Overview of this presentation

• an introduction to the Lopit language
• standard negation \textit{jna}
• negation with modality
• the persistive negative verb \textit{nei}
• negative imperative
• negative interrogative
• negative existentials and quantifiers
• lexical negatives
• negation in Eastern Nilotic languages
# African Languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Number of languages</th>
<th>Number of speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afro-Asiatic</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>362 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger-Congo</td>
<td>1524</td>
<td>431 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nilo-Saharan</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>42 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khoisan</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0.5 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Eastern Nilotic Languages

- **Nilo-Saharan** (205)
  - Central Sudanic (65)
  - **Eastern Sudanic** (106)
    - Eastern (27)
    - Nubian
    - Surmic
    - **Nilotic** (63)
      - Eastern (16)
      - Southern (16)
      - Kalenjin, Nandi
      - Western (22)
        - Dinka, Nuer, Luo
    - Maban (9)
    - Saharan (9)
    - **Songhay** (9)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern</strong></td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nilo-Saharan</strong></td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Lotuxo-Teso** (13)
  - **Lotuxo-Maa** (8)
    - Lotuxo (5)
      - Dongotono (S Sudan) 1
      - Lango (S Sudan) 38
      - Lokoya (S Sudan) 12
      - Lopit (S Sudan) 50
      - Otuho (Lotuko) (S Sudan) 140
  - Ongamo-Maa (3)
    - Maasai (Kenya, Tanzania) 1,300
    - Ngasa (Tanzania) -
    - Samburu (Kenya) 240

- **Teso-Turkana** (5)
  - Teso (1) (Uganda) 1,900
  - Turkana (4)
    - Karamojong (Uganda) 700
    - Nyangatom (Ethiopia) 14
    - Toposa (S Sudan) 100
    - Turkana (Kenya) 1,000

- **Bari** (3)
  - Bari (S Sudan) 480
  - Kakwa (Uganda) 190
  - Mandari (S Sudan) ?
The Lopit People

Lopit is spoken by around 50,000 people living in the Lopit mountains in Eastern Equatoria province in South Sudan.

There are six dialects grouped into ‘northern’ and ‘southern’ Lopit.

Home of the consultants in this study
Characteristics of Lopit (and Eastern Nilotic) languages

- 9 vowel, Advanced Tongue Root (ATR) system
- grammatical and lexical tone
- tripartite number marking system
- VSO word order
- subject (and some object) agreement marking on the verb
- marked-nominative case system (with tonal case marking)
- aspect & mood, but no grammatical tense
- sequential (or narrative) markers
- adjectival and adverbial concepts are expressed with stative verbs
- WITH-language, not AND-language (inclusory constructions)
## Verb morphology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>initial prefixes</th>
<th>bound agreement pronoun</th>
<th>modal prefixes</th>
<th>aspectual and causative prefixes</th>
<th>suffix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>interrogative</td>
<td>x-</td>
<td>irrealis</td>
<td>causative</td>
<td>imperfective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sequential</td>
<td>x-</td>
<td>potential</td>
<td>perfective</td>
<td>continuative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subordinator</td>
<td>l-</td>
<td>conditional</td>
<td>perfective</td>
<td>ventive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imperative</td>
<td>te-, ite-, xate-</td>
<td>deontic</td>
<td>perfective</td>
<td>dative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hortative</td>
<td>ali-</td>
<td>deontic</td>
<td>persistive</td>
<td>instrumental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infinitive</td>
<td>x-, ṃa-</td>
<td>deontic</td>
<td>persistive</td>
<td>middle voice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>á-ŋa-i-ŋa-t:óxo-í</th>
<th>lèfà</th>
<th>tôxôní</th>
<th>bèrèn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1SG-IRR-PFV-kill-VEN</td>
<td>PST</td>
<td>person.ABS</td>
<td>before</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘I should have killed him before!’  Ikudo story
The verbal nature of negation in Lopit

Negation is expressed with auxiliary verb, /ŋa/ and /ŋei/. I am calling it a verb because it displays the following behaviour:

• The negative verb is clause initial
• It has, under some circumstances, the normal pronominal prefixes (a, i, e)
• When used in a subordinate clause, the subordinate prefix is used /l-i-ŋa/, ‘SBO-3-not.be’
• The same modal prefixes can be as found on other verbs.
• The interrogative prefix /x-/ can be used as with other verbs.

These points will discussed as I present the various kinds on negation found in the language.
Standard negation

Standard negation is expressed with an auxiliary verb, /ŋa/.

