

A Contrastive Syntactic Analysis of Double Negation in Standard English and Central Kurdish

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ABSTRACT

This study presents a contrastive syntactic analysis of double negation in Standard English and Central Kurdish. It focuses on how the two languages structure double negation and what functions do they have. The contrastive analysis adopted in this research explores the similarities and differences between English and Kurdish languages. In Standard English, strict grammar rules usually do not allow double negatives because they think it is incorrect or a feature of a non-standard dialect. While in Kurdish, double negatives are often acceptable and can even be a normal part of the language. The findings show that there are considerable number of similarities and differences between English and Kurdish. This research contributes to the field of contrastive linguistics by showing how cross-linguistic variation in the rules governing negation can influence patterns of language acquisition and usage. This paper demonstrates the significance of cross-linguistic analysis and highlights the usefulness of contrastive studies in applied linguistics by

examining the structure and function of double negation in both languages.

Introduction

Negation constitutes a fundamental component of linguistic structure, enabling speakers to express contradiction, denial, or falsity of propositions. Negation is a feature of all languages, but the way it is expressed in syntax varies a lot from one language to another. When it comes to studying grammar, the double negative is one of the most interesting types, especially when looking at it from contrastive linguistics perspectives. The point of this study is to look at how double negation is used in Standard English and Kurdish, two languages that handle it very differently. Standard English does not allow double negation. It is commonly assumed that sentences like *I do not know nothing* are wrong because they do not follow the rule of logical negation, which says that two negatives should cancel each other out to make a positive meaning (Biber, et al., 1999:179). On the other hand, double negation is not only correct in Kurdish, it is often required. In Kurdish, you can say, for instance, “Hič kasêkim nadî” “I did not see anybody,” which is not only correct but also necessary to get the negative message across.

Double negation is a distinctive and frequently controversial part of the syntax of Standard English. It has a strange status: the use of multiple negative elements to express a single negation, known as ‘Negative Concord’. However, it is completely against the formal syntactic rules that govern Standard English. While, Kurdish allows and often uses negative concord, which is when more than one negative word means the same thing as one negative word. Understanding the syntax of double negation in Standard English is a key way to learn about the basic structure of negation in this prestige variety. Numerous studies have examined negation in individual languages, but there has not been much research contrasting English and Kurdish syntax. The study's goal, then, is to fill

that gap by looking closely at how each language handles double negation inside its own grammar.

1.Methodology

This study uses a qualitative and contrastive approach to examine how double negation works in English and Central Kurdish. It focuses on the structure of negative sentences in both languages and compares how negation is formed and interpreted. The data include examples from native speakers, written texts, and teaching materials. These examples are analyzed using basic syntactic theory, especially how negative features are marked and spread across a sentence.

The study also looks at how Kurdish speakers learning English-and English speakers learning Kurdish-often make errors when dealing with negation. By identifying these patterns, the research provides practical guidance for language teachers on how to explain double negation clearly and avoid confusion in the classroom. This approach facilitates the integration of linguistic theory with practical teaching needs, thereby enhancing the relevance of the findings for both researchers and educators.

2.The Problem

Double negation is a problematic area for teaching and learning languages. When Kurdish speakers learn English, the syntactic transfer of negative concord can make them say things in English that are not correct or sound right. On the other hand, English speakers who are learning Kurdish may not use enough negative markers, which might make their statements semantically inaccurate or hard to understand. Even with these problems, there are not many in-depth syntactic studies that look at the rules and structure of double negation in both languages. Most of the time, existing research looks at different languages separately and does not offer a systematic comparison that may help both linguists and language teachers.

3. Aim of the Study

This study aims to shed light on the syntactic aspects of double negation in standard English and Kurdish languages. What similarities and/or differences are there between them and how do they work in each. The main goal of this study is to look at how double negation works in Standard English and Kurdish.

4. Value of the Study

This study can benefit both students and language teachers by offering practical guidance on how to teach double negation to English-speaking Kurds. Therefore, the basic research question explores how theoretical frameworks can inform pedagogical strategies for teaching this phenomenon across languages. In addition, this work provides a clear, systematic guide for linguists investigating cross-linguistic negation, while equipping language teachers with essential tools to anticipate and address common syntactic transfer issues faced by Kurdish speakers learning English and English speakers learning Kurdish.

