**SUMMARY**

Negative concord (NC) – a phenomenon in which two negative elements—the NC item and its licensor—express a single negative meaning.

**I. NC items in situ require a negative licensor**

3. call

1. NOBODY
2. 3-CALL-1
3. 3-CALL-1
4. NOT
5. NOTHING
6. NOT
7. NOBODY
8. 3-CALL-1
9. NOBODY
10. 3-CALL-1
11. NOBODY
12. 3-CALL-1

**II. NC items on right edge do not need a licensor**

3-CALL-1

1. NOBODY
2. 3-CALL-1
3. 3-CALL-1
4. NOT
5. NOTHING
6. NOT
7. NOBODY
8. 3-CALL-1
9. NOBODY

**BACKGROUND**

Negative concord (NC) – a phenomenon in which two negative elements—the NC item and its licensor—express a single negative meaning.

**Strict concord:** NC items always require sentential negation

1. a. Marija [ne] videla [nothing] (Russian)
   "Marija saw nothing."
2. b. Nikto [ne] videl [Mafia-ACC] (Russian)
   "Nobody saw Mary."

**Non-strict concord:** NC items may sometimes appear without negation

2. a. Non ha telefonato [nemmeno] (Italian)
   "Nobody called"
2. b. Nessuno ha telefonato (Italian)
   "Nobody called"

**No concord:** NC items always appear without sentential negation

3. I saw nobody.

**Languages with NC**

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**ANALYSIS**

I. **Word order**

**Facts:**

1. SVO → SOVNeg
2. V-Neg compounding:
   - The loss of repetition of the predicate
   - Mouthing change

**Explanation:**

- Movement to NegP on the right
- Cf. LIS, DGS, TID, HKSL

II. **Negative concord**

Two parts of the analysis (Zeijlstra 2004)

1. Negation must appear higher than the NC item to check a syntactic feature

   NOT[NEG] NOBODY[NEG]

   [[3-CALL-1][NOBODY[NEG]]][OP=NEG]

2. If this is not possible, then silent negation may appear as a last resort.

   OP=NEG

**NON-MANUALS**

Could this be topicalization?

10. 3-CALL-1 NOBODY

   "As for calling me, nobody did."

   This would contradict our analysis: ‘NOBODY’ is lower than the rest

**Facts:**

11. 3-CALL-1 NOBODY

   "Nobody called me."

12. NOBODY 3-CALL-1 NOT

   **Inferrences:**

   - Sometimes a prosodic break between right-dislocated negative word and the rest:
     - Neutral between either analysis.
   - No apparent eyebrow raise, so no evidence for topicalization.

   (But there is relatively little eyebrow movement in general in our data.)

**REFERENCES**

Baranova, Svetlana. 2015. Russian Sign Language Corpus. (http://rsl-slu.ru/)

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The poster was prepared within the framework of the HSE University Basic Research Program and funded by the Russian Academic Excellence Project ‘5-100′, Driem ERC 780077, P. Schäfer, ANR-10-IDEX-0001-02 and FrontCap ANR-17-EURE-0017.