



Research Article

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Syntactic Issues of the Dialect of Rohovec and Its Surrounding Area

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Abstract

In Albanian dialectology, research in the field of syntax is scarce. The authors of ADGJSH (Dialectological Atlas of the Albanian language) had researched the fields: phonetics, morphology, lexicon, but had left out syntactic issues. The purpose of this paper is to review syntactic issues from the dialect of the Rahovec area. The study was conducted in the municipality of Rahovec, with special emphasis on the dialect of Ratkoc, Krushe and Rahovec. The issues that have been elaborated within this research are the syntactic constructions: the noun "people" (njerëzia), the preposition "in"(në) and "above"(mbi), the particle "with"(me), the preposition "of/ by"(prej), the preposition "from"(nga), the preposition "in"(n), the preposition "through" / beyond "(tej/përtej), the short form "me" (më), the conjunction "how" or "how much", the semi-auxiliary verb "start, begin and catch", the verbs "have and to be", the conjunctions "just, or, otherwise, or ... or". The results also show that in many cases interrogative sentences are used without the presence of the adjunct of place and in many cases, we use foreign words and distortions in sentence construction. Based on the results, we can say that the dialect of Rahovec is quite rich in syntactic constructions. Prospective researchers may have issues that have never been addressed before in this region.

Keywords: syntax, conjunction, verb, preposition, part

1. Introduction

In general, in countries where the Albanian language is spoken, there is little research that has given scientific attention to the syntactic aspect. It is known that dialectological changes affect sentence construction, or in other words syntax. As many dialectologists have pointed out, "it is known that morphology and syntax constitute the linguistic whole called grammar" (Agalliu, Angoni, Demiraj, Dhrimo, Hysa, Lafë & Likaj, 2002, p.53), the main differences between Albanian dialects are mainly **phonetic** and **morphological** and less **syntactic**. The authors of the book Dialectology (Gjinari & Shkurtaj, Gostorani & Beci, 2007) did not pay attention to the phonetic and morphological field as part of grammar. In the monographs compiled for the Albanian dialects, their compilers also made some syntactic sketches, such as the case of Mulaku "The dialect of Shala e Bajgores" (Mulaku, 2005), but many of them did not even make any syntactic sketches.

So, based on the studies so far, we have noticed that researchers have paid little attention to syntactic sketches, they are mainly focused on phonetics and morphology. Therefore, in this paper we will try to bring some syntactic differences, which we have noticed during various studies.

Given that it is impossible to do studies involving large regions, due to the many differences that

are often also from village to village, in this study you will find a syntactic outline, based on the villages of Ratkoc and Krushe (of Rahovec) as well as the city of Rahovec itself. Based on the study of Dulaj (2016) who has addressed these issues in the form of sketches, it is said that the syntax of the area of Ratkoc and Krushe does not present any difference in relation to other northeastern dialects. Syntactic differences appear mainly in the dialect of the city of Rahovec, Dulaj (2016).

The questionnaire on syntactic variation in Albanian dialects, or the Guide for research in the field of popular syntax, published in the Institute of Linguistics and Literature (1987), is the path on which research in the field of dialectological syntax is being carried out throughout Albanology, and it was an aid or orientation to the issues addressed in this paper.

2. Methodology

The current research is based on the experiences of our ancient researchers. Albanian dialectology has a tradition in dialectological research, here we can mention the research done by E. Çabej, J. Gjinari, Gj. Shkurtaj, I. Ajeti, L. Mulaku, Q. Murati, R. Mulaku etc. The Dialectological Atlas of the Albanian Language (DAAL) published in Naples in 2007, remains a guide for research in this field. The data collection tool is unstructured interview, free conversation with subjects. The subjects are not defined in advance they are members of the case. Two genders over the age of sixty were included in the interview.

