

OBSERVATIONS ON A NON-NORMATIVE FORMATION PATTERN IN CONTEMPORARY BULGARIAN

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The study examines a group of negative verb forms denoting relative posteriority, in which the negation marker is placed before the full (or second auxiliary) verb rather than in the initial position: compare the examples *цях да не забележа*; *щеше да не си (различен)*; *цял съм да не се съглася*; *цяха да не зависят*; *щели да не вземат*; *цял бил да не докосва*, etc., with the normative pattern: *нямаше да забележа*, *нямаше да си (различен)*, *нямало да се съглася*, *нямаше да зависят*, *нямало да вземат*. Notably, such forms are rarely discussed in systematic Bulgarian grammars but are observed in contemporary oral and written communication. The study aims to: 1) identify the reasons for this deviation from the normative formation of verb forms describing relative posteriority by analysing the linguistic contexts in which these forms occur; 2) determine their status within the verb system (whether they represent acceptable variants or deviations). The analysis also incorporates survey data, providing insights into native speakers' attitudes towards the studied verb forms.

Keywords: negative verb forms; relative posteriority; normativity; word order; Bulgarian language

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