

# Negativity in Girawa

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by  
Pat Lillie

## Negativity in Girawa.

In these days, when so many people are making demands on one's time, it is good to know how to say "No", so how can one do this in the Girawa language?

The Girawa language is spoken by approximately 3500 people in the Begesin area of the Madang Province of Papua New Guinea. Girawa is a Papuan language. It is a member of the Trans-New Guinea Phylum, Madang-Adelbert Range Sub-phylum, Mabuso Stock, and the Kokon Family. In the same family are the Kein (Bemal) and the Munit languages, which are spoken in adjacent areas.

Girawa is a SOV language. It has free-standing words for nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. The verb is the most inflected part of speech. The verb can be suffixed to show direct or indirect object, aspect, mood and subject agreement. All these parts of speech can be negated.

There are three free-standing negative particles, wa, wāpik (bɔpi<sup>2</sup>) and very occasionally wari (possibly a dialect difference). They are interchangeable, but wa is used more frequently, although wapik is used more often in one word answers and in negating nouns.

In answer to the question

"Au aiauk rau ra?"                      'Do you-two have any money?'

The answer could be:

	"Iu	aiauk	wāpik."
	'We-two	money	not.'
or	"Iu	aiauk	wa."
	'We-two	money	not.'
	"Iu	aiauk	wari."
	'we-two	money	not
or	"Wapik."	or	"Wa."
	'No.'		'No.'

Unlike English and most western languages, in Girawa when a negative question is asked, the answer "yes" reflects the negative quality of the question, while "no" negates the negative quality of the question.

"Na o jau wa, ra?" - "Haven't you eaten?"

"Io." - Yes [I haven't]

"Wa." - No [I have]

### 1. Negating Nouns.

When negating nouns the negative particle always follows the nouns, or modified noun negated.

"Iu            op            wa."  
'We-two    ghosts    not.'  
We two are not ghosts.

"Awen            mena            po            sosop wa."  
'Their-two    village    pig    many    not.'  
Their village hasn't many pigs.

"...ik po    wāpik rawom."  
'we pig    not    would-stay-1p.CF'  
...we would be without pigs.

The negative particle always follows the pronoun being negated.

"Is wa. Na inos musowon?"  
'I not. You-s who do-2s-3s.pst.'  
Not I. Who did it to you?

"Ko wa senes."  
'He not very.'  
Truly not him.

"Na wāpik."  
'You not.'  
Not you.

### 3. Negating Verbs

As verbs form the nucleus of a sentence, this section will necessarily deal with the negation of the various types of sentences. Again the free particles wa and wāpik, are generally used to express negation.

(NOTE The verb "to leave" can be used to express negative intention.

For example, in answer to the question, "Do you want to eat taro?" the answer could be

"Is utom."  
'I leave-it.'  
I don't want any.

"Is o jau utom"  
'I food eat-IR leave-it.'  
I don't want to eat food.

### The Verb Phrase.

#### 1) Indicative Mood.

##### a) Present and Past Tense

The Negative Verb Phrase in the present or past tense (indicative mood) is made up of an obligatory Head plus the irrealis marker (-au) followed by an optional Ability slot and an obligatory negative particle.

+ Head	+/- Ability	+ Negative
verb stem + au	sek/senek 'able to	wa/wapik

"Kiro mena roasiret rawau wa"  
'This village people stay-IR not'  
There were no people in this village.

"Po manau sek wa."  
'Pig go-IR able not.'  
The pig was unable to go.

"Okoro opok aiau senek wapik."  
'Here on say-IR able not.'  
(we) were unable to speak here.

##### b) Future Tense.

The Negative Verb Phrase in the Future Tense is made up of an obligatory negative marker 'wa' followed by a Head. The head takes its normal future tense subject agreement markers. The 'wapik' form is not use proceeding a verb.

+ Negative	+ Head
wa	verb-stem+future endings

"Tunre ak wa naiei."  
 'Tuesday they not go.down.3p.fut'  
 They will not go down on Tuesday.

"Ko kiro owa wa kowai."  
 'He this house.in not come.3s.fut'  
 He will not come into this house.

### c) Habitual Aspect

The Negative Verb Phrase in the Habitual Aspect is made up of an obligatory negative particle followed by a Head which contains the habitual infix.

+ Negative	+ Head
wa	verb-stem + i/e + tense-subject agreement

"Kiro en ma wa jeau."

'This dog taro not eat.hab.3s.pres.'  
 This dog does not eat taro.

"Is jekur wa niniaim."  
 'I well not sleep.hab.1s.pres.'  
 I don't sleep well.

"Ko kon aman wa roiauwon"  
 'He his talk not hear.hab.3s.pst.'  
 He doesn't listen to him.

