

Negation in Arabic

A Study in Linguistic History

Bearbeitet von
Werner Diem

1. Auflage 2014. Taschenbuch. XII, 119 S. Paperback

ISBN 978 3 447 10117 2

Format (B x L): 17 x 24 cm

Gewicht: 400 g

[Weitere Fachgebiete > Literatur, Sprache > Angewandte Sprachwissenschaft > Studien zu einzelnen Sprachen & Sprachfamilien](#)

Zu [Inhaltsverzeichnis](#)

schnell und portofrei erhältlich bei

The logo for beck-shop.de features the text 'beck-shop.de' in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Above the 'i' in 'shop' are three red dots of increasing size. Below the main text, the words 'DIE FACHBUCHHANDLUNG' are written in a smaller, red, all-caps, sans-serif font.

beck-shop.de
DIE FACHBUCHHANDLUNG

Die Online-Fachbuchhandlung [beck-shop.de](#) ist spezialisiert auf Fachbücher, insbesondere Recht, Steuern und Wirtschaft. Im Sortiment finden Sie alle Medien (Bücher, Zeitschriften, CDs, eBooks, etc.) aller Verlage. Ergänzt wird das Programm durch Services wie Neuerscheinungsdienst oder Zusammenstellungen von Büchern zu Sonderpreisen. Der Shop führt mehr als 8 Millionen Produkte.

Werner Diem
Negation in Arabic

Werner Diem

Negation in Arabic

A Study in Linguistic History

2014

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek
Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen
Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet
über <http://dnb.dnb.de> abrufbar.

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek
The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche
Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the internet
at <http://dnb.dnb.de>..

Informationen zum Verlagsprogramm finden Sie unter
<http://www.harrassowitz-verlag.de>

© Otto Harrassowitz GmbH & Co. KG, Wiesbaden 2014

Das Werk einschließlich aller seiner Teile ist urheberrechtlich geschützt.

Jede Verwertung außerhalb der engen Grenzen des Urheberrechtsgesetzes ist ohne
Zustimmung des Verlages unzulässig und strafbar. Das gilt insbesondere
für Vervielfältigungen jeder Art, Übersetzungen, Mikroverfilmungen und
für die Einspeicherung in elektronische Systeme.

Gedruckt auf alterungsbeständigem Papier.

Druck und Verarbeitung: Hubert & Co., Göttingen

Printed in Germany

ISBN 978-3-447-10117-2

Contents

Foreword	xi
1. Introduction	1
1.1. Negation in Classical Arabic and the modern dialects	1
1.2. An innovation: š-negation	1
1.3. Aim of the study	2
1.4. Distribution of š-dialects and non š-dialects	3
1.5. Geographical starting point of š-negation	6
2. Theories about the origin of š-negation	7
2.1. Introductory remark	7
2.2. Various theories	7
2.3. Theories of adverbial origin	9
3. Classical Arabic	13
3.1. Adverbial <i>šay'an</i> in the grammatical discourse	13
3.2. Evidence from the Qur'ān, Tradition and historiography	14
3.2.1. Introductory remark	14
3.2.2. Qur'ān	14
3.2.3. Tradition.....	17
3.2.4. Historiography	19
3.3. Conclusions	19
4. Evidence of š-negation from the 10th–14th centuries CE, mainly from Judaeo-Arabic sources	22
4.1. Introductory remark	22
4.2. Negation of the type <i>mā verb šay'</i>	23
4.2.1. Early evidence of /šay'/ separated from the verb.....	23
4.2.2. Evidence of /šay'/ following the verb	24
4.2.3. Conclusions.....	29
4.3. Negation of the type <i>mā pronoun šay'</i>	30
4.4. Negation of the type <i>mā participle/adjective/noun šay'</i>	33
5. Evidence of š-negation from Spanish Arabic sources of the 12th–15th centuries CE	38
5.1. Introductory remark	38
5.2. Evidence of /šay'/ separated from the verb	38
5.3. Evidence of /šay'/ following the verb	39
5.4. Further potential evidence of š-negation: لشى and لش	41
5.5. Conclusions	43

