

## Double negation in Tyvan

Arzhaana Syuryun,  
Institute for Linguistic Studies  
of the Russian Academy of Sciences,  
Saint-Petersburg

0.1. The Tyvan language differs from other Turkic languages by very complicated processes of morphophonological changes peculiar only to Tyvan.

0.2. Key morphophonological changes, in particular, the formation of long vowels on the junction of morphemes are shown in the grammar of the Tyvan language [Isxakov, Pal'mbax 1961: 37-45]:

1. possessive suffix is added to polysyllabic roots and stems, which end in such consonants as *g* [ɣ] and *k* [k // κ]: *urug* 'daughter' – *uruum* 'my daughter';
2. possessive suffix is added to monosyllabic roots that end in *g* [ɣ]: *sug* 'water' – *suum* 'my water';
3. the formation of dative forms from noun stems ending in vowels with standard longitude (*a // ē*) => *a // e*: = *örge-ge* 'gopher-DAT' => *örgee*, *shala-ga* 'floor-DAT (on the floor)' => *shalaa*;
4. the formation of past participle on *-gan* from verbal roots (stems), that end in a vowel, as well as from the negative verb stems that are end in the verbal negative suffix *-ma-*: *sana-gan* 'count-PST.PTCP' => *sanaan*, *bizhi-ve-gen* 'write-NEG-PST.PTCP' => *bizhiveen*;
5. the formation of converbs on *-gash*: *sana-gash* 'count-CV' = *sanaash*;
6. the formation of converbs on *-yp* from monosyllabic verb roots ending in *ŋ*, *g*, *p*, *k*, *m*, *l*, etc.

And also we should note a vowel harmony in Tyvan [Isxakov, Pal'mbax 1961: 45-46].

1.1. The main topic of this paper is the description of double negation in Tyvan. This double negation is logically acceptable (reasonable): **the negation of the negation leads to affirmation** in this specific case. Compared to some other languages in which the double negation results in negation.

In spoken Tyvan it was found out that verbal morphology allows a repetition of verbal negation marker in one synthetic form that is:

V+NEG+-AčAŋna+NEG=

This repetition of negative markers is usually used in imperative forms and it expresses the meaning 'do not pretend (simulate) not doing something'. And as a result this double negation expresses the affirmation of the action described by the verb stem and leads to that 'a person is doing something' in fact.

*bil-be-ečeŋne-ve* 'do not pretend that you do not know', i.e. you know.  
know-NEG-SIM-NEG

*kör-be-ečeŋne-ve* 'do not pretend that you do not see, i.e. you see.  
see-NEG-SIM-NEG

1.2. Double negation in the verb lexeme is not common feature in Turkic languages, especially nothing except tense and person markers can be added after the verbal negation marker:

bil-be-di-ŋ        ‘you did not understand’  
know-NEG-PST-2SG

kör-güs-pes                men    ‘I will not show’  
see-CAUS-NEG.FUT        1SG

Unfortunately, the "Grammar of the Tyvan language" does not give any description about the suffix-AčAŋna-.

1.3. Thus, we can accept the assumption that the suffix -AčAŋna-, expressing a simulative action is probably the result of contraction of the first component of a complex verb with the auxiliary verb čAŋna- ‘to behave, to show his character’.

2.1. The report based on new field-work data of a modern Tyvan language gives information about the verbs that satisfy this double negation form, list of verbs that express the meaning ‘not pretend not to do something’ by other means, and verbs which are logically restricted to use this form.

#### **References:**

- 1) Isxakov F.G., Pal'mbax A.A. Grammatika tuvinskogo jazyka. Phonetika i morfologia. Moscow, 1961.
- 2) Kononov A.N. Grammatika jazyka turkskix runicheskix pamjatnikov VII-IX vv. Leningrad, 1980.