Negation in Saudi Northern Region Dialect of Arabic

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Abstract

This paper aims at providing a description of the distribution of negation particles in Saudi Northern Region Dialect of Arabic (SNRDA). The SNRDA data discussed here, compared tonegation particlesin Classical Arabic (CA) and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA),show that there are only two negative particles used in this dialect laa and maa. The former is mainly used with the imperative while the latter is used with other types of sentences; and in certain cases, thetwo negative particlesare used interchangeably without any change in sentence meaning. Moreover, variants of these negative particles like lu, li, mu and mi are created through a vowel harmony process that takes place between the long vowel of the negative particle laa or maaand the vowel of the pronoun follows it. The paper contribution lies in the fact that it deals with data of a dialect that to my knowledge is rarely investigated or described and it adds to our understanding of nature of the syntactic element "negation".

1. Introduction

Negation is considered to be an integral syntactic part of clause structure of all languages that exist nowadays. As states by Miestamo (2005) "negation is generally taken to be a universal category. No languages without negation have been found". Negation has been discussed and studied extensively in Classical Arabic (CA), Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and in a number of dialects of Arabic.For works done on CA, see Sibawaih (796), Ibn AlHaajib(1248), Abdullah (698), Ibn Jinni(1001), AlZamakhshari(1245))and Ieesa (1984) and for works done on MSA,see Shlonsky(1997), Benmamoun(2000), Ouhalla and Shlonsky(2002), Fassi Fehri(1993), AlSharif and Sadler(2009) among others. For works done on dialects, see Brustad(2000) for negation in Syrian, Kuwaiti, Egyptian and Moroccan dialects of Arabic, Ridha(2014) and Abu Haider(2002)

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for Iraqi Arabic, Al-Tamari (2001) and Al-Momani(2011) for Jordanian Arabic, Qafisheh (1990) for Yemeni Arabic, Bahloul M.(1994) and Bahloul R. (1996) for Tunisian Arabic andfinally, AlSalem(2012) for Kuwaiti Arabic .

The aim of this paper is to describe the distribution of negative particles in SNRDA, a dialect that to my knowledge is rarely investigated or described. The SNRDA data discussed here, compared to negation particles in Classical Arabic (CA) and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), show that there are only two negative particles used in this dialect *laa* and *maa*. The former is mainly used with the imperative while the latter is used with other types of sentences; and, in certain cases, thetwo negative particles are used interchangeably without any change in sentence meaning. Moreover, variants of these negative particles like *lu, li, mu* and *mi* are created through a vowel harmony process that takes place between the long vowel of the negative particle *laa or maa* and the vowel of the pronoun follows it.

The paper is organized as follows: section 2 gives a brief background about the Northern Border Region of Saudi Arabia. Section 3 provides a description of the distribution of the different negative particles used in Classical Arabic (CA) and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). In Section 4, the distribution of the negative particles in SNRDA is discussed. Section 5 concludes the paper.

2. The Northern Border Region of Saudi Arabia
Northern Border Region is one of the thirteen regions in KSA; it lies in the farthest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, bordering Iraq and Jordan. It is about 134000 square km, 7 % of the area of KSA. All its main cities, Arar, Rafha and Turaif as well as Uwaiqeela were established during the sixties when the Aramco Oil Pipeline (tapline) which extends from KSA western border to the Lebanese border was constructed. Besides, there are a number of administrative centers and villages. Arar is the residence of emirate. After constructing Aramco Oil Pipeline, Bedouins of different tribes moved to those cities for work, education and health care. Inhabitants are mainly from five well-known tribes, Anaza, Rawala, Shammar, Hawazim, and Salaba as well as few thousands inhabitants of Shararat and other tribes. Nowadays, the population of this area is more than500000 people. The area is known by the abundance of pasturelands, and hence a big source of livestock in KSA. Recently, the region becomes one of the most promising industrial regions after launching King Abdullah's project,Waad Al Shamaal, for phosphates and other minerals in Turaif and Hazm Al-Jalameed. That is to say, the region becomes a major development tributary.Next, I provide a description of the distribution of the negative particles in Classical Arabic (CA) and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA).

3. Negation Particles in Classical Arabic (CA) and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA)

3. 1. Negative Particles in Classical Arabic (CA)

Classical Arabic (CA) or Quranic Arabic (QA) (henceforth CA) is the language used in the holy Quran and a language of early Islamic literature. Nowadays, the language is only studied at schools; without studying it, it is not possible for Muslim people to recite the holy Quran as it should be recited. In CA, there are two types of negation; explicit and implicit negation. In the former, negation is expressed explicitly by using thenegative particles:*laa* (لا), *lam* (لم),*lamma* (لما),*lan* (لن),*maa* (ما),*laysa* (ليس),*laat* (لات), *laamaljihuud* (لـ), *in* (إن), and*hair* (غير). In the later, negation is expressed implicitly; in other words, no negative particle is used. This paper concerns with explicit negation. Implicit negation will be left for future work.Next, I discuss the distribution of each of these particles.

3. 1. 1.The Negative Particle *laa*

3.1.1.1.*laa*in Verbal Sentences

The negative particle *laa* occurs with imperfective verbs in declarative and imperativesentences. It negates the imperfective verb with present, futureand progressivereadings.

1. "laa yihibu Allahu aljahra bissuua"   (present reading)
    neg. loves Allah openly wrongdoing
     "Allah does not love shouting of evil words, except by he who has been
       wronged."

2. laa yukalimhum Allahu yawma alqiyaama   (future reading)
    neg. speaks to them Allah day resurrection
   "Allah will not speak to them in the day of resurrection."

