



Research Article

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Ideological Background of Political and Economic Entries in Explanatory Dictionaries of the Albanian Language

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Doi: 10.2478/jesr-2018-0033

Abstract

This paper analyses the explanations of the lexical units of the political-economic field in three explanatory dictionaries of the Albanian language and investigates the ideological element that appears in these lexical units. These political and economic lexemes in the Albanian language dictionaries of 1954, 1980 and 2006 constitute the corpus and the object of this research. Since the first explanatory dictionary of Albanian (1954) to date, in this 70-year period, the Albanian society has experienced a boom of political and social changes. However, different political and economic ideas and tendencies revealed during this period have been marked by certain words reflected in these dictionaries through various meaningful explanations. Of course, in this regard, certain political and economic ideologies of this period have also exerted their own impact. Thus, the particular vocabulary of political and economic fields, drawn from these three dictionaries, has been subjected to the analysis of semantic features according to the semic analysis method. Variants of the meaningful explanations of the concepts marked from one dictionary to the other have been observed, identified and compared through this technique. Consequently, by identifying and comparing the common and distinctive elements that characterize certain words, the ideological background in their semantic structure, which has interfered in the explanation of the meanings of the lexical units of these two respective fields, has been investigated.

Keywords: *Ideology, politico-economic vocabulary, explanatory dictionaries of Albanian: 1954, 1980, 2006*

1. Introduction

From a general perspective, almost everything is an ideology. Language reveals certain ideologies, thus becoming their bearer in the society. In this sense, even the linguistic science appears to be an ideology, i. e. a language ideology. The definition of the ideology itself as "the entirety of ideas, views and social beliefs, on the basis of which people determine their beliefs and actions", describes the extent of the influence of ideology on the lives of individuals and social communities" (Munishi 2018). Speaking of the issue of language normativisation, Rexhep Ismajli emphasises the socio-political factors and investigates the ideological background of the case which, in his view, is not only linguistic, but primarily socio-political, with implications of certain forces in the relevant society. In this regard, he questions the Einar Haugen's idea, who argues that the issue of the language normativisation should be dealt with, in the first place, by the linguists, but according to Ismajli, even the linguists themselves, as well as other scholars, belong to certain classes of society, have certain interests, as well as certain morals and ideologies, consequently, he does not see the normativisation of a language as only a concrete intervention in the structure, the channeling and the use of the language, but in the first place, as an interference in the social

organization of the speakers of that language. Therefore, "the normativisation should be seen as a confrontational action of certain forces in concrete societies, which sometimes manage to produce a certain linguistic argumentation, as an ideological production" (Ismajli, 1991: 305). Thus, it should be understood that the permanent influence that the ideology has on society in general, and linguists in particular is manifested in various forms in the language as well. Whereas the latter, according to Munishi (2018), "is often turned into the main tool for the realization of ideological goals." Thus, the ideology uses the language and its means of expression to manifest certain views and convictions, and thus exercise its influence on human communication. The language ideology, as a form of manifesting a certain ideological framework, becomes a powerful tool for spreading views and certain human ideas. The language ideological influence is one of the most illustrative examples of linguistic determinism. In linguistic, anthropological and sociolinguistic studies, this phenomenon is seen from different perspectives. The ideology is seen in close interconnection with language and linguistic phenomena, and these relations are manifested in the form of mutual influence" (Munishi 2018). The influences of ideology on the language in different forms are strongly manifested as language policies for the planning and the standardization of languages, in the realm of discourse. Hence, Teun van Dijk (2006: 115-140), analyzing precisely the influence of ideology on the realm of discourse, emphasizes that discourse, as the main tool of communication and social interaction, acquires and functionalizes certain ideologies, and thus becomes the main instrument of spreading and preserving those ideologies, which, already outlined in the discourse, are typically expressed through the subordinated structures, the pre-established tools, but also through other discourse steps that emphasize the good and silence the evil, through vocal and visual structures, lexicalization, syntactic structures, semantic actions, and so on. Thus, this author investigates the influence of the bias of the ideology of underlying mental models, and the social representations based on the ideology at all levels of text and speech (Van Dijk 2006). This close and permanent connection and interaction between ideology and language at all its levels is also emphasized by Augusto Ponzio, who argues that every linguistic message, due to its connection to the ideologised linguistic or non-linguistic codices, is much or less ideologised, both by the meaning and the way it is formulated, and by the meaning and the way it is understood (Ponzio 1978, cit. according to Munishi 2018). Thus, the language is influenced by a certain ideology and, subsequently, it serves it. Even Mikhail Bakhtin emphasizes that the criteria of ideological evaluations are applicable to every language sign, and according to him, there is an agreement between the field of ideology and the field of signs, and the sign of equality may be placed (Bakhtin 1980, cited in Munishi 2018). According to him, the theme of the ideological sign and the form of the language sign are inseparably linked and, of course, they can be distinguished only in abstraction (Ibid.).

