Affixed Words With Derogatory Meaning in English-Albanian and Albanian-English Dictionaries

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Abstract: Albanian has a lexicographic tradition of 400 years old and a valuable fund of over 500 dictionaries. Regarding bilingual dictionaries, it can be compared with countries, whose lexicography is really developed. English lexicographic tradition dates back to 1680s. Dictionaries are not only evaluated by the volume of words they reflect, but also by the lexico-pragmatic groups, relating to definite conceptual fields that are reflected by maintaining the proportions and scales that are set among these groups. The words in bilingual dictionary can be reviewed even by the emotional connotation criterion. The words are divided into two big groups. In neutral words that do not have in their semantic structure emotional semas and words with emotional connotation. Words with emotional connotation are not only an inseparable part of speech among people, but they are also found in bilingual English-Albanian and Albanian-English dictionaries. The more words, the dictionary's macrostructure has, the more words with emotional connotation it will have. In this paper we treat the pragmatic subgroup of affixed words with emotional derogatory meaning in English and Albanian, and Albanian-English dictionaries, focusing on similarities, differences and the lexico-semantic relativization phenomenon between them. This contrastive analysis emphasizes the fact, that they belong to two different language families and these languages differ in important ways from one another.

Keywords: lexicography, monolingual, bilingual, dictionaries, English, Albanian

1. Introduction

The history of Albanian lexicography and linguistics in general. begins with a bilingual dictionary, the Dictionarjum Latino-Epiroticum(Kostallari A.1970).

Since that time, to the middle of our century about 100 dictionaries have been compiled, but almost half of them were never published, so from the historical point of view there exists an Albanian lexicography in manuscripts, which preserves its value up to our days. All these dictionaries are bilingual, some of them are also multilingual(Lloshi XH. 2011).


For, the English Dictionary, like the English Constitution, is the creation of no one man, and of no one age; it is a growth that has slowly developed itself adown the ages. Its beginnings lie far back in times almost prehistoric. And these beginnings themselves, although the English Dictionary of to-day is lineally developed from them, were neither Dictionaries, nor even English. As to their language, they were in the first place and principally Latin: as to their substance, they consisted, in large part at least, of glosses. Latin was in Western Europe the only language of books, the learning of Latin the portal to all learning. (Murray J.1900).

"The first author who named his Latin compilation Dictionarius was apparently John of Garland (c.1195-c.1272). The large and popular Latin dictionaries from the Middle Ages have titles such as Elementarium (i.e. for beginners), Derivationes (i.e. assembling word-families), Catholicon (i.e. a comprehensive collection), Medulla (i.e. the quintessence), etc. The term 'dictionary' came to be used more frequently in the course of the seventeenth century." Later Johannes Balbus of Genoa was "the first lexicographer to achieve complete alphabetization. A dictionary in every language is
compiled to give information whether a monolingual or a bilingual dictionary. The type and purpose of using this information, the structure of the presentation and access, life expectancy and opportunities of updating, its width, etc. determine the type of vocabulary. Dictionaries are not assessed solely by their volume (or number of units they reflect), but also by the paradigmatic lexical groups (relating to certain conceptual domains). Words in a bilingual dictionary can also be seen by the criterion of emotional coloring. Because words emotional coloration are not only an integral part of colloquialism among the people, but they are all found in bilingual dictionaries English - Albanian and Albanian English. We have presented and analyzed examples of the paradigmatic subgroup of words with deteriorating emotional meaning, formed by means of negative affixes, as in English and Albanian, dictionary compiled by Pavli Qesku in 2002.Albanian – English dictionary compiled by Pavli Qesku, [Tiránë 1986, 442 pp.] and English-Albanian- Dictionary by Pavli Qesku Tiránë 1999 , Oxford English Albanian Dictionary -, 2000, approximately 70,000 units), compiled by Leonard Newmark, in terms of comparison between these two languages.

