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NEGATION AS A CATEGORY AND ITS REALISATION AT DIFFERENT LANGUAGE LEVELS

Summary. The article explores the category of negation in author's discourse as a phenomenon which has not been sufficiently researched yet. Negation is seen as a complex and multidimensional category both in logic and linguistics. According to L. Hidalgo Downing, negation has been widely discussed by philosophers, psychologists, and linguists for centuries. Negation is one of the main philosophical categories that together with time, space and number represent basic characteristics of the material world. As a logic category, negation 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 creates a pairing category with it. By means of negation, the validity of a statement can be rejected or restricted and affirmative utterance may in fact have negative meaning, and vice versa. All the components of the field are divided into affixal and non-affixal negators, where non-affixal negators are represented as multilevel system and take a core position. The means of expressing negation as a grammatical category are hierarchically organized in a system of heterogeneous language units combined by a similar semantic function. The authors suggest that the category functions at three levels: morphological, lexical, and syntactic. On the morphological language level is represented in the form of affixes, which have explicit and implicit components of negation in their semantics. Double or complex negation, called multiple negation, and the presence of two negative words in a clause referred to as a double negation is also investigated in this study. Multiple negation in the language competence is realized through affirmative and negative statements, where in the former double negative equals a positive, and the latter double negative equals a negative. Interestingly, in general discourse the use of multiple negation takes place in very rare cases and double negation is completely omitted in order not to destroy the friendliness of the message. Therefore, having analyzed language levels at which negation is realized we conclude that the category of negation possesses a considerable set of means which in accordance with a certain level of the language hierarchy conveys the grammatical meaning of negation.

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

Problem statement. The category of negation is a complex and multifaceted issue in the sphere of logic as well as in the field of linguistics that has not received sufficient attention in the latest scholarly investigations.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The category of negation can be examined in various ways. According to L. Hidalgo Downing, negation is one of the major controversial issues discussed by philosophers (Aristotle, I. Kant), psychologists (B. Russell) and linguists (O. Jespersen, Sir R. Quirk, D. Bolinger) for centuries [1], [2, p. 152]. Through negation the validity of the statement is rejected or restricted. According to R. Quirk and S. Greenbaum, all the linguistic means of expressing negation may be divided into:

1. Full negatives, rejecting the validity of (or part of) the statement, like 'no, not, never, neither';
2. Partial negatives, restricting the validity of (or part of) the statement, like 'hardly, rarely, least, few';
3. Implied negatives, like 'avoid, fail, prevent, disregard, unable' [3, p. 221].

Objective. The objective of the article is to investigate the category of negation at different language levels, i.e. morphological, lexical, and syntactic.

Main findings. To describe thoroughly this hierarchically organized system of the means of expressing negation primarily we should examine the simplest morphological level of expressing negation in a sentence and the peculiarities of their functioning there.

One of the most commonly used means of expressing negation in English is negative affixes: *non-, un-, in-* (with its variants *il-, im-, ir-*), *dis-, de-, mis-, anti-* and the suffix *-less*. These morphemes represent a very active instrument in the word-building of the Modern English language. They are notable examples as they correspond to the system of affixes connected by negative semantics and can take part in forming negative antonyms. The meaning of negative morphemes depends on the root morphemes and the grammatical classes to which the words with negative affixes belong.

In present-day linguistics there are some discrepancies with regard to determining the paradigm structure of negative affixes.

Such distinctions are determined by the polysemy of the English lexeme “negative” and a relative unambiguity of the noun “negation”. In the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary one can find five core components in the lexeme “negative”:

1. expressing refusal or denial;
2. a) lacking in helpful qualities or characteristics;
b) harmful;
3. indicating that a substance or condition is not present;
4. less than zero;
5. containing or producing the type of electric charge carried by an electron.

At least four of these are widely used in linguistic terminology, i.e. negative morpheme, negative connotation, negative prefix.

