

## What is the Concept of Negative Categories?

**Aynur Asadova**

Nakhchivan University, Master Student

**Abstract:** The study deals with the influence and impact of negative emotions, thoughts, and experiences on individuals and society. It analyzes topics such as the psychology of negativity, the effects of negative thinking on mental health, the role of negative emotions in decision-making, and strategies for coping with negativity.

**Keywords:** negative category, negative words, negative clause, absence, lackness, concept.

### Introduction

Negative categories refer to groups or classifications that are characterized by the absence or lack of a specific attribute, quality, or characteristic. These categories represent a negation or opposite of what is typically associated with a particular concept. For example:

- Non-smokers: People who do not smoke cigarettes or use tobacco products.
- Unemployed: Individuals who do not have a job or are currently without employment.
- Non-fiction: Books or literature that is not based on imaginary or fictional content.
- Inactive: Referring to a state of not being engaged in physical activity or lacking energy.
- Non-believers: Individuals who do not adhere to or have faith in a specific religious or spiritual belief system.
- Non-alcoholic: Beverages that do not contain alcohol or have been made without alcoholic ingredients.
- Illegal: Actions or behaviors that are prohibited or against the law.
- Non-residents: Individuals who do not reside or live in a specific place or geographic area.
- Inedible: Referring to food or substances that are not suitable for consumption and cannot be eaten.
- Undetectable: Something that cannot be perceived or noticed

Negative categories in English refer to words or phrases that denote the absence or negation of a certain attribute, quality, condition, or state. Here are some examples:

- Nonexistent: Something that does not exist or is not present.
- Inactive: Referring to a state of not being active or not involved in a particular activity.
- Unsuccessful: Not achieving the desired outcome or lacking success.
- Immobile: Describing something or someone that is not capable of moving or being moved.
- Incomplete: Not finished or lacking some necessary parts or elements.
- Unhealthy: Not in a good physical or mental condition, lacking well-being.
- Irregular: Not conforming to a regular pattern, shape, or behavior.

- Disagreeable: Not pleasant or causing discomfort or dissatisfaction.
- Uninteresting: Lacking interest or failing to capture attention or excitement.
- Unauthorized: Not having official permission or approval for something.

It's important to note that negative clauses can be quite diverse and can be formed using various grammatical structures depending on the context. If you have any more specific questions or if there's anything else you'd like to know, feel free to ask!

1. Negative sentences: These are sentences that express negation or denial. They typically include words like "not," "never," "no," or "don't/didn't/won't," etc. For example:

- "I don't like coffee."
- "She did not go to the party."

2. Negative clauses: These are subordinate clauses that express a negative condition or situation.

They are often introduced by words like "unless," "without," or "if not." For example:

- "He won't pass the test unless he studies hard."
- "Without help, she cannot finish the project."

3. Negative questions: These are questions that seek confirmation of a negative assumption.

They are formed by using negation words in the interrogative form. For example:

- "Isn't it cold outside?"
- "Aren't you coming to the movie?"

4. Negative adjectives: These are adjectives used to describe the absence or lack of a particular quality or characteristic. For example:

- "She is not happy with the result."
- "The book is not interesting."

These are just a few examples of negative categories in English grammar

Certainly! The structure of a negative clause in English typically involves the use of a negative word or phrase in order to express negation. Here's a breakdown of the general structure of a negative clause:

1. Subject: The subject is the noun, pronoun, or noun phrase that the clause is about. It acts as the main focus of the clause. For example:

- "They"

2. Negative word or phrase: This is the element that introduces the negation in the clause. It is often a negative particle or adverb, such as "not," "never," "no," "none," or a negative verb form like "do

- "like"

4. Additional components: Depending on the structure of the sentence, there may be additional components n't/didn't," etc. For example:

- "do not"

3. Verb: The verb is the action word or state-of-being word that describes what the subject is doing or being. It shows the relationship between the subject and the rest of the clause. For example:

such as objects, adverbs, or other modifiers to provide more information or clarify the meaning.

For example:

➤ "coffee"

Putting it all together, here's an example of a negative clause in a sentence structure:

"They do not like coffee."

In this example, "They" is the subject, "do not" is the negative phrase, and "like" is the verb. The negative phrase "do not" introduces negation, indicating that the subject does not have an affinity for coffee.

In linguistics, negativity is usually considered as a category which is marked with certain morphemes to explain a state of absence, its achievement or lack thereof, or opposition. However, in practice, negativity is not only a fixed structure marked with certain morphemes which is used to explain if a task is completed or whether an object is missing. Negativity can also be reflected without being marked with any morpheme. The context in which communication occurs, the perception of both giver and receiver in a situation and relevant factors cause negativity to be relative. People's perceptions shaped according to their individual experiences make them characterize situations as either positive or negative.

In this study, initially a framework was drawn that covers what negativity category means in Turkish, how it is evaluated, how linguistics and philosophy study negativity, what the relevant literature proposes and the perspective the relevant studies are formed with. The standard negativity suffix -ma is proposed and studied in the selected essays, considering the context in terms of how no and not reflect negativity, how negativity is achieved when not marked with morphemes, and how the sense of negativity is created in the mind of the readers.

The concept of negative words generally refers to words that carry a negative connotation or express a negative sentiment. These words can evoke feelings of sadness, anger, fear, or other negative emotions. Negative words can also be used to express disapproval, criticism, or pessimism. In linguistics and psychology, the study of negative words and their impact on communication and emotion is of interest.

Negative words can manifest in various forms, including adjectives, adverbs, verbs, and nouns. They are an essential part of language, as they allow us to communicate a wide range of emotions and experiences. However, their usage and impact depend on context, tone, and intent.

