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THE ISSUE: WHEN WILL WHAT WE SAY CHANGE WHAT WE DO? A CASE OF NEGATION IN IGBO AND CHINESE LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT
Igbo is a native language or mother tongue (MT) in Nigeria; while Chinese is a foreign language to the Igbo learners. In this paper, the similarities and the differences between negation patterns in Igbo and Chinese have been determined. The contribution of this is that Igbo L_1 scholars learning Chinese as well as the Chinese teachers teaching them are better guided towards resolving any difficulties arising from the differences in le arning Chinese. We believe that with negation, there will be remarkable improvement on the understanding and interaction of both languages. The findings of the work reveal that each language has a peculiar way of expressing negation. Igbo negative markers are -ghi; -beghi; and a-le- … -la/-le. Whereby Chinese has many negative markers, including bu, fei, wu, fou, wei, **mei** *etc but bu and mei (you) are the most commonly used in standard modern Chinese.*

Keywords: IHVs = Inherent negative verbs, **IHNs** = Inherent negative nouns, **± neg =** Negative/positive marker, **SMC** = Standard Modern Chinese, **MV** = Matrix verb and **AV** = Auxiliary Verb.

Introduction
Foreign languages such as Deutch, French, German, Chinese and soon have been a general problem to non-speakers especially for those that their first language(L_1) is Igbo or English language. Therefore, the comparative study of languages came into place to alleviate the problems facing the second or third language learners. Hoffland and Stig (1994:25) stated that "Language comparison is of great interest in a theoretical as well as an applied perspective. It reveals what is general and what is language specific and is therefore important both for the understanding of languages in general and for the study of the individual languages compared.

Negation has challenged many scholars to explore its properties and specifically its relationship to many other categories. It is however often claimed that negation is a

distinct speech act from the affirmative, and that negative-affirmative pairing is not always a straightforward one. Morava (1977:168) quotes Garcia (1975:8) as saying that "negative sentences communicate in terms of an implicit, ***bu***t rejected, affirmation, which for some reason might be expected to hold, ***bu***t which in fact fails to obtain".

Negation marking is a rich morpho-syntactic process in Igbo. Igbo is a language cluster comprising dialects which may not be mutually intelligible. It is one of the three major languages spoken in Nigeria. The other two are Hausa and Yoruba. The different dialects comprising Igbo have different ways of expressing negation. There are three main negative markers identified in Standard Igbo. They are: *-ghị́; -bèghị̀; -là/-lè* (Ndimele, 2004; Emenanjo, Dike, Agomo and Ezeuko, 1999; Ikekeonwu, Ezikeojiaku, Ubani and Ugoji, 1999; Ngoesi, 1989; and Emenanjo, 1978).

Chinese on the other hand, is a member of the Sino-Tibetan language family. It is spoken by the Hans across the northern, central and western regions of People's Republic of China and they constitute about 94 percent of China's population (Yip and Don 2006: 1). Chinese Grammarians have identified quite a few negative markers including ***bu***, *fei*, *wu*, *fou*, *wei*, ***mei***, etc; ***bu***and ***mei***(*you*) are the most commonly used in standard modern Chinese. ***Bu*** may precede all predicates with the exception of the item *you*, which, as a lexical and an aspectual auxiliary, is exclusively negated by the negative marker ***mei***. Following Wang (1965), we treat ***mei*** as the alternant of ***bu*** before *you*. Superficially, negation in Chinese is quite different from many other languages.

Aims of Study

The aim of the study is to compare the negative markers in Igbo and Chinese languages and to understand many related phenomena of the two languages.

- To ascertain the impact of socio-linguistics communicative competence and usage of L_2.
- To make sure that L_2 learners of Chinese interpret these two negative markers correctly even though they might not use them properly in production.
- To know the extent negative markers has gone in national identity and humanity development.

