



Research Article

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Grammatical Influences (Morphological) of Albanian Language in the Languages of Minorities in the Region of Prizren

Senad Neziri, PhD(c)

Faculty of Philology,
University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to prove the presence of calques (loan translation) of Albanian language in the languages of minorities (Gorani community, Bosnian community) in the region of Prizren. We will make an effort to provide evidence for the role of Albanian as a donor language through daily contacts with the members of the above-mentioned communities. The corpus of this study will be the edited volume of songs and folk tales from minority areas, respectively from the population of Gorani and Bosnian ethnicity and their dialects. The research will be focused in minority areas in the municipality of Dragash (Sharr) where Gorani people live, as well as in other areas of minority language speakers, mainly in Zhupa, in the municipality of Prizren. The paper will be important in enlightening the facts of using the structure of Albanian, both in the spoken language of the minority community and that of Albanian community. The cases where certain elements of Albanian language are encountered in another language, where Albanian appears as a donor language, will be considered as important. The reason which has pushed us to conduct the research regarding the presence of Albanian elements, basically morphological, in a non-Albanian speaking community in Kosovar society, respectively in the multi-ethnic society of Prizren, is the way of speaking of this minority community and the confirmation of the impact of Albanian language and ethno-culture on this minority language since ancient times to the present.

Keywords: Albanian language, linguistic interference, diversity, bilingualism, grammar, ethnology

1. Introduction

Prizren is the furthest south town in Kosovo, with only 18 km away from the border between Kosovo and Albania. It is located at an altitude of around 400 metres above sea level, whereas some peaks of Sharr reach an altitude of above 2000 metres. Prizren is a multi-ethnic region and as a result multilingual. It is the place where different cultures and languages live together in harmony, like: Albanian language, Turkish, Bosnian, Romani, and in some parts Serbian language. Official languages are Albanian and Bosnian but at the municipal level Turkish and Bosnian are official. The overwhelming majority of population is Albanian with a percentage of 86%, that is Albanian is the dominating language, followed by other communities like Bosnian, Turkish, Romani and Serbian, where the Bosnian community leads.

Finding elements of Albanian language in the minority languages, mainly Slavic, in the region of Prizren, Kosovo, as well as the Balkan peninsula, is a phenomenon which dates back to the arrival of Slavs to the Balkans. By virtue of continual coexistence among different peoples, situations or cases of linguistic interferences have been created, thus enabling the formation of everyday linguistic varieties, dialects, as well as standard languages of these peoples where the presence of elements of one language in other ones is obvious. Actually this is the reason which has motivated us to study the presence of Albanian language elements in the languages of

minorities, especially Slavic speaking ones, in the region of Prizren.

For the issue in question, the influence of Albanian language on Slavic languages or dialects, has been written by national and international linguists, like: Mejer, Hahn, Iliq, Popovic, Hamp, Friedman, Gut, Svane, Ajeti, Gjinari, Blaku, Okuka, Koneski, Ismajli, Omari, Murati, Munishi etc. The scope of study by the above-mentioned linguists covered mainly the field of lexicon, phonetics and phonology, onomastics, although the fields of syntax or morphology have been treated less. Therefore, in this paper our focus is to present the results we have found during our research about the presence of morphological elements of Albanian language in the linguistic varieties of the minority population, basically Slavic speaking population, in the region of Prizren.

1.1 Methodology

In order to carry out a study of this nature dealing with linguistic interference, mainly that of Albanian language to Gorani or Bosnian linguistic varieties, we have searched into source literature where we have picked up examples illustrating the presence of Albanian language elements in the spoken language of this community, also the edited volume of songs and folk tales of the community in question has been consulted.

Examples which demonstrate the presence of Albanian language elements in the minority languages have been taken from the collection "Bijel behar – antologija pjesama bošnjačkih pisaca Kosova i Sandžaka" collected by Alija Dzogović; Harun Hasan's collection "Goranske narodne pesme" edited in 1987; AzirKuljić – Adžo "Pod vrvoj od Šar-Plajna (Pod vrhovima Šare)", edited in 2005 in Prizren; "Mostovi – čitanka za deveti orjentacioni razred" edited in 2005; "Iz goranske narodne proze" by Nazif Dokle, edited in 2003 by Alem Society in Prizren; "Čekmedže – meseljina, masalji, prikažne" by Ramadan Redžepari, edited in 2005 in Prizren. So in this paper we will present the comparative measurements about the fields which seem to have similarities with Albanian, say, gradability of adjectives and the way how a certain grammatical feature is used, and also we will demonstrate how the Albanian language forms affect these minority linguistic varieties.

