Sentential Negative Markers as Pro-Forms of Negative Sentences in Modern Mongolian

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Abstract
Negation in modern Mongolian was analyzed by scholars namely: Luvsanvandan Sh (1968, 2000), Wonsoo Yu (1991), Mönkh-Amgalyn Yu (1998), Purev-Ochir B. (1998, 2001), Byambasan P. (2006), Kunihiko Hasimoto (2008), Bat-Ireedui J.(2009), Ravdan E. (2009), Mönkh-Amgalyn Yu & Kan Shin (2014). Sentential negation in modern Mongolian is not sufficiently studied in sentential and discourse levels. The tendency of modern linguistics requires us to conduct more comprehensive and deeper research than previous scholars did. Our research is considered to be the first intended research on negation in modern Mongolian, because it is one part of Ph.D dissertation on negative meaning of modern Mongolian. There are two forms of sentential negations in modern Mongolian language, namely: explicit and implicit. Explicit negation is expressed by negative markers, but implicit negation is expressed by forms without negative markers, positive forms, intonations, structures with interrogative words and phrases. Negative markers have preverbal and postverbal positions in sentences. Preverbal negative markers are all particles (büü, bitgij, ül, es, alga) and have SOnegV sentential type, but postverbal negative markers are particles (ígüj, biš, bus) and negative grammatical morphemes (-güj, -ídżąj, -ígüj, -ígüj, -mgüj, -šgüj) which have SOVNeg type. Particles, which are used as preverbal and postverbal negative markers in modern Mongolian, have more specific features than negative markers in other languages. Their unique features are to be used not only as negative markers in negative sentences, but also to substitute for verb phrases in c-command and sentences in the discourse level. This paper aims to consider how sentential negative markers in modern Mongolian are used as pro-forms of negative sentences.

Keywords: modern Mongolian, preverbal, postverbal, negative marker, pro-verb, pro-clause, pro-sentence

1. Theoretical background

Pro-forms were defined by scholars Paul Schachter and Timothy Shopen (2007:24). They argue that the term pro-form is a cover term for several closed classes of words which, under certain circumstances, are used as substitutes for words belonging to open classes, or for larger constituents. By far the commonest type of pro-form is the pronoun, a word used as a substitute for a noun or noun phrase.

There are many pro-forms, namely: pronouns, pro-sentences, pro-clauses, pro-verbs, pro-adjectives, pro-adverbs and interrogative pro-forms in general linguistics. Pro-verbs, pro-adjectives, and pro-adverbs are words which substitute for verbs (or verb phrases), adjectives (or adjective phrases), and adverbs (or adverb phrases) respectively. Pro-sentences are words like English yes and no, which are used in answering questions, and which are understood as equivalent to affirmative and negative sentences respectively. (Timothy Shopen, 2007:24). For example, in answering to Is it raining?, Yes is equivalent to It’s raining and No is to It isn’t raining. In some languages, the same words that are used as pro-sentences meaning ‘yes’ or ‘no’ can be used as pro-clauses. Giuliano Bernini a Paola Ramat (1996:89) considered that the expressions ‘yes’, ‘no’ are also called pro-sentences, in that they represent an entire sentence with the same propositional content as the utterance in the preceding context. In their opinion ‘No’ represents a whole sentence. For example:

A. Have you seen John? – B. No (=I haven’t seen John)
A. Hai visto Giovanni- B. No (=Non ho visto Giovanni)

2. Sentential negative markers in modern Mongolian

Modern Mongolian is one of SOV languages in the world and so we should examine negative markers in SOV languages. John Whitman mentioned in the article “Preverbal elements in Korean and Japanese (2005:880-881): ‘Dahl (1979) (see also Dryer 1988, 1992) observes that SOV languages evince two typical negation patterns: one where the marker of negation immediately precedes the verb and one where it follows. According to John Whitman’s opinion, inflected negative markers appear in the latter pattern; preverbal negators are uninflected particles. We show his examples in (1–2) which are written in Korean and Japanese:

(1) Preverbal negation
a. Mica ka hakkyo ey an ka-ss-ta. (Korean)
   Mica nom school to neg go-past-indic
Mica didn’t go to school.’

b. Tuki na mi-tama-i so!
moon neg see-honorific-continuative prt
Please don’t look at the moon!

