

Negation in Kashmiri

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Abstract

This paper describes, in an analytical approach, of negation in Kashmiri and attempts to describe various logistic mechanisms that are used for negation in Kashmiri Language. This paper gives an account of forms and position of the negative as well its occurrence in different types of sentence structures.

Key Words: Negation, Imperative, Quantifier, Tag Question, Negative Expression

Introduction

Negation in general is supposed to be a simple denial of an assertion. However, negation is a loaded concept both in semantics and in logic. It has more shades of meaning than its positive counterparts. Semantically, to negate a sentence is to state the conditions under which the proposition represented by the sentence is false. Logically, there is more than one interpretation that can belong to this complementary set. In logic, negation functions as an operator and groups with quantifiers and modals. Like them it has the property of putting certain elements under scope. For example, the negative may refer to some element in a sentence or a discourse. The element is then said to be in its scope. The scope of negation may lead to ambiguities. Languages vary with respect to the use of negation markers. It is said that every language develops its own idiomatic sets of negative elements and its own rules for using them and Kashmiri is no exception. Here are some specifics of negation in Kashmiri.

1. Forms and Position of the Negative

Traditional grammarians categorise the Kashmiri negative as a particle i.e., an invariable item with grammatical function but the category fails to fit into the standard classification of Parts of Speech. The Kashmiri negative varies for declaratives, imperatives and conditional sentences. The basic negative of the declarative is *nə*, the imperative *mi/mati* (polite), while the conditional is *nay*. The form *ni* is suffixed to the auxiliary or finite verb after the agreement markers:

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V+agr+*ni*. Naturally, it occurs in the second position in V-2 i.e., verb second contexts and in final or other positions in non-V-2 contexts i.e., the relative clauses, conditionals, and other constructions mentioned earlier. The position of the negative in various contexts is described below. It precedes the yes-no question marker *a*: as seen in (4) below.

1.1. Negative in the Declarative

- (1) *azkal chus ni bi philmi vucha:n.*
 now-a-days am Neg I films watch.Pr
 'Now- a- days, I don't watch movies.'

(1a) *bi chus ni azkal philmi vucha:n.*

- (2) *kā:ti ro:zi ni kəši:ri z'a:das ka:las.*
 Kanta stay.Fut Neg Kashmir.Abl long.Dat period.Dat
 'Kanta will not stay in Kashmir for long.'

(2a) *z'a:das ka:las. ro:zi ni kā:ti kəši:ri*

1.2. Negative in the Yes-No Question Clause

(Negative precedes the question marker)

- (3) *toh' yiyiv na: paga:h yo:r?*
 you.Pol come.Fut Neg.Q tomorrow here
 'Won't you come here tomorrow?'

(3a) *paga:h yiyiv na: toh' yo:r?*

1.3. Negative in the Wh-question Clause

- (4) *az kus gatshi ni ka:le:j?*
 today who go.Fut Neg college
 'Who will not go to the college today?'

(4a) *ka:le:j kus gatshi ni az?*

- (5) *təhi k'a: onivi ni parni khə:tri?*
 you.Erg brought Neg read.Inf.Abl for
 'What didn't you bring to read?'

(5a) *parni khə:tri k'a: onivi ni ?*

1.4. Negative in the Relative and Main Clause

- (6) *[[m'o:n do:s [yus dili chu ro:za:n] heki*
my friend who Delhi.Abl is live.Pr can.Mod.Fut
ni yith az.]]
Neg come.CP today
'My friend, who lives in Delhi, will not be able to come today.'
- (7) *[[m'o:n do:s, [yas dil pasand cha ni],*
my friend who.Dat Delhi like be Neg
yiya az dili.]]
come.Fut today Delhi.Dat
'My friend, who does like Delhi, is not coming to Delhi today.'

1.5 Negative in Co-ordinate Conjunction Constructions

In the 'neither –nor' constructions the negative marker *na* is added in the initial position of the coordinating sentences (8).

- (8) *na gatshi bi jom (ti) na dili*
Neg go.Fut I Jammu (and) Neg Delhi.Abl
'Neither I'll go to Jammu nor to Delhi.'

2. Negative Imperative/Prohibitive Forms

Kashmiri has a modal expression *ma:* which is to be distinguished from the prohibitive negative marker *mi* or *ma* which has an equivalent prohibitive negative marker *mat* in Hindi-Urdu (9a), e.g.,

- (9) *gari mi/ma gatsh.*
home Proh.Neg go.Imp
'Don't go home.'
- (9a) *ghar mat ja:o.*
A yes-no question marker *a:* is added to the prohibitive negative marker (*mi/ma* + *a:*) to change it to interrogative negative morpheme *ma:*, e.g.,
- (10) *su ma: gatshi ba:zar ?*
he Proh.Neg.Q go-Fut.3sg market
'Will he go to the market?'

