

Similarities and Differences Between the Albanian and English with Regard to the Word Formation Process

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Abstract During recent decades the links between Albanian and English have increased steadily. English as an international language, even as a first language in the society with which the Albanian is faced in every field life ,scientific, economic, cultural, political, military, etc. is the object of study with much interest to be treated and to be observed from different and inclusive denominations. The lexicon of standard Albanian, as well as that of the English can be surveyed from several directions: it can be analyzed by examining the lexical layers that make it up, and the functions they perform can be studied in the entire system of language, the internal development processes and movements that occur can be detected, morpho-semantic and stylistic processes of various word-formation methods can be treated etc. The aim of the paper is to analyse and compare Albanian and English by the word formation viewpoint. The paper highlights the affixed formations , finding similarities and differences in this area.

Keywords: Albanian; English, language, comparison, affixation.

1. Introduction

Studies, deployed in the field of structural semantics, combine elements and methods of synchronic and diachronic semantics. Synchronic semantics studies of the meaning of the word, whereas diachronic semantics studies the inner and outer movement of the meaning.

These studies can seize diverse fields and can be made for different purposes. Knowing that many elements of language formation are itself gained in the course of the natural practice of linguistic communication, many other elements and rules of the overall system of knowledge are acquired through knowledge tenure on linguistic research.

During the process of English acquisition as a foreign language, as well as in translation, among English speaking students and Albanian speakers originally face the lexical semantic structure of it. Lexical structures of both languages, have their peculiarities and distinctions, which appear among other assets in the disproportionate volume of lexical and semantic property of Idioms, phrasal verbs etc..

English is not only one of the languages with the highest level of processing and standardization in all subsystems, but it differs from the Albanian even by the steady speed of growth and functional voluminous means of expression. Formation of new words, as an immediate response to developments in the multilateral denominators of the material spiritual intellectual and aesthetic world, make the English language with the most powerful status today. This is reflected very quickly in different dictionaries, published in Anglo-American world, especially in national explanatory dictionaries and terminology in those who are leading suppliers of the best general lexicon.

Even the Albanian language in the last century has undergone extraordinary developments. These

developments are shown in the last two decades, especially in two directions: the continuous enrichment in dealing especially with the lexicon of languages with which it has significantly increased contacts.

If we look at today's language print media, in publications of various fields of science, art, etc., we realize that Albanian is rapidly forming new lexical and semantic units being faced with a very large number of new notions.

2. The Systematic Character of a Language Lexicon

Language, as the most important mean of communication among people in society, as an indispensable mean of horizontal and vertical sharing of information and the organization of all intellectual and spiritual material activities, is in itself a sub-system. With the horizontal exchange of information we mean language communication between people at a given moment, within a time frame and usually meaning oral language communication, and with the vertical exchange of information we mean the exchange of information from generation to generation, from a historical stage and also social communication to one another usually through language text.

Ferdinand de Saussure asserts that "language is a system, all parts of which are solidary, and in which one's value only emerges from the simultaneous presence of the other." Ferdinand de Saussure as a researcher and founder of Structuralism in linguistics, extends for the first time the systemic character even in lexicon, claiming "that the value of each term is determined by what surrounds it (Saussure, 2002, p. 74).

It is now accepted and scientifically argued that the lexicon of a language is not a simple collection of words, but a system of units, which are classified according to their viewpoints and under different criteria. Numerous studies, conducted in living languages across the globe, show that even within the lexical system we can find at least two subsystems, the lexical subsystem and the semantic subsystem.

Lexical subsystem itself consists of two subsystems: that of words and that of idiomatical units. A subsystem of words through a scientific taxonomy can be divided into lexical classes, these groups into lexical paradigm, groups in subgroups, etc, hence giving us a hierarchy where we not only see the embedded principles of the classification criteria, but they give us the impetus of undertaking specific or intertwined studies.

Moreover the vocabulary of a standard language, in our case that of Albanian and English can be viewed in several ways: The lexical layers that make it up can be distinguished, the functions they perform in the entire system of language can be studied, the internal development processes can be detected, the movements that occur, the connections of words, etc.. One such study is done in order that the lexicon of Albanian language is owned well and used actively, easily and with certainty. Many elements of language formation are gained itself in the natural course of the communication practice, but many others as the overall concord in the system are acquired through possession of scientific knowledge about the language.

