Future Tense, cont.

I. Asking questions in the future tense. (Interrogative forms.)

There are two ways to ask questions in the future tense in BCS. One can use either the “…li” construction (which, as we all know, is used almost exclusively in Croatian, and often in Bosnian), and one can use the “Da li…” construction (which is more common in Serbian, and sometimes used in Bosnian).

For the first type of construction, you need to go back to the full verb **“hteti/htjeti”** in order to pose the question, rather than using the enclitical auxiliary verb.

For ex.: **Hoćeš li gledati film *Gospodar prstenova*?** Will you watch *Lord of the Rings*?

**Hoćemo li čitati roman *Na Drini čuprija* danas popodne?** Will we read *The Bridge on the Drina*

this afternoon?

It’s also possible to use “da + present” with this type of construction. (It’ll be less common in Croatian, though.)

For ex.: **Hoćeš li da gledaš film *Gospodar prstenova*?**

**Hoćemo li da čitamo roman *Na Drini čuprija* danas popodne?**

In case you’re wondering, if you were to use the verb “hteti/htjeti” to mean “to want,” it would look the same in these constructions. Context determines whether you’re indicating the future.

For the second type of construction, the “Da li…” type of questions, you would once again use the **enclitical** auxiliary verb.

For ex.: **Da li ćete čitati zajedno ovu priču o duhovima?** Will you all read this ghost story together?

**Da li ćemo ljubiti naše slatke mačke?** Will we pet our cute cats?

Of course, with this construction you can also use “da + present” instead of the infinitive.

For ex.: **Da li ćete da čitate zajedno ovu priču o duhovima?**

**Da li ćemo da ljubimo naše slatke mačke?**

It’s also possible to form “Da li…” type questions using the full form of the verb “hteti/htjeti,” but with the enclitical form it’s much clearer that you’re indicating the future and not using the verb to mean “to want.”

II. Negation in the future tense.

In order to negate something in the future tense, add **“ne”** to the enclitical auxiliary verb of “hteti/htjeti.” Serbian and Bosnian fuses these two together, whereas Croatian keeps them separate.

Ja **neću/ne ću**

Ti **nećeš/ne ćeš**

On/Ona/Ono **neće/ne će**

Mi **nećemo/ne ćemo**

Vi **nećete/ne ćete**

Oni/One/Ona **neće/ne će**

For ex.: **Oni neće/ne će pevati/pjevati pesme/pjesme sa komšijama/susjedima.** They will not sing

songs with their neighbors.

**Sutra nećemo/ne ćemo spavati ceo/cijeli dan.** Tomorrow we will not sleep all day.

**Nećete/ne ćete biti kod kuće kad će on stići.** You all will not be home when he will arrive.

It’s important to remember that “ne + enclitical auxiliary verb” can also mean **not wanting** to do something. Thus, the phrase “**neću/ne ću spavati večeras**” can mean “I will not sleep tonight” or “I don’t want to sleep tonight.” Just like the interrogative form, context determines what the sentence means.

I believe (though I’m not certain) that it’s rare to see “da + present” when using negation in the future tense. Thus, one is **less likely** to see the phrase “neću/ne ću da spavam večeras” when indicating future tense. This doesn’t mean that you’ll never see it used that way, however.