NEGATION IN WORLD LANGUAGES:
A RADICAL LINGUISTIC THEORY APPROACH

Zaidan Ali Jassem

(Department of English Language and Translation, Qassim University, P.O. Box 6611, Buraidah, KSA)

ABSTRACT

This paper traces the Arabic origins and/or cognates of "negation" in most world languages from a radical linguistic (or lexical root) theory perspective. The data, which is taken from Swadesh's lists in the main, comprises the main negative terms like no/not in 112 world languages from 11 major and minor families like Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan, Afro-Asiatic, Austronesian, Dravidian, Turkic, Mayan, Japonic, Niger-Congo, Uto-Aztec, and Tai-Kadai, which constitute 60% of world languages and whose speakers make up 96% of world population. The results clearly show that all such words like no/ne, la/lo, ma/mei have true Arabic cognates with the same or similar forms and meanings, whose differences are due to natural and plausible causes and different routes of linguistic change. Therefore, the results support the adequacy of the radical linguistic theory according to which, unlike the Comparative Method and/or Family Tree Model, all world languages are related to one another, which eventually stemmed from a radical or root language which has been preserved almost intact in Arabic as the most conservative and productive language. In fact, Arabic can be safely said to be the radical language itself for sharing the negative cognates with all the other languages and for its huge phonetic, morphological, grammatical, and lexical variety and wealth without which it is impossible to interpret its linguistic richness and versatility on all levels.

Keywords: Negation, World languages, Language families and relationships, Radical world language, Radical linguistic (lexical root) theory

Citation:


1. INTRODUCTION

A slightly revised version, the Radical Linguistic Theory (Jassem 2014h-i, 2015a-h) developed from the Lexical Root Theory (Jassem 2012a-f, 2013a-q, 2014a-g), which has passed through three stages so far. In the initial stage (Jassem 2012a-f, 2013a-q, 2014a-g), the lexical root theory was originally proposed to trace back the origins of Indo-European languages into Arabic at all linguistic levels. In general, Jassem (2012a-f, 2013a-q, 2014a-k, 2015a-h) has shown in forty two studies that Arabic, English, German, French, and the so-called Indo-European languages as a whole are genetically related very closely phonetically, morphologically, grammatically, and semantically or lexically to such an extent that they can all be regarded as dialects of the same language indeed. More precisely, the Arabic origins or cognates of their words were successfully traced in twenty seven lexical studies in key semantic fields like numerals, religious, love, democratic, military, and legal terms (Jassem 2012a-d, 2013a-q, 2014a-k, 2015a-g); in three morphological studies on inflectional and derivational markers (Jassem 2012f, 2013a-b); in nine grammatical papers like pronouns, verb ‘to be’, wh-questions, and case (Jassem 2012c-e, 2013l, 2014c, 2015d); and in one phonetic study about the English, German, French, Latin, and Greek cognates of Arabic back consonants (Jassem 2013c). In the second stage (2014h-i), it was extended to trace the Arabic origins of Mandarin Chinese pronouns (Jassem 2014h) and Basque and Finnish pronouns (Jassem 2014i). In the final stage (Jassem 2015h), it was generalised to trace the Arabic origins of all language families in the areas of demonstrative pronouns in eleven major (and minor) language families, making up 95% of the total world population; the current topic, negative words, is a sequel to it. Finally, two papers applied the approach to translation studies (Jassem 2014e, 2015b).

The Radical Linguistic Theory (Jassem 2014h-k, 2015a-h) is a slightly revised version of the Lexical Root Theory (Jassem 2012a-f, 2013a-q, 2014a-g, 2015a-g), both deriving their name originally from the use of lexical (consonantial) roots or radicals in retracing genetic relationships between words in world languages. The theory first arose as a rejection of the Family Tree Model or Comparative Method in historical linguistics for classifying Arabic as a member of a different language family than English, German, French, Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, and the so-called Indo-European languages (see Bergs and Brinton 2012; Algeo 2010; Crystal 2010: 302; Yule 2014; Campbell 2004: 190-191; Crowley 1997: 22-25, 110-111; Pyles and Algeo 1993: 61-94). In all the above forty two studies, the tightly-knit genetic relationship between Arabic and such languages was, on the contrary, categorically established phonetically, morphologically, grammatically, and semantically or lexically so much so that they can be really considered dialects of the same language, where Arabic was found to be their source or parent language for several reasons (Jassem 2012a-f, 2013a-q, 2014a-k, 2015a-g). In other words, Arabic, English, German, and French words of all types and sorts, for example, were shown to be true cognates with similar or identical forms and meanings, whose apparent differences are due to natural and plausible causes and diverse routes of linguistic change. This entails that all such languages developed, in fact must have developed, from an earlier single, perfect, suddenly-emerged Radical or Root Language from which all human languages emanated in the first place, and which could never have died out but rather has fully, though variably, survived into today’s languages, to which they can all be traced, with Arabic in particular being the closest or most conservative and productive descendant.

In addition, the traditional classification of language families was found to be grossly inaccurate. Evidence from Chinese (Jassem 2014h) and Basque and Finnish pronouns (Jassem 2014i) as well as Indo-European pronouns (Jassem 2012c) supports this claim, which shows that all such pronouns have true Arabic cognates or origins. Therefore, to aptly capture the close genetic linkage between European and Arabian languages in general, a new larger language family grouping has been proposed, called Eurabian or Urban (Jassem 2015c: 41; 2015d).

This paper is a follow-up to Jassem’s (2015h) investigation of the Arabic origins and/or cognates of demonstratives in world languages. In particular, it
examines the Arabic origins and/or source cognates of negative terms in almost all world languages, comprising 61% of world languages and/or 96% of world population. The remainder of the paper includes four sections: (ii) research methods, (iii) results, (iv) discussion, and (v) conclusion.