5. Research Questions

The following research questions guide this study:

1. What are the grammatical rules that make up double negation in Standard English?
2. What are the grammatical rules that define double negation in Kurdish?
3. What are the similarities between these structures in the two languages?
4. What are the differences between these structures in the two languages?

6. Theoretical Background

In order to situate the current work within the broader landscape of linguistic research and identify gaps that justify a comparison of the two languages' syntactic structure, a number of previous studies are referred to hereafter in brief. Traditional grammar often treats negation as a straightforward modification of verbs (Biber et al, 1999). Double negation is usually seen as

ungrammatical and makes the meaning positive because of logical cancellation. Traditional grammarians often reject double negation considering it illogical. (Trask, 1993: 86) and Jespersen (1924: 332) say that “when two negatives really refer to the same idea or word the result is invariably positive; this is true of all languages”. The conventional rule says that two negatives cancel each other out. Prescriptive grammar traditions support this perspective, while descriptivist linguists agree that it is used in some dialects. Jespersen and Quirk argued about grammatical status and what is right in grammar. Jespersen saw this as a deviation from the logical structure of language and a sign of grammatical weakening. Quirk recognized the non-standard nature of double negation but also highlighted its communicative function in certain contexts, particularly in informal speech and some dialects. He noted that double negatives can sometimes be used for emphasis or to express a particular shade of meaning, even if not logically equivalent to a single negative. The debate lies in the perceived grammatical status of double negation. Jespersen regarded it as inherently problematic and shows signs of language decay, while Quirk acknowledged its potential to communicate effectively, even if it is not following standard grammatical rule, (Tsukiyama ,1975 :36).

In contrast, Generative Grammar, especially Government and Binding Theory and the Minimalist Program, provides a more detailed framework for understanding double negation. Government and Binding Theory suggest that the interaction between multiple negation arises from hierarchical syntactic structures, particularly through the use of a Negation Phrase that can contain multiple negation heads (Chomsky, 1995). In this view, double negation is not simply a combination of negation markers; instead, it reflects the principles of universal grammar. The analysis focuses on how negations interact with other syntactic elements to clarify their meanings more straightforwardly.

On the other hand, Dependency Grammar prioritizes the relationships between words rather than hierarchical structures (Mel'čuk, 1988). Here, each instance of negation is linked directly to the verb, enabling a real-time interpretation of how negation affects meaning. This approach effectively captures the implications of

double negation in a straightforward format, making it useful for analyzing everyday language use. While traditional grammar offers foundational insights, frameworks like Government and Binding Theory, the Minimalist Program, and Dependency Grammar enhance the understanding of double negation by highlighting its complexities and improving syntactic analysis.

The way Standard English handles double negation is a long-standing and theoretically rich problem in linguistic research. Standard English has a strong and socially enforced ban on Negative Concord, which is when multiple negative elements are used together to express a simple negation, (Ginnakidou, 2000:458). Whereas, Central Kurdish allows and prefers negative concord. This seeming conflict has led to a lot of research in theoretical syntax. This study brings together important ideas, looks at how theoretical frameworks have changed over time to explain the prohibition, looks at real-world examples of how it has been used and changed. It is not enough to just know the rules of grammar to understand the double negation prohibition. It is also important to know how negation works, what syntactic characteristics are, and how language structures affect each other.

6.1 Double Negation in English

Trask (1993: 85-6) states that “double negation is a construction in which one overt negative element appears within the scope of another without any independent function”. Crystal (1992:108) and Biber et al. (1999: 177)) define double negation as “a construction in which more than one negative word is used within the same clause. The two negative words do not cancel each other out, but simply add emphasis”. While, Greenbaum and Nelson (2002: 155) say that, in standard English, a clause usually only has one negative element. Double negation is often regarded as a logical contradiction, although it can be used for emphasis in non-standard dialects. For example:

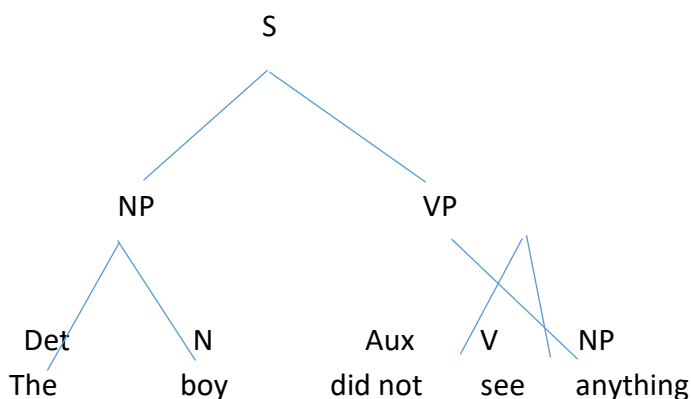
(1) a. * The boy did not see nothing.

