

The Continuity and Diversity of the Albanian Language Terminology Formation before the Second World War



Linguistics

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Abstract

This paper deals with the path of Albanian Language terminology formation before the Second World War. Over the decades, especially during the last century, when basic works were composed, the linguistics science developed with quick steps and consequently new concepts of linguistic categories treatment were elaborated for all subsystems, creating thus a rich terminology, more and more accurate in this area. Through some significant examples, we emphasize the priceless contribution of well-known Albanian institutions and linguists that laid the foundations of the Albanian terminology on several levels. Based on historic data given in chronological order, we carry out a time incision with some cultural and linguistic events that marked the establishment and development of Albanian terminology, even in comparison with the terminology of different fields of knowledge in other languages that have been in contact with Albanian language. Nevertheless, today's opinion of our linguists and even this stage which our linguistic and philological studies have reached, in new contacts with linguistic schools and orientations that have penetrated and are penetrating into our language area of science, Albanian language terminology formation the is a long-term process, especially with the scientific and cultural opening of the Albanology.

1. Introduction

The modern (current) languages (current) evolved for centuries, which have an old history of writing and a history of developed literature; masterpieces of different genres and outlined styles as models to follow, meanwhile, they have remarked indicators in the field of lexicography and in the field of multidisciplinary terminology, where linguistic terms occupy the first place. In this paper we will see the path the Albanian terminology has followed and the compiling of some Albanian dictionaries which are not only terminological but also explanatory and normative dictionaries, from 1954-1980; without neglecting a series of bilingual and trilingual dictionaries, which contain even terms of the linguistics field. These kinds of dictionaries are necessary, because is related to such an inherent requirement: one of the language functions is to explain itself. It is well known that a pioneer's great contribution to the Albanian linguistic terminology, undoubtedly was given by Sami Frashëri, the great representative of Renaissance, one of the remarkable intellectuals and scholars of his time under the Ottoman Empire rule, who published "*The Albanian language ABC-s*", *Bucarest, 1886, where the first Albanian language terminology was forged; due to its entire simplicity it had served as a starting point in the development of our grammatical terminology ; a good part of the current terminology is still that of Sami,*" (Dodbib, 1965, f. 183).

In the efforts made by our terminologue linguists for years, even before this great representative of Renaissance, more directly, by Frang Bardhi with his bilingual dictionary, where a small number of terms had been created, it appears the aim of specialists in different areas (for us, of different disciplines), so that they can see the conceptual difference between the term and the designation. This derives from the definition given by the linguistic theory in this area since it has always been and still it is difficult to fulfill the requirement "one meaning /one term", due to the lack of such a great number of signs; therefore it comes out necessary to dissociate each sign every time an independent terminological meaning occurs. In such cases the same sign appears as an independent meaning. This justifies the presence in the dictionary of consistent terminological nouns-terms and groups of words (syntagms) having a nominative basis as designations of concepts (Duro, 2001, f. 40). We must affirm that sensory knowledge begins with the designation, passes to the term as a generalization and ends up to the concept. The terminologues have come to the conclusion that one part of terminological meanings discovered in the semantic structure of the word can be presented then dismantled depending on the relations these meanings create with other meanings within a defined terminological sistem (Duro, 2001, f. 40). If we follow the passage of a functional part into a term, as "kryefjalë" ("a subject"), the

linguistic knowledge has evolved alongside the logical definition with the term “subject”, based on the fact that for centuries logics has had (and still has) on the syntax discipline; It is so true that our term from the syntax field, is not a tracing, as many other terms, because many other languages, it is called “subject”. Used as a term, “kryefjalë-a” (the subject) is not similar to any of the 60 composites having for its basis “krye-u”(the head), such as: *kryeartikull*, (editorial), *kryebashki* (municipality), *kryegjatë*,(long-headed) *kryegjyqtar* (head of the court), *kryegjysh* (head of Bektashinj), *kryekirurg* (Head of surgery),etc. (AShSh, IGJL, 2006.); thus, we can not create an analogy between components of the composite “kryeartikull-i”(editorial), which means “the main article” among other journal articles, with the components which form the term “kryefjalë-a” – as the main word. This is due to the fact that this function of parts in a sentence is available only when it exists the other part – kallëzuesi (predicate), as solidarity link in the unit-sentence.

In this expository diachronic paper, the reader and the researcher can observe how much this criterion on the formation and compiling of linguistic terms has been followed by the Albanian specialized linguists , without neglecting the approach to other foreign language models having been in contact with the Albanian language.

