Equatives and negative comparatives for connective negation

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UK

Equatives and negative comparatives for **connective negation**

Equatives and negative comparatives for connective negation

NEITHER A BORROWER NOR A LENDER BE

Equatives and negative comparatives for **connective negation**

NEGATION

IN

ENGLISH AND OTHER LANGUAGES

BY

OTTO JESPERSEN

≈

'negative connexion'

NEITHER A BORROWER NOR A LENDER BE
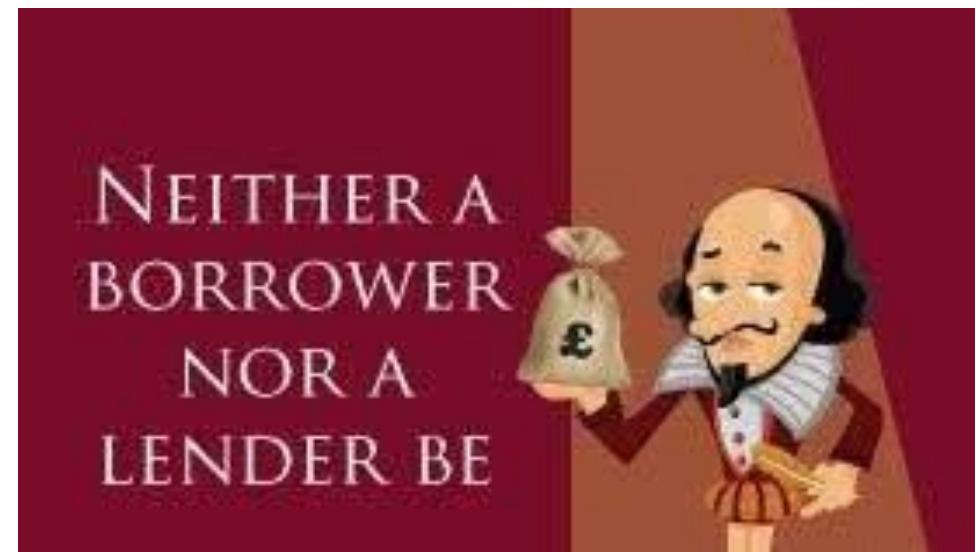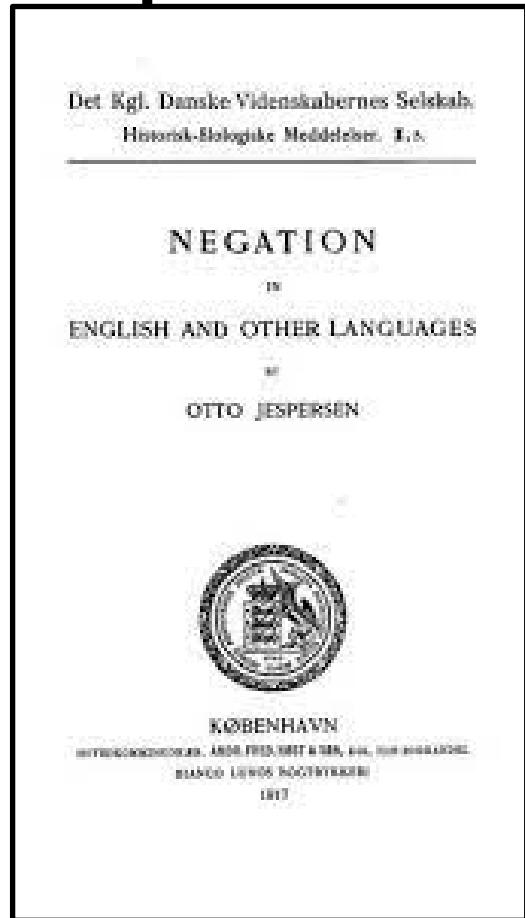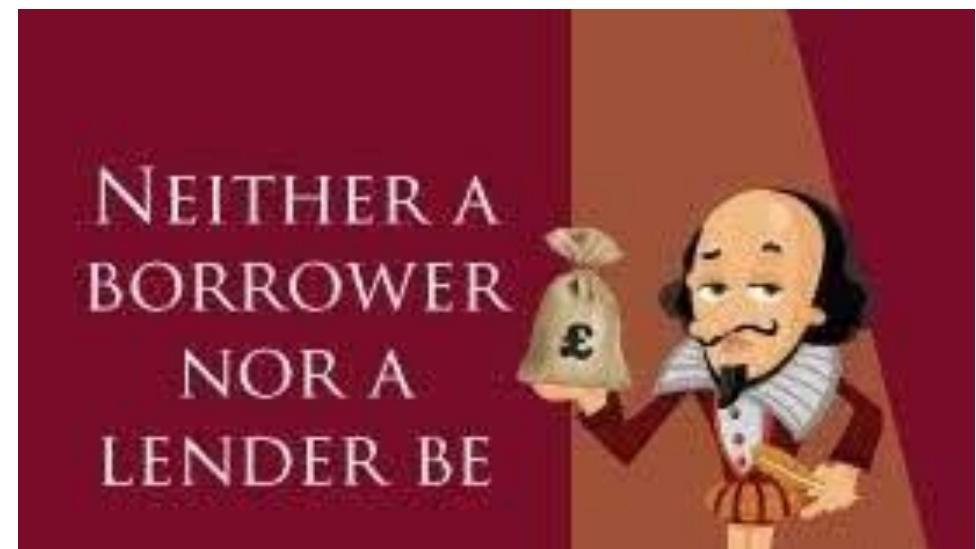
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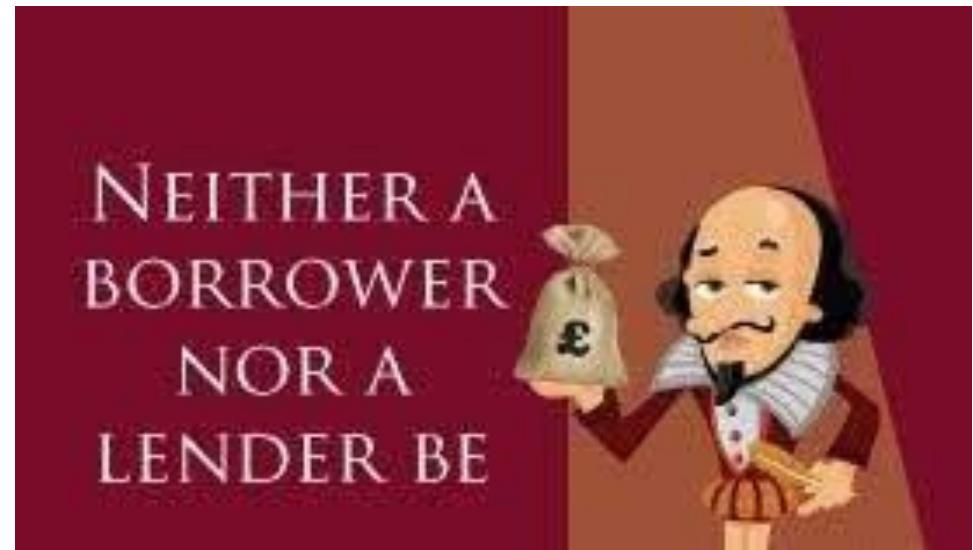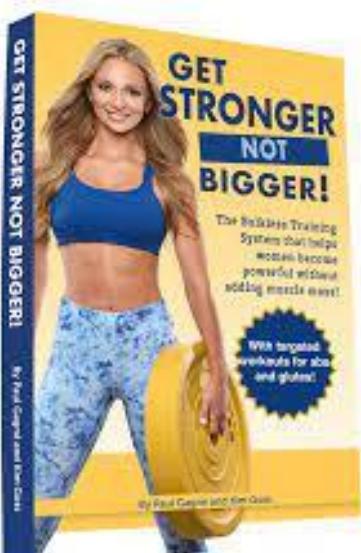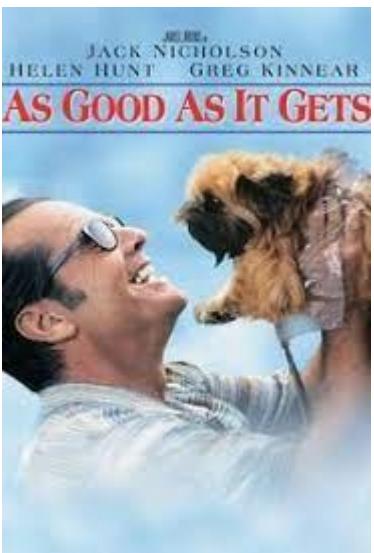
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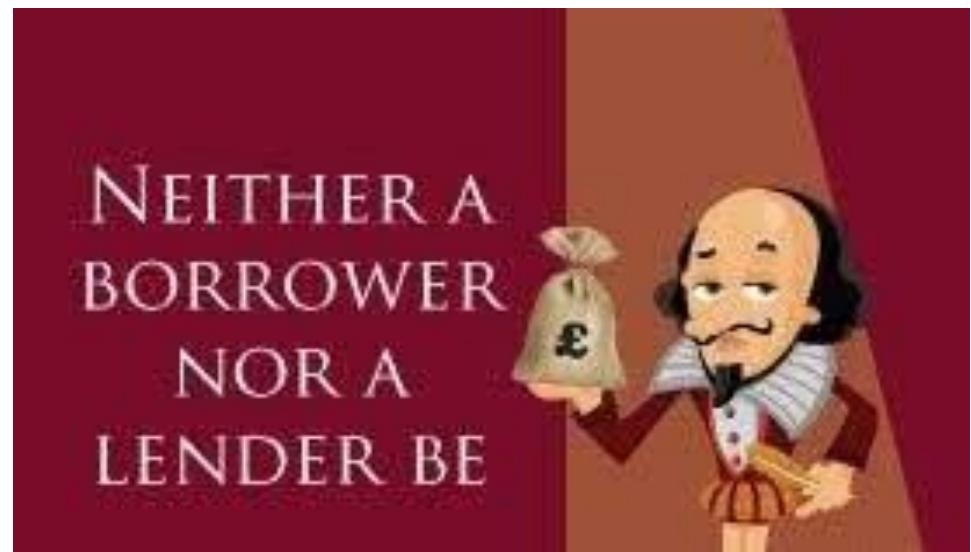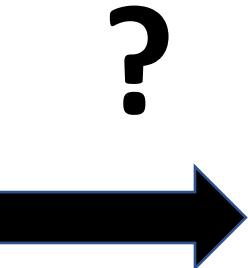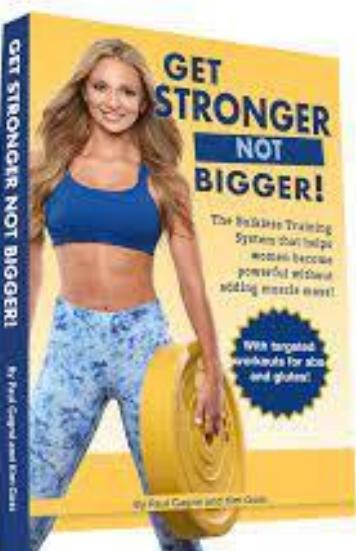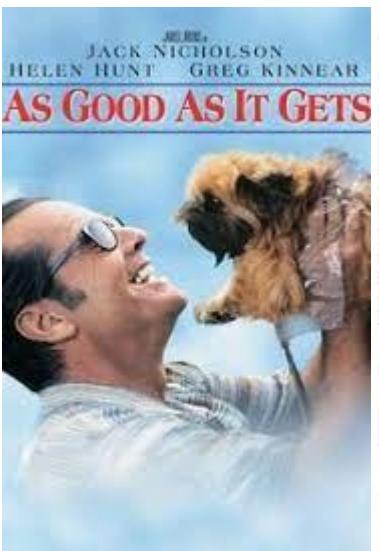
French 1969 (1967)

