## **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 wa.
   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 wi.
   The creature doesn't speak, obviously.
Bíi laya bal wáa.
   The bread is red (I hear from a trusted source).
Bíi laya ra bal wa.
   The bread is not red (according to my perceptions).
Bíi lava ra bal wi.
   The bread is not red (obviously—because it is present for the speaker and hearer to
   examine).
Bíi hal le wa.
   I work.
Bíi hal ra le wa.
   I don't work.
Bíi mehal lezh wa.
   We (few) work.
Bíi mehal ra len wa.
   We (many) do not work.
```

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```
Vocabulary
```

```
née
bal
   bread
                                                     to be alien
dal
                                                 rahu
                                                     to be closed [ra- (NON) + u (be open)]
   thing
dóon
                                                     no-one; nobody [ra-(NON) + with
   to be correct
                                                     (person)]
em
                                                 wi
   yes
lóolo
                                                     Evidence Word: known to the speaker
                                                     because the matter is self-evident
   to be slow
ne
   you (second person pronoun, singular)
```

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:
```

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# Make the following sentences negative; translate into English before and after. 7 Bíi ina hena wáa. 8 Bíi memíi thul wa. 9 Bíi mehéeya lezh wa. 10 Bíi rahu tham wáa. 11 Bíi dóon bud wa. 12 Bíi dathim Bétheni wi. Translate the following into Láadan (they're trusted hearsay, unless that doesn't make 13 The stone does not work. 14 The grass is not alive. 15 I make no statement. 16 The pillows are not good.

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

17 You are not red.

18 The song is not beautiful.

L:

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."

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#### **Answers**

```
1
   We (many) are not tired.
2
   The creature isn't alien.
   The door is not open, obviously.
   You (few) are not slow (I'm told).
5
   The fish do not follow.
6
   The women are not menopausing (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.
   Bíi methal ra thom wáa.
17
   Bíi laya ra ne wáa.
18
   Bíi áya ra lom wáa.
```

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