

## CATEGORY OF NEGATION IN KAZAKH AND ENGLISH: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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**Abstract.** The category of negation in the functional-semantic and communicative-pragmatic aspects is defined as a universal phenomenon, however, having a different structural expression in different languages. The main function of negation in human languages is to express disagreement, disapproval, dissatisfaction, prohibition, opposition, warning. The article aims to provide a brief comparative overview of different negation patterns in Kazakh and English languages supported by the examples. The scope will be limited to the description of the negation elements and types, in order to identify similarities and differences in both languages from morphological and syntactical viewpoint. Kazakh, genealogically classified as a Turkic language, has its own peculiarities in structuring negative sentences. Kazakhstani scholars differentiate synthetic and analytical forms, nuclear and peripheral forms, double negation and negation of negation. As for English, the main distinction is between constituent (or local) negation and sentential (or clausal) negation. Theoretical significance of the article is in the attempt to identify the unique peculiarities in expressing negation in both languages, thus contributing to the further development of Comparative Linguistics and Contrastive Analysis theories. The practical aspect involves consideration of native language interference in teaching and learning negative patterns. To achieve this, the researchers employed the method of Contrastive Analysis which showed the following results: nuclear means of negative sentences are: in Kazakh – synthetical means, in English – analytical; in both languages there are words with negative semantics that can serve to express negation; Kazakh language belongs to the multiple-negative type, English - to the mono-negative type. The practical implications of the results can be seen in teaching English to Kazakh speakers as well as teaching Kazakh to English speakers.

**Keywords:** English language, comparative analysis, Kazakh language, negation category, negative markers, types, similarities, differences.

### Basic provisions

In our objective reality any phenomenon, thing, action or a quality have two sides - positive and negative. These characteristics of reality develop in the human mind ideas about the positive and negative, which, in turn, are reflected in a certain way in the language. Since sentences are the main means of expressing ideas, they are classified as positive and negative ones, primarily from the viewpoint of its relevance to the content of reality.

Negation as a universal grammatical category has been the object of scientific interest since the early times. It draws the attention of scholars due to its uniqueness, being the phenomenon that “makes us human, imbuing us with the capacity to deny, to contradict, to misrepresent, to lie, and to convey irony” [1, p.1]. Even though the category of negation in the functional-semantic and communicative-pragmatic aspects is defined as a universal phenomenon, it has different structural expressions in different languages. The main function of negation is “to negate parts of or entire sentence or clause” [2, p.1]. Thus, the function of nuclear indicators of negation is to express the internal nuances of a general negative meaning, such as disagreement, disapproval, dissatisfaction, prohibition, opposition, warning.

The current article will shed light on the grammatical markers (elements) and types of negation in Kazakh and English languages and attempt to highlight the similarities and differences in expressing the negation in these languages from the morphological and structural perspectives.

Thus, the following research questions were set for this study:

1. What are the similarities between Kazakh and English negative markers?
2. What are the differences between Kazakh and English negative markers?

Starting by reviewing the previous research regarding the category of negation in Kazakh language, we will proceed with the description of negation types in English, thus enabling to identify the similarities and differences between the negation markers in both languages.

## **Introduction**

### **Category of Negation in Kazakh Language**

Kazakh is genealogically classified as a Turkic language and is one of four members of the Kipchak-Nogai subcategory [3, p.1]. Kazakh belongs to agglutinative languages, it has a fixed SOV syntactical structure and uses a number of morphemes to denote grammatical meaning. Contemporary Kazakh employs the Cyrillic alphabet adapted from Russian throughout the Republic of Kazakhstan. There was an unsuccessful attempt to transfer into the Latin alphabet, to preserve a national identity of Kazakhs (see more in Otott-Covacs [4]). Therefore, the authors decided to provide the examples in Cyrillic, with the translation in English, as was used in the study of Otott-Covacs [4], devoted to the investigation of non-finite clauses in Kazakh. It should also be noted that her work provided valuable interpretations of grammatical paradigms, used in the current study to represent the examples in Kazakh.

Negation in Turkic languages has its own peculiarities. A number of studies have been devoted to this area, revealing the nature and patterns of compatibility of grammatical indicators of negation in the sentence structure. The earliest works, devoted to the description of negative expressions and negation types in Turkic languages belong to such founders of Turkic linguistics, as Kazembek [5], Katanov [6]. Negative sentences of modern Kazakh language were the object of research in the works of the following Kazakhstani linguists: Amir [7], Abdygaliyeva [8].