In Indo-European languages, in which English and Albanian are included, such systemic sections can be easily discovered:

1. Lexicon viewed as the source of words, implies two major paradigmatic groups of units: the group of lexical units concerning the native or autochthonous vocabulary and the set of borrowed lexical units. During the streams of history, relations between people have affected language. This is observed directly in the lexical system. The history and etymology of a language separates the borrowed elements from individual elements generating two major layers: The individual layers and the borrowed layers. English is a Germanic language and has inherited from the German a basic fund of words, but it has created with its own dough and its formative means, hundreds of thousands of words during its own development. It has not only received new terminology from Ancient Greek and Latin, but also general lexicon because of the historical contacts, especially during the invasion of England in XI century by the armies of the Roman Empire. This great division can be easily observed in Albanian, for which if we say that it is an Indo-European language, it should not be understood that all of its lexical property fund is the legacy of old Indo-European. In this language there are words which are inherited from its mother, the Illyrian and those it created itself when it was abstracted from it, during the period between the fourth and the sixth centuries.

2. The lexicon surveyed by its use, meaning a variety of criteria and therefore a variety of groups, as paradigmatic group of the active vocabulary and the paradigmatic group of the passive vocabulary (here we may make further classifications associated with the diatopic, diachronic and diastratic development of a language).

Within this classification we can make other classifications (divisions and groupings), such as vocabulary by frequency of use (including active lexicon with the basic vocabulary and passive vocabulary (where we may distinguish the old layer of the lexicon, archaisms, historisms, barbarisms, but also the layer of new words that have not yet become the property of all bearers of the language and are not codified in explanatory dictionaries, otherwise called neologisms); lexicon according to the purpose of use (including the general vocabulary and Terminological lexicon) (Thomai, 2006, p. 270)

3. The lexicon surveyed according to the relations at the rate of standard language, which means two sets of large lexical units: the group of units that are the norm and the group of units that are not the norm (usually meaning dialectal and regional lexicon) (Thomai, 2006, p. 272)

4. The lexicon surveyed according to the formation, also including, two major subdivisions: the base words group and the derived words group. At the second group, relying on the methods and types of word-formation, we observe the derived words, compound words, words obtain by conversion, and for Albanian, also the words formed by pre articulation (Thomai, 2006, p. 174). Words with a suffix in the Albanian language are more numerous than those with a prefix, because Albanian has more suffixes than prefixes. In the work of Alexander Xhuvani and Eqerem Çabej "Albanian language suffixes" (1962) are included about 170 such, most of which are productive (Agalliu, Demiraj, Domi et al, 2002, p.56)

So if we study two of the most prestigious publications of the University of Oxford, "The Oxford Dictionary of English", which includes more than 500,000 words and phrases and over 70,000 illustrative examples (Oxford, 2004, p.), 2.5 million citations and the "Oxford Thesaurus of English", which include the 600,000 lexical units, we note that many units participial adjectives, as well as their equivalents in Albanian, are not reflected (Oxford, 2004).

3. Lexicon as a Process

Ways of vocabulary enrichment:

- a. Morphological Enrichment: Word-formation
- b. Borrowing
- c. Semantic Enrichment

Lexicon is the most wide open subsystem, the most mobile in language with many occurrences and problems, since it directly reflects changes in society, in all areas of life such as technology, science, culture, etc. The lexical system of language develops and enriches continuously. Changes and developments in the lexicon are so fast and so frequent, that can be observed by speakers of a generation (Thomai, 2002, p.320).

Changes in the lexical composition of a language are of two directions: the lexicon does not only expand with new incoming units, but also faces the phenomenon of outcoming by the use of old words, as archaizms, historizms etc. Moreover in these movements with opposite directions, the most important, is the incoming process, not the outcoming, because the newly created words, are more numerous than those not used anymore, so the lexicon is ever-evolving too.

Adding new words in a processed language (also called a standard language or a unified language) or as it is otherwise called, the enrichment of the lexical inventory, done in different ways, among which the most prominent are (Lafe, 2003, p.249):

- the creation of new words, with the dough and formative tools that owns a given language;
- the acquisition of words from territorial and social dialects and their establishment into the rate (becoming part of the standard vocabulary)
- the borrowings, especially when words are historical and cultural borrowings, and not linguistic ones. The Albanian language is hospitable towards foreign languages, especially the English and with the emigration phenomenon, toward italian and greek, from which it has borrowed and will borrow words for which it can find their equivalents. Many denomiations in the field of information technology, finance, market economy, business, modern art etc., which today have a separate development, enter the Albanian with the concepts that they express and in the meantime filling the vocabulary vacua. This borrowing has its enriching value, but, if it is done without any control or barriers, it will turn into a harmful phenomenon for Albanian language, especially when the spoken discourse or the lexical layer of general use are filled with foreign words. The Albanian today, unlike English that is a compelling language, is the compelled language in this regard. In the last two decades in its lexicon have entered thousands of words, which often appear as a serious threat because they do not bring niether marking values, nor expressive or stylistic ones. There are more linguistic borrowings with their equivalents in Albanian language, coming from the press and with the beginning of the century from the internet. Therefore efforts should be made

to prevent the borrowing of words from other languages or to avoid the use of foreign words, when Albanian possesses popular words, with the same sense, used accurately and clear to its speakers. General activity of writers, journalists, political and social activists, people of culture and art, the standard language enrichment and cleansing, are concretized even with the substitution of foreign words with Albanian ones.

