

NEGATIVE CONTRACTIONS AND EXTRACTION SITES

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It seems that contractions of negatives act differently than other contractions in relation to extraction sites. Gathercole (1981) argued that *twice*, which is assumed to be a contraction of *two times*, cannot occur before *X-er* because there would be two adjacent extraction sites. If *none* is likewise taken to be a contraction of *not one* (Celce-Murcia and Larsen-Freeman 1983) / *not any persons or things* (Stein 1978), then a similar problem with grammaticality would be expected. The following sentences illustrate that this is not the case.

- (1) a. There are none smarter than Bill.
- b. There is not one smarter than Bill.
- c. There are/is not any smarter than Bill.

The 'specialness' of negative contractions and adjacent extraction sites is not limited to quantifier phrases. Tensed auxiliaries in an affirmative sentence can not be contracted when they precede an extraction site. However, this restriction does not apply to a negative contraction.

- (2) a. They'll eat later. We will ___ too. *We'll ___ too.
- b. They won't eat later. We will not ___ either. We won't ___ either.

REFERENCES

- Celce-Murcia, M. and D. Larsen-Freeman. 1983. *The Grammar Book: An ESL/EFL Teacher's Course*. Rowley, MA: Newbury House Publishers, Inc.
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