

The Genitive



Linguistics

Keywords: Genitive (possessive cases) i, e të, and së; 's, ('), of.

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Abstract

In Albanian language the possessive cases can be with the article i, e të, and së (libërit), but it is contrast with English language (definite and indefinite) because the possessive usually used after the noun e.g. Mary's book, Time's house, students', worker's children's women's, This is Arta's jacket, This is my mother's jacket. This is the dog's food. If a plural noun does not end in /s/, add 's. women's, men's, children's etc. If the noun in the plural ending with the consonate and in the commone cases it in the possessive gets just apostrofe ('s), (') boys', students', books'. The noun in singular can ending with the consonate and in the commone cases it in the possessive gets apostrofe or apostrofe and –s e.g. today's, last week's, a mother's, tow mothers, 's boss', son-in-low's, sister-n-low's, man's, Richard's, cat's, dog's.

English language today has common and possessive cases. Albanian language, on the contrary, has five cases (nominal, genitive, dative, ablative and accusative), so it is a clear contrast between the two languages. In English the genitive suffix is marked off in writing by an apostrophe. The genitive of regular plural nouns is showed in writing by the addition of an apostrophe: **boys – boys'**. **The forme with '-s, and it usually can see after the noun e.g. Mary's book, Tim's house, my father's office, the boy's toys, Tim and Jane's house** etc. The next model of passessive is when the noun is in plural usually get just the apastrophe e.g. **workers', students', dogs'** etc.

The possessive when it refere names, places, things or concepts usually can saw after the noun e.g. **half of the chapter, the door of the room, the box of matches** etc. However the construction+ noun can also be used for the noun of the people e.g. "the daughter of John and Jane, the wife of Mr. Brown, the works of Shakespeare" etc.²¹³

In Albanian the passessive cases can be with the article **i, e të, and së**, so between two languahes it is the contrast because has two forms of passessive and usually used after the noun e.g. Mary's book, Time's house, students', worker's children's women's, This is Arta's jacket, This is my mother's jacket. This is the dog's food. If a plural noun does not end in /s/, add 's. women's, men's, children's etc.

If the noun in the plural ending with the consonate and in the commone cases it in the possessive gets just apostrofe ('s), (') boys', students', books'. The noun in singular can ending with the consonate and in the commone cases it in the possessive gets apostrofe or apostrofe and –s e.g. **today's, last week's, a mother's, tow mothers, 's boss', son-in-low's, sister-n-low's, man's, Richard's, cat's, dog's. The boy's book is one the table. The wife's house is near here. If the singular nouns in –s, there are two possible forms, the first apostrophe and –s how my wife's or only an apostrophe Thomas' teacher** etc. If the compound words or phrasal it has this function: **mother-in-low, get add's mother-in-low's, son-in-low's, sister-n-low's**. Both of languages have their contrast for this phenoman of grammar, Albanian has the article i, e, të, së and English has ', 's. The Albanian language has the dative that isn't in **exsit** English e.g. Tregoi babait. Iu afrua Teuta. This case in Albanian description the indirect object and it doesn't exist in English. It is same with another case that has Albanian but doesn't have English (**genitive, dative** and accusative).

The genitive case forms are mainly used for a variety of determining expressed in English by prepositional phrases introduced by **of**, by the so-called possessive –s, or by nouns used as adjective. They often follow a referent noun or pronoun, explicit or implicit in the sentence and indicate:

- a. the afflation with or ownership of the referent: **libri i bibliotekës – the library book', oborri i shkollës – the school yard'**.
- b. Lulet e majit - The May flowers'. Hapja e dritareve – the opening of the windows'. Shumica e studentëve – the majority of students'. A noun in the genitive case modifying another noun must either be definite or be indefinite and proceeded by a determiner: një nxënës i shkollës – a pupil of the school', but një nxënës i një shkollë – a pupil of a school'.²¹⁴

Albanian and English in this case have one full contrast because the genitive in Albanian used noun plus article e.g. i shkollës, e majit, e dritareve but in English is 's, or just apostrophe e.g. School', May', window' etc.

²¹³ Shukrane Gërmizaj, **A Comprehensive handbook of English Grammar**, Prishtina, 2004, p.152.

²¹⁴ Leonard Newmark, Philip Hubbard, Peter Prifti, **Standard Albanian**, California, 1982, p. 137

The Albanian language has the dative case (English doesn't have this form) forms are usually with verbs to mark the referent of the verb e.g. *Iu afrova banesës* – She approached **the flat**.

Another case of Albania than doesn't have English is Accusative. It can use for direct object, the predicate complement of object etc. e.g. *ha bukë* – eat bread', *pi kafe* – drink coffee', *e ka motër* – it's her sister' etc. The ablative case forms may be used with verbs, nouns and after preposition e.g. *një djalë student* – a student boy. The classification and the tips of the noun. In Albanian language the noun has four forms of tips e.g.

Shoku im lexoi bukur.
Leximi i shokut me pëlqeu.
Librin ia dhashë shokut.
Shokun e shkollës e pashë në tren.
E mora topin prej shokut

By the sentences we can consider the Albanian language has some cases and it can be definite and indefinite form. In the first covetousness (form) we have in Albanian language is for masculiness and in definite gets the suffix **-i, lisi, djali, libri** etc.