3. Noun and Verb Phrases Recorded in the Dialect of Rahovec

According to the field research, it turns out that in the dialect of Rahovec and its surroundings, the predicate verb appears in the plural number "gjinja ken qut" ("folks were awake"). The name folks in the phrase "people were awake" appears "folks were awake", or in the singular "the man was awake". It follows that we have not heard the summary name of mankind, but the phrase "the people were awake" has helped us to say this.

The noun of the accusative case with the preposition "in" and "over", which is followed by the other noun in the accusative case or by an adjective, in this dialect remains in the indefinite form, such as: *he fell on the shore of the stream (ra n'breg t'prronit)*, *he went to the smith's hill (ra n'koder t'kavaçit)*, *He climbed the Prizren fortress (hyji n'kala t'Perzerenit)*, *he entered the old house (hini n'shpi t'vjeter)*, *in the yard of dulve (n'oborr t'dulve)* etc..

4. Objective Phrase in the Dialect of Rahovec

In the dialect of Rahovec, almost, in the whole area, in the three areas, the two forms of the phrases "a bag of wheat" and "a bag with wheat" are heard to be used in parallel, such as: I borrowed a bag of wheat, but also the other form with particle "with", such as: I borrowed a bag with wheat.

Regarding the construction of the phrase "wooden spoon", in the dialect of Rahovec two forms are heard: with the preposition *from* (used in two forms *pi* and *pej*); *I have a wooden spoon that my husband made for me (e kam ni lug pi drunit qi ma ka maru burri)* *I have eaten beans with a wooden spoon (kam haqer pasul me lug pej druni)*, and without prepositions; (*I have amassed the grease with a wooden spoon (e kam mledh thynin me lug druni)*).

The adjunct of the restriction in the dialect of Rahovec is not constructed by means of the preposition *by*, but by the preposition *from (pej)* of the accusative case; *Uncle Halit was big by stature (daja Halit a kan i madh pej shtati)*.

The phrase "he lost his mind" ("ka luajtur nga mendtë"), in the dialect of Rahovec is heard in two forms; *He lost his mind (ka lujt mensh)* without the preposition of the accusative case and not infrequently: *he is out of his mind (ka lujtë pej menve)* with the preposition of the accusative case of (*pej*). If we refer to map 139 of Dialectological Atlas of the Albanian language –ADGJSH (2007, p.427), point 35 also comes out with the preposition "of" (*pej*).

When the subject is accompanied by a noun in the accusative case, as in the question of the questionnaire "The grandfather left with his son", in the dialect of Rahovec and the surrounding area, the predicate verb appears in the plural; *father and son set off for the mountains, Bajrami and his nephew boarded the bus.*

Regarding the subject-predicate adaptation, according to the word order in the sentence, in the dialect of Rahovec and its surroundings it appears: *they all got what they deserved* (*si i miri si i keqi barabar e ka pas hakun*), i.e. the predicate verb appears in the singular: *all hands and the cook followed my lead* (*mas meje ka ardh dreqi e i biri*)

5. Circumstantial Sentence

The adjunct of place, which shows the direction of the movement, in the dialect of Rahovec and its surroundings, is always used with prepositions, such as: *I've headed to Prizren* (*rash n'Prizren*), *I've headed to Rahovec* (*rash n'Rahovec*), *I've headed to the valley* (*rash n'rrafsh*), *I've turned to faith* (*rash n'din e n'iman*), *I've fallen into a rag* (*rash n'cerg*) etc.. In other cases it is also used with prepositions; *I went to Rahovec* (*shkova n'Rahovec*), *I went to Perzeren* (*shkova n'Perzeren*), *I went to the market* (*shkova n'pazar*), *I went to a wedding* (*shkova n'darsem*), *I went to express my condolences* (*shkova n'pame*), *I went to congratulate them* (*shkova n'perher*) etc..

