

~~Cuttington College~~  
~~Feb. 6, 1964~~  
~~Wm. E. Welmers~~

APPENDIX 15.

Kpelle Negatives  
William E. Welmers  
Cuttington College

1. Negatives of verbal constructions are outlined in a preceding paper numbered 4. These include "real" and "unreal" action propositions; the special negative conditional is also discussed there.

2. The stative construction is a special type of verbal construction, and negates like the similar present construction. As in almost all the remaining negatives, the negative morpheme /-fé/ corresponds simply to /-kâa/ in the affirmative.

a seêni. or gâa seêni. He is seated.  
vé seêni. He is not seated.

3. Aspect propositions (the predicative use of an adjectival) have corresponding negatives which are formally past negative constructions using the stem from which the adjectival is derived.

hêlsêi. It is good.  
vé lêls ní. It is not good.

4. Identification constructions may be negated by a simple substitution of /-fé/ for /-kâa/. However, /-fé/ may also be used predicatively in this construction, without a demonstrative following.

pérs kâ tí. That is a house.  
pérs fé tí. That is not a house.  
pére fêi. It is not a house.  
kpéni fêi. It is not for nothing.

5. In all remaining negatives, /-fé/ simply substitutes for the affirmative /-kâa/, or negative verbal constructions with /kê/ substitute for the corresponding affirmatives. Location:

gáa daai sũ.

He is in town.

vé daai sũ.

He is not in town.

è kè daai sũ.

He was in town.

vé ké ní daai sũ.

He was not in town.

6. Description:

gáa à tíi ké-nùu.

He is a workman.

vé à tíi ké-nùu.

He is not a workman.

è kè à tíi ké-nùu.

He was a workman.

vé ké ní à tíi ké-nùu.

He was not a workman.

7. Ideophonic:

gáa pùtuputu.

It is scattered.

vé pùtuputu.

It is not scattered.

è kè pùtuputu.

It was scattered.

vé ké ní pùtuputu.

It was not scattered.

6 February, 1964