Therefore, taking into consideration the five above mentioned lexical meanings of the adjective “negative”, we may suggest that there are different lexical shades of negation which are expressed with the help of certain negative affixes. That is why it is appropriate to classify the negative affixes according to the criteria of the core lexical component of negation:

- affixes with the semantic component of refusal: *re-*, *de-* (*repulse*, *refuse*, *deny*) [4, p. 278];
- affixes with the semantic component of absence or lack of a quality: *a*, *un-*, *in-*, *il-*, *ir-*, *im-*, *-less*, *non-* (*unknown*, *imperfect*, *helpless*, *apolitical*) [4, p. 278];
- affixes with the semantic component of “bad” and “falsehood”: *mis-*; *mal-*; *pseudo-* (*misspell*, *pseudogothic*, *malcontent*) [4, p. 278];
- affixes with the semantic component of reverse order: *un-*, *de-*, *dis-* (*unbind*, *dequalify*) [4, p. 279];
- affixes with the semantic component of opposition: *counter-*, *contr-*, *anti-* (*contradict*, *counterpart*) [4, p. 279].

Thus, expectedly, semantic shades of negation correspond to the main meaning components of the lexeme “negative”.

In summary, it has been shown that the category of negation on the morphological language level is represented in the form of affixes, which have explicit and implicit components of negation in their semantics.

In reviewing the literature on the issue of the category of negation in Modern English, researchers explore this category at the lexical level. This suggests that while studying the negative words, it is necessary to determine their parts of speech.

The means of expressing negation at the lexical level are illustrated by:

- Negative particles (not, no);
- Negative pronouns (nobody, nothing, no one);
- Negative adverbs (never, rarely, hardly);
- Negative conjunctions (neither...nor).

Negative adverbs such as *seldom*, *rarely*, *scarcely*, *hardly*, *barely*, *little* and *few* are positive in form are negative in meaning. The existence of the semantic negator in their meaning can be clearly seen in one the examples based on their definitions: *seldom*, and *rarely* (adverbs meaning ‘not often’); *scarcely* and *hardly* (adverbs meaning ‘only just’/‘no longer than’); *little* (determiner or adverb meaning ‘not much’).

Additionally, being the most frequent word for negation in English, the full negative ‘not’ is said to play the key role in expressing negation on the lexical level.

‘No’ expresses negation of the noun-denoted phenomenon and, therefore, does not or can hardly ever combine with other determin-

ers. There are no restrictions as to its co-occurrence with Countable/Uncountable or Singular/Plural.

Negative declarative sentences are the standard from the expressing negation. The scope of negation is determined by the position of the operator of negation relative to the verb and by the boundary of the sentence constituent.

Having analyzed the negation realized at language levels, it is important to mention that the category of negation possesses a considerable amount of means that depending on a certain level of the language hierarchy convey the grammatical meaning of negation.

Turning now to the phenomenon of multiple negation, it is necessary to define it. Double or more complex negation is called multiple negation, and the presence of two negative words in a clause is referred to as a double negation. Double negation is a rule of inference pertaining to the not-operator. It states that when two not-operators cancel each other out, leaving the statement they have been applied to unchanged. When we take a statement and apply two not-operators to it, we’ll just have a very complicated way of saying this statement, because the meaning of the sentence will not change [5, p. 172].

As Quirk suggests, in some dialects of English, clauses containing two negative words may be used to express a negative meaning. The author provides the following examples:

I’m not saying nothing about it. He never told nobody the secret [5, p. 224].

While the use of the double and even triple negation is considered to be normative in Ukrainian, in Standard English its use is grammatically incorrect.

The examples mentioned above demonstrate how the double negation can be eliminated by omitting or altering one of the negative words. Thus, the meaning of the first example could be correctly expressed by either of the following sentences:

I’m saying nothing about it.

I’m not saying anything about it [6, p. 425].

Similarly, the meaning of the second example could be correctly expressed by either of the following sentences:

He told nobody the secret.

He never told anybody the secret [6, p. 425].

In English there are expressions which have a double form according to whether they are used independently or with a negative conjunction. For instance, two sentences *there was nothing* and *there wasn’t anything* have the same meaning, although two different adverbs, *nothing* and *anything*, have to be used [7]. This fact can be proved by their Ukrainian translations, for both the sentences it is the same: *не було нічого*. The same pattern occurs for *nobody* - *anybody*, *never* – *ever*, *nowhere* – *anywhere*, etc.

Blanchette et al. suggest more examples to support the view of how languages allow double negation. Researchers introduce experimental data exploring the role of syntax and speaker intent in shaping the perception and interpretation of English sentences with two negatives [8].

Thus far, the literature identifies that double negation in Modern English among is the most popular form of multiple negation though its usage is not grammatically correct and is common only for some English dialects. The double negative in a sentence of can be treated in two ways and it is stated that the double negative equals a positive.