When it is used with a lexical verb, this verb moves away from the first position in the clause (to a position after the subject) and is prefixed with the subordinate marker l-, ‘SBO’.

The main verb maintains its person/number marking. The word order can be regarded as AUX S V O.

The affirmative:

è-fànù xájàŋá?
3-come.PL flies.NOM
'The flies came.'

The simple negative:

í-ŋà xájàŋá? l-è-fànù
3-not.be flies.NOM SBO-3-come.PL
'The flies did not come.'
Standard negation

When used in simple declarative clauses, the verb /iŋa/ does not show the normal person agreement marking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>person</th>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>a-</td>
<td>e1-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>ɪ-</td>
<td>ɪ-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>ɛ-</td>
<td>ɛ-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

á-wú náŋ à tòrít
1SG-go 1SG.NOM to Torit
‘I’m going to Torit.’

1-ñà náŋ l-á-wú à tòrít
1-not.be 1SG.NOM SBO-1SG-go to Torit
‘I’m not going to Torit.’

*a-ñà náŋ l-á-wú à tòrít
1SG-not.be 1SG.NOM SBO-1SG-go to Torit
(‘I’m not going to Torit’)

NB: /iŋa/ = No
Standard negation

Standard negation in Lopit can be described as asymmetric with a finite negative verb - A/Fin/NegVerb (Miestamo (2008)).

It differs from most of the examples given by Miestamo (2008, 81-87) in that, in Lopit, both the negative verb and the lexical verb are finite. They both show pronominal agreement marking.

The only example given by Miestamo where both verbs are finite is for Halkomelem (2008, p83). The main difference for this example is that the lexical verb is marked for irrealis (subjunctive).

Halkomelem (Galloway 1993: 176, 185)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a.</th>
<th>b.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lém-cəl go-1SG</td>
<td>?éwə-cəl NEG-1SG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘I go.’</td>
<td>go-1SG.SBJN ‘I do/will not go.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lopit is unusual in that there is no change in the lexical verb (apart from the subordinate marker) in changing from the affirmative to the negative.

Otuho is similar to Lopit in this respect (see below)
Negation in subordinate clauses

When the negative verb is used in a subordinate clause, the subordinate marker /l-/ ‘SBO’ is used. This is normal for all verbs except modal predicates and those with the persistive (aspect marker /IV-/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ì-ńà</th>
<th>náŋ</th>
<th>l-á-wù</th>
<th>à tòrít</th>
<th>l-í-ńà</th>
<th>ìjé</th>
<th>l-í-wù</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-not.be</td>
<td>1SG.NOM</td>
<td>SBO-1SG-go</td>
<td>to Torit</td>
<td>SBO-2-not.be</td>
<td>2SG.NOM</td>
<td>SBO-2-go</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘I’m not going to Torit if you don’t go.’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>á-wù</th>
<th>náŋ</th>
<th>à tòrít</th>
<th>l-í-wù</th>
<th>ìjé</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1SG-go</td>
<td>1SG.NOM</td>
<td>to Torit</td>
<td>SBO-2-go</td>
<td>2SG.NOM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘I’m going to Torit if you go.’
Negation with modality

There are two ways of using the negative with the irrealis.

The simple negative:

\[ i\text{-}na \ nang \ l\text{-}a\text{-}pot \ toromile \]
\[ 1\text{-not.be} \ 1SG.NOM \ SBO-1\text{-}clean.N \ car.ABS \]
‘I didn’t clean the car.’

The irrealis affirmative:

\[ a\text{-}\text{ŋaî}\text{-}pot \ naŋ \ toromile \]
\[ 1\text{-IRR}\text{-}clean.N \ 1SG.NOM \ car.ABS \]
‘I should/would clean the car.’

1. The simple negative and the irrealis on the lexical verb:

\[ i\text{-}na \ naŋ \ a\text{-}\text{ŋaî}\text{-}pot \ toromile \]
\[ 1\text{-not.be} \ 1SG.NOM \ 1\text{-IRR}\text{-}clean.N \ car.ABS \]
‘I should/would not clean the car.’

2. The irrealis on the negative verb with the lexical verb:

\[ a\text{-}\text{ŋaî}\text{-}nà \ naŋ \ l\text{-}a\text{-}i\text{-}pot \ toromile \]
\[ 1\text{-IRR}\text{-}not.be \ 1SG.NOM \ SBO-1\text{-}PFV\text{-}clean \ car.ABS \]
‘Had I not cleaned the car, ....’