- b. The boy did not see anything. (means The boy saw something)
 (2) I cannot not go to the party. (They feel they have to go).

The examples above mark the negation in two places: once in the verb *did not*, and *cannot* then again in the underlined negative words. In example (1 a.) the first negative element is *not* attached to the auxiliary verb and the second negation item is *nothing* which is a negative concord item in some dialects. While in example (1b.), Standard English uses *anything* to avoid double negation. The phenomenon is called negative concord (i.e. agreement): selection of *nothing* and *anything* is determined by agreement with the preceding negative, (Huddleston and Pullum, 2005:156).

The below tree diagram illustrates the syntactic structure of the sentence (1 b.), highlighting the relationships between its lexical and functional elements.

Figure 1 Tree diagram for the sentence (1b.)



In the sentence *The boy did not see anything*, the co-occurrence of the negative auxiliary *did not* and the indefinite pronoun *anything* may appear to involve double negation. However, this construction reflects a single negation reading.

The negation is introduced syntactically by the auxiliary *did not*, which carries the features of past tense and negation, projecting a negative operator over the verb phrase. The pronoun *anything* is a negative polarity item (NPI). Its occurrence is dependent on the presence of a higher negation within the same clause, placing it within the scope of the negation introduced by the auxiliary (Ladusaw, 1996).

Horn (2001:366) differentiates between two types of double negation: emphatic and non-standard. Emphatic double negation uses two negatives to reinforce a positive meaning; while non-standard double negation, often found in certain dialects or informal speech, uses two negatives where only one is needed, sometimes resulting in a positive meaning, as in:

(3) I was not displeased with my grade." (I was somewhat pleased) (Emphatic Negation)

(4) He cannot hardly manage it." (He can barely manage it) (Non-standard negation)

Biber et al. (1999: 177-178) identify two types of multiple negation, dependent multiple negation and independent multiple negation. Dependent multiple negation involves negative forms working together to convey a single negation. It is also known as a negative concord. It is common in non-standard dialects. The rule in English is only cancelling each other out and creating a positive meaning, for example:

(5) I do not think he is not coming.

In the sentence above, the negations in *I do not think he is not coming* are dependent because *they* work together to imply a positive meaning that *He is coming*. This is a logical double negation, where both negatives cancel each other logically rather than grammatically.

On the other hand, when a clause has a separate negative phrase is called an independent multiple negation. Each negative works independently to negate its

own part of the sentence. This type is common in standard English, especially in formal writing or formal speech. In this case, the negative form is not combined within the same clause. It is often used for emphasis or stylistic effect. (Biber et al. 1999: 179). For example:

- (6) a. * I will not₁ need no help. (Non-standard English)
b. I will not need any help. (Standard English)

In the examples above, *will not* negates the verb *need* to form the negative expression and *need* is dependent on *will not* for the negation. *Any* is an independent determiner which relies on *will not* to emphasize the negation created by *won't*. The sentence (6a.) is used in some dialects to make the meaning stronger. Despite being a double negative, in these dialects it does not cancel out, instead, it intensifies the negation. While, sentence (6b.) contains two grammatical negatives, but only one semantic negative because in logic two negatives cancel each other out creating a positive meaning. The negative word *not* goes after the auxiliary and covers the whole verb phrase. If there is not an auxiliary, do-support is needed, as in:

- (7) a. Maria did not eat nothing today.

Sentence (7 a.) has two syntactic negations, *-not* and *nothing*, and two possible interpretations. In one interpretation, the two syntactic negations work together to mean the same thing as a single negation which is called negative concord. In the other interpretation, each negation acts on its own, cancelling each other out and meaning the opposite, resulting in an affirmative (Blanchette, et.al.,2018:3). The two interpretations can be paraphrased as follows:

- b. Maria ate nothing today. Negative concord (means Maria didn't eat anything today.)

c. It is not the case that Maria ate nothing today. Double negation (means She ate something.)

