ORIGINAL ARTICLE

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ISSN: 2692-515-x, Impact Factor: 9.23

American Academic publishers, volume 6, issue 01,2026

Journal: https://www.academicpublishers.org/journals/index.php/ijai

THE CLASSIFICATION OF NEGATIVE WORDS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Jobirova Mohinur Bobir qizi

Second year Master's student in Linguistics (English language),

Karshi International University, Uzbekistan

Abstract.

This article examines the classification of negative words in English sentence structure and their syntactic and semantic functions. Negation is a fundamental linguistic category that affects meaning, polarity, and interpretation of sentences. The study aims to classify negative words in English based on their grammatical roles, structural positions, and interaction with sentence components. Through descriptive and analytical methods, negative words are grouped into several categories, including negative particles, pronouns, adverbs, determiners, and conjunctions. The findings demonstrate that negative words play a crucial role in shaping sentence structure and meaning, and their distribution follows specific grammatical rules in Modern English.

Keywords

Negation, negative words, sentence structure, English grammar, syntax, linguistic analysis, word order, grammatical category, syntactic function.

Introduction

The only language that is extensively spoken worldwide is English, which is also the most often studied foreign language. Writing is still the most difficult aspect of the English language for students in our educational institutions, despite the compromises made for perceptive and receptive abilities like reading, writing, speaking, and listening, which are interconnected. Words are powerful, independent, and important linguistic units that convey the meaning of actions and every occurrence in life. They are constructed grammatically and comprehended differently depending on one's perspective and attitude towards something. Positive words can improve your self-worth and perception of yourself, but negative remarks can have detrimental long-term repercussions.

A negative sentence is one that uses words like not, never, no, none, nothing, nobody, hardly, hardly, or rarely to convey a negative connotation. The sentence's positive meaning is altered to a negative one by these words. When a speaker wishes to reject, deny, correct information, or express a lack of something, they employ a negative phrase example. One of the universal categories of human language is negation, which is a crucial way to convey denial, contradiction, absence, or prohibition. Negative words are among the many lexical and grammatical strategies used in English to achieve negation. These words influence syntax, semantics, and pragmatics through systematic interactions with sentence structure.

The classification of negative words is essential for understanding how negation operates within English sentence structure. Despite its apparent simplicity, English negation is governed by strict rules, such as the avoidance of double negation in Standard English and the

ISSN: 2692-515-x, Impact Factor: 9.23
American Academic publishers, volume 6, issue 01,2026
Journal: https://www.academicpublishers.org/journals/index.php/ijai

requirement of auxiliary verbs in negative constructions. This article focuses on identifying and classifying negative words in English and analyzing their structural roles within sentences.

Literature Review

Although we can still characterise this denotation as main in modern English, it is no longer synchronically central. The word "revolution" has undergone significant changes in its semantic structure, and its most common meaning is a broad revolution of the regime's acknowledged government. As a result, a word's primary meaning may become one of its miner meanings synchronously, and its central meaning may become a secondary meaning diachronically. The semantic development of a word within the system of a given language determines the actual arrangement of meanings in the semantic structure of that word in any historical time [1].

According to Plato, this viewpoint was crucial and emphasises investigations that led to the idea of distinct negation, particularly in "Sophist." He was able to support the idea that the denial of existence has an ontological quality. Since the ontological negation was "some form of difference," it was "something" as opposed to "nothing." According to W. Strömewski, many ontological perspectives on negation, which cloud the idea of different negation, can be reduced to the crossing out negation. This is the most fundamental negative, "expressing denial" (a sense that is now rare or obsolete), which comes directly from Latin negativus, which means "that which denies," from negat, the past-participle stem of negare "deny, say no."[2].

The study of negation has attracted considerable attention in linguistic research. Jespersen (1917) provided one of the earliest systematic analyses of negation, introducing the concept of the Jespersen Cycle, which explains historical changes in negative constructions[3]. Quirk et al. (1985) offered a comprehensive description of negation in English, distinguishing between clausal negation and local negation[4].

Huddleston and Pullum (2002) further developed the syntactic analysis of negation within the framework of modern grammar, emphasizing the role of the negative particle not and negative auxiliary constructions[5]. Other scholars, such as Klima (1964), explored the syntactic constraints associated with negation, including negative polarity items[6].

Although previous studies have examined negation extensively, the classification of negative words as structural components of English sentences remains an important area for systematic analysis, particularly for pedagogical and descriptive purposes.