## 2) Imperative Mood.

The Negative Verb Phrase in the imperative mood is made up of an obligatory negative particle followed by a Head which either takes the imperative subject agreement endings or the "au" irrealis marker ending.

### a) Prohibitive/Debitive

"Wa at!"  
 'not hold.imp.3s.'  
 Don't hold it!

"Wa kowe!"  
 'not come.imp.3p.'  
 Don't come!

### b) Prescriptive

"Wa kot marau."  
 'Not touch.do.3s0.IR.'  
 Don't touch.(You mustn't/shouldn't)

"Wa iminau."  
 'Not fear.IR.'  
 Don't be afraid.

"Wa ior aurau."  
'Not yes say.3s0.IR.'  
. Don't agree with him.

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### 3) Subjunctive Mood.

The Negative Verb Phrase in the subjunctive mood is made up of an obligatory Head which takes the infinitive verb ending followed by the irrealis marker "wa".

"Kar aman kar aman aiaun wa."  
'other talk other talk say.inf.'  
You shouldn't keep on talking.

"Ros wau waun wa."  
'Man.f wife hit.inf not.'  
A man shouldn't hit his wife.

This form can also be used in irony.

"Tup aparaun wa."  
'Church see.inf not.'  
Don't go to church, then. (Be a big head.)

### 4) Serial Verb Phrases.

When serial verbs occur in a sentence the negative particle occurs before the first verb, which is actually a verb-stem only.

"Is wa ute kowam."  
'I not leave come.1s.fut.'  
I will not leave and come.

"Ik wa su miaum."  
'We not rest do.hab.1p.pres.'  
We don't always rest.

"Ak ko wa imai kouna potota,..."  
'You(p) he not bring come.3p.DS. go.1p.DS.'  
(If) you don't fetch him,...

"Wa oi kowonmaro, ..."  
'Not get come.3s.pst.CF., ...'  
If he hadn't brought it, ...

### 5) Interrogative Mood.

A neutral Yes-No type question is made up of simple indicative sentence followed by the question marker "ra", and either "wa" or "wa ra." Raising intonation at the end of the question also occurs.

"Po pai opok rau ra, wa?  
'Pig trap in stay.3s.pres. QM not?  
Is there a pig in the trap, or not?

"Ikwokana meiam ra, wa ra?"  
'hit.1p0.3p.DS die.1p.fut. QM, not QM?'  
Will they kill us, or not?

### 5. Negating the Instrument.

The instrument can be negated either by negating the verb connected with it, or directly.

"Is nir manas wemin, amas wāpik."  
 'I nail axe.ins. hit.3s0.1s.pst. hammer.ins. not.'  
 I hit the nail with an axe not a hammer.

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"Jon ko manas am torau wa."  
 'Jon he axe.ins tree chop.IR not.'  
 Jon didn't chop the tree down with an axe. (He just push it down.)

## 6. Negating Adverbs.

When negating an adverb the negative particle directly follows the adverb.

"Kiro omsau oror wa kowaiei."  
 'That country quickly not come.3p.fut.'  
 They will not get to that country quickly.

"Is jekur wa niniaimin."  
 'I well not sleep.hab.1s. pst.'  
 I didn't (Hab) sleep well.

## Negation in clauses and sentences.

In independent clauses, or simple sentences, the negation follows the same patterns which have been previously described. However we need to look at the various combinations of clauses into the more complex sentence structures.

In Girawa, the negation particle only affects immediately the clause it is in. If the negative particle is only in the first clause of a sentence it does not negate the whole sentence.

Taking various examples from conditional sentences:

### Negative clause + positive clause

"Na eurai wa, ik na iwoisam."  
 'You clear.IR not, we you hit.2s0.3p.fut.'  
 If you don't go away, we'll hit you.

### Positive clause + negative clause

"Na atai koia rai, wa apairaum."  
 'you again come.SS if, not see.1s0.2s.fut.'  
 If you come again, you will not see me.

### Negative clause + negative clause

"Ko sarau mau wa, ko aiauk wa owai."  
 'He work do.IR. not, he money not get.3s.fut.'  
 If he doesn't work, he will get no pay.

In sentences with subordinate clauses, the negation occurs only once.

"Is o kau maun kowau wa."  
 'I food buy to.do come.IR not'  
 I didn't come to buy food.

"Is parus opokas manaun wa imineaim."  
 'I plane on go.inf not fear.hab.1s.pres.'  
 I am not afraid to go on a airplane

When there is a change of subject between the one clause and the next, a special set of negative connectives is used. These consist of the verb (morpheme) "war" + the affixes for change of subject, agreeing with the subject of the first clause.

"Om nau warnuk, o wäpik."  
'Rain come-down.IR not.3s.DS food not.'  
Rain having not fallen, there was no food.