However, Standard English also allows certain constructions with multiple negatives under specific conditions, the most significant exception is litotes (i.e. a rhetorical figure employing understatement', without causing logical cancellation. According to The Oxford English Dictionary, litotes is defined as "a figure of speech in which an affirmative is expressed by the negative of the contrary. Here, the negator *not* combines with an adjective or noun which has a negative meaning by itself or a negative prefix (*un-*, *in-*, *dis-*, etc.), such as *not uncommon*, *not impossible*, *not bad*, *not without reason*. Crucially, the two negatives operate one after the other rather than in agreement: the first negates the negative quality of the second, resulting in a weakened positive assertion *not uncommon* means 'somewhat common', as in:

(8) He is not unkind.

(9) She did not walk impatiently.

(10) They are not hopeless.

Here, the litotes is linguistically marked by the negative particle *not* and the negative prefix *un-*. By negating the opposite of what is meant, it suggests a positive idea without stating it directly. It encourages the reader to consider the deeper meaning behind the words. Furthermore, when *not* modifies a noun, an adjective, or adverb with a negative prefix like *un-*, *dis-*, *in-*, *im-*, *ill-*, *ir-*, *non-*, *mal-*, *de-*, *a-*, *ab-*, *under-*, *anti-*, *ex-*, *mis-*, and etc. or the suffixes *-less*, and *-sh* as a way of softening or down toning the meaning of the adjective. But there are no negative infixes in English. The meaning becomes affirmative, but the double negation shows that the writer or speaker is cautious about it. This is most common in formal writing. The first negator occupies a sentential slot, while the bound morpheme attaches to a noun, adjective, or adverb, (Cambridge University Press, n. d.), as in:

(11) It is not a dishonesty. (A bound morpheme is attached to a noun)

(12) It is not impossible. (A bound morpheme is attached to an adjective)

(13) She did not speak unkindly. (A bound morpheme is attached to an adverb)

According to Horn (1978 :164), double negation is indeed weaker than its positive equivalent because of the fact that the cancelling out of two negatives results in the expression of the corresponding dual. As in:

(14) I do not disagree with you. (means I agree with you)

The sentence (14) implies a softer and less direct agreement and not a strong affirmation. Here, *not* negates the clause and *disagree* carries its own negative prefix, together softening the assertion rather than cancelling it. While, the sentence *I agree with you* is a clear and direct agreement.

In Standard English, a negative is a “no” word such as *no*, *not*, *none*, *never*, *nobody*, *nothing*, *hardly*, *seldom*, or *scarcely*. The *n’t* in a contraction is a negative, too. Usually fills the nearest negative position immediately following an auxiliary or main verb. A double negation is occurred when two negatives are mistakenly used to make one negative statement (Favor,2006:77). To illustrate, consider the following examples:

(15) a. * She did not receive nothing. (Double negation which is non-standard)

b. She did not receive anything. (Standard form in English)

c. Nothing did not receive the email. (Emphatic Logical object which is non-standard)

(16) * He did not take nobody to the gym. (non- standard)

(17) Nobody did not help them. (non- standard)

Expressions like *nobody* and *nothing* already suggest negation, and adding *did not* creates a double negative, which can make the sentence confusing or even mean the opposite of what’s intended. This particular sentence expresses only one negation but it appears in two different places (in the subject –*nobody*- and

in the direct object –*nothing*-). Furthermore, Swan (2005:374) says that negative words like *nobody*, *nothing*, and *never* are themselves enough to give a negative meaning, and *not* is unnecessary in standard English. It is often preferable to use *not anybody*, *not anything*, *not ever* etc. As in:

(18) a. Do not tell them anything. (Standard English)

b. *Do not tell them nothing. (Non-standard dialectal English)

(19) a. I cannot hardly tell the difference. (Double negation which is non-standard)

b. I can hardly tell the difference. (Standard form in English)

In English, *neither... nor* is used to connect two negative statements to make one simple sentence, indicating that both are untrue. It directly negates both possibilities without causing cancellation effect, and the verb agrees with the subject closest to in *neither...nor* constructions, (Alexander, 1988:9), for example:

(20) Neither the boss nor the employees attend the meeting.

In sentence (20), *neither nor* is a single negative construction that works together. It means none of the people (not the boss and not the employees attend). Even though *neither* and *nor* are two negative words, they are not double negatives; they work together to express one negative idea.