3. laa yaktubu zaidun risaalatan   (progressive reading)
    neg. writes   Zaid letter
   "Zaid is not writing a letter."

4. laa taktub alaa alluuh(imperative reading)
    neg. write on   the blackboard
   "Do not right on the blackboard."

In the above examples, the negative particle *laa* is used with active verbs; the same negative particle is also used with passive verbs:

5. laa yuthaabu faailuhu
    neg. rewarded doer
   "The doer is not rewarded."

Moreover, *laa* can also be used with perfective verb provided that the negative particle is repeated; in this case, a pronoun agreeing with the verb in number and gender following the negative particle is sometimes optionally used.

6. laa (hi)atamatha wa laa(hi)tarakatha
   neg.she fed itand neg.she left it
   "She neither fed it nor left it."

3.1.1.2.*laa*in Verbless Sentences
The negative particle *laa* also occurs in verbless sentences. In this case, *laa* is followed by a noun or pronoun.

7. laa jidaala fi alhaj
   neg. disputing in Hajj
   "There is no disputing in Hajj."

8. laa hayawana fi alhadeeqati
   neg. animal   in the garden
   "There is not an animal in the garden."

9. laa hiya naarun wa laa hiya maaun
   neg. it fire and neg. it water
   "It is neither fire nor water."

3. 1. 2.The Negative Particle *lam*
The negative particle *lam* occurs with imperfective verbs. It negates the imperfective verb with future, perfect and progressive readings.

10. lam yitmithhuna insun wala jaan   (future reading)
     neg.touch them human being and neg. jinn
     "Neither human being nor jinn have touched them before."

11. lam yasil bad (perfect reading)
     neg. arrived yet
     "He has not arrived yet."

12. lam yalid walam yuulad(progressive reading)
     neg. gaves birth and neg. been born
     "He has not given birth nor has been born."

3. 1. 3.The Negative Particle *lan*
The negative particle *lan* occurs with imperfective verbs. It negates the imperfective verb withfuture reading.

13. lan yakhluquu thubaaban walaw ijtamauu lah(future reading)
     neg. create   flies   even if gather for it

" They can not creat (even a fly); if they all met together for the purpose."

It is worth mentioning that the three negative particles, *laa*, *lam* and *lan*, should be adjacent to the verb they negate. This explains the ungrammaticality of the following sentences.

14. *laa aliyunyatadathu alarabiyata
     neg. Ali speaks   Arabic
     "Ali does not speak Arabic."

15. *lam aliyunyaquul alhaqa
     neg. Ali say   the truth
     "Ali did not say the truth."

16. *lan aliyunyahdhuru aldarsa
     neg. Ali attend   the lesson
     "Ali will not attend the lesson."

3. 1. 4. The Negative Particle *maa*
3.1.4.1. *maa* in Verbal Sentences

The negative particle *maa* occurs with imperfective and perfective verbs.it negates the imperfective verbs with present and past continuous readings.

17. maa yuflihu qawmun muluukuhum dhuafaa   (present reading)
    neg.succeed people their bosses powerless
    "People with powerless bossesdo not succeed."

18. maa azra alzara litalibi alfadhla minh(past continuous reading)
    neg.plant seeds to seek reward   from it
    "I do not do good deeds for the sake of being rewareded."

maa can also negate the perfective verbs with past tense reading.

19. maa qatala aliyun rajulan(past reading)
    neg killed Ali   a man
    "Ali has not killed any man."

In all above examples, the negative particle *maa* is used with active verbs; the particle can also be used with passive verbs.

20. maa wulid(past passive verb)
    neg wasborn
    "He was not born."

3.1.4.2.*maa* in Verbless Sentences

The negative particle *maa*also negates verbless sentences; in this case, *maa* is followed by a noun or pronoun.

21. maa haatha bashara
    neg. this   human being
    "This is not mortal."

22. maa aliyun sadiqun
    neg. Ali   honest
    "Ali is not honest."

23. maa hu bisaadiqun
    neg. he honest
    "He is not honest."

24. maa anta qaatiu rahimin
    neg. you   severs kinship
    "You are not a person who severs the bond of kinship."

Before looking at other negative particles, it is worth mentioning that CA uses the pro-clitic "*sa-*" and the word "*sawfa*" to express futurity and only the negative particle *laa*can be used with future marker "*sawfa*".

25. alwaladu sawfa yazurana
    the boy will   visit us
    "The boy will visit us."

26. *alwaladu sawfa lan yazurana
    the boy   fut.   neg. visit us
    "The boy will not visit us."

27. *alwaladu lan sa-yazurana
    the boy   neg. fut-visit us
    "The boy will not visit us."

28. alwaladu **sawfa laa**yazurana
    the boy fut.   neg. visit us
    "The boy will not visit us."

29. *alwaladu laa sa-yazurana
    the boy   neg. fut-visit us
    "The boy will not visit us."

We could see from (26 and 27) that neither the future word "*sawfa*" nor the future pro-clitic "*sa-*" could be used with the negative particle "*lan*"; moreover,as (29) shows, the pro-clitic "*sa-*" is not used with the negative particle "*laa*"; it is only

the future word "*sawfa*" which is used with the negative particle "*laa*", as example (28) shows; (see fassi Fehri(1993)).

3. 1. 5. The Negative Particle *lamma*
The negative particle *lamma* occurs with imperfective verbs. It negates the action that took place in the past and continues to the time of speaking, (present perfect tense).

30. lamma yathuqu athaab
    neg   tast   torment
    "They have not yet tasted my punishment."