2. RESEARCH METHODS
2.1 THE DATA
2.1.1 THE LANGUAGE SAMPLE

The data consists of negative terms like no/not in world languages, both in major and minor language families. These languages are shown in the following table by family and language and speaker numbers or statistics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Family</th>
<th>No. &amp; % of Languages</th>
<th>No. &amp; % of Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afro-Asiatic</td>
<td>365 (5.15%)</td>
<td>380, 821,999 (6.05%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indo-European</td>
<td>437 (6.15%)</td>
<td>1,913,575,380 (46.31%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sino-Tibetan</td>
<td>453 (6.38%)</td>
<td>1,268,181,584 (20.16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austronesian</td>
<td>1223 (17.22%)</td>
<td>323, 455, 908 (5.14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altaic-Japonic</td>
<td>12 (0.17%)</td>
<td>129, 067, 790 (2.05%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Korean            | 2 (0.03%)            | 77,160,030 (1.23%) -
| Mayan             | 14 (0.20%)           | 206,227,820 (5.28%) -
| Mayan             | 31 (0.44%)           | 6, 522, 182 (0.10%) -
| Dravidian         | 84 (1.38%)           | 229, 346, 860 (3.65%) -
| Niger-Congo       | 1524 (21.45%)        | 436, 814, 956 (5.94%) -
| Uto-Aztec         | 58 (0.82%)           | 1, 910, 442 (0.03%) -
| Turkic            | 39 (0.55%)           | 170, 156, 503 (2.70%) -
| Tai-Kadai         | 94 (1.32%)           | 80, 772, 252 (1.23%) -
| **Total**         | 4331 (60.84%)        | 95, 64%             |

Source: ethnologue.org 2015

It can be clearly seen in the table that these languages comprise about 61% of world languages which are spoken by around 96% of the world population. It also shows that the language families differ in their numbers and speaker populations. More precisely, the largest language families in terms of their native speaker numbers are the Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan whereas the largest in terms of language numbers are the Niger-Congo and Austronesian. Afro-Asiatic languages are about equally divided as to the ratio of speaker and language numbers. All the other language families are minor ones like Altaic, Dravidian, Uto-Aztec, Turkic, and Tai-Kadai.

2.1.2 DATA SOURCES

Data selection and/or collection has been based on Swadesh’s lists, English dictionaries and thesauri, and the author’s knowledge of their frequency and use in especially today’s fully natural Arabic, English, German, and French conversations and/or texts. A brief survey is given in section (3) below.

As for etymological data, all references to English and Indo-European languages are for Harper (2015). However, this etymology is not, like all other similar dictionaries, without its severe drawbacks owing to the many unknowns, uncertainties, and the seemingly illogical derivations or meanings of many words such as not (Jassem 2013b) which makes more sense if derived straight from Arabic as shall be seen in section (4) below. Therefore, it has to be used with care and discretion.

Concerning Arabic data, the meanings are for Ibn Manzoor (2013) in the main, Ibn Seedah (1996: 13/248-257), Alghalayini (2010), Alafaghani (2003), e-dictionaries like mu3jam alama3ani (2015), and the author’s knowledge and use of Shami (Syrian) Arabic as a native speaker. All the genetic linkages between Arabic and such languages are exclusively mine, unless otherwise stated.

2.1.3 Data Transcription

In transcribing the data, normal Romanized spelling is used for all languages for practical purposes. Nonetheless, certain symbols were used for unique Arabic sounds: namely, /2 & 3/ for the voiceless and voiced pharyngeal fricatives respectively, /kh & gh/ for the voiceless and voiced velar fricatives each, /q/ for the voiceless uvular stop, capital letters for the emphatic counterparts of plain consonants /T (t), D (d), Dh (dh), & S (s)/, and ‘/ for the glottal stop (Jassem 2013c). Long vowels in Arabic are usually doubled- i.e., /aa, ee, & oo/. Numerals indicate tone marks in tone languages like Chinese
without considering them in the analysis for having no semantic impact on the final output.

**2.2 DATA ANALYSIS**

**2.2.1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: RADICAL LINGUISTIC THEORY**

In data analysis, the Radical Linguistic Theory (Jassem 2014h-l, 2015a-h), which is a slightly revised and more generalized version of the original lexical root theory (Jassem 2012a-f, 2013a-q, 2014a-g), will be used as the theoretical framework here. The lexical root theory (Jassem 2012a-f, 2013a-q, 2014a-g) was so called because of employing the lexical (consonantal) roots or radicals in examining genetic relationships between words such as the derivation of *observation* from *serve* (or simply *srv*) (see Jassem 2013o) and *description* (subscription, prescription, inscription) from *scribe* (*scrb*) (see Jassem 2013i, 2014e). The main reason for that is because the consonantal root carries and determines the basic meaning of the word irrespective of its affixation and vowels such as *observation* (*srv*). Historically speaking, classical and modern Arabic dictionaries (e.g., Ibn Manzoor 1974, 2013) used consonantal roots in listing lexical entries, a practice first founded by Alkhaleel, an 8th century Arabic linguist, lexicographer, musician, and mathematician (Jassem 2012e).

The lexical root theory has a simple structure, which consists of a theoretical principle or hypothesis and five practical procedures of analysis. The principle states that:

Arabic and English as well as the so-called Indo-European languages are not only genetically related but also are directly descended from one language, which may be Arabic in the end. In fact, it claims in its strongest version that they are all dialects of the same language, whose differences are due to natural and plausible causes and different courses of linguistic change.

In the radical linguistic theory, the above principle has been slightly revised to read:

All human languages are genetically related, which eventually emanated from a single, perfect, suddenly-emerged language which developed over time into countless human dialects and languages, that continue to become simpler and simpler. That original first language, which may be called Radical or Root Language, has not died out at all but has instead survived uninterruptedly into modern day languages to various degrees where some languages have preserved words and forms more than others. Perhaps Arabic, on spatial and temporal grounds, has preserved almost all of its features phonetically,orphologically, syntactically or gramatically, and semantically or lexically.

As to the five applied procedures of the lexical root theory which have been used all along to empirically prove that principle in data collection and analysis, they remain the same in the current revised and generalized version: i.e., (a) methodological, (b) lexicological, (c) linguistic, (d) relational, and (e) comparative/historical. As all have been reasonably described in the above studies (Jassem 2012a-f, 2013a-q, 2014a-g), a brief summary will suffice here.