6. Evidence of š-negation from the 15th–19th centuries CE	44
6.1. Introductory remark	44
6.2. Cairene Arabic	44
6.2.1. Ibn Sūdūn's (d. 1464 CE) <i>Nuẓhat an-nufūs</i>	44
6.2.2. Mordecai ben Judah ha-Levi's (d. 1684 CE) <i>Sefer Darke no'am</i>	47
6.2.3. aš-Širbīnī's (still alive 1686 CE) <i>Hazz al-quḥūf</i>	53
6.2.4. Shadow play from the 16th/17th centuries CE	56
6.2.5. Sources from the 18th–19th centuries CE	57
6.2.6. Conclusions	58
6.3. Algerian Arabic	58
6.4. Moroccan Arabic	60
7. Main stages of development of š-negation	63
7.1. Introductory remark	63
7.2. Syntactic and semantic development	64
7.2.1. Reanalysis of /šayʔ/ as an emphatic negative element	64
7.2.2. Generalisation of post-verbal position of /šayʔ/	65
7.2.3. Generalisation of post-predicate position of /šayʔ/	66
7.2.4. Generalisation of /šayʔ/ to pronouns and prepositions	67
7.2.5. Generalisation of /šayʔ/ to certain nominal subjects	67
7.2.6. Loss of circumfixal negation of non-verbal predicates	68
7.2.7. Loss of emphatic function of š-negation	68
7.3. Cliticisation	69
7.3.1. Early evidence	69
7.3.2. Phonetic process	71
7.4. Chronology	73
8. Progressive š-dialects and conservative š-dialects: a comparison between Cairene Arabic and Moroccan Arabic	75
8.1. Introductory remark	75
8.2. Indefinite direct object and indefinite subject	76
8.3. Other constructions	78
8.4. Conclusions	79
9. Further developments	80
9.1. Deletion of the first element of NEG . . . /šayʔ/	80
9.1.1. Introductory remark	80
9.1.2. Palestinian, Lebanese and Jordanian Arabic	80
9.1.3. Maltese Arabic	86
9.1.4. Upper Egyptian Arabic	87
9.1.5. Omani Arabic	88
9.1.6. Decisive factors: redundancy and cliticisation	94
9.2. Generalisation of <i>miš</i> in Cairene Arabic	95

10. Arabic negation and Jespersen's cycle	99
11. Appendix: /šay' kitāb/ "some book"	102
11.1. Introductory remark.....	102
11.2. Early evidence and the modern dialects	102
11.3. Theories about the origin of /šay' kitāb/	105
Bibliography	107
1. Sources	107
2. Secondary literature	109
General index	117

Foreword

Since Otto Jespersen's famous monograph *Negation in English and Other Languages* (1917), there has been a common understanding that negation is a fascinating chapter in the history of many languages.

This also holds true for Arabic, and the present monograph is devoted to what is probably the most interesting development in the history of negation in Arabic. This development, which began in Classical Arabic and continued in the post-classical period of Arabic, consists of the combination of the inherited preverbal particles of negation and a newly developed postverbal element. It will be shown how this postverbal negative element developed from an adverbial expression meaning “a bit”, which in Classical Arabic originally was confined to certain verbs marked +[quantifiable], and how this emphasising negation was gradually generalised for any verbs and, subsequently, other word classes until it finally became the normal, unmarked negation. Further developments consisting in the weakening or deletion of the first element, which is the old inherited negation, will also be treated.

Certain details of this development resemble the development of the circumfixal negations of the type *ne . . . pas* in French, and therefore the history of negation in French will be referred to where this is helpful in order to understand the specific Arabic development. Theoretical approaches concerning the development and function of negative polarity items (NPI) will also be taken into consideration.

Unlike Romance philology, there are in Arabic philology, unfortunately, no comprehensive lexical or grammatical reference works for the post-classical language, and even the grammars of Classical Arabic do not give a complete picture of the language. Thus, whoever is interested in the history of Arabic and, especially, the post-classical period is first obliged to read the relevant sources and collect evidence of the phenomena he is interested in, which enables him to develop theories about the phenomena in question. This is how, in the course of many years of reading and collecting, I conceived of the idea of the adverbial origin of the circumfixal negation of Arabic.

It was, however, not until I was invited by Shabo Talay to an AIDA meeting which was to take place in Bergen (Norway) in October 2013 that I decided to write down the evidence I had collected and my theoretical deliberations in the form of a paper. Subsequently, while the paper I had originally intended was being developed into the present monograph, I became acquainted with various theories, some of which are more or less similar to my own theoretical approach. It was with a mixture of astonishment and admiration that I found out that as early as 1886 the Egyptian scholar Ḥifnī Nāṣif (d. 1918) put forward an explanation which, even if in traditional, scholastic form, anticipated at least partially my own approach (for details, see below 2.3.).

I not only enjoyed writing this monograph from the first to the last line, but it also gives me much pleasure to thank some colleagues. Manfred Woidich patiently as ever answered questions about Cairene Arabic and drew my attention to some recent contributions by Christopher Lucas (Lucas 2009 and 2010). He will, I am sure, pardon my disagreeing with him in certain theoretical matters connected with the topic of this study. When I wrote to Lutz Edzard about my project, he spontaneously sent me the database of the contribution by Eva Marie Håland (Håland 2011). Michael Carter was good enough to read through this book and suggest some stylistic improvements. And without Shabo Talay's kind invitation to the AIDA meeting in Bergen, this book would not have been written. To all of them I extend my sincere thanks.