Serge: *Je t'aime.*
I you love
'I love you.'

Jane: *Moi non plus.* / *Ni moi non plus.* /**Ni moi.*
me NEG more   CONEG me NEG more   CONEG me
'Me neither.'

French 1969 (1967)

Serge: *Je t'aime.*
          I you love
          'I love you.'

Jane: *Moi non plus.* / *Ni moi non plus.* /**Ni moi.*
          me NEG more   CONEG me NEG more   CONEG me
          'Me neither.'

Spanish

Serge: *Te amo.*
          you love
          'I love you.'

Jane: *Yo tampoco.* / *Ni yo tampoco.* / *Ni yo.*
          I as.little   CONEG I as .ittle   I CONEG
          'Me neither.'

1. Connective negation

2. Dutch

3. French

4. Spanish & English

5. Conclusion

1. Connective negation

2. Dutch

3. French

4. Spanish & English

5. Conclusion

± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction — | CONNECTIVE NEGATION | — ± adverb

± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction — CONNECTIVE NEGATION — ± adverb

Hansen, Maj-Britt Mosegaard (2021) 'Cyclic changes to the negative coordinating conjunction from Latin to Modern French', *Folia Linguistica Historica* 42.223-254.

French
Je n'aime ni le théâtre, ni l'opéra.
I   NEG love CONEG the theatre CONEG the opera
'I like neither theatre nor opera.'

± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction — CONNECTIVE NEGATION — ± adverb

Hansen, Maj-Britt Mosegaard (2021) 'Cyclic changes to the negative coordinating conjunction from Latin to Modern French', *Folia Linguistica Historica* **42.223-254.**

French
Je n'aime   ni   le théâtre, ni   l'opéra.   *Moi non plus.*
I   NEG **love** CONEG **the theatre** CONEG **the opera**   me not more
'I like neither theatre nor opera.'   **'Me neither'**

± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction — CONNECTIVE NEGATION — ± adverb

Salaberri, Iker (2022) 'A cross-linguistic study of emphatic negative coordination', *Studies in Language* 46.647-717.

Haspelmath, Martin (2007) 'Coordination', In Timothy Shopen (ed.) *Language typology and syntactic description.* Vol 2, 1-51. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

French

Je n'aime ni   le théâtre, ni   l'opéra.
I   NEG love CONEG the theatre CONEG the opera
'I like neither theatre nor opera.'

± correlative   ± emphatic

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Salaberri, Iker (2022) 'A cross-linguistic study of emphatic negative coordination', *Studies in Language* 46.647-717.

Haspelmath, Martin (2007) 'Coordination', In Timothy Shopen (ed.) *Language typology and syntactic description.* Vol 2, 1-51. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

French

Je n'aime ni   le théâtre, ni   l'opéra   non plus.

I   NEG love CONEG the theatre CONEG the opera no   more

'I like neither theatre nor opera.'

± correlative **± emphatic**

± conjunction — CONNECTIVE NEGATION — ± adverb

Gianollo, Chiara (2018) *Indefinites between Latin and Romance.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

French
Ni   l'instituteur ni   le   curé   n'ont   besoin d'avoir un nom […]'
CONEG the teacher CONEG the priest NEG have need   of have a name […]
'Neither the teacher nor the priest need to have a name […]'

± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction — CONNECTIVE NEGATION — ± adverb

Gianollo, Chiara (2018) *Indefinites between Latin and Romance.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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Ø   *L' instituteur ni   le   curé n'ont   besoin d'avoir un nom* [...]'
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± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction — CONNECTIVE NEGATION — ± adverb
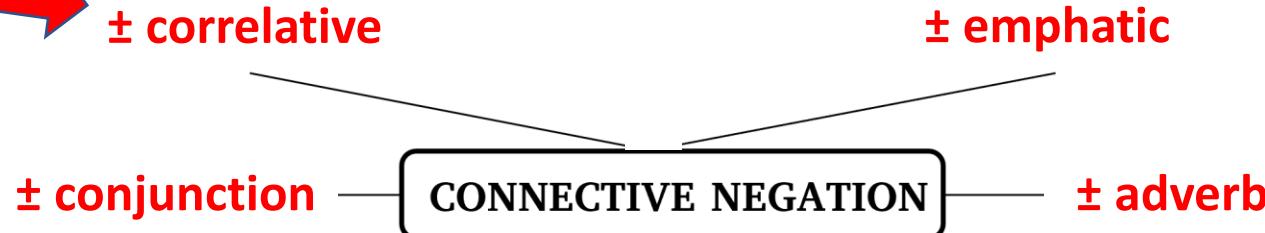
Gianollo, Chiara (2018) *Indefinites between Latin and Romance.* **Oxford: Oxford University Press.**

French
L' instituteur **ni** *le curé n'ont besoin d'avoir un nom* […]'
 the teacher CONEG the priest NEG have need of have a name […]
 'Neither the teacher nor the priest need to have a name […]'

± correlative ± emphatic

± conjunction — CONNECTIVE NEGATION — ± adverb

phrasal finite clausal phrasal-clausal elliptic phrasal-elliptic

scope ellipsis

± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction — CONNECTIVE NEGATION — ± adverb

phrasal finite clausal phrasal-clausal elliptic phrasal-elliptic

⬆ scope   ellipsis

French
*L' instituteur **ni** le curé n'ont besoin d'avoir un nom […]'*
 the teacher CONEG the preiest NEG have need of have a name […]
 'Neither the teacher nor the priest need to have a name […]'

± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction ── CONNECTIVE NEGATION ── ± adverb