Literature Review

Since Language is a means which human beings have devised for communicating ideas, feelings, emotions and desires. In this paper, relevant literature on the topic is examined in order to know the views expressed by some individuals in the area. The section is sub-divided into theoretical and empirical studies, each arranged according to the related aspects of the literature.

Theoretical Studies

Every human language possesses some formal ways of expressing negation. Some scholars and grammarians have different views and theories on the subject of study. According to Crystal (2008: 323), negation is "a process or construction in grammatical and semantic analysis which typically

expresses the contradiction of some or all of a sentence's marching ". Lyons (1977: 769) opines that there is also a clear difference of meaning in utterance which results from the negation of a performative verb and the negative of its complement. (a) I don't promise to assassinate the prime minister. (b) I promise not to assassinate the prime minister. According to Lü (1982) and Bai (2000), Chinese negative marker "***mei***" is used in objective narration and "***bu***"negates one's subjective desire; Lin (2003) argue that ***bu*** selects a stative situation as its complement whereas ***mei*** selects an event; according to Li (1999), ***bu*** is marked with [-telic] whilst ***mei*** is marked with [+telic]; Li and Thompson (1981) and Xiao and McEnery (2007) agree that ***mei*** negates the completion or realization of a situation. Li and Thompson (1981) claim that ***bu*** denies the existence of a state, whereas Xiao and McEnery (2007) argue that ***bu*** is a general purpose negator. However, none of the distinctions can fully account for the difference between the two negations markers, because it is easy to find counter examples to either of the distinctions. We will first briefly examine how each of the two adverbs is distri***bu***ted, i.e. they each appear in what kind of situation, followed by a discussion of the distinction of the two negation markers. We will agree with Hsieh (2001) to argue that the distinction between***bu*** and ***mei*** is that ***mei*** denies dynamic situations while ***bu*** denies non-dynamic situations.

(Li, 1999), From the corpora of Mandarin Chinese, precisely, the two most frequent negative words in Mandarin Chinese are "***bu***" and "***mei***". Moreover, concerning the range of negation, "***bu***" covers larger scope than "***mei***". Generally, negative morphemes are procliticized to predicate. Negators (***bu*** and ***mei***) can be fit in the following morphosyntactic model (4)/(5) in Mandarin Chinese.

Subject + *NEG*+ Predicate

(4) a. Yuehan***mei***you che. b. *Yuehan you ***mei***che.
John NEG have car. John have NEG car.
'John doesn't have car.' 'John doesn't have car.'

(5) a. Mali ***bu***chi pinguo.
b. *Mali chi ***bu***pingguo.
Mary NEG eat apple. Mary eat NEG apple.
'Mary doesn't eat apple.' 'Mary doesn't eat apple.'

The foregoing opinions, in addition to Ndimele's report of Garcia's (1975: 8) that negative sentences are rejected affirmations, emphasize sentences with or without recourse to the events they describe. Givon (1975) identifies that negation is about positive events which occur in specific time while the reverse is the case for negative events which fail to occur. All these positions point to the fact that the notion of negation exists among a pair of sentences, events or, elements or items in them: the one that exhibits the desired feature and the one that refutes or negates it**.**

Allwood, Anderson and Dahl (1995:30) state that negation is used in logic to form a compound sentence the truth value of which is the opposite of that of the simple sentence it operates on. Thus, if "its snowing" is true,

"it is not snowing"must be false or vice versa. Quirk and Greenbaun (2000:24) opine that negative sentences involve the operator requiring the insertion of not (or the affixal contraction – n't) between the operator and the predication.

