

## **ACOUSTICS2008/2002 Phonological representation of negation in Sakizaya**

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This paper aims at investigating phonological representation of negation in Sakizaya, an endangered Formosan language in Taiwan. Defying Yaeger-Dror's "Cognitive prominence principles" (2003), Chiang (2006) examines negators in Saisiyat, a SVO language as English, and finds the sentential subjects are more prominent acoustically rather than negators. Thus, I will adopt Chiang's modal (2006) and analyze phonological representation of six negators in Sakizaya to see where the pitch accent falls. Besides, if falling on the negators, I will see whether it is because of either cognitive prominence properties or its sentence-initial position? Six informants (3 male & 3 female), from 50-74 years old, participated in the experiment, recorded by DAT, analyzed by Praat and digitized at a 22050-Hz sampling rate. Affirmative and negative sentences are asked in Mandarin while the informants are instructed to translate them into Sakizaya. Besides, they are asked to produce iterative -ay sentences since the negator ca'ay is the most frequently used negator with higher prominent syllable -ay. The results show negators are more prominent in Sakizaya compared to sentential subjects. I conclude it is word order that influences the prominence of pitch contour since Saisiyat is an SVO language and Sakizaya a VSO one.