2. Beginnings of English and Albanian lexicography

The history of dictionary making for the English language goes as far back as the Old English period. The earliest dictionaries in the English language were glossaries of French, Italian or Latin words along with definitions of the foreign words in English. It should be noted that the word “dictionary” was firstly used in a manuscript of Latin words by John Garland in 1225. An early non-alphabetical list of 8000 English words was the Elementarie created by Richard Mulcaster in 1592. (A Brief History of English Lexicography, Peter Erdmann and See-Young Cho, Technische Universität Berlin, 1999.)

Based on Robert Cawdrey’s A Table Alphabeticall first published in London in 1604, as well as a very useful introductory essay on the lexicographer's life and work, we understand that it is regarded as the first fully developed representative of the monolingual dictionary in English. Nathaniel Bailey was famous for his "Universal Etymological English Dictionary, published in 1721. Later two of the greatest names in lexicography are Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) and Noah Webster (1758-1843). Johnson, the English writer, poet, biographer, and critic, produced his great Dictionary of the English Language in 1755. Although it was not the first English dictionary, it was certainly the best and the most complete up to that time. Webster’s two-volume 1828-th dictionary, “An American Dictionary of the English Language”, was by far the largest and most impressive dictionary in America up to that time.

In Albanian the western tradition of dictionary-making began with the Greeks when changes in the language made many words in the literature unintelligible to readers. According to Kostallari 1970, the history of Albanian lexicography begins with the, the Dictionarjum Latino-Epiroticum, published in 1635 with about 5000 words in Latin and 2500 in Albanian. From then, to the middle of the 19th-century about 100 dictionaries have been compiled, but many were never published. All these dictionaries are bilingual, some of them are also multilingual. For a long period of time dictionaries served as one of the ways of defending and cultivating the Albanian language. Together with a few religious translations and several poetic creations, they constituted the Albanian literature and even the study of Albanian(Xhevat Lloshi). The bilingual dictionaries testified to the fact that the Albanians had become conscious of the threats to their culture and were trying to protect and promote it. Later C. Christophorides, compiled a specific type of Albanian dictionary, which at the same time served as bilingual dictionary([Kostallari 1968. Lloshi 1977). This specific type was later followed by the Dictionary of the “Bashkimi Society” (1908) and that compiled by Hondro (Lloshi 1982).

3. The classification of dictionaries

The classification of dictionaries is a very important aspect of lexicography "bearing a direct practical significance” (Shcherba in Srivastaba 1968) to the preparation of dictionaries) [http://www.ciil-ebooks.net/html/lexico/link5.htm]). The entire work of dictionary making from the planning stage to the preparation of press copy, at its different stages, collection of materials, selection and setting of entries and arrangement of entries and their meanings is largely governed on the basis of which the dictionary is classified. Dictionaries can be classified into different types on the basis of several criteria, varying from the nature of the lexical entry to the prospective user of the dictionary. Their relationship to foreign language learning, and the typology of bilingual dictionaries. Starting from Shcherba’s typology focusing on the active-passive dichotomy, the four major functions generally assigned to bilingual dictionaries are discussed: reception in TL; + production in SL; production in TL; reception in SL + production in TL.
3.1 The main criteria for the classification of dictionaries

- Density of entries:
- The number of languages involved:
- The nature of entries: whether lexical only or also encyclopedic
- Axis of time: whether diachronic (dynamic) or synchronic (static)
- Arrangement of entries: alphabetical or semantic or causal.
- Purpose: whether normative or referential.
- The prospective user: whether meant for the general reader to find out general linguistic information or for special users to know some special aspects of the lexical unit say etymology etc.? Is it meant for the general language or only for the language of literature, the language of some author, or the language of some of his works?

Although a typological classification is essential, it is impossible to delimit the types into a strict water-tight framework. When we analyse any entry we usually find that many characteristics of different types of dictionaries have been included in it. There is a large amount of overlapping in different types of dictionaries. Although there is no clear cut division between the scope and the coverage of the dictionaries, there are dictionaries with definite focus on some aspects of the language.