Therefore, in regard to what has been mentioned above, we can conclude that in addition to the influence that the ideology exerts on the political, economic and cultural flows of a social community, it also influences the linguistic communication as well as the phenomena and the linguistic processes in general. In this context, "every decision concerning the language reflects the social ideology on which the attitudes and the evaluations of the language codes, used in different social and state entities, will be constructed (Munishi 2018). Consequently, concrete implications also appear in terms of the semantic explanation of words in various dictionaries, compiled in certain periods of action of a political ideology. This influence is larger in certain areas of human activity, hence, even the words which meaningfully cover the concepts in these fields reveal such ideological ideas. In this regard, it has been noticed that there are such influences especially in the words and terms pertaining to fields, such as politics and economics. This is because the vocabulary of these fields is explicitly related to the social condition of a given stage and "reflects the structure of society and its political stratification" (Lloshi 2012: 231). Furthermore, Munishi (2018) ascertains that in the case of the standardization process of Albanian, the ideology has been frequently used to build the rhetoric and the discourse with which the language policy in Albania during the socialist period has been elaborated. This ideological spirit is further manifested in the realm of vocabulary and in the compilations of the Albanian explanatory dictionaries of that period. "Political trends, social clusters and ideology, and socio-economic relations also find their expression in the composition of the vocabulary, moreover, even the values of the use of certain

words are distributed according to these clusters" (Lloshi 2012: 231).

2. Methodology: A Semic Analysis of Three Specific Cases

In order to see how these reciprocal interferences are manifested, and especially the influence of the communist ideology in explaining the semantic structure, the semantic features of a range of words of these two fields collected from three Albanian explanatory dictionaries of 1954, 1980 and 2006 have been analyzed. The selection of the dictionaries was done on chronological basis which corresponds to different socio-political developments in Albania. The first Dictionary of Albanian Language of 1954 which has 25000 entries was published only a few years after the placement of communist leadership in the Government of Albania hence their consolidation of power was at the beginning. The second Dictionary of Today's Albanian was published in 1980 with 41000 entries at the time when communist establishment had consolidated their political and ideological power. Ultimately, the last Dictionary of Albanian Language has been published in 2006 with 48000 entries. This dictionary has been published on the basis of the revised dictionary of 1980 when Albania has abandoned communist ideology and became democratic country.

Initial hypothesis were that it was to be expected that communist ideological impact was weak in the Dictionary of 1954, quite strong in the Dictionary of 1980 and with a sharp decline of communist ideology in the Dictionary of 2006. These assumption have laid the foundation for the research for the purposes of this paper. The empirical research was based on a random selection of 27 entries i.e. words of political and economic realm in the dictionaries and their comparison. The process aimed at identifying certain semantic sememes of selected entries which were noticed to have ideological influence. While comparing the same word from one dictionary to another, connotations or ideological loads, as constituent features of the sememe or the semantic structure of a lexical unit have been noticed.

