WAYS OF EXPRESSING NEGATION IN ROMANIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

Stela ȚICUL

Catedra Limba Română, Lingvistică Generală și Romanică

Articolul de față prezintă o deosebită importanță prin faptul că scoate în evidență mijloacele de negare în limbile română și engleză, clasate după forma lor lingvistică. Ceea ce ne propunem în studiu este de a reliefa care sunt, așadar, funcțiile sintactice ale cuvintelor, afixelor și locuțiunilor cu semnificație negativă; din care parte de vorbire ele fac parte sau ce părți de vorbire constituie; care sunt modalitățile de redare a negației în limbile română și engleză și funcția lor gramaticală în propoziție, în comunicare.

This article highlights the richness and complexity of negation in Romanian and English languages, the grammatical position of some words with negative meaning both in relation with other words and the relation between them, the linkage between these grammatical categories and the types of negation in logics.

The word *negație / negation* comes from the Latin "negatio" and later from the French word "négation". This word negates the idea expressed by a part of speech or by a sentence through its predicate, as for instance in Romanian the word *nu* "Nu Ion a luat cartea" (it is negated the idea of subject), "Nu cartea a luat-o Vicu, ci caietul" (it is negated the idea of direct object), "Ion nu a luat cartea" (it is negated the idea expressed by the whole sentence through its predicate) [8, p.224].

Negative words indicate an absence of something or the opposite of something. English and Romanian words used to indicate an absence of something or the opposite of something fall into three categories:

1. *Not / nu*;
2. Other commonly used negative words;
3. Negative forms created by prefix and suffix.

The term „negație" has recently appeared and is rarely used in Romanian linguistics in order to designate [4, p.340-341]:

1. one of the dichotomic terms of the sentence basical status. Thus, a sentence is first negative or affirmative; and only than may appear other classifications of the sentence: interrogative, exclamative etc.;the grammatical means of expressing negation. The confrontation of the diversity of these means preceded their conceptualization in the negation domain;

2. they were identified in concrete achievements, at the morphological and syntactic levels of the Romanian language and were recognized as components of different classes: negative pronoun, negative adverb, negative sentence etc.

In English, the most commonly used negative word is ***not***, and in Romanian – ***nu***. Placing *not / nu* in a sentence will create a negative statement. For example "This book is *not* appropriate / Această carte *nu* este adecvată" contrasts with the following positive construction which has the same meaning "This book is appropriate / Această carte este adecvată".

In grammar, negation is the process that turns an affirmative statement ("I am a student") into its opposite denial ("I am *not* a student") [Смирницкий А. И., 1959, p. 47]. Nouns as well as verbs can be grammatically negated, by the use of a negative adjective ("There are *no* students"), a negative pronoun ("*Nobody* is a student"), or a negative adverb ("I *never* was a student").

It is used to say, as it was said before about other negations, that "nu" in Romanian is an adverb, that it has only a semantic function, and not a grammatical one. In fact, any word has at the same time two functions: a semantic function, given by its significance irrespective of the context, and a grammatical function, determined by its place in the context, by the demand of the whole to which it is subordinated.

The word „nu" has many functions, some of them referring only to it, and thus we can distinguish:

1. the function of predicative negation (being part of the sentence core, characterized by the rigid rettery of the compounding elements), where the quality can have its own function of negation or can double an unpredicative negation, as meaning, over the whole sentence;

2. the function of negative answer;

3. the function of common negation, subordinating unpredicative forms (e.g. Nu vorbe!) or main sentences (e.g. Nu omul a zburat întâi), or subordinates (e.g. Nu că ...), and can be combined with „ci" or other correlative conjunction with opposite meaning (e.g. Nu vorbe, ci fapte; Nu omul a zburat întîi, ci pasărea).

It should be also underlined the correlation between the uses of „nu" and those of the prefix „ne-", which together with „nu" form a perfect system:

a) when the verbal form is unpredicative, „ne-" corresponds to the negation „nu" of the predicative verbal forms (e.g. nu mai aude – nemaiauzind);

b) and vice versa, for the adjectives (attributes) and adverbs (objects), which form their negation with the help of the prefix „ne-", it is replaced by the negation „nu", when a negative alternative is reduced to negation (e.g. esențial sau neesențial = esențial sau nu), this replacing being optional in other situations (e.g. neesențial = nu esențial); in an attributive or completive phrase that begins with a preposition, the negation is formed only with „nu" (e.g., Creion nu cu vîrful rupt), and the negation „ne-" can be used only at the coupling of the phrase (e.g., om nu la locul lui = om-ne-la-locul-lui).

It should be distinguished between the general negation „nu" and the verbal negation „nu", the only one reducible to „n-, when the laws of phonetics allow the linkage of negation with the word that follows it and which belong to the nucleus / core of the sentence

It should be also noted this negation negates the verb preceding it, while the nominal negation „ne-" does not negate the meaning of the name to which it is attached as a prefix, but makes it an antonym.

In Romanian, negation can be also expressed by other specific words about which we shall discuss below.

„Nici" is a coordination conjunction of the negations with the same syntactic status, usually appearing in a succession before each negated term (e.g. Nici eu, nici tu). „Nici" can be also used to form the negation of a noun, either by the pronominal adjective „nici un", „nici o", or by the pronoun „nici unul", „nici una" or other similar negations: „niciodată", „nicicând", „nici măcar" etc.