Firstly, the methodological procedure concerns data collection, selection, and statistical analysis. Apart from loan words, *all* language words, affixes, and phonemes are amenable to investigation, and not only the core vocabulary as is the common practice in the field (Crystal 2010; Pyles and Algeo 1993: 76-77; Crowley 1997: 88-90, 175-178). However, data selection is practically inevitable since no single study can accomplish that at one time, no matter how ambitious it might be. The most appropriate method for approaching that goal would be to use semantic fields such as the present and the above topics. Cumulative evidence from such findings will aid in formulating rules and laws of language change at a later stage (cf. Jassem 2012f, 2013a-f, 2013l). The statistical analysis employs the percentage formula (see 2.2.2 below).

Secondly, the lexicological procedure is the initial step in the analysis. Words are analyzed by

1. Deleting affixes (e.g., *explained* → *plain*),
2. Using primarily consonantal roots or radicals (e.g., *plain* → *pln*), and
3. Searching for correspondence in meaning on the basis of word etymologies and origins as a guide (e.g., Harper 2014), which should be
used with discretion, though. Starting with meanings, not sounds or sound laws, is central as the former are more stable and change very much less than the latter which do so extensively.

So the final outcome yields the derivation of plain form Arabic baien, baan (v) ‘clear, plain’ via /l/-insertion or split from /n/ (Jassem 2013i).

Thirdly, the linguistic procedure handles the analysis of phonetic, morphological, grammatical and semantic structures and differences between words. The phonetic analysis examines sound changes within and across categories. More precisely, consonants may change their place and manner of articulation as well as voicing. At the level of place, bilabial consonants ⟷ labio-dental ⟷ dental ⟷ alveolar ⟷ palatal ⟷ velar ⟷ uvular ⟷ pharyngeal ⟷ glottal (where ⟷ signals change in both directions); at the level of manner, stops ⟷ fricatives ⟷ approximants; and at the level of voice, voiced consonants ⟷ voiceless. For example, /t/ may turn into /d/ by voice or /th & s/ by manner.

In similar fashion, vowels change as well. Although the number of vowels differ greatly within and between, e.g., English (Roach 2008; Celce-Mercia et al 2010) and Arabic (Jassem 2012g, 1987, 1993), all can be reduced to three basic long vowels -/a:/ (aa), /i:/ (ee), & /u:/ (oo)/ (and their short versions besides the two diphthongs /ai (ay)/ and /au (aw)/ which are a kind of /i:/ and /u:/ respectively). They may change according to modifications in (i) tongue part (e.g., front ⟷ centre ⟷ back), (ii) tongue height (e.g., high ⟷ mid ⟷ low), (iii) length (e.g., long ⟷ short), and (iv) lip shape (e.g., round ⟷ unround). In fact, the vowels can be, more or less, treated like consonants where /i:/ is a kind of /i (y)/, /u:/ a kind of /w/, and /a:/ a kind of /h/ or vice versa. Their functions are mainly (i) phonetic such as linking consonants to each other in speech and (ii) grammatical like indicating tense, word class, and number (e.g., sing, sang, sung, song; man/men). Thus their semantic weight is marginal and so are of little lexical significance, if not at all. For these reasons, vowels may be totally ignored in the analysis because the limited nature of the changes do not affect the final semantic result at all.

Sound changes result in natural and plausible processes like assimilation, dissimilation, deletion, merger, insertion, split, reordering, substitution, syllable loss, re-syllabification, consonant cluster reduction or creation and so on. In addition, sound change may operate in a multi-directional, cyclic, and lexically-diffuse or irregular manner (for detail, see Jassem 2012a-f, 2013c).

Regarding the morphological and grammatical analyses, some overlap obtains. The former examines the inflectional and derivational aspects of words in general (Jassem 2012f, 2013a-b); the latter handles grammatical classes, categories, and functions like pronouns, determiners, verbs, nouns, prepositions, question words, and case (Jassem 2012c-e, 2013l, 2014b-c, 2015d). Since their influence on the basic meaning of the lexical root is marginal, inflectional and derivational morphemes may also be ignored altogether. As both morphological and grammatical features have already been dealt with in full, there is no need to include them in every single case later.

As for the semantic analysis, meaning relationships between words are examined, including lexical stability, multiplicity, convergence, divergence, shift, split, change, and variability. Stability means that word meanings have remained constant over time. Multiplicity denotes that words might have two or more meanings. Convergence means two or more formally and semantically similar Arabic words might have yielded the same cognate in English. Divergence signals that words became opposites or antonyms of one another. Shift indicates that words switched their sense within the same field. Lexical split means a word led to two different cognates. Change means a new meaning developed. Variability signals the presence of two or more variants for the same word (for detail, see Jassem 2012a-f).

Fourthly, the relational procedure accounts for the relationship between form and meaning in words from three angles:

i. Formal and semantic similarity (e.g., three, third, tertiary and Arabic thalath ‘three’ (Damascus Arabic talaat (Jassem 2012a)));

ii. Formal similarity and semantic difference (e.g., ship and sheep (Jassem 2012b), and
ii. Identify the source, daughter, or sister language meaning (e.g., English or Latin) on the basis of especially word history or etymology. It is essential to start with meanings, not sounds or sound laws because they are more stable and change very much less than the latter which do so extensively; for example, all the sounds of a given word might change beyond recognition while meanings do so in a rather very limited way; so the meaning will lead you to the cognate easily whereas the sounds will get you lost definitely.

iii. Search for the corresponding meaning and form in the target, parent, or reference language (e.g., Arabic), looking for cognates: i.e., sister words with the same or similar forms and meanings, and

iv. Finally explain the differences in form and meaning between the cognates lexicologically, phonetically, morphologically, and semantically as indicated. As a matter of fact, finding the right cognate on the basis of its meaning first often leads you to the ensuing changes automatically.

That is the whole story briefly, simply, and truly. No fuss, no mess (see Jassem 2012-2015).

2.2.2 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The percentage formula will be used for calculating the ratio of cognate words or shared vocabulary (Cowley 1997: 173, 182), which has been fully described in earlier papers (Jassem 2012a-f, 2013a-q, 2014a-k).