31. lamma yaqdhi maa amarahu
    neg. fulfills   what he ordered him
    "He has not fulfilled that which he has ordered him."

3. 1. 6. The Negative Particle *laysa*
The negative particle *laysa* occurs with verbless sentences. It differs from other negative particles in that it is the only verbal negative particle that, as other verbs, fully agrees with the subject when it follows it and partially agrees with the subject when it precedes the subject. Moreover, this negative particle is not required to be adjacent to the verb.

32. lays**at**albanaat mawjuudaatin
     neg.3fm the girlspresent
     "The girlsare not present."

33. albanaat lays**an**mawjuudaatin
     the girls neg.3fpl present
     "The girls are not present."

34. laysa min ahlik
     neg. from your family
     "He is not from your family."

We could see in (32) when the negative particle *laysa* precedes the subject *albanaat* "the girls", the negative particle partially agrees with the subject; this could be seen from use of the singular feminine clitic "*-at*"; whereas in (33) when the negative particle *laysa* follows the subject *albanaat* "the girls", the negative particle fully agrees with the subject; this could be seen from use of the plural feminine clitic "*-an*".In (34), *laysa* is followed by a prepositional phrase.

*Laysa*is also followed by verbal sentences.

35. laysat tazuuru illaa   fi al-dalaami
      neg. visit   except in the darkness
      "She does not visit except during darkness."

3. 1. 7. The Negative Particle *laat*

laat is a negative particle that functions as the negative particle *laysa* and usually comes after it one of the following words, *awaan*, *saah*, *heen*, *zaman*, *qhdaat*, and *lahdhat*; which all refer to time. It is sometimes accompanied by the *waaw* "و" which is referred to as the adverbial *waaw*.

36. fanadau walaat heen manaas
       called and neg. time escape
      "They cried (for mercy) when there was no longer time for being saved."

37. laat waqt lahu
      neg. time enjoyment
      "This is not an enjoyment time."

3. 1. 8. The Negative Particle *laam aljihuud*

The negative particle *laam aljihuud* negates imperfective verbs. it is used to give more emphasis for the negation; that is why it is always preceded by a negation particle, (*ma kaan …, lam yakun ….*, etc.)

38. lam yakun Allah l-iyuathibahum waant feehim
      neg. be   Allah   neg-torture them and you in them
      "But Allah was not to punish them whilst you are living in their midst."

39. maa kuntu l-ahmila tarbiyat awlaadi
      neg. be   neg.neglect raising up my children
      "I would not neglect raising my children."

3. 1. 9. The Negative Particle *in*
3.1.9.1. *in* in Verbal Sentences

The negative particle *in*is used to negateimperfective verbs with present and future readings.
40. in   yaquuluuna alaa kathiba   (present and future readings)
      neg. say   just lie
      "They say nothing but a lie."

It is also used to negate perfective verbs with past reading.
41. watadhinuun in labithtum alaa qaleelan   (past reading)
you think   neg. stay   except little
"You should think you have stayed but for a little."

3.1.9.2. *in* in Verbless Sentences

The negative particle *in* is also used with verbless sentences.

42. in anta alaa natheer

   neg. you except a warner

   "You are but a warner."

3. 1. 10. The Negative Particle *ghair*

The negative particle *ghair* negates nouns and adjectives. It carries the case of the element preceding it and assigns accusative case to what follows it. Moreover, when the negative particle *ghair* is followed by a definite element, it never absorbs the definiteness from that element.

43. thaalika waad**un**ghair**u**makthuub**in**

   that is   a promise.nom. neg.nom. belied.accus.

   "There is a promise not to be belied."

44. quul**an**ghair**a**allath**i** qeela lahum

   saying.accus. neg.accus. that   said to them

   "A book which is not the one which was delivered to them."

45. alrajul**u**ghair**u**almaaruuf**in**zaarana

   the man.nom.neg.nom.the known.accus. visited us

   "The unknown man visited us."

46. *alrajul**u**alghair**u**maaruuf**in**   zaarana

   the man.nom.the neg.nom. known.accus. visited us

   "The unknown man visited us."

We could see from (43) and (45) that the negative particle *ghair* carries the case of the element preceding it, a nominative case in (43) and (45) and an accusative case in (44); moreover, in all examples, the element following the negative particle *ghair* is assigned an accusative case. (46), compared to (45), is ungrammatical because the definite article *al* "the" of the element *maaruufin* "known" is absorbed by the negative particle *ghair*.

To recap, I have shown that CA has several negative particles, *laa* (لا), *lam* (لم), *lamma* (لما), *lan* (لن), *maa* (ما), *laysa* (ليس), *laat* (لات),*laam aljihuud* (لـ), *in* (إن), and *ghair* (غير). Moreover, I have examined the distribution and the use of each of these particles. As for *lam* (لم), *lamma* (لما), *lan* (لن), and *laam aljihuud* (لـ), they are all used with only verbal sentences; whereas, *laa* (لا),*maa* (ما), and*laysa* (ليس) are used with verbal and verbless sentences. As for the two negative particles *laat* (لات) and *ghair* (غير), the former functions as the negative particle *laysa* and negates nouns whereas the latter negates nouns and adjectives. Next, I give a description of the distribution of the various negative particles used in MSA.

3. 2. Negation Particles in MSA

Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is considered to be the standardized and literary variety of Arabic used in most printed matters including books, magazines, newspapers and official documents; and it is also used in most formal speech. This variety of Arabic, compared to CA, has only six negative particles:*laa* (لا), *lam* (لم), *lan* (لن), *maa* (ما), *laysa* (ليس), and *ghair* (غير). Next, I discuss the distribution of each of these particles.

