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## Double negative in English

Научный руководитель – Мутовкина Евгения Викторовна

*Калинина Анастасия Евгеньевна*

*Student (bachelor)*

Российский государственный университет им. А.Н. Косыгина, Москва, Россия

*E-mail: squirrelandfu@mail.ru*

It is well known that a language is one of the most rapidly changing phenomena in the modern world. Every year, new words come into use, reflecting the reality in which native speakers exist. People adjust their language for themselves, based on their idea of the simplicity, clarity and functionality of it. That is why students and even teachers find it increasingly difficult to keep up with the pace of the language development. For this reason, we decided to highlight one of the most frequent and obvious mistakes in modern English made by both English learners and native speakers.

Double negative is a construction occurring when two forms of grammatical negation are used in the same sentence [31]. It is considered a serious mistake in English, but apparently, native speakers have their own point of view.

Initially, it was believed that double negative was common among the lower class, immigrants and African Americans. However, our research proves that this mistake is made by all native English speakers, regardless of their race, country, and age. Thus, one of the most famous and popular singers of our time, Ariana Grande (The USA), uses double negative in almost every song of hers: «I *ain't* worried about *nothing*» [8], «*Ain't no* need for searching» [8], «*Ain't no* budget» [1], «*Ain't no* number» [2], «*Ain't gon'* be *no* Mrs» [1], «*Ain't got no* tears» [5], «*Ain't got no* time» [6], «*Ain't nobody* else can relate» [3], «I *don't* want to waste *no* time» [3], «I *can't* wait *no* more» [4], «We *don't* gotta think 'bout *nothing*» [7].

After analyzing the most popular American songs, according to the Billboard 100, we came to the conclusion that double negative is absolutely acceptable and widespread in the United States. It is also found in the songs of Halsey: «I *ain't got nothing*» [14], Miley Cyrus: «*Don't take nothing* from *nobody*» [20], Eva Simons: «I *don't* want *no* trouble» [12], Doja Cat: «You *don't* need *no* blood» [10], Saint Jhn: «You *won't* tell *nobody nothing*» [27], Kiana Ledé: «Flossing *don't* mean *nothing*» [24], «I *can't* think of *nothing* else» [24], Fergie: «A little party *never* killed *nobody*» [13], Beyoncé: «I *ain't never* gonna shut you out» [9], Madison Beer: «*Ain't no* I in trouble» [20], Imagine Dragons: «I *ain't no* Superman» [16], «I *ain't no* Holy Ghost» [16], Hollywood Undead: «I *don't* need *nobody* else» [15], «I *don't* need *no* static» [15].

It should also be noted that this phenomenon is also found in earlier pieces of art, e.g. Rufus and Chaka Khan: «*Ain't nobody*» [23], Kansas: «*Don't* you cry *no* more» [19], etc.

However, for a true general analysis of mistakes in modern English, we could not take into account only American variant of the language. Therefore, we decided to pay attention to other countries' representatives. Double negative was found in the lyrics of the songs sung by such artists as Dua Lipa (England): «*Ain't no* dollar sign» [11], Sia (Australia): «I *don't* need *no* money» [28], «I *won't never* give up» [29], R. City (The United States Virgin Islands): «If I *did not* have *nothing* else» [22], Justin Bieber (Canada): «It *ain't no* stable» [18], «*Don't* need *no* Starbucks» [17], Shawn Mendes (Canada): «*Ain't nobody* like you» [25], «You *don't* mean *no* harm» [24], «They *don't* mean *nothing*» [25], Thousand Foot Krutch (Canada): «They *can't no* more» [30].

Thus, as a result of our research, we have proved that double negative is already firmly established in modern English. It most often occurs in sentences constructed in Present Simple Tense and in conjunction with ain't.

To sum it up, we would like to say that it is quite important to pay attention to natives' speech and discover more features of modern language in order to be closer to real culture of a nation. It is also necessary to understand that mistakes in the language are normal for oral or informal conversations, but completely unacceptable in formal situations or in writing.

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