The usage of adjunct of reason in the dialect of Rahovec and its surroundings is different. The older generation tends to preserve the old form, which is used in most of the northeastern Gegërisht (Albanian old dialect), which forms the adjunct of reason without prepositions: *he is starving* (*diq uni, ka dek uni*) etc., whereas the younger generation, found under the pressure of linguistic and extralinguistic factors, tends to construct the adverbial of reason with the preposition "of" (*prej*), such as: *he's dying of hunger* (*diq pej urie*), as well as: *I'm dying of heat* (*plasa pej vape*).

In the dialect of Rahovec and its surroundings, but also in other dialects around, the preposition: **"through" / "beyond"** (*tej/përtej*), is heard to be in the accusative case. The speaker of Rahovec and other speakers around this dialect use the forms: *through / beyond the road* (*tej/p'rtej rruges*), *through/ beyond the mountain* (*tej/p'rtej malit*). The preposition "across" (*matan*) is used quite often, as well; such as: *across the street* (*matan rrugës*), *across the stream* (*matan prronit*) etc. Such situation is presented in the data of ADGJSH, in the map 138 point 35 (ADGJSH, 2007, p 426). Regarding the use of the locative case, Rahovec's dialect with the surrounding area seems to have lost it for some time.

I have not heard the use of the locative case, in the whole area of Rahovec. In the dialect of Rahovec with its surrounding area these kind of expressions are heard: *he went to the mountain* (*shkoj n'mal*), *he climbed the mountain* (*hupi n'mal*), *he climbed the tree* (*hypi n'lis*), *he climbed the nut tree* (*hypi n'arr*), *he drowned in the water* (*u myt n'uj*), (*he drowned in the mud* (*u myt n'lloç*) etc.. It should be noted that in the older generation and rarely in the younger generation, in the dialect of Has, we have heard the use of locative case, such as: *he drowned in the water* (*u myt n'ujt*), *he drowned in the mud* (*u myt n'lloçt*), *I met him in the sandy roads* (*n'rrugt e zallit e zateta*) etc.

The dialect of Rahovec with its surroundings in almost all cases repeats the object through the short form of the personal pronoun, such as: *He looked at them with binoculars* (*Ai i kqyrke me dyrbi*) / *he wrote the letter and handed it to me* (*ai e shkrujti letren e ma dha n'dor*). The short form of the first person singular with verbs of the imperative mood has an enclitic use, e.g. *throw it to me* (*xhuma*); *take me to Dejnë* (*çomë deri n'Dejnë*) / *hold my hand so I can stand up* (*kapma doren t'çona*) / *lead me* (*primë p'r para*) / *bring me some water* (*bjerma ni pik uj*). Regarding the association of the demonstrative pronoun with the name in the speech of Rahovec with the surroundings, the syntactic structure is dual, i.e. both forms use the association with the noun in the indefinite form, but also the association with the noun in the definite form, e.g. ...: *that boy is coming* (*aj djali po vjen/ aj djal po vjen*) / *this boy said* (*ky djali tha*) / *that boy said* (*ai djal tha*) / *that girl left* (*ajo çika u nis*), *that girl is not to be listened to* (*ajo çik s'ngohet*).

In this dialect, time-dependent clauses are not constructed by means of the non-definite form of the type "as soon as he came" (*me t'ardhur*). Characteristic for this dialect is the formation of sentences

by means of the conjunction as(si) or as soon (sa), e.g.: *as soon as he came, he took her by her hand (si erdh atje, e mori p'r dore) / as soon as he got home, he called out loud (si hini n'shpi thirri me t'madhe)*. In this dialect, the time clause constructed with an indefinite form of the type "a saying "(një të thënë)" is not used. Even in this case the time clause is constructed by means of the conjunction as soon as (si /sa), e.g.: *he left, as soon as he said (si tha, u nis)/ he hit it, as soon as he saw it (si e pa i mshoj)/ as soon as descended, he was killed (si u lshu posht u vra)/ he died, as soon as he got inside (sa hini mrena e lshoi shpirti)* etc.

