

Lesson 5

Negative

Negative

[Verb (Negative) CP–S]

ra

negative, no, not

To make a sentence negative, just put “ra” immediately after the verb. The “ra” does not change the form of the Verb, nor of the Case Phrases.

The parentheses around “Negative” mean that it is an optional element in the sentence.

“Ra” is a very useful word. In addition to making a sentence negative, “ra” can also be used as a prefix on other words to make them mean their opposites.

A ra-compounded noun/pronoun, such as “rawith” (no-one), introduced below, is, by itself, adequate to make a sentence negative. Additional negatives may be used, at the speaker’s discretion, to emphasize the negativity.

Examples

Bíi thal with wá.

The person is good (according to my perceptions).

Bíi thal ra with wáa.

The person is not good (I’m told).

Bíi thal rawith wáa.

No-one is good (I’m told).

Bíi di ne wáa.

You speak, I hear.

Bíi di ra mid wí.

The creature doesn’t speak, obviously.

Bíi laya bal wáa.

The bread is red (I hear from a trusted source).

Bíi laya ra bal wá.

The bread is not red (according to my perceptions).

Bíi laya ra bal wí.

The bread is not red (obviously—because it is present for the speaker and hearer to examine).

Bíi hal le wá.

I work.

Bíi hal ra le wá.

I don’t work.

Bíi mehal lezh wá.

We (few) work.

Bíi mehal ra len wá.

We (many) do not work.

Vocabulary

bal

bread

dal

thing

dóon

to be correct

em

yes

lóolo

to be slow

ne

you (second person pronoun, singular)

née

to be alien

rahu

to be closed [ra- (NON) + u (be open)]

rawith

no-one; nobody [ra- (NON) + with (person)]

wi

Evidence Word: known to the speaker because the matter is self-evident

Just as with “le,” along with “ne” (you, singular) come “nezh” (you, few-to-several: 2-5 of you) and “nen” (you, many: more than 5 of you).

Exercises

Translate the following into English.

1 Bíi mehóoha ra len wa.

E: _____

2 Bíi née ra mid wáa.

E: _____

3 Bíi u ra áath wi.

E: _____

4 Bíi melóolo ra nezh wáa.

E: _____

5 Bíi medoth ra thili wa.

E: _____

6 Bíi mezháadin ra with wáa.

E: _____

Make the following sentences negative; translate into English before and after.

7 Bii ina hena waa.

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

8 Bii memii thul wa.

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

9 Bii meheeya lezh wa.

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

10 Bii rahu tham waa.

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

11 Bii doon bud wa.

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

12 Bii dathim Bétheni wi.

E: _____

L: _____

E: _____

Translate the following into Láadan (they're trusted hearsay, unless that doesn't make sense).

13 The stone does not work.

L: _____

14 The grass is not alive.

L: _____

15 I make no statement.

L: _____

16 The pillows are not good.

L: _____

17 You are not red.

L: _____

18 The song is not beautiful.

L: _____

In #13, it should be obvious that a stone does not work. Therefore, I have chosen to use “**wi**” as the Evidence Word.

The circumstances surrounding the utterance would have to be extremely unusual for the statement in #15 to rely upon hearsay (about myself); for that reason, I have translated this one with the Evidence Word “**wa**.”

In #15, did you have any trouble with the English construction “**make a statement**”? Bear in mind that “**to state/declare**” would take an Object; we haven't seen how to form an Object in Láadan, so we use an English construction that means that without requiring an Object. The Láadan verb “**dibíi**” is translated as “**to state; to declare**,” however, used without an Object, the English translation would have to be “**to make a statement/declaration**.”

Answers

- 1 We (many) are not tired.
- 2 The creature isn't alien.
- 3 The door is not open, obviously.
- 4 You (few) are not slow (I'm told).
- 5 The fish do not follow.
- 6 The women are not menopauseing (I'm told).
- 7 The sibling is asleep (I'm told).
Bíi ina ra hena wáa.
The sibling is not asleep (I'm told).
- 8 The parents are amazed.
Bíi memíi ra thul wa.
The parents are not amazed.
- 9 We (few) are afraid.
Bíi mehéeya ra lezh wa.
We (few) are not afraid.
- 10 The circle is closed.
Bíi rahu ra tham wáa.
The circle is not closed.
- 11 The clothing is correct.
Bíi dóon ra bud wa.
The clothing is not correct.
- 12 Bethany needleworks (obviously).
Bíi dathim ra Bétheni wi.
Bethany is not needleworking (obviously).
- 13 Bíi hal ra ud wi.
- 14 Bíi wíi ra hesh wáa.
- 15 Bíi dibíi ra le wa.
- 16 Bíi methal ra thom wáa.
- 17 Bíi laya ra ne wáa.
- 18 Bíi áya ra lom wáa.