

The Albanian of the Internet**Communication Technology**

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The modernisation of the human life and the development of the technology has, to a large extent, facilitated the communication. The use of the Internet today has a great influence in the everyday communication between people. This certainly has a positive effect in itself. However, the linguists and especially the Albanologists are concerned about the way language is used in communication, the level of its usage, how much has the standard Albanian been used in it, and how does the spoken language of the users influence it?

The internet has facilitated to a large extent the conveyance of the information, the news and interesting incidents. In one word through a small screen, one can see and understand what is happening in the world, thanks to the availability of Internet. The portals and the social networks have become a trend of the modern world. Almost every man, young or old, has become in a form part of this trend. In most part, the communication on the Internet is realized using the language apart from the visual communication which is enabled by using cameras and different programmes such as 'skype'. Nonetheless researchers are concerned about the language that is used. Is the standard Albanian used on the Internet? It is the standard Albanian which took ages to achieve the last level of its standardisation. Most educators think it is not. It is another language which we can call the Albanian language of the internet, but not the standard language. The acronyms, the signs, the mathematical expressions, the abbreviations, the foreign words etc. have created a language cocktail which is difficult to decipher.

According to the researcher Shumbin Munishi¹⁷, in the interactive activities on the Internet, appears the complete linguistic variation of the Albanian language. In the chat rooms, in the forms of the communication through instant messages, such as chat rooms, and in the other forms of computer communication, such as email, Online forum, Social network, the Albanian language appears in all its geographical variants, some of which can be named as special registers.

Munishi¹⁸ found that some phenomenon are more frequent in the computer communication, like the slang language which shows the pure vernacular of an individual. For example: du (the standard form is 'dua' in English want), koma (the standard form is 'këmba', Eng. leg), ene (the standard form is 'edhe', Eng. and), kokshna (the standard form is 'qenkam', Eng. has been), form which are used in his usual speech. What is more, this study investigates the tendency to join words, aka diçka (the correct form is 'A ka diçka? Eng. Is there anything?), pom doket (the correct form is 'Po më duket.' Eng. It looks to me.) and the tendency to use abbreviations for the different cities, for example pr (Prishtina), gj (Gjilan), zh (Gjeneva) etc.

The users of the social networks are mostly young generation. Even-thought there is no experimental indication, there is a common trend that young people think that using foreign words, abbreviations and expressions that do not belong to the standard Albanian will make them special; so they do not try to use the standard Albanian. Apart from the forms that this study mentioned above, which were highlighted by Munishi, it is widely understood that other phenomenon that are characteristic for the users of the Internet. For example: using foreign words, mainly from the English language, such as: ku je men (the correct form is: Ku je njeri?

¹⁷ Shkumbin Munishi, *Gjuha shqipe dhe globalizimi*, University of Prishtina, Prishtinë, 2005, pg.55.

¹⁸ Ibid.

Eng. Where are you guy?, shumë kullë paske dal (the correct form is: bukur paske dalë në foto. Eng. You look nice in the photo), ku je big bos (the correct form is: ku je njeri i madh. Eng. Where are you o big man!), boma laik (the correct form is: bëj pëlqim. Eng. Give a like), hej shmeki, ku jeni pipell (the correct form is: ku jeni njerëz. Eng. Where are you, people?), po bëj fan qetu (the correct form is: po kënaqem. Eng. I am having fun), shumë nais koka (the correct form is: shumë bukur qenka. Eng. It is so beautiful), strong je a (the correct form is: i fortë je. Eng. You are a strong man), bonum friends (the correct form is: më bëj shok. Eng. Add me as a friend) etc. These are only some of the words expressions that are widely used by the young generation.

Another very frequent characteristic is the use of numerals, like: çka ka 3 (the correct form is: çka ka të re? Eng. What is new?), b4 (the correct form is: përpara. Eng. before), ti je 1sh (the correct form is: je numër një. Eng. You are number one), jo 1 herë (the correct form is: jo njëherë. Eng. Not now). The use of pseudonyms is another interesting characteristic. Such users often express different situations, emotional condition, physical features, origin, such as: beqari (The single), prishtinalia (from Prishtina), xhima, drenicaku (from Drenica), mitrovicalija (from Mitrovica), biondina (the woman with fair hair), zeshkanja (the woman with black hair), syzeza (the woman with black eyes) etc. The use of pseudonyms is done to hide their identity, so that he/she can talk and comment freely about him/her.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the linguistic economy has flourished among Internet users. The abbreviations that aim at saving communication time are many: prsh (Përshendetje. Eng. Hello), flm (faleminderit. Eng. Thank you), klm (kaloni mirë, Eng. have a nice time), sps (s'ka përse. Eng. Not at all), ntm (natën e mirë. Eng. Good night), ltm (lamtumirë. Eng. Goodbye). On behalf of linguistic economy or on behalf of swift communication, the Albanian language is losing the beauty of a pure language so as to being reduced its execution day by day.