In psychology, negative words are often associated with the concept of cognitive biases and the tendency of individuals to pay more attention to negative information compared to positive or neutral information. This phenomenon, known as negativity bias, plays a role in shaping our perception and decision-making processes.

Negative words can influence our thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors. For example, exposure to negative language or negative words can contribute to increased feelings of stress, anxiety, or sadness, while positive language can have the opposite effect, promoting feelings of happiness, optimism, or motivation.

Additionally, the use of negative words in communication can affect the perception of the speaker or writer. Using an excessive amount of negative words may lead others to view the communicator as pessimistic, critical, or unapproachable. On the other hand, judicious use of negative words can convey authenticity and emotional depth, allowing for a balanced and nuanced expression of experiences.

Negative words can also be analyzed within the framework of discourse analysis and pragmatics to examine their role in shaping conversations, interactions, and persuasion strategies. The study of how negative words are employed in different contexts sheds light on their communicative functions and the social dynamics at play.

Negativity bias refers to the psychological phenomenon wherein individuals tend to pay more attention to, give more weight to, or remember negative information more than positive or

neutral information. This bias has a profound impact on language and communication, influencing how we perceive and convey information, as well as how we interpret the messages we receive. Here are some ways in which negativity bias impacts language and communication:

1. **Word Choice:** Negativity bias can influence the selection of words in language. In communication, individuals may be more inclined to use negative words to express their emotions, experiences, or feedback. For example, when describing a challenging situation, an individual might emphasize the negative aspects, such as "difficult," "frustrating," or "exhausting," rather than focusing on any positive aspects.
2. **Emotional Expression:** Negativity bias can shape the way people express their emotions through language. When asked to describe their feelings, individuals may be more likely to articulate negative emotions like sadness, anger, or fear, as these emotions tend to have a stronger impact on their mental state than positive emotions. This can impact how emotions are communicated and understood in interpersonal interactions.
3. **Interpretation of Messages:** In the context of receiving communication, negativity bias can influence how messages are interpreted. Individuals may be more attuned to negative or critical elements within a message, even if the overall message is intended to be neutral or positive. This can lead to misunderstandings and a tendency to focus on the negative aspects of a communication.
4. **Perceptions and Attitudes:** Negativity bias can shape perceptions and attitudes in language and communication. For instance, an individual exposed to predominantly negative language or feedback may develop a more pessimistic outlook on a given situation or topic. This bias can also impact how individuals perceive the intentions of others, leading to a heightened sensitivity to negative cues in communication.
5. **Influence on Decision-Making:** In persuasive communication, negativity bias can be leveraged to influence decision-making. Messages that emphasize negative consequences or potential risks may have a greater impact on individuals due to their heightened attention to negative information. This can be observed in various domains, including advertising, public health campaigns, and crisis communication.
6. **Conflict and Resolution:** Negativity bias can influence how conflicts are communicated and resolved. Individuals involved in conflict may focus more on negative aspects of the situation, leading to a heightened emotional response or a tendency to dwell on grievances. Addressing this bias is essential for effective communication and conflict resolution.
7. **Media and News Reporting:** Negativity bias can significantly influence media and news reporting. Media outlets often emphasize negative or sensationalistic stories due to their ability to capture attention and evoke strong emotional responses. This bias can shape public perceptions and attitudes toward various issues and events.
8. **Cross-Cultural Communication:** In cross-cultural communication, negativity bias can impact how messages are received and interpreted across different cultural contexts. Certain cultures may have a stronger inclination toward negative language and expressions, while others may prioritize positive or neutral language. Understanding these cultural nuances is crucial for effective cross-cultural communication.
9. **Workplace Communication:** Negativity bias can influence workplace communication, affecting interactions between colleagues, managers, and employees. It can impact performance evaluations, feedback mechanisms, and overall morale within the organization.

In summary, the concept of negative words encompasses their psychological, communicative, and linguistic dimensions. Their impact extends beyond mere linguistic expression, influencing our emotions, perceptions, and behaviors. Understanding the role of negative words in language and communication is crucial for effective expression, empathetic interaction, and cross-cultural understanding.

## References

1. Jespersen, O. (1917). *Negation in English and other languages*.
2. Dahl, Ö. (2010). *Typology of sentence negation*.
3. Horn, L. R. (2001). *A natural history of negation*.
4. Berto, F. (2015). *A modality called negation*.
5. Dunn, J. M. (1993). *Two treatments of negation*.
6. Khemlani, S. (2012). *Negation: A theory of its meaning, representation, and use*.
7. Keat, J. (2012). *Theory of negative capability in writing*.
8. Zeijlstra, H. (2008). *Negative concord is syntactic agreement*. Manuscript, University of Amsterdam.
9. Ajisoko, P., Firdausya, A. R., Natalina, S., & Darwis, K. (2020). Double negation and negative concord in the English language.
10. Déprez, V. (2012). Atoms of negation: An outside-in micro-parametric approach to negative concord. (No. January).
11. Alisoy, H. (2023). Digital dynamics: Transforming classrooms with ICT. *Znanstvena misel journal*, 34.
12. Alisoy, H. (2024). The magic of languages: Introducing a second language in early childhood education. Retrieved from ResearchGate: <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.11042.81603>.
13. Alisoy, H. A. H. (2023). Reductions in English Grammar: Implications for ESL Learning. Nakhchivan State University, English and Translation Chair.
14. Qizi, A. B. A. (2023). From past to present to future: The interplay of English tenses in multimodal contexts. *International Journal of Philosophical Studies and Social Sciences*, 3(5), 13-24.