1. Cultural associations and the Albanian Literary Committee of Shkodër

The remarkable linguist and researcher of the Albanian Grammatology and the Albanology History, Jup Kastrati, when analysing a booklet of 23 pages entitled “*Oroe permii abetare shqyp*”, published in 1899 from “Bashkimi” association of Shkodër, shows that within 9 years this cultural association had published 32 books, as well as a dictionary, which, until the publication of “*Fjalorit*” Dictionary” from the Albanian Institute of Science (1954), was considered to be among the best in The Albanian lexicography. The majority of these publications of the “Union” company, emphasizes Kastrati, are distinguished for a pure language and a relatively good and very uniform terminology, which continued until the foundation of Literary Committee (1916) (Kastrati, Shoqëria “Bashkimi” e Shkodrës (1899), p. 277).

This very important event in the history of the Albanian language formation, which developed its activities in Shkodër, during three years (1916 - 1918), marks the laying of scientific foundations for the elaboration and codification of Albanian terms and makes the first steps of terminology formation in various fields of knowledge. In “*Laimet e Komisis Letrare Shqipe në Shkodër*”, “*News of the Albanian Literary Committee in Shkodër, No.1, January 1918, First Edition*, (Osmani, 2009, p. 255).

At the meeting of 14th February 1917, decision No.3, it is written: “*The Committee decided that the drafting of terms of each branch should be entrusted to the experts of this field of knowledge and then everyone should be given a list. After a thorough examination, everybody can give his opinion in a common meeting. It is worth mentioning the meeting of 20th, February 1917, a meeting of great importance related to technical terms. At this crucial moment, took part M. Dr. Pekmezi, S.Peci, L.Gurakuqi, A.Paluca, Dom A.Mjedja, L.Naraçi e Aleks.Xhuvani, who decided:*

The Terminology

Decisions, on which The Literary Committee will be founded for the treatment of technical terms: The Literary Committee finds necessary the drafting of technical terms, which are very important for the national development and they also facilitate the activity of the Administration different branches. For this reason, based on the decisions made at the meetings of 14.X.1916 and 13.II. 1917 today are set these principles which will track the treatment of the above-mentioned terms.

I. By taking into consideration the fact that the Albanian language, unfortunately, until now, in schools and administration, has not been cultivated and treated as a general and common language and moreover, given that the treasure of our language has not been collected yet, the burden falls on the Committee that will draft the majority of technical terms. It must therefore avoid the exceeded neologisms and barbarisms; because the neologisms will make the meaning of the language more difficult; as for the barbarisms, the national colour will fade.

II. Common terms of knowledge derived from classical languages that have received today an international colour, being acceptable in all European languages, will be also accepted in Albanian language under the form which belongs to the character of the language.

III. Terms that can not be called common, will consist of Albanian language radicals or simple words having a denotative meaning will be used; In cases where it is impossible, foreign terms can be accepted, taking into consideration the foreign languages that are not New Latin languages. This work is being done due to time constraints and lack of substance. Moreover, by the passing of time it would be easier to omit a foreign term rather than to correct a term created from the Albanian language radical.

IV. Very few foreign words which are reported and widespread throughout Albania and for which there is no correspondence, will be temporarily used until an Albanian corresponding word could be found. (Osmani, 2009, p. 255-256).

After these decisions, which are general scientific principles for the compilation of technical edges, (synonyme of terms), with a glossary of 362 terms intended for courts and administration, for which compilers (with an asterisk *) write down: For the correction of the Magistrates' courts a heavy burden fell on the Committee, that is to say this Committee had to find out a great amount of technical terms, which had been translated from Turkish language. Surely, mistakes must have escaped, but time will correct them (Osmani, 2009, p. 255-256). In No.2, January, 1918, Year 1, of the booklet

News of the Albanian Literary Committee in Shkoder

We learn that the 2^d July 1917... even a number of grammatical terms were compiled. The grammatical terms, compiled by the Committee, are the following, (Osmani, 2009, p. 255-256), terms related only to syntax, explained in Latin and German by the gentlemen of the Committee (this institution was founded under the auspices of The Supreme Command of Austrian Army, in Shkodër):