(a) The girl isn't a student (b) John did not search the room (c) He hadn't given the girl an apple
Yule (1996: 184) discusses the stages of acquiring negators; stage 1 seems to have a simple strategy which says that no or not should be stuck on the beginning of any expression. Examples are; (a) Not a teddy bear (b) No fall (c) No sit there

In the second stage, the additional negative "don't" and "can't" are used, and with "no" and "not", placed in front of the verb rather than at the beginning of the sentence. Some examples are:

(a) He no bite you there no squirrels (b) You can't dance, I don't know
The third stage sees the incorporation of other auxiliary forms such as "didn't" and "won't" and the disappearance of the stage 1 forms. A very late acquisition is the form isn't, so that some stage 2 forms continue to be used for quite a long time. Examples are: (a) I didn't catch it, she won't let go (b) He is not taking it, this is not ice cream

The study of the use of negative forms by children has given rise to some delightful examples of children operating their own rules for negative sentences example: (a) Child: Nobody don't like me (b) Mother: No, say "nobody likes me" (c) Mother: No, now listen carefully; say "nobody likes me" (d) Child: Oh! Nobody don't likes me.

Finegan (2008:332) opines that four out of five negative morphemes occur as the negative adverb not (attached to the verb as a contraction). One characteristic difference between speech and writing is the much higher frequency of negation in spoken registers, where the vast majority of negative elements are separated which is often realised as – n't rather than incorporated into words like invalid. Akmajian, Demers, Farmer and Harnish (2006:161) opine that the contracted negative form n't can attach to auxiliary verbs (a) John is running >John isn't running (b) They have left >They haven't left (c) I can sing >I can't sing However, main verbs cannot be negated in this way. For example (a) You know those women >You know n't those women (b) Mary left early >Mary leftn't early When a sentence continue only a main verb and no auxiliary verb, the auxiliary verb do is used in forming the negative version as in these sentences; (a) You know those women >You don't know those women (b) Mary left early >Mary didn't leave early (c) They went to Berkeley >They didn't go to Berkeley.

In addition, auxiliary verbs can be followed by the uncontracted negative "not" (as in John is not running. They have not left. I cannot sing). Main verbs cannot be followed by uncontracted "not" in current spoken American English: expressions such as "We know not what we do and Ask not what your country can do for you are possible only in highly stylised forms of English in which an archaic flavour is preserved as in religious preaching styles and highly formal oratory".

Graddol, Cheshire and Swann (1987: 74) say that the negative word can be no as well as not and it can be inserted either at the beginning of the sentence or (in one case) at the end, rather than between clause elements. The structure of the negative sentences can be described as: (a) no (b) not or (c) Sentence + no

Data presentation and analysis

The most frequently used negation markers in Mandarin Chinese are**bù (不)**and**méi(没)**,all translated as English not. They reflect the features of grammatical category ofnegation in Chinese. Both ***bu*** and ***mei*** typically negate verbs and adjectives. They are generally in the preverbal (or pre-adjective) position and it is the verb (adjective) phrase that is in the scope of negation. There have been many studies to account for the differences between ***bu*** and ***mei***. According to Lü (1982) and Bai (2000), ***mei*** is used in objective narration and ***bu*** negates one's subjective desire; Lin (2003) argue that ***bu*** selects a stative situation as its complement whereas ***mei*** selects an event; according to Li (1999), ***bu*** is marked with [-telic] whilst ***mei*** is marked with [+telic]; Li and Thompson (1981) and Xiao and McEnery (2007) agree that ***mei*** negates the completion or realization of a situation, ***bu***t Li and Thompson (1981) claim that ***bu*** denies the existence of a state, whereas Xiao and McEnery (2007) argue that ***bu*** is a general purpose negator. However, none of the distinctions can fully account for the difference between the two negation markers, because it is easy to find counter examples to either of the distinctions. I will first briefly examine how each of the two adverbs is distri***bu***ted, i.e. they each appear in what kind of situation, followed by a discussion of the distinction of the two negation markers. I will follow Hsieh (2001) to argue that the distinction of ***bu*** and ***mei*** is that ***mei*** denies dynamic situations while ***bu*** denies non-dynamic situations.

Distri*bu*tion of Bù (不)

Descriptively speaking, ***bu*** is used before adjectives, verbs and modal verbs:

(1)a. Ta ***bu***congming. (***bu*** + adjective)

他不**聪**明

He not clever

'He is not clever.'

