The study of negation as marker and operator in Persian language

Jinuss Shirvan

PhD in linguistics, Chair of linguistics department, Islamic Azad University of Tehran Central Branch, Tehran, Iran

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ABSTRACT

The elements in a language are related to one another in an appropriate manner. The orders of these links and arrangements of elements are different in a variety of languages. People use the language for expressing their thoughts, feelings of appreciation or negative feelings. The traditional grammar defines the negative particle which comes before the verb. In other instances, the negation prefix and the construction of words are considered to be the structure of a negative sentence. Therefore, the negation is considered merely to be a part of morphology. Another sign of negation reflects the negation of verbs that express the negative particles. In the deep structure, all the principal semantic-syntactic relationships between the words are described that constitute the sentence and the constraints of the words composition; this means these rules stop mismatching of semantic-syntactic relations between the words. However, transformational rules relate deep structure to surface structure. Some of the lexical elements of the negation are used in negative sentences. This can be pointed out by the data in Persian language, and this question has also been revealed by the location of negative element. It is necessary to examine the role of the negative element as operation or as a marker. Presentation of the negative element has always been under consideration. For this purpose, the study of the limits of operations of negation distributes also words that have meaning. The use of negative element as a constituent is different from a negative sentence. Our intention is to examine the diversity of negation and the factors of production and reproduction in the form of the text for better understanding.

1. Introduction

Negation has been studied in the traditional style. In this view, the location of prefix negating particle is before the main verb or an auxiliary verb called negation. In linguistic point of view, this subject has been studied differently. In the light of research methodology, we need to know the description of negation. In short, the study represents the kinds of negation in the light of typology. In the other part of the present study, the definition of negation will be discussed whether it is a marker or it can be represented as a negative operation only. Then, the negative context will be discussed and it has been given some data from Persian language, so the study of negative sentences for categorization will be easier. The main framework of the present study is the theory of Cullioli where he discusses the speaking act. It is necessary to give a description about a different kind of sentence for better understanding of negation and its location. Dubois-Charlier points out that there are four different types of sentences which consist of imperative, declarative, interrogative and exclamatory sentences [1]. These kinds of sentences are compulsory in any languages but there are some kinds of sentences like negation, passive and emphatics which are optional. The two kinds of compulsory forms cannot come together but the optional forms can all come together [1]. E. Benveniste categorized the language according to the basic elements of psychology, but according to Freud, negation is the biological mechanism of psychology, self-acceptance and rejection of words, positive polarity and negative polarity. These are all associated with good and bad [2]. He claims that the specialty of negation of a language is to refuse those things which have been said or to delete the claims which have been proven correctly [2]. A. Cullioli explains the bilateral system of yes and no which is clear in the system of unambiguous reference. In the word of object “yes” usually is used affirmation and “no” for negation in a very binary system [3]. N. Ruwet pointed out the different researches in the transformation of negation, which are said to be in the generative linguistic framework. There is a unique conclusion between different scholars that the transformational element doesn’t work on the changes of meaning. The aim is to provide a better and more complete description about transformational elements which do not work on the meaning changes [4].

2. Different kinds of negation

Shagaghi studied that negations in the sense of structure is a prefix and also add to the other negative prefixes for a unit of signified. She refers to the ordering rejection of a notion, warning, and cautions in a language by using a double form of negation. She refers to the Lyons studies that the negation doesn’t indicate the absence or nonexistence of an object. In fact, it shows the refusal or denial of something. She refers to the four types of negation which consist of propositional negation and the remaining three are kinds of denials which are quite different from a logical negation [5]. Mansouri studied negation from the typological point of view. He believes that for better understanding of the criteria of negation in Persian language one should study the structure of Persian language with different elements of negation in the structure along with the basic concepts of negation [6]. For in-
stance, he speaks about the change in tone of a sentence, the neutral form of a tense and the use of verb “do” in English, change in the sense of a noun, use of negative quantifier in some languages, and the usage of negative adverbs.

