

A. Y. Filchenko

NEGATION IN EASTERN KHANTY¹

The paper outlines the main patterns of negation in the endangered Eastern Khanty dialects of Western Siberia. Eastern Khanty negation is coded primarily by the negator of two types, indicative/declarative *əntə* and imperative *äl*. In terms of the position of negative marker, Eastern Khanty shows consistent preference of preposing. Concerning the morphosyntactic symmetry of negatives, Eastern Khanty appears predominantly symmetrical, showing no morphosyntactic variation between affirmative constructions on one hand, and negative constructions on the other, while main variations in the marking negation concern imperatives and existentials.

Key words: *endangered languages of Siberia, areal typology, language documentation.*

Khanty, one of the indigenous languages of the Uralic language family, is spoken by fewer than 7000 indigenous hunter-gatherers and reindeer herders out of more than 28000 Khanty population in north-western Siberia.

The dialects of interest in this study are the adjacent eastern-most river varieties of Vasyugan, Alexandrovo and Vakh totaling fewer than 200 speakers.

Typical Eastern Khanty simple clause has the SOV pattern. The O position varies contingent on pragmatic properties of the referent in proposition [1, 2].

(1a) *mä mən-l-im*
 1SG walk-PRS-1SG
 “I walk”.

(1b) *mä ajrit-am tiyl-a qari-mta-s-im*
 1SG canoe-1SG/SG DET-ILL pull-INTN-
 PST2-1SG/SG
 “I pulled my canoe here”.

The argument in the S/A grammatical relation normally has all the traditional subjecthood properties, such as control over referential relations clause-internally and -externally: control over embedded non-finite clauses; control over zero anaphora across conjoined clauses; control over reflexivization; quantifier movement control. Eastern Khanty is typical head-final with no head-agreement.

In Eastern Khanty, the position in the clause immediately preceding the verbal predicate is typically taken by the referent belonging to the part of the proposition containing pragmatic assertion, *focus* (very roughly equated to new information). The clause-initial position, in Eastern Khanty clauses, typically shows a referent belonging to pragmatic presupposition, *topic* referents (shared knowledge).

Eastern Khanty prosody serves a twofold purpose: discursive – to manifest prominent/salient discourse status; and delineating – to outline discourse components. The Khanty phrasal accent is strongly associated with the pragmatic structure of the proposition.

The distribution of pitch accents is in correlation with the pragmatic function of focus, and as such, correlates with the semantics of the whole proposition. The dominant Eastern Khanty intonation contour is low-mid falling [3], with pitch accent falling on clause constituents that are pragmatically prominent, i. e. focal referents.

Eastern Khanty Negation Patterns

The Eastern Khanty negative clauses code propositions, whose truth-value is asserted as false, as opposed to the regular indicative declarative clauses.

This discussion leaves outside the immediate focus the issue of nominal morphological negation – Eastern Khanty Abessive case, and concentrates more thoroughly on other negation strategies: analytical and lexical.

Basic Pattern of Eastern Khanty Negation

The most common effect of the use of negation in the Eastern Khanty is only for a portion of the negative proposition to fall under the scope of negation, being asserted as false, while the rest remains true, being the part of the proposition containing presupposed information:

(2) *män-nə əfö joɣo-ta əntə*
 1SG-LOC again... shoot-INF NEG
usp'et' wer-s-äm,
 «be on time» do-PST2-1SG

“I didn’t have TIME to shoot again”.

In (2), the matrix “I was in time” is asserted as false, while the complement “to shoot” is not affected by negation being presupposed, which is typologically a fairly common pattern [4].

Formally Eastern Khanty negative clauses are typical declaratives with a negative element immediately preceding the constituent whose existence or truth-value is falsified in the proposition. Negation is coded by the negator *əntə*, a free morpheme typically preposed to the part of the proposition that is negated. Eastern Khanty commonly uses the negation of the verb phrase leaving outside of the negation scope the rest of the clause.