2. Results of Grammatical Influences

The grammatical (morphological) aspect of Albanian which influences the spoken languages of Zheranica and Boboshčica according to Koneski (Murati, 1990), but is also used in the spoken language of Gorani people, like the plural of feminine nouns which take the ending – elike: *žene, duše, ovce, žabe, kraveetc.*, compare with Albanian *male, mure, vise, falje, dele, faqe, nuse, shoqeetc.* (Agalliu et al, 2002 & Mulaku, 2012), different from other spoken languages which with this type of plural take the morpheme *-i*: *ženi, duši, ovcietc.*

By studying the morphological aspect of pronouns of Serbian and Slavic languages in general which have had a contact with Albanian, Blaku (2012) highlights the fact that their first and second person singular forms as well as the reflexive forms appear almost regularly in their accusative form: *mene, tebe, sebe*, and not dative or locative *meni, tebi, sebi*:

- 1) a. "*Mene* su mi ga dali" (for *meni*);
b. "Ko ti reče *tebe*"; (for *tebi*);
c. "Ko što čini, *sebe* čini" (for *sebi*) etc.

for which Blaku (2012) says that " it should be considered as a grammatical interference from Albanian". This manifestation in Serbian dialects has also been mentioned by Okuka (2008). All these actually apply to Goranis' linguistic varieties as well.

From the studies conducted we have encountered Albanian adjective forms as well. As it is known, in Albanian language adjectives are divided in two classes – articulated adjectives (*i mirë*) and unarticulated ones (*besnik*). The presence of two such classes of adjectives is a characteristic of Albanian language only that cannot be seen in other Indo - European languages not even in Romanian. In the last one, as it is known, there is only one class of adjectives which are sometimes used as pre-articulated and sometime unarticulated depending on certain syntactic conditions. The formation of two classes of adjectives in Albanian has occurred as a result of an internal historical development of this language which at an earlier stage, just like other languages, had only

unarticulated adjectives. During the historical evolution of Albanian language, the distinction between articulated and unarticulated adjectives has become more and more evident and sustainable not only structurally but also in terms of grammatical features including their meaning and content. In Albanian language, the clear distinction between these two classes, according to Demiraj (1988), has been complete before its written version developed.

Here we can also talk about the replacement of synthesis with analysis especially at the comparative degree of adjectives when using the morphemes *poand naj*: *poubav, poubava, poubavo, poubaviand najubav, najubava, najubavo, najubavi*(mainly used in the area of Zhupa and Dragash) etc. Based on these things mentioned above, Blaku (2010) emphasizes that one of the most obvious and more characteristic features which differentiates the linguistic varieties being discussed about from the other Serbo-Croatian Shtokavian dialects is the analytical way of forming the comparative degree of adjectives as a grammatical category. Nevertheless, the analytical way of the comparative is dominant: *pokratak, pomlada, posposoban, posladaketc.*, comparing them with their equivalent forms in Albanian, like: *mëishkurtë, me e reja, mëiaftë, mëiëmbëletc.* (Angalliu et al, 2002). In order to provide more evidence that these forms are actually influenced from morphological formations of adjectives in Albanian we will present the right forms which are used in Serbian: *mladja, sposobniji, sladji*.

So, the Serbian dialects, which have been studied by Blaku, and the Gorani people's dialects, which make the object of our research, unlike the language they belong to, make an exception when it comes to using the right forms according to the standard language rules, therefore with this use they can be categorized within the Balkan linguistic league. Here can be included the comparative degree of adjectives formed by the morpheme *naj*, like: *najlep, najslan, najtezak, najbel, najmlad, najdobar, najlos, najucen, najgoljema* etc. Okuka (2008) emphasizes this characteristic of Slavic languages only for the region of Dukagjin and the region of Kosova, the areas where Slavic languages have come into contact more intensively with Albanian language during the course of history. Below we will give some examples which have been found in edited volumes in the folk spoken language of this ethnicity, like:

- 2) Majke oz sinoj:
mlade i **postare**. (Kuljić, 2005).
alb. **më të vjetra** comparing (com.) standard Slavic (st.sl) **starije**
- 3) Majka će najde **poarna**,
poarna i **povbava** (Džogović, 2011).
alb. **më e mira, më e miraandmë e bukura** com. st.sl. **bolja** dhe **lepša**
- 4) Cena im je **pogoljema**. Em meso im je **poblago**, em mleko, em vuna nemoraš da vapçuš, adelo od crna vuna je **povručo**. (Džogović, 2011).
alb. **më e madhe, më e ëmbël, më e nxehtë** com. st.sl. **veča, blaža, vruča**
- 5) Od dip duša potrefene,
ne znaet što je **poteško**. (Kuljić, 2005).
alb. **më rëndë** com. st.sl. **teže**
- 6) Čujek go ze jabuko i go preseče, ama ne na polojna, tuku jeno hise pojče, jeno **pomalo**.
alb. **më e vogël** com. st.sl. **malo** ose **maleno**. (Redžepari, 2005).
- 7) Na **najgoljema** frtuma
šarski platoj cepija. (Kuljić, 2005).
alb. **më e madhe** com. st.sl. **veča**
- 8) Šemsija dejka **najlična**,
Najlična i **najubava**. (Hasani, 1987).
alb. **më e bukur, më e bukur** and **më e mire** com. st.sl **lepša, lepša, dobra**

