

Academic year 2023-24 (תשפ"ד)

Course title (English): Morphosyntax of negation & negative concord

Course title (Hebrew): מורפוטחביר של שלילה התאמה שלילית

Course number: 133.1.0194

**Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours): Semester B; Sunday & Wednesday
14:00-16:00**

Lecturer: David Erschler

Lecturer's conference hour and contact details:

Office hours: Monday 11:00-13:00

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Course description & objectives:

Means to express negation are arguably present in any human language. In this seminar, we will explore how negation is integrated in the syntactic structure of a sentence and how it is expressed morphologically. We will particularly focus on interaction between sentential negation and indefinites. For instance, while English possesses dedicated negative indefinites (*no one, nothing, never* etc.), if they co-occur with the sentential negation, the negation cancels out: *I didn't buy nothing* will mean 'I bought something.' On the other hand, Hebrew also exhibits dedicated negative indefinites (*af exad* 'no one', *šum davar* 'nothing', *af paam* 'never', etc), they require the presence of the negator *lo*: *lo kaniti šum davar* will mean 'I didn't buy anything', while *kaniti šum davar* is ungrammatical. We will address various theoretical proposals that were advanced to account for these phenomena.

Course requirements:

Attendance required	yes
1. Active participation in class discussion	10%
2. Presentation	20%
3. Final paper	70%

Academic Honesty

- The final paper has to be written by you on your own.
- You cannot submit the same paper to several different courses.
- If you are quoting anything or presenting somebody else's ideas, you should clearly indicate that this is the case. If it is a direct quotation, you should put it in the quotation marks (""), and indicate the source, say, Kim & Smith (2008: 12). If you are presenting somebody else's

ideas, but you are doing that in your own words, you should still clearly indicate the source. (Something like, *as Kim & Smith (2008) proposed, ...*) Failing to do so counts as plagiarism.

- For the university guidelines on academic honesty, please consult Section 4 of the following document: https://in.bgu.ac.il/acadsec/doclib2/plagiarism_eng.pdf

Topics & bibliography

List themes, reading materials, etc.

Week 1. Introduction; Typology of sentential negation.

Week 2. NegP: arguments for its existence.

Week 3. Double negation and Negative Concord.

Week 4. Negative Polarity Items.

Week 5. Background on Agreement.

Week 6. Background on Ellipsis.

Week 7-8. Agreement-based analyses of Negative Concord

Week 9. Negation and Tense-Aspect-Mood.

Week 10. Expletive negation.

Week 11. Polarity projection.

Week 12. Diachrony of negation; the Jespersen cycle.

Week 13. Reserve.

Bibliography

Abels, Klaus 2005. "Expletive negation" in Russian: A conspiracy theory. *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*, 13(1):5–74.

Deal, Amy Rose. 2022. Negative concord as downward Agree. lingbuzz/006344

Deal, Amy Rose. 2023. Current models of Agree. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006504>

Giannakidou, Anastasia. 2020. Negative Concord and the Nature of Negative Concord Items, in Viviane Déprez, and M. Teresa Espinal (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Negation*

Gribanova, Vera (2017). Head movement and ellipsis in the expression of Russian polarity focus. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 35(4):1079–1121.

Preminger, Omer. 2013. That's not how you agree: a reply to Zeijlstra. *The Linguistic Review* 30:491–500.

Preminger, Omer, and Maria Polinsky. 2015. Agreement and semantic concord: a spurious unification. Ms., University of Maryland.

Watanabe, Akira. 2004. The genesis of negative concord: Syntax and morphology of negative doubling. *Linguistic inquiry*, 35(4), 559-612.

Zeijlstra, Hedde. 2008. Negative Concord is Syntactic Agreement. Unpublished manuscript, University of Amsterdam. Available online at: <http://ling.auf.net/lingBuzz/000645>.

Zeijlstra, Hedde. 2016. Diachronic Developments in the Domain of Negation. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 10(6): 284–295.