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(3) *mä awet-a əntə 'imt-əm*
 1SG sled-ILL NEG sit-PST0.1SG
 “I did not SIT in the sled”.

(4) *mij jəγ-i əntə 'qol-wəγta-wəl*
 1PL 3PL-ELA NEG hear-ATTN-PRS.3SG
 “We won’t be HEARING from them”.

Similarly to (2, 3), in ((4)–(5)), the negator occurs preceding the verbal predicate, expressing the false assertion. The Agent argument and the Locatives appear to be outside of the scope of negation referring to the presuppositional part of the proposition. In (5), the negator appears between the verbal predicate and the spatial adverb “outside” closely associated with the predicate, thus even leaving this spatial/manner pre-verb outside the immediate scope:

(5) *jal-l-əw, küm əntə layil-wəl*
 stand-PRS-1PL outside NEG look-PRS.3SG
 “We wait, it does not look out”.

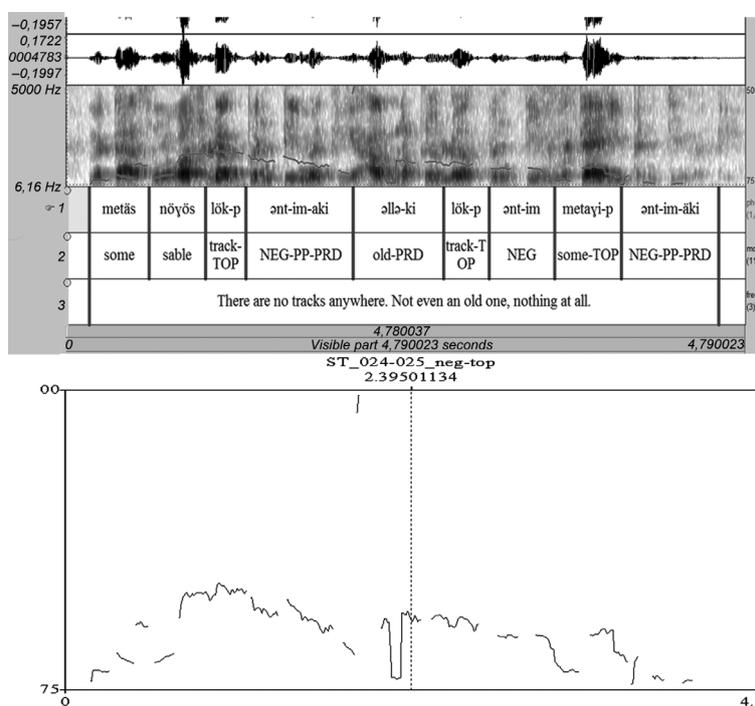
Prosody and Information Structure of Negation

Evident from the pitch analysis (6, 7), the dominant negative intonation pattern is similar to that of the standard direct declarative, that is low-mid falling.

(6) ST_024–025.

metä nöγ'ös 'lök-pə ənt-'im-äki,
 some sable track-TOP NEG-PP-PRD
'əllə-ki 'lök-pə ənt-'im, met'äγi-pə ənt-'im-äki
 old-PRD track-TOP NEG-PP some-TOP NEG-PP-PRD

“There are no SABLE TRACKS anywhere, not even an OLD ONE, NOTHING at all”.



As a rule, pitch accent falls on the stressed syllables of the pragmatically prominent clause constituents (“sable tracks..., old tracks...” in (6)) and extends to the negative particle *ənt-* functioning as a negative existence predicate. This pitch accent pattern correlates to the underlying semantics of the proposition, which is a falsification of existence/truth value of a referent or its quality. In this, accent scope appears to coincide fairly well with the negation scope of the utterance. Pragmatically, it is exactly the non-existence, which associates with the relation of Focus in the proposition ((6) “As for the tracks, there are NO SABLE TRACKS, NO OLD ONES, NO TRACKS at all”). An evidence of topicality of the nominal constituents whose non-existence (counter to expectation) is the focus of the proposition, is the presence of the topical-emphatic marker *-pə*.