When negation is expressed with a modal prefix on the negative verb, the normal pronominal prefixes are used.
The persistive form of the negative

There is a second form of the negative verb, /ŋei/, which is only used in persistive expressions. The normal pronominal agreement marking is used.

The simple negative:

íɲà xájàŋá? 1-è-fánù
not.be flies.NOM SBO-3-come.PL
'The flies did not come.'

The persistive negative:

è-ŋei xájàŋá? è-lé-fánù
3-not.be flies.NOM 3-PERS-come.PL
'The flies have stopped coming.' (lit. 'the flies are not still coming')

Note that there is no subordinate marker on the main verb [èléfánù]. The affirmative form of this sentence is as follows.

è-lé-fánù xájàŋá?
3-PERS-come.PL flies.NOM
'The flies are still coming.'
The persistive form of the negative

Here is a second set of examples of the negative verb, /ŋei/, this time with first person marking.

The simple negative:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ñà</th>
<th>náŋ</th>
<th>l-á-mát-à</th>
<th>kòfí</th>
<th>l-ò-lót-ù</th>
<th>patrik</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>not.be</td>
<td>1SG.NOM</td>
<td>SBO-1SG-drink-IPFV</td>
<td>coffee.ABS</td>
<td>SBO-3-go-VEN</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

'I wasn't drinking coffee when Patrick came.'

The persistive negative:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>á-ŋei</th>
<th>náŋ</th>
<th>álá-mát-à</th>
<th>kòfí</th>
<th>l-ò-lót-ù</th>
<th>patrik</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-not.be</td>
<td>1SG.NOM</td>
<td>1SG-PERS-drink-IPFV</td>
<td>coffee.ABS</td>
<td>SBO-3-go-VEN</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

'I wasn't still drinking coffee when Patrick came.'

'I had finished drinking coffee when Patrick came.'

Note that there is no subordinate marker on the main verb [álámátà]
The negative verb /ŋei/ as a verbal noun

The negative verb, /ŋei/, can also be used as a verbal noun (this is normal for infinitives, which have the same form as the verb root for this kind of verb).

The translation of the sentence: 'He is rich but suffers from having no friends.' (lit. ‘He is rich but lacking of friends defeats him’)

In this situation, there is no persistive marking on any verbs. Nevertheless, the sentence has a imperfective or continuative sense.
The negative imperative

There is a special construction for negative imperatives. It uses the word /idek/ and a verb prefix /xai-/. The prefix /xai-/ appears to be a kind of imperative prefix. Unlike normal imperatives, there is no distinction between singular and plural.

The word /idek/ can be glossed as the imperative form of the verb /idek/, ‘leave’ (i.e. as IMP.leave).

| te-cá   | ñèèk  |
| IMP-dance | xai-cá | díxà |
| ‘Dance!’  | NEG.IMP IMP-dance like that |
| ìró     | ñèèk  |
| IMP.speak | xai-ìró |
| ‘Don’t talk!’ | NEG.IMP IMP-speak |
|         | ‘Don’t talk!’ |
The negative imperative

The verb /idek/ can mean 'abandon', 'leave off', 'give up', 'don’t do' as illustrated in the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a-ídék</th>
<th>náŋ</th>
<th>rìɲà</th>
<th>tìfì</th>
<th>xìjó</th>
<th>è-díxà</th>
<th>nàŋ</th>
<th>xáŋéxítè</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1SG-leave</td>
<td>1SG.NOM</td>
<td>VN.watch</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td>COMP</td>
<td>3SG-ache</td>
<td>1SG.ABS</td>
<td>eyes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘I gave up watching TV because it hurts (my) eyes.’

The verb can also be used in the sense of ‘move away from’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a-ídék</th>
<th>náŋ</th>
<th>xàŋ</th>
<th>àrá</th>
<th>móíté?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1SG-leave</td>
<td>1SG.NOM</td>
<td>home</td>
<td>IMM.PST</td>
<td>morning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘I left home this morning.’

The use of a lexical negative verb with a meaning of ‘stop’ or ‘leave’ for a negative imperative (or prohibitive) is not uncommon in the world’s languages (Aikhenvald, 2010, p. 171).
The negative interrogative

Negative polar interrogatives can be formed using the negative verb */ŋa/* together with the question marker */x-/*.

x-í-t:óxò íjé  
Q-2-finish.N 2SG.NOM
‘Have you finished?’

x-ó-ŋà xàtì íjé 1-í-t:óxò  
Q-2-not.be but 2SG.NOM SBO-2-finish
Haven’t you finished (yet)?’

