NEGATION
A preliminary questionnaire
René van den Berg
Peter Kahrel
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Note: This questionnaire was sent to all the contributors of the volume *Typological Studies in Negation*, edited by Kahrel and van den Berg (John Benjamins, 1994).

The following questions are meant to guide you in your description of negation in the language you are studying. Describe the system as fully as possible, and illustrate amply (at least two examples of a certain phenomenon). If the questions do not apply or are irrelevant, just skip them, but make sure that the reader gets a good idea of how things are expressed in your language.

In your examples, give both a morpheme-by-morpheme translation as well as a free translation. If there is a lot of morphophonemics in your language, it may be good to provide an extra level of 'underlying' morphemes.

1a. What means is employed in the language to express standard negation in verbal clauses? Standard negation is the negation of a simple clause containing a verb (*It is raining - It is not raining*).

> Typologically, the following cases occur in languages:
> 1. negative particles (adverbs);
> 2. negative (auxiliary) verbs;
> 3. affixes;
> 4. other, e.g. negative nouns.

b. How are non-verbal clauses negated in the language, i.e. clauses consisting of two nominal phrases in languages not having a copula (*John (is) a teacher - John (is) not a teacher*).

> N.B. In some cases it is not easy to determine whether a negative element is an affix or a particle. In any case, illustrate and give your reasons for assigning it to a certain category.

2. If the language has negative particles:

a. List each one of them, specifying and illustrating their usage. If there is more than one negator, show the differences in usage, e.g. sentential versus constituent negation (Indonesian *tidak* vs *bukan*), indicative versus other moods, e.g. imperative, different aspects etc.

b. What is the usual position of the negator? Are other positions possible? Do they correlate with meaning and scope differences? (Cf. German *Er ist gestern nicht gekommen* 'he didn't come yesterday' - *Er ist nicht gestern gekommen* 'it was not yesterday that he came').

c. Are there any modifications of the verb? If so, do these verb forms also occur without accompanying negator and what do they mean? (Cf. Muna *akala* 'I went' - *miina akumala* 'I didn't go' - *akumala* 'I will go': the irrealis verb form with infix -*um*- is used for future and with negators).

d. Can two negative elements occur in one clause? What is the resulting meaning?

e. Do these negators have derivational possibilities? (Muna *miina* 'not', *miina-mo* 'no more',

miina-ho 'not yet').

f. Does NEG-transport occur? (Semantically an embedded sub-clause is negated, but the negator is attached to the verb in the higher clause, as in Eng *I don't think he will come* vs *I think he will not come*). With which verbs is this possible?

g. Do stress/intonation differences in negated clauses influence the scope of negation? (Cf English *John didn't come* (neutral) - *JOHN didn't come, (but Peter*), with stress on *John* and rising intonation).

h. Does the negative particle have other functions/usages in the language? (Cf. The Quechua suffix *-chu* which functions both in negative clauses (together with the particle *mana*) and in yes-no questions).

3. If the language has negative verbs:

a. Does it have more than one negative verb, differing e.g. in tense / aspect?

b. For which categories is the negative verb inflected? How is the distribution of person/number, tense and aspect over the negative verb and the following verb?

c. What is the form of the following verb?

4. If the language has morphological negatives (negative affixes):

a. At which place in the derivation does the negative morpheme occur? Specify in relation to the root and to other derivational and inflectional material.

b. Does NEG-transport occur? (see 2f)

c. Does a verb/noun with the negative morpheme allow for the same array of derivational possibilities as its non-negated counterpart, or is there neutralization of some categories?

5. Are there other negative words in the language, such as:

a. inherently negative quantifiers (Eng *nobody*, *nothing*)

b. inherently negative adverbs (Eng *nowhere*, *never*)

c. emphatic words (Muna *mauna* 'not even')

d. negative coordinators (Eng *neither*)

e. negative conjunctions (Eng *lest*)

For each of these words, describe their meaning, usage and position, illustrating amply. Pay special attention to restrictions in occurrence: e.g. in some languages negative quantifiers can only occur in subject position.

6. Some other questions (if not already dealt with):

a. How is the negative existential formed ('There is no water')

b. What is the negative one-word answer to a question? ('Have you seen him? No.')

c. How are negative indefinites expressed? ('I saw nothing / didn't see anything').

The usual strategies across languages are:
1. negator + indefinite pronoun: not...something
2. negator + special indefinite pronoun: not...anything
3. negative quantifier: nothing
4. negator + negative quantifier: not...nothing.

In case of strategy 2, fully describe other functions of the special indefinite pronoun. In case of strategy 1, how does the language express negation of a specific 'something'? In Dutch, for example, there is a distinction between *Hij heeft niets gezien* 'he hasn't seen anything' and *Hij heeft iets niet gezien* 'There is something that he has not seen'. Try to find natural contexts for any such utterings.

d. Can regular quantifiers (such as 'all', 'many' and 'every') be negated? In all positions? Is the resulting meaning different from 'regular' negation? Compare the difference in English between *Not many people came* vs *Many people didn't come* and *Not everyone passed* vs *Everyone did not pass*.

e. Can clauses with indefinite subjects be negated? (English ?*A man didn't come*.

f. How is the 'negative partitive' concept expressed? ('None of the children came').

7. Does the language make use of negative morphemes in the derivation of lexical items? English examples include *un-*, *non-*, *de-*, *-less*). To which categories can they apply (nouns, verbs etc)? Is the process productive?

8. Give some general typological information on the language by providing answers to the following questions:

a. relative order of subject (S), object (O) and verb (V), if these categories can be defined in the language and if there is a preference / unmarked order;

b. the position of the question word in content-questions: at the beginning, at the end, or in pattern-position;

c. the position of the question particle in yes-no questions;

d. word order within the nominal phrase (adjective, demonstrative, numeral, relative clause etc. in relation to the head noun);

e. prepositions or postpositions;

f. comparative constructions;

g. classification of the language according to Ruhlen (1987) *Languages of the world*.