

РОМАНСЬКІ ТА ГЕРМАНСЬКІ МОВИ

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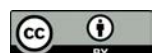
VERTICAL STRUCTURE OF THE FIELD OF NEGATION IN THE AZERBAIJANI AND GERMAN LANGUAGES

This article examines the functional-semantic field of negation in the Azerbaijani and German languages from the perspective of a field-based approach to the organization of the linguistic system. It examines the fundamental principles of the formation and functioning of the field of negation as a complex multi-level system that integrates linguistic resources at various levels - morphological, lexical, syntactic, word-formation, and pragmatic. It is determined that the field of negation is a functional-semantic formation in which all means of expressing negative meaning are united based on a common semantic function, regardless of their belonging to a particular linguistic level. Particular attention is paid to the vertical structure of the functional-semantic field of negation. The distribution of linguistic resources according to the "center-periphery" principle is examined, allowing us to determine the degree of their contribution to the expression of negative semantics. It is demonstrated that the core of the field consists of specialized negation resources that possess a stable negative meaning and implement their primary semantic function regardless of context. It was determined that the perinuclear zone includes units that maintain a close connection with central means but are characterized by a lesser degree of specialization. It was established that the peripheral part of the field consists of linguistic units that acquire a negative meaning only under certain contextual conditions and as a result of interaction with other elements of the utterance. The vertical division of the field of negation is examined, reflecting the interaction of various levels of the linguistic system and the distribution of the integral semantic load between means of expressing negation. It is shown that the functional-semantic field unites linguistic units of different levels into a single system based on the commonality of the function they perform. The relationship between specialized and non-specialized means of negation, as well as the characteristics of their functioning within the overall field structure, is examined.

Keywords: functional-semantic field, centre-periphery structure, field nucleus, near-nuclear zone, field of negation, periphery, circumstantial words, negative phraseological units.

Introduction. The field of negation is a functional-semantic field (FSF) that integrates all linguistic means expressing negative meaning irrespective of their affiliation with different levels of the language system, including the morphological, lexical, syntactic, word-formation, and pragmatic levels. The field of negation is organized according to the centre-periphery principle. The nucleus comprises specialized means of expressing negation, whereas the peripheral zone includes linguistic units that acquire negative meaning only within a particular contextual environment. The structure of the field is examined from both vertical and

horizontal perspectives. Vertical segmentation reveals the forms of expression representing different levels of the language system and demonstrates how the integral semantic load (semantic function) is distributed among them. Horizontal segmentation refers to the semantic and structural division of the general invariant semantic feature into minimal semantic components, that is, the organization of macrofields and microfields. The structure of microfields within a particular macrofield, as well as derivative microfields that function as macrofields in relation to their subordinate microfields, reflects the relative autonomy of semantic categories



and the linguistic forms through which they are realized. Consequently, both macrofields and microfields may be viewed as a complex network of semantic-functional relations linking central and peripheral components. Due to their maximal neutrality and high degree of abstraction, grammatical nuclear components function across all functional styles. Peripheral constituents of the field, by contrast, possess a relatively restricted sphere of application and occur primarily in specific communicative situations.

Analysis of Recent Research and Publications.

The study of antecedent status has developed at the intersection of discourse linguistics, pragmatics, cognitive linguistics and psycholinguistics. The centre-periphery structure constitutes the principal organizing principle governing the relationships among field components and serves as an essential indicator of their internal organization. This hierarchical arrangement reflects the contribution of each component to the realization of a particular semantic function, its degree of participation in the distribution of the invariant semantic load, and its functional significance within the field. At the same time, it reveals the structural and semantic relationship between the nuclear and peripheral constituents. Depending on the empirical material under investigation, the linguistic domain involved, and the nature of the semantic category being analysed, the character of this relationship may vary considerably. Consequently, different criteria have been proposed in linguistic literature for defining the centre-periphery structure [2, p. 8]. For example, František Daneš characterizes centre-periphery relations according to the degree of integration of linguistic elements, their functional scope within the linguistic system, and their frequency of occurrence in actual speech. According to this approach, the centre-periphery structure is manifested through the following differential oppositions: a high versus a relatively low degree of integration and a higher versus a comparatively lower frequency of use.