4. Formation of Words in English and Albanian Language

Regarding the word-formation, in this paper it is analyzed the morpho-semantic phenomenon of affixes as well as the major formative opportunities that these two languages have, which relate to production methods, the specimen and formative tools.

Languages are both Indo-European, but they differ, which defines the authenticity of each one. Among other things, relying on grammatical form, the Albanian is a synthetic-analytic language, while English is an analytic-synthetic one. This structure has its own determinations even in the word formation process. Thus in English we have a pronounced tendency to create verbal expressions, verbal collocations, verb plus noun, verb plus preposition, determined on the order of the members in a Syntagma (as a means to express grammatical meanings), and the Albanian has a very pronounced origin. Albanian has about 170 suffixes (Xhuvani, Cabej, 1976, p. 53.) and around 80 prefixes, generally active for the new words' creation, a relatively large number, for a language like the Albanian with a small number of speakers.

However, even English has hundreds of formative active affixes (prefixes and suffixes) of its own or borrowed, especially when the latter behave as "like affixes" and from a Latin or Greek source, etc. Even in Albanian these affixes nowadays may be active and productive, but not always. Morphological studies reflect accurate descriptions of them (Shehu, 1999, p.110). The scholar H. Shehu in the article "The technique of reading in English" introduces a chart with prefixes and major suffixes of standard English.

But in the Albanian language thinking we do not have everywhere the same consequence of conception for enriching the vocabulary through word-formation.

Word-formation is regarded as the process of the formation of words with larger dimensions, more complex than simpler words, shorter, because they are added to the to the word-formation theme usually morphemes. Classical Studies in English contrast the simple word with the complex word.

Simple word is conceived in terms of root (root is a constitutive element, undivided without adjustment or inflexions) or as a word - root (word-root that consists of a root, a themes and inflexion).

Below we proceed with a review:

A. In the work "Gramatika e gjuhës shqipe", a publication of the Institute of Linguistics and Literature, and the Academy of Sciences of Albania, in the first volume containing the morphology and the morphology of inflection, is stated that the formation of words in Albanian language has these main the ways :

1. Derivation, with its subdivisions:
 - b. Prefixal Derivation
 - c. Suffixal Derivation
 - d. Affixal Derivation
 - e. Derivation without an affix
2. Articulation
3. Composition
4. Compounding
5. Conversion
6. Mixed Modes
 - a. Compounding and suffixation
 - b. Composition and suffixation
 - c. Articulation and suffixation
 - d. Articulation and Affixation
 - e. Articulation and Compounding.

Without any elaboration, expansion or addition of information, below is a new grouping emphasizing that the above word-formation methods are divided into:

- a. Morphological methods, which are: Affixation, Articulation and composition (Agalliu, Demiraj, Domi, 2002, p. 60).
- b. Non-morphological methods that are Compounding and conversion.

B. The linguist J. Thomai, regarding the paradigmatic groups of words, classifies Albanian words according to the construction in base words, in derivative words, and in compound words. This author divides the derived words into two other major groups in derived words with affixes and derived words without affixes. In the latter he introduces the derived words with Articulation, as well as conversion (Thomai, 2006, p. 169).

The scholar R. Memushaj, which is guided by the Anglo-American language school, claims that the vocabulary enrichment is done through three ways: by enriching the semantic structure of words with new meanings, by creating new words by means of word-formation; borrowed words from other languages (Memushaj, 2006, p. 281).

Further this scholar acknowledges that the formation of new words by means and ways of word-formation or the morphological origin, is the most productive way of enriching the lexicon with lexical units. The most popular ways of word-formation that according to him are studied by the lexical morphology, are derivation with affixes, and compounding, although there are other ways that play a minor role in enriching the lexicon, blending, acronyms and backformation (Memushaj, 2006, 282).

