Phasal Polarity expressions in Tashlhiyt

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The primary means of expressing phasal polarity in Tashlhiyt, a Berber language of Morocco, are the three particles yad, sul and ta:

- yad
  already
  ‘already’
- ur
  NEG
  ‘no longer’
- sul
  still
- ta
  yet
  ‘not yet’
- ur
  NEG
  ‘still’

The morpheme ur ‘NEG’ is the standard negation marker in predications. Yad ‘already’ and ta ‘yet’ are dedicated PhP markers, whereas sul ‘still’ is mildly polysemous. Sul ‘still’ is grammaticalized from the verb sul ‘to persist, still be’, yad likely has a nominal origin.

The notion ‘ALREADY’ is overtly expressed much less frequently than in English, French or German, which places Tashlhiyt in the vicinity of languages that have a structural gap here (Van Baar 1997, van der Auwera 1998). In a corpus of English, French and German translations of Tashlhiyt texts, only about 5% of the occurrences of already, déjà and schon have a corresponding PhP particle (yad) in the Tashlhiyt original.

Form and meaning of these PhP markers as well as the constructions they enter into will be described in detail following the typological parameters in Kramer (2017), mainly based on data from published texts.

References