In these works, the category of negation was described from the functional-semantic, communicative-pragmatic, and syntactical aspects. In the previous works there is a discrepancy in the definition of negation category and explanation of its nature and forms of expression. The meaning of such negative patterns as “*жоқ*” [‘zhoq] (*no, not*) and “*емес*” [ye‘mes] (*not*) was extensively discussed. Kazembek [5] believed that the word *жоқ* was a verb, while Katanov [6] argued, that it was an adjective. In some studies, *жоқ* indicates a known fact, *емес* denies an object or phenomenon, functioning as an independent unit, in others, these elements are referred to as auxiliary words, as a modal word, used to denote a predicate, a part of it or a separate word.

It is widely known that language is prone to change throughout the time, especially, its vocabulary. As for the grammar of the language, it is not so strongly influenced by time and little has changed in syntactic aspect since then.

In the study of Abdygalieva [8], a comprehensive analysis of the semantic and structural organization of Kazakh negative sentences is conducted, formal-logical (communicative) and linguistic (forms of expression and rules of functioning in the language) negation are clearly distinguished, all possible means of expressing negation are determined. It is noteworthy, that the researcher thoroughly examined not only the logical prerequisites and the nature of negation from a pragmatic point of view, but also the structural variations according to the logical-communicative meaning. Also, nuclear and peripheral means were singled out and various ways of expressing constituent (or local) and sentential (or clausal) negation were classified. In later works, she added lexico-grammatical and synthetic-analytical means, highlighting the importance of the predicate in expressing the negation.

Thus, what we know about negation in Kazakh is largely based on the domestic research. However, there are extensive studies, conducted outside of Kazakhstan, where they give a detailed description of Kazakh grammar [3; 4]. Although their work offered very important insights into the Kazakh language, covering a wide range of issues, little attention has been given to the description of negation patterns.

### **Category of Negation in English**

Studies devoted to negation in English are mainly based on the fundamental works of Klima [9], Lasnik [10], Jespersen [11] where various negation elements in English are thoroughly described and various negation types are examined both diachronically and synchronically. Later studies focus

on semantic and syntactic properties of negative words in expressing negative concord structures, the semantics of negative prefixes, comparative analysis of expressing negation in English and Norwegian [2], as well as outline a comprehensive account on the evolution of negation in English covering the period from the Old English till the present, contemporary English in its different forms and variations [12].

Klima [9] did not consider semantics of negation, mainly focusing on the distribution of morphemes in negative sentences. Later, Lasnik [10] successfully synthesized the analysis of semantics and syntax of using negative marker *not*, thus providing insights into its generating and functioning in different parts of the sentence. He considered the types of local negation and the use and semantics of *any* in negative sentences.

There are also works by such Soviet linguists, as Ivanova et al. [13], Abdullaev [14], who provided a detailed analysis of various negative sentences in English and contributed significantly to our understanding of implicit and explicit grammatical representations of negation forms in English.

## **Method**

The analysis of negation types in both languages will be grounded on the theory of Contractive Analysis (CA). Lado [15, p.25], a founder of CA, defines it “as the study of two different languages, belonging to two different families, in quest of finding the similarities and differences amongst them”.

CA, being a significant area of Comparative Linguistics, is more than merely a sum of language descriptions, it is aimed at correlating the units of these languages. Most importantly, it reveals not only language universals, but unique peculiarities, inherent only to a particular language. Although the authors support the applied aspects of CA, such as application of the findings in teaching foreign languages by considering native language interference, the current article will focus mainly on theoretical aspects and thereby will be limited to the accounts of similarities and differences between the negation in Kazakh and English.

## **Results**

### **Means of Expressing Negation in Kazakh**

In the contemporary Kazakh language negative sentences are distinguished by a variety of ways and forms of expression.

#### 1. Negative words:

- a) Simple: жоқ, емес (no, not)
- b) Compound: ешкім (nobody), ешнәрсе, ештеңе (nothing), ешқайда (nowhere), ешқашан (never), ешбір (no one), ешқандай (none, neither), ешқайсы (none)

#### 2. Morphemes:

- a) Suffixes: -ма-, -ме-, -ба-, -бе-, -па-, -пе-, attached to a finite verb;
- b) Suffixes: -сыз, -сіз, attached to a noun;
- c) prefixes: бей-, на-, attached to a noun.

