

Negation. Syllabus

SoSe 2025, Universität Potsdam

Monday, 10:15-11:45, Golm, Haus 14, room 0.35

Mariia Privizentseva (*mariia.privizentseva@uni-potsdam.de*)

Office hours: Monday 2-3pm, Wednesday 1-2pm (or with appointment)

Description

- This class focuses on negation in syntax and morphology. It starts with a general overview of negation marking.
- After this, the course will focus on three topics:
 - Negative dependencies (negative concord, double negation)
 - Position of negation in syntax and its morphological realization
 - Genitive of negation
- The assigned literature includes actual linguistic papers and recent research. This might be hard to read, but things will get clearer in class.
- Besides learning about negation, this class aims to teach how to approach simple and complex linguistic problems, apply diagnostics, develop argumentation

Requirements

- To pass the class you need to fulfill the following requirements:
 1. Do the readings and actively participate in a discussion! This is a seminar, not a lecture.
 2. Present one of the papers from the syllabus in a class.
 - Pick the paper you will present as soon as possible and let me know via e-mail.
 - Make sure you understood the paper before doing a presentation, figure out what are the most important points and summarize them. Practice your presentation at home before doing it in class!
 3. Submit two assignments:
 - Assignment 1 was released in the end of May and is due by June 14.
 - Assignment 2 was released by the mid-July and will be due August 1.
- If you want to take an exam in this class, you need to write a 10 page research paper that relates to one of the topics we will be discussing. The deadline for letting me know what you want to

work on is the end of the lecture period (July 20) and the deadline for submitting the paper is September 30.

Program

Date	Topic	Readings	Presenter
Apr 7	Introduction	van der Auwera & Krasnoukhova 2020	
Apr 15	Negative concord as agreement	Zeijlstra 2022, ch. 3	
Apr 21	<i>no class, Easter</i>		
Apr 28	Negative concord and NPI	Herburger 2001	Theodora
May 5	Types of negative concord systems	Zeijlstra 2022, ch. 4	Bora
May 12	<i>no class</i>		
May 19	Long-distance negative concord	Zaitseva 2024, Robinson & Thoms 2021	Karina
May 26	<i>cancelled</i>		
June 2	Neg Raising and NPI	Collins & Postal 2014, ch.2-6	Iñaki & Yigit
make-up class, tba	Double negation	Puskás 2012	Lucie
June 16	Negative fragment answers	Weir 2020	Catalina
June 23	Negation types	De Clercq & Vanden Wyngaerd 2019	Michaela
June 30	Negative morphology	Gianollo 2020	Burcu
July 7	Negative inversion	Blanchette & Collins 2019	Elizaveta
July 14	Genitive of negation, Russian	Harves 2013	Viacheslav
July 16, 12:00	Genitive of negation, Lithuanian	Sigurðsson & Šereikaite 2024	Irina

References

- Blanchette, Frances & Chris Collins (2019): On the Subject of Negative Auxiliary Inversion, *Canadian Journal of Linguistics/Revue canadienne de linguistique* 64(1), 32–61.
- Collins, Chris & Paul M. Postal (2014): *Classical NEG Raising: An Essay on the Syntax of Negation*. The MIT Press.
- De Clercq, Karen & Guido Vanden Wyngaerd (2019): Negation and the functional sequence, *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 37(2), 425–460.
- Gianollo, Chiara (2020): The Morpho-Syntactic Nature of the Negative Marker. In: V. Déprez & T. Espinal, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Negation*. Oxford University Press, p. 117–134.
- Harves, Stephanie (2013): The Genitive of Negation in Russian, *Language and Linguistics Compass* 7(12), 647–662.
- Herburger, Elena (2001): The Negative Concord Puzzle Revisited, *Natural Language Semantics* (9), 289–333.
- Puskás, Genoveva (2012): Licensing Double Negation in NC and non-NC languages, *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* (30), 611–649.

- Robinson, Mary & Gary Thoms (2021): Long distance negative concord in English. In: A. Farinella & A. Hill, eds., *NELS 51: Proceedings of the Fifty-first Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*. p. 181–190.
- Sigurðsson, Einar Freyr & Milena Šereikaite (2024): The dual face of structural object case: on Lithuanian genitive of negation, *Journal of Linguistics* 60(1), 161–212.
- van der Auwera, Johan & Olga Krasnoukhova (2020): The Typology of Negation. In: V. Déprez & T. Espinal, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Negation*. Oxford University Press, p. 91–116.
- Weir, Andrew (2020): Negative Fragment Answers. In: V. Déprez & T. Espinal, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Negation*. Oxford University Press, p. 441–457.
- Zaitso, Anissa (2024): Long distance negative concord as successive cyclic movement of negation in African American English. In: *Proceedings of WCCFL 42*. .
- Zeijlstra, Hedde (2022): *Negation and negative dependencies*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.