



Negation and the expression of Phasal Polarity in Kambaata (Cushitic)

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Kambaata, a Cushitic language of Ethiopia, has five suffixes for the negation of indicative main verbs, imperatives, jussives converbs and relative verbs. The language has not grammaticalized the expression of phasal polarity. The first part of the paper gives a brief overview of the negative system of the language and discusses the function of the five inflectional negative morphemes as well as of derivational negative morphology and negative pronouns. The second part is dedicated to a recently grammaticalized morpheme *kása*, which only occurs in interrogative and negative contexts. It expresses that something was never done up to now or inquires whether something was ever done before. Based on a corpus of biblical texts and the Little Prince, I will investigate then in the third part of my paper how phasal polarity morphemes of the translated language are rendered in the Kambaata translation. We will see that 'already' and 'not yet' is usually ignored by the translators, whereas 'still' and 'no longer' are periphrastically expressed.