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SYNTACTIC NEGATION IN CROATIAN AND MACEDONIAN

Syntactic negation: a comparative analysis of syntactic negation in Croatian and Hungarian is a scientific monograph by Iva Nazalević Čučević published by Hrvatska sveučilišna naklada in Zagreb, 2016. It is an extremely valuable monograph which has a context of applied linguistics, along with its more narrow linguistic contribution. This primarily concerns glottodidactics and translation.

The book deals with comparative sentential and partial negation in Croatian and Macedonian in the *Introduction*, *Conclusion*, as well as five chapters i.e. the means by which two kinds of negation are expressed, as well as their syntactic-semantic characteristics portrayed in the predicates of the first, second, and third order that Z. Topolinska speaks of. The literature from which the author starts in her conclusions were the computer corpuses of Croatian, a parallel corpus of SETimes, *The New Testament* in the two aforementioned languages, literary works, web sources, spoken language, and, of course, the quintessential linguistic works on negation.

When considering syntactic negation in the two languages, I. Nazalević Čučević goes from a comparative overview of some of the attributes of Macedonian and Croatian by analyzing them with regards to, for instance, declination, duplication of a (in)direct object, the position of enclitics or the verb system. In the next chapter, the author gives an overview of the research of negation in Croatian and Macedonian so far. While doing so, she observes negation in grammars and separate research in the two languages. After an overview of negation, a theoretical framework is brought, mostly based on conclusions by Z. Topolinska, within which the following two sections, the key chapters of the monograph, analyze the sentential and partial negation.

After a clearly and firmly stated framework, I. Nazalević Čučević dedicates her attention to the analysis of negation in actual language use. In the first of the two central chapters, the author dissects the means of researching syntactic

negation in the two South Slav languages, as well as their position. In that sense, with regards to sentential negation, she creates a contrastive analysis of negating words and negating prefixes. Regarding partial negation, she analyses negating words and the following models: *ne X nego/već Y; X, (a) ne Y; X, ali ne Z; X ne g Y; ne samo... nego/već i; ni – ni*.

The last chapter, also the most comprehensive one, is dedicated to a contrastive analysis of semantic implications of syntactic negation in the two languages which the author analyses in three larger sub-chapters, depending on what kind of negating sentences she is dealing with: sentences with predicates of the first, second or third order. With regards to the predicates of the first order, the negation of facts, identification, and properties in (semi)copulative predicates are given special attention, as well as negating agreement and double negation in simple and complex sentences. The predicates of the third order and negations are considered with regards to negation in completive sentences with verbs of thought, doubt, and memory, the negations of predicates with verbs of attempt, expectancy, attention, predicates with verbs of wanting and intent. Special attention is given to negation in questions, as well, i.e. to yes-no questions, negated permissive questions, and alternative negated and command sentences. A sub-chapter dedicated to predicates of the third order is separated according to analyses of negations in temporal, conditional, and permissive sentences.

With regards to the linguistic analysis itself, one must certainly highlight the illustrative nature of the comparative listing of numerous examples of linguistic usage which confirm and make possible conclusions which are, in and of themselves, often a consequence of noticing subtle characteristics, similarities, and differences in the expression of negation in Croatian and Macedonian. Considering the fact that the monograph and its contribution are derived from linguistic usage of a living language, one must certainly admit that this makes the author's work one of the most contemporary overviews of linguistic phenomena not only because of its contribution, but also methodologically speaking.

The scientific monograph by Iva Nazalević Čučević is the first of its kind. It systematically, methodologically coherent, and analytically and interpretatively extremely minutely approaches negation in two South Slav languages. It contributes to two national philologies, (South) Slavistics, but also to comparative, corpus, and contact linguistics. Apart from that, the contribution of the conclusions by the author to morphology, syntax, and semantics is more than evident (if we can even consider those as being separate). This stems from

expertly, skillfully, and precisely combining various approaches, along with an unquestionable regard to science and methodological *purity*. In that sense, the plural intent of *Syntactic Negation* is evident: it is intended for Slavists, linguists, glottodidactics students, translators. It will also serve as a guide for future researchers of negation, as well as an example of a contemporary detailed and comprehensive scientific dealing with language in the context of modern linguistics of multiple perspectives.