The second approach towards the double negative is quite opposite, and according to it the double negative equals a negative. In fact, multiple negatives have been used to convey negative meaning in English since the 10th century, and throughout the centuries, this form of the double negative was wholly acceptable. Thus, G. Chaucer in *The Canterbury Tales* could say for Friar:

"*Ther nas no nowher so virtuous,*" having meant "*There was no man so virtuous anywhere,*" and Shakespeare could allow Viola in *Twelfth Night* to say of her heart,

"*Nor never none / Shall mistress of it be, save I alone,*" by which she meant that no one except herself would ever be mistress of her heart [9, p. 170]. In our research we analyzed the frequency of the usage of negators in the *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer:

Table 1
Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer: Frequency of Negators

№	negator	frequency	percentage
1	nat	454	24, 6%
2	no	444	24%
3	ne	376	20, 3%
4	nevere	138	7,47%
5	noon	130	7, 04%
6	never	26	1, 4%
7	nought	119	6, 44%
8	neither	119	6, 44%
9	nothyng	17	0, 92%
10	nowher	8	0, 43%
11	not	7	0, 37%
12	none	7	0, 37%

It is important to mention that in general discourse the use of multiple negation takes place in very rare cases. Moreover, double negation is completely omitted in order not to destroy the friendliness of the message.

Conclusion and prospects for further research. Having analyzed the theoretical implications that reflect already raised important questions the field of negation studies and having formulated our own vision of the problem, it is possible to make the following conclusions. The results of this study indicate that the surface level the utterance may be affirmative while the deep level may be negative and vice versa. All the components of the field are divided into affixal and nonaffixal negators, where nonaffixal negators are represented as multilevel system and take a core position. The means of expressing negation as a grammatical category are hierarchically organized in a system of heterogeneous language units combined by a similar semantic function. In the traditional system, they function at three levels:

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

The research has also shown that the double or complex negation is called multiple negation, and two negative words in a clause refer to as a double negation. Multiple negation in the language 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.

Overall, this study strengthens the idea that 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 creates a pairing category with it.

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Пасічник Н., Сизенко А., Павленко О. Реалізація категорії негачії на різних мовних рівнях

Анотація. Запропонована стаття є дослідженням категорії негачії в авторському дискурсі як феномена, який ще недостатньо досліджений. Категорія негачії є дуже складним і багатоаспектним питанням як у сфері логіки, так і в сфері лінгвістики. На думку Л. Ідальго Даунінг, негачія є одним із головних дискусійних питань, яке обговорюють філософи (Арістотель, І. Кант), психологи (Б. Рассел) і лінгвісти (О. Джесперсен, сер Р. Квірк, Д. Болінджер) протягом століть. Через заперечення дійсність твердження відхиляється або обмежується. Справа в тому, що на поверхневому рівні висловлювання може бути ствердним, а на глибинному – заперечним, і навпаки. Встановлено, що всі компоненти поля поділяються на афіксальні та неафіксальні негатори, серед яких неафіксальні негатори мають багаторівневу систему та займають ядрову позицію. Засоби вираження негачії як граматичної категорії становлять ієрархічно організовану систему різномірних мовних одиниць, об'єднаних подібною семантичною функцією. Автори доводять, що можна виділити три рівні його функціонування: морфологічний; лексичний; синтаксичні. У розвідці також досліджується подвійна або більш складна негачія, яке називається множинною негачією, а наявність двох заперечних слів у реченні називається подвійною негачією. Додається, що множинна негачія в мовній компетенції реалізується у стверджувальних і заперечних висловлюваннях. У першому випадку подвійний мінус дорівнює плюсу.

У другому випадку подвійний мінус дорівнює негачії. Таким чином, негачія є однією з основних філософських категорій, такою як час, простір і кількість, які представляють основні характеристики матеріального світу. Негачія як логічне поняття є вираженням негативних відношень між поняттями за допомогою спеціальних мовних засобів. У мові, як і в об'єктивній дійсності, негачія співвідноситься зі ствердженням і складає з ним

парну категорію. Отже, проаналізувавши мовні рівні, на яких реалізується негачія, можна зазначити, що категорія негачії має значний набір засобів, які відповідно до певного рівня мовної ієрархії передають граматичне значення негачії.

Ключові слова: категорія негачії, парадигма негачії, подвійна негачія, складна негачія, множинна негачія, діалектична єдність, ствердження.