Here is another example....

x-ó-ŋà xàtì 1-í-wú à xàŋ  
Q-2-not.be but SBO-2-go to home.ABS
‘Aren’t you going home?’

Note that the word */xóŋa/* does not inflect for person.
The negative interrogative - tag questions

Polar interrogative can be expressed with an interrogative tag based on the verb /ŋa/. The tag question is /x-ò-ŋá ífá/, ‘Q-3-not.be PST’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ò-wú</th>
<th>íné</th>
<th>à sùk</th>
<th>x-ò-ŋá</th>
<th>ífá</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3SG-go</td>
<td>3SG.NOM</td>
<td>to market</td>
<td>Q-3-not.be</td>
<td>PST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘She went to the market, didn’t she?’

However, unlike English, the tag does not change for polarity, temporal situation or person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>íŋà</th>
<th>íné</th>
<th>l-o-wu</th>
<th>à sùk</th>
<th>x-ò-ŋá</th>
<th>ífá</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEG</td>
<td>3SG.NOM</td>
<td>SBO-3-go</td>
<td>to market</td>
<td>Q-3-not.be</td>
<td>PST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘She didn’t go to the market, did she?’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ò-wú</th>
<th>ìsó</th>
<th>íné</th>
<th>à sùk</th>
<th>x-ò-ŋá</th>
<th>Ífá</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3SG-go</td>
<td>FUT</td>
<td>3SG.NOM</td>
<td>to market</td>
<td>Q-3-not.be</td>
<td>PST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘She will go to the market, won’t she?’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>í-ŋàínò</th>
<th>íjé</th>
<th>à sùk</th>
<th>x-ò-ŋá</th>
<th>ífá</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-go</td>
<td>2SG.NOM</td>
<td>to market</td>
<td>Q-3-not.be</td>
<td>PST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘You went to the market, didn’t you?’

Thus /xoña/ is similar to /iŋa/ in the simple negative.
Negative existential predicates

The negative verb can also be used as a negative existential copula and [íɲá] can be translated as 'there is not' or 'there is no'.

íɲà  xìfjóŋ
NEG  water.ABS
‘There is no water.’

Other, similar constructions are used to express a lack of something or a negative existence. Lopit does not normally use a verb with a meaning of ‘be absent’. Some constructions involve interrogative pronouns.

íɲà  nò  dè  xàjì
NEG  what  in  house
‘The house is empty.’ (There is no-one in the house)
Negative quantifiers and indefinites

Lopit does not have words which correspond to words like ‘nobody’, ‘nothing’, or ‘nowhere’.

The equivalent meanings of these words are usually expressed using the negative verb /ŋa/ in combination with words like /nabo/, ‘one.F’; /xure/, ‘some.F’, and /ɲo/, ‘what’.

í-ŋá ɲaí tè ịnị
3-not.be who in here
‘There is no-one here.’

á-gígílò náŋ í-ŋà lóbò tóxóní l-ò-lòt-ú
1SG-believe 1SG.NOM 3-not.be one.M person SBO-3-go-VEN
‘I think that nobody (M) is coming.’
(lit. ‘I think (that) not (even) one person is coming.’)

Here, the quantifier is placed in front of the noun to give the phrase [lóbò tóxóní].

This is a pragmatically marked position since quantifiers normal follow nouns. This gives special emphasis to the word /lóbò/.
Lexical negatives

Lopit has a number of verbs which can express negative concepts without the use of the negative verb.

These include the verbs /riŋ/, ‘not know’; /tumo/, ‘not know’, ‘be ignorant of’; /miŋa/, ‘not see’; and /diak/, ‘not complete’.

a-tumo  nàŋ  ròrí  xùná  jànì  àná
1SG-not.know  1SG.NOM  things  of.F.PL  tree  this.F
‘I don’t know anything about this tree.’

á-rip  mà  nàŋ
1SG-not.know  POT  1SG.NOM
‘I’m not sure.’ (lit. I might not know’)

é-xì-rwátà  xìjó  ìjé  x-í-míŋà-rì
3-PFV-escape  and  2SG.NOM  SEQ-2-not.see-IT
‘He escaped and you missed seeing it.’