The negator *əntə*, typically unstressed, is by extension often considerably reduced preceding accented clause constituents. This is particularly obvious in cases where preceding the V-initial clause constituent, *əntə* undergoes strong reduction.

Verb-phrase Negation

The negative assertion pattern is consistent in most examples, where the negative particle occurs immediately preceding the part of the proposition that is asserted as false, thus delineating the scope of negation.

The negation of all modal predicates (desire (7), physical (8) or cognitive ability (9), obligation/necessity (10), allowed event (11), projected event serving as purpose or condition (12)), are coded by the negator preceding the complement-taking modal predicate, or the weak (distant) manipulation verb (11):

- (7) *mä onältəyəl-tə qat-pa mən-täti*
 1SG learn-IMP house-ALL go-INF
əntə 'qoj-l-əm
 NEG want-PRS-1SG
 “I do not WANT to go to school”.
- (8) *tintə-ta əntə 'ali-l-əm*
 pay-INF NEG can-PRS-1SG/SG
 “I won’t BE ABLE to pay for this”.
- (9) *muɣulinə wer-tä əntə 'onol-l-əm*
 something do-INF NEG know-PRS-1SG
 “I CAN not do anything”.
- (10) *nöŋ tinəŋ ot-lan män-ä*
 2SG expensive thing-2SG/PL 1SG-ILL
əntə 'mas-wəl
 NEG need-PRS.3SG
 “I don’t NEED your expensive things (*things are to me not necessary*)” (Gulya, 1966).
- (11) *qaləw ənt'im, wəjəɣ qän-tʃä*
 fish.net NEG animal search-INF
əntə 'sil-wəl-t
 NEG let-PRS-3PL
 “No fishing nets, they don’t LET US track game” (Filchenko, 2005).
- (12) *jöy wal-ŋ-al töŋ, timint*
 3SG live-COND-3SG COND DET
wer əntə wal-ɣas
 business NEG be-PST1.3SG
 “If (s)he were alive, such a thing would not have happened” (Gulya, 1966).
- Individual Constituent Negation*
- Apart from the verb phrase negation strategy, Eastern Khanty also uses individual constituent negation strategy placing the negative particle immediately preceding the negated adverbial element: converbial of manner (13), finite synthetic conditional (14), finite of purpose (15) – negating what is asserted only by the adverbial rather than the whole of the verb phrase.
- (13) *tʃu 'länä əj-əm kit-əm*
 DET time young-ATTR thing-ATTR
qu-j-t əntə qoɣ noməysək-min, noy
 man-EP-PL NEG long think-CNV arrow
wer-ət, mən-ət töyla, qo
 do-PST0.3PL go-PST0.3PL DET-ILL where
wel-ət tʃu jəy
 live-PST0.3PL DET people
 “Then not thinking much, young men made arrows and went where those people lived”.
- (14) *əntə mən-ŋ-an, wöy-nə tul-uj-ən*
 NEG go-COND-2SG force-COM take-PS.2SG
 “If you are not going (to marry), you’ll be taken by force” (Tereskin, 1961).
- (15) *n'an' jiyata-s-im, qotf-'ayı*
 bread check-PST2–1SG/SG burn-PST0.3SG
ili əntə qotf-'ayı.
 “or” NEG burn-PST0.3SG

“I checked the bread, if it BURNED or not (BURNED)” (Filchenko, 2008).

In relative clauses, the negator occurs in preposition to each, the verbal predicate of the finite relative clause, and the predicate of the matrix clause, thus negating separately the asserted event of the relative clause, and negative presupposition of the matrix clause, as in (16):

- (16) *qoji əntə 'wer-wəl, əntə*
 who NEG work-PRS.3SG NEG
'il-wəl
 eat-PRS.3SG

“Who does not WORK, does not EAT” (Gulya, 1966).

