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## Loosing negation: from n-word to indefinites

The typological distinction of different polarity types of indefinites leads to new insights in the history of negation. Let us assume basic distinction between negative pronouns (so called n-words like English *nobody* which are negative both morphologically and semantically) and polarity sensitive indefinites in the sense of Heim/Diesing (NPIs without their own quantificational force and without negative semantics like English *any*). It will be shown that Old Church Slavonic negated pronouns are close to n-words in the sense of marking the scope of negation, while modern Czech negated pronouns are sensitive indefinites which are negated only morphologically and that they cannot mark the scope of negation on their own. Furthermore, it will be shown that, while it is common for indefinites to become “more negative”, like in the developments of Germanic, the opposite change is just the way Czech went from older stages of language. It will be shown how this change is related to the rise of Negative Concord and to the famous Jespersen's cycle.