The corpus of this research consists of these 27 lexemes: *anarkizëm (anarchism)*, *bllok (block)*, *borgjezi (bourgeoisie)*, *bum (boom)*, *burokraci (bureaucracy)*, *bursë₁ dhe bursë₂ (scholarship₁ and stock exchange₂)*, *demokraci (democracy)*, *demonstratë (demonstration)*, *destabilizim (destabilization)*, *diktaturë (dictatorship)*, *ekonomizëm (economization)*, *fashizëm (fascism)*, *imperializëm (imperialism)*, *kapitalizëm (capitalism)*, *komitet (committee)*, *komunizëm (communism)*, *konkurrencë (competitiveness)*, *liberalizëm (liberalism)*, *monizëm (monism)*, *parti (party)*, *privatizëm (privatization)*, *punëtor (worker)*, *pushtet (power)*, *regjim (regime)*, *revolucion (revolution)*, *socializëm (socialism)*, *udhëheqës (leadership)*.

The semantic analysis of these lexical units, which is done through the analysis of semantic features, will be reflected in the following part. In order to penetrate to the depth of the semantic structure of these words and to identify the smallest components of the meanings of these words, namely *sema* or *semantic feature*, the method of the semic analysis, based on and applied, in its beginnings, in the functional linguistics of the French authors, such as Martinet (1962), Pottier (1963), Galisson (1979) has been used. This method that relies on the opposition of units enters directly into the investigation of the meanings of a group of words that are part of the same semantic field. Through this method, we have identified the semantic relations of the vocabulary used as the object of study and analysis in this paper, in order to see the common characteristics and the differences of the analyzed words in the explanation of meanings in the three explanatory dictionaries of the Albanian language. By analyzing the semes of the same words reflected in the three explanatory dictionaries of the Albanian language, we have identified the meaningful elements connoted with ideological connotations of the period. In this way, the degree of influence exercised by a particular ideology of that period of time in explaining the meaningful entireties of the lexical units of the political and economic realms has been highlighted. The semic analysis of all the words given above has been done, and the overall results collected from their overall analysis are presented below. But, initially, let us see and discuss the results that derive from the analysis of three specific cases: *worker*, *economic* and *boom*.

2.1 Example

2.1.1 (The) Worker

In this context, the explanation given to the word *worker* in the Dictionaries of 1954 and 1980 is quite significant. These two dictionaries distinguish two meanings, according to the connotations, in the semantic structure of this word. E.g., in the *Dictionary* of 1954, the *meaning 1* has these senses: "in the socialist society..., man..., production work, working class, leader of the state, has in hand, with the people, production tools, factories; The *Dictionary* of 1980 extends the semantic structure of this sense by charging it further with ideological connotations, proved by these semantic features: "in the socialist society, the one who works continuously, directly in production, (in industry, in construction, in transportation, in distribution, and in various other services where the men power is used and the property belongs to all people); member of the working class, leading force of the dictatorship of the proletariat, plays the role of the hegemon in the society." Thus, the meaning 1 describes the *socialist worker*. Whereas the meaning 2 describes another type of *worker*. E.g., The *Dictionary* of 1954 gives this explanation: "in the capitalist society, the proletariat, the one who works for a daily payment, stripped of production tools, used and oppressed by the bourgeoisie", whereas the *Dictionary* of 1980 takes it further by extending again the structure of the sense, such as: "in capitalist countries, the one who works for a daily payment, used and oppressed by the bourgeoisie, the one who is stripped of the ownership of the production tools, the one who does not possess anything except his manpower which he is forced to sell to the capitalist to earn his living". Hence, in other words, this is the *proletarian*, who, according to the given examples, *is fired and starts a strike*. Seeing it from the black and white perspective, the first is *the good one*, whereas the second is *the bad one*.

The division of this word into two meanings, according to the ideological connotations, indicates not only a highly connoted description, but also a violation of the lexicographic methodology in the two above-mentioned dictionaries. Furthermore, this word, originally a professional designation, "in the late 1920, along with the word *workshop*, began to gain a social meaning, and in the World War II, it became a political term, but after the 1990s, it has been rapidly losing this meaning, furthermore the division into two meanings of the 1980 *Dictionary* (and the 1954 *Dictionary* - *my note*) already sounds not only obsolete, but also ridiculous" (Lloshi 2012: 231). Considering precisely this fact, the *Dictionary* of 2006 merges both of these meanings into one and gives the word *worker* a denotative (neutral) explanation by removing the prepositional phrases: "in the socialist society" and "in capitalist societies (countries)", and by treating "the daily payment work" as rightly natural. However, the *Dictionary* of 2006, where the semantic structure of this word extends from 3 meanings in the *Dictionary* of 1980 to 5 meanings, has not been able to completely divest this word from the connotative features that have already been emerging through examples, such as: "working class", "mind workers", etc. Here again, the ideological connotation is obvious. On the other hand, such an ideological load does not arise in the semantic structure of the word *employee* in any dictionary.