As for the compound verbal predicate, inclined by the semi-auxiliary verb **begin(filloj)**, **start(nis)** and **catch (zë)**, in the dialect of Rahovec and its surroundings, the indefinite form of the past participle of gegërishte (old Albanian dialect) always comes after these verbs, such: *he started to shout (nisi me bertit), he began talking (nisi me fol), he started walking (nisi me hec), he started to cry (nisi me kajt), he started singing (nisi me knu), he started drinking (ia nisi me pi)* etc.. Even in the interrogative sentences, their formation is usually heard with the form of the infinitive of gegërishte against the standard conjunction, such as: *where to go? (ku me shku?) what to do? (shka me ba?) why come? (pse me ardh?)* etc.

I have also heard changes in the syntax of the sentence in the verbal forms (instead of the active form the passive form is used). Thus instead of the verb have I heard the verb am e.g.: *Am I blame (Am I to blame?) (A jam une faj (a kam unë faj?))*. There are cases when the definite form of the name, speaker or writer in Rahovec (only within the city of Rahovec) is used in the indefinite form and at the same time the predicate verb does not fit the corresponding form, e.g.: *Father Shtjefn return from church (At Shtjefn (Haxhijat, 1957) kthen prej kishe)*. Such syntactic constructions are regularly heard in the city of Rahovec as: *when tomorrow is, I am going to go to Xhakovë. (tomorrow) (kur po bahet neser du me shku n'Xhakovë. (të nesërmen)). I am on leave until the thirty first (thirty-one) (Jam pushim deri me tridhte t'parin (tridhjetë e një)), etc*

6. Sentence Constructed with Prepositions për (for) and prej (from)

The dialect of Rahovec, as well as other dialects in northeastern Gegërisht, has built the adjunct of place by means of the preposition **from(pej)** which morphologically belongs to the ablative case, while in the standard it should be separated from the preposition of the accusative case **for(për)** e.g.: *Are you coming to go home? (A po vjen shkojm prej shpie?), Shall we go to home? (a shkojm prej shpie?), Shall we take the cows to home? (a i nisim lopt prej shpie?), The market is closed; shall we go to home? (u kry pazari a shkojm prej shpie?)* etc. Instead of: *Are you coming home? (A po vjen shkojm per shpi?), shall we go home? (a shkojm per shpi?), shall we take the cows at home? (a i nisim lopt per shpi?), The market is closed, shall we go home? (u kry pazari a shkojm per shpi?)* etc. To indicate the origin (place of birth) of a person or a tribe even in the dialect of Rahovec and the surrounding area, as in the whole northeastern Gegërisht (old Albanian dialect), speakers use the preposition of the ablative case for example: *I am from Drenoc (un jam pej Drenocit), I am from Zaçisht (una jam pej Zaçishtit), I am from Vrajak (une jam pej Vrajake), I am from Ratkoc (un jam pej Ratkoci)*, etc.

In both areas (Ratkoc and Krusha), in the function of the subject, the second noun is indefinite and is at the end of the sentence after the object, while in the dialect of the city of Rahovec the second name is definite and is at the beginning of the sentence before predicates eg: *Mulla Shiap was his name (His name was Mulla Shaip) (Mulla Shaipi ka pas emnin (e ka pas emrin Mulla Shaip))*. In Rahovec, the definite form is often heard instead of the indefinite form, e.g. *I am meeting him this week (I am going to meet him this week) (Qit javen po takoj (këtë javë e takoj))*; in this case the noun week should be functioning as an adjunct of time, by getting defined in accusative case with the preposition this, it switches to function as an object.