3. The problem in negation
E. Benveniste refers that the positive interaction by speech, shows the speaker’s confidence and presence in the environment. This type of utterances will come along with “ou” and “non” in French for affirmative and negative sentences respectively [2]. He continued that the negation has different forms and independent of logical speech. For instance, some conjunctions such as “ne...pas” in French but the adjectives like “non are the same as “ou”. I.e. and they come from a part of speaking act [2]. Grize talks about the logical-semantic categories. Logical means the complete form of speaking and semantical means the semantic of words and metaphors [7]. He noticed the two forms of noun and phrase in an expression like “PierRE marCHE”. In logical analysis, first, the proposition comes into the scene and then noun will enter. He explains that the negation according to Culioli means the language negation which is equal to speaking act in different frameworks of linguistic theory [7]. Culioli pointed out when we talk about negation there can be misunderstanding, because we’re trying to talk about the ideal negation and give some information and explanation about it but in real life we are in the track towards the logical negation which is very clear and transparent. The questions arises here is that the number of negations which are facing to it. Whether we can separate the negation and negative mood from each other or not? He continued that the aim of the study is to show the difference between operators and markers. By the help of arranging of markers in the context, we can recreate the operation role of signs in speaker’s speech. The signs are very complex and classify the position of speakers during their interaction. The negation particles “ne...pas” come with the first word of a sentence cause “il n’est pas vrai et il n’est pas vrai” [8]. The negative markers act differently in different languages. In classical Greek the prohibition markers are in contrast with rejection markers in Georgian language. In other languages like Chinese the negative marker changes according to the aspect evaluation. In Arabic, aspect and modality are related very tightly. He explains that the negative category will pass through modality, aspect-tense and the determining category. In some languages, we don’t have a single marker for negation [8]. In Culioli’s idea these kinds of untidiness about negation can only be studied by a person who notices these tiny elements very carefully. This is the duty of a theoretician who is aware of the variety and complexity of such a notion. The question is this: Is there a constant and continuous form at a time of production and reproduction of contextual form to give a regulation for negative formula in a sentence? To show that, there are no languages without negative marker, do not reveal the place of negation. Culioli reveals the question whether the negative operation of a sentence is derivational or primitive? Are the negative operations primitive acts themselves or are they the production of a primitive act [8]? To answer these questions we reach to the points which are in contrast. First we do not have any primary negative operation, second the operation of negation which provide us some production does not exist. The first answer shows the vision or the analysis of the context which can be revealed by verbal and the non-verbal action. This analysis lead us towards everything which means bad and unsuitable and should be ignored or which consist of null and discontinuity. We show existence and non-existence of an action in a specific situation. In the second answer we show the operation that has formed from negation. For instance we can explain that some negative markers are the production of semantic features. “Moi pas mal” and “n’est pas vrai” from complex forms of concrete layer of a language [8]. Culioli studied the different types of negation in different languages for example Vietnam’s. The negative marker in this language is “phâ”. It is usually used for the negation in a proposition which carries the possessive or equivalence [9].

4. The usage of negative context
As it has been explained before, there are some difficulties in the usage of negation. So with the help of some data from English, Persian and French, the operation of negation will be discussed. Shaghahi explains the negative format. She gives the difference between syntactic negation and morphological negation [5]. According to Culioli, linguistics is moving towards operational linguistic, therefore the start of the term of a language is under scrutiny. It has been tried to show the negative act to be studied in Persian language. So first the different steps of a language up to the production of sentence will be discussed showing the three positions of words and explain the proposition, the two arguments and determine the complexity of relations [10]. Dabir- moghaddam explains the complexity of sentence with negative elements and the quantifier [11]. In Persian we categorize the negation in different forms which consist of morphological, prefixes of verbs, negative marker with different aspects of verbs, the semantic mood of negation and the application of negation in discourse. Example: - mohod ast ke ‘in andiﬁs taking nakanad. It is not impossible that this idea does not change. In this sentence the use of negation creates ambiguity in a sentence. Raford believed that negation comes with the verbs. These verbs can combine with the negative marker but cannot change the verbal group [12]. Tallerman explains that in English we usually use auxiliary verb do with the negation [13]. Mansouri points out that according to Vahidian kamyar negative marker proceeds the verb in future and imperious forms. The proressive tense does not have the negative form, usually in these cases we use the discontinued forms of these elements [6]. Shaghahi refers that the negative markers can be seen in past and present progressive tenses [5]. Moifar denotes that progressive tense does not accept the negation [14]. Examples:

- Bahram nadrad nominevisad.
  - Bahram writing a letter.
- *Bahram nadrad nominevisad.
  - *Bahram nadrad writing a letter.

Mansouri explains that in this case the verb will change into the neutral form in standard Persian [6].

Tallerman points out the dual form of negation in French which is quite obvious and reasonable. This happens where in speech production form we don’t have ‘ne’ [13]. He gives some ungrammatical examples of English language:

- Je ne mange jamais de viande.
  - I particle eat never of meat
  - I never eat meat.

These examples do not follow the negative format of normal form of negation in English which is used by every English speaker. Mansouri mentions that Meshialatiddini studied the negation in the framework of transformational syntax. He believes that the negative elements are in deep structure and it is one of the main parts of a language i.e. sentence, negation, subject and predicate [6].