In finite conditional/conjunctive clauses, the negator is in preposition to the verbal predicate of the finite reason adverbial clause, thus negating only the asserted predicate of the reason adverbial clause, rather than the whole of the proposition of the adverbial clause or the whole of the complex clause, as in (17):

- (17) *män-nə tu-ɣas-i töŋ,*
 1SG-LOC bring-PST1-PS.3SG COND
jöy-ən män-ä əntə mə-ɣäs-i
 3SG-LOC 1SG-ILL NEG give-PST1-PS.3SG

“I should have brought (it), but (he) did not give (it) to me” (Gulya, 1966).

Eastern Khanty Negation of Existence/State

As mentioned above, the negation of existence (or state) is typically coded by the participle-like form derived from the negator *əntə*. This participial negative existential predicate is often affixed with the predicator affix *-äki-*. In this case, the negative existential is acting as a regular nominal predicate, with a predicator affix:

- (18) *män-nə ʃimläli ʃi-näm*
 1SG-LOC a.little there-ALL
joɣo-s-im, ʃut-na-pa ənt-im-äki
 shoot-PST2–1SG DET-COM-TOP NEG-PP-PRD

“I shoot there a little, and THERE’S NOTHING” (Filchenko, 2005).

In cases where the referent whose existence is asserted as false is plural, the negative existential *əntim* is used with the plural form of the predicator affix *-ätä*:

- (19) *ämp-ät ʃəry-wəl-t, tʃu tayı*
 dog-PL noise-PRS-3PL DET place
morta toyı wer-il poro-min i jəy-näm
 all away do-3PL step-CNV and 3PL-RFL
ənt-im-ätä
 NEG-PP-PL

“The dogs are noisy, (they) stepped all over that place but they (themselves) ARE NOT THERE”.

However, also similar to some nominal predicates, this negative existential predicate is occasionally used without the predicator affix. Thus (20) contain two reiterations, where the first case of negative existential has the predicator affix, and the second does not:

(20) *worw-al-a* *läy-im-al,* *pun-əl*
 pants-3SG-ILL look-PP-3SG hair-3SG
ənt-¹im-äki, *pun-əl* *ənt-¹im*
 NEG-PP-PRD hair-3SG NEG-PP

“(He) looked in the pants, the hair IS ALL GONE, the hair IS NOT THERE” (Filchenko, 2008).

The repeated negative assertion is coded by the negative existential without the predicator affix. This pattern appears to apply across considerable anaphoric distance, i.e. when the reiteration is separated from its antecedent utterance by a sizable discourse. Thus, (21) is a reiteration of a clause (20) uttered 10 clauses earlier in the narrative:

(21) *opjat’* *nöyös* *lök-pə* *ənt-¹im*
 “again” sable track-TOP NEG-PP

“Still, THERE IS NO sable track” (Filchenko, 2005).

The cases of negative existential without predicator affix */-aki/* outnumber those with the affix (approx. 60 to 40%), which may prompt this form as a default coding of negative assertion of state when it is expressed for the first time. The exact implication of having the predicator affix on the negative existential is yet to be detailed, as in the case of adjectives in the predicate function.

(22) *män-nə* *krugom* *jälkämtä-s-im:*
 1SG-LOC “around” circle-PST2-1SG
məta *wajay* *lök* *ənt-¹im*
 some animal track NEG-PP

“I circle around: THERE IS NOT a single animal track” (Filchenko, 2005).

It should be noted, that there are a number of examples where the negative particle unaffixed with */-aki/* is not a reiteration, but is an independent proposition as in (22) above. There are no attested examples of the cases though, where the affixed negative participle follows the unaffixed one. However, there are rare examples of the reduplicated predicator affix following the negative particle (23):

(23) *toyj-j-əy-i* *juŋa-s-əm,* *mətali*
 there-ADV-ELA get-PST2-1SG something
ənt-¹im-äki-iki, *ənt-¹im* *wəl-qal*
 NEG-PP-PRD-PRD NEG-PP be-PST1.3SG

“I got there, THERE IS NOT a thing there, it was NOT there” (Filchenko, 2005).

