausal negation, T. Givon as to syntactic negation and L. Downing as to nuclear negatives.

Syntactic negation usually includes also the group of broad negatives or seminegative words formed by the adjuncts *hardly, scarcely, seldom, rarely*, and the determiners *few* and *little.* Although these words have negative meaning, they have no morphological indication of a negative affix or particle, unlike the negatives mentioned previously.

Traditionally, in English a sentence becomes negative by adding a negator *not* to the first (auxiliary) or the only verb. In Modern English there exist three types of negation:

1. Negation in the system of language (clause negation), due to which a whole sentence syntactically is considered as negative.

2. Negation in the system of discourse (local negation), in which only one component is negated and not the whole sentence.

3. Negation in the system of sentence (predication negation) relating only to certain auxiliary verbs, in which only predicative part is negated [7, p. 84].

While a yes-no question normally challenges the validity of predication as a whole, negation rejects it. And like yes-no questions, negative sentences involve

the operator, requiring the insertion of *not* (or the affixal contraction – *n't*) between the operator and the predication.

There are two various ways of giving emotive intensification to a negative. For example, *by any means* and (informally) *a bit* are common alternatives to *at all* as non-assertive expressions of extent. Negative determiners and pronouns are given emphasis by *at all, whatever.*

In recent grammatical theory a great interest has been shown in the scope of negation. It can be defined as the semantic influence that the negative item exercises over the constituent of the clause where it appears, or the semantic domain on which negation applies. Usually, all the constituents of a sentence that follow the negative fall under the scope of negation, while the subject remains outside. This can be observed by the fact that assertive forms can occupy the subject position, while nonassertive forms will be found in other positions.

Here the nonassertive form *any* lies within the scope of negation. The subject pronoun *some* is outside the scope of negation, because the scope of negation in a given sentence extends to the end of the clause. Assertive forms can sometimes occupy the position following the verb carrying the negative, but in this case, the meaning is different from that expressed by a corresponding clause with a nonassertive form.

Conclusion and prospects for further research. The scope of negation can be indicated by means of contrastive stress, which narrows down the scope of negation to the constituent that receives the focus, leaving the rest of the clause presupposed. Having analyzed the theoretical material which reflects already accumulated scientific knowledge in the sphere of investigation of negation and having formulated our own vision of the problem it is possible to make the following conclusions.

The category of negation is a very complicated and multifaceted issue in the sphere of logic as well as in the sphere of linguistics. It is possible to single out the following definitions of negation in logic and linguistics:

1. Negation is a competent and independent category concerning affirmation and makes a dialectical unity with it.

2. Negation as a logical notion is an expression of the negative relations between the notions with the help of special language means.

3. Negation is a logical operation in the result of which instead of an utterance A we have an utterance not-A, or vice versa.

4. Negation is the expression of the fact, that the effort to establish the connection between two ideas failed.

The fact is that on the surface level the utterance may be affirmative while on the deep level it may be negative and vice versa. All the components of the field are divided into affixal and nonaffixal negators, among which nonaffixal negators have a multileveled system and take a kernel position.

The means of expressing negation as a grammatical category constitute a hierarchically organized system of heterogeneous language units combined by a similar semantic function. There can be singled out 3 levels of its functioning:

– morphological (negative affixes);
– lexical (negative particles, negative pronouns, negative adverbs, negative conjunctions (neither…nor);
– syntactic (negative sentences).

Double or more complicated negation, called multiple negation, and the presence of two negative words in a clause is referred to as a double negation is investigated in our research too.

Multiple negation in the language competence is realized in affirmative and negative statements. In the first case the double negative equals a positive. In the second case the double negative equals a negative.

So, negation is one of the main philosophical categories as time, space and number that represent basic characteristics of the material world. Negation as a logical notion is an expression of the negative relations between the notions with the help of special language means. In language, as in the objective reality, negation correlates with affirmation and makes a pair category with it.

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Пасічник Н., Пуга О., Кузан Г. Проблема негації як граматичної категорії

Анотація. У статті досліджується граматична категорія негації в авторському дискурсі як недостатньо досліджений феномен. Сфера негації може бути вказана за допомогою контрастивного наголосу, який звужує сферу заперечення до компонента, який отримує фокус, залишаючи решту речення передумовою. Проаналізувавши теоретичний матеріал, який відображає вже накопичені наукові знання у сфері дослідження негації та сформулювавши власне бачення проблеми, можна зробити наступні висновки. Визначено, що категорія негації є дуже складним і багатогранним явищем як у сфері логіки, так і в сфері лінгвістики. Можна виділити наступні визначення негації в логіці та лінгвістиці. Негація є компетентною і самостійною категорією щодо твердження і становить з ним діалектичну єдність. Негація як логічне поняття є вираженням негативних відношень між поняттями за допомогою спеціальних мовних засобів. Негація – це логічна операція, в результаті якої замість висловлювання А маємо висловлювання не-А, або навпаки. Негація є вираженням того факту, що спроба встановити зв'язок між двома ідеями зазнала невдачі. Справа в тому, що на поверхневому рівні висловлювання може бути ствердним, а на глибинному – негативним, і навпаки. Усі компоненти поля поділяються на афіксальні та неафіксальні заперечувачі, серед яких неафіксальні заперечувачі мають

багаторівневу систему і займають ядрову позицію. Засоби вираження негації як граматичної категорії складають ієрархічно організовану систему різнорідних мовних одиниць, об'єднаних подібною семантичною функцією. Таким чином, негація є однією з основних філософських категорій, як час, простір і число, які представляють основні характеристики матеріального світу. Негація як логічне поняття є вираженням негативних відношень між поняттями за допомогою спеціальних мовних засобів. У мові, як і в об'єктивній дійсності, негація співвідноситься зі ствердженням і складає з ним парну категорію.

Ключові слова: негація, парадигма негації, подвійна негація, комплексна негація, множинна негація, діалектична єдність, ствердження.