The prominent Azerbaijani linguist S. Abdullayev, taking into account that the field approach represents, in a broad sense, a stylistic method for investigating interconnected means of linguistic expression, proposed an additional criterion for defining the centre-periphery structure. According to his view, the nucleus is characterized by maximal neutrality and optimality, whereas movement toward the periphery is accompanied by a gradual reduction in stylistic neutrality and an increasing degree of affective and psychological expressiveness [1, p. 279].

Owing to their maximal neutrality and abstract nature, grammatical nuclear components are employed

in all functional styles, whereas peripheral constituents are limited to specific communicative contexts. For example, in German, intensifying modal particles functioning as peripheral constituents of the field of modality and serving to reinforce epistemic modality (*Unbedingt helfe ich dir*), pseudo-subordinate clauses containing the structural element *dass* that express directive modality, exclamatory constructions, nominal and adverbial one-member utterances, imperative constructions formed by means of the second participle, and elliptical sentences (*Dass du nicht wieder hier bist! Wasser! Pst!*) all demonstrate such functional-semantic restrictions [6, p. 9].

Task Statement. The purpose of the article is to study the vertical structure of the functional-semantic field of negation in the Azerbaijani and German languages, to determine the features of its organization according to the “center-periphery” principle, to identify the composition of the nuclear, perinuclear and peripheral zones.

Outline of the Main Material of the Study. The field of negation is distinguished by the richness and diversity of its constituent inventory, as well as by the functional plurality of the linguistic means available for expressing negative meaning. The semantics of negation is realized through resources belonging to all levels of the language system and through interactions between these levels. Consequently, syntactic, lexico-syntactic, lexical, morphological, lexico-semantic, and word-formation means jointly participate in the expression of negation. In typologically different languages, the degree to which individual linguistic levels contribute to the distribution of the invariant semantic load and their functional prominence constitute an important subject of typological investigation.

In German, the field of negation may be represented as the following hierarchical organization of linguistic means differing in both linguistic level and functional intensity. 1. The negative particle *nicht* (the dominant element of the field) and the network of its immediate associative combinations: (*gar*) *nicht*, (*durchaus*) *nicht*, (*freilich*) *nicht*, (*gewiss*) *nicht*, *ja nicht*, *ganz nicht*, *ganz und gar nicht*, *nicht im Ger- ingsten*, *nicht im Mindesten*, *sicher nicht*, *wahrlich nicht*, *schlechterdings nicht*, *nicht mehr*, *nicht einmal mehr*. **Example:** *nicht mehr* corresponds to the English expressions **no longer** or **not ... anymore**. *Ich rauche nicht mehr*. – *I no longer smoke*. *Er wohnt nicht mehr hier*. – *He no longer lives here*. *Sie arbeitet nicht mehr bei uns*. – *She no longer works for us*. The construction *nicht mehr* indicates that a state or action existed previously but has ceased at the reference point.

2. The negative determiner *kein* and its associative lexical field: *kein Teufel, kein Henker, kein Kuckuck, kein Hund, keine Seele, kein Deut, kein Pünktchen, kein Dreck, kein Pfifferling, keine Spur, kein Haar, keine Bohne, kein Schimmer, kein Funken (Ehre), keinen Bissen, keine Silbe, kein Tropfen, keine Krume, kein Laut, das geht auf keine Kuhhaut*, etc [5, p. 380-385]. **Example:** *Das geht auf keine Kuhhaut*.

This German idiom may be translated as: *This is beyond all limits. This is absolutely outrageous. This is completely unacceptable. Was er gestern getan hat, geht auf keine Kuhhaut. – What he did yesterday was absolutely outrageous.* Semantically, this idiom denotes something excessive, shocking, or unacceptable.