Mansouri believes that the negative marker in Persian acts in the same way as in other languages. He believes that if we write a negative marker separately, it denotes conjunction and combination [6]. He points out that it specifies the Persian language from other languages, since the position of negative marker in imperative sentences is not in the same place as other verbs [6].

- Na bo doryu va na bo kuro harf nemizamand.
  - Neither talk to Daryoosh nor to Kooshr.
- Na nelat va na raft.
  - He left.

Neither sat nor went.

- ‘ammeet dar borne ragehiri kasi pošte dar ‘istade bud, xis va xaste va bigonad, kasi nabod juz’u [16].

But under heavy rain someone standing behind the door tired, wet and innocent, no one was there but him.


I was shivering in sleep and calling them, unable to talk any more, they were not coming to me.

Some linguists have studied the semantics points of view of negation in a context like Grize.

In this context the usage of negation gives two meanings:

1. Some degree of green color or less green and the line between being green and not being green. (In a language framework)
2. This vision is logical and makes two distinct views.

In the first view the reader doesn’t allow him/her self to judge the context and this is happening most of the times with children. Second, we see ourselves outside of green color, which denotes the proposition [7].

Ce n’est pas vert.
  - Non, il n’est pas vert.
  - Non, cet arbre n’est pas vert, il est jaune.

Or we move from one location to the other. In this situation, every answer is normal unless we get an odd and strange response from a listener [7].
-Non, cet arbre n’est pas vert, il est en fleurs.
This sentence is more usual than the sentence that has been given by another hearer differently.

- Non, cet arbre n’est pas vert, il est mon frère. [7]
- dologhâ ro ‘amûhâsan bordan. Ye nafar gotfe bud bâehe tuye kuçe velo hastan. ‘asân tuye kuçe nubudan, velo nubudan. [17] Twins were taken by their uncle. One said children were idle in the street. They weren’t in the street and they weren’t idle.

Ducrot believes that the negation has a presupposition of a negative discourse in itself unless in metalinguistics [18]. Example:

- Pierre continue à fumer.

Our presupposition is that Pierre was smoking before and speaker believes the second though [18]:

- Pierre fume actuellement.

Negative sentence:

- Pierre ne continue pas à fumer.

This sentence contain three actions:

1. The claim of the first speaker with presupposition
2. The claim of the sentence by the second speaker
3. The rejection of action by the third speaker [18]

There is a hypothesis that the rejection of a sentence moves us toward the second sentence, in this case the syntactical negation has been performed in the sentence and that will make it difficult to reach to the presupposition, that is the action of smoking by Pierre [18].

Now the question emerges here, how can we explain a negation that does not give a proper explanation for presuppositions [18]?

- Pierre ne continue pas à fumer.
- En fait, il vient just de continuer.

The answer is that: Negation appears in real interaction where the speaker with negative element in her/his speech effects the speaker with positive elements [18].

Milner refers when the negative marker and question marker combine together the product has an informational aspect. What comes to mind is the degree of importance the speaker is indicating. The importance of it, is that it is actual and concrete [19]. Examples:

- mïpsarm: “sabar nãndr’ oazân?” [20]
- Don't you have any news from them? I ask.
- mïguym: “tefekâsun jâvab nemide, na xodeš na sôhareš.” [20]
- Her phone does not answer neither she nor her husband. I Say.
- mage qaraer naboût biyêd? qaraer ke na. goftam şayad xeste ‘az begu nagu be ‘in kumrane lalzâr.’ Wasn’t he supposed to? No he wasn’t supposed to. I thought maybe he is tired of arguing with stub-born Kamran. Of course there are different types of negation which are not in the area of the present paper.

5. Conclusion
It has been concluded that the negative sentences are optional. The negative derive from the final part of active sentences. We talked about negation in linguistics which according to Culoli is not a logical form but also shows a clarity, strength and awareness. We discussed about the different positions of negation markers in different languages in a sentence. We referred to the primitive operation of negation in terms of bad/good or reject by mind, to the null position in one hand and rejection/non rejection on the other hand. The application of negative marker in a sentence, the morphology of negative marker, the semantic point of view and the usage of it has been discussed. Of course there are some layers of the subject which contain the science of negation as a hole. We tried to discuss different aspects of the negation where speaker can understand the meaning of negation in different ways which is really a complex representation. In sum, we can conclude that the negation is a representation of possibilities and is the product of abstract and without it we have no clue about objects, categories, actions and space.

References