On post-verbal negation in Chadic

Post-verbal negation patterns are found in a number of Chadic languages. The paper will look at these both in terms of typology and, if feasible, diachronic development. Typologically, we are quite likely dealing with a feature of great age in family since we find post-verbal negation patterns in all the major branches of Chadic, for instance, in West Chadic *Hausa* (cf. Newman 2000), in Central Chadic Lamang-Hdi (cf. Wolff 2009), and in East Chadic *Kera* (cf. Ebert 1979).

Hausa (West Chadic):

Yáarìnyàa **bàa**	**tà**	**dáawóo**	**bá.**	'The girl didn't return.'
girl NEG	3SG.F	return	NEG	

>   The post-verbal negation marker only occurs in the shape of discontinuous negation markind and is restricted to (a) TAMs other than the continuous and subjunctive, and (b) to equational (non-verbal) clauses, NPs etc. Outside the discontinuous marker construction, the single markers **báa** and **bâa** in other negative constructions never occur post-verbally. Whereas in Standard Hausa the post-verbal negation marker **bá** tends to occur in clause-final position, this is not necessarily the case in "northern" dialects.

Lamang (Central Chadic):

Màná-xáŋ	**wó.**	'They didn't do (it).'
do	3PL NEG	

>   Lamang also uses a marker **bà** (cf. *Hausa*, *Kera*) which, however, is restricted to negation of focus (contrastive term focus, predication focus) and enters various combinations with post-verbal **wó**. The marker **wó** is always clause-final.

Kera (East Chadic):

A	**hàm**	**kúsúk**	**bà.**	'She didn't eat meat.'
3SG.F	eat	meat	NEG	

>   The negation marker tends to occupy clause-final position, only ideophones and modal particles are allowed to follow.

Note that not ***ba** is reconstructed as the general negation marker in Proto-Chadic even though it would appear to have a wider distribution in present-day languages (such as in *Hausa* and *Kera*), but rather ***wa** (as found in Lamang).

Given the great age of the Chadic language family and the high degree of internal diversification, present-day languages display a wide array of synchronic patterns involving post-verbal negation marking (in addition to complementary occurrences of non-post-verbal negation markers). The paper will, first of all, outline the typological variation of post-verbal negation patterns in selected Chadic languages and - possibly - draw some historical generalisation from it.