(2) Postverbal negation

a. Mica ka hakkyo ey ka-ci anh-ass-ta. (Korean)
Mica nom school to go-susp neg-past-indic
‘Mica didn’t go to school.’

b. Yooko ga gakkoo ni ik-ana-katta koto (Japanese)
Yo’ko nom school to go-neg-past that
‘that Yo’ko didn’t go to school’

Dryer (1988, 1992) shows that the SONegV pattern in (1) and the SOVNeg pattern in (2) are overwhelmingly the most common patterns in verb-final languages. Of the 117 verb-final languages in Dryer’s (1988) sample, 39 (15 families) show SONegV, while 64 (19 families) show SOVNeg. In contrast, 8 languages (5 families) have NegSOV, while 6 (3 families) have SNegOV (1988: 96).

There are two types of negative markers in modern Mongolian syntax like in Korean and Japanese: preverbal and postverbal. Preverbal negative markers are all particles (büü, bitgij, ül, es, alga) and they have SONegV sentential type, but postverbal negative markers are particles (ügüj, biš, bus) and negative morphemes (-güj, -údzaj, -lgüj, -ltgüj, -mgüj, -šgüj) which have SOVNeg type.

Here we will consider preverbal negative markers: bitgij, alga and postverbal negative markers ügüj, biš, because they are used as pro-forms in modern Mongolian syntax.

2.1 Preverbal negative marker “bitgij”

The particle ‘bitgij’ is one of negative imperative markers in modern Mongolian (Enkhjargal D, 2012). ‘Bitgij’ precedes verbs in negative imperative sentences. It means ‘not’. Modern Mongolian has many affixes, which determine verbal tense, because it is an agglutinative language. ‘bitgij’ is used with verbs, which have different imperative affixes.

2.1.1 SO+bitgij+V+imperative.affix  (SO+NegV+imp. Zero.affix.)
The sentence type expresses a suggestion and some advice. bitgij+V+imperative zero affix is used in the second person.

(1) Uulzaxijg    bitgij   yar.
Meet:ACC NEG    be:INR
‘Don’t be in a hurry.

2.1.2 SO+bitgij+V+-affix +baj  (SO+NegV+affix+baj)
Here “baj” is an imperative of the verb “be”. The sentence type expresses a warning. bitgij+V+-affix+baj is used in the second person.

(2) Či bitgij xašgiraad baj činij duraar boldoggüj yum.
You NEG  scream be:IMP   your will:INS   happen:3SG:NEG…
‘Don’t scream, everything doesn’t turn into your will…’

2.1.3 SO+ bitgij +V-aaraj 3 (SO+NegV+imp. affix)
Here –aaraj 3 is an affix of imperative in modern Mongolian. aaraj has versions –eerej, -ooroj, -öörej, because modern Mongolian is one of Altaic languages, which have vowel harmony. (William O’Grady, Michael Dobrovolsky& Mark Aronoff, 1997:371). It expresses some advice. The affix is used in the second person.

(3) Ereeleed oyoson         al čuurijg                    Endež bitgij geegeerej.
Colourfully sew:PAST handkerchief:ACC                NEG   lose:2SG. IMP.
‘Don’t lose the colourfully sewed handkerchief!’

2.1.4 SO+bitgij+V-gtun/gtün (SO+NegV+imp. affix)
Here –gtun has version -gtün according to the vowel harmony. The sentence type expresses wishes. bitgij+V+-affix+baj is used in the second person.