3. Words with the negative semantics: **түк, дым**, which require the use of synthetical forms and mostly serve as intensifiers of the negative meaning.

### **Types of Negation**

There are the following negation types in Kazakh: nuclear and peripheral forms, synthetic and analytical forms, double negation (DN) and negation of negation (NN). As for nuclear and peripheral means, all nuclear means refer to sentential (clausal) negation, and all peripheral forms express a local (constituent) negation. In both types synthetical and analytical ways can be rendered.

**Nuclear (sentential) negation** is considered as a predicative negation, because the negative element is attached to the predicate, giving the overall negative meaning to the whole sentence or a clause. Nuclear negation can be formed with the help of the negative words and morphemes.

Мен бармадым.

*I go-NEG- past-sg1*

*I did not go.*

Ол көрмеген.

*He see-NEG-past-NF*

*He did not see.*

**Peripheral (local) type** expresses a partial negation, where only one constituent part of the clause is negated. In producing local negation mainly the negative words **жоқ** and **емес** are used. However, the use of local negation gives the overall negative meaning to the whole sentence, as is illustrated by the examples below.

Мен барған жоқпын.

*I go-NF NEG-sg1*

*I did not go.*

Ол көрген емес.

*He see-NF NEG*

*He did not see.*

Partially negative sentences can also be formed by adding affixes with a negative meaning *-сыз, -сіз, еш-, бей-, на-* to the nouns.

Мен бейхабар болып отырмын.

*I NEG-information be(I)p sit sg1*

*I am sitting un-informed. (I am not informed)*

Біз үйде сусыз отырмыз.

*We home-DAT water-NEG sit- pl1*

*We are sitting at home without water. (We don't have water at home)*

**The synthetic way** of expressing negation is the construction of negative sentences with the help of morphemes *ма-, -ме-, -ба-, -бе-, -па-, -пе-*, attached directly to the root of the predicate verb according to the law of harmonization. This law governs the use of particular morphemes after the consonants and vowels depending on their characteristics, based on manner and place of

pronunciation: voiced or voiceless, oral or nasal, etc. This is one of the essential features of Kazakh language, which is worth mentioning.

These affixes cover all the verbs of the Kazakh language and, with compound verbs, can also be added to the second component.

Ол жазып бермеді.

(S)he write-IP LV.B-IP NEG past 3

(S)he did not write. (for someone)

Another peculiarity is that after the negative morpheme, the word can license other morphemes. Negation affixes follow the voice indicator, forming a negative base to which grammatical markers of a person, number, time, mood, participle can be attached.

**The analytical method** includes sentences with the words *жоқ* and *емес*, which are declinable according to persons and numbers. It should be noted that these negation markers are not basic and can be combined with synthetic agents. *Жоқ* is commonly used with the verbs of the past tense and change by person and number.

Мен барған **жоқпын**.

I go NF NEG sg1

I did not go.

*Емес* is used with verbs in the past tense (*-ған, -ген емес*), future transitional tense (*--атын емес*), future hypothetical tense (*-ар емес*), future tense (*-мақ емес*). In all other cases, the synthetic form is used.

Ол көрген **емес**.

He see NF NEG

He did not see.

Thus, the cases when the negation operator is attached to the predicates and the entire predicative attribute is negated refer to clausal negation. As is shown above, Kazakh sentential negation can be expressed both by analytical and synthetic types, whereas in producing local negation only analytical means can be used.

Special attention should be paid to the so-called **double negation or negative concord**, peculiar to the Turkic languages, when in one sentence it is allowed to use two or more means of expressing negation while maintaining a negative meaning. This phenomenon is one of the features of polynegative languages. In linguistic literature, there are also the terms "doubling of negation", "additional negation", "negation in a broad sense", etc. The main feature of multiple negation is that negative functional words require sentential negation with negative auxiliary:

Ешқашан ешкімге ештеңе айтпаңыз.

Never n-body DAT n-thing tell-NEG p1

(You) Never tell anyone anything.

In this case combination of all negative words emphasize the negative effect of the entire sentence.

The relationship of several negative elements not only retains a negative meaning, but even reinforces it. It should be noted that the negative words, *мүк*,

ӘЫМ have the characteristics of n-words, described by Giannakidou [12, p.2] as those that “can be used in structures containing sentential negation” and “can provide a negative fragment answer”.

Ол түк көрмеген.

He nothing see-NEG-past-NF

He saw nothing.