3. NEGATION IN WORLD LANGUAGES: A LINGUISTIC SURVEY

World languages use a variety of similar negative words, which cut across or are shared amongst language families. The following survey is for 111 languages in both major and minor 11 language families which, as stated earlier, constitute 61% of world languages and 96% of world population. Such negative words are listed below by family and language.

In Afro-Asiatic languages, Arabic has a wide array of negative terms which vary according to certain linguistic contexts which need not concern us here (Jassem 2013b). In fact, it has the largest number of such words, including in/an, la/li, illa, ma, lam, lamma, lan, kalla, laisa, laata, ghair, siwa, the indirect question particles man, lawla, law, laita, the tongue clicks/gestures tSi (tsk), jok 'derogatory, sarcastic tSi', qi'/qi'qi', hi'/hu', ni', and ba2 'nothing for children'. Other languages have a lot less like Hebrew lo, la; Syriac la; Akkadian ul, la; Ge'ezi: i; Maltese ma; Coptic an, at, ath; Tarifit Berber ur, ulah, ulash, mačči (Tashelhit Berber laḥ); Hausa a'a, ba, babu; Oroma i'ii; Somali ma.

Altaic includes Turkish degi; Mongolian vyc; Oroqen e-; Korean ani, an, eaps-; Manchu waka, aku; Kyrgyz emes; Japanese: -na, -nu, na.

Austronesian contains Malay tidak, saan; Tagalog bukan, tidak; Pampangan dili, wala; Pangasinan ali; Malagasy tsy; Maori ehora, kahore/kaore, kare, kihai, kore, kaua, kauaka; Sundanese lain, henteu; Javanese dudu, ora.

Indo-European, which is the largest in speaker numbers the world over, comprises
i. a Germanic branch like English no(t); Scots no; German nein, nie, nicht; Dutch niet; Danish ikke; Norwegian (Bokmal) ikke, ei; Icelandic ekk, eigl;

ii. a Romance branch like Latin non; Portuguese não; Spanish no; French ne (pas); Italian non; Romanian nu;

iii. a Slavic branch typified by Old Church Slavonic ne; Czech ne, ne; Polish nie; Bulgarian ne; Macedonian ne; Russian ne; Ukrainian ne;

iv. an Indo-Aryan as in Persian na; Pashtu ne; Kurdish na/ne; Sanskrit na; Romani na; Hindi-Urdu nahim, Punjabi nahin; and

v. a Hellenic as in Ancient Greek ou/ouk, mi; Modern Greek dhe, mi.

Dravidian has Telugu kadu (negation), ledu (absence); Tamil illai; Malayalam alla (negation), illa (absence); Kannada alla.

Mayan is a small family, which contains K'iche' b'i, ma, ja'i'; O'ekchi' ink'a', moko... ta; Tzotzil mu; Yucatec ma'.

Niger-Congo has the most languages, numerically speaking, which include Yoruba ko, ki; Igbo dédéet; Wolof du, bu, dédedet; Fula alaa; Jango na'a; Vai maa, and Zulu, a Bantu sub-branch, a-, akekho, abekho.

Sino-Tibetan is the second largest family in terms of speaker numbers, containing Mandarin bu 'is not, does not', bie 'do not (imperative)', mei 'does not, have/did not'; Cantonese mou5; Min Nan (Amoy) put (literary), mai 'do not (imperative), be 'is not, does not'; Hakka put2; Burmese ma ... ne, ma... bu.

Turkic is a small family such as Chuvash cyk; Yakut cyox; Tuvan eves, yok; Khakas nemes, yox; Standard Altai emes, yox; Tatar tyrel; Bashkir tyrel; Karachay-Balkar emes; Kazakh emes; Kyrgyz em; Uzbek emas, yo'q; Uyghur emes; Turkmen däl; Aziri deyl; Turkisk degil; Crimean Tatar degil.

Tai-Kadai is another small family such as Thai mây; Lao bo; Shan maw2; Southern Dong 'qi'ai323; Gelao ma55, o55; Zhuang bou3, mi3; Ong Be men2; White Hmong tsis.

Uralic is a small family again, e.g., Hungarian nem; Finnish ei; Karelian ei; Estonian ei, mitte; Erzya a; Mansi at; North Sami i.

Finally, Uto-Aztecan is a small family, exemplified by Nahuatl me; Yaqui in'i; Hopi qa; Shoshone gai; O'odham pi; Cahuilla kill; Tongva xaay.

4. RESULTS

The results will mainly focus on the Arabic lexical (consonantal) radicals or roots of negative words in world languages and the changes that affected them. The exact quality of the vowel is ignored for having little or no semantic impact whatsoever on the final output (Jassem 2012-2015). The results will be presented family by family and language by language, all whose negative words can be traced back to Arabic as a Radical or Root Language. Furthermore, it will be seen that a large number of them are straightforward which can be traced back to Arabic very easily; a few need a little explanation.

3.1 AFRO-ASIATIC LANGUAGES

All their different negative words can be easily and directly traced back to Arabic as follows.

a) Hebrew lo, la, Syriac la, Akkadian ul, la, and Berberlah/ulah are true and identical cognates to or descend directly from Arabicla;

b) Ge'ez 'i, Hausa a'a, and Oroma i'ii come from Arabic 'a 'yes/no particle; also negative particle in spoken Syrian Coast Arabic', hi'/hu' 'a negative gesture in spoken Arabic' via /h/-loss, 'ee 'yes' via lexical divergence, or la via /l & a/-merger into /l (a)/;

c) Coptic an comes from Arabic an while Copticat and ath are variants, both of which derive from Arabic 3ada 'except' or 3aat 'against' via lexical shift, /3/-loss, and turning /d (t)/ into /t (th)/, or qaT 'never' via /q & T/-merger into /t (th)/;

d) Maltese ma, Somali ma, and Arabic ma are true and identical cognates;

e) Hausa ba/babu came from Arabic ma, mabi/mabu (ma 'not' + bi/bu 'in') 'nothing', turning /m/ into /b/ or from Arabic ba2 'nothing for children' via /2/-loss, though less likely; and
f) Berber ulas, from Arabic lais a where /s/ became /sh/, mačči from Arabic mashī, and ur from Arabic ghair via /gh & r/-merger.