(4) Bitgij daxin  urvaž           odogtun.
NEG  again  turn against  leave:IMP.affix.
‘Don’t turn against and leave again’

2.1.5 SO+bitgij+V+-g  (SO+NegV+imp. affix)
The sentence type expresses wishes. bitgij+V+-g used in the third person. For example,

(5) Xamag Mongolijn     sür     daragdaxijn tsagt
All           Mongolian    pride   cover:GEN  time
Xaan č amatg bitgij duudag,               nügel    bolno.
King you NEG call:IMP.AFFIX,   sin be:FUT.AFFIX.
‘When Hamag Mongolian pride is ashamed, it is sinful to call you The Majesty King.’

2.1.6 SO+bitgij+ V-aasaj 4 (SO+NegV+imp. affix)
The morphological affix –aasaj has versions namely: -eesej, -oosoj, -öösej according to the system of vowel harmony. The sentence type expresses wishes. bitgij+ V-aasaj used in the third person.

(6) Bitgij oglöö    bolooosoj.
NEG morning be:IMP.AFFIX
‘I wish the morning would not come.’
2.2 Preverbal negative marker “alga”

We suggest that "alga" precedes a verb bajx (exist, be). "Alga bajx" means "not exist" and "not be". For example:

(7) Bas tanaj cagaan   alga bajna lee.
     Also your white (horse) NEG   be:PAST:3SG.
     ‘Also your white (horse) wasn’t there.’

2.3 Sentential negative marker “ügüj”

2.3.1 “ügüj” as a postverbal negative marker

“ügüj” is one of negative markers in modern Mongolian syntax. It means ‘not’. “ügüj” follows verbs and it negates sentences. For example:

(8) Čamaas    ör xünijg     xajrlaž čadax č   ügüj. gancxan minij boddog yum.
     You:ABL. another person:ACC love can FOC NEG, only my thought.
     ‘My only thought is that I can’t fall in love with anyone else apart from you.’

2.3.2 “ügüj” as a preverbal negative marker

“ügüj” can be used as a preverbal negative marker like negative marker “alga”. It could be used before a verb “bajx” (exist, be). ügüj bajx=alga bajx.

2.4 Postverbal negative marker “biš”


2.4.1 SO+V+-dag + biš

Here ^t refers to an affix “–dag”. This affix has versions namely: -deg, -dog and –dög according to the system of vowel harmony. Mongolists often use -dg (Jan Olof Svantesson, 1991:190) instead of the “–dag”. –dag is a present tense determining affix.

(9) Öv čin gedeg činijg xemžeye irdeg jum biš.
     Illness that your time measurable come:3SG NEG.
     ‘Illness doesn’t come measurably.’

2.4.2 SO+V+-affix.Neg=SO+V+-san + biš

“–san” has versions -sen, -son and –sön according to the vowel harmony. Mongolists often use an abbreviation -sn (Jan Olof Svantesson, 1991:190) instead of the “–san”. “–san” is a past tense determining affix and ‘san+biš’ means didn’t.

(10) Bi ööröö     jamar    durlaž üzsen     biš dece.
     I myself    what    fell:PTCP in love  NEG.
     ‘I have not fallen in love.’

2.4.3 SO+V-ltaj + biš

Here ^t refers to an affix –ltaj. This affix has versions namely: –ltej and –ltoj according to the system of vowel harmony. The affix -ltaj is connected to primary roots of verbs and it follows negative marker “biš”. ‘ltaj biš’ means ‘would not be’.

(11) Uul xadnaas ajž bajna č gež xeleltaj biš.
     Mountain rock:ABL. Afraid be:1SG FOC that say  NEG.
     ‘I wouldn’t say that I am afraid of the mountain and rock.’