There are cases when the adjunct of place is created with the preposition *for* in the accusative case, whereas in standard Albanian language, it should be a noun in ablative case with the preposition *from*, e.g.: *he was bleeding from his nose (I dilke xhak per hunsh, i dilte gjaku prej hundësh), he grabbed him by the ribs (e kapte per brish)* etc. In Rahovec the use of the present tense for the future tense is

often heard He is finding the document, (he finds the document) (Ai po gjet dokumentit, (ai ta gjen dokumentin)). Even in the Rahovec dialect with its surrounding areas, as in other northeastern dialects, the masculine nouns that make the plural with *-e* take masculine adjectives, for example: a high mountain, two high mountains (ni mal i nalt, dy male t'nalta); a deep well, two deep wells (ni pus i fell, dy puse t'fella).

7. The Order of Words in Some Sentences

In the dialect of the city of Rahovec, mainly in the older generation, I have heard the use of a noun in the nominative case in the definite form accompanied by the indefinite article *one /a* (ni (one)), instead of the noun in the indefinite form in the nominative case, e.g.: We have been to a teacher to learn the letters (Jimi kon te ni msusi me msu germa); One first party we have been six months (We have been the first party for six months) (Ni partia e para neve jemi kon gjasht muj (ne kemi qenë partia e parë gjashtë muaj). The use of indefinite article *one /a* (ni (një)) when the noun is in the definite form even when the noun is in accusative case form is a common phenomenon in the dialect of the city of Rahovec e.g. *They gave me one empty gun. I know the gun is empty: they are scared without a reason* (Ni pushken pa fishek ma ka dhan. Pi ni pushken e that di: vet po tuten), etc. The adjuncts of place with the preposition in (n') and with nouns in the accusative case are also created, e.g.: He fell in the water (ra n'uj), He fell in a holle (ra n'grop), He fell in the basket (ra n'kosh), the wolf fell among the sheep (ra uki n'er dhen), He was blocked in the road (u zatet n'rrug), fell flat (u rreu n'rrafsh) etc.

In the dialect under consideration I also heard the sentence with the feminine pronoun inclined by pronoun in the masculine gender e.g.: *This girl is being nasty* (Ky çika po lazdrohet) / encountered in the dialect of roman minority in Ratkoc, Malësi e vogël). In the dialect of the city of Rahovec I have also heard noun groups that did not fit the demonstrative pronouns in the case with the noun ahead, for example: *I am meeting those imam in the street* (Po takoj kta hoxhen n'rrug); while for denoting cause relations, the preposition *by/from* (pej, pi) is used: *He was parched* (u ter pej s'thati), *he descended from the mountains* (zhdrypi pej bjeshke); *He was burned by the sun* (u poq pi dillit), *he went pail from fear* (u saritav pi tutes), *he was warmed by alcohol* (u nxe pi rakie) etc.

Even in terms of the construction of verbal forms, the dialect of the city of Rahovec, differs compared to the dialect of the other two areas, Ratkoc and Kusha. I happened to hear syntactic constructions like: *We were happen to be in Prishtina selling grapes* (**Jem çillu** n'Prishtin tuj shit rush.) instead of active form, *we happen* (kemi çillu). *Pirates have enters to rob the church* (Kusaret e kan hin me plaçkit kishen); (the participle of the verb “**entered**” does not match the auxiliary verb “**have**”, e.g.:) (*have enters for have entered or entered*). As shown in the map 126 të ADGJSH(2007, p. 376), the future perfect in this area, as in many dialects of northeastern Gegërisht, is built through: auxiliary verbs *have* + past participle of Gegërisht, such as: I am going to go (kam me shku), kam me lidh (I am going to to bind), but also the participle form of the type: to bind (për me lidh), to untie (për me zgjidh), to hum (p'r me livru) etc.. Even map data 127.a/2. (ADGJSH, 2007, p. 378), that explain the realtive form of the verb “to wait” (t'pres) are consistent with the examples I found in the field.

Coordinated sentences with adversarial relations are widely used in the dialect of Rahovec and the surrounding area, for example: *They arrived in Prizren after us, but also after us Father Gjeçovi with friends arrived* (Mbas nesh ia mbritën në Prizren por dhe mbas nesh kishin mri dhe At Gjeçovi me shokë (Haxhija, 1957).