ДЫМ ЖОҚ

Nothing no

There is nothing

In the semantic sense, double negation is opposed to **negation of negation**, in which the result is an affirmative meaning.

Мен алмай кеткен жоқпын.

I take-NEG go past3 NEG

I didn't leave without taking.

### Indirect Negation

There are situations when rhetorical questions express the negative meaning. These are mainly represented in spoken language in dialogical elliptical sentences.

The diagram below summarizes the negation elements and types in Kazakh.

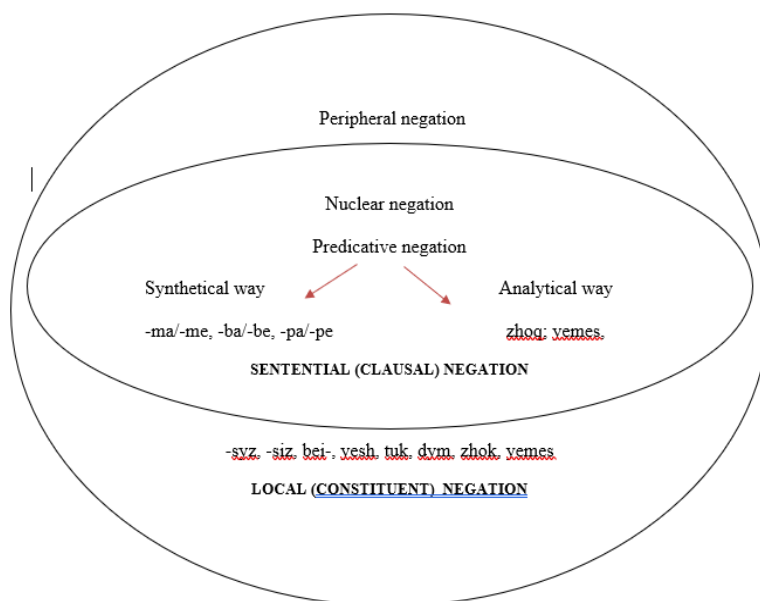


Figure 1: Negation elements and types in Kazakh

### Means of Expressing Negation in English

The following grammatical markers are used to express negation in English:

1. Negative words:
  - a) Simple: no, not;
  - b) Compound: none, nobody, nothing, nowhere, never, neither.. nor;
2. Negative particle not (n't in contracted form), which can stand on its own (*not many*) or cliticized to the auxiliary verb (didn't).
3. Negative morphemes:
  - a) Prefixes: un-, dis-, in-, ir-, a-, non-, il-;

- b) Suffix: -less.  
4. Words with negative semantics: hardly, barely, scarcely.

### **Negation Types in English**

There are four zones in the construction of a negative sentence in English: nuclear, central, intermediate, peripheral:

1) the core (nuclear) is a semantic dominant and in modern English it is represented by negative particles *not*, *no*.

2) the central zone is formed by lexico-grammatical groups of words with a negative meaning. These include: negative pronouns (*no*, *no one*, *none*, *nobody*, *nothing*, *neither*), adverbs (*never*, *nowhere*, *no need*), conjunctions (*nor*, *neither... nor*, *lest*, *unless*), a preposition (*without*).

3) the intermediate zone consists of negative morphological elements. These include: negative prefixes (*a-*, *un-*, *in-*, *ir-*, *il-*, *im-*, *dis-*, *mis-*, *non-*), suffix (*-less*), derivational morphemes *never-*, *no-*, *not -*.

4) the peripheral zone of negation is a collection of implicit means. These include phonetic markers - intonation, logical stress, words with negative semantics. In case when these words with a negative meaning are used in a sentence, and at the same time their negative meaning does not apply to the entire sentence, but only refers to this word, the sentence is affirmative rather than negative.

*He is a very dishonest man.*

*These seats are for non-smokers only.*

It should be borne in mind that the words *hardly*, *barely*, *scarcely* have the effect of negation and therefore there cannot be a second negation in such a sentence.