(2) a. Ta ***bu***quxuexiao (***bu*** + verb)

b. Wo***bu***jide ta. (***bu*** + verb)

他不去学校

我不解的他

He not go school

I not remember him/her

'He does not want to go to school.

'I don't remember him/her.'

He will not go to school.'

(3) Wo***bu***yinggai qu. (***bu*** + modal verb)

我不**应该**去

I not should go

'I should not go.'

Furthermore, shi 'be' must be negated by ***bu***.

(4) Ta ***bu***shilaoshi

他不是老**师**

He not be teacher

'He is not a teacher.'

If we summarize the situations where ***bu*** can be used as the negation marker, it can be easily seen that shi 'be', adjectives and modal verbs share the same property of stable. They

refer to a state or an unchanging condition. ***Bu***t ***bu*** also negates verbs as in (2). Note that jide 'remember' in (2b) is a stative verb. Stative verb is a verb which usually refers to a state (i.e. an unchanging condition). They express emotion, knowledge, belief, (e.g. love, hate, know) and show relationships, (e.g. belong to, equal, own). On the contrary, dynamic verbs express activity and processes, for example, run, come, ***bu***y, read, etc. Shi 'be', adjectives and modal verbs as well as stative verbs all refer to a stative situation. Thus, we can conclude that ***bu*** should be used as a negative marker in stative situations where it simply denies the existence of a state. However, (2a) shows us that ***bu*** can be also used before dynamic verbs. Notice that ***mei*** can also be used as negation marker in (2a), ***bu***t ***mei*** express different meanings with respect to ***bu***. In this example ***bu*** expresses a volitional interpretation that the subjects refuse or are unwilling to go to school. Only when the subject is animate can the volitional interpretation be possible. ***Bu***t there are also cases that dynamic verbs have ***bu*** as its negator when the subject is inanimate. Consider the following example:

(5) a. Taiyang***bu***raodiqiuzhuan
b. Yueliang ***bu*** faguang
太阳不**绕**地球**转**
月亮不**发**光
Sun not around earth turn
Moon not shine
'The sun does not turn around the earth.'
'The moon does not shine.'

In these two sentences, the actions expressed by the dynamic verbs are taken by inanimate subjects ***taiyang*** 'sun' and ***yueliang*** 'moon'. It is impossible to say an inanimate thing is willing or unwilling to do something, so the two sentences cannot have volitional reading. The dynamic verbs ***raodiqiuzhuan*** 'turn around the earth' and ***faguang*** 'shine' only express natural phenomenon. They only have generic reading. The generic reading also holds for animate subject:

(6) Gou ***bu*** chi laoshu
狗不吃老鼠
Dog not eat mouse
'Dogs do not eat mice.'

Furthermore, dynamic verbs negated by ***bu*** can also express habitual meanings.

(7) Wo***bu*** he jiu
我不喝酒
I not drink wine
'I don't drink wine.'

(7) is ambiguous because it may have both the volitional interpretation 'I don't want to drink wine now' and habitual interpretation 'I don't have the habit of drinking wine'. In the habit interpretation, what ***bu*** denies is the habit of drinking rather than the event of drinking wine. A habit is relatively more stable and less changeable than an event.

In summary, we can conclude that ***bu*** is used in two situations, on the one hand, ***bu*** is used before shi 'be', adjectives, stative verbs, modal verbs, and dynamic verbs which express stative meanings, such as habit. All these share the same property of stable and unchanging. On the other hand, when ***bu*** is used with dynamic verbs without denoting a habitual meaning, it negates the subjective willing or desire to do something, i.e. a

volitional interpretation, or has a generic reading.

Distri*bu*tion of *Mei* (没)

Mei has two functions; one function is to negate the possessive verb "***you***" 'have',where***bu*** is impossible.