In light of the above data, a prediction concerning the distribution of the predicator affix */-aki/* with the negative existential implies a connection to the pragmatic features of the referent(s) whose non-existence is thus predicated. That is, it is most probable that negative assertion of existence will be coded by the negative nominalization uninflected with predicative affix */-aki/* if the referent, whose non-existence is predicated, is high in pragmatic identifiability/activation, that is, more available in the discourse universe. Example (23) is viewed here as the supporting evidence, where the reiterated final predication, the nega-

tive participle *əntim*, is followed by the existential *wəlqal* “(s)he was”, resulting in the literal “non-existent it was”, referring to absent “milk” whose non-existence was definitively confirmed by the SAP.

The role of the existential verb “to be” in (25), as well as in (26) below, is to be seen as that of an auxiliary bearing the appropriate TAM inflections (in these cases – one of the past tense markers *-qal* “PST1”). Thus, the bear negative existence predicate *əntim* appears to be used for either the present or the so-called suffixless past [1, 2] forms, while the range of morphological past tense forms (and presumably aspectual) occur within the [*əntim* + *wəl*-TAM “to be”] model.

(24) *telefon* *ənt-¹im* *wəl-¹qal.*
 telephone NEG-PP be-PST1.3SG

“There WAS NO telephone” (Filchenko, 2008).

In the alternative-type existence questions (25), however, the latter [Neg + *wəl*-TAM “to be”] model often extends to the present-future tense propositions, possibly for the purpose of maintaining the symmetry between the two parts of the alternative/choice question. In these cases, a regular verbal negator *əntə* is used preposed to the existential predicate “to be”:

(25) *tom* *qat-nə* *qoj* *'wəl-wəl,*
 DET house-LOC IndPrn be-PRS.3SG
qam *əntə* *'wəl-wəl?*
 or NEG be-PRS.3SG

“IS THERE anyone in that house, or not?” (Filchenko, 2008).

In this, such existential propositions formally align with standard verb negation ones.

In complex nominal predicates with the nominal (attributive) part and the existential “to be”, similar to (23) above, the negative particle, according to the general pattern, appears in preposition to the nominal part, thus negating quality asserted by the nominal, rather than the existence of the entity itself. Thus, in (26), it is the quality “thin” that is asserted as false, rather than the existence of the animal itself, with the verbal negator *əntə* thus preceding the attribute “thin” rather than the copula “to be”:

(26) *wajay* *əntə* *'käntf-im* *wəl-¹qal*
 animal NEG thin-ATTR be-PST3.3SG
 “(That) animal WAS NOT THIN” (Filchenko, 2008).

This pattern of the verbal negator immediately preceding the nominal predicate applies also to the cases of nominal predicates with absent copula or predicator affix:

(27a) *əntə* *'əllə,* *əj* *al*
 NEG big one year

“Not a BIG (one), one year old”.

(27b) *'ärki* – *'əntə,* *'əj-äli* (*əntə* *'ärki*)
 much NEG one-DIM (NEG many)

“NOT MANY, just ONE” (“NOT MANY”) (Filchenko, 2008).

In (27b), an apparent Russian contact-induced change in the syntax of negation takes place, with the

negative particle accented and postposed to the negated quantifier. This is later self-repaired in the controlled reiteration (27b in brackets).

In the discussion of the Eastern Khanty negation of existence, it is important to make a note of a rare but attested analytical construction similar to the complex nominal predicate ((26) above). It makes use of the [NomPrd + Aux] model, where the role of the nominal is taken by the negative participle *əntim* inflected with the predicator affix *-äki*, while the verb *jitä* “become” acts as an auxiliary:

(28) *ənt-im-¹äyi* *ji-¹yäl*.
NEG-PP-PRD become-PST1.3SG
“(S)he passed away” (Filchenko, 2008).

