

Negation

Negation in Balti is primarily driven by the morpheme /ma/. In simple sentences that lack an auxiliary verb or copula, the morpheme /ma/ immediately precedes the noun. Stemming from that, there are two forms of negation, each attributed to a different state of being: /men/ is used for continuous and permanent state of beings, meanwhile /met/ is used for impermanent states of being. /men/ seems to have originated from the negation marker /ma/ merging with the copula /m/ and /met/ from /ma/ and the copula /jot/. In a sentence, negation comes before the tense marker.

(1) habu mo-i api men pa
wolf she-GEN grandmother NEG.COP PST
'The wolf was not her grandmother.'

(2) ko misniŋtean met
3SG lovely NEG.COP
'He is not handsome.'

(3) ŋa ma druls
1SG NEG walk.PST
'I did not walk.'

(4) kufu k^harfo met
apple.DEF white NEG.COP
'The apple is not white.'

(5) ŋa k^hi men
1SG dog COP NEG
'I am not a dog.'