3. Negative pronouns and adverbs (lexico-grammatical constituents):

niemand, keiner, nichts, nie, niemals, nirgends, nirgendwo, nimmer, nie und nimmer, keinesfalls, keineswegs, mitnichten, etc. **Example:** *niemand* (“nobody”, “no one”). *Niemand ist zu Hause. – Nobody is at home. Niemand weiß die Antwort. – Nobody knows the answer. Ich habe niemanden gesehen. – I saw nobody.* It should be noted that *niemand* is the nominative form, whereas *niemanden* represents the accusative case.

4. Coordinating negative conjunctions and negative subordinate constructions: *weder ... noch; nicht ... sondern; kein ... sondern; ohne dass; anstatt dass; als ob; als wenn; wie wenn; bevor; bis; ehe; ohne zu; anstatt zu.* **Example:** *weder ... noch* (“neither ... nor”). *Weder er noch ich wissen die Antwort. – Neither he nor I know the answer. Sie trinkt weder Kaffee noch Tee. – She drinks neither coffee nor tea. Er hat weder Zeit noch Lust. – He has neither time nor desire.*

5. The modal response word *nein*. Examples: *Nein. – No. Nein, danke. – No, thank you. Nein, ich komme nicht. – No, I am not coming. Nein, das stimmt nicht. – No, that is not correct.*

6. Negative phraseological units (idioms occurring exclusively in negative constructions and lacking affirmative counterparts), for example: *nicht von schlechten Eltern sein; keinen Finger rühren; Man soll den Tag nicht vor dem Abend loben; Einem geschenkten Gaul schaut man nicht ins Maul.* **Example:** *Einem geschenkten Gaul schaut man nicht ins Maul.* English equivalent: *Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.*

7. Privative lexical components expressing absence, deprivation or renunciation: *fehlen, verzichten, übersehen, untersagen, meiden, der Verzicht, frei, kahl*, together with privative phraseological expressions such as *in den Mond gucken, in den sau-*

ren Apfel beißen, unter den Tisch fallen, die Hände in den Schoß legen.

Example: *Verzicht* denotes **renunciation, abstinence, or voluntary refusal.**

Der Verzicht auf Luxus fiel ihm schwer. – Giving up luxury was difficult for him.

Verzicht bedeutet nicht immer Verlust. – Renunciation does not always imply loss.

Another example is the idiom *in den sauren Apfel beißen*, meaning **to accept an unpleasant but unavoidable necessity.**

8. Transposed complex-sentence constructions, such as *Ich werde Emil heißen, wenn ...* and *Ich fresse einen Besen, wenn ...*, functioning as emphatic expressions of impossibility or disbelief. **Example:** *Wenn auch vieles dagegen sprach, so hielt er doch an seinem Entschluss fest. (Theodor Fontane, Irrungen, Wirrungen).* Although many arguments spoke against it, he nevertheless remained committed to his decision.

The concessive construction *wenn auch ... so ...* is frequently interpreted in Modern German as semantically equivalent to *obwohl*, while preserving an additional nuance of concession.

9. Syntactic phraseological constructions, for example: *Ich und Angst? Sie und heiraten? Ach wo! I wo!* These elliptical constructions express emphatic negation and typically convey meanings such as complete impossibility, categorical rejection, or ironic denial. **Example:** *Ich und lügen? Niemals! “Me? Lie? Never!”*

10. Affective comparative constructions, in which comparison serves primarily expressive rather than logical purposes. **Example:** *Ich kenne ihn besser als mich selbst. – I know him better than I know myself.* Another example:

Aber seinen Sinn kenne ich weniger als den Papst zu Rom! – But I know even less about his intentions than about the Pope in Rome. These constructions intensify the speaker's emotional evaluation through hyperbolic comparison.