3.2 INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

a) English and Scots no, German nein/nie, Latin non, Portuguese nao, Spanish no, French ne pas, Italian non, and Romanian nu, Old Church Slavonic ne, Czech ne, ne, Polish nie, Bulgarian ne, Macedonian ne, Russian ne, and Ukrainian ne, Persian na, Pashtu ne, Arabic /n/ became /m/ or into /dh/);

b) English not (Old English no + wiht ‘thing, creature, being’), Dutch niet, and German nicht descend straight from Arabic in/an via reversal or ma where /m/ passed into /n/; French pas is from Arabic (la) bas '(no) finished, nothing' (see Jassem 2013b);

c) German nicht might also derive from Arabic la shi(at), ma shi(at) ‘nothing’, turning /l/ into /n/;

d) Danish ikke, Norwegian (Bokmal) ikke, ei, Icelandic ekk, eigi, Ancient Greek οὐκ are all variants, descending straight from Arabic qi’ ‘a negative gesture (in spoken Arabic)’ where /q/ became /g (k, y)/ or iaka ‘warning no; lit., you (acc.)’ via lexical shift; Norwegian (Bokmal) ei and Ancient Greek ou from Arabic hu’/hi’ via /h/-loss or ee/oo ‘yes’ via divergence;

e) Ancient Greek and Modern Greek mi, from Arabic ma whereas Modern Greek dhē from Arabic 3ada ‘except’ via /3/-loss and turning /d/ into /dh/ or Did where /D/ became /d/ and /k/ was inserted;

f) Hindi-Urdu nahim and Punjabi nahin, from Arabic nahi(n) ‘negation, stoppage, finish-off’ where /n/ became /m/ or na3am ‘yes’ via lexical shift or divergence and turning /3/ into /h/.

3.3 ALTAIC LANGUAGES

a) Turkish degil, from Arabic kalla via /k/-split into /d & g/;

b) Mongolian vyc, from Arabic (ma) fish/feesh 'nothing (in spoken Shami/Syrian Arabic)’ where /sh/ became /s (k)/ (for detail, see Jassem 2013b);

c) Oroqen e-, from Arabic hi’ via /h/-loss or from la via /l & a/-merger into /e/;

d) Manchu waka, aku, from Arabic qi’ or kalla via /l & a/-merger into /u/;

e) Kyrgyz emes, from Arabic ma or mish/mash(i) ‘nothing (in spoken Arabic)’ where /sh/ became /s/ (for detail, see Jassem 2013b);

f) Korean ani/an and Japanese -na, -nu, no- come straight from Arabic an/in via reversal or from ma, passing /m/ into /n/;

g) Korean eops- derives from Arabic bas ‘finished, nothing; enough’ via reordering and lexical shift.

3.4 AUSTRONESIAN LANGUAGES

a) Malay and Tagalog tidak, from Arabic qaT ‘never’ via reversal and turning /q & T/ into /k & t (d)/ or Did where /D/ became /d/ and /k/ was inserted;

b) Tagalog bukan, from Arabic ba2(in) ‘nothing’ where /2/ became /k/ or ma kaan ‘nothing; lit, not was’ where /m/ changed to /b/;

c) Pampangan dili, from Arabic kalla where /k/ became /d/ or laata via reversal and turning /t/ into /d/ whereas wala from Arabic la/wala;

d) Pangasinan ali, from Arabic la;

e) Malagasy tsy, from Arabic TS’;

f) Maori eharo, kahore/kaore, kare, kore are all variants, which come from Arabic ghair where /gh/ became /h (k)/ while kihai, kaua, kaua are from Arabic qi’ or its doubled variant qi’qi’ where /q & ’/ changed into /h & k/;

g) Sundanese lain is from Arabic lan while henteu from Arabic intaha ‘finished’ via reordering and lexical shift;

h) Javanese dudu, from Arabic Did while ora from Arabic ghair via /gh & r/-merger.
3.5 DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES
a) Telugu *kadu* is from Arabic *qaT* ‘never’ where /q & T/ became /k & d/ while *ledu*, from Arabic *laada* where /t/ turned into /d/;

b) Tamil *illai*, Malayalam *alla/*illa*, and Kannada *alla* are all variants, which derive from Arabic *la/*illa*.

3.6 MAYAN LANGUAGES
a) K’iche’ *ma*, Tzotzil *mu*, and Yucatec *ma*, from Arabic *ma*;

b) K’iche’ *bi* comes from Arabic *bila* ‘without’, merging /l & a/ into /i/, *ba2* ‘nothing for children’ via /2/-loss, or *ma* where /m/ passed into /b/;

c) K’iche’ *ju’i*, from Arabic *qi’* or *hi’,* passing /q (h)/ into /j/;

d) Q’eqchi’ *ink’a’,* from Arabic *kalla* via reordering and turning /i/ into /n/ while *moko…ta*, from Arabic *mashi/maku* ‘nothing (in spoken Syrian/Iraqi Arabic)’ where /sh/ became /k/ while *ta*, from Arabic *3ada* ‘except’ via lexical shift, /3/-loss, and turning /d/ into /t/.

3.7 Niger-Congo Languages
a) Yoruba *ko*, *ki*, from Arabic *kalla* where /l & a/ merged into /i/ or /qi’* where /q/ became /k/;

b) Igbo and Wolof *dedéet*, from Arabic *Did*, *taDaad* ‘against’ via reordering;

c) Wolof *bu*, from Arabic *bila* ‘without’, merging /l & a/ into /a/, *ba2* ‘nothing’ via /2/-loss, or *ma* where /m/ passed into /b/;

d) Fula *alaa*, from Arabic *la*;

e) Jango *na’a* from Arabic *in/an* via reversal or *ma* where /m/ became /n/;

f) Vai *maa* from Arabic *ma*;

g) Zulu *-a*, from Arabic *la* via /l & a/-merger, *akekho* from Arabic *qi’qi’* where /q & q/ passed into /k & kh/ or *kikh* ‘negative gesture for children’, and *abekho*, from Arabic *ba2* ‘nothing for children’ via lexical shift or divergence and turning /2/ into /kh/.