R. Memushaj includes the conversion phenomenon in the means of semantic derivation (Memushaj, 2006, 193). He states that “conversion is the passing of a word in another part of speech”. During this passage, the word does not only change its morphological and grammatical functions, but also its lexical meaning. This way of semantic derivation is widespread, especially in English, where nouns and verbs have the same form: (Memushaj, 2006, 194)

For e.g. “the work” - “puna”, “to work”- “punoj”, “the design”- “vizatimi”, “to design”-“vizatoj”, “the wish”- “dëshirë” , “to wish”- “dëshiroj” etj.(Fjalor Anglisht Shqip P. Qesku, Tiranë, 2002, P. Qesku, Fjalor shqip - anglisht, Tiranë, 2002, L.) .

5. The Most Import Ways of Word Formation

Derivation means the formation of new words through a formative theme and a formative formant. Words created in this way are called derived words. As means for the formation of words in this way they serve as prefixes, suffixes and infixes, which are added to the formative theme, and may also be the root word or a derived word. In all cases, the structure of the derived word is binary, ie. it always consists of two elements: the theme and the affix. For example, përafrim(albanian)-Approximation(english) although the word contains some affixes, from the a formative perspective it is binomial, where the member representing the theme is dissolved itself into another binom and so on until an indissoluble unit is reached:

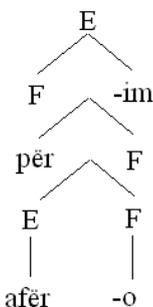


Fig. 1. An example in Albanian

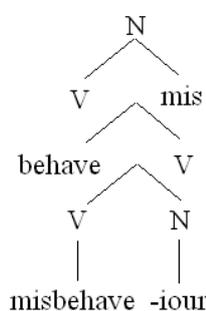


Fig. 2. An example in English

Composition is another word-formation method, very productive in many languages, especially in those which do not acknowledge the affixes. Composition means the union of two topics to form a single word: “misunderstand-keqkuptoj”, “relationship-marrëdhënie”, “duarbosh-empty-handed”, “enduring-jetëgjatë”, “flokëverdhë-fair-haired”, “hekurudhë-railway” “Bookworm- lexues i apasionuar” “Checkmate-shah mat” “birthday-ditëlindje” etc.;

Compound words, as derivative ones, always have a binary structure and are two-membered formations, which means that, when a compound word is created, two themes are always joined, which can be simple roots, but also derived or compound words.

For e.g.



Fig. 3. An examples of composition in Albanian and its equivalent in English

Complex words are created through two processes or two categories:

1. By derivation, in which the affixes and inflexion can be added to the root as with “logikos”, an adjective formed from the word logos, and verbalis, an adjective formed from the word verbum. In a formative and morphological analysis according to H. P. Matthews, we must bear in mind three phenomena: the precise definition of the morpheme inventory, determining the exact sequence of words where following morphemes appear and the accurate definition of the morph or morphs through which these morpheme are realized (Matthews, 1972, p. 97).

2. By composition in a very productive way and many formative types or subtypes, which can combine two or more roots, with the appropriate affixes and inflections, as with the agriculture name (ager - field and culture – cultivation(growing)). Let’s take for e.g. the synthetic compound type, that are so numerous as to have a subdiscipline that deals with them, the (synthetic compound morphology), that deals with the compound words, the most important word of which derives from a verb with affixation and the next member deals with the required affixes and inflections, For e.g: The English compounding “truck driver” (shofer kamioni), “truck driving” – “drejtim kamioni”, “fast acting” – “dietëmbajtje” and “pan fried”-“i tiganisur” are synthetic compounds. Synthetic compounds play a major role in the development of linguistic theory, since they add a number of issues related to the interconnection between morphology and syntax. Another term for synthetic compound is verbal compound. In traditional descriptive studies (in the so called *classic description*), in English, for this word formation process there exists the denomination “composition”, which is recently substituted by the term “compounding”. They are synonymous, they are gradually being differentiated semantically as well (McArthur, 1988, p.).

Derivation and compounding do not cover all the process of creating new words in both languages.

6. Other Ways of Word Formation in English and Albanian

There exists four other ways of word formation in English and Albanian:

1. Conversion or functional shift conversion, the process whereby words expand their grammatical and semantic function, usually the noun comes from the verb (“run” in “go for a run”) and the noun of the verb (“position” in “Positioning people”). R. Memushaj recognizes as a word-formation method even backformations when from a longer form, a shorter word is formed, such as the Albanian noun “myk”-“mold” from the verb “myk(em)”-“mold”etc., or the English noun “wait- pritja” coming from the verb “wait”. The English word “envy” is a noun and a verb in the meantime.