phrasal   finite   clausal   phrasal-clausal   elliptic   phrasal-elliptic

scope   ellipsis
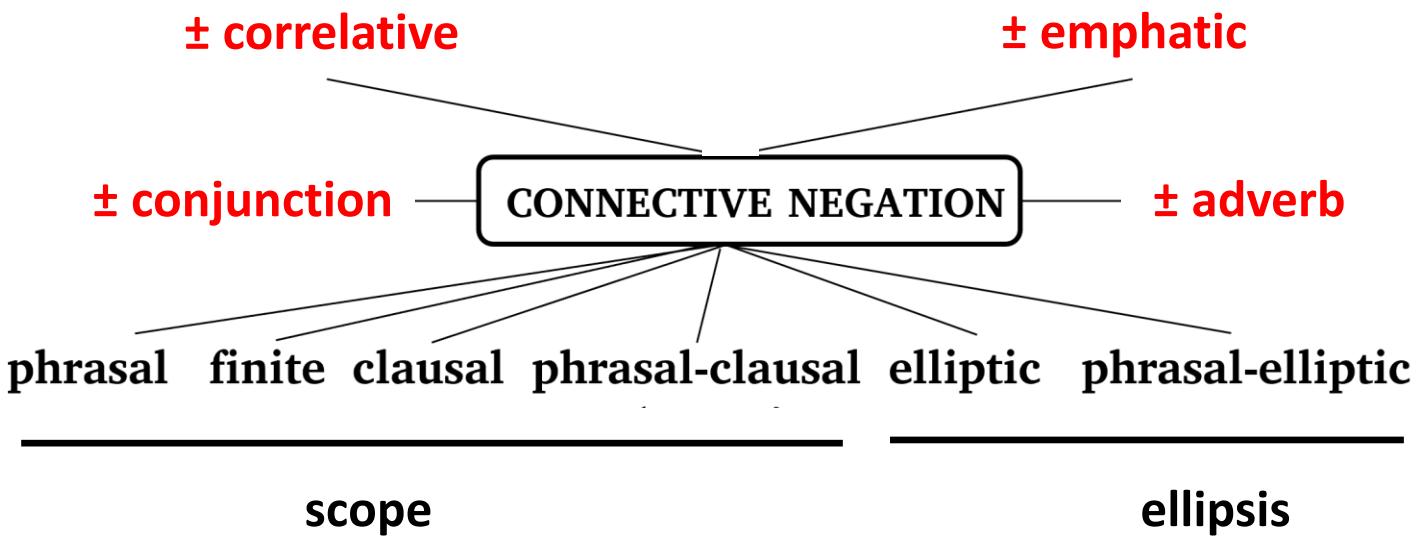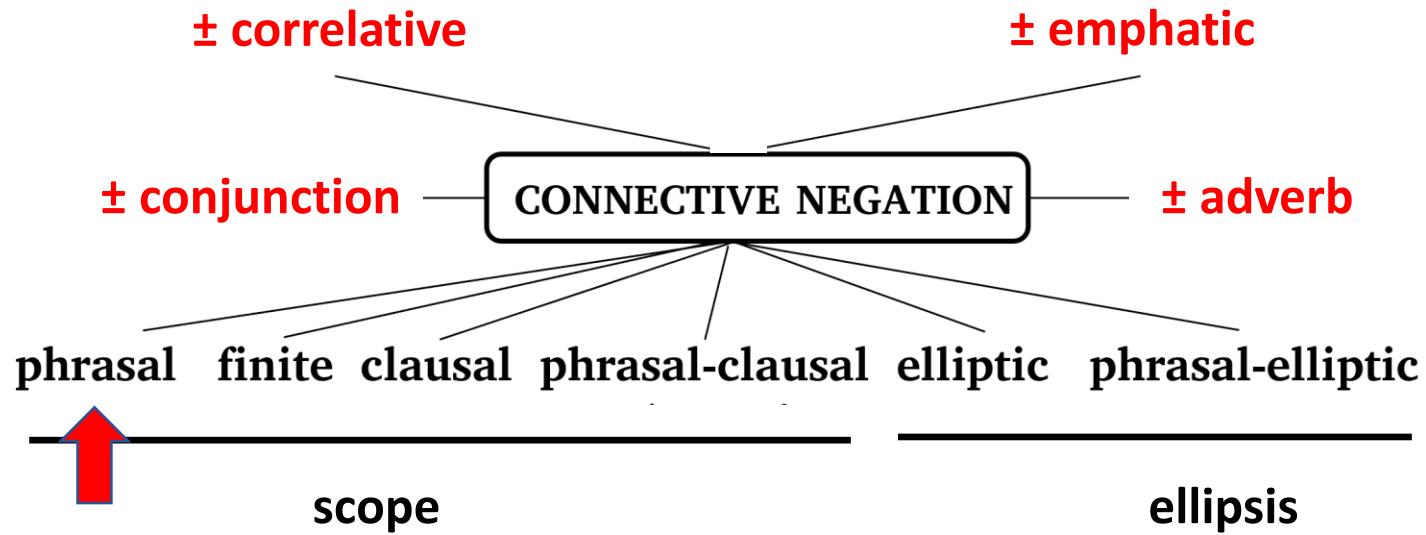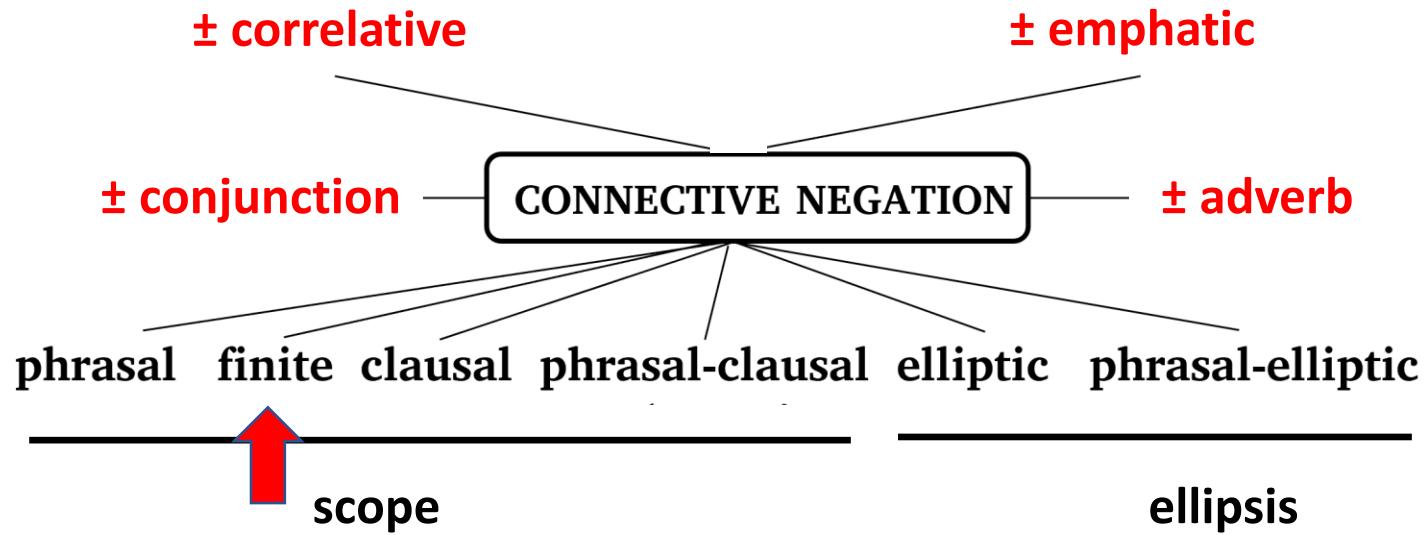
French
Il ne parlait pas ni   ne   mangeait.
he NEG **talked** NEG CONEG NEG **ate**
'He neither talked nor ate.'

Spanish
No/Ni   puedo ni   debo exponerla a ciertos risgos.
NEG/CONEG **can** CONEG **must expose.her to certain risks.**
'I neither nor must expose her to certain risks.
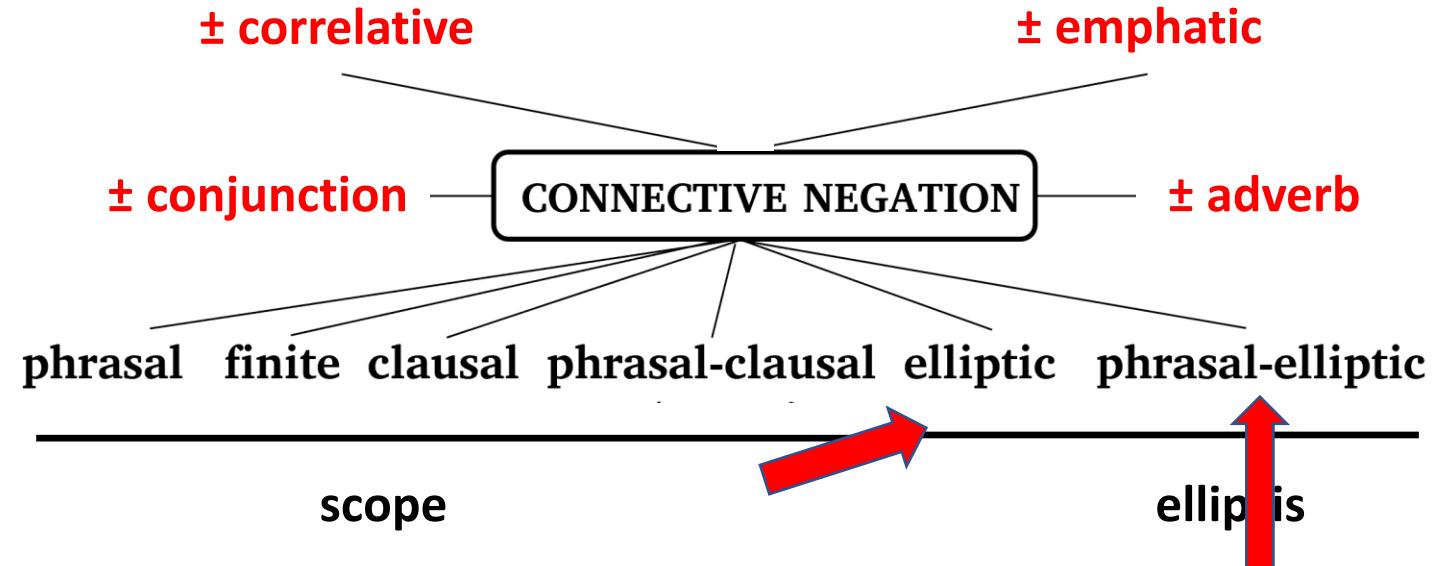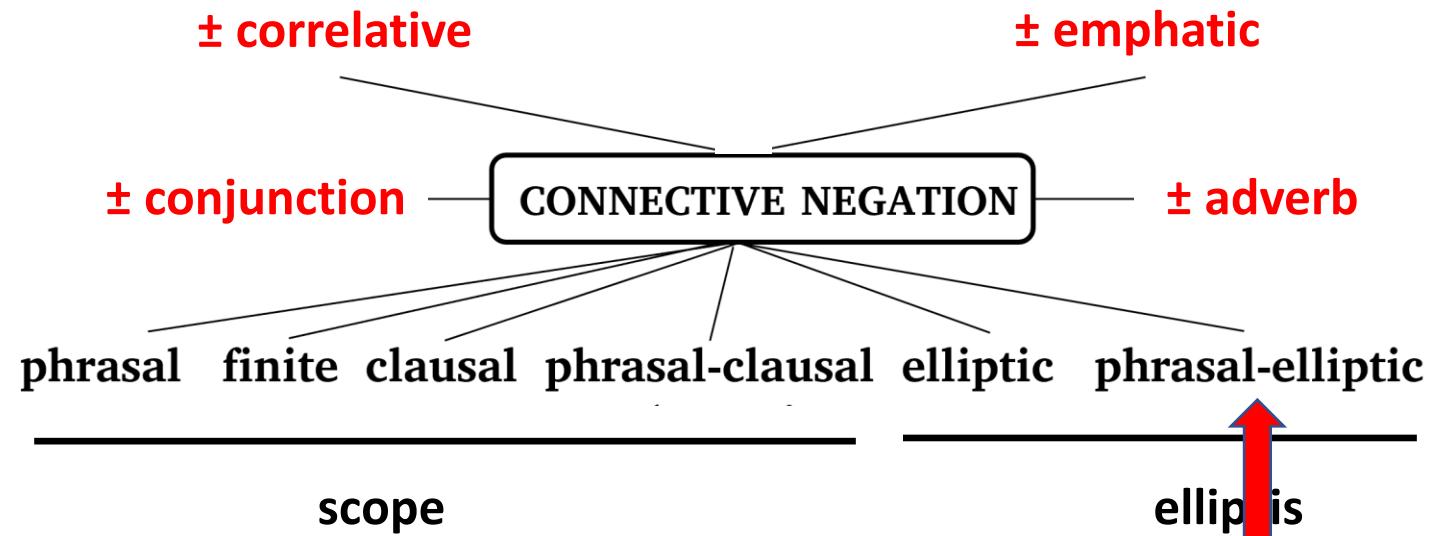
± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction —— CONNECTIVE NEGATION —— ± adverb

phrasal finite clausal phrasal-clausal elliptic phrasal-elliptic

scope   ellipsis

± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction —— | CONNECTIVE NEGATION | —— ± adverb

phrasal finite clausal phrasal-clausal elliptic phrasal-elliptic

_____   _____
            scope   ellipsis

French
Serge: *Je t'aime.*
         I   you love
         'I love you,'
Jane: *Moi **non plus**.*   / *Ni   moi **non plus**.*   /*Ni   moi.*
         me NEG **more**   CONEG me NEG **more**   CONEG me
         'Me neither.'