Note that /tumo/ is a transitive verb.
Negation in other Eastern Nilotic languages

The neighbouring language, Otuho (Lotuko) also has a negative verb, *beng*. This verb shows pronominal agreement for both the negative verb and the lexical verb. There is no subordinate marker in Otuho.

```
Otuho   a-beng  dwo  ni  a-lo
       1SG-not.be  IMM.PST  1SG  1SG-go
'I didn’t go there.' (Muratori, 1938, p. 339)
```

Most other EN languages use a negative prefix or particle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lopit</th>
<th>Otuho</th>
<th>Maa</th>
<th>Turkana</th>
<th>Ateso</th>
<th>Bari</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>verb</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>beng</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prefix</td>
<td>(m)mi-</td>
<td>na-; pe-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>particle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>mam(ʊ)</td>
<td></td>
<td>ti; tine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Negative imperatives in other Eastern Nilotic languages

Other EN languages use prefixes or particles to express negative imperatives. It appears that only Lopit uses a special negative imperative verb based on a verb meaning ‘stop’ or ‘leave’.

Most other EN languages use a negative prefix or particle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>verb</th>
<th>Lopit</th>
<th>Otuho</th>
<th>Maa</th>
<th>Turkana</th>
<th>Bari</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prefix</td>
<td>idek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>particle</td>
<td>xe-</td>
<td>m-</td>
<td>ém-</td>
<td>nyi-</td>
<td>ko</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

Lopit has two forms of a negative verb. The most common is the verb /ɲa/ and this is used for most negation expressions. This is most commonly used as the particle-like /iɲa/.

There is also the verb /ɲei/ which is used in negative constructions involving an ongoing or persistive activity.

The negative verbs behave like other verbs in many respects:
- Clause initial
- Marked for person (sometimes)
- Take the subordinate and interrogative marker
- Can be marked for (some types) of mode and aspect.

They also behave like the other auxiliary verbs:
- Clause initial and result in moving the lexical verb after the subject
- The lexical verb maintains its person marking

Lopit uses a special negative imperative verb based on a verb meaning ‘stop’ or ‘leave’ in combination with a special prefix /xai-/ in the lexical verb.
Other examples of ‘auxiliary’ verbs in Lopit

The negative verb could be described as a kind of auxiliary verb. When it is used, the word order changes from VSO to AUX S V O. This also occurs with the small number of verbs which could be called auxiliary verbs.

One of these is the verb /ʒɔ/, ‘say’ which is used in connecting clauses, with both coordination and subordination. The form /xɔʒɔ, xɔɔ/ is used in coordination to express the meaning of ‘and then’. The subject moves in front of the main verb, which is marked with the sequential prefix /x-/.

The form /lɔʒɔ, lɔɔ/ is used in subordinating clauses to express the meaning of ‘when’ or ‘if’. This time the main verb is prefixed with the subordinate marker.

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e-ǐdόŋ mόrwό [xɔjó mú́nú níá x-ò-j:eɪ] 3-PFV.throw.at stone.ABS and.then snake.ABS that.F SEQ-3-die
‘He threw a stone and (then) the snake died.’

[liʒό ūŋé l-ɔ-p:ɔra imɔnɛ] ɔ-p:ɔra de sali ina when.3 3SG.NOM SBO-3-bake bread.ABS 3-bake on hearth.ABS this.F
‘When she makes bread, she bakes on this fireplace’
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/òlòxónà/, /èléxìná/, ‘not yet’

The word /òlòxónà/ includes the negative verb /nà/ and it can be interpreted as meaning ‘not yet’. This is illustrated in the following examples.

x-í-t:ɔxó  ìjé  ìgèm .....  òlòxónà
Q-2-finish.PFV 2SG.NOM work..ABS not yet
‘Did you finish work?’ ..... ‘Not yet’ AC:1:16:24

òlòxónà  nàŋ  l-â-cá  dè  tòrít
not yet 1SG.NOM SBO-1SG.PFV-dance at Torit
‘I have not yet danced in Torit’ BI:34:37

This word is sometimes expressed as [èléxìná], ‘3-PERS-PFV-not.be’. This supports its interpretation as ‘not yet’ or ‘still not’ (the persistive marker is /lV-/ )

a-í-jé-jén-à  nàŋ  x-ìrò  nà  lòpít
1SG-PF-REDUP-know-IPFV 1SG.NOM VN-speak of.F Lopit
èléxìná  xàtí  nàŋ  l-a-ì-jén  binó
not yet but 1SG.NOM SBO-1SG-PFV-know very
‘I have been learning to speak Lopit but I have not yet learned much.’ DL:13:08