3. 2. 1. The Negative Particle *laa*

3.2.1.1.*laa*in Verbal Sentences

As in CA, the negative particle *laa*in MSA occurs with imperfective forms of the verb in declarative and imperative sentences. It negates the imperfective verb with present reading.

47. alwaladu laa yihibu alhisaaba   (declarative)
    the boy   neg. lovesMaths
    "The boy does not love Maths."

48. laa taktub alaa alluuhi   (imperative)
     neg. write on   the blackboard
     "Do not right on the blackboard."

The negative particle *laa* is also used with passive verbs:

49. laa yuaaqab albareea
     neg.punishthe innocent
     "The innocentis not punished."

Moreover, *laa* can also be used with perfective verbs provided that the negative particle is repeated.

50. laa saqaah   wa laa tarak ahad yisqeeh
neg.watered it and neg.let   one water it
"He neither watered it nor let anyone water it."

3.2.1.2. *laa*in Verbless Sentences

laa also occurs in verbless sentences. In this case, *laa* is followed by a noun or pronoun.

51. laa   qawla illa qawluk
    neg. saying except your saying
    "There is no speech except yours."

52. laa   hatha wa laa thaak
    neg. this   and neg. that
    "It is neither this nor that."

3. 2. 2. The Negative Particle *lam*
As in CA, the negative particle *lam* occurs with imperfective verbs. It negates the imperfective verbs with past and perfect readings.

53. altaalibu lam yahdhur
    the student neg.attend
     "The student did not attend."

54. lam yasil bad
    neg. arrived yet
    "He has not arrived yet."

3. 2. 3. The Negative Particle *lan*
As in CA, the negative particle *lan* occurs with imperfective verbs. It negates the imperfective verbs with future reading.

55. lan yzuurana ahad
    neg. visit us one
   "No one will visit us."

As in CA, these three negative particles, *laa*, *lam* and *lan*, should be adjacent to the verb they negate. This explains the ungrammaticality of the following sentence:

56. *laa aliyun yaktubu
    neg. Ali write
     "Ali does not write."

57. *lam aliyun yaktubu
     neg. Ali   write
     "Ali did not write."

58. *lan aliyun yaktub
     neg. Ali   write
     "Ali will not write."

3. 2. 4. The Negative Particle *maa*
3.2.4.1. *maa*in Verbal Sentences
As in CA, the negative particle *maa* occurs with imperfective and perfective verbs. it negates imperfective verbs with present and past continuous readings.
59. maa yuhibu assafara
     neg.likes traveling
     "He does not like traveling."

60. maa ahabba tareeqatiha fi alhadeethi
      neg.liked her way   in speaking
     "He did not like her way of speaking."

The particle *maa* is also used with passive verbs.

61. *maa* wulid
      neg   wasborn
     "He was not born."

3.2.4.2.*maa* in Verbless Sentences

*maa*also negates verbless sentences; in this case, *maa* is followed by a noun or pronoun.

62. maa aliyun taalibun
      neg. Ali   a student
     "Ali is not a student."

63. maa hu bisaadiqin
      neg. he honest
     "He is not honest."

Before looking at other negative particles, it is worth mentioning that, as in CA, MSA uses the pro-clitic "*sa-*" and the word "*sawfa*" to express futurity and only the negative particle *laa* can be used with future marker "*sawfa*".

64. alwaladu sawfa ynaam
      the boy   will   sleep
     "The boy will sleep."

65. *alwaladu sawfa lan yanaam
       the boy   fut.   neg. sleep
      "The boy will not sleep."

66. *alwaladu lan sa-yanaam
       the boy   neg. fut-sleep
      "The boy will not sleep."

67. alwaladu sawfa laa yanaam
      the boy   fut.   neg. sleep
     "The boy will not sleep."

68. *alwaladu laa sa-yanaam
       the boy   neg. fut-sleep
      "The boy will not sleep."

We could see from (65 and 66) that neither the future word "*sawfa*" nor the future pro-clitic "*sa-*" could be used with the negative particle "*lan*"; moreover, as (68) shows, the pro-clitic "*sa-*" is not used with the negative particle "*laa*"; it is only the future word "*sawfa*" which is used with the negative particle "*laa*", as example (67) shows.

3. 2. 5. The Negative Particle *laysa*
3.2.5.1. *Laysa* in Verbal Sentences.
As in CA, the negative particle *laysa* occurs with verbless sentences and it differs from other negative particles in that it is the only verbal negative particle that fully agrees with the subject when it follows it and partially agrees with the subject when it precedes it. Moreover, this negative particle is not required to be adjacent to the verb.

69. lays**a**   alrijaalu   haadhiriina
       neg.3sm the men present
     "The men are not present."

70. alrijaalu lays**uu** haadhiriina
       the men neg.3plm present
     "The girls are not present."

71. laysa fi albaiti
       neg. from your family
     "He is not from your family."

We could see in (69) when the negative particle *laysa* precedes the subject *alrijaalu* "the men", the negative particle partially agrees with the subject; this could be seen from use of the singular feminine clitic "-*a*"; whereas in (70) when the negative particle *laysa* follows the subject *alrijaalu* "the men", the negative particle fully agrees with the subject; this could be seen from use of the plural feminine clitic "-*uu*". In (71), *laysa* is followed by a prepositional phrase.

Laysa is also followed by verbal sentences.

72. laysayakheeb alli yaamalu
 neg.   disappointed who works
"The one who works hard will not be disappointed."