± correlative · ± emphatic

± conjunction — CONNECTIVE NEGATION — ± adverb

phrasal finite clausal phrasal-clausal elliptic phrasal-elliptic

scope   ellipsis
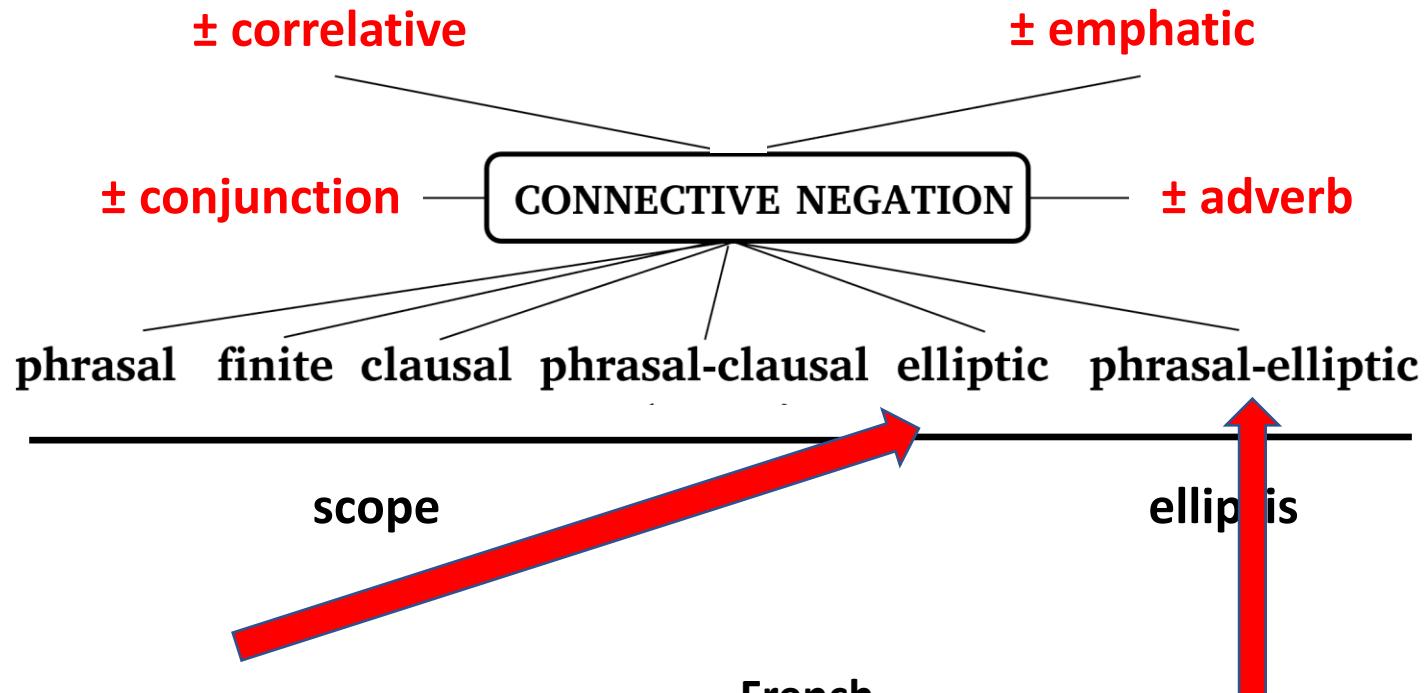
French

A: *Je ne suis pas malade. Est-ce que Jean est malade?*

  I NEG am NEG sick   is-it   that Jean is   sick

  'I am not sick. Is John sick?'

B: *Non plus*. / *Ni. / *Ni non plus.*

  NEG **more** CONEG **no** CONEG NEG **more**

  'He isn't either.'

French

Serge: *Je t'aime.*

     I you love

     'I love you,'

Jane: *Moi non plus.   / Ni   moi non plus.   /*Ni   moi.*

     me NEG **more**   CONEG **me** NEG **more**   CONEG **me**

     'Me neither.'

± correlative   ± emphatic

± conjunction — CONNECTIVE NEGATION — ± adverb

phrasal   finite   clausal   phrasal-clausal   elliptic   phrasal-elliptic
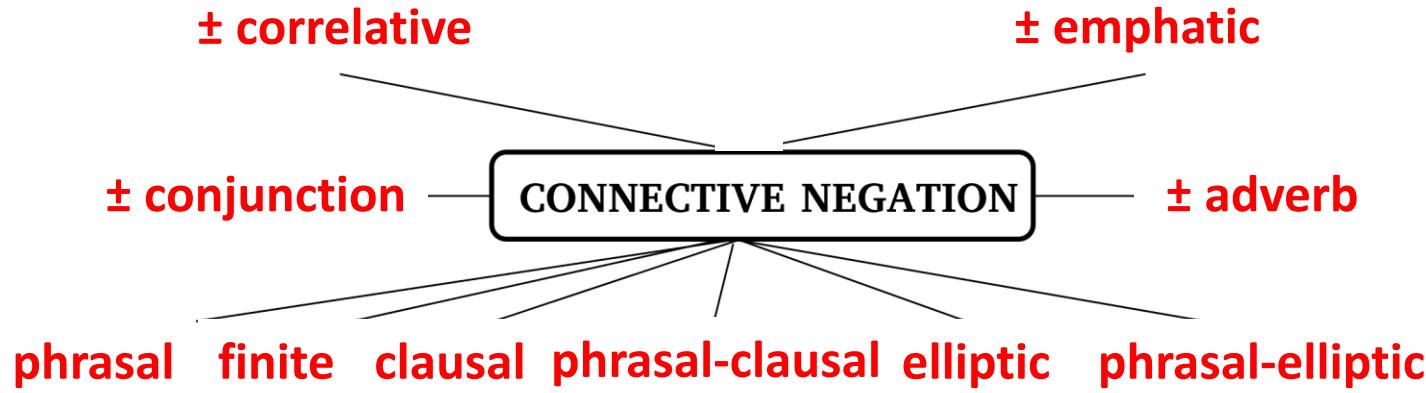
Other parameters ?

Jespersen, Otto (1917) & Salaberri (2022)

Bond, Oliver (2011) 'Negation in clause linkages', In Julia Sallabank (ed.) *Language documentation and description.* Vol. 8, 77-120. London: School of Oriental and African Studies.

van der Auwera, Johan & Sepideh Koohkan (2020) 'Extending the typology: negative concord and connective negation in Persian', *Linguistic Typology at the Crossroads* 2.1-36.

1. Connective negation

2. Dutch

3. French

4. Spanish & English

5. Conclusion

noch
'neither'

en ook niet
'and also not'

nmin
'little'

noch 'neither'

en ook niet 'and also not'

nmin 'little'

niet X ... *en ook niet* Y

geen X ... *en ook geen* Y

niet/geen X ... | *ook niet/geen* Y

noch 'neither'

en ook niet 'and also not'

min 'little'

niet/geen X ... *noch* Y
noch X ... *noch* Y
X *noch* Y

niet X ... *en ook niet* Y
geen X ... *en ook geen* Y
niet/geen X ... | *ook niet/geen* Y

noch 'neither'

en ook niet 'and also not'

min 'little'

niet/geen X ... *noch* Y

noch X ... *noch* Y

X *noch* Y

niet X ... *en ook niet* Y

geen X ... *en ook geen* Y

niet/geen X ... | *ook niet/geen* Y

14 constructions

noch
'neither'

en ook niet
'and also not'

min 'little'