3.2 The main types of dictionaries

- semasiological and onomasiological perspectives
- monolingual, bilingual and multilingual dictionaries
- concordances,
- terminology dictionaries
- lexica
- thesauri
- encyclopaedias
- lexical databases

3.3 The main parts of dictionaries

According to Dafydd Gibbon, the architecture of a dictionary consists in:

-Megastructure: It is the overall structure of the whole dictionary, consisting of the front matter (title, introduction, metadata on publishing house, publisher, date of publication, etc.) abbreviations and basic explanations, for example a mini-grammar, the actual body of the dictionary with its semasiological or onomasiological information and the back matter.

-Macrostructure: It is the organization of the lexical entries in either lists (semasiological dictionaries), tree structures (onomasiological dictionaries) or networks (electronic or online dictionaries). A semasiological dictionary can also be called a reader’s dictionary, as it explains the meaning of words, and decodes them. It consists of a list of a definitions of words, mostly also contextual explanations are given. The macrostructure of a dictionary is, first and foremost, the ordered list of its entries.

-Mesostructure: It is the set of relations between lexical entries and other entities such as other parts of a dictionary or a text corpus. It links all the individual entries together within the microstructure and it also links the entries to other parts of the dictionary such as or a text corpus.

-Microstructure: It is the consistent organization of lexical information in the dictionary. The structure of each individual lexical entry, the information on the structure of the word, the organization of the lexical information content, pragmatics, semantics
4. The nature of bilingual dictionaries

Of all specialized dictionaries, the bilingual group is the most serviceable and frequently used. With the rise of vernacular languages during the Renaissance, translating to and from Latin had great importance. The entire work of a bilingual dictionary involves providing equivalents to the lexical units of one language by the lexical units of another language i.e. "coordinating with lexical units of one language those lexical units of another language which are equivalent in their lexical meaning" (Zgusta L 1971). Before starting work on a bilingual dictionary, a detailed planning is respect of its purpose, coverage, and audience should be done by the lexicographer. The purpose of the dictionary should be clearly defined. It's aim should equally serve the purpose of the speakers of both the source and target language. It should be designed to serve the speakers of the source language only, or the speakers of the target language only. It should aim to help in comprehension or in production and for who, the source language speaker or the target language speaker.

A primary problem in the composition of a bilingual dictionary is to decide whether the work is intended primarily for the speakers in our case of Albanian language or the speakers of English language. It is clearly impossible to pay equal attention to both English speakers and Albanian speakers in one and the same work. Equally revealing is the remark by (Haas 1967), "Thinking they are preparing a dictionary for the speakers of both languages, they may easily end up producing a dictionary which is not useful as it should be to the speakers of either language".

Another point to be noted about the purpose of the dictionary is whether it is prepared for the use of scholars or for student or for layman. Generally speaking a dictionary which pursues exclusively one of the possible intentions is a rare phenomenon. "It is possible only in a language with abundant lexicographic resources or in situations which do not allow another solution. The dictionary is planned as to be helpful in more than one respect". (Zgusta L. 1971).

Another point related to the dictionary designed with the speakers of the source and target language in view is the language of direction in the introductory part as also with each individual entry. If the dictionary is meant for the speaker of the source language, the introduction and direction should be in the source language, but if it is meant for the target language speaker, it should be in the target language.