With these research gaps in mind, this study further gauge that the usage of such forms of communications is having influence on the everyday life of the youth as well. What they are using in their written communications has begun to be used in the conversations among each others. A ma bone like (the correct form is: a e ke pëlqyer. Eng. Did you give a like?), ta bona lajk (Eng. I gave a like to you), ku je hacker (where are you hacker!?, a e formatizove kompjuterin (Did you format the computer?), mere me juesbi (take it on a flash disk) etc. There are many cases where the speaker uses a word in Albanian and a word in English, for example: bëja daunlod (shkarkoje. Eng. download), thuj seju (ruaje. Eng. save it), thuj print (shtype. Eng. print it), bëje okej (press ok), shko te hom (kalo në fillimi. Eng. Go to homepage), thuj insert (aktivizo njërën nga veglat. Eng. Press Insert), dil neks pejgj (dil në faqe të re. Eng. go next page), boja apejnt (përditësoje. Eng. Update it). One notice the use of some English words like the Albanian verbs, for example: e donladova (I downloaded it), e printova (I printed it), e formatizova (I formatted), e instalova (I installed it), e selektova (I selected it) etc.

The Albanian users of the internet make some other mistakes as regards to the verb forms which are used on the Internet, such as not using correctly the ending 'ë', not using the capital letter where required, not using the apostrophe. You can easily notice these mistakes, for example: sdi (s'di), smuj (s'mudem), tu thonë (duke thënë), ti qoj me meill (t'i çoj me emajll) etc. The biggest mistakes occur when the user does not write the ending 'ë', and also when instead of the letter 'ç' they use the letter 'q' and instead of the letter 'xh' they use the letter 'gj'.

An interesting view was expressed by Islamaj¹⁹, after researching and analysing some of the features of this communication, raises her concern and call for a debate about some issues, such as:

- What will happen tomorrow to this communication?
- Are we passive witnesses of further degradation of our linguistic culture?
- Is the written communication going to be characterised by dominant abbreviations and symbols, like the one we come across today on the Internet?
- Will the use of the abbreviations and symbols make the exchange of information faster?

The spread of the Internet in the Albanian speaking territories has taken the interest of different groups. They are interested to create new means to facilitate the use of the standard Albanian on the Internet. The Centre for Education and Advancement has developed a program for language corrections. This study contributes to improve the incorrect written forms in Microsoft Word. The Centre for Education and Advancement has continued to create new means for the benefit of the standard Albanian, by creating the Electronic Dictionary of the Albanian Language (FESH). What is more, the operative systems Windows XP and Windows Vista have been translated into the Albanian language and this has made easy the use of the computer and the Internet for those who can not speak English. In the list of this advancement can be added the compilation of the computer dictionary which has made easier the use of the Internet for the common people and for the journalists and other professionals. Lately Google has created the means of translating from different languages into the Albanian Language through Google translate.

Conclusion

The use of the Albanian language on the Internet, especially in social networks is not at its proper level. One can notice big omissions, which we tried to point out above. Despite having an unsatisfactory level on the Internet, we think that the Albanian language like many other languages of the world, has taken its place on the Internet. The development of the computer technology is having a great impact on the linguistic communication. The Albanian language like the other languages appears with different variations, creating a new domain of communication. The large increase of the Albanian users of the Internet in the Albanian territories has leaden to the creation of different Web pages in the Albanian language. What is more various computer systems were translated to make easy the use of the computer and the Internet for those who can not speak English. It is natural that we will have to meet big challenges in our effort the standardise the computer terminology of the Albanian language.

References

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3. Vesel Nuhju, *Ndikimet ndërgjuhësore*, Prishtinë, 1990.

¹⁹ Shefkije Islamaj, *Gjuha, ligjërimi dhe fjala*, Prishtinë, 2004, pg. 90.