niet/geen X ... noch Y
noch X ... noch Y
X noch Y

niet X ... en ook niet Y

geen X ... en ook geen Y

niet/geen X ... | ook niet/geen Y

14
constructions

300,005

1,363,812

386

nlTenTen20 corpus / 5,890,009 964 words
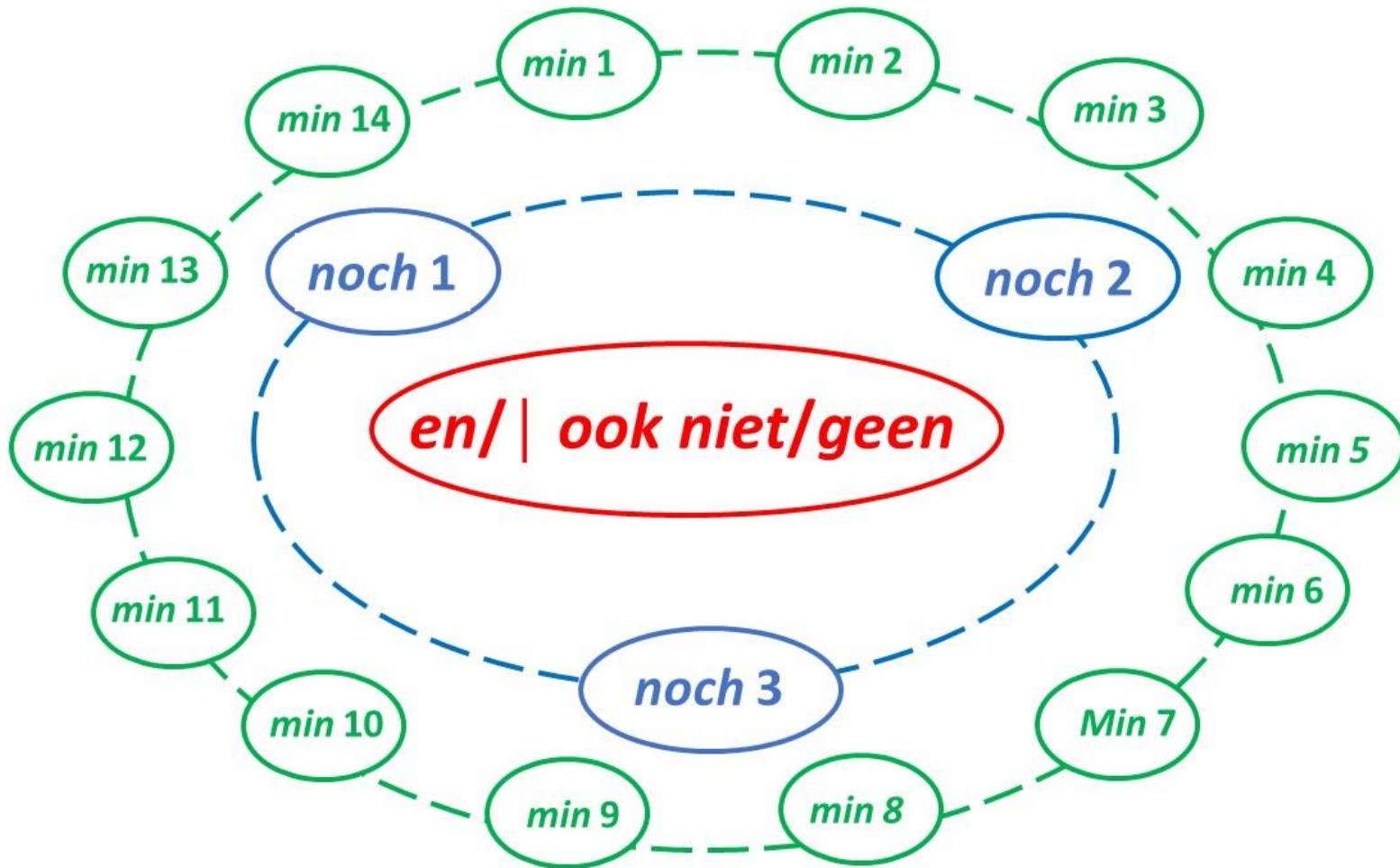
Detges, Ulrich (2020) Future markers in Western Romance. Cyclic change, synchronic variation and diachronic competition, *Journal of Historical Pragmatics* 21.289-314.

von Wartburg, Walther (1970[3]) *Einführung in Problematik und Methodik der Sprachwissenchaft.* Tübingen: Niemeyer.

noch 'neither'

en ook niet 'and also not'

min 'little'

Elliptic

0	333	36
300,005	1,363,812	386

nlTenTen20 corpus / 5,890,009 964 words

noch
'neither'

en ook niet
'and also not'

min
'little'

< *ne (u)h*

< *ne wiht*

300,005

1,363,812

386

nlTenTen20 corpus / 5,890,009 964 words

| *noch* 'neither' | *en ook niet* 'and also not' | *min* 'little' |

< *ne (u)h*   < *ne wiht*

Origin and current distribution suggest that *noch* is the older CONEG and that *en ook niet* therefore ousted *noch* in the top position

300,005   **1,363,812**   **386**

nlTenTen20 corpus / 5,890,009 964 words

Er   was geen geld   *en   evenmin*   *voedsel.*
there was no   money   and equally.little   food

evenmin   als
equally.little as

zo min   als
as little as

net zo min   als
just as little as

Er   was geld   *evenmin als*
there was money   *zo min als*

net *zo min als*

en even min

Er was   *evenmin*   *geld als*

zo min

zomin

net zo min

net zomin

___X

Er   was geen geld en   evenmin voedsel.
there was no   money and equally.little food

                           evenmin   als
   equally.little as
                           zo min als
                           as little as
                           net zo min als
                           just as little as

Er   was geld evenmin als
there was money zo min als
                  net *zo min als*
                  en even min
                  geld als

Er was *evenmin*
           zo min
           zomin
           net zo min
           net zomin

__ **X**

Er was geen geld *en evenmin* voedsel.
there was no money and equally.little food

evenmin als
equally.little as

zo min als
as little as

net zo min als
just as little as

Er was geld *evenmin als*
there was money *zo min als*
net zo min als
en even min

Er was *evenmin* geld *als*

zo min

zomin

net zo min

net zomin

__ **Y**

Er was geen geld — *en evenmin* — *voedsel.* — 104
there was no money — and equally.little — food

evenmin als — 3
equally.little as

zo min als — 1
as little as

net zo min als — 1
just as little as

Er was geld — *evenmin als* — 66
there was money

zo min als — 8

net *zo min als* — 3

en even min — 1

geld als — 1

Er was — *evenmin* — 1

zo min — 1

zomin — 8

net zo min — 6

net zomin — 1

The *min* constructions would seem to hae a semantically transparent structure, because the components exist with their original meanings.

evenmin
even min   'equally little'

zomin
zo min   'as little'

net zomin   'just as little'
net zo min

Er   was geen geld   en   evenmin   voedsel.
there was no   money   and equally.little   food
                         evenmin   als
                         equally.little as
                         zo min als
                         as little as
                         net zo min als
                         just as little as
Er   was geld   evenmin als
there was money   zo min als
                         net zo min als
                         en even min
Er was   evenmin   geld als
         zo min
         zomin
         net zo min
         net zomin

The *min* constructions would seem to have a semantically transparent structure, because the components exist with their original meanings.

evenmin
even min   'equally little'

zomin   'as little'
zo min   CONEG
                                            'neither'

net zomin   'just as little'
net zo min

19th-20th c.

Er   was geen geld ⌐ en evenmin   ⌐ voedsel.
there was no   money │ and equally.little │ food
                     │ evenmin   als
                     │ equally.little as
                     │ zo min als
                     │ as little as
                     │ net zo min als
                     └ just as little as

Er   was geld ⌐ evenmin als
there was money │ zo min als
                 │ net zo min als
                 └ en even min

Er was ⌐ evenmin   geld als
       │ zo min
       │ zomin
       │ net zo min
       └ net zomin

'equally little' → 'no'
In a bridging context

Er was geen geld en evenmin voedsel.
'There was no money and equally little food.'

no money
equally little food
hence also no food

'equally little' → 'no'
In a bridging context

Er was geen geld en evenmin voedsel.
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no money
equally little food
hence also no food

no X & Y as little as X   hence also no Y

'equally little' → 'no'
In a bridging context

Er was geen geld en evenmin voedsel.
'There was no money and equally little food.'