Grammatical terms

shqymë –a	olizio	elision	ellipsis
klapë-t	parenthesis	klammern	brackets
pikë-a	punctum	Punkt	point-s
presë-a	virgula	Beistrich	comma-s
pikëpresë-a	punctum et virgula	Strichpunkt	semi-colon
rasë – a	casus	Fall	case-s
emnore-ja	nominativus	Nennfall	nominative
gjinore-	genitivus	Wessenfall	genitive
dhanore-ja	dativus	Wenfall	dative
hjekore-ja	ablativus	rrjedhore	ablative
vendore-ja	locativus		locative
thirrore- ja	vokativus		vocative
folje-ja	verbum	Zeitwort verb	

folje ndihse	verbum auxiliarium	Hilfszeitwort	auxiliary verb
veprore	verbum activum	Tätigketswort	active verb form
pësore	verbum passivum	leidendo Form des zeitwortes	passive verb form
kaptore (transitive)	verbum transitivum	Zeitwort	
ndërfjalësi	subjectum	Satzgegenstand	subject
kallxojë-a	praedicatum	Satzaussage	predicate
ndajshitim-i	attributum	Beifügung	apposition
thirrme-a	interjectio	Ausrufewort	interjection
përkryesi	complementum	Ergänzung	complement

2. Linguistic terminology in A.Xhuvanit's textbooks

Many of these terms have had longevity in our Grammar school textbooks until nowadays, despite the objections of some of his contemporary intellectuals, for instance, the Albanian poet and folklorist Vincenc Prendushi, especially with his writings and articles published in "Post Shqypniës" newspaper that came out in Shkodra during the Shkodër Literary Committee's activity (1916-1918) (Topalli, 2009, p.12). Aleksandër Xhuvani proved to be consistent in the use of these terms (creating even others). Since 1919, when he compiled the textbook entitled "Albanian language for the third grade of Primary school", Published by The Directory of Education, No.22, Third improved and supplementary Edition, Tiranë, printed in Albanian by "Mbrothësia" Kristo P. Luarasi, 1926, he declares: "As for the orthography of grammatical terms, I found it reasonable to save terms and grammatical rules as compiled by the Literary Committee of Shkodër: anyway whether I have deviated from these grammatical rules, it is the fault of the printing institution that could not follow the correct orthography due to the lack of letters in the printer." (Xhuvani, 1926, f. 5).

3. The Congress of Lushnjë on the linguistic terminology

Another marked event on the compilation of Albanian language for the Albanian school and, in general for the Albanian national education, is the Congress of Lushnjë, 1920, where important decisions were made about the extension of Albanian schools in the country, the publication of school textbooks and Albanian terminology textbooks as well, in accordance with the fields of knowledge. By a special decision of this congress a Supreme Council of Education was founded. It consisted of Education prominent intellectuals and activists, among whom was even the renowned linguist textbook maker Alexander Xhuvani, assigned as the President of this Forum (Kumtari Arsimuer, 1921, p. 9). The important news about the Albanian language stabilisation can be learned from the writing *The most important decisions of the Education Congress of Lushnje held on 15. VII. 1920, where we can read:*

"At the third meeting of 16.VIII. 1920 under A. Xhuvani's direction it was discussed about technical terms. It was then decided that these terms would be accepted (explained in French). It is to note that Aleksandër Xhuvani, the philologist, the activist and the great organizer of Albanian Education, and Mati Logoreci, the renowned leader during different periods since Vlorë government, have made a very important contribution to the purity of language when it deals with language issues in this period; the first one with his *Selectae* and the second with his *Nji rrezik për gjuhë: A risk for the language* (Kumtari Arsimuer, 1921, p. 9).

fjali-ja	proposition	proposition
përemën vehtuer	pronom personel	personal pronoun
pronuer	possessif	possessive pronoun
lidhuer	relatif	relative pronoun
përemër pyetës	promon interrogatif	interrogative pronoun
i pakufishëm	indéfini	indefinite pronoun
folje-a	verbe	verb
veprore	actif	active
pësore	passif	passive
kaluese	transitif	transitive
skaluese	intransitif	intransitive
mënyrë-a	mode	moods
dëftore	indicatif	indicative
lidhore	subjonctif	subjunctive
urdhërore	impératif	imperative
dishrore	optatif	optative
kushtore	conditionnel	conditional
habitore	admiratif	admirative
paskâjore	infinitif	infinitive
pjesore	particip	participle
përcjellore	gérondif	gerund
ndajfolje-a	adverbe	adverb
vendi	de lieu	of place
kohe	temps	of time
mënyre	mode	of manner
sasije	quantité	of quantity
pohi	affirmation	of affirmation
mohi	négation	of negation
parafjalë-a	préposition	preposition
lidhëzë-a	conjonction	conjunction
pasthirmë-a	interjection	interjection
piksim –i	ponctuation	ponctuation
pikë-a	point	point
presë-a	virgule	comma
klapë-a	parenthèse	bracket-s
shqymë-a	élision	elision
vizë	trait d'union	hyphen (follows....)