For example, in an English Albanian dictionary meant for an English speaker the direction should be in English. Similarly in Albanian English Dictionary meant for an English speaker the direction should be in English. But if the same dictionaries are meant for the speakers of the source language the direction will be in the source language. The dictionary for the comprehension of the texts aims at the understanding of the foreign language text. It may be called the general bilingual dictionary. Such dictionaries have large word list which includes not only words of general nature but also argotisms, archaisms, in some measure the necessary special terms and neologisms. Each word is given with all its possible meanings. The description of the entry is very short, its sole purpose is to give the meanings of the source language words. Collocations and illustrative examples are not given. Only literal equivalents in the target language are given. their relationship to foreign language learning, and the typology of bilingual dictionaries. An entry from Oxford-English dictionary would make it clear:
Unad’visableness (f. prec. +-ness.) The quality of being unadvisable: a.a Of persons.
1771 Wesley Wks. (1872) V. 476 As he grows in pride, so he must grow in unadvisableness and in stubbornness also.
b.b Of things. In recent use (1891–) also unadvisableness (for earlier inadvisableness).

1833 Gen. P. Thompson Exerc. Il. 374 In proof of the unadvisableness of permitting the extension of manufacturing industry. 1841 Craik in Pict. Hist. Eng. iv. vii. IV. 853/1 The impossibility or unadvisableness of carrying it [the Licensing Act] rigorously into execution. 1877 M. Arnold Last Ess. on Church 217 The unadvisableness of using the occasion of burial for passing sentence of condemnation…against the particular person dead.

The dictionary for production, on the other hand, although it might contain a comparatively smaller word list, provides a detailed description of the entries. The user is furnished with more details of usages and collocations. It contains more details of morphological and syntactical features,

An entry from English-Albanian Dictionary (Pavli qesku) would make it clear:
Disarm{dis’a;m}I kal dhe fig Çarmatos. (1) .To disarm oneself vevt çarmatosem.To disarm s.o. of his rifle ja heq pushkën dikujt. To disarm.s.o with a smile fig e bej per vete dike me nje buzeqeshje.II jokal Çarmatosem. Disarmed mb i çarmatosur.Disarming I mb. Çarmatoses;qe ti për krahet,fig qe te ben per vete. She had a disarming manner ajo te bente per vete me sjelljen e saj. Il jokal Çarmatoses;çarmatim.-ly ndajf. He was disarmingly frank ai te çarmatos me çhtersine e tij. Disarmament{d’á:m m’ont} em Çarmatim.. General disarmament çarmatim i pergjithshem. the presentation of meaning in bilingual dictionaries.

Starting from the late (John Sinclair’s 2004) motto that meaning is the only thing that is ultimately worth bothering about in language, Arleta Adamska-Salaciak shows how recent advances in corpus linguistics and in cognitive linguistics have impacted the field of bilingual lexicography. The relation between the source language item and the target language item. Levels and degrees of equivalence are discussed, as well as the status of glosses, which are useful when a target language item is less well-known in the target-language culture than the corresponding source-language item in the item. 2) The problem of word choice arises inevitably while compiling any dictionary for no dictionary can register all the words of a given languages. It includes only some groups of lexis leaving aside another ones.

3) While making bilingual dictionary the three problems appears dealing with arrangement of words according to their external forms being arranged strictly in alphabetical order. It is not an ideal one for words that being not correlated are put together or words that being semantically related are dispersed in different parts of dictionary, that’s why you can’t follow properly the structure of the language lexical system. As a result one can’t find words signifying one notion or some relative notions in alphabetically arranged dictionary. (L.V.Malachovsky in Lexicography, lectures 2004) stressed out some more disadvantages of bilingual dictionaries: a) such as alphabetic reference books are only translating ones for they explain word’s meaning only through equivalents of another language. However due to peculiar historical development of every language and conditions of its development, the system of meanings of one language doesn’t coincide with the system of meaning of analogous word in another language. It is clear that simple enumeration of translating equivalents of a word doesn’t produce distinct idea of its whole volume of meanings, b) bilingual, translating dictionaries show extremely rare words’ distribution, i.e. that typical verbal surrounding, that syntactical model in which the given meaning of the word only may realize.

