

Lesson 5

Negative

Vocabulary

bal	bread
dal	thing
dóon	to be correct
em	yes
ne	you (second person pronoun, singular)
née	to be alien
ra	negative, no, not
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 in the case of “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).

Negative

[Verb (Negative) CP–S]

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 nominal ra-compound, such as “rawith” (no-one), introduced here, 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).

Notes
Notes

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 laya 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.

Exercises

Translate the following into English.

- Bíi mehóoha ra len wa.
- Bíi née ra mid wáa.
- Bíi u ra áath wi.
- Bíi medi ra nezh wáa.
- Bíi medoth ra thili wa.
- Bíi mezháadin ra with wáa.

- E:** _____
- E:** _____
- E:** _____
- E:** _____
- E:** _____
- E:** _____

Notes
Notes
Notes
Notes

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

- 7 Bii áana hena wáa.
- 8 Bii memii thul wa.
- 9 Bii mehéeeya lezh wa.
- 10 Bii rahu tham wáa.
- 11 Bii dóon bud wa.
- 12 Bii dathim Bétheni wi.

7 **E:** _____
L: _____
E: _____

8 **E:** _____
L: _____
E: _____

9 **E:** _____
L: _____
E: _____

10 **E:** _____
L: _____
E: _____

11 **E:** _____
L: _____
E: _____

12 **E:** _____
L: _____
E: _____

Notes
Notes
Notes

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

- 13 The stone does not work.
- 14 The grass is not alive.
- 15 I make no statement.
- 16 The pillows are not good.
- 17 You are not red.
- 18 The song is not beautiful.

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.”

- 13 L: _____
- 14 L: _____
- 15 L: _____
- 16 L: _____
- 17 L: _____
- 18 L: _____

Notes _____
 Notes _____
 Notes _____

1 We (many) are not tired. 2 The creature isn't alien. 3 The door is not open, obviously. 4 You (few) do not speak (I'm told). 5 The fish do not follow. 6 The women are not menopausal (I'm told). 7 The sibling is asleep (I'm told). 8 The parents are amazed. 9 We (few) are afraid. 10 The circle is closed. 11 The clothing is correct. 12 Bethany is not needling (obviously). 13 Bii hal ra ud wi. 14 Bii wii ra hesh wá. 15 Bii dibíi ra le wa. 16 Bii methal ra thom wá. 17 Bii laya ra ne wá. 18 Bii áya ra lom wá.