Methodology

The research employs a descriptive and analytical methodology based on qualitative analysis. Examples of English sentences containing negative words were collected from grammar textbooks, academic sources, and authentic language use. The negative words were analyzed according to:

- ✓ Their grammatical category
- ✓ Their position in sentence structure
- ✓ Their syntactic function

ISSN: 2692-515-x, Impact Factor: 9.23
American Academic publishers, volume 6, issue 01,2026
Journal: https://www.academicpublishers.org/journals/index.php/ijai

The classification is based on traditional grammatical categories supported by modern linguistic theory. The study focuses on Standard Modern English.

Results and Discussion

The analysis reveals that negative words in English can be classified into several major categories based on their grammatical function and structural behavior.

1. Negative Particles

The primary negative particle in English is not. It is used to negate verbs and clauses and typically appears after auxiliary verbs:

She does not understand the rule.

In contracted forms, not appears as -n't (e.g., don't, isn't), which plays a significant role in spoken and informal English.

2. Negative Pronouns

Negative pronouns include no one, nobody, nothing, none. These words function as subjects or objects and inherently carry negative meaning:

Nobody answered the question.

She found nothing useful.

In Standard English, these pronouns do not co-occur with not within the same clause.

3. Negative Adverbs

Negative adverbs such as never, nowhere, hardly, rarely, scarcely modify verbs and clauses:

He has never visited London.

They rarely agree.

Some adverbs (hardly, scarcely) are considered quasi-negative, as they express near-negation and trigger specific syntactic patterns.

4. Negative Determiners

The determiner no is used before nouns to express negation:

There is no evidence to support the claim.

This form is structurally distinct from verb negation and directly affects noun phrases.

5. Negative Conjunctions and Correlatives

Negative conjunctions and correlative pairs include neither…nor:

Neither the teacher nor the students were present.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ISSN: 2692-515-x, Impact Factor: 9.23
American Academic publishers, volume 6, issue 01,2026
Journal: https://www.academicpublishers.org/journals/index.php/ijai

These structures distribute negation across coordinated sentence elements.

Negative Word Type	Typical Position in Sentence	Example
Particle (not)	After auxiliary verb	They are not ready.
Pronoun (nothing)	Subject or object position	Nothing happened.
Adverb (never)	Before main verb /after auxiliary	She has never traveled abroad.
Determiner (no)	Before noun	He has no experience.
Correlative (neither... nor)	Before coordinated elements	Neither John nor Mary called.

Table 1. Structural Position of Negative Words in English Sentences

Structural Implications

The results show that negative words influence:

- ✓ Word order
- ✓ Auxiliary verb usage
- ✓ Agreement patterns
- ✓ Meaning interpretation

The prohibition of double negation in Standard English highlights the importance of syntactic control in negation, although double negation is acceptable in some non-standard dialects.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the classification of negative words in English sentence structure demonstrates that negation is a complex and multifunctional grammatical category. Negative words vary in form and function, occupying different positions within sentence structure and interacting with other grammatical elements.

Understanding these classifications is essential for linguistic analysis, language teaching, and accurate interpretation of English sentences. Future research may explore comparative negation across dialects or investigate the acquisition of negation by second-language learners.

References:

1. Adger, D. and J. Smith (2003). Variation and the Minimalist Program. Paper given at ICLAVE2, Uppsala University, June 2003
2. Allen, C. (1995). Case Marking and Reanalysis: Grammatical Relations from Old to Early Modern English. Oxford: OUP.

ISSN: 2692-515-x, Impact Factor: 9.23
American Academic publishers, volume 6, issue 01,2026
Journal: https://www.academicpublishers.org/journals/index.php/ijai

3. Jespersen, O. (1917). Negation in English and Other Languages. Copenhagen: A. F. Høst.
4. Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., & Svartvik, J. (1985). A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language. Longman.
5. Huddleston, R., & Pullum, G. K. (2002). The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language. Cambridge University Press.
6. Klima, E. S. (1964). Negation in English. In J. A. Fodor & J. J. Katz (Eds.), The Structure of Language. Prentice-Hall.
7. Ernst, T. (1992). The Phrase Structure of English Negation. The Linguistic Review 9,109-144
8. Toshxonov L.T., Development of multy language competence of university students. Академическая публикация №8/2019.
9. Toshhonov Lochinbek Tursunboyevich, G'ofurova Himoyat Turdaliyevna Forming negation with the prefixes // Вопросы науки и образования. 2020. №7 (91).