Even the sentences joined with segregating conjunctions, just like the other conjunctions, find dense use in the dialect of Rahovec and its surroundings. Among the conjunctions that are often heard in this dialect are: *only* (viç), *or* (ose), *instead* (apo), *either* (ja...ja) e.g.: *If I could only get my hands on you, boy!* (O ti djal viç mos t'zafsha.) *I don't know what to tell you, I'm only going to ask at home* (Un nuk di shka me t'than, viç po ves n'shpi) *Lutnja me u forcu e me bo kast qi nji pun per me punu, ose me bo kast per me u lut e me bo dua, All-llahit per me nis evradin* (Risalet Sheh Maliqi). (*Strengthened the prayers and to make them a cause to do a duty, or do the prayers to worship Allah, so we may start daily duty that Muslims have to do a certain amount every day for Allah*). *Either you come or I come* (Ja hajde ja po

vij) etc.

In the dialect of Rahovec and the surrounding area, interrogative sentences are used without the presence of the adjunct of place, in this case the speaker or lecturer is aware of the interlocutor's conclusion: *Did you go? (A shkove?) Did you work? (A punove?) Did you see? (A e pae?) Did you stay? (Aa ñejte?) Where you there? (A kee?)*

The time dependent sentences in this dialect are constructed through time conjunctions, but also from those that are in function of time conjunctions e.g.: *Before westart daily duty that Muslims have to do a certain amount every day for Allah, we should sing this tenacity. (Risalet Sheh Maliqi). When I arrived home, she wasn't there (Kur erdha n'shpi s'e gjeta), We were tired to death, until we went there (Derisa kemi shku na erdh shpirti n'fyt). He humed from dusk to dawn (Ka livru pej sabahut dej n'akshom); It started raining as soon as I went out in the garden (Si dola n'oborr ia nisi shivi). As soon as he sattled, he died (Sa i bani señet, diç.), ect.*

The dialect of Rahovec is rich in words that are related to locations, such as: *You reach for the place where you feel pain (Ku dhem dhami shkon guha).*

In the dialect of Rahovec with its surrounding area, even the dependent comparative sentence is heard and found in the written form, such as; *Evradi pa azimet me u kendu, si namazi pa nijet nuk bohet kabull. Evrad was sung without azim, as prayer without intentions is not accepted (Risalet Sheh Maliqi).*

Of concern are the forms of foreign word formation, which are being introduced through invisible flows, such as the media. Almost every day you can hear constructions like: *I thank the citizen who gave us this information. Instead of: We thank the citizen who gave us this information. We phone the mayor of Prishtina. Instead of: We call the mayor of Prishtina. We are calling the mayor. If I am not mistaken. Rather than: I was wrong. Have a good time! Instead of: May you have a good time!*

At the end of this paper we can say that the research of syntactic variation in the dialect of Rahovec must be very fruitful. This means that there is sufficient material and data for further study on these issues.

8. Conclusion

By following the path of the guide for research in the field of syntax and comparing with the maps of ADGJSH we can draw these conclusions about the syntactic constructions in this linguistic area:

1. In general, the dialect of this region has syntactic constructions that match the syntactic data of other northeastern dialects.
2. The speech of the city of Rahovec, inside the city, syntactic constructions are heard which are different from other areas, due to the situation of bilingualism.
3. There are cases when for the same syntactic issue are heard both variants posed by the guide for syntactic research, one construction, with more frequent use.
4. Overall it seems that syntactic constructions are moving towards general harmonization.
5. Finally, we can say that young researchers can extract numerous syntactic data from this dialect, which may be of interest to dialectology and albanology in general.

Research in this area are important to define more precisely the state of applied linguistics. This proves that linguistics is a field that can be explored at any time.

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