3.8 Sino-Tibetan Languages
a) Mandarin *bu/bie*, Min Nan (Amoy) *be*, and Burmese *bu*, from Arabic *bila* via /l & a/-merger into /i (e, u)/, *ba2* ‘nothing to children’ via /2/-loss and lexical shift, or *ma* where /m/ passed into /b/;

b) Mandarin *mei*, Cantonese *mou5*, Min Nan *mai*, and Burmese *ma*, from Arabic *ma* (also *moo, mee* in spoken Arabic (Jassem 2013b));

c) Burmese *ne*, from Arabic *in or ma*, turning /m/ into /n/;

d) Hakka *put2*, from Arabic *abad(an)*, *batto/batata(n)*, *albatto* ‘never’, turning /d/ into /t/.

3.9 TURKIC LANGUAGES
a) Chuvash *cyk*, Yakut *cyox*, Tuvan *yok*, Khakas *yox*, Standard Altai *yox*, and Uzbek *yo’q* are all variants, which come from Arabic *tsi’* (tsk) and its spoken (Syrian Arabic) variant *jok* where /tS/ became /c & k/ or *qi’qi’* where /j (q)/ passed into /y/;

b) Tatar and Bashkir *tyrel*, from Arabic *kalla* via /k & l/-mutation into /t & r/ or *laata* via reversal and /r/-insertion;

c) Khakas *nemes*, Karachay-Balkar *emes*, Kazakh *emis*, Kyrgyz *emis*, and Uzbek *emas* are all variants which derive from Arabic *ma* or *mish/mash(i)* ‘nothing in spoken Arabic’, passing /sh/ into /s/ (see Jassem 2013b);

d) Turkmen *dül*, Aziri *deyil*, Turkis *degil*, and Crimean Tatar *degil* are all alternants, coming from Arabic *kalla* via /k/-split into /d & g/ or *laata* via reversal and passing /t/ into /d/.

3.10 THAI-KADAI LANGUAGES
a) Thai *môy*, Shan *maw2*, Gelao *ma55, o55*, and Zhuang *bou3*, *mi3* are all variants, which descend from Arabic *ma*, passing /m/ into /b/; Gelao *o55*, from Arabic *hu* via /h/-loss (the numerals are tone marks);

b) Ong Be *men2*, from Arabic *man or ma* via /n/-split from /m/;

c) White Hmong *tsis*, from Arabic *tSi’*, turning /S/ into /s/;

d) Lao *bo* and Zhuang *bou3*, from Arabic *ma* where /m/ passed into /b/, *bila* ‘without’ via /l & a/-merger into /o/, or *ba2* ‘nothing’ via /2/-loss.
3.11 URAIC LANGUAGES

a) Hungarian nem, from Arabic man via reversal and lexical shift or lam, turning /l/ into /n/;

b) Finnish ei, Karelian ei, Estonian ei, North Sami ii, and Erzya a are all variants, which come from Arabic hi’ via /h/-loss, ‘a ‘yes/no particle; also negative particle in spoken Syrian Coast Arabic’, or la via /l & a/-merger;

c) Estonian mitte, from Arabic naD, turning /n & D/ into /m & t/ or laata where /l/ became /m/;

d) Mansi at, from Arabic qaT ‘never’, merging /q & T/ into /t/; or from 3ada ‘except’ via /3/-loss, turning /d/ into /t/, and lexical shift.

3.12 UTO-AZTECAN LANGUAGES

a) Nahuatl me, from Arabic ma;

b) Yaqui ini‘i, from Arabic in;

c) Hopi qa, Shoshone gai, and Tongva xaay are all variants, which come from Arabic qi’, turning /q/ into /g(x)/;

d) O’odham pi, from Arabic bila via /l & a/-merger into /i/, ba2 ‘nothing’ via /2/-loss, or ma by turning /m/ into /p/;

e) Cahuala kill, from Arabic kalla.

In summary, the total number of language families is 11 with 111 languages, in all of which negative terms can be traced back to Arabic easily, smoothly, and directly.

5. DISCUSSION

The results clearly indicate that negation is commonly expressed in the same or similar ways in all world languages. That is, negative terms like no/ne/an and ma/mei/may/mou in world languages are true cognates for sharing identical or similar forms and meanings. Concerning their differences, they are all due to natural and plausible causes and different routes of phonetic, morphological, grammatical, and semantic change.

The results support Jassem’s (2013b) study on the Arabic origins of negative particles in Indo-European languages, all of which had Arabic true cognates. Indeed, they, on a more general level, substantiate Jassem (2012a-f, 2013a-q, 2014a-k, 2015a-g) in which English, German, French, Latin, Greek, Sanskrit and Arabic were all found to be not only members of the same family but also rather dialects of the same language. This led the researcher to generally classify these languages as Eurabian or Urban which is a blend of European and Arabian languages (Jassem 2015c: 41, 2015d).

Furthermore, the results shed light on the traditional classification of world languages into families, most of which turns out not to be accurate at all as the data shows. As languages from different families around the world share the same or similar negative word(s) or form(s) as in the case of no/ne/an, la/lo/alla, and/or ma/mei/may, this clearly indicates that classifying them into separate, unrelated families is certainly wrong. More precisely, Arabic ma (spoken mu & mi also), Maltese and Somali ma, Greek mi, Thai may, Shan maw2, Chinese mei, Cantonese mou5, Min Nan mai, Burmese ma, K‘ichi’ ma, Tzotzil mu, Ycatec ma’, Kyrgyz em, Kazakh emes, Uzbek emas, Nahuat me, Vai maa are all identical cognates, to which Mandarin bu/bie, Min Nan be, Burmese bou, furthermore, can be added via the replacement of /m/ by /b/. Similarly, Arabic an/in, Coptic an, English and Scots no, English not, Latin non, Portuguese no, Spanish no, French ne pas, Italian non, and Romanian nu, Old Church Slavonic ne, Czech ne, ne, Polish nie, Bulgarian ne, Macedonian ne, Russian ne, and Ukrainian ne, Persian na, Pashtu ne, Kurdish na/ne, Sanskrit na, and Romani no, Korean an/an and Japanese -na, -nu, -na-, Burmese ne, and Yaqui ini‘i are identical cognates. Another such example is Arabic la/illa, Hebrew lo/la, Syria la, Akkadian ul/la, Pangasinan ali, Tamil illai, Malayalam alla/illa, Kannada alla, and Fula ala5, all of which are identical cognates also. Thus, as can be clearly seen, grouping these languages into separate, unrelated families is certainly wrong.