11. Rhetorical questions and interrogative-directive constructions.

Rhetorical questions function as expressive devices rather than genuine requests for information. Examples: *Wer glaubt denn so etwas? – Who would believe such a thing? Ist das nicht wunderbar? – Isn't that wonderful? Wer kennt ihn nicht? – Who doesn't know him?* Interrogative-directive constructions formally resemble questions but pragmatically function as requests, suggestions, or invitations. Examples: *Kannst du mir bitte helfen? – Could you help me, please? Warum setzen wir uns nicht? – Why don't*

we sit down? Gehen wir nach Hause? – Shall we go home?

12. Formulaic constructions of expressive-ironic negation.

Example: Expressive-ironic negation (*expressiv-ironische Negation*) is a form of negation in which the negative meaning is conveyed not by the explicit negative particles *nicht* or *kein*, but by an ironic utterance whose intended meaning is opposite to its literal interpretation.

1. *Das hast du ja großartig gemacht! – Well, that was brilliantly done!*

(Actual meaning: *That was not brilliant at all.*)

Although formally affirmative, the utterance expresses an ironic negation of a positive evaluation within the given context.

2. *Du bist mir vielleicht ein Held! – Some hero you are!*

(Implicit meaning: *You are no hero at all.*)

This construction represents one of the most typical formulaic patterns of expressive-ironic negation in German.

3. *Das ist ja eine schöne Bescherung! – Well, that's a fine mess!*

(Implicit meaning: *There is nothing good about this situation.*)

Here the adjective *schön* ('nice', 'fine') is used ironically and, in effect, negates the positive evaluation normally associated with the adjective.

4. *Na, das war vielleicht eine Hilfe! – That was a great help!*

(Implicit meaning: *That was no help at all.*). Such constructions are widely employed in colloquial German and literary discourse to express irony, sarcasm, and implicit negation. They belong to the category of implicit negative expressions, since the negative meaning is inferred from the communicative context rather than being expressed by explicit grammatical markers of negation [8, p. 145-160]

13. Structures of implicit negation, such as *Der Teufel weiß es*, *Das weiß der Kuckuck*, and *Das geht ihn einen feuchten Käse an*. **Examples:** *Was ich mit meinem Geld mache, geht dich einen feuchten Käse an.* – *What I do with my money is absolutely none of your business.* *Das geht keinen feuchten Käse an, was wir hier besprechen.* – *What we are discussing here is absolutely nobody's business.* These idiomatic constructions express categorical negation through pragmatic implication rather than explicit negative markers.

14. Affixal negation: *nicht-*, *nichts-*, *un-*, *miss-*, *a(n)-*, *de(s)-*, *dis-*, *in-*, *ir-*, *im-*, *non-*, *-los*, *-frei*, *-leer* (e.g., *uninteressant*, *intransitiv*). **Example:** *Er stand*

hilflos am Fenster und wusste nicht, was er tun sollte. – *He stood helplessly by the window and did not know what to do.* The adjective *hilflos* is derived from *Hilfe* ('help') by means of the suffix *-los*, which denotes the absence or deprivation of the quality expressed by the base word. Thus, *-los* functions as a privative affix expressing derivational negation. Other typical examples include: *hoffnungslos* – hopeless; *arbeitslos* – unemployed; *endlos* – endless; *sprachlos* – speechless.

15. Prepositions: *ohne*, *außer*, *außerhalb*, *wider*, *anstatt*, and *gegen*. **Example:**

Er ging ohne ein Wort aus dem Zimmer. – *He left the room without saying a word.* The preposition *ohne* ('without'), which governs the accusative case, indicates the absence of an action or object and therefore constitutes one of the grammatical means of expressing negation in German.

16. Circumstantial markers (circumstantials) such as *scheinbar*, *kaum*, *nur*, *zweifelhaft*, *angeblich*, *vergebens*, and *umsonst*. **Example:** The adverb *scheinbar* ('apparently', 'seemingly') may express implicit negation by indicating that an apparent quality does not correspond to reality. *Er war scheinbar ruhig, doch innerlich kochte er vor Wut.* – *He appeared calm, but inwardly he was boiling with anger.* *Sie zeigte scheinbar Interesse an dem Gespräch.* – *She merely pretended to be interested in the conversation.* In both examples, *scheinbar* creates implicit negation. In the first sentence, the implied meaning is *he was not genuinely calm*; in the second, *she was not genuinely interested in the conversation*.