Notice that the prohibitive negative question marker *ma:* and the modal verb *ma:* are homophonous. The occurrence of *ma:* thus results in the ambiguity of the sentence in case the interrogative intonation is ignored.

Semantically, the modal verb *ma:* in Kashmiri expresses doubt, probability or indefiniteness. It cannot be literally translated into Hindi-Urdu. (Koul 2014).

The Negative imperative marker *mi* precedes the finite verb. It changes to *ma* in the initial position.

- (11a) *dili mi gəʈshiv*
 Delhi.Abl Neg.Imp go.Fut
 'Don't go to Delhi.'

- (11b) *ma gəʈshiv dili*
 Neg.Imp go.Imp Delhi
 'Don't go to Delhi.'

2.1. Obligative Imperative

The imperative marker *mi* is replaced by *ni* in its use as an obligative imperative form.

- (12) *təhi pazi ni kēh vanun.*
 you.Dat should Neg anything say.Inf
 'You should not say anything?'

- (13) *šuren pazi ni yeti ro:zun.*
 children.Dat should Neg here.Abl stay.Inf
 'Children must not stay here.'

The negative conditional marker *nay* 'if not' can be placed after the subject (14,15), as well as after the verb as in (14a,15a).

- (14) *su nay dava: diyihe: bi a:siha: bema:r.*
 he Neg.Cond medicine give.Cond I be.Cond sick
 go:mut.
 went.PP
 'Had he not given me the medicine I would have fallen sick.'

- (14a) *diyihe: nay dava: su bi a:siha: bema:r go:mut..*
 give.Cond Neg.Cond medicine I be.Cond sick went.PP

- (15) *šur nay vadihe mə:j tulihe:s ni thod.*
 child Neg.Cond cry.Cond mother lift.Cond Neg up
 'If the child had not cried the mother would not have picked it up.'

- (15a) *vadihe nay šur, mə:j tulihe:s ni thod.*
 child Neg.Cond cry.Cond mother lift.Cond Neg up

3. Negative in the Subordinate Clause

The scope of a negative in the subordinate clause is controlled by the class of verbs it accompanies. For example, in the context of verbs of belief, expectation and opinion the negative is able to extend its domain to the entire clause irrespective of its position as in (16-20). However, in the context of other predicates such as knowledge the scope of the negative is determined by its position. The negative in the main clause for example only negates the main clause content as in (21). The same is true about the one in the subordinate clause as exemplified in (22).

3.1. Verbs of belief

- (16) *me chuni ba:sa:n kã:ti k'a: gatshi asṭreliya:.*
 I.Dat is.Neg appear.Pr Kanta Part. go.Fut Australia
 'It doesn't look like to me that Kanta will go to Australia.'
- (17) *me chu yaki:n kã:ti gatshi ni asṭreliya:.*
 I.Dat is belief Kanta go.Fut Neg Australia
 'I believe/think that Kanta will not go to Australia.'
- (18) *bi chus sô:ca:n kã:tas pazi ni gari gatshun.*
 I am think.Pr Kanta should Neg home go.Inf
 'I think that Kanta should not go home.'
- (19) *me:n' kin' pazi ni kã:tas gari gatshun.*
 my.Dat according should Neg Kanta.Dat home go.Inf
 'In my opinion, Kanta should not go to home.'
- (20) *m'a:ni ra:yi pazi ni kã:tas gari gatshun.*
 my.Abl opinion.Abl should Neg Kanta.Dat home go.Inf
 'I don't think Kanta should go home.'

3.2. Verbs of knowledge

Negative in the main clause

- (21) *me chu ni pata: kã:ti yiya: az.*
 I.Dat is Neg aware Kanta come.Fut today
 'I don't know if Kanta will come today.'
- (22) *me chu pata: kã:ti yiyi ni az.*
 I.Dat is aware Kanta come.Fut Neg today
 'I know that Kanta will not come today.'

Negative in the subordinate clause

- (23) *me chu pata: zi/ki nəsi:mi gəyi ni*
 I.Dat is knowledge that Nasim went Neg
yimtiha:nas manz pa:s.
 examination.Dat in pass
 'I know that Nasim did not pass the examination.'
- (24) *me chu pata: zi/ki mohni k'a:zi a:v ni.*
 I.Dat is knowledge that Mohanwhy came Neg
gari ra:th.
 home yesterday
 'I know why Mohan did not come to home yesterday.'

4. Negative in the verb final clause

The verb final clauses are correlatives, conditionals and some others. In the correlative subordinate clause, which has a verb final configuration, the negative element may be optionally placed before the verb as in (25a) or after the verb as in (25b). The main clause follows the usual V-2 pattern.