3. 2. 6. The Negative Particle *ghair*
As in CA, the negative particle *ghair*negates nouns and adjectives. It carries the case of the element preceding it and assigns accusative case to what follows it. Moreover, when the negative particle *ghair* is followed by a definite element, it never absorbs the definiteness from that element.

73. albaab**u** ghair**u**mughlaq**in**
    the door neg.   closed
    "The door is not closed.."

74. kitaab**u**ghair**u**   allath**i** ishtaraytdhaa
a boo.nom.   neg.nom.that   bought   lost
    "A book not the one I bought is lost."

75. alrajul**u**ghair**u**   almughalaf**i**fuqid
    thebook.nom. neg.nom.the covered lost
    "Thebook which is not covered is lost."

76. *alrajul**u**   alghair**u**   mughalaf**i** fuqid
     thebook.nom.the neg.nom. covered   lost
     "Thebook which is not covered is lost."

We could see from (73) that the negative particle *ghair* carries the case of the element preceding it; moreover, the element following the negative particle *ghair* is assigned an accusative case. (76), compared to (75), is ungrammatical because the definite article *al* "the" of the element *mughalaf* "covered" is absorbed by the negative particle *ghair*.

To recap, as in CA, I have shown that MSA has six negative particles, *laa* (لا), *lam* (لم), *lan* (لن), *maa* (ما), *laysa* (ليس), and *ghair* (غير). Moreover, I have examined the distribution and the use of each of these particles. As for *lam* (لم) and*lan* (لن), they are all used with only verbal sentences; whereas, *laa* (لا),*maa* (ما), and*laysa* (ليس) are used with verbal and verbless sentences. As for the negative particle*ghair* (غير), it negates nouns and adjectives.

To recap, in this section, I have given a description of the distribution of negative particles in CA and MSA. I have shown thatthere are ten negative particles in CA,:*laa* (لا), *lam* (لم), *lamma* (لما), *lan* (لن), *maa* (ما), *laysa* (ليس), *laat* (لات), *laamaljihuud* (ـل), *in* (إن), and *ghair* (غير); whereas in MSA, there are only six negative particles, *laa* (لا), *lam* (لم), *lan* (لن), *maa* (ما), *laysa* (ليس), and *ghair* (غير). Next, I give a description of the distribution of the various negative particles used in Saudi Northern Region Dialect of Arabic (SNRDA).

4. Negation in SNRDA
Compared to CA and MSA, SNBDA hasonly two negative particles*laa* (لا) and*maa* (ما). That is to say, the dialect does not use any of the CA or MSA negative particles*lam* (لم), *lamma* (لما), *lan* (لن), *laysa* (ليس), *laat* (لات), *laam aljihuud* (ـل), *in* (إن) and *ghair* (غير).Next, the distribution of each of these particles is discussed.

4. 1. The Negative Particle *laa*
4.1.1. *laa* in Verbal Sentences
One of the negative particles used by speakers of SNRDAto negate verbal sentences is the negative particle *laa*. Recall that this negative particle in CA and MSA is used with imperfective verbs in declarative and imperative sentences; and it is also used with perfective verbs provided that it is repeated;in this dialect,*laa* isalso used with both imperfective and perfective verbs. However, in SNRDA, with imperfective verbs, speakers use itonlyin the imperative sentences; it negates the imperfective verbs with present and future readings.

77. laa taktib ala aljidaar   (present reading)
     neg. write on the wall
   "Do not write on the wall."
   "Stop writing on the wall."
  *"You do not write on the wall."
78. laa tkalimhum   bukra(future reading)
     neg. talk to them tomorrow
   "Do not talk to them tomorrow."
   *"You do not talk to them tomorrow."

We could see from (77 and 78) that there is only imperative interpretation for the sentences; declarative interpretation renders the sentences ungrammatical.

Moreover, the negative particle *laa*is also used with passive verbs.

79. laa   yuukal
     neg. eatable
   "Not to be eaten."
  *"It is not eaten."

Again, (79) shows that the sentence with declarative interpretation is not accepted.

However, speakers of this dialect use the negative particle*laa*in declarative sentences provided that the negative particle *laa* is repeated (double negative particle constructions).

80. laa   yaakil wa laa yashrab
     neg. eats   and neg. drinks
   "He is neither eats nor drinks."

In double negative particle constructions, the negative particle *laa* also negates past participle verbs with future reading. In this case, *laa* is optionally followed by a pronoun which agrees with the past participle verb in gender, person and number. Moreover, optionally, a long distant regressive harmony process takes

place in which the long vowel "aa" in the negative particle *laa* assimilates to and becomes the same type of the vowel in the pronoun; (a regressive vowel harmony is attested in Palesinian Arabic Kenstowicz (1981) and Abu-Salim (1987); and after the regressive assimilatory process takes place, the pronoun canbe deleted.

81. laa hu jaay wlaa hu raayih
    lu (hu) jaay wlu(hu) raayih
    neg. he coming and neg. he going
   "He is neither coming nor leaving."

82. laa hi jaayah walaa hi raayha
    li (hi)jaayah wali (hi) raayha
    neg. she coming and neg. she going
   "She is neither coming nor leaving."