2.1.2 (The) Economisation

This term is not found in the *Dictionary* of 1954. In the *Dictionary* of 1980, it is given with a highly connotative meaning: "Reactionary, opportunistic and revisionist trend, ... which denies the fair relationship between the economy and politics, which underestimates the ideological revolution as well as the ideo-political education of the masses." And, moreover, the example has this connotation: "We fight against the economization." In the *Dictionary* of 2006, this term is completely cleansed of the ideological influence, but the meaningful explanation is narrow, such as: "a policy that gives priority to economic reforms". On the other hand, the words and terms pertaining to this semantic field, such as: *economy, economic, economically, economist, economize* (in all three dictionaries) and *economic-social, economic, economization* (in both last dictionaries), are presented with neutral semantic explanations in all three relevant dictionaries.

2.1.3 Boom

In the *Dictionary* of 1980, the word *boom* is also ideologically connoted. The last *Dictionary* clears it from these connotations by *cutting* the words and explanatory expressions with ideological connotations, although the semantic explanation is done based on the first *Dictionary* (The *Dictionary* of 1954 does not have this word). In order to see this methodological practice, let us analyze the word into semantic features by comparing it in both dictionaries:

Table 1. The complete semantic structure of the word **boom**.

Word	1954	1980	2006
BOOM		The immediate and temporary increase of production in capitalist countries, which is done in an unnatural way and with speculative diversities , in order to cope with the economic crisis. <i>The economic boom. The military boom. The boom of the automotive industry. The boom period.</i>	1. ec. The immediate growth of production with various tools to cope with the crises 2. fig. book. A flux or inrush of something: a <i>publishing boom</i> .
	0	1 meaning	2 meanings

Table 2. The semic analysis of the word **boom** in the dictionaries of 1980 and 2006.

Seme	increase	immediate	temporary	of production	capitalist countries	unnatural	with speculations	with tools	diverse / various	coping with the crises
1980	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
2006	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+

As you can see from table 1, the *Dictionary* of 2006 has not included the entire semantic spectrum that this word has developed in the recent years, even though it recognizes one meaning more compared to the previous *Dictionary*, because it acknowledges it *under 1* as an economic term, and *under 2* as a word used *figuratively* in the *bookish* discourse.

Table 2, indicates that out of the 10 determined semes, the term *boom* contains 9 of them in the *Dictionary* of 1980, and it lacks only one semantic feature compared to the *Dictionary* of 2006. From these 10 semes, 4 are common and 6 are distinctive. The semantic feature *coping with the crises* which is common for this term in both dictionaries, implicates the ideology as a relic from the previous dictionary even in the *Dictionary* of 2006, since it can hardly be argued that the phrase *economic boom* implies a *rapid development to cope with the crises!*

Despite the tendency to ideologically divest the word in the last *Dictionary*, the methodological approach that aims at constructing a new dictionary on the basis of a previous one, even looking at it superficially, without considering the distribution of the word or the term as well as the semantic development that the word has been subdued to in the meantime, turns out to be wrong, as in this case, where the semantic feature *coping with the crises*, which implicitly speaks about the ideology, has been drifted. So, there is a shift of error caused either by or because of the methodological theory and practice.

3. Discussion and the Results of the Analysis of the Semantic Structure

Without going further into the analysis of specific words, we shall now briefly provide the results of the analysis of this terminological corpus in the three mentioned dictionaries. The statistical data for the 27 words and terms under consideration resulted as follows:

In the *Dictionary* of 1954, out of 23 analyzed words (4 words do not show any ideological connotation at all), 12 of them or 52.17% have an ideological connotation, and 11 of them or 47, 82% are denotative. As mentioned above, these outcomes prove initial hypothesis that in the *Dictionary* of 1954 the communist ideological influence in the explanations of the entries i.e. words which were scrutinized was not so significant. One can assume that this is due to the fact that the communist regime was still consolidating its power, and it was in the beginning of political and

ideological homogenization of the Albanian society. The semantic explanations of those entries are to a certain degree neutral to ideological influence. However, in this dictionary there are some clear indications of ideological influence in the semantic structures of entries of political and economic realm.