**no money
equally little food
hence also no food**

no X   &   Y as little as X   hence also no Y

CONTEXT-DEPENDENT, EASY, AND NON-CANCELLABLE

1. Connective negation

2. Dutch

3. French

4. Spanish & English

5. Conclusion
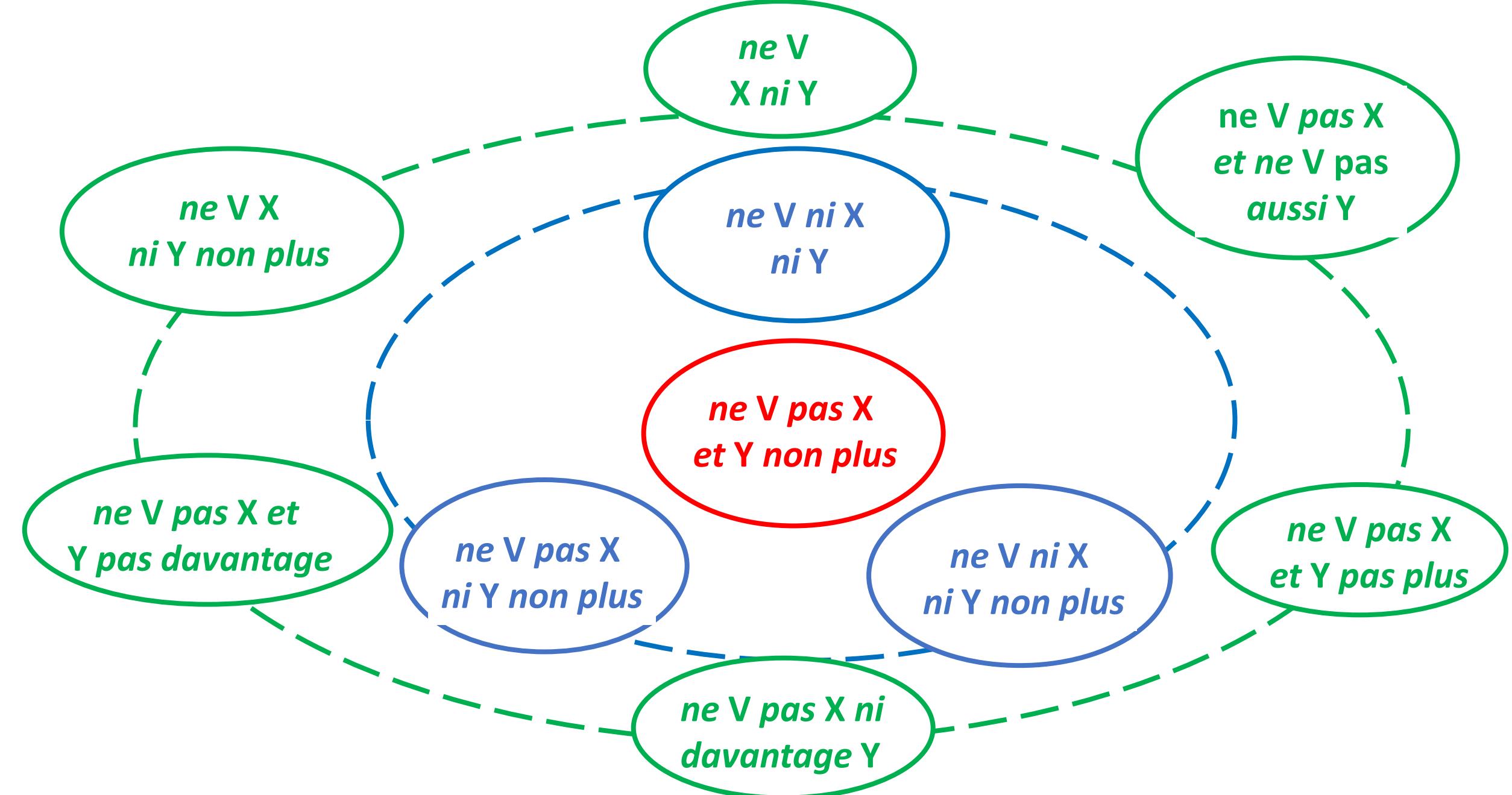
1 / Still incomplete, *ne* drop
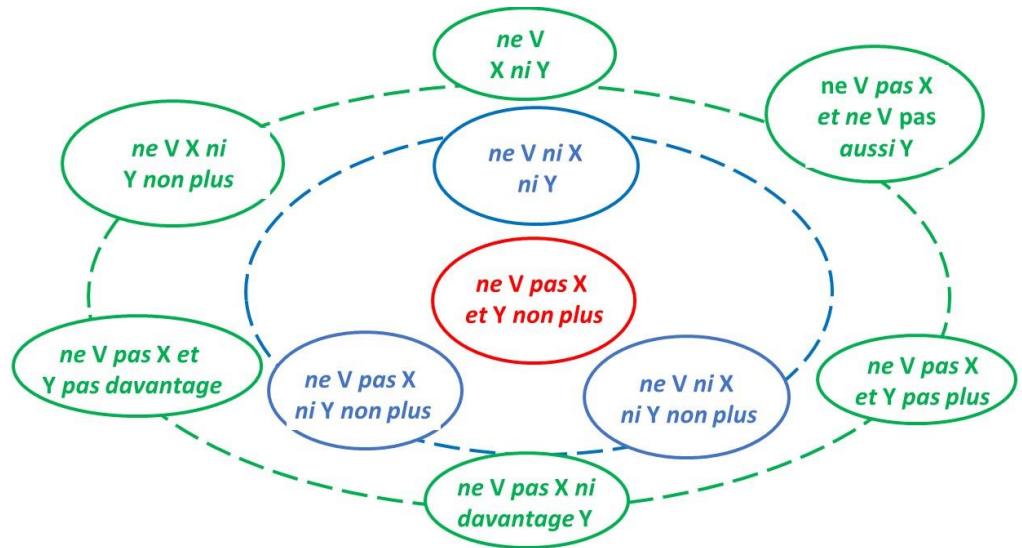
1 / Still incomplete, *ne* drop
2 / Negative comparative, not an equative
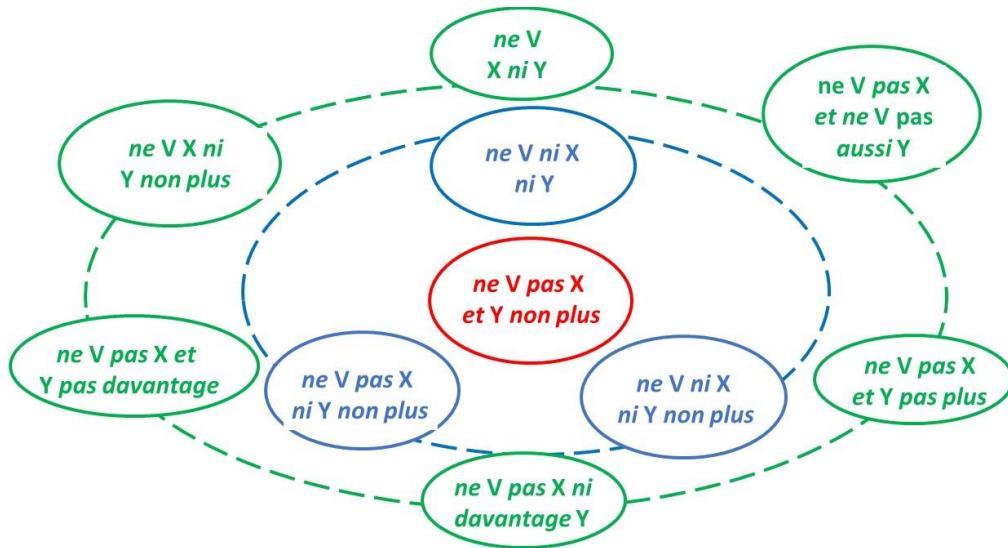
1 / Still incomplete, *ne* drop

2 / Negative comparative, not an equative

**3 / More than one**   viz. *non plus*

          pas plus

          pas davantage

1 / Still incomplete, *ne* drop

2 / Negative comparative, not an equative

3 / More than one   viz. *non plus*

                                        pas plus

                                          pas davantage

**4 / Combinable with *ni***

                    ni davantage

                    ni … non plus

Diagram nodes:

- *ne V X ni Y*
- *ne V pas X et ne V pas aussi Y*
- *ne V X ni Y non plus*
- *ne V ni X ni Y*
- *ne V pas X et Y non plus*
- *ne V pas X et Y pas davantage*
- *ne V pas X ni Y non plus*
- *ne V ni X ni Y non plus*
- *ne V pas X et Y pas plus*
- *ne V pas X ni davantage Y*
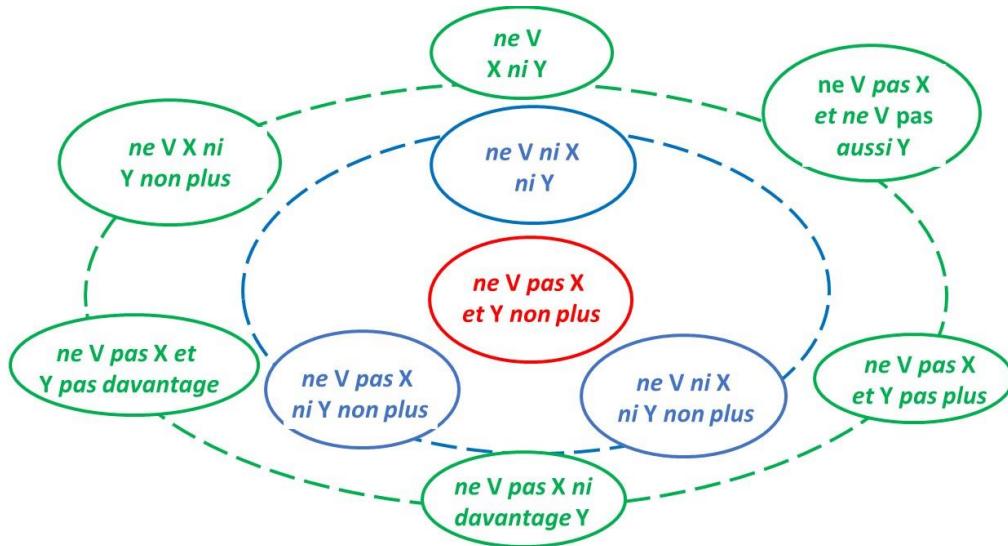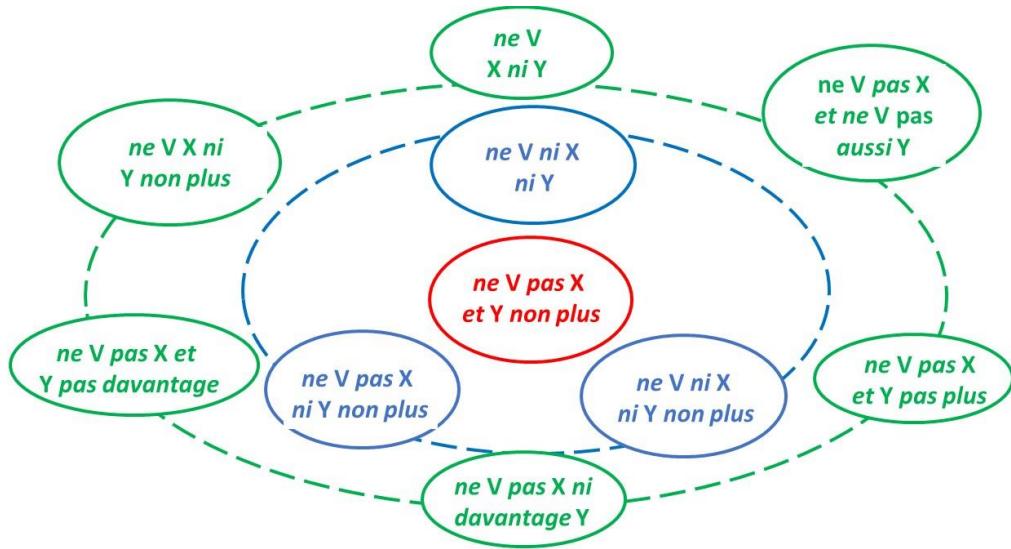
1 / Still incomplete, *ne* drop

2 / Negative comparative, not an equative

3 / More than one

viz. *non plus*

pas plus

pas davantage

4 / Combinable with *ni*

ni davantage

ni ... non plus

5 / *ni ... non plus* has two negators
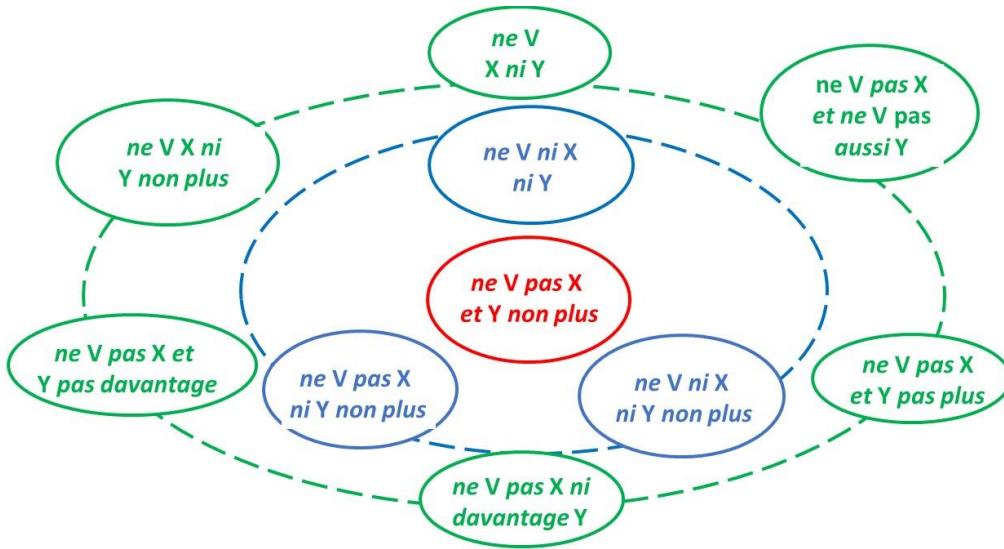
1 / Still incomplete, *ne* drop