Now what does all that mean? On the one hand, there is a need for reclassifying world languages on new grounds. One such attempt is Jassem (2015c-d) which grouped Arabic and Indo-European languages into one family, called Urban or Urban (Jassem 2015c-d). On the other hand, this necessarily means, on a global level, that all human languages descended from a common source language from which all the negative words in all
world languages are derived and used selectively and variably. The sheer percentage of shared negative words between Arabic and the other languages, which amounted to 100%, indicates that very clearly (cf. Cowley (997: 172-173).

Thus the results support the Radical Linguistic Theory on all theoretical and analytical levels. Theoretically, the main principle which states that all human languages are genetically related, which descended from a single parent language, which survived until today with Arabic and Indo-European languages like English, German, French, Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit being its closest descendants is, therefore, verifiably sound and empirically true. More precisely, all human languages descended from an earlier, perfect, suddenly-emerged language, called radical (world) language from which all human languages initially came and which has incessantly and variably survived into today’s languages, though getting simpler and simpler over time. In other words, the radical language could never have died out beyond recognition. With proper methodology, it can be easily recovered and/or identified as already shown in this work. As this work demonstrated, it seems that its closest or most conservative and productive descendant is Arabic for having preserved almost all its features (Jassem 2014h-k, 2015a-d). The next closest languages are European languages on the grounds of geographical proximity: i.e., the geographically nearer, the linguistically and genetically closer. In fact, all Indo-European languages were already found to have descended directly from Arabic (for details, see Jassem 2015a-b, 2015d: 131-132; 2014a-b, 2014e).

So because all the negative words of all types in all world languages can be easily traced back to Arabic only, it can thus be safely said that Arabic is the common source or the radical language which has been kept almost intact in it. Although the exact time and place of the split-up between Arabic and the so-called Indo-European languages is immaterial, one can safely say that the original place is where Arabic has continuously been spoken over the ages (for details, see Jassem 2015e-f).

The survival of the radical or root world language has already been established in a number of studies. First, Jassem (2015h) examined demonstrative pronouns in almost all world languages (96% of speakers) where it was found that all such pronouns are shared among all languages and which, furthermore, could all be traced back to Arabic. Again this confirms that Arabic has inherited and maintained all the features of the radical world language—i.e., Arabic is the radical language itself. Secondly, further evidence has been provided by examining personal pronouns in Arabic and Indo-European languages (Jassem 2012c, 2013l), Arabic and Chinese pronouns (Jassem 2014h), and Arabic and Basque and Finnish pronouns (Jassem 2014i) which all were traced back into Arabic as well. Other world languages such as Mayan show a very close relationship.

Thirdly, other evidence comes from divine and theological or religious terms like *Hallelujah* (*Halleluiah*, *Alleluia*) which variably occurs in all world languages and is traced back to Arabic (Jassem 2012a, 2014e). More precisely, *Hallelujah* derives from a reduced and merged form of Arabic

\[
\text{la ilaha illa allah}
\]

‘(There’s) no god but God’ with *Halle* being Allah ‘God’ in reverse, *lu* being *la* ‘no’, and *jah* being a reduction and merger of *ilaha illa ih* ‘god but him’ via /l & i/-merger.

In addition, the biblical names of ancient prophets and persons like *Adam*, *Eve*, *Noah*, *Abraham*, *Saleh*, *Hood*, *Moses*, *Jesus Christ*, *Charles*, *John*, *Matthew*, *Paul*, *Peter* is another case in point. Unlike other languages, all have recognizable meanings in Arabic only in which they are used extensively as normal words in different forms as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs; no other language does that or has that capacity. For example, while *Noah* is just a name in Latin, Greek, English, German, French, and Russian without anybody knowing its meaning for real, all Arabic speakers in all Arabic dialects worldwide know it means ‘crier’ who may also use it as a fully natural or normal word as a noun, verb, adjective, and adverb (Jassem 2014f).

There are three main reasons for postulating a radical or root world language, from which all
human languages stemmed and which must have been perfect in all respects as stated earlier. First, language acquisition is impossible in isolation and without contact with and exposure to others. In other words, man acquires the language he was born into from his parents, family, and community. Without them, man could never speak or utter a single, meaningful word. That is, the first language ever was perfect from its sudden start. That language was then passed down with little changes from generation to generation in the central area of the birthplace of humanity, now commonly called the Middle East. Secondly, because totally new words can never be invented but are rather recombined from existing ones, the radical language must have been completely and fully developed at all linguistic levels: phonetic or phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic or lexical. Thirdly, language change involves simplification in the main which entails that the root language was fuller and more varied. In other words, it had a larger word stock or vocabulary, more word forms or morphemes, and more grammatical endings and/or structures that are variably maintained or preserved in world languages.

As a consequence, reconstructing an old world language is needless; rather that proto-language, called radical language here, is still very much alive and vibrant, having variably survived into today’s languages, with Arabic being its closest descendant as the above data clearly shows (for detail, see Jassem 2014h: 254-256, 2014i: 116-117; 2014k, 2015a-b). Thus the quest should focus on relating those languages to it instead of reconstructing hypothetical, fictitious languages. The above-mentioned evidence from negative terms, personal pronouns, religious terms, proper names substantiate that claim. In fact, Jassem (2012-2015) followed that practice in all studies.