(8) wo***mei*** you qiche
我没有汽**车**
I not have car
'I don't have a car.'

The other function of ***mei*** denies that an action has taken place or a resultativestate has been achieved. This function of ***mei*** implies that ***mei*** can only be used in dynamic verbs.

(9) a. Ta ***mei***quxuexiao
b. Wo***meizhao***-daolüguan
他没去学校
我没找到**陆**官
He not go school
I not find hotel
'He did not go to school.'
'I did not find a hotel.'

(9a) denies that the action of ***quxuexiao*** 'go to school' has taken place, while (9b) denies that the hotel has already been found, ***bu***t the action of looking for may have taken place, i.e. the resultative state of the action ***zhao*** 'look for' has not been achieved. So the difference of meanings depends on the different type of the verb, to be specifically, whether the verb has a resultative state or not decides what ***mei*** denies. If there is only an activity verb without resultative state, as ***qu*** 'go' in (9a), ***mei*** denies that the action has taken place; if the verb has a resultative state, as the accomplishment verb ***zhaodao*** 'find' in (9b), then ***mei*** denies that the state has been achieved. Notice that it is possible to insert ***bu*** between the resultative verb compounds to express negative meaning:

(10). Wo***zhao-bu***-daolüguan
我找不到**陆**官
I look for-not-get hotel
'I cannot find a hotel.'

(9b) with ***mei***, denies the resultative state has been achieved, while (10) with ***bu***denies the existence of the resultative state, thus they express the same meaning. This further supports the idea that ***bu*** negates an unchanging state and ***mei*** denies the achievement of resultative state of resultative verb compounds, which refer to a changing situaiton. One more thing I would like to mention is that some adjectives can also be negated by ***mei***, for example,

(11) Ta ***mei*** pang
他没胖
He not fat
*'He is not fat.'
'He didn't become fat.'

Though adjectives normally refer to a state, the adjective pang 'fat' negated by ***mei*** in (11) denotes that to become fat does not happen. What ***mei*** negated is not the state of being fat, ***bu***t the realization of becoming fat, which involves change of state. Thus, ***mei*** can appear before either verbs or adjectives, ***bu***t they must all involve changes. So the verbs must be dynamic verbs so that ***mei*** can deny the taking place of the action or the achievement of the resultative state; and the adjectives must mean change of state rather than a stable state.

Distinction of *bu* and *mei*

After a brief examination of the distri***bu***tion of the two negation markers, we can see whether any of the distinction mentioned at

the beginning of this section holds.A verb or verb phrase that presents an action or event as having an end point is said to be telic, while a verb or verb phrase that presents an action or event as not having an end point is said to be atelic. In Chinese, telic verbs are always a resultative verb compounds, comprising with a main verb and a resultative verb. For example, ***zhao*** 'look for' is an atelic verb, while ***zhaodao*** 'find', with the resultative verb dao 'to get/ to have', is a telic verb. It might be true that telic verbs can only be negated by ***mei***, ***bu***t this does not mean that ***mei*** cannot be used with atelic verbs. For example,

(12) a. Wo***mei***/****buzhaodao***lüguan
b. Wo***meizhao***lüguan
我没找到**陆**官
我没找**陆**官
I not find hotel
I not look for hotel
'I did not find a hotel.'
'I did not look for a hotel.'
c. Wo***buzhao***lüguan
我不找**陆**官
I not look for hotel
'I will not look for a hotel.'