6.2 Double Negation in Central Kurdish

In Kurdish, double negation does not cancel out the negative, making the sentence positive. This is a typical feature of Kurdish grammar, where two negations in a sentence reinforces negation without altering meaning, instead the negative work together to emphasize or intensify the denial, (Mahwi, 2011:135), (Rasul, 1991:33).

Following Amin (1979: 55), (Shwani, 2014: 102), and Dizayee (2014: 207), four different forms of the negative markers exist in Kurdish, including *na-*, *nâ-*, *nî-*,

and *ma-*. Tense is recognized as the main factor determining the appropriate form of the negative prefix for verbs, as *nâ-* is the form used in present, *nî-* is used before *bûn* 'to be' in the present tense, while all past verbs take *na-* as the negative marker, and imperatives are negated by either *ma-* or *na-*. The findings from Kurdish data analysis reveal that *na-* is more productive than other markers which appear with high frequency and fewer restrictions within clauses. It is also possible in Kurdish to include two modal verbs in a single sentence, each accompanied by its own negation, as in:

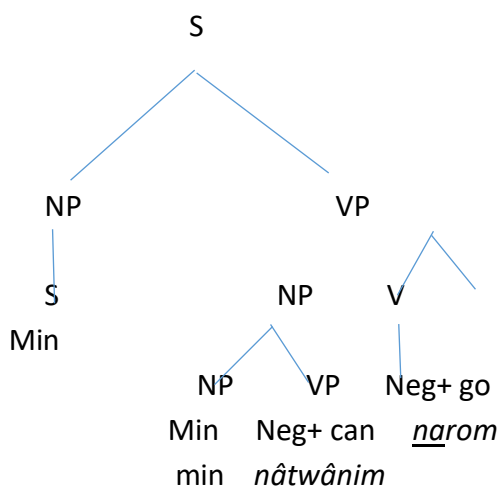
Hîçm naçû "Nothing did not go."

(21) Kas râ nâ Kât. (No one is not running.)

(22) Min nâtwânim narom. (I cannot not go.) (It implies obligation)

According to form and function, Amin (1979:53) mentions three categories of negation: Preverbal negation like *nâ*, *ma*, etc. which precedes the stem of the verb, as in: *Nâxom*. (I do not eat). Affixal negation which is equivalent to *un-*, *in-*, and *-less* in English, as *nâ*, *bě*, etc. as in: *nâpyaw* 'coward', *bě mě šk*, '-less brain'. The tree diagram of the simple sentence *Min nâtwânim narom* is designated in the following figure (Fattah, 1997:114):

Figure 2 Tree diagram for the sentence (23)



The sentence *Min nâtwânim narom* in Central Kurdish has a syntactic structure that reflects the use of modal and negation construction. It consists of a subject noun phrase (NP) and a verb phrase (VP). The subject *Min* is in the oblique case and the verb phrase contains the verb *nâtwânim*, which is a negated, inflected form meaning *I cannot*, and the main verb *narom*, meaning *I do not go*. Both verbs are marked for first person singular and negation, showing agreement with the subject and the negated mood. Syntactically, the auxiliary verb takes scope over the main verb, indicating modality and negation of the action. The hierarchical structure places the NP and VP as direct dependents of the root sentence node (S), with the VP further branching into the NP (and the main verb (V), forming a typical complex predicate structure found in Kurdish.

Zivingi (2021: 239) says that “Kurdish language has known the use of phrases containing negation morphemes. These negation morphemes are: *bě, nâ, ni-, ma*”. They are used as prefixes where they precede vocabulary from nouns (including adjectives, adverbs, and verbs); no negation suffixes were found, like English.

(23) Aw *bě* hêz *nabû*. (He was strong)

(24) *Kasyân* qutâbî min *nîn*. (No one is my student)

(25) *Nâtwânim* pêy biêm *maka*... (I cannot tell them not to do that)

The final category includes marked negation forms in Kurdish, such as *hič* ‘never, nothing’, *hič štêk* ‘nothing’, or *hič kas*, ‘nobody’, which explicitly signal the presence of negation in a sentence. This type of marked negation is common and serves both grammatical and emphatic functions, (Ibid). As in the following examples:

(26) *Hič kasêk nânâsm*. (I do not know anyone)

(28) *Hič štêkî nâwêtin*. (He does not want nothing)

(29) **Hîč çûm*. (Not grammatical)

In the above examples, negative concord is used, where both the subject and the verb are marked negatively. The two negative elements are *nâ* (no) and *Hič kasêk* (anyone) or *Heç štêk*. (nothing). These negative elements are not sufficient on their own to negate the sentence, the sentence would be ungrammatical

unless the verb is negated, (Mahwi, 2011:130). Instead of cancelling each other out as in formal logic these two negatives work together to intensify the negation. It is structurally standard Kurdish, meaning the double negation results in a clear and strong meaning, reinforcing the negative interpretation not a positive one.