2. Backformations are the result of a wrong dispersion, based on the existing specimen. Thus, with popular etymology, the Albanian word “lakmi-envy” has derived from “lakmoj- envy” making a parallel between couples such as “afroj end afri” (from afër), “teproj end tepri” (from tepër) translated in English as “close on (from close)”, “excess”(from the Latin excessus), etc..and the English verb “edit” comes from the noun “editor” and also “donate-dhuroj” comes from “donation-dhuratë”. In English, the word “burglar” is a borrowing from the language of the Normans of France. When it was borrowed, it was a one-morphemic word. However, judging by the sound and the similar meaning of words with the words worker, runner etc., burglar was incorrectly reinterpreted by the English speakers as formed from a root “burgle” (which in the source language does not exist) and the suffix-er, as the other words in English formed by this suffix.

Backformations are essentially analogue formations that are based in their erroneous etimologizations of words (Memushaj, 2006, p. 193)

In the Albanian text “Hyrje në Gjuhësi, this scholar, influenced by the morphology of English, accepts as specific ways of word-formation “blendings, and abbreviations”.

3. Blendings are lexemes formed by the merge of two words in such a way that is difficult to separate the morpheme. For example, blendings are the words of “smog”(tym) (“smoke”+ “Fog”), motel

(motor + hotel), stagflation (stagnation + inflation), positron (positive electron), generated in English, which have become the source of such words that are mainly used as specific terms even in Albanian. In Albanian, it appears that this specimen is old, as such words as rrëmoj(dig) (rrëmih + gërmoj), kongjill (kondil + thengjill) witness and, among the new formations, Profarma (+ pharmaceutical products, etc.). Blendings are similar to the compoundings, but they do not unite to a complete theme, but the theme is truncated arbitrarily, more strongly by their phonetic sociability. Blending, that anticipates the result of a proces that places two words in one such as “spoon”-“lugë” (1) + “fork”-“pirun” (1) → spork for both (1). In english, this process that has recently become very productive is an object of study to blending morphology.

4. Abbreviations include three essential forms

a. Initializms: formation of an abbreviation by the first letters of a denomination: HTML hyper text markup lankuage.(International)

b. Acronyms (old greek. Akro “top, edge” + “onyma”) are formed by the merge into a unit of the phonemes or initial graphemes of the words: ATSH(Al) “Agjensia Telegrafike Shqiptare” - “Albanian Telegraphic Agency”, - “no english equivalent” NATO(Eng) “North Atlantic Treaty Organization” - “Organizata e Marrëveshjes së Atlantikut Verior, ASBO(Ang) “Anti-Social Behaviour Order” -“no albanian equivalent”.

UNESCO(Eng) standing for “United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization”-“Organizata shkencore, Arsimore Kulturore e Shteteve të Bashkuara të Amerikës” etc. (Memushaj, 2006, p. 192).

c. Clipping. Formations of words by the clipping of morphemes generated by the reduction of initial or terminal part of the word, as abbreviations of titles: of it.e.g “pub” from (public house)-“no albanian equivalent” Such as prof. (professor), dr. (doctor etc).-the same clipping even in albanian. Or abbreviations of words found in dictionaries: for e.g. pasth.(Al),standing for “pasthirmë”-“interjection, exclamation”- “ no english clipped equivalent num.(Al) “numëror” - “numeral”, math(Eng)standing for “Mathematics”-matematikë, -“ no Albanian clipped equivalent”. Bike(Eng)standing for “Bicycle”-“biçikletë”-“ no Albanian Clipped equivalent”, phone(Eng) standing for “telephone”-“telefon”, - “no Albanian Clipped equivalent”, bus(Eng) standing for “omnibus”-“autobus”, - “no Albanian Clipped equivalent” etc.

In abbreviations, including initializms, acronyms and clippings, but also blendings we should specify that they do not marks a certain notion, they are an abbreviation of a non-simple denomination that marks a certain notion, so the comtent comes from the simple denomination or a given content is providedby a phrasal denomination even with a single word, this created by joining the letters or the syllables of this denomination. This means that abbreviations as words do not show real semantic values, these values are inherited to them. Word-formation is one of the most studied linguistic processes in language

7. Conclusions

English is not only one of the languages with the highest level of processing and standardization in all subsystems, but it differs from the Albanian even by the steady speed of growth and functional voluminous means of expression.

Both languages create new words, with their dough and formative tools that owns a given language; acquisition of words from territorial and social dialects and their establishment into the rate (becoming part of standard vocabulary)and borrowings, especially when words are historical and languages are both Indo-European, but have differences, which define the authenticity of each. Among other things, relying on grammatical form, cultural borrowings, and not linguistic borrowings.

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