Here is a table showing the negative particle *laa* and the pronouns that follow it and the result of the harmony process that takes place.
Table (1): the negative particle*laa* and the pronounfollows it and the harmony processes:

The pronoun	The meaing	The negative particle and the pronoun	After the harmony process takes place
ana	"I"	laa-ana	laa-ni *li-ni[1]
hina	"we"	laa-hina	laa-hina *li-hina
int	"you" 2sg.masc	laa-int	li-nt
inti	"you" 2sg.f	laa-inti	li-nti
intam	"you" pl.masc	laa-intam	li-ntam
intin	"you" pl.masc	laa-intin	li-ntin
hu	"he"	laa-hu	lu-hu
hi	"she"	laa-hi	li-hi
hum	"they" masc	laa-hum	lu-hum
hin	"they" f	laa-hin	li-hin

The dialect uses the word *rah*to express futurity. In this case, the negative particle *laa*always precedes the future marker *rah*.

83. rah ysaafir
    fut. travel
   "He will travel."

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[1] It is only when the pronouns *ana* "I" and *hina* "we" follow the negative particle *laa*, the harmony process does not take place.

84. laa rah ysaafir walaa shay
    neg. fut. travel and neg. anything
  "He will neither travel nor do anything."

85. *rah laa   ysaafir walaa shay
    fut. neg. travel and neg. anything
    "He will neither travel nor do anything."

Moreover, speakers of SNRDA use words like *umr* and *qad* to express perfect tense. The negative particle *laa* comes before these two words.

86. ali laa   umr-ih[2] tikalam walaa umr-ih qaal shay
    Ali neg. age-ih   talked   and neg. age-ih said anything
    "Ali has never talked or said anything."

87. ali laa   qad tikalam walaa qad qaal shay
    Ali neg. qad talked   and neg. qad said anything
    "Ali has never talked or said anything."

Recall that in CA and MSA, the negative particle *laa* is used with perfective verbs provided that it is repeated, (double negative particle constructions); in this dialect, the negative particle *laa* is not only used with perfective verbs provided that it is repeated, (double negative particle constructions); it is also used with perfective verbs without the need for repeating the negative particle; this is when expressing dissatisfaction or carelessness of an action that took place in the past; in this case, the negative particle and the perfective verb are always accompanied by another sentence or a phrase like *aquul* "I say that" and *jialak* "I hope that". That is to say, in SNRDA, the negative particle *laa* and the perfective verb are not attested as a sentence standing by their own.

88. laa nijahwa laarisab
    neg.passed and neg.failed
    "He neither passed nor failed."

89. *laa   nijaht
    neg. passed
    "You did not pass."

90. alibn: yubah, maa nijaht,risabt bthalaath mawaad.
the son: dad,   neg. passed , failed in three   courses
"Dad, I did not pass; I failed three courses."

Alab:benama hu mutadaayiq; aquul laa nijaht

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[2] A clitic like "*-ih*" which agrees with the subject in number and gender always appears attached to the word "*umr*" whenever the subject precedes the word "*umr*".

the father while   he upset, I sayneg. passed
"I do not carethat you do not pass."

In (88), thenegative particle *laa*is repeated. In (89), it is not repeated, therefore, the ungrammaticality of this sentence is not surprising. However, in (90), the negative particle *laa*is not repeated, yet, the sentence is still grammatical; that is because of the use of *aquul* "I say that" which means "I do not care that".

Moreover, the negative particle *laa* appears with the negative particle *maa* in double negative particle constructions. In this case, the negative particle *maa* always comes first.

91. maa yaktib wa   laa yaqra
      neg. writes and neg. read
      "He neither writes nor reads."

92. *laa yaktib wa maa yaqra
       neg. writes and neg. read
      "He neither writes nor reads."

4.1.2. *laa* with Verbless Sentences

As in CA and MA, the negative particle *laa* also occurs in verbless sentences. The difference between *laa* in CA and MSA and *laa* in this dialect is that *laa* in this dialect first never appears in a verbless sentence followed by a noun[3]; it is followed by apronoun or by words like *yuujad* or *hnaak* "there". Again, when *laa* is followed by a pronoun, optionally, the long distant regressive harmony process takes. Again, the construction is ungrammatical unless it is used in double negative particle constructions. In constructions in which the negative particle *laa*is followed by words like *yuujad*or *hnaak*"there", the sentence is not required to be in a double negative particle construction.

93. laa yuujad rajaal balbait
      neg. there a man in the house
      "There is no man in the house."

94. *laa rajaal balbait
      neg. a man in the house
      "There is no man in the house."

95. laa (hu) mhaamiwalaa (hu) doctuur

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[3] There is only one case in which the negative particle is followed by a noun; this is when uttering the testimony *laa ilaah illa Allah* "there is not no God but Allah".

lu (hu) mhammi w   lu (hu) doctuur
neg. he lawyerand not (he) a doctor
"He is neither a lawyer nor a doctor."

96. laa (hu) rajaal walaa (hu) maraa
     lu   (hu) rajaal w   lu   (hu) maraa
       neg. he a man and neg. hea woman
    "He is neither a man nor a woman."

97. *laa (hu)mhaami
     lu   (hu) mhaani
      neg. he mhammi
      "He is not a lawyer."

The grammatical sentence(93) compared to the sentence (94) shows thethe obligatory presence of the word*hnaak* "there". In (95 and 96), the negative particle *laa* is used in double negative particle constructions; we could see the pronoun *hu* "he"is used and the harmony process between the vowel of the negative particle *laa* and the vowel of the pronoun optionally takes place.(97) shows that the use of the negative particle *laa*in non-doublenegative particle constructions renders the sentence ungrammatical.

Moreover, the negative *laa*appears with the indefinite noun *had* "one"; and with the word *aad*[4].

98. laa had yiji   (imperative)
     neg. one come
      "No one should come."

99. laaaad yiji   (imperative)
     neg. aad come
      "Heshould no longer come."