- (25a) *səli:mas a:yi sɔ ku:r pasand yemi ni*
 Salim.Dat came Cor.that girl like Rel Neg
mohnas ciṭh' li:ch.
 Mohan.Dat letter wrote
 'Salim liked the girl who did not write the letter to Mohan.'
- (25b) *səli:mas a:yi sɔ ku:r pasand yemi mohnas*
ciṭh' li:ch ni.

5. Negation of Constituents

Constituent negation employs suffixes such as *nay/ros/bagə:r/varə:y* 'without'. The suffix *-nay* is directly suffixed to the verb, others optionally employ the ablative infinitive form. They have only lexical/narrow scope as expected.

- (26) *su gatshi ba:zar batī khe-nay.*
 he go.Fut market food eat.Neg
 'He will go to the market without eating food.'
- (27) *nu:ni ros yiyi ni sabzi: kheni.*
 salt.Abl without come.Fut Neg vegetables eat.Inf.Abl
 'One cannot eat the vegetables without salt.'

- (28) *mohnas bagə:r gatshav ni əs' cakras.*
 Mohan.Dat without go.Fu Neg we walk.Dat
 'We'll not go on a walk without Mohan.'
- (29) *aslamas varə:y a:v ni kã:h vakhtas peṭh.*
 Aslam.Dat without came Neg anyone time.Dat on
 'With an exception of Aslam, no one came on time.'

6. Negation of Quantifiers

Indefinite quantifiers

Kashmiri has no special negative indefinite i.e., absolute quantifiers as is the case in English- no one, nobody, nowhere, never. Kashmiri thus resembles Hindi, Marathi and other Indic languages. It is a Pan-Indian feature. The negative indefinite quantifier effect is generated by employing *ni* along with positive quantifiers such as *kã:h* 'someone', *kẽ:h* 'something', *kun* 'anywhere', *zã:h* 'ever'.

- (30) *kã:h (ti) a:v ni.*
 someone (Part) came Neg
 'No one came.'
- (31) *tami von ni kẽh.*
 she.Erg say.Past Neg anything
 'She said nothing.'
- (32) *aslamān li:ch ni zã:h kita:b.*
 Aslam.Erg wrote Neg ever/anytime book
 'Aslam never wrote a book.'
- (33) *aslam gav ni kun.*
 Aslam went Neg anywhere
 'Aslam went nowhere.'

7. Tag Questions

Tag questions are formed by adding the Yes-no question marker *a:* to the negative particle *ni:* resulting in *na:*, which may be preceded by the copying of the main verb from the statement as in (34). In the absence of the negative marker *a:* it is added to the auxiliary of the copied main verb as in (35), and in the absence of the auxiliary verb it is added to the copied main verb as in (36).

- (34) *su yiyi az gari peṭhi, yiyi na:?*
 he come.Fu today home.Abl from come.Fut Neg.Tag

'He'll come today from home, won't he?'

- (35) *toh' ə:sivi ra:th gari gə:mit'*,
 you.Pl were yesterday home went.PP,
ə:sivi na: (gə:mit)'?
 were Neg.Tag (went.PP)
 'You had gone home yesterday, hadn't you?'

- (36) *toh' ə:sivi ni ra:th daphtar gə:mit'*.
 you.pl were Neg yesterday office went.PP,
ə:siva: gə:mit'?
 were.Q went.PP
 'You had not gone to the office yesterday, had you?'

8. Negative Polarity Items

Phrases such as *ratsh ti* 'a little', *p'ũ:t ti* 'a very little', *tiṭiva:r ti* 'a blink of an eye', *səsrə:y ti* 'a little movement', etc., occur only in negative sentences, e.g.,

- (37) *da:kṭari sindi dava: si:t' gəyi ni*
 doctor.Abl of medicine with went Neg
 tas ratsh ti pharakh.
 him/her.Dat little Part difference
 'The doctor's medicine did not provide any relief to him/her.'
- (38) *mohnas tor ni ada:ltuk bahas p'ũ:t*
 Mohan.Dat cross Neg court.Poss argument little
ti phikri.
 Part follow
 'Mohan did not understand a bit of the arguments in the court.'
- (39) *da:kṭars cha ni əch tiṭivar karnas sumb phursat.*
 doctor.Dat be Neg eye blinking do.Inf.Dat equal leisure
 'The doctor does not have time even to blink his eye.'
- (40) *hu:n' kər ni səsrə:y ti.*
 dog.Erg did Neg movement Part
 'The dog did not make any movement.'

9 Some Other Negative Expressions

The use of the term *kihi:n', ni* 'nothing'

- (41) *tas chu ni kihi:n' bo:zni yiva:n.*

he.Dat is Neg nothing see.Inf.Abl come.Pr
'He can't see anything.'

- (42) *sɔ heki ni kə̃h ti kə̃rith.*
 she can Neg anything Part do.CP
'She cannot do anything.'

References

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