About other negations of absolutization it is worth mentioning that „nimic" is both a noun and an adverb; „nimeni" – noun and adverb; „nicăieri", „niciodată", „nicicând" etc. are adverbs.

„Fără (de)", preceding a noun, is a preposition, and „fără (ca)", preceding a sentence, is a conjunction of subordination. Over the distinction between parts of speech, „fără" introduces the negative exception, as well as the pair of phrases „în afară de" – „în afară ca" etc.

„Necum" is a conjunction of coordination introducing an implicit negation.

„Decât" reduces, in a negative sentence, the predication, introducing the limiting complement / object (preposition: Nu învață *decât* matematică) or the limiting completive (conjunction of subordination: Nu învăța decât când Gheorghe e plecat).

„Ba" introduces the riposte (to an assertion, question, request or imperative). Unlike „nu" and other negations which negate the noun or the sentence following it or comprising it, „ba" negates the sentence preceding it. It extends outside the background of the sentence, because it can be fully understood only in the context of the whole communication, dialogue.

There are several ways of expressing negation in English. The adverb *not*, usually also called negative particle, or its contracted form *n't* can occur in the auxiliary and other parts of a sentence to express sentential negation. Sentential negation means that the effect of the negative element is such that only one negative element is permitted in the clause. It also means that an adjacent clause is affected such that:

1. a positive tag would be required if a tag question if formed;
2. the negative appositive tag, *not even* is permitted;
3. a clause conjoined by *and...either* is permitted, and
4. a *neither* tag is permitted.

Alternatively, the indefinite pronouns *no one, nobody,* and *nothing*, and the negative adverbs *scarcely, hardly, rarely, never,* and *seldom* also produce sentential negation.

In general, the adverb *not* or its contracted form *n't* occur after the first element in the auxiliary. For example, if the progressive aspect occurs, then the negative adverb will appear immediately following the form of *be*. Similarly, if the perfect aspect occurs, then the negative adverb will follow *have* even when the progressive aspect is also present. Finally, the negative adverb will immediately follow a modal when the modal occurs alone or in conjunction with other auxiliary elements.

In negative sentences where no modal or aspect features occur, *no* is inserted as a result of the *do*-support transformation. As a result, the adverb *not* follows *do*. It is important to note that in negative sentences as in questions, the tense is carried by the first element. The first element is either an auxiliary element or the word *do* which has been inserted by the *do*-support transformation. In negative sentences with the copula *be*, the adverb *not* follows the verb. This contrasts with the negation of sentences as described above, in which *do*-support is obligatory when no modal or aspect features occur. The failure of *do*-support to apply in the negation of sentences with copula *be* is consistent, however, with question formation. In question formation, the copula *be*, unlike other main verbs without modal or aspect features, undergoes subject-auxiliary inversion and *do*-support does not apply. On the other hand, the copulative or linking verbs such as *remain, become, seem, appear, taste* and *feel* which occur in the same sentence patterns as the copula *be*, do require *do*-support in negative sentences.

Finally, the location of the adverb *not* is consistent for all sentences containing *be*, whether it is in the progressive aspect, passive sentences, or the copula. In all cases, the adverb *not* follows *be*.

In contrast, the location of the adverb *not* varies in respect to sentences containing the perfect aspect and sentences with *have* as the main verb. The negation of sentences with *have* as the main verb is not uniform and the adverb *not* may, in some cases, follow the verb in which case *do*-support does not apply.

It is difficult to state a rule that accounts for the variation of the adverb *not* in respect to the main verb *have*. However, those cases in which *not* is permitted to follow the main verb seem to be more idiomatic than cases where *not* must precede the main verb *have*. It seems likely that the variability in the position of the negative with respect to *have* may cause some difficulties for the hearing foreigner.

The location of the negative adverb *not* is not restricted to the auxiliary, but it can occur in other locations in a sentence and can combine with a variety of words and phrases. *Not* can also combine with adverbs or adverbial phrases. The adverbial phrases differ grammatically. Phrases like *not long ago, not far from here* and *not far away* can occur anywhere in the sentences and they don't trigger subject-auxiliary inversion when they occur initially in a sentence. On the other hand, phrases like *not under any circumstances, not until tomorrow, not often* and *not always* only occur in initial position and trigger subject-auxiliary inversion.

The indefinite pronouns *nobody, no one* and *nothing* function as indefinite pronouns and have the additional property of producing sentential negation. Negative adverbs such as *scarcely, hardly, barely, rarely, never* and *seldom* also have the property of producing sentence negation.

In summary, negation in English can be expressed in a variety of ways. Although a relatively simple set of syntactic rules can account for some aspects of negation, other aspects of negation involve a complex interplay of semantic and syntactic rules.

The system of negation in Romanian and English languages registers notional words and syntagmas, expressing negation without having specific grammatical forms („neant" / "void, non-existence", „a nega" / "to negate" etc.), having the function of negating the intonation or rettery, visual signs of negation (the shaking of head, the sign made with the hand etc.) with certain significance, accompanying or suggestioning, and who completes the whole importance of negation in communication.

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