To recap, in non-double negative particle constructions, the negative particle *laa* in SNBDA is only used with imperatives; and to be used with declarativesentences, the negative *laa* should be repeated (double negative particle constructions).There is an optional pronoun following the negative particle in verbless sentences; a harmony process between the long vowel "aa" of the negative particle *laa* and the vowel of the pronoun optionally takesplace in which the long vowel assimilates to and becomes the same type of the vowel of the pronoun. Next, the negative particle *maa* is discussed.

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[4] aad is considered as a polarity item.

4. 2. The Negative Particle *maa*
4.2.1. *maa* **in Verbal Sentenes**
The second negative particle used in SNBDA is the negative particle *maa*. As in CA and MSA, *maa* is used with imperfective and perfective verbs. it is used in declarative sentences negatingverbs with present, past, perfect and future readings.

100. maa ytikalam   (present)
    neg. speaks
   "He does not speak."

101. maa jaa   (past)
    neg. came
   "He did not come."

102. maa khalas ilaa alaan   (perfect)
    neg. finished till now
   "He has not finished yet."

103. maa yshaarik   balhefl(future)
    neg. participate in the festival
   "He will not participate in the festival."

The negative particle*maa* is also used to express imperatives with implicit warning.In this case, the negative particle *maa* is followed by the pronoun hu[5];

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[5] The same pronoun "*hu*" is used with masculine, feminine, singular and plural.

intabhi,   maa hu taktibeen

watch out.f.s, neg. hu write.f.s.

"Watch out, you should not write."

intabhin,   maa hu taktibin

watch out.f.pl. neg. hu write.f.pl

"Watch out, you should not write."

and as in the case of the negative particle *laa*, optionally, a long distant regressive harmony process between the negative particle and the pronoun takes place and the pronoun is optionally deleted.

104. intibih, maa (hu) taktib alaa aljdaar
  intibih,   mu (hu) taktib alaa aljdaar
watch out neg. hu write on   the wall
"Watch out, you should not write on the wall.'

As in the case of *laa*, the negative particle *maa* is also used with passive verbs.

105. ma   yuukal
     neg. eatable
     "It is not eaten."

Again, as in the case of *laa*, the negative particle *maa* also negates past participle verbs with future reading. In this case, contrary to *laa*, the *maa* is obligatorily followed by a pronoun which can be deleted provided that the harmony process takes place.

106. maa hu jaay
     mu (hu) jaay
     neg. he coming
     "He is not coming."

107. maa hi jaayah
     mi (hi) jaayah.s.f.
     neg. she coming
     "She is not coming."

The negative particle *maa* also precedes the future marker *rah*.
108. rah ysaafir
     fut. travels
     "He will travel."

109. maa rah ysaafir
     neg. fut. travels
     "He will not travel."

110. *rah maa ysaafir
     fut. neg. travels
     "He will not travel."

And it also appears before the words *umr* and *qad*.

111. maa umrih tikalam
     neg. age Ali talk
     "Hehas never talked."

112. maa qad tikalam
     neg. qad Ali talk
     "He never talked."

More interestingly, a clause in SNRDA can have more than one negative particles; in this case, one negative cancels the other out and the sentence becomes positive.

113. kint ahib assifar
     was love traveling
     "I used to love traveling."
114. maa kint ahib assifar
     neg. was love traveling
     "I did not use to love traveling."

115. kint maa ahib assifar
     was neg. love traveling
     "I did not use to love traveling."

116. maa kint maa ahib assifar
     neg. was neg. love traveling
     "I did not use to not loving traveling." (I really used to love it.)

In (114), we could see that the negative particle *maa* precedes the verb *kint* "was" and the verb *ahib* "love"; in (115), the negative particle *maa* follows the verb *kint* "was" preceding the *ahib* "love"; as the English gloss shows, in both sentences (114) and (115), the interpretation is the same; they are interpreted as negative. On the contrary, in (116), the negative particles appears twice; one negative particle appears before the verb *kint* "was" and another one before the verb *ahib* "love"; we could see that the sentence is interpreted as positive.

4.2.2. *maa* in Verbal Sentenes
As in CA and MSA, the negative particle *maa* also occurs in verbless sentences.The difference between *maa* in CA and MSA and *maa* in this dialect is that *maa* in this dialect never appears in a verbless sentence followed by a noun. Moreover, contrary to *laa*used in this dialect, the negative particle *maa* is followed by an obligatory pronoun. When *maa* is followed by a pronoun, optionally, the long distant regressive harmony process takes place and the pronoun can be deleted after the harmony process takes place.

117. maa hu mhaami
     mu (hu) mhammi
     neg. he lawyer
     "He is not a lawyer."

118. maa hi qadhiyya
     mi (hi) a problem
     neg. it a problem
     "It is not a problem."

119. maa hi haqitak
     mi (hi) haqitak
     neg. it yours
     "It is not yours."

120. *maa ali mideer   (*maa* is never followed by a noun)
      neg. Ali manager
      "Ali is not a manager."

Here is a table showing the negative particle *maa* and the pronouns that follow it and the result of the harmony process that takes place.

