

SYNTAX OF NEGATION AND POLARITY IN WAGDI

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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SYNTAX OF NEGATION AND POLARITY IN WAGDI

by

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis – **“Syntax of Negation and Polarity in Wagdi”** submitted by Vyom Sharma (entry no. 2016HUZ8530) to the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, for the award of Doctor of Philosophy is a record of bonafide work carried by him under my supervision. In my opinion, the thesis has reached the standards of fulfilling the requirements for submission relating to the degree. The contents of the thesis have not been submitted in part or full, to any other university or institute for the award of any other degree or diploma.

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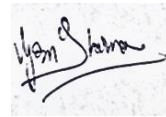
This dissertation is a result of the struggles and sacrifices of my mother, Lata Sharma, who is my role model. She is an amazing and inspiring woman who raised us by herself while pursuing a phenomenal career as a school lecturer. She inspires me to be a model teacher and a loving human being, just like her. I love you Mom!

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All errors in this work are my own.

October, 2023
New Delhi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vyom Sharma', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vyom Sharma

Abstract

This dissertation aims to establish propositional negation and polarity as fundamental and distinct concepts in the study of Language. To attain this objective, I present the case of Wagdi, a Western Indo-Aryan Language and a variety of the Bhil Language group, spoken primarily in the Dungarpur and Banswara districts in Southern Rajasthan. Wagdi has 5 ‘negative’ lexical items that appear in different contexts. I show that out of these lexical items, only one (*ne*) is the propositional negator, representing the semantic negation of declarative eventive sentences. The other four (*na*, *nathi*, *nakke*, and *nakk*) are polarity markers representing discourse-level disagreement or denial of an utterance. In the dissertation, I propose a syntactic model in the generative framework for the propositional negator and the polarity markers in Wagdi. I describe polarity as a morphosemantic feature that ‘links’ the (dis-)belief of the interlocutors in the discourse to the embedded propositional structure. Thus, my proposed model integrates the discourse and the propositional domain to account for the discourse-level and proposition-level properties of polarity markers in Wagdi.

इस शोध प्रबंध का उद्देश्य भाषा के अध्ययन में प्रस्तावात्मक निषेध और ध्रुवता को मौलिक और विशिष्ट अवधारणाओं के रूप में स्थापित करना है। इस उद्देश्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए, मैं वागड़ी भाषा का मामला प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूँ, जो एक पश्चिमी इंडो-आर्यन भाषा और भील भाषा समूह की एक किस्म है। यह मुख्य रूप से दक्षिणी राजस्थान के डूंगरपुर और बांसवाड़ा जिलों में बोली जाती है। वागड़ी में 5 'नकारात्मक' शब्द हैं जो विभिन्न संदर्भों में पाए जाते हैं। मैं यह दिखाने का प्रयास करता हूँ कि इन शब्दों में से केवल एक (नै) प्रस्तावात्मक निषेधक है, जो घोषणात्मक और घटनात्मक वाक्यों के अर्थ संबंधी निषेध का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है। अन्य चार (ना, नाथी, नक्के, और नक्क) ध्रुवता मार्कर हैं जो प्रवचन-स्तर की असहमति या किसी कथन के खंडन का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं। इस शोध प्रबंध में मैं वागड़ी में प्रस्तावक नकारात्मक और ध्रुवीयता मार्करों के लिए जेनरेटिव ढांचे में एक वाक्यविन्यासी मॉडल का प्रस्ताव करता हूँ। मैं ध्रुवीयता को एक रूपात्मक व अर्थ-संबंधी (morphosemantic) फीचर के रूप में वर्णित करता हूँ जो प्रवचन में वार्ताकारों के (अ)विश्वास को अंतर्निहित प्रस्ताव संरचना से जोड़ने का कार्य करती है। इस प्रकार मेरा प्रस्तावित मॉडल ध्रुवीयता मार्करों के प्रवचन-स्तर और प्रस्ताव-स्तर गुणों को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रवचन और प्रस्तावक डोमेन को एकीकृत करता है।

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ABBREVIATIONS

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
ACC	accusative
APM	anaphoric polarity marker
AUX	auxiliary
CAUS	causative
CC	copular constructions
CFM	confirmational
CL	clitic
COMP	complementizer
CONJ	conjunctive
CPM	copula polarity marker
DAT	dative
DECL	declarative
DEF	definite
DEM	demonstrative
DIPM	deferred imperative polarity marker
DISJ	disjunctive
DW	discourse world
ERG	ergative
F	feminine
FOC	focus
FUT	future
GEN	genitive
GER	gerund
HAB	habitual
IMP	imperative
INF	infinitive
INST	instrumental

IPFV	imperfective
IPM	imperative polarity marker
LOC	locative
LOG	logophoric pronoun
M	masculine
NEG	(propositional) negation
NOM	nominative
NPQ	negated polar question
OBL	oblique
PASS	passive
PFV	perfective
PL	plural
PERF	perfect
POLIMP	polite imperative
PP	present participle
PQ	polar question
PRS	present
PROG	progressive
PRO	pronoun
PST	past
PTCP	participle
Q	question particle
SG	singular
SUBJ	subjunctive
THV	theme Vowel
TOP	topic
TW	textual World
VOC	vocative

Abbreviated citations

H&B	Homer and Bhatt (2020)
K&R	Kramer and Rawlins (2009)
R&F	Roleofson and Farkas (2015)