17. The construction *geschweige denn*. **Example:** *Er hat nicht einmal Zeit zum Essen, geschweige denn zum Ausruhen.* – *He does not even have time to eat, let alone to rest.* The construction *geschweige denn* follows a negative statement and reinforces its negative meaning by indicating that if the first situation is impossible, the second is even less conceivable.

Structure of the Functional-Semantic Field of Negation in Azerbaijani

1. The negative morpheme *-ma/-mə* (including its phonetic variants *-ma* and *-m*) constitutes the dominant element of the field.

Examples: *Qapını açma!* – *Do not open the door!* The negative meaning is expressed by the suffix *-ma*, attached to the verbal stem *aç-* ('to open'). This represents the negative form of the imperative mood. The morpheme functions as the central grammatical marker of negation. *Mən bu kitabı oxumuram.* – *I am not reading this book.* The verb form consists of the stem *oxu-* ('to read'), the negative morpheme *-ma*, the present tense marker, and the first-person singu-

lar ending. Negation is expressed morphologically and explicitly. *O məktəbə getmədi.* – He (She) did not go to school. The verbal form *getmədi* contains the negative morpheme *-mə* together with the past tense marker *-di*, expressing negation at the morphological level. *Biz bunu bilmərik.* – We will not know this. The form *bilmərik* contains the reduced allomorphic variant of the negative morpheme preceding the personal ending. The negative meaning is encoded within the verbal word form itself.

2. Negative particles *deyil* and *yox*. **Example:** *Bu iş heç də asan deyil.* – This task is not easy at all (M. Jalal). The negative copular marker *deyil* and the negative particle *yox* constitute the principal grammatical means of expressing explicit negation in Azerbaijani.

3. Negative pronouns and adverbs (lexico-grammatical constituents): *heç kim, heç kəs, heç biri (heçbirisi), heç zaman, heç vaxt, heç bir zaman, heç bir vaxt, heç cür, heç cürə, heç vəchlə, heç bir vəchlə, heç bir şey, heç yanda, heç yerdə, heç yandan, and heç yerdən*, among others. **Example:** *Heç kəs ona inanmadı.* – Nobody believed him (J. Mammadgulu-zade). These lexical units function as specialized lexico-grammatical markers of negation within the functional-semantic field.

4. Coordinative negative conjunctions: *nə...nə, nə...nə də ki, and nə...və nə də ki*. These conjunctions express coordinated negation by simultaneously denying two or more entities, actions, or situations.

5. Privative phraseological units (lexico-grammatical means) such as *işindən qalmaq* ('to lose one's job'), *qulaqardına vurmaq* ('to turn a deaf ear'), *məhrum olmaq* ('to be deprived of'), *rədd etmək* ('to reject'), and *gözdən (gözündən) qaçırmmaq* ('to overlook'). **Example:** *Səməd bütün deyilənləri qulaqardına verdi.* – Samad turned a deaf ear to everything that had been said (M. Ibrahimov). These phraseological units convey negative meaning through the semantics of deprivation, rejection, omission, or deliberate disregard.

6. Negative response words: *yox* ('no') and *xeyir* ('no'). These lexical items function as independent markers of negative response and categorical denial.

7. Emphatic negative lexical markers: *ömründə, dünyada, dünyasında, qətiyyən, qəti, and əsla*. **Exam-**

ple: *Mən əsla razı deyiləm.* – I absolutely do not agree (H. Javid). These lexical units intensify or reinforce the negative meaning expressed in the utterance.