2.4.4 SO+participle+biš

The type was analyzed by Mönkh-Amgalan. Yu (1998) and Bat-Ireedui. J (2009). In this case negative marker biš is preceded by a participle. ‘SO+participle+biš’ type sentence expresses future tense. The tree diagram of the type is shown below.

```
S (NEG)
  \   /               \   /
  NP VP InfleP
  /    \               /    
N PP VP Infle NEG
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(12) Bi jamar ölsöj üxe -x biš
     I how die of hunger participle affix NEG
     ‘I will not die of hunger’
3. Negative markers as negative pro-verbs in modern Mongolian syntax

We suggest that “alga”, “biš”, “ügüj” could be pro-verbs, which are used instead of verbs in negative sentences.

3.1 Negative marker ‘alga’ as a negative pro-verb

John Street (1963:163) named “alga” as a copular particle and determined its meaning. In his opinion “alga” means ‘is/was not there/here’ or there is/was no.

3.1.1 SO+Neg=SO+alga

“Alga” could be used instead of the verb “bajxgüj” (doesn’t exist, is not). In this case “alga” could be used in sentences of the type: SO+Neg=SO+alga alga=is not

(13) Undrax aa, Undrax aa gež duudav. Xarii alga. (L.Badarch, Incense light)

Undrakh, Undrakh, that call:PAST. Answer NEG.

‘He called -Undrakh, Undrakh. There was no answer.’

Alga could substitute for verbs not be, not exist, not appear, not seem in c-command from X-bar theory point of view (Noam Chomsky 1988, Jackendoff R.S. 1972). For example

(14) Bat gertee alga. (negative pro-verb)

Bat at home not

‘Bat is not at home.’

3.1.2 SOV-ijn arga +alga

- ijn is a genitive case affix, arga means way. Instead of the word “arga” (way) another words such as nöxcöl (chance), bolomž (possibility), šaardlaga (demand), xereg (need)” and so on could be used.

(15) Ėne cag törijn ķimeend čini xen bolovč zügeer suuxijn arga alga.

This war: DAT anybody sit idle:GEN way NEG.

‘There is no way to sit idle for everybody during the war.’

3.3 Sentential negative marker ‘biš’ as a negative pro-verb

“Biš” could be used instead of verbs and it negates sentences. biš=is not. It has the type SO+pro-verb= SO +biš. For example,

(16) Činij tajvan nojrsdog cag biš.

Your peaceful sleeping time NEG

‘It is not time to sleep peacefully for you.

3.4 Sentential negative marker ‘ügüj’ as a negative pro-verb

We suggest that “ügüj” could be used instead of verbs. SO+Neg=SO + ügüj (ügüj=is not, doesn’t exist)

(17) Čonos üg Xumka ügend ügüj.

Chonos word Humka word Neg.

‘There is no Chonos word in Humka vocabulary.’

Let us see the sentence structure. Ügüj is used as a pro-verb.

4. Sentential negative markers as negative pro-clauses

The negative marker ‘ügüj’ could be used as pro-clauses in compound sentences. For example

S (Neg)
In another word, here ügüj represents a clause 'Temujin is not.'

5. Sentential negative markers as negative pro-sentences

Mongolist Luvsanvandan Sh (2000:82) argued that words “tijm, tegne, ügüj, biš” (yes, no) in modern Mongolian can be used instead of sentences. He named following sentences as sentence-words.

(1) Q: Ta ööö oroj manajd očix uu?
   “Will you come to us today evening?”
   A: -Tegne. (I today evening your home:DAT come:FUT)
   -Yes. (I will come to you today evening)

(2) Q: – Ta ööö oroj manajd očix uu?
   “Will you come to us today evening?”
   A: -No. (I today evening your home:DAT come:FUT:Neg)
   -No. (I will not come to you today evening.)

Mongolistis (Tumurtogoo D. and others 2004:264, Bazarragchaa M. 1987:278) defined the answers Yes and No as an improper interjectional sentence. We suggest that the answers, which represent sentences in the context could be pro-sentences. In our opinion, negative markers “alga”, “biš”, “ügüj”, “bitgij” could be used instead of sentences.

5.1 Negative marker “alga” as a negative pro-sentence

"Alga" can be used as a pro-sentence in the discourse level. For example:
   ‘Q:Is there a Mongolian among you? A: There is not.’ (alga= there is not.)

5.2 Negative marker “biš” as a negative pro-sentence

- Ta jamar ündesten be? (-What is your nationality?)
- Taa l daa. (-Guess, please.)
- Arab gež ter xüüxnij xelexed Darmajev tolgoj segsrev. (–Arabian, said the woman, but Darmayev shook the head.)
- Tegvel turk. (Or Turkish.)
- Biš. (is not.)
- Kazak. (Kazakh.)
- Biš. (is not.)
- Enetxeg. (Indian.)
- Biš gež xelev. (–is not, said.)

We name “biš” in this context as a pro-sentence. In this case “biš” represents whole sentence.

5.3 Negative marker “ügüj” as a pro-sentence

Here we consider that “ügüj” could be used as a pro-sentence in sentence above level.
(20) Q: -Xüüxdüüdiinxee ju bolox xuvi zajataj törsnijg üzüülsen üü?
   Children your what will fortune with born:ACC foretold?
   A: -Ügüj.
   ‘Was your children’s future foretold?’ A: -No.
   ‘Your children’s future was not foretold.’

5.4 Negative marker “bitgij” as a negative pro-sentence

Mönkh-Amgalan Yu &Kan Shin (2014:225) suppose that bitgij could be used separately without verbs and expresses a prohibitive meaning.

Bitgij!. Odoo bolno.
‘Do not continue! It is enough.’

We agree with the idea and we suggest that bitgij is used as a pro-sentence in the discourse level.

6. Conclusion

Typically, negative markers negate sentences. In this article we argue that sentential negative markers in modern Mongolian are used as pro-forms of negative sentences. The modern Mongolian language examples are taken from modern Mongolian literature. The following results were found:

- Preverbal negative particles (bitgij, alga) and postverbal negative particles (ügüj, biš) in modern Mongolian have more specific features than negative markers in other languages.
- Sentential negative marker “ügüj” is a unique marker, because it has two positions in negative sentences: postverbal and preverbal.
Sentential negative markers in modern Mongolian “alga”, “biš”, “ügüj” are used instead of verbs in negative sentences.

Postverbal negative marker “ügüj” could represent clauses in compound sentences.

Negative markers namely: “alga”, “biš”, “ügüj” and “bitgij” not only negate declarative sentences, but also they are used as negative pro-forms, such as negative pro-verbs and pro-sentences.

Words, which substitute for whole sentences in the discourse level, are named as interjective sentences (John Street 1963:167), improper interjunctional sentences (Tumurtogoo D. and others 2004:264, Bazzarragchaa M. 1987:278) and sentence-words (Luvsanvandan Sh. 2000:82) in modern Mongolian. However, we suggest that interjective sentences and improper interjunctional sentences in modern Mongolian could be negative pro-sentences, because negative markers “alga”, “biš”, “ügüj” and “bitgij” substitute whole sentences in the contexts.

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Examples from Modern Mongolian literature

1. G. Bataa, Bundangijn noyon (The king of heart)
2. Ch. Lodoiđamba, Hugaraagüj nojon nuruu (Unrefracted tower of strength)
3. D. Natsagdorj, Uchirtai gurvan tolgoj (Three Meaningful Hills)
4. (The Secret history of Mongols)
5. J. Uyanga, Žamuxijin őčil (Jamukh’s confession)
6. B. Dogmid Õxex xünd xani xereg güj (Dying person doesn’t need any companion)
8. D. Batbayar, Cööröm (Pond)
9. L. Vangan, Emč nar (The doctors)
10. L. Vangan, Emč nar (The doctors)
11. Ts. Damdinsuren, Xojor cagaan jum (Two white things)
12. G. Duinkherjav, Amin dens (The Balance of good and bad deeds)
13. L. Badarch, Xüžijn gal (Incense light)
14. D. Namdag, Šine zam (The new road)
15. G. Bataa. Bundangijn nojon (The king of heart)
16. B. Rinchen, Zaan zaluudaj (The best man)
17. The Secret history of Mongols
18. author’s knowledge
19. D. Tsevegmid, Sojolijn zul badarsan ni (Culture light rising)

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