Table (2): the negative particle*maa* and the pronounfollows it and the harmony processes:

The pronoun	The meaing	The negative particle and the pronoun	After the harmony process takes place
ana	"I"	maa-ana	maa-ni *mi-ni[6]
hina	"we"	maa-hina	maa-hina *mi-hina
int	"you" 2sg.masc	maa-int	mi-nt
inti	"you" 2sg.f	maa-inti	mi-nti
intam	"you" pl.masc	maa-intam	ma-ntam
intin	"you" pl.masc	maa-intin	mi-ntin
hu	"he"	maa-hu	mu-hu
hi	"she"	maa-hi	mi-hi

---

[6] As in the case of *laa*, it is only when the pronouns *ana* "I" and *hina* "we" follow the negative particle *maa*, the harmony process does not take place.

hum	"they" masc	maa-hum	mu-hum
hin	"they" f	maa-hin	mi-hin

Moreover, as in the case of the negative particle *laa*, the negative *maa* appears with the indefinite noun *had* "one" and with the word *aad*.

121. maa had hina
    neg. one here
   "No one is here."

122. maa aad yiji
     neg. aad comes
     "He no longer comes."

The negative particle *maa* is also used in sentences with double negative particles. In this case, the second negative particle is always *laa*.
123. maa hu mhaami walaa/*maa daras mhamaah
     neg. he lawyer   and neg. studies law
    "He is neither a lawyer nor he studied law"

124. maa tahark walaa/*maa) naam
     neg. moved and neg. slept
     "He has neither moved nor slept."

Before concluding this section, although the speakers of SNRDA do not use the negative particle *ghair*,they use the negative particle *maa*or the variant that results from the harmony process in places where *ghair* is used, in verbless sentences and inside the noun phrase.

125. arrajaal (maa hu/mu) taweel.   (in verbless sentence)
     the man neg. he   tall
     "The man is not tall."

126. rajaal maa hu/mu ali wisal   (inside the noun phrase)
      a man neg. he   Ali arrived
     "A man not Ali arrived."

What is interesting is that, contrary to CA and MSA, when *maa*andthe pronoun or the variant resulted from them is used inside a definite noun phrase preceding a definite adjective, *alli* "who/that" is used before themleaving the adjective without a definite article or the definite article *al-* "the" attached onto the adjective is observed by the negative particle.
127. al-rajaal al-taweel wasal
      the-man the-tall   arrived

"The tall man arrived."

128. al-rajaal alli maa hu/mu taweel wisal
       the-man whoneg. he   tall   arrived
       "The tall man who is not tall arrived."

129. al-rajaal al-maa hu/mu taweel wisal
       the-man who-neg. he   tall   arrived
       "The tall man who is not tall arrived."

We could see that, in (127), the definite article *al-* "the" is attached onto the adjective *taweel* "tall"; when the negative particle *maa*or its variant isused in (128) and (129) respectively, *alli* "who" or the definite article*al-* "the" is used before*maa* or *mu*leaving the adjective without a definite article.

To recap, the negative particle *maa* in SNBDA is used with perfective and imperfective verbs. it negates verbs with present, past, perfect and future readings. It is also used with verbless sentences; in this case, an obligatory pronoun follows the negative particle; and as in the case of the negative particle *laa*, an optional harmony process between the long vowel "aa" of the negative particle *maa* and the vowel of the pronoun takes place; and then the pronoun is deleted optionally.Moreover, *maa* functions as the negative particle *ghair*; it appears in verbless sentences or inside the noun phrases.

To recap, this section shows that SNRDA has only two negative particles*laa* and*maa*.Both negative particles occur in verbal and verbless sentences. As for the negative particle *laa*, it is used with perfective and imperfective verbs; and it is mainly used with the imperative. With declarative sentences, the particle *laa*should be repeated (double negative particle constructions). As for the negative particle *maa*, as with the negative particle *laa*, it is used with perfective and imperfective verbs. it negates verbs with present, past, perfect and future readings. Both particles*laa* and *maa* appear in verbless sentences; in this case, a pronoun not a noun follow them; in the case of *laa*, the pronoun is optional; whereas, it is obligatory in *maa*. A harmony process takes place in which the long vowel in these two negative particles assimilates to and becomes the same type of the vowel in the pronoun; and when the harmony process takes place, the pronoun can be deleted. Moreover, *maa* functions as the negative particle*ghair*, itappears in verbless sentences or inside the noun phrase. Contrary to CA and MSA, inside a definite noun phrase, *alli* "who/that" or the definite article *al-* "the" is used before the negative particle*maa* leaving the element following the negative particlewithout a definite article. Finally, we have seen that, in certain positions, the two negative particles can be used interchangeably without any change in sentence meaning.

5. Conclusion

This paper hasprovided a description of the distribution of negation particles used in Saudi Northern Region Dialect of Arabic (SNRDA). The SNRDA data discussed here, compared to Classical Arabic (CA) which has ten negative particles and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) which has only six negative particles, have shown that there are only two negative particles used in this dialect *laa* and *maa*; and those two negative particles can be used in verbal and verbless sentences. In verbal sentences, the negative particle *laa*is used mainly with imperatives in non-doubled negative particle constructions; to be used in declarative sentences, the negative particle *laa*needs to be repeated, (double negative particle constructions). On the contrary, the negative particle*maa*, is used with imperative and declarative sentences.Moreover, in some cases, these two particles are alsoused interchangeably without any change in sentence meaning. In verbless sentences, contrary to CA and MSA, neither *laa* nor *maa* can be followed by a noun; however,*laa* is optionally followed by a pronoun; whereas, *maa* is obligatorily followed by a pronoun.; moreover, there are variants of the negative particles*laa* and *maa* like *lu, mu, li, mi*, etcthat areresulted from a harmony process that takes place between the long vowel of the negative particle *laa or maa* and the vowel of the pronoun followingit.After this detailed description of the negative particles used in SNRDA, the question which needs to be addressed right now is where in the syntax these negative particles are. The answer forthis question will be left for future work.

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