All these demerits of bilingual dictionaries are related with one of the central problems of any national lexicography, i.e. the problem of the norm.
The norm, is linguistic reality that exists objectively in the given language.

Compiling a dictionary to start with any lexicographer should solve one or another problem of language and norm. Thus solution depends upon both as coverage of registered words in the dictionary and some devices of its processing which
in its turn forms total scientific value of any lexicographic work. This problem of norm is rather complicated in many aspects. L. P. Stupin outlines some questions to be solved:

- objectivity of norm existence
- adequate reflection of language reality in a dictionary
- objectivity and inevitability of language changes
- a role of lexicographer while he/she registers facts of language and speech
- lexicographer’s attitude to idea of language perfection and improvement
- maximum of units number and coverage
- material processing devices included in any dictionary.

Actually any reference book may be considered to be reliable when it truly reflects, treats and interprets facts of language in the given language group at the given moment of life.

6. Affixed words with derogatory meaning in Albanian-English and English - Albanian dictionaries

Compiling a dictionary is a scientific task, so it is very difficult for his compiler to obtain excellent results. According to Samuel Johnson, the most famous dictionary compiler of the 18-th century “Every other author expects to be praised, whereas the dictionary compiler can expect just not to be offended, but even this is achieved by a few”.

A dictionary of every kind is compiled to provide information. Type and purpose of using this information, structure of the presentation and access, life and opportunities of its updating, at the most, determine the type of a dictionary. Dictionaries are not assessed only by their volume (or the number of units that it reflects), but also by the paradigmatic lexical groups (associated with certain conceptual areas) that are reflected by maintaining the proportions and scales that are placed between these groups. A good knowledge of word-formational principles of any foreign language is essential because it can compensate the absence of some entries that is impossible in the native-to-foreign dictionary and besides supplementary material with data on word formation can be very helpful.

Words in a bilingual dictionary can also be seen by the criterion of emotional coloring. Words are divided into two major groups, the neutral words (that do not have emotional semas in their semantic structure) and words with emotional connotation. Since words with emotional coloration that not only are an integral part of discourse between people, but they are found in all bilingual dictionaries English - Albanian and Albanian English. Whereas their number in one or another dictionary depends on the type of dictionary. The more words its macrostructure has the more words with emotional coloring it will have. In the compilation of bilingual dictionaries by Pavli Qesku and also Oxford Albanian-English Dictionary by Leonard Newmark as well as monolingual dictionaries as oxford English dictionary and Albanian-Albanian dictionary 2006 we have analyzed affixed words with derogatory meaning, their similarities and differences in form and meaning respectively as well as lexico-semantic relativity phenomenon between this equivalent derogatory words and these two languages in the mean time. In bilingual dictionaries it has been done a systematic comparison of these two languages, because by this way can be determined, the elements that draw the two compared systems nearer, and on the other hand on this basis, are scientifically compared even those elements that make them distinct and eventually represent special difficulty during translation. Different languages have different lexicons (vocabularies), but the important point here is that the lexicons of different languages may classify things in different ways.

Theoretically in the biggest English- Albanian and Albanian-English dictionaries bilingual dictionaries for every negative English word the compiler has tried to find a corresponding Albanian one and vice versa. For instance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Albanian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asymmetrical-asimetrik, josimetrk</td>
<td>Asimetrk-Asymmetrical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiallergic-antialergjik, kundéralergjik</td>
<td>Antialergjik-antiallergenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decentralize-decentralizoj, shpërqëndroj</td>
<td>Decentralizoj- to decentralise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discaled- i zbat hur, kembezbat hur,</td>
<td>Zbat hur- barefoot,(child) Unshod(horse)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lliberal-mendjengushђ, zemërgushђ,</td>
<td>No-exact negatively prefixed equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shpirtvogël, i preshkolluar,i paedkuar,i paghdhendur, kumac, dorërrudhur,</td>
<td>form of dictionary definition from Albanian into English if we start from the examples presented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrational-i paarsyeshem, joracional, ndaif.paj</td>
<td>paarsyeshhem,- unreasonable.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 2 shows a word with a negative affix in English and its equivalent in Albanian and vice-versa. We have presented one example for every negative affix, translated and compared those words in terms of formation and meaning.