In the *Dictionary* of 1980, out of 27 analyzed units, 23 of them or 85,1% have semantic features with an ideological connotation in their semantic content, and only 4 of them or 14,8 % are ideologically unbiased. The data show clearly that communist ideology influence was very strong in the explanations of political and economic entries of this Dictionary. It is quite clear that this Dictionary was published at a time when communist establishment in Albanian had consolidated its political, economic and ideological power hence the ideological influence was understandable.

Whereas in the *Dictionary* of 2006, only 2 words or 7.4 % have ideological connotative features, and 25 of them or 92.59 % have denotative semantic features. The last Dictionary which I have analyzed shows clearly that the communist ideological impact on the explanations of the entries has dropped sharply. This is certainly due to change of regime and ideology in Albania after 1991. However, taking into account that the last Dictionary was drafted on the basis of the Dictionary of 1980 some traces of previous ideological influence have sneaked their way into the last dictionary being reminiscent features of the past.

Table 3 below provides some data on the observed ideological influence of the entries which have been taken into analysis for the purpose of this research.

Dictionaries		1954		1980		2006	
Entries		With	Without	With	Without	With	Without
1.	<i>anarkizëm</i>	+		+			+
2.	<i>bllok</i>		+	+			+
3.	<i>borgjezi</i>	+		+		+	
4.	<i>bum</i>			+			+
5.	<i>burokraci</i>			+			+
6.	<i>bursë</i>		+	+			+
7.	<i>demokraci</i>	+		+			+
8.	<i>demonstratë</i>		+	+			+
9.	<i>destabilizim</i>						+
10.	<i>diktaturë</i>	+		+			+
11.	<i>ekonomizëm</i>			+			+
12.	<i>fashizëm</i>	+		+			+
13.	<i>imperializëm</i>		+	+			+
14.	<i>kapitalizëm</i>		+	+			+
15.	<i>komitet</i>		+	+			+
16.	<i>komunizëm</i>	+		+			+
17.	<i>konkurrencë</i>	+		+			+
18.	<i>liberalizëm</i>	+		+			+
19.	<i>monizëm</i>		+		+		+
20.	<i>parti</i>	+		+			+
21.	<i>privatizëm</i>		+		+		+
22.	<i>punëtor</i>	+		+			+
23.	<i>pushtet</i>	+			+		+
24.	<i>regjim</i>		+		+		+
25.	<i>revolucion</i>	+		+		+	
26.	<i>socializëm</i>		+	+			+
27.	<i>udhëheqës</i>		+	+			+
Number		12	11	23	4	2	25
Percentage		44.44%	40,7%	85,1%	14,8	7.4	92.59

The analysis of the corpus show clearly the strong connection of political, social and ideological factors and their change with the ideological influence in the entries of economic and political realm. This outcome can be expected taking into account that social change is often manifested very strongly in political and economic realm. Hence the ideology which drives a potential social change

is expected to exert strong influence on politics and economy of a given society.