"Is itanemin, itanemin, warta, isan monias is sareirowon."  
'I look.1s.pst look.1s.pst. not.1s.DS, my father I  
help.1sO.3s.pst.'  
I searched and search, but didn't (find it), (so) my father helped me.

"Na is o ir. Warnuk, is meiam."  
'You I food give.1sO.2s.imp not.3s.DS, I die.1s.fut.'  
Give me food. If you don't, I'll die.

### The verb - To know.

The verb "apu" - to know, have knowledge, is rarely inflected. It seems to act as a noun, when in the tense is not in focus except when one is talking the acquisition of knowledge. Therefore when negating the verb normally the negative particle follows the Head as if it was a noun.

"Is apu wa."  
'I know not.'  
I don't know.

"Is apu momin."  
'I know do.1s.pst.'  
I found out.

"Ko Pita apu mau wa."  
'He know do.IR not.'  
He didn't know Pita.(at that point in time)

With the verb, "apu" in inter-dependent two clause sentences, the negative clause follows the positive clause.

"Ko kowon, is apu wa."  
'He come.3s.pst, I know not.'  
I didn't know that he came.

"Is apu ko kowau wa."  
'I know he come.IR not.'  
I know that he didn't come.

### Conjoining Sentences

In conjoining sentences the negating particle only negates the phrase immediately connected with it.

"Kiro ous eteinak wa, nawau senes."  
'That boat small not. big very.'  
That boat (was) not small, it (was) very big.

"Ko ir wa takeau, wa areau."  
'He laugh not open.hab.3s.pres., not talk.hab.3s.pres.'  
He didn't laugh or talk.

Sometimes, the negative particle can stand alone as a clause, without missing elements understood.

"Wariaumun, wa."  
'Fight.hab.1p.pst., not.'  
We used to fight, (now we do) not.

"Ko kurte wa."  
'He quickly not.'  
He didn't come/go quickly.

### Preference in Negation.

Normally in a clause that has a verb present it is the verb that is that is negated, but this is not always so, as can be seen by these examples. Looking at the negating particle and the verb only, they do not seem to fall into any of the patterns described above. But if the negating particle is taken with the noun or pronoun adjacent to it one can see a particular emphasis is given it in the clause.

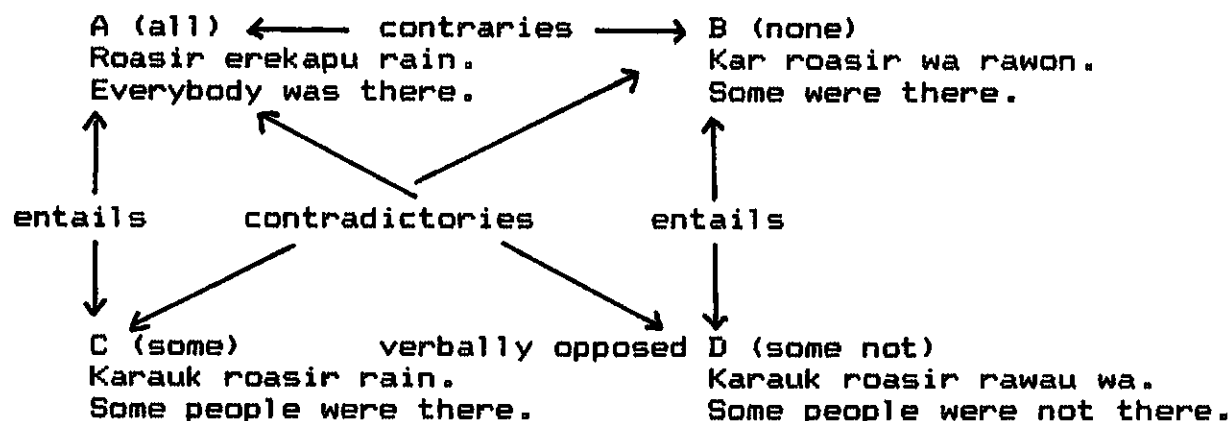
"Kar roasir wa rawon."  
'A people not stay.3s.pst.'  
Not a person remained.

(We know this is not negating the verb, because if it were the construction would be - "rawau wa")

"Ko wa muron. (Saipik aman murowon.)  
'He not do.2p0.3s.pst. Saipik talk do.2p0.3s.pst.'  
He didn't give us (talk). Saipik gave us talk.

"Ak o eposek wa jein."  
'They food good not eat.3p.pst.'  
they ate not good(bad) food/they didn't eat good food.

### CONTRASTS vs. CONTRADICTIONS



Abbreviations Used.

CF	contrary-to-fact marker
DS	different subject
fut	future tense
hab	habitual
imp	imperative
inf	infinitive
ins	instrument
IR	irrealis marker
O	object
p	plural
pres	present tense
pst	past tense
QM	question marker
s	single
SS	same subject
vs	versus