Van der Wouden (1994:93) mentions four possibilities that exist when two negations refer to the same thing in natural languages:

1. Using multiple negation means the same as one negation
2. The two negations might weaken each other.
3. The two negations cancel each other out.
4. The two negations emphasize negation making it stronger or clearer.

Fascinatingly, all these possibilities occur in Central Kurdish, and thus multiple negation can be split into four separated classes: negative concord, prohibition, emphatic negation and litotes. Negative concord refers to the usage when multiple negatives appear in a sentence, they work together to express a single semantic negation. It is classified into two categories, negative doubling and negative spread, (Ibid:95).

In negative doubling, an extra negative is sometimes added after the verb (i.e. a distinct negative element optionally occurs in a position following the verbal complex in negative sentence). The second negative element is an exact copy of the preceding one. The second negator has stopped to be a bound suffix and turned into an independent word that can receive stress. While in negative spread, the negative feature is distributed to any number of elements. The meaning is negative, (Fattah, 1997:279). as in:

(30) Nakaî nâ. (don't do it, don't) (negative doubling)

(31) Kas hiç nâxwâ. (let no one eat) (negative spread)

In denial or prohibition of the two negators, one clearly cancels the other, and the negation has full force (i.e. it is not a weakened negation). Here the denial is closely connected with the statement. As in:

(32) Nâbêt nân naxoît. (you cannot not eat.)

The emphatic negation is an example of strengthening of negation by repetition. It is not restricted to one syntactic function, although the most important instances are those in which the standard negative is followed by a negative pairing *neither.... nor*, (Ibid:281), as in:

(33) Kas nâyat kas. (no one comes no one.)

(34) Hiç 'nâxwât hiç. (nothing eats nothing.)

Moreover, Na-na 'neither...nor' connects two simple sentences, putting each part before the sentence it makes negative. This structure is especially clear when the sentences are different from each other, (Muhammad,1962:9), for example:

(35) Na aw royşt, na min hâtm. (Neither he went nor in I came.)

When two sentences are identical except for the subjects, and each subject follows first and second, the first occurrence of the identical part can be deleted. The verb should be plural and agree with the first-person subject, (Ibid). As in:

(36) Na to na min birdmân. (Neither you nor I took it.)

Considering another aspect, litotes is a rhetorical figure that has developed over the ages and involves using double negatives for emphasis and all options are not explored yet. Litotes constructions must have gradable predicates; otherwise they will be ungrammatical: Recurrent litotes combinations often develop a habitual pattern, (Fattah, 1997:282). As the example below:

(37) Gumân la wa dâ nîya. (There is hardly any doubt....)

(38) Xirâp nîya. (it is not bad.)

(39) Pîs nîya. (it is not dirty)

(40) Kas lâry nîya. (no body denies.)

7. Results

The contrast between English and Kurdish double negation can be interpreted through the lens of language typology and cognitive processing. English is predominantly an analytic language, relying on word order and separate function words (like auxiliaries and not) to convey grammatical relationships.

The structure supports a direct correspondence between each negative marker and its scope, which results in a clear restriction against negative concord in formal registers. When the negative head functions independently, it enables two negative elements to appear within a sentence, each operating over a separate scope-potentially leading to a cancellation of meaning. While, Kurdish is an agglutinative language, where grammatical features (like tense and negation) are often expressed by affixes attached directly to the root. The prefix *na-* adds the negative meaning directly to the verb. The outcomes of the study that looked at how double negation works in Standard English and Kurdish. The results are grouped into points, listing similarities and differences between the two languages, concerning the use of double negation. These results help answer the research questions raised in this study.