On the analytical level, the procedures of the radical linguistic theory all operated neatly and smoothly on all levels despite their limited occurrence due to the linguistic nature of the negative words themselves. For example, negative terms have no affixes, morphologically speaking, although all of them, whether inflectional or derivational, have true Arabic cognates as well (for detail, see Jassem 2012f, 2013a-b, 2013l, 2015d). Whatever the case may be, the whole changes were phonetically speaking, natural and plausible, cyclic and multi-directional, including processes like substitution, deletion, reversal, merger, split, reordering, reduction, and so on.

Semantically, lexical stability was the commonest pattern where most negative terms preserved their basic meanings across the languages, e.g., no (ne, in, an), ma (may, mei, mou), la (lo, alla, illa, all), lain (lan), and kill (kein, kalla). The recurrence of lexical convergence in the data was due to formal and semantic similarity between Arabic words, on the one hand, and their cognates in other languages, on the other. For instance, no (ne, in, an) and bu/bou might each derive from several Arabic words, all formally and semantically similar (see 4 above). Although only one cognate might be the ultimate source in the end, no need is presently felt to specify which one it might be; the reader may judge. Lexical shift occurred frequently as in Kakka put2 which moved from its original or radical meaning ‘never’ to ‘no, not’ currently; other examples include ikke (ekki/eigi) and a’a (ii’ii, ei) (see 6.e-f). Lexical divergence is rare, which might have taken place in nem nahim perhaps, from Arabic na3am ‘yes’ (see 4 above). Lexical split affected Arabic ma, which might have resulted, e.g., in English no and Chinese and Thai mei/may. Lexical change could have affected Arabic bi ‘in’, which became bu/bou ‘not’ in other languages like Chinese and Burmese, perhaps. Finally, lexical variability recurred in the data, whether at the level of the different forms of the same words within the same language such as English in/un/no (Jassem 2013b) or across the languages like English in, German nie, French non, Spanish, Latin non, and Arabic an/in ‘not’ (see 4 above). Arabic, in particular, is replete with linguistic variability of all types such as lam/lamma, in/an.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main findings can be summed up as follows:

i. Negative words in all world languages are true cognates whose differences are due to natural and plausible causes and different
routes of linguistic change; all can be easily traced back to Arabic as follows:

a) Maltese and Somali ma, Greek mi, Thai may, Shan maw2, Chinese mei, Cantonese mou5, Min Nan mai, Burmese ma, K‘ichi’ ma, Tzotzil mu, Ycатег ma’, Kyrkyz em, Kazakh emes, Uzbek emas, Nahuatl me, Vai maa, and all similar m-centred words derive from Arabic ma (mu, mi); furthermore, Mandarin bu/bie, Min Nan be, Burmese bou and such b-initial words might also come from the same Arabic source in which /m/ became /b/;

b) Coptic an, English and Scots no, English not, Latin non, Portuguese nao, Spanish no, French ne (pas), Italian non, and Romanian nu, Old Church Slavonic ne, Czech ne, Polish nie, Bulgarian ne, Macedonian ne, Russian ne, Ukrainian ne, Persian na, Pashtu ne, Kurdish na/ne, Sanskrit na, Romani na, Korean an/an and Japanese -na, -nu, na-, Burmese ne, and Yaqui ini/i, and all similar n-based words derive straight from Arabic an/in or ma, passing /m/ into /n/;

c) Hebrew lo/la, Syria la, Akkadian ul/la, Pangasinan ali, Tamil illai, Malayalam alla/illa, Kannada alla, Fula alaa, Tashelhit Berber lah, and all similar l-central words obtain from Arabic la/illa;

d) Sundanese lain is from Arabic lan directly;

e) Danish and Norwegian ikke, Icelandic ekki/eigi, Ancient Greek ouk, Manchu aku/woko, K‘ichi’ ja’i, Yoruba ko/ki, Hopi qa, and Shoshone gai are derived from Arabic qi’, kalla, or ioka ‘warning no; you’;

f) Ge’ez ’i, Hausa a’o, Oroma ii/ii, Norwegian ei, Greek ou, Finnish ei, Karelian ei, Estonian ei, North Sami ii, Erzya a, and Oroqo e- derive from Arabic ‘a via lexical shift, hi/hu’ via /h/-loss, or la via /l & a/-merger into /a (e, i)/;

g) Turkish degil, Tatar and Bashkir tyrel, and Cahuila kill derive from Arabic kalla;

h) Maori ehora, kahore, kore and Tarifit Berber ur obtain from Arabic ghair, turning /gh/ into /h (k) or merging it into /i/ in the latter;

i) Malagasy tsy, Chuvash cyk, Yakut cyox, Tuvan yok, Khakas yox, Standard Altai yox, and Uzbek yo’q are all variants, which come from Arabic tSī (tsk) and its spoken (Syrian Arabic) variant chok where /TS/ became /c & k/ or qī’/qi’i’ where /j (q)/ passed into /y/;

j) Malay and Tagalog tidok and Telugu kadu are from Arabic qTa’ ‘never’ via reversal and turning /q & T/ into /k & t (d)/.

The radical linguistic theory has been theoretically and analytically adequate for genetically relating negative words in all world languages to Arabic, which entails that the traditional classification of world languages into families is grossly mistaken. Theoretically, all these languages initially originated from one language that may be called Radical or Root World Language, which was not only perfect but also has variably survived into today’s languages. As Arabic has, besides its phonetic and morphological capacity, variety, and complexity, the largest negative words compared to those in the other languages, it can be safely said that it has inherited almost all the Radical Language features, thereby showing its incessant permanence as the most conservative of all. Analytically, the main phonetic changes were natural and plausible, cyclic and multidirectional, including substitution, reversal, reordering, split, and merger; lexically, the recurrent patterns were stability, convergence, shift, split, and variability.

Finally, future research is needed to substantiate the theory further. Also the application of such findings to language teaching, lexicography, and translation (Jassem 2014d, 2015a), cultural (including anthropological, historical, social, religious) awareness, understanding, and heritage is needed badly to promote cross-cultural and global understanding and cooperation in all areas of human life.
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