The Compilation Commission of terminology, under A.Xhuvani's direction proved to be demanding as for the choice and selection in their work, by supporting their view that the suggested terms should be discussed, since they can never be definitive:

Remarks – *The technical terms set in the Congress of Lushnjë are issues to be discussed again: hence some of them were changed after long discussions and debates.* (Kumtari Arsimuer, 1921, p. 11).

Following the recognition of this problem, we looked over some documents. In No. 2 of Kumtarit Arsimuer (Education Bulletin), April 1921, Year I, p. 33, entitled Skâjet teknike të pranue me në Kongres

arsimuar të Lushnjës (*Technical terms admitted in the Education Congress of Lushnjë*) (following of number 1), we have noted these terms (explained even in French) related to the syntax and morphosyntax:

me përkufizuem	définir	give the definition
përkufizim	définition	definition
veta e parë	première personne	first person
e dytë	deuxième	second person
e tretë	troisième	third person
pjesët e ligjëratës	les parties du discours	parts of speech
kryefjalës-i	sujet	subject
kallzues –i	praedicatum	predicate
emnuer	nominale	nominal
foljuer	verbale	verbal
cilsuer –ori	attribut	qualifier
ndajshtim –i	apposition	apposition
plotës –i	complément	complement
kundrinë –a	objekt	object
e drejtë	complément direct	direct object
e zhdrejtë	indirekt indirect	object
fjali e thjeshtë	proposition simple	simple proposition
e përngjitun	composé	compound
e përzieme	complexe	complex
e parë a e pavarme	principate	main
indépendante	independent	clause
e dytë a e varme	secondaire ou subordonnée	subordinate clause
pohore	déclatative	affirmative
mohore	négative	negative
pyetse	interrogative	interrogative
fjali dishrore	proposition optative	optative
e ndërmjetme	intermédiaire	intermediate
me ndërtim të drejtë	à construction	of direct structure
me ndërtim të shdrejtë	indirecte	of indirect structure
ligjëratë e drejtë	discours direct	direct speech
e shdrejtë	indirect	indirect speech
me diktuem	dicter	to dictate
me hartuem	composer	to compose
hartim –i	composition	composition
diktim- i	dictée	dictation
njisi –ija	unité	unit or item

(*it has been borrowed by the Maths terms to designate Syntax units: e: sentence, period and syntagm – my note, K.Lazri.*)

In number 3 – 4 May – June – 1921, Year I, from page 37 to 39, 79 terms belonging only to the Maths and Geometry domain are published.

For this historical milestone in the development and cultivation of Albanian language, the historian of Albanian grammatology, Jup Kastrati wrote: “*it is known that on August 16th, 1920, at the third meeting of the Education Congress of Lushnjë, which was held under the direction of Alexander Xhuvani, it was discussed*

about grammatical terms and a decision of historic importance on Albanian language terminology was made. In our opinion, this decision is the continuation of Literary Committee of Shkodër. Among the linguistic studies of the last fifty years it has never been talked specifically about this decision and these terms acceptance. That is why we are listing again the Albanian grammatical terminology, approved in the Education Congress of Lushnjë in order to see more closely the historical process of these terms which are part of the Albanian grammarology history. This shows that with the exception of Xhuvani, other grammarologists who drafted school textbooks of Albanian morphology and syntax, after 1920, did not accept all these terms.” (Kastrati, 1980, p.366).

The linguist Rrokaj has emphasized that with the rapid development of linguistics science, clear theoretical and scientific concepts have been elaborated and that with the need of its study in high-level texts, a rich and accurate terminology of this science has been created, not only in its basic areas, but also in several other emerging subfields. (Rrokaj, 2009, p. 80).

In the researcher Thanas Feka’s paper entitled “*Vëzhgime mbi leksikun terminologjik në Fjalorin e Gjuhës shqipe*”, “Observations on terminological vocabulary in Albanian Language Dictionary”, 1980, p. 127 there is a chart of 49 items from various fields of terminology, law and linguistics, according to the author, only in the table of 8 letters (D, G, Gj, Q, U, X, J., Y) are represented respectively with 33 relevant terms, whereas botany is represented with 89 terms. (Feka, 1986, f.119 – 131).

