

## Abstract

### Negation in Gede'o

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This paper deals with descriptive analysis of negation in Gede'o, a Highland East Cushitic (HEC) language spoken in southern Ethiopia. The language has rich morphology in negation (in NP, VP, and Clause). Nominal negation is expressed by *-belo* 'less, without, excluding' (e.g. *min-i-belo* (house-EP-NEG) "homeless"). Negative marking morpheme in main verbs, copula verbs, existential verbs, converbs, imperative, jussive and optative is realized in different forms. For instance, the morpheme *-baa-* is realized as *-beʔno-* and *-bett'o-* in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular perfective (past) and imperfective (habitual/habitual) forms of a declarative regular verb. In the perfective (past) conjugation of the verb *hed'* 'exist, present', the negative morpheme *-baa-* is realized in three different forms as *-baa-* (in 3SG, 3PL and 2PL), as *-ʔno-* (in 1SG/PL), and *-tt'o-* (in 2PL). Interestingly, negation in non-declarative clause (i.e. imperative and jussive and conditional) exhibits extreme variations (e.g. *it-t-ott'-e* (eat-2SG-NEG-IMP) "Do not you eat!" and *it-t-i-n-okk'-e-(n)* (eat-2PS-EP-PL-NEG-IMP) "Do not eat!").

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