According to these data, it can be noticed that the curve of the semantic explanation with ideological implications starts at a lower percentage in the first dictionary, it rises significantly in the second dictionary, and it is severely downgraded in the third dictionary. The tendency of the percentage increase from the first to the second dictionary indicates that the political and economic ideology has been significantly strengthened, which appears as a background in the semantic explanation of political and economic units. Obviously, the consolidation of power by the political regime enabled a stronger ideological influence on all realms in Albania. Taking into account that the political elite had a background on the Marxist ideology, the latter has, by all means, influenced the semantic features of the entries we analyzed. In this respect, we would also like to emphasize the fact that these same dictionaries have been used in the Albanian inhabited areas in former Yugoslavia, namely Kosovo, Macedonia, and Montenegro. Thus, the same ideological reflection has been extended in these areas as well. The analysis shows clearly that the change of socio-political and ideological environment is reflected on the language to the extent that the ideology shapes the modification of semantic features of certain lexical units. Subsequently, the modification of semantic features, i.e. the semes, influences the modification of meaning and expression of the ideological background. Furthermore, the analysis of the Albanian explanatory dictionary of 2006 indicates and gives clear examples that the change of socio-political and ideological systems is largely reflected on the language change. Naturally, almost three decades after the collapse of communism, the last *Dictionary* has been justly cleaned out of the previous ideological reflections, although in a low percentage, this *Dictionary* still reflects the previous situation, which indicates that it was compiled based on the previous dictionaries. However, as mentioned above, there are more problems of another nature in this *Dictionary*, such as the narrowing of the semantic structures of political and economic units, which implies that the distribution and the semantic developments that these words have been subjected to in the meantime, have not been taken into account. Furthermore, the development of semantic features in the recent *Dictionary* shows an ideological adjustment to the new ideology on which new political elites are based, namely the liberal ideology.

4. Conclusions

As a conclusion, the general data from the analysis of the semantic features of these words show that the semantic explanation of political and economic units in the Albanian explanatory dictionaries results to be made according to a rather traditional lexicographic methodology, especially in cases when the words are meaningfully divided according to the ideological connotations. The semantic explanation of these words reflects attitudes i.e. it is not denotative. Consequently, the language ideological constraints manifested in the semantic structure of these words as well as in the stereotypical illustrative examples, have transformed these lexical units into a hardened and highly connotative lexical background, which in most cases reveals the communist ideas and views influencing the language theories and practices. This is also revealed by the analysis of the semantic feature, which, as John Lyons claims (2001: 439), has a *cognitive value* indicating the reality of using a particular word. According to Lyons (pp. 439-440), each feature is the determiner of a reality, in the sense that it is determined by the existing social status of a society in which the word is used. The semantic analysis of the connoted words reflects precisely these characteristics; moreover, such an analysis is indicative of the political and economic goals of the political and economic system of the time. Thus, the semantic explanation in these cases is guided by a political basis, because in these dictionaries, especially in the first two dictionaries, "the words were intentionally given certain terminological, euphemistic, emotional, taboo type, etc., explanations" (Thomai 2006: 90). This also implies the ideologically based semantic explanation, which means that the ideology has influenced the explanation of the semantic structure.

From the analysis of the semantic structures of this lexical corpus turns out that the *Dictionary* of 2006, compared to the other two, shows an advancement in regard to this component of the content description of the words, although this is frequently done quickly, without including the entire range of the use of the word, and without considering the extra-linguistic contexts of its use, which is why the explanations result incomplete, corrugated, and consequently, occasionally

incorrect. Nevertheless, given the scientific advancement of semantics and lexicography in the recent years, it still leaves a lot to be desired, not only with regard to the rigorous scientific explanation of the terms and the words, but also because of the narrowing of the semantic fields of the words caused by the lack of filling in the sememes with the appropriate semantic elements, hence the semantic entirety of the word remains incomplete. The analysis have shown clearly that social, political and ideological changes which have taken place in Albania after the World War II to date have had their impact on linguistic developments more precisely on explanatory dictionaries of Albanian language.

Electronic explanatory dictionaries of the Albanian language, on the other hand, are also based on the *Dictionary* of 1980 (FESH and online: <http://www.fjalori.shkenca.org/>). (It is also the electronic dictionary prepared by Terminal Albania <http://terminal.al/sq/produkte.html>, based on the *Dictionary* of 2006). Nowadays when the use of the electronic forms of scientific communication is immense, the Albanian language still uses dictionaries that have been compiled according to a more than 30 years old methodology. Therefore, even in this respect, it is necessary to review the things, so that the users of the Albanian language are provided with dictionaries that give accurate and complete semantic explanations of the required words. So, not only the very small number of words with which the Albanian dictionaries operate, but also the accurate and complete provision of their semantic structure, with meanings with which the words are used in different contexts, constitute an immediate and indispensable need for the Albanian lexicography.

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