Zhaodao 'find' which denotes a telic situation must be negated by ***mei***, ***bu*** is impossible here. ***zhao*** (look for) lüguan (hotel) 'look for a hotel' is an atelic situation, it can be negated by ***bu*** to express 'not willing to look for a hotel', ***bu***t it can also be negated by ***mei*** to mean that 'the action of looking for a hotel did not take place'. So it is also inappropriate to have the strict distinction of telic vs. atelic to account for the difference between ***bu*** and ***mei***. Someone argue that ***mei*** negates the completion or realization of a situation, while ***bu*** has no relation with completion. As early as Wang (1965) observed, ***bu*** negates a "plain sentence' (i.e. a declarative sentence without the aspect marker) whereas ***mei*** negates a sentence containing such an aspect marker. Li and Thompson also claim that ***bu*** is a neutral negative marker, while ***mei*** denies the completion of a situation. According to a corpus-based study, Xiao &McEnery (2007) agree that ***mei*** denies the completion or realization of an action or event, and see that all situations that can take the perfective aspect marker –le or the experiential aspect marker –guo in positive sentences can be negated by ***mei***.

(13) a. Ta kan-le na-ben shu.
b. Ta***mei***kan –(*le) na-ben shu
他看-了那-本**书**
他没看-了那-本**书**
He read-ASP that-CL book
He not read-ASP that-CL book
'He read that book.'
'He did not read that book.'

(14) a. Wokan-guozhe ben shu
b. Wo***mei***kan-guozhe ben shu
我看-**过这本书**
我没看-**过这本书**
I read-ASP this CL book
I not read-ASP this CL book
'I have read this book.'
'I have not read this book.'

However, this argument cannot be maintained. As X. Liu (1988) points out, if ***mei***denies the completion of a situation,

sentence (13b), for example, would mean he stopped in the middle of the process of reading that book without completion it. In other words, it should mean that the action started ***bu***t not completed. However, this is not the case. ***Mei*** in (13b) denies the action entirely—the action of reading does not occur at all. So completion or non-completion cannot distinguish ***bu*** and ***mei*** either. As discussed earlier, both by ***bu*** and ***mei*** can negate dynamic verbs, ***bu***t they have different meanings, as in example (2a) and (9a), repeated here in (15)

(15) a. Ta ***bu***quxuexiao
b. Ta***mei***quxuexiao
他不去学校
他没去学校
He not go school
He not go school
'He does not want to go to school.
'He did not go to school.'
He will not go to school.'

According to example (15), it seems that the subjective vs. objective distinction is true, because when both the negators negates the action qushangxue 'go to school', ***bu*** express the subjective desire, while ***mei*** gives an objective narration. However, this is only true for dynamic verbs. It's easy to find counter examples when ***bu*** has objective readings as in (16).

(16) Ta ***bu***renshizhegeren
他不认识这个人
He not know this CL person
'He doesn't know this person.'

In (16), when ***bu*** appears with stative verbs, it is more likely to express objective reading. So it might be possible to say that ***mei*** negates a situation objectively, it is hard to see why the negation marked by ***bu*** should be viewed as subjective. Only when ***bu*** is to negate dynamic verbs without denoting habitual meanings, can it has subjective reading. So neither the subjective vs. objective reading can be presented as a single criterion to distinct ***bu*** and ***mei***. I don't agree, either, that ***bu*** only appear in stative situation, and ***mei*** only appear in dynamic situations. According to Comrie (1976, p49), the distinction between a stative and a dynamic situation is characterized as follows: With a state, unless something happens to change that state, then the state will continue…With a dynamic situation, on the other hand, the situation will only continue if it is continually subject to a new input of energy.

From the former introduction of the distri***bu***tion of ***bu*** and ***mei***, it can be seen that ***bu*** generally appears in those unchanging and stable situations expressed by stativeverbs, adjectives, or model verbs, etc, to mean the non-existence of the state,whereas***mei*** must occur with the situations involving change expressed by dynamic verbs to negate the taking place or the achievement of a resultative state of an event. Though ***mei*** may also appear with stativeconstellation as adjectives, it is dynamic situation because the adjectives means change of state. To change over time involve input of energy, as Lin (2003) put it, 'change over time' and 'require input of energy' subscribe to dynamic situations. Thus it seems true that ***bu***appearsinstative situations and ***mei*** appears in dynamic situations. ***Bu***t the problem is that ***bu*** also appear in volitional, habitual and generic situations. Do they belong to stative or dynamic situation? If we

take the notion of markedness into account, we should have the following possibilities:

(17) a. Stative vs. non-stative
b. dynamic vs. non-dynamic
c. stative vs. dynamic

We will follow Hsieh (2001) to argue that the volitional, habitual and genericsituation are neither stative nor dynamic, and the distinction between ***bu*** and ***mei*** is that ***mei*** occur in dynamic situations, while occur in non-dynamic situations rather than stative situations. According to the definition by Comrie, Hsieh claims that 'If we define a non-dynamic situation as an unchanged situation, while a dynamic situation as a changed situation, the volitional, habitual, and generic situations should be considered 'unchanged'. A situation is unchanged in at least three different ways. First, it is unchanged if the subject is unwilling to carry out the action denoted by the verb. Second, it is no changed at a later time if the subject is unwilling to change the action. Third, it is not changed over time if it stays the same over time.' For the volitional situation, if one is not willing to do something, nothing will happen at a later time, and nothing will change. If a situation is habitual or generic, it is a repeated occurrence of a given event and can be treated as the defining property of an individual or object, thus it is unlikely to change. So the three situations obviously belong to an unchanged situation, thus non-dynamic. Furthermore, stative situation is included in the non-dynamic situation, because it is the third way of indicating 'unchanged'. So to conclude, ***bu*** negates non-dynamic situations rather than stative situations.

Other forms of negation in Chinese

Wei (未)Not…Not yet…Have not
Wu (无) Not…Nothing
Bie (别) Do not…Leave…Must not
Mo(莫) Do not…Nothing
Fu(弗) Not

Negation in Standard Igbo

Negative markers are those suffixes that go with the verbs to produce negation in sentences. Negative markers are grammatical devices, which are used to show negation in a sentence construction. Negation is achieved through the use of a number of negative suffixes, which are usually attached to the verbs. The morphemic constituents for forming negatives are (A/E + CV + suffix). Example:

Standard Igbo

18(a) Ànyielèbèghìùle
(b) Odòebèghìakwa
(We pre-take pef neg exam)
(Odo cry neg)
We have not taken exam
Odo did not cry
(c) Atàlàazù_
(Pre-eat neg fish)
Don't eat fish

Types of negative marker

Negative markers are uniquely based on languages. Their uniqueness is based on the grammatical structure of languages. Every language has its unique grammatical structure and this explains why types of negative markers are strictly on each human language. Let us look at various types of negative markers. They include:

The General Negative Marker (- ghi)

The negative marker is the (-ghi) suffix. Its morphemic constituent is (A + CV + - ghi) verb. This suffix has two groups known as the dotted and the undotted group. Examples of these groups are given below.

‘ -ghi’ the dotted group.

19(a) Ò zutaghi azù._

(b) Ò***bu***ghi onyeasi.

(He ***bu***ys neg fish).

(He isneg a liar).

He did not ***bu***y fish.

He is not a liar.

The undotted group.

20(a) Ò teghiofe.

(b) Ò zughiohi.

(He cooks neg soup). (He did neg steal).

He did not cook soup.

He did not steal.

It can be observed in the above examples that this negative marker operates in accordance with vowel harmony. It can be noticed that the high tone vowels(e, ọ, ụ, ị) go in harmony, that is considering the pronoun and the verb root, likewise the low tone vowels (a, u, o, i). Again with pronouns like (o,ọ) and (i,ị) mostly go in harmony with the negative marker that harmonizes with them.