7.1 Similarities

1. In nonstandard or dialectal varieties of English and in Central Kurdish, negative concord happens naturally. That means using more than one negative to express a single negative idea, like: *I do not know anything*, in English, which is similar to how negative concord appears in Central Kurdish.
2. In both English and Kurdish, using two negative words together often can be used together in one sentence, though the rules and contexts differ.
3. Both languages use double negation when they want to emphasize the negation, intensify the situation or express negatives in vocabulary items, it may surface naturally, reflecting unique grammatical rules and adding intensity or clarity. In non- standard English, the sentence: *I do not need no money, where do not* and *no* intensify the negation. In Kurdish, *hîç* can work similarly, like: *Min hîç kêrm nîyâ* meaning *I have no work*, it emphasizes the negation.

4. In both languages, double negation works similarly to emphasize or alter meaning. In English, *I don't need nothing* can make the negation stronger, while in Kurdish, using double negatives works in a similar like: *Min hîç ştek nêzanim*, it intensifies the meaning.
5. Both languages can use specific words or phrases to strongly deny something, for example in English, we use negative quantifiers like *not*, *nothing*, *anything*, *no one*, and *nobody*. In Kurdish we use words like *hîç*, and *na*. These negatives work with verbs to create a double negative, similar to English.
6. Another similarity might be the flexibility in word order. Both languages can rearrange sentence elements to stress a particular element of the idea, like the subject of negation or the negation itself.

7.2 Differences

1. The fundamental difference in the realization of the negative feature leads to significant challenges in language learning. Kurdish speakers learning English may syntactically transfer their obligatory Negative Concord rule, producing ungrammatical sentences. Conversely, English speakers learning Kurdish may under-use the negative prefix, failing to meet the obligatory co-occurrence requirement, making their statements grammatically incomplete or confusing.
2. Standard English and Kurdish are two different types of languages when it comes to negative concord. Standard English typically uses a straightforward single negation, but Kurdish uses syntactically structured negative concord, i.e. Kurdish, unlike Standard English, allows and often uses negative concord which is when multiple negatives show the same negation in a single clause.

3. In Standard English, double negation is typically avoided in formal contexts because it can reverse the intended meaning. For example, *I do not want nothing* may be interpreted as *I want something*. This ambiguity leads to confusion and is often corrected in academic writing. In contrast, Kurdish uses double negation as a grammatical standard. Structures like: *Hîç kas nahât* clearly express negation without ambiguity. The use of negative prefixes and particles is consistent across dialects and does not alter the sentence's truth value. The negation reinforces meaning rather than altering it.
4. In Kurdish, the negation mark is attached to the verb directly, like: the negative particle *na-* or *ne-* comes before the verb, as in, *nahât*. In contrast, English places the negation *not* after auxiliary or modal verbs, relying on *do-support* when there are no auxiliaries.
5. Standard English does not allow the use of double negative to emphasize or make a point more logically strong. Instead, if two negatives appear, they usually cancel out, resulting a positive meaning. In Kurdish, double negatives can emphasize a point, so they do not cancel each other out. Instead, using two negatives can make the negation stronger.
6. In Kurdish, the words *hîç kas* (nobody) and *hîç štêk* (nothing) must be used with a negative verb form. When these parts are put together without the *ne-* or *na-* word, the sentences are grammatically incorrect, like *Hîç štêkm krî*. While in English, negative words like *nothing* and *nobody* are usually subject or object and do not depend on the verb form. The negative pronouns *nobody* and *nothing* are often self-sufficient and do not require additional negative particles.

7. English uses a wide variety of negative prefixes to negate different word types, these prefixes include: *un-*, *in-*, *im-*, *ir-*, *il-*, *dis-*, *non-*, *a-*, *anti-*, and etc.: adjectives like *unhappy*, *indecisive*, nouns like *injustice*, *misinformation*, and adverbs like *unfairly*, *insufficiently*. Kurdish, on the other hand, doesn't use many prefixes like that. It relies more on syntactic or lexical strategies for negation. For adjectives or nouns, Kurdish often builds a full phrase to express the negative idea, instead of changing the word with a prefix like *Xoš nîyâ*. So English changes the word itself, but Kurdish usually changes the sentence around the word.
8. English uses the suffix *-less* to show the absence of something, for example: *He is not hopeless*. *Hopeless* is a negative adjective formed with the suffix *-less* meaning *He still has hope*. Kurdish does not have a suffix like *-less*, instead, it uses the word *bê* (means without) before nouns, for example: *Bê hîwa nabû* (He wasn't hopless).

