

Negation and Other Topics of Nadëb Grammar

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ABSTRACT—This work aims to describe some aspects of the grammar of the Brazilian indigenous language, Nadëb, giving primary attention to negation. After general information about the Nadëb (chapter 1) and a description of general characteristics of the grammar (chapter 2), two fundamental ways of negating affirmative main clauses in Nadëb are examined – by the use of the nominal negative morpheme and by the use of a verbal prefix – as well as the negation of imperatives (chapters 3 to 5, respectively). In the conclusion (chapter 6), the two ways of negating main clauses are compared and interpretations are given to the three negative morphemes, along with the indication of some characteristics of Nadëb which are of interest to linguistics in general because of their rarity in the world's languages studied up to this point in time. The four appendices deal in greater detail with topics casually mentioned in chapter 2.

KEY WORDS—Nadëb, Maku, negation, grammar