Eastern Khanty Proposition Negation

The whole proposition may also fall under the scope of negation, when the whole of the proposition is asserted as false. This is typically the case in refutation-answers or rejection replies to imperative or proposing utterances, as in (30a), (30b):

(29) *'əntə*, *tʃi* *əntə* *'qaqʲi* *wajax*,
NEG DET NEG young brother animal
təmə *'qasi* *tʃil-wəl*
DET man crying-PRS.3SG
“No, this is not a BEAR, this is a PERSON crying” (Filchenko, 2008).

(30a) *inl-a!*
sit-IMPR.2SG
“Sit in!”

(30b) *'əntə*, *män-nə* *pəskäri* *mas-wəl*
NEG 1SG-LOC fast need-PRS.3SG
“No, I have to hurry” (Filchenko, 2008).

Eastern Khanty Imperative Negation (Prohibitives)

Eastern Khanty imperatives have the special negative particle *äl* used to code the negative imperative/prohibitive utterances or negative requests:

(31) *män-oy* *qoq-qə-pa* *äl* *män-ä*
1SG-PRL far-PRD-ALL NEG go-IMPR.2SG
“Don’t go far away from me!” (Filchenko, 2008).

(32) *tʃəkə* *sem-en-kə* *tʃyl-ä* *äl*
very heart-COM-PRD here-ILL NEG

jöy-itən
come-IMPR.2DU

“Don’t you (two) come close so baldly!” (Kalinina, 1970).

The negative particle *äl* here always appears stressed and preposed to the verbal predicate in the imperative mood form. Eastern Khanty imperatives, being the non-declarative strong manipulative speech acts, are associated with the scope of irrealis, as they refer to the states-of-affairs whose event-time will follow the speech-time, i.e. which are projected to occur in the future. The scope of negation in these cases extends over the whole of the proposition, thus eliciting the non occurrence of an action. The existence of the special negation pattern for imperatives is

though rare but a well attested typological pattern [4, c. 317].

Eastern Khanty Lexical negation (negative lexical verbs)

Eastern Khanty also makes limited use of the lexical negation, i.e. uses a lexeme with inherent negative semantics, primarily with the sense of “lack of mental or physical ability”:

(33) *nux-pa* *porislə-wəl*, *küm* *lüyä-tä*
up-ALL scramble-PRS.3SG outside get.out-INF
küryət-äyi
cannot-PST0.3SG

“(S)he scrambles up, (but) cannot get out” (Filchenko, 2008).

(34) *män-nə* *kürt-im* *loŋo-ta* *jüx*
1SG-LOC cannot-1SG read-INF 3SG
knisk-al
book-3SG

“I cannot read his book” (Filchenko, 2008).

Eastern Khanty Negation in Code-switching

Negation in now frequent code switching undergoes common systemic changes, identifiable synchronically elsewhere in the Eastern Khanty. Now almost 100% bilingual Khanty-Russian speakers, in casual improvised speech, borrow Russian negative particles “*ni/ne*” substituting the native Khanty “*əntə*”, particularly at noun-phrase negation:

(35) *a* *temi* *ni* *'möytək*, *ni* *pə'tʃi*,
«but» DET «NEG» dace «NEG» rudd
ni *'ayərnəŋ*, *ni* *'sart* *ənt-¹im* *wəl-¹qal*.
«NEG» ide «NEG» pike NEG-PP be-PST1.3SG
“But here, there WASN’T NO DACE, NO RUDD, NO IDE, NO PIKE” (Filchenko, 2008).

In this, the grammar of negation undergoes change, obviously following the Russian pattern with double negation of NP and VP individually.