Conclusions

The study concludes that the negativity systems in Kurdish and English differ in their structure, which can lead to negative transfer when learning a language. The difference shows that grammar rules specific to a language control not only the way something looks, but also how it makes sense and how it is used. The main distinction between these two languages deals with the idea that in Kurdish, double negation is allowed but in English is not grammatically correct due to some factors detailed in the previous parts. However, this is not the only difference; another issue where these two languages and their double negations differ is in the placement of the negation marker in sentences. In English there is a specific structure, the negation typically comes before the verb as a separate word and it modifies the verb without attaching directly to it. Whereas in Kurdish, the prefix "*na*" directly attaches to the verb it negates. It has been

shown that while English has a tight model that does not allow negative concord in formal registers, Kurdish has strict negative concord, which means that more than one negative element must appear together. These differences make things harder for language learners, and syntacticians. Learning double negation in English and Kurdish requires attention to detail. This study used a contrastive linguistics to explore how syntactic differences affect language learning, and categorization. Future studies can build on this work by examining how Kurdish dialects use negation.

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شیکارییه کی رسته سازی دژبهیه ک بو دوو نکۆلیکردن له زمانی ئینگیزی و کوردی

پوخته:

ئهم لیکۆلینهوهیه شیکارییه کی رسته سازی دژبهیه ک له دوو نکۆلیکردن له زمانی ئینگیزی ستاندارد و کوردی ناوه راستدا دهخاته روو. تیشک دهخاته سهر ئهوهی که دوو زمانه که چۆن دوو نکۆلی پیکدههینن و چ ئهرکیکیان ههیه. شیکاری دژبهیه ک که له لیکۆلینهوهیهدا وهگریره، لیکچوون و جیاوازی نیوان زمانی ئینگیزی و کوردی دهکۆلێتهوه. له ئینگیزی ستانداردا، یاسا توندهکانی پێزمان بهزۆری پێگه به دوو نهڕینی نادهن، چونکه پێیان وایه ئهوه ههلهیه یان تایبهتمهندییهکی زاراوهیهکی ناستاندارده. له کاتیکیدا له زمانی کوردیدا دوو نهڕینی زۆرجار قبۆلکراوه و تهناوت دهتوانیت بهشیکی ئاسایی زمانه که بێت. دۆزینهوهکان ئهوه دهدهخه که ژمارهیهکی بهرچاو له لیکچوون و جیاوازی له نیوان ئینگیزی و کوردیدا ههیه. ئهم لیکۆلینهوهیه بهشداری دهکات له بواری زمانهوانی دژبهیه کدا به نیشاندانی ئهوهی که چۆن گۆرانی زمانهوانی نیوان یاساکانی حوکمرانی نکۆلیکردن دهتوانیت کاریگهری لهسهر شیوازهکانی بهدهستهێنان و بهکارهێنانی زمان ههبیت. ئهم توێژینهوهیه گرنگی شیکاری زمانهوانی برپهری نیشان دهدات و تیشک دهخاته سهر سوودی توێژینهوه دژبهیه کهکان له زمانهوانی کارپێکراودا به پشکینی پیکهاته و ئهرکی دووانه نکۆلیکردن له ههردوو زمانه کهدا

تحليل مقارن للنفي المزدوج بين اللغة الانكليزية والكردية

ملخص:

تقدم هذه الدراسة تحليلاً نحوياً تباينياً للنفي المزدوج في الإنكليزية القياسية والكردية الوسطى. تركز على كيفية بناء اللغتين للنفي المزدوج ووظائفهما. يستكشف التحليل التبايني المعتمد في هذا البحث أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بين اللغتين الإنكليزية والكردية. ففي الإنكليزية القياسية، عادةً ما تمنع قواعد النحو الصارمة استخدام النفي المزدوج، إذ تُعتبره غير صحيح أو سمة من سمات لهجة غير قياسية. أما في الكردية، فغالباً ما يكون النفي المزدوج مقبولاً، بل قد يكون جزءاً طبيعياً من اللغة. تُظهر النتائج وجود عدد كبير من أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بين الإنكليزية والكردية. يُسهم هذا البحث في مجال اللغويات التباينية من خلال توضيح كيف يمكن للاختلاف اللغوي المتبادل في القواعد التي تحكم النفي أن يؤثر على أنماط اكتساب اللغة واستخدامها. تُوضح هذه الورقة أهمية التحليل التبايني وتبرز فائدة الدراسات التباينية في اللغويات التطبيقية من خلال دراسة بنية ووظيفة النفي المزدوج في كلتا اللغتين.