In the dialects of Gorani and Bosnian people some more similarities with Albanian have been found. In these spoken languages, but also in Macedonian, the infinitive is not used. Instead, they use the conjunctive with the particle *do*. To clarify this further, we will present the Kenski's examples (1965) :*dojde da vidi, neće da jede*, which Ajeti (1985) equalizes with their analogue forms in Albanian *erdhitëshohë, nuk do tëhajë*. In the spoken language in Dragash we have encountered these Albanian expressions, e.g.:

- 9) a) *Mu som kažaf* - (alb: *i kam treguar*);

b) *Ti som rekof* - (alb: *të kam thënë*);

c) *Mi si prevarif* - (alb: *më ke mashtruar*) etc. (Folks)

Comparing them with their regular forms in Slavic language (Vajzovic, 1994): *kazao sam mu, rekao sam ti, prevario si me*.

These forms have also been seen in the area of Zhupa and Podgur, but: *som mu kažaf/v, som ti rekof/v, si me prevarif/v*. Furthermore, to support this, we will give another example which is considered as an influence from Albanian by Okuka (2008), like:

10) *Če mu kažem* (alb. *do t'i tregoj*); and

Ode do u niva (alb. *shkoi deri në arë*).

As a potential influence from Albanian language we can take the instability of locative (locative case in Albanian has disappeared) and accusative. The latter has taken the role of locative in these linguistic varieties, including the Macedonian ones, because of the impact of Balkan languages on these dialects. Examples which prove this are taken from Ajeti (1985) who has found them in the Koneski's studies (1965), like: *kaj odiš? Kaj živeš?* In this group of languages, which have had the possibility of being influenced, belongs Albanian as well, because during its evolution it has suffered the loss of cases, in this case the loss of locative. We have also seen such cases in this area of research.

A potential influence of Albanian language on Serbian spoken language in Kosovo and Dukagjini region is given by Glisha Elezoviqi who says that under the influence of Albanian, a special development of demonstrative pronouns has occurred. Then Popović breaks them down and explains the impact coming from Albanian, where "Serbo-Croatian pronouns *ovaj, ova, onaj, ona, ono; ovakov, ovakva, ovakvo* have developed into *tavaj, tava, tavo* (we have also seen them as *tovaj, tova, tovo*— addition from Senad Neziri) from *eto + ovaj (ja ky), tanaj, tana, tano*

(we have also seen them as *tonaj – taonaj, tona – taona, tano-taono*— addition from Senad Neziri) from *eto + onaj (aj/ai), tavakav, tavakva, tavakvo*, (we have encountered them in use also in the area where we have researched – addition from S.N.) etc. , following the line of Albanian dialectal forms *q-aj* from *qe + aj*; *qaty* from *qe + aty* etc." (Popović, Albano – Slavica, XV, p. 523 – according to Omari, 1989).

For the spoken language in Gora, as far as the influence from Albanian is concerned, in the field of morphology, Idrizi (2012) says: these examples (*kuptujesh, prmirsualo, pondrushe* etc.) show the adaptation of Albanian words into the morphological system of Gorani people's spoken language. The verb *kuptujesh* (shq. <kuptoj – "razumijeti" , "shvatiti") has got the suffix *-ujesh* which belongs to Gorani language second person singular in the present tense. The same thing happens with other words as well.

Based on the studies conducted (Nesimi, 1986) and the findings in the terrain we have come to the conclusion that some other exclamations as well, which are used in the Slavic languages, are influenced from Albanian, like: *o-bo-bo, bobo, more, mori*.

3. Conclusion

Our study showed the presence of Albanian language elements in the spoken languages of Gorani and Bosnian people. After observing the speaking situations and the conversations we had with Gorani and Bosnian speaking people, we have noticed that this process takes place with their full awareness. One important thing to mention is that the presence of Albanian language elements and its influence in these minority languages is a lot more noticeable in the spoken varieties rather than the standard language that the members of these communities use for education. We have also seen that the everyday spoken language of Gorani and Bosnian people is considered as a dialect, whereas the Serbian and Bosnian standard languages are considered as standard languages.

With respect to morphological adaptations, our study showed that the plural of feminine nouns is formed by taking the ending *-e* (*krave, ovce* etc.), just like in Albanian (*dele, male* etc.), and not taking *-i* like in Serbian, Bosnian or Croatian (*kravi, ovci* etc.), also their first and second person singular forms as well as reflexive forms appear almost regularly in the accusative form: *mene, tebe, sebe*, and not dative or locative *meni, tebi, sebi*. Then our research showed how comparative adjectives are formed with the morpheme *naj* and *po*, like: *najlep, najslan, najteza, poubav*,

poubava, poubavo, and najubav, najubava, najubavo (used mainly in the area of Zhupa and Dragash) comparing them with their equivalent forms in Albanian, like: *më i shkurtë, më e reja, më i aftë, më i ëmbël* etc. During our research we have found some other influences from Albanian language on these minority spoken languages, like: the replacement of infinitive with conjunctive, the instability of the locative case and accusative where the accusative carries the function of locative, then the special development of demonstrative pronouns, word formation and some exclamations.

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