8. The lexical item *bir* and its field of active associative combinations: (*heç*) *bir damcı da, bir gilə də, bir zərrə də, bir qara (kor) qəpik də, bir qırıq da, bir dənə də, bir tükən də, and bir iynə ulduzu qədər də*, among others. **Example:** *Bir zərrə ikən küllə qovuşmaq ulu niyyətdir.* – To unite with the whole while being but a single particle is a noble aspiration (B. Vahabzade, Allah). Within negative constructions, these expressions function as emphatic minimizers that strengthen the semantics of complete absence or total negation.

Conclusion. The vertical structure of the functional-semantic field of negation in both German and Azerbaijani is organized according to the same general principle: **core** → **near-core zone** → **periphery**. Nevertheless, the typological characteristics of the two languages determine different inventories of linguistic means. German predominantly employs **analytic (lexico-grammatical)** devices, whereas Azerbaijani mainly relies on **affixal (morphological)** mechanisms for expressing negation. Despite these typological differences, both languages display a comparable functional organization of the category of negation and employ both **explicit** and **implicit** means to convey negative meaning. The **core-periphery opposition** constitutes the fundamental organizing principle of the vertical structure of the functional-semantic field in both languages. The interaction between central and peripheral constituents, as well as their contribution to the internal organization of individual semantic fields, is of considerable theoretical significance. The functional-semantic field of negation is characterized by the richness and multi-level nature of its constituent inventory. It incorporates indicators belonging to the **syntactic, morphological, lexical, phraseological, lexical-semantic, phonetic, and derivational** levels of language.

Thus, the vertical organization of the field of negation reveals the hierarchical arrangement of linguistic means in both German and Azerbaijani and demonstrates the distribution of the invariant semantic function across different levels of the linguistic system.

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Агакішєва Ф. ВЕРТИКАЛЬНА СТРУКТУРА ПОЛЯ ЗАПЕРЕЧЕННЯ В АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСЬКІЙ ТА НІМЕЦЬКІЙ МОВАХ

У цій статті розглядається функціонально-семантичне поле заперечення в азербайджанській та німецькій мовах з точки зору польового підходу до організації лінгвістичної системи. Розглядаються фундаментальні принципи формування та функціонування поля заперечення як складної багаторівневої системи, що інтегрує лінгвістичні ресурси на різних рівнях – морфологічному, лексичному, синтаксичному, словотворчому та прагматичному. Визначено, що поле заперечення – це функціонально-семантичне утворення, в якому всі засоби вираження негативного значення об'єднані на основі спільної семантичної функції, незалежно від їхньої належності до певного лінгвістичного рівня. Особлива увага приділяється вертикальній структурі функціонально-семантичного поля заперечення. Розглянуто розподіл лінгвістичних ресурсів за принципом «центр-периферія», що дозволяє визначити ступінь їхнього внеску у вираження негативної семантики. Показано, що ядро поля складають спеціалізовані ресурси заперечення, які мають стійке негативне значення та реалізують свою первинну семантичну функцію незалежно від контексту. Визначено, що перинуклеарна зона включає одиниці, які підтримують тісний зв'язок з центральними засобами, але характеризуються меншим ступенем спеціалізації. Встановлено, що периферійна частина поля складається з лінгвістичних одиниць, які набувають негативного значення лише за певних контекстуальних умов та в результаті взаємодії з іншими елементами висловлювання. Розглянуто вертикальний поділ поля заперечення, що відображає взаємодію різних рівнів лінгвістичної системи та розподіл інтегрального семантичного навантаження між засобами вираження заперечення. Показано, що функціонально-семантичне поле об'єднує лінгвістичні одиниці різних рівнів в єдину систему на основі спільності функції, яку вони виконують. Розглянуто взаємозв'язок між спеціалізованими та неспеціалізованими засобами заперечення, а також особливості їх функціонування в рамках загальної структури поля.

Ключові слова: функціонально-семантичне поле, центр-периферійна структура, ядро поля, навколоядерна зона, поле заперечення, периферія, обставинні слова, негативні фразеологізми.

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