*In fact, he was hardly able to say anything at all.*

As in Kazakh language, in an English negative sentence, with a sentential negation, the predicative connection between the subject and the predicate is negated, while the particle *not* is attached to the copula to be or do (operator) and stands prepositionally to the predicate. Generally negative sentences are generated by means of the nuclear zone. So, the structure of a general negative sentence is as follows:

*S + Operator + not + P + Deut. member.*

As a rule, negative sentences are formed by all means of the central and intermediate zones. With local negation, a negative particle of the nuclear zone can refer to any member of the sentence, except the predicate. Moreover, with local negation, the structure of such negative sentence does not differ from the affirmative, i.e. operators are not used:

*Not a person could be seen around.*

*I could rely on no one in this matter.*

Abdullaev [14] systematizes all of the above means of expressing negation in the following typological classification:

- 1) level classification, which includes:



a) negation of the morphological type; b) syntactic negation; c) lexical negation; d) derivational negation; e) lexical and grammatical negation; f) lexico-phraseological negation;

2) functional classification, which consists of:

a) predicative negation; b) non-predicative negation;

3) distributive-combinatorial types of negation: mononegative type and polynegative type.

According to this classification, English language has all types of level typology, i.e. uses all the listed means of expressing negation; functionally uses both predicative (sentential) negation and non-predicative (local) negation; according to the combinatorial ability of negation, English belongs to the mononegative type.

### **Negative Concord**

Although English is considered to be a non-NC language, this appears to be a rather well-researched area. The widely known peculiarity of Standard English negation is that “the presence of a local negation ... blocks the possibility of using sentential negation and vice versa, predicative negation makes it impossible the use of local one” [13, p.182], thus resulting in only a single use of negation.

*You can do nothing about it.*

*You can't do anything about it.*

However, English literature is abundant in the sentences, as:

*Oh, but Helen isn't a girl without no interests! (E.M.Forster)*

Horn [1] elaborated on this issue in more details, admitting the possibility of DN in English, but labelling it as PN (pleonastic negation). Mohsen [2, p.6] claims that even though “in Standard English negative concord is ungrammatical..., in most Non-Standard English dialects negative concord is a norm”, for example:

*You didn't see nobody.* [2, p.6]

### **Indirect Negation**

This type is extensively described by Jespersen [11, p.22] and constitutes such rhetorical questions as “*Who knows?*” with the implied meaning *I don't know*.

### **Discussion**

Thus, the comparative analysis of negation patterns and types in Kazakh and English allows us to conclude the following:

- ✓ nuclear means of generating sentential negation are: in Kazakh language – synthetical (morphological) means, in English – analytical;
- ✓ predicative negation in Kazakh is formed with the help of morphological means, in English - with the help of analytical;
- ✓ Kazakh peripheral means are expressed by adjective affixes, negative pronouns and auxiliary words used to express local negation. These means correspond to English negative pronouns and adverbs, affixes of adjectives and adverbs, belonging to the central and intermediate zones;

- ✓ in both languages there are words with negative semantics that can serve to express negation;
- ✓ Kazakh language belongs to the polynegative type, observing the rules of NC, whereas English - to the mononegative type, not observing the NC in SE.
- ✓ in both languages there is a negation of negation, the result of which is an affirmation.
- ✓ In both languages there is an indirect negation, expressed by rhetorical questions.

### **Conclusion**

In the current article the attempt was made to provide a brief comparative overview of various negation patterns in Kazakh and English languages in order to identify similarities and differences in expressing negations from syntactical viewpoint. Although there are many studies regarding the analysis of the negation category both in Kazakh and English languages separately, previous works have not dealt with the contrastive analysis of negation elements and types in these languages.

Although the present study is of relatively small scale, it highlights the significant implications to be applied in teaching English to Kazakh speaking students, as well as teaching Kazakh to English speaking students. It is widely understood that Contrastive Analysis could be beneficial to learn languages in contrast, thus contributing to the methodology of teaching foreign languages. The conclusions drawn from this study could be also used in comprehending the nature and laws governing the use of negative markers and expressing negation in both languages. Future research is also desirable to shed more light on semantical and pragmatical aspects of negation in both languages.

