

# Labeling and Negative Concord

by

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## Abstract

This thesis discusses formal properties of negative constituents and their variations. It has been observed in the literature that four types of negative elements are present in natural languages: (i) negative concord items, (ii) negative polarity items, (iii) negative quantifiers, and (iv) n-words. As is well known, these negative expressions are different from one another in several respects such as whether the negative concord reading is involved, whether sentential negation in a higher clause can be a licenser, and whether a fragment answer is possible. Given such differences, there arises a theoretical problem: why do these negative elements behave differently from one another? Among the four negative phrases, we focus on negative concord items and n-words, because the distribution of negative quantifiers is simple and that of negative polarity items has been convincingly explained by Lahiri (1998). Specifically, we maintain that major properties of the two negative constituents can be derived from the Labeling Algorithm of Chomsky (2013, 2015). In so doing, a new labeling option that makes use of deletion is proposed. This simply resolves a potential theoretical problem that involves the negative fragment answer and is also shown to present a theoretical backbone to Lobeck's (1990, 1995) generalization with respect to ellipsis.