

Fleischmann, Lillem

# Negation in Bine

Negation in Bine is fairly straightforward. The range of the negative does not seem to extend beyond the clause in which it occurs. The same word lica 'not' negates both nouns and verbs.

Lica occurs preceeding the verb that it negates:

1. Maja me, siige, lica ä-d-uj-i.  
reef to finished not intr-go(m.sg)-P5-i/3sg.s  
'Finished, he did not go to the reef.'
2. Teeme bräju cina lica e-cl-i-ge gawe bora me.  
3.pos root nsg.s not 3er-go-P2/i-3sg. ground inside to  
'Their roots didn't go into the ground.'
3. Taba siŋi lica g-e pui biname ne ä-tity-er-a-me.  
3sg.s want not St.-pl.p that person sg.o cl-help-inc-nom-inf  
'He did not want to help that person.'
4. Taba cäŋecna ute lica [g-e]  
3sg.s carefully sleep not [St-pl.p.]  
'He [did] not sleep well.'

In Sentence Four the stative verb is omitted, leaving the negative that proceeds it as the last element in the clause.

The negative comes between the verb and its modifier, as in Sentence 5.

5. Cine pui name pi cäŋecna lica jaa-wen-em-u-si.  
1ex.mg.s that of because carefully not 3o-ir-do-pl.o-hab-1/  
'Because of that we don't do it carefully.'
6. Cine toraca-rage lica je-wen-en-i-si.  
1ex.nsg.s true-really no 3o-do-prog-P2/i-1/3nsg.s  
'We don't truly do it.'

7. Pui name pi Kunini matikäli ŋii lica g-ye.  
that of because Kunini little name not St-3sg.np  
'Because of that Kunini is not a little name. [but a big name.]'

The negative in Sentence Seven combines with the word little to give the meaning of 'not little, but big', as in 'not a little bit tasty' meaning 'very tasty'. While ten years ago, some older men frowned on such expressions, they have since become popular with all ages, and Sentence Seven was spoken by an old man.

In Sentence Eight the words 'enough land' are negated.

8. Gawe-cewe cibibi lica biname tääpu-me.  
ground-place enough not person purpose-to  
'The land is not enough for the people.'

In Sentence Nine it is a time word that is being negated, and in Ten a locative word.

9. Page lica, ciyeciye pa na-cl-ep-i- - -  
today not tomorrow will 1pl.er-go-E3-i/3sg  
'Not today, tomorrow we will go.'

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10. "Ai-ma lica t-a-cn-i-ge pui magebi te?"  
 here-to not tw-int-return-P2/i-3sg.s that woman sg.s  
 "That woman didn't come back here?"
11. "Yoo, lice g-we."  
 Yes, not St-3.f.sg.np  
 "Yes, she's not (here)."

# GONE

Negative commands are formed with the word gone 'don't' plus first or second person habitual verb forms, which are sometimes omitted. Other negative commands are expressed with gone plus a non-finite verb nominalization.

12. Maane nenecu mäpu gone [l-ä-b-it-u-te!  
 2sg.s heart heavy don't ir-intr-become-sem-hab-2sg.s]  
 'Don't you become heavy hearted!'
13. Gone! 14. Ute gone!  
 don't sleep don't  
 'Don't!' 'Don't sleep!'
15. Peei ne gone wa-wen-a!  
 that sg.o don't cl-do-nom  
 'Don't do that!'
16. Peei gone jaa-wen-u-te!  
 that don't 3o.ir-do-hab-2sg.s  
 'Don't do that! (Stronger and more lasting command.)'
17. Mine gone jaa-wen-u-si!  
 1incl.nsg.s don't 3o.ir-do-hab-1/3nsg.s  
 'We won't do that!'

# LIGA

and  
NAABE

While liba means 'if' or 'when', liga means 'when tried, it failed'-- frustrated effort. Naabe also means frustrated effort. The two words may be used together, or either may be omitted with only a small change in meaning.

18. Teepi liga ju-rñ-i-si,  
 3nsg.s when(frustrated) 3f.o.-search.for-P2/i-1/3nsg.s  
siige, lica jo-pän-i-si.  
 finished not 3f.o-find-P2/i-1/3nsg.s  
 'When they searched for her in vain, finished, they didn't find her.'
19. Poo te biiri liga, a-bum-en-i-ge,  
 sailing.canoe sg.s moved when(frustrated) int-sink-prog-P2/i-3sg.s  
inle niiye te ä-ñ-ñr-uj-i.  
 reason water sg.s int-fill-inc-P5-i/3sg.s

'When the canoe moved, it began to sink because the water was filling it.' [The change of tense between the two clauses indicates simultaneous action.]

20. Cane naabe liga je-wen-an-i-ne,  
 1sg.s attempts(frustrated) when(frustrated) 3o-do-it-P2/i-1sg.s  
äbli cäco a-meg-a.  
 ability without cl-fix-nom

'When I tried and tried, I was unable to fix it.'

21. Cane naabe je-wen-an-i-ne, äbli cäco  
 1sg.s attempt(frustrated) 3o-do-it-P2/i-1sg.s ability without  
a-meg-a.  
 cl-fix-nom

'I attempted (many times) unsuccessfully and was unable to fix it.'

The use of naabe seems to imply more than one attempt, where liga may or may not mean many attempts. In Sentences 20 and 21, of course, the iterative (repetitive) marker in the verb do heightens this meaning.

CÄCO Sometimes the postposition cäco 'without' is used to negate a clause.

22. Teepi umle cäco g-emi.  
 3nsg.s knowing without St-pl.np  
 'They are without knowing./They don't know.'

23. Cane äbli cäco g-äne.  
 1sg.s ability without St-1sg.np  
 'I am without ability./I can't.'

# R NEGATIVES

Many of the languages in the Trans-Fly have remnants of what seems to have once been a system of negative verbs. Bine also has evidences of such an obsolete system.

24. Tabe beswa o-tñ-i-me.  
 3sg.s not-want cl-go-nom-inf  
 'He didn't want to go.'

25. Cane beswa g-äne.  
Cane durau g-äne.  
 1sg.s not-want St-1sg.np  
 'I don't want to.'

While languages with serial verbs may sometimes negate both verbs with one negative, Bine, without serial verbs, would negate a finite verb plus an infinitive to do this.

26. Teepi lica s-e-cl-um-i- deedei a-l-etn-a-me.<sup>1</sup>  
 3nsg.s not tw-3er-go-P3-i/3sg food cl-buy-acc-nom-inf  
 'They didn't go to buy food./They didn't go get food.'

<sup>1</sup>aletna means 'to buy/trade': acata aletmane means 'to put for buying; to sell. The first verb is conjugated; the second is in the infinitive.

Cane apu jayenine ---