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## ҚАЗАҚ ЖӘНЕ АҒЫЛШЫН ТІЛДЕРІНДЕГІ БОЛЫМСЫЗДЫҚ КАТЕГОРИЯСЫ: САЛЫСТЫРМАЛЫ ЗЕРТТЕУ

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**Аңдатпа.** Функционалды-семантикалық және коммуникативті-прагматикалық аспектілердегі болымсыздық категориясы әмбебап құбылыс ретінде айқындалғанымен, оның әр тілде әр түрлі құрылымдық көрінісі бар. Екі тілде де болымсыздықтың негізгі қызметі келіспеушілік, қанағаттанбау, тыйым салу, қарсылық білдіру, ескерту болып табылады. Мақаланың мақсаты – қазақ және ағылшын тілдеріндегі болымсыздық категориясының әр түрлі үлгілеріне

мысалдармен дәлелденген қысқаша салыстырмалы шолу жасау. Мақаланың көлемі морфологиялық және синтаксистік тұрғыдан екі тілдегі ұқсастықтар мен айырмашылықтарды анықтау үшін болымсыздық элементтері мен түрлерін сипаттаумен шектеледі. Түркі тілдерімен генеалогиялық туыстас қазақ тілінің болымсыз сөйлемдер жасауда өзіндік ерекшеліктері бар. Қазақ ғалымдары синтетикалық және аналитикалық формаларды, ядролық және перифериялық формаларды, қос болымсыздық түрлерін ажыратады. Ағылшын тіліне келетін болсақ, негізгі айырмашылық конститутивтік (немесе ерекше) болымсыздық және сөйлемдік (немесе жалпы) болымсыздық арасында. Мақаланың теориялық маңыздылығы - екі тілде де болымсыздықты білдірудің қайталанбас ерекшеліктерін анықтауға талпыныс жасап, сол арқылы салыстырмалы тіл білімі мен салыстырмалы талдау теорияларының одан әрі дамуына үлес қосуда. Практикалық аспект – тіл оқытуда ана тілі интерференциясын есепке алуды қамтиды. Мақсатқа жету үшін зерттеушілер салыстырмалы талдау әдісін қолданып, келесі нәтижелерді көрсетті: болымсыз сөйлемдердің ядролық құралдары: қазақ тілінде – синтетикалық құралдар, ағылшын тілінде – аналитикалық; екі тілде де болымсыздықты білдіруге болатын болымсыз семантикасы бар сөздер бар. Қазақ тілі – поли-болымсыз, ағылшын тілі моно-болымсыз түрге жатады. Нәтижелердің практикалық маңыздылығы – қазақ тілінде сөйлейтіндерге ағылшын тілін үйретуде, сондай-ақ ағылшын тілінде сөйлейтіндерге қазақ тілін үйретуде қолданылады.

**Тірек сөздер:** ағылшын тілі, салыстырмалы талдау, қазақ тілі, болымсыздық категориясы, болымсыз белгілер, типтер, ұқсастықтар, айырмашылықтар.

## **КАТЕГОРИЯ ОТРИЦАНИЯ В КАЗАХСКОМ И АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ: СРАВНИТЕЛЬНОЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ**

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**Аннотация.** Категория отрицания в функционально-семантическом и коммуникативно-прагматическом аспектах определяется как универсальное явление, однако имеющее различное структурное выражение в разных языках. Основная функция отрицания в человеческих языках – выражение несогласия, неодобрения, недовольства, запрета, возражения, предостережения. Цель статьи – представить краткий сравнительный обзор различных моделей отрицания в казахском и английском языках, подкрепленный примерами. Объем будет ограничен описанием элементов и типов отрицания для выявления сходств и различий в обоих языках с морфологической и синтаксической точек зрения. Казахский язык, генеалогически

относящийся к тюркским языкам, имеет свои особенности построения отрицательных предложений. Казахстанские ученые различают синтетические и аналитические формы, ядерные и периферические формы, двойное отрицание и отрицание отрицания. Что касается английского языка, основное различие заключается в конститутивном (или частном) отрицании и сентенциальном (или общем) отрицании. Теоретическая значимость статьи заключается в попытке выявить уникальные особенности выражения отрицания в обоих языках, тем самым способствуя дальнейшему развитию теории сравнительного языкознания и сопоставительного анализа. Практический аспект предполагает рассмотрение интерференции родного языка в преподавании и изучении отрицательных маркеров. Для достижения цели исследователи применили метод сопоставительного анализа, который показал следующие результаты: ядерными средствами отрицательных предложений являются в казахском языке – синтетические средства, в английском языке – аналитические; в обоих языках есть слова с отрицательной семантикой, которые могут служить для выражения отрицания. Казахский язык относится к поли-отрицательному типу, английский - к моноотрицательному типу. Практическое применение результатов возможно в обучении английскому языку носителей казахского языка, а также в обучении казахскому языку носителей английского языка.

**Ключевые слова:** английский язык, сравнительный анализ, казахский язык, категория отрицания, отрицательные маркеры, типы, сходства, различия.

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