As it can be noticed there are cases in which the dictionary compilers have found the exact equivalents in terms of formation and meaning. Moreover they have translated with a borrowed term, that is starting with exact negative preposition. In a few cases we have not found the same negatively affixed equivalents, since the two languages represent two distinct realities and here can not be fully exact translations and full symmetry of the two dictionary sides.

The authors have used all the methods and strategies of translation required for a very good dictionary of this size, which is very useful for researchers, lecturers, and students of English Language in Albanian and why not to Englishmen enhancing their Albanian studies.

7. The linguistic relativity between English and Albanian

The principle of linguistic relativity holds that the structure of a language affects the ways in which its speakers are able to conceptualize their world. Popularly known as the Sapir–Whorf hypothesis, this principle is generally understood as having two different versions: (a) the strong version that language determines thought and that linguistic categories limit and determine cognitive categories and (b) the weak version that linguistic categories and usage influence thought and certain kinds of non-linguistic behavior (Hoijer 1954).

The principle of linguistic relativity and the relation between language and thought has also received attention in varying academic fields and it has also inspired the invention of constructed languages. English speakers think about the world in different ways from Albanians. Albanian is spoken by a small population and its lexicon is smaller than the English, and for this reason during the translation process lexical or semantic equivalents are often unavailable. English has many words, idioms and a Phraseologic riches that Albanian does not have, because English life is different from the Albanian one. English is an analytical-synthetic language, whereas the Albanian parenthetic-analytic. Based on these criteria we arrive on the conclusion that there is incompatibility during translation. This is the reason why we face linguistic relativity. English has many terms which are borrowed in Albanian. English is international, Albanian is a national language. The linguistic relativity notion is a phenomenon of distinction between English and Albanian that results from differences in language, culture, history, way of thinking etc.

Fundamental differences between these two languages exist, since the language spoken by a person has an active influence of that person’s world view. The two languages belong to different language families, so they represent two distinct realities. Countless difficulties in translation derive from this diversity due to the differences noticed in grammar, syntax, and lexicon.

English and Albanian differ significantly in their interpretations of experience - both in the means of expression they select for the representation of this experience as well as how they arrange these means. These interpretations of experience influence thought so English think differently from the Albanians. Even if both languages share many
underlying, abstract linguistic universals, there are often large differences in their syntactic structures and in their lexicons. The theory of linguistic relativity is universal and can be used in the comparative analysis of two different languages, not only English and Albanian. (Shahini M. Memisha V. 2011) A lexicographer faces linguistic relativity and this holds true even for the English-Albanian Dictionary and Albanian-English dictionary by Pavli Qesku and oxford dictionaries. The examples presented form these this dictionaries, including individual words, collocations and sentences, especially words with derogatory meaning, show that the theory of linguistic relativity is universal.

8. Conclusions

Since no two languages are identical, either in the meanings given to corresponding symbols or in the ways in which such symbols are arranged in phrases and sentences, it stands to reason that there can be no absolute correspondence between languages. Hence there can be no fully exact translations.

The total impact of a translation may be reasonably close to the original, but there can be no identity in detail. One must not imagine that the process of translation can avoid a certain degree of interpretation by the translator. We can say that “A translation remains a direct form of comment.

Language is always changing, evolving, and adapting to the needs of its users. This isn’t a bad thing; if English hadn’t changed since, 1950, we wouldn’t have words to refer to modems, fax machines, or cable TV. As long as the needs of language users continue to change, so will the language. The change is so slow that from year to year we hardly notice it. Our inevitable conclusion is that full symmetry of the two dictionary sides is neither possible nor desirable.

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