Conclusions

With regard to existing typological generalizations concerning negation, Eastern Khanty negative clauses demonstrate fairly regular features, both for the genetic affiliation and for the contact area. Regarding the type of negative marker [5], Eastern Khanty negation is coded primarily by the negator of two types, indicative/declarative *əntə* and imperative *äl*. There is a class of examples, where the indicative negator *əntə* appears to function as a negative existence predicate, furnished with a participial-type marker *-im* and frequently with a productive predicator/adverbializer affix *-äki*.

In terms of the position of negative marker [6], Eastern Khanty shows consistent preference of preposing, in accord with the basic word-order patterns.

Concerning the morphosyntactic symmetry of negatives [7], Eastern Khanty appears predominantly symmetrical, showing no morphosyntactic variation between affirmative constructions on one hand, and

negative constructions on the other, apart from the presence of a respective (indicative vs. imperative) negative particle. Main variations in the marking of Eastern Khanty negation concerns the imperatives and existentials.

Based on the data at hand, Eastern Khanty is fully symmetrical in imperative constructions, apart from having a special imperative negation particle, etymologically different from the sentential negation, which corresponds to Type II negative imperatives by [8].

Eastern Khanty negative existentials show two main strategies: 1) in the present-future and unaffixed past, bear negative existential *əntim* is used; 2) for the non-present tense forms negative existence is coded by the combination of the negative existential *əntim* and the copula *wəl-ta* “to be” acting as an auxiliary and bearing required TAM morphology. In the first strategy (bear negative existential *əntim*), the use of the predicator affix *-äki* (sometimes reduplicated) apparently hinges on the pragmatic properties of the referents of the concrete proposition. In this, Eastern

Khanty existentials are not clearly definable into generalized Types A, B and C [9], in that: a) the Eastern Khanty negative existential predicate *əntim* is obviously related to the verbal negator *əntə*, though; b) it has special predicate morphology (*əntə -im (-äki)*), and c) may be used for the past tenses as the verbal negator of the ordinary existential predicate (*X wəlqal* “there was X” vs. *X əntim wəlqal* “X there was not”), or even as clearly regular verbal negators in the present tense, where an alternative between existence and non existence is offered (*X wəlwəl, qam əntə wəlwəl* “is there X, or is there not”). The Eastern Khanty negative indefinite is coded by the regular indefinite pronouns combined with the negative existential predicate *əntim* in a variety of negative existential constructions. Finally, Eastern Khanty makes quite limited use of negative lexical verbs, mainly of ability semantics, which aligns it typologically more with the northern Samoyedic languages rather than with areally adjacent southern Samoyedic or closely related Ugric.

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Filchenko A. Y., PhD Linguistics, Associate professor.

Tomsk State Pedagogical University.

Ul. Kievskaya, 60, Tomsk, Russia, 634061.

E-mail: afiltchenko@tspu.edu.ru

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А. Ю. Фильченко

ОТРИЦАНИЕ В ВОСТОЧНО-ХАНТЫЙСКИХ ДИАЛЕКТАХ

Рассматриваются основные стратегии выражения отрицания в восточно-хантыйских диалектах в контексте типологических обобщений средств выражения отрицания в языках мира, в генетически родственных языках и в контексте обско-енисейского контактного ареала. Морфосинтаксические и семантические черты восточно-хантыйского отрицания рассматриваются в свете таких типологически релевантных параметров, как этимология и положение маркера отрицания, морфосинтаксической симметрии отрицания, аспекты вариативности в морфосинтаксисе отрицания в сравнении с утвердительными индикативами, способы выражения отрицательной бытийности, конструкции с отрицательными (вспомогательными) глаголами.

Ключевые слова: *исчезающие языки Сибири, ареальная типология, документация языков, отрицание.*

Томский государственный педагогический университет.

Ул. Киевская, 60, Томск, Россия, 634061.

E-mail: afiltchenko@tspu.edu.ru