Imperative marker

According to Igwe and Green (1963: 169) “The imperative negative refers to the morpheme constituents of this form are the CV verb stem with a harmonizing vowel prefix a - /e according to the stem vowel”. The tone of prefix is high tone verb before an object ***bu***t low if no object follows. It is low for low tone verbs in either case. The Imperative negative marker is the suffix ‘- la’ and an open vowel prefix. The verb form has the following morpheme constituent (A + CV- stem + - la) verb. The suffix ‘-la’ in this construction is similar to the perfective suffix in themaffirmative construction. Although they look alike, they differ in character and distri***bu***tion is consistently on a high tone, the imperative negative suffix depends on its verb-stem for its tone. The perfective affirmative suffix co-occurs with the open vowel suffix while the imperative negative suffix occurs with both the ‘A’ vowel prefix and the high-tone open vowel suffix ‘E’. This negative imperative suffix can be hosted by lexical verbs as in the following example.

Table 1

S/No	Affirmative	Negative
A	Rìeedè	Erìl_ edè
	Eat cocoyam	Eat neg cocoyam
	Eat cocoyam	Do not eat cocoyam
B	_nù _gbàà _s _	_nù _ àgb_l_ _s _
	You run	You neg run
	You people should Run	You people should not run
Ch	Kwùoeziokw_	Ekw_l_ eziokw_

	Say truth	Say neg truth
	Say the truth	Do not say the truth
D	Kpù__ y_	Akpùl_ _ y_
	Mould it	Mouldneg it
	Mould it	Do not mould it
E	Unùb_aebe à	_nùab al_ ebe à
	You come here	You come neg here
	You people should	You people should not
	Come	Come

Perfective negative marker

According to Emenanjo (1978:168), "the perfective negative marker refers to a complete action whose influence is still fat in the present". The perfective negative makers have a combination of two negative suffixes. These are the morpheme '-be' which is a perfective marker and the general marker - gh_. Thus the morphemic constituent of the perfective negative marker is (A + CV + - beghi). Both the perfective marker '-be' and the general negator - ghiare inflectional and are consistently on low tones. For example:

21(a) Anyìerìbèghìnri.
(b) Ògabèghìegwu.
(We pre-have-neg food).
(He has sing pef-neg song).
We have not eaten.
He has not sung a song.

In the example above, it was found out that in perfective Negative Marker some negative suffixes do not obey the rule of vowel harmony.

Double negation in Igbo and Chinese

In Chinese language, the affirmative effect in a double negative sentence is much stronger than in a single affirmative sentence. A double negative is adopted to strengthen or emphasize the affirmative tone. There are three forms of double negation in Chinese namely;

i. Two negative adverbs used in a sentence

e.g我得去那里。→我不得不得去那里。
I have to go there

ii. One negative adverb and one negative verb in a sentence

e.g. 在中国出生的人都会**说**中文。
People born in China speak Chinese.
→在中国出生的人当没有一个不会**说**中文的。
None of the people born in China can't speak Chinese.

iii. A negative adverb and a negative verb in a rhetorical question.

e.g. 我表哥的婚礼,我要去参加。我表哥的婚礼，我怎**么**能不去参加呢？
My cousin's wedding, I am going to attend.
My cousin's wedding, how can I not go to participate?

The following are generally used in double-negation structure; 不会不，不得不，不能不，不是不，不可能不，**难**道…不…，怎会不…，怎能不…，怎**么**会…不

Examples of double negation in Igbo language are;

i. Nkeahụagaghịemegịnkeọma
That won't do you no good
ii. Enweghị m ikeịchọtaigodo m ebe ọ bụla
I can't find my keys nowhere
iii. I kwesịghịimeihe ọ bụlan'ụlọ.
You shouldn't do nothing to the house.

Summary of Analysis

So far this paper has been able to vigorously analyze the discovered negative markers in both languages. The chapter makes it clear that two basic negative markers exist in Chinese which are;**Bù (不)** and ***Mei* (没)**. These differs with the grammatical negative marker in standard Igbo which are 'a---ghi, "-beghi and "-la'.The syntactic structure of negation in the two languages are very evident. Semantically, the appearance of the negative markers in Chinese are generally in the preverbal (or pre-adjective) position and it is the verb (adjective) phrase that is in the scope of negation.

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