We say this because in many explanatory dictionaries of several foreign languages there are a lot of linguistic terms, what has been well noted by the linguist Sh.Rrokaj (Rrokaj, 2009, p.81). Based only on this number of Linguistics Institute magazine, we will perhaps assume that the development of military terminology was highly ranked, as confirmed by the famous military terminologist Hasan Çipuri. He informs that with the foundation of the new Albanian state, after the Declaration of Independence, a great many special efforts were made by the military patriots to create Albanian military terms. Following this activity, some anonymous authors succeeded in compiling two small bilingual or trilingual terminology glossaries (*Terminologji ushtarake, Shtypshkronja “Gutenberg”, Tiranë, 1932 – (Albanian-Italian Military terminology manual, “Gutenberg” Press, Tirana, 1932 - made up of 73 pages and Manual bisedimi me landë ushtarake shqip-italisht-jugosllavisht, Shtypshkronja “Mbrothësia”, Tiranë, 1933- doracak me 65 faqe) Albanian-Italian-Serbian military conversational manual, “Mbrothësia” Press, Tiranë, 1933, made up of 65 pages) (Çipuri, 1984/4, p. 141 (cited by the author).*

Attempts to create new terms with our native language dough, have been made even by the Albanian Studies Institute, which was founded in Tiranë, in 1940. There, indeed, a commission was created. It had clear tasks to accomplish and it *consisted of the most eminent researchers of this institution* (Osmani, 2009, p. 211).

The author writes that the commission *would choose and suggest the Albanian words and terms that would replace English words derived from other languages. It was an urgent and a delicate problem, since foreign words and terms were entering various aspects of life without any criteria.* (Osmani, 2009, p. 211).

Conclusions

In this paper we had a chronological overview of some cultural linguistic events which marked the formation and evolution of The Albanian terminology, in comparison with terminologies of other areas of knowledge in other languages, in contact with the Albanian language. That is why this paper leads us to some conclusions:

5. On the way of formation of Albanian special terms, it has been stored the principle of difference between concepts "term" and "designation", as two different concepts in the process of human knowledge, in our case, interdisciplinary knowledge of multiple occurrences, form phonetics, phonology, morphology, semantics, syntax and etymology.

6. If the question submitted here, is seen in relation to other linguistic and nonlinguistic sciences, we should affirm that the models of classical linguistic terms have contributed to the consolidation of our terms.

7. Apart from that, with the recognition and enhancement of new linguistic concepts under new schools and orientations, even in the Albanian linguistics, new terms are entering. They are being used in Albanian, for instance, *sememe*, *tagmemë*, *minitext*, *sequence*, *thematic*, *iks-bar*, *anaforë*, *kataforë*, in textual structure, etc. All this because of the introduction of new university and post-university disciplines in the Albanian school system.

8. In many textbooks of different disciplines, especially during the last century, double terms had been used, mostly Albanian, fewer Albanian-Greek, as we notice to the Albanologue Justin Rrota, Kostaq Cipo; trend that has been going towards monolingual terms.

9. During the formation and development of the Albanian linguistic terminology, there have been mostly specialists, intellectuals and scholars in this field, like A.Xuvani, Sheperi, Rrota, Cipo, Domi, who had conducted philological and analogical studies in well-known European universities in all fields of linguistics.

10. We have also noticed that efforts made by the Albanian linguists and specialists have always been continuous: from time to time and from generation to generation, a fact which has created a quite rich legacy in the field of these terms.

11. Models of creating linguistic terms in the Albanian philological and lexical culture have been followed by many scholars of other fields, such as natural sciences, exact sciences, philosophy, sociology, theology and cybernetics.

12. As for the linguistic terms, we note that in the history of the Albanian linguistics, there have been and still there are tendencies to "create" proper Albanian terms from authors of textbooks and in research monographies, but these terms have not survived to know the light of their whole usage.

13. As far as we know, we affirm that nowadays the Albanian language is among the few European languages that have no interdisciplinary explanatory linguistic dictionary, with exception of two such dictionaries, compiled from 1975 to the latter, in 2011 - only with terms in several languages, but unfortunately without explanations.

14. The Albanian terminology, not only the linguistic one but also in the areas where it has already been compiled (in particular flora and fauna of Albania), shows the word formation legacy of language, the ability to express concepts among the most difficult ones and the possibility of the terms deriving from slangs and dialects to be used and even remain within the regulated standards.

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