2 / Negative comparative, not an equative

3 / More than one   viz. *non plus*

pas plus

pas davantage

4 / Combinable with *ni*

ni davantage

ni … non plus

5 / *ni … non* plus has two negators

6 / pattern with *aussi* exists, but it is very marginal…
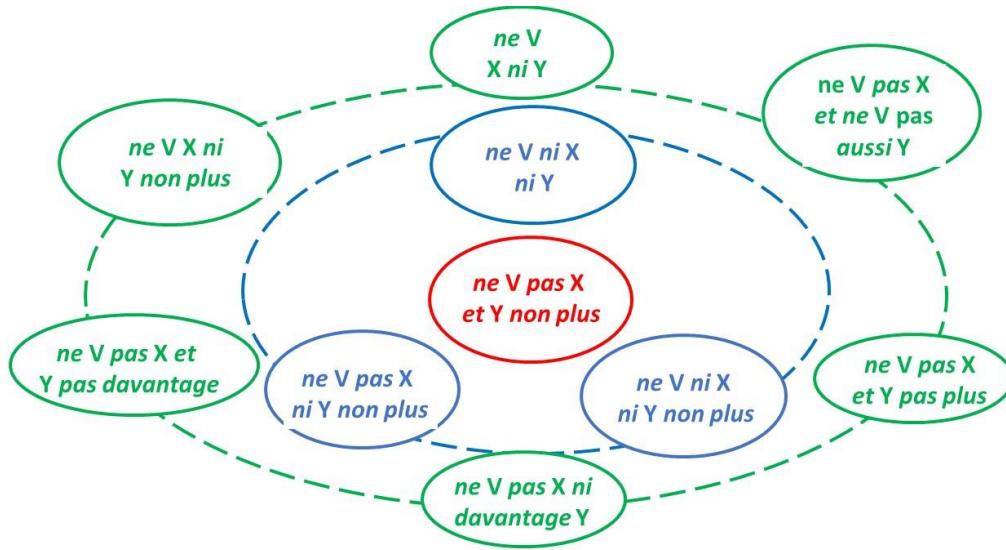
Just two points

1. *ne/ni ... aussi* **was more common**
But, according to Kjelman (1924: 191), Antoine
(1958: 333-334, 1100-1102), Badiou-Monferran
(2006: 237, 2020: 1661)

ne/ni ... aussi → *ni ... non plus*

Calvin (1550) FRANTEXT

Car **ce n'est point en vain** que Jesis Christ a promics que la porte sera ouverte à ceulx qui heurteront. **Ce n'est point aussi en vain** que le Pere luy a donné esprit de jugement et de discretion, mais à fin qu'il nous en face participans. **Ce n'est point en vain non plus** que Dieu declare par son Prophete Esaie qu'il sera comme le magister ou pedagogue de son peuple, se tenant tousjours à son dos pour le guider.

'**It is not in vain that … It is not in vain either …**

Several questions:

Several questions:

Is this true?

Several questions:

Is this true?

If it is true, why did this process take place?

Several questions:

Is this true?

If it is true, why did this process take place?

If it is true, is this the process through which *non plus* entered the domain of connective negation?

Several questions:

Is this true?

If it is true, why did this process take place?

If it is true, is this the process through which *non plus* entered the domain of connective negation?

>   No – *non plus* entered the domain of connective negation before it collocated with *ne/ni.*

Preclassical French (1500-1650) FRANTEXT

In a sample of 152 attestations of *non plus*

21 instantiate connective negation

All just *non plus*, not a single *ne/ni non plus*

La Gessée (1583) FRANTEXT

Je n'ayme point espandre un deluge de larmes, Coustume, et vray loyer, d'un Amant socieus: **Ni que** l'aveugle Archer, Archer malicieus, s'empare de mon coeur en si douces alarmes. Encore aymé je moins suivre le peuple bas, ou m'exerçer folatre à mille vains esbas: **Et suis non plus amy de pompe,** *ni* **de gloire.**

La Gessée (1583) FRANTEXT

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I don't like … Neither … No more am I a friend of pomp.

La Gessée (1583) FRANTEXT

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I don't like ... Neither ... No more am I a friend of pomp.

no X & Y no more than X   hence also no Y

La Gessée (1583) FRANTEXT

Je n'ayme point espandre un deluge de larmes, Coustume, et vray loyer, d'un Amant socieus: Ni que l'aveugle Archer, Archer malicieus, s'empare de mon coeur en si douces alarmes. Encore aymé je moins suivre le peuple bas, ou m'exerçer folatre à mille vains esbas: Et suis non plus amy de pompe, *ni* de gloire.

I don't like … Neither … No more am I a friend of pomp.

no X & Y no more than X hence also no Y

≈ no X & Y as little as X hence also no Y

2. In Dutch *ook niet* is the main exponent of connective negation and the equative constructions remain satellites, with little hope of 'promotion'.

2. In Dutch *ook niet* is the main exponent of connective negation and the equative constructions remain satellites, with little hope of 'promotion'.

But in French *ne/ni aussi* was demoted a long time ago. *Ni* has been in decline for centuries. No wonder that the French negative comparative connective negators are doing so well!

1. Connective negation

2. Dutch

3. French

4. Spanish & English

5. Conclusion

TE AMO...YO TAMPOCO
POR MARICHE HUERTAS

OPULIX
WWW.OPULIX.COM

tampoco

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Like Dutch *zomin* – 'as little'

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tampoco

Like Dutch *zomin* – 'as little'

Like French – it combines with *ni* and there is no/?little 'also not'

tampoco

TE AMO...YO TAMPOCO
POR MARICHE HUERTAS

Like Dutch *zomin* – 'as little'

Like French – it combines with *ni* and there is no/?little 'also not'

Unlike French (and Dutch) – *ni* is not in decline, *tampoco* functions in non-strict negative concord, *tampoco* has widened its use in the direction of standard negation

1. Connective negation

2. Dutch

3. French

4. Spanish & **English**

5. Conclusion

NEGATION

IN

ENGLISH AND OTHER LANGUAGES

BY

OTTO JESPERSEN

Page 110, 112
In English connective negation ('negative connexion') can be expressed by

no more

No grammarian has picked this up, as far as we know, but it found its way to social media

https://english.stackexchange.com/questions/530287/any-more-less-than

No grammarian has picked this up, as far as we know, but it found its way to social media

He didn't like Lutherans any more than the Pope did.

No grammarian has picked this up, as far as we know, but it found its way to social media

He didn't like Lutherans any more than the Pope did.

X not more than Y & not Y, hence also not X

No grammarian has picked this up, as far as we know, but it found its way to social media

He didn't like Lutherans any more than the Pope did.

X not more than Y & not Y, hence also not X

context-dependent, cancellable, easy,
and the connective negation works backwards

100 random relevant 'not any more' attestations (total 1,065 in 36 billion https://www.sketchengine.eu/ententen-english-corpus/)

We don't know the family any more than Freeman does.   2/3

Mutation does not cause evolution any more than a wheel causes a car to go.   1/3

100 random relevant 'not any more' attestations (total 1,065 in 36 billion https://www.sketchengine.eu/ententen-english-corpus/)

We don't know the family any more than Freeman does.   2/3

Mutation does not cause evolution any more than a wheel causes a car to go.   1/3

Not grammar, still pragmatics.
But a fair amount of conventionalization has occurred.

1. Connective negation

2. Dutch

3. French

4. Spanish & English

5. Conclusion

not X   &   Y $\left[\begin{array}{c}\text{as little as} \\ \text{no more than}\end{array}\right.$ X $\left]\right.$

Er was geen geld   *en*   *evenmin voedsel*.
there was no money   and   equally little food

not X   &   Y $\left[\begin{array}{c}\text{as little as}\\ \text{no more than}\end{array}\right.$ X $\left.\vphantom{\begin{array}{c}a\\b\end{array}}\right]$

Er was geen geld   *en*   *evenmin voedsel*.
there was no money   and   equally little food

not X & Y $\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{as little as} \\ \text{no more than} \end{array}\right.$ X $\left]\right.$ → **neither** Y

Er was geen geld   *en*   *evenmin voedsel.*   *noch voedsel*
there was no money   and   **equally little** food   **nor**   food

not X & Y $\left[\begin{array}{c}\text{as little as} \\ \text{no more than}\end{array} X\right]$ → **neither** Y

Er was geen geld   *en*   *evenmin voedsel*.   *noch*   *voedsel*
there was no money   and   **equally little** food   nor   food

ne pas   *non plus*   ni
                        not more   nor

not X & Y $\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{as little as} \\ \text{no more than} \end{array}\right]$ X $\rightarrow$ **neither** Y

Er was geen geld   *en*   *evenmin voedsel.*   *noch voedsel*
there was no money   and   equally little food   nor food

ne pas   *non plus*   *ni*
                         not more   nor

....

$\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{as little} \\ \text{no more} \end{array}\right]$ X $\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{as} \\ \text{than} \end{array}\right]$ Y

He liked Lutherans no more
than the Pope did.

not X   &   Y $\left[\begin{array}{l}\text{as little as}\\ \text{no more than}\end{array}\right.$ X $\left.\right]$ →   **neither** Y

Er was geen geld   *en*   *evenmin* voedsel.   *noch* voedsel
there was no money   and   equally little food   nor   food

ne pas   *non plus*   *ni*
                  not more   nor

....

$\left[\begin{array}{l}\text{as little}\\ \text{no more}\end{array}\right]$ X $\left[\begin{array}{l}\text{as}\\ \text{than}\end{array}\right]$ Y &

not Y

He liked Lutherans no more   *The Pope didn't*
than the Pope did.   *like Lutherans.*

SEM GIVEN

not X   &   Y $\begin{bmatrix} \text{as little as} \\ \text{no more than} \end{bmatrix}$ X   →   neither Y

Er was geen geld   *en*   *evenmin voedsel.*   *noch voedsel*
there was no money   and   equally little food   nor   food

ne pas   *non plus*   *ni*
                                       not more   nor

....

$\begin{bmatrix} \text{as little} \\ \text{no more} \end{bmatrix}$ X $\begin{bmatrix} \text{as} \\ \text{than} \end{bmatrix}$ Y   &   **PRAGM GIVEN**

not Y   →   not X

He liked Lutherans no more   *The Pope didn't*   *He didn't like*
than the Pope did.   *like Lutherans.*   *Lutherans either.*

Postscript

Det Kgl. Danske Videnskabernes Selskab.
Historisk-filologiske Meddelelser. I, 5.

## NEGATION

IN

ENGLISH AND OTHER LANGUAGES

BY

OTTO JESPERSEN

KØBENHAVN

Postscript
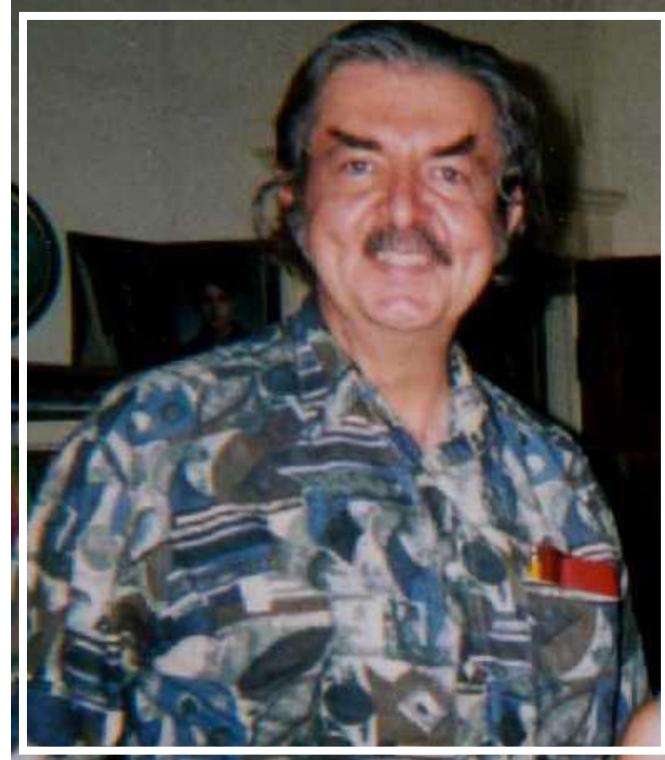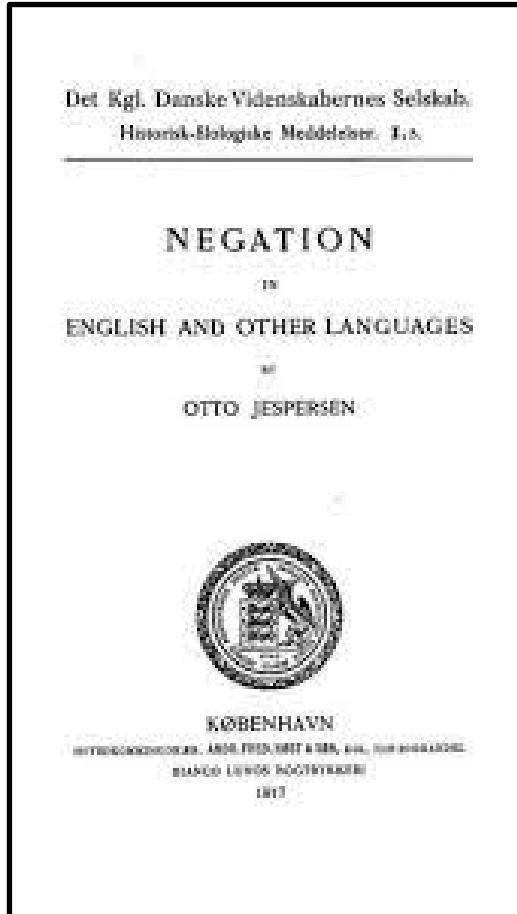
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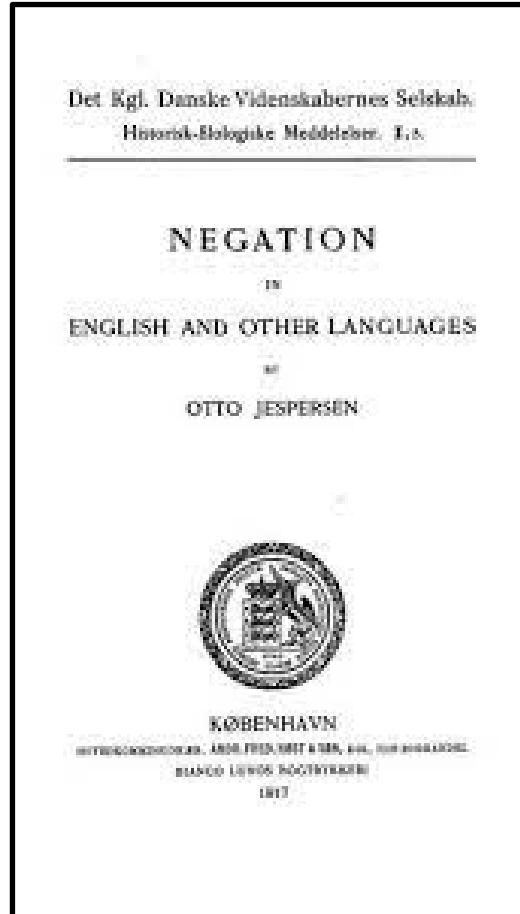
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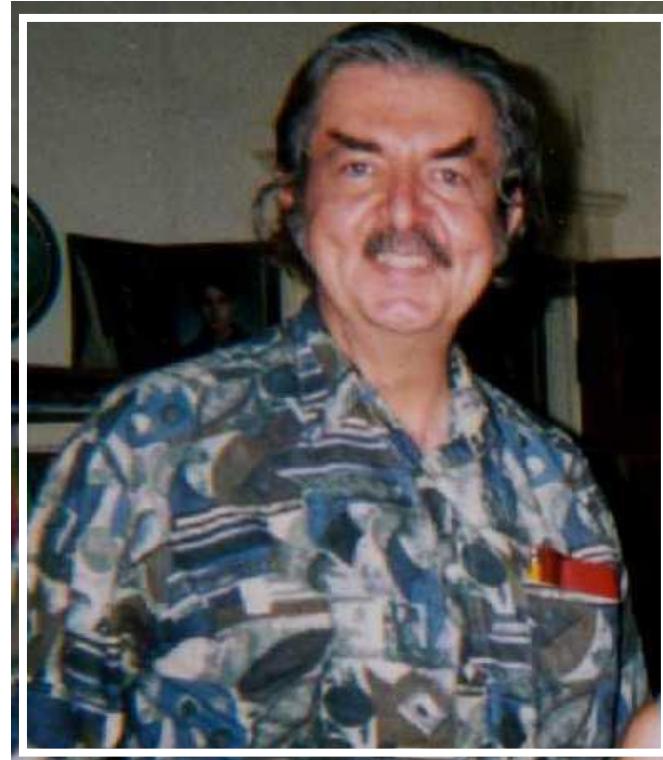
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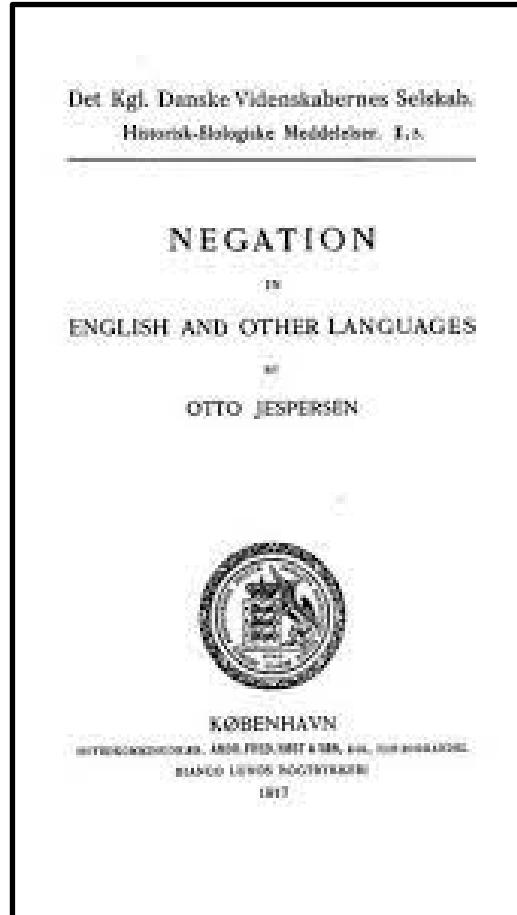
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in 1995
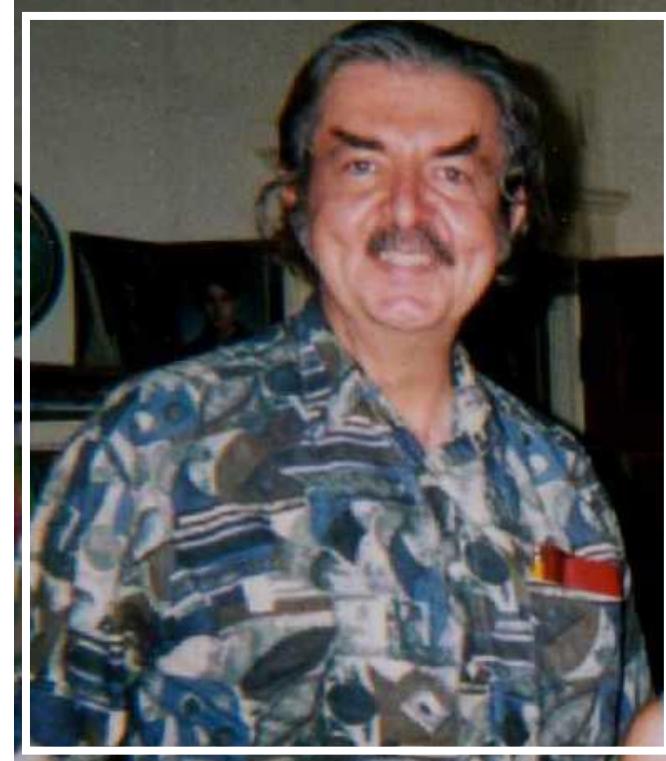
'... Jespersen, in my opinion the most perceptive observer of human language who ever lived ...'
(37)