The second covetousness (form) is the category for masculiness and in the definite gets the suffix **-u, miku, zogu, dheu** etc. The third form is the model for the nouns of feminine and in the definite gets suffix **-a, or -ja, vajza, rrufeja, e drejta** etc. The fourth covetousness (form) is the models that are neutral and the definite nouns get the suffix **-t or -it**. The noun in Albanian language has two forms; definite and indefinite, singular and plural. Albanian language has five cases (emëroren, gjinoren, dhanoren, kallëzoren and rrjedhoren - nominative, accusative, genitive, dative and ablative) so English has just two common (nominative) and genitive (possessive). In the following examples the suffixed definite article is shown in heavy type. When this suffix is removed the indefinite or definite form e.g.

The nouns with the definite article or suffix e.g. The first covetousness

Indefinite, sing.	Definite, sing.
Emërore libër	libri
Gjinore i/e libri	i.e librit
Dhanore libri	librit
Kallëzore libër	librin
Rrjedhore libri	librit
Indefinite plur.	Definite plur.
Emërore libra	librat
Gjinore i/e librave	i.e librave
Dhanore librave	librave
Kallëzore libra	librat
Rrjedhore librash	librave

The second covetousness

Indefinite singl.	Definite singul.
Emërore mik	miku
Gjinore i/e miku	i.e mikut
Dhanore miku	mikut
Kallëzore mik	mikun
Rrjedhore miku	mikut
Indefinite plur.	Definite plur.
Emërore miq	miqtë
Gjinore i/e miqve	i.e miqve
Dhanore miqve	miqve
Kallëzore miq	miqtë
Rrjedhore miqsh	miqve

The third form or covetousness

Indefinite sing.

Emërore	motër
Gjinore	i/e motre
Dhanore	motre
Kallëzore	motër
Rrjedhore	motre

Definite sing.

motra
i/e motrës
motrës
motrën
motrës

Indefinite plur.

Emërore	motra
Gjinore	i/e motrave
Dhanore	motrave
Kallëzore	motra
Rrjedhore	motrash

Definite plur.

motrat
i/e motrave
motrave
motrat
motrave

The fourth form or covetousness is usually the neutral and it has the same rule with the first form. In Albanian we have the noun with article or called neutral. The neutral nouns are one form that has the definite and indefinite e.g.

Indefinite sing.

Emërore	të folur
Gjinore	i/e të foluri
Dhanore	të foluri
Kallëzore	të folur
Rrjedhore	të foluri

Definite sing.

të folurit
i/e të folurit
të folurit
të folurit
të folurit

In the contrast of Albanian language that has four forms indefinite and definite in singular and plural, gender or cases those in English are contrast. English has two cases nominative and genitive. The genitive case is special in English and has its different with the Albanian case of genitive. The possessive of English can use with /'s or ' so in Albanian we have article or suffix **i**, **e**, **të**, and **së** (see for more information the first, second, third and fourth form or covetousness). English has special form than Albanian that can called article or prefixes e.g. 'This is a photo of Patrick, his wife, and his children. He's wife name is Brenda. She is a teacher. His daughter's name is Lara. She's twenty-one and she's nurse. His son's name is Benny. He's nineteen and he's a student. Lara's boyfriend is a nurse, too. His name is Mick'²¹⁵. "You say that your're Peter Wilks's brother! Never! You've been lying"²¹⁶ "The genitive is not used with all nouns equally but tends to be associated with those of animate gender, especially with those having personal reference. The dog's name. Segovia's most famous pupil. The student's precious possessions. The committee's decision"²¹⁷.

The predicate noun in the **Case of Genitive** is not the same between Albanian and English, too. The modern English has just two cases (nominal and genitive) than in Albanian that has five (nominal, genitive, dative, ablative and accusative). The syntactic structure of the noun in the genitive has some difference between Albanian and English e.g.

Ti je **e shtëpisë** sonë.

You are at ours **home**.

This is the dog's food

Ky është ushqim i i qenit

The article of genitive in Albanian language usually is before the noun and its opposite with English e.g.

This is **the** dog's food.

Ky është i qenit ushqimi.

Ky është ushqimi i qenit.

You are at ours home. – Ti je e shtëpisë sonë.

²¹⁵ Liz and John Soars, *New Headway, Elementary student's book*, Oxford, New York, 2000, p.14.

²¹⁶ Mark Twain, *The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn*, Washington, 1988, p.94.

²¹⁷ Sidney Greenbaum, *A student's grammar of the English language*, England, 1999, p. 104.

In this sentence we can see the full contrast between Albanian (the article is before the noun) and in English (the genitive can make with pronoun). The structure of word, sentence between Albanian and English has different position. In the following sentence the relationship between the genitive and the noun is not one of ownership or possession. **Artas's** application was denied.

Artas's did not possess an application, she engaged in an activity by applying.

It's even possible that not physical application form was involved. Another sentence: The police didn't believe **Teuta's** story. (**Teuta told a story**).

The genitive phrases can contain another genitive phrases and that phrases can contain another genitive, and so on. In sentence "**My aunt's boyfriend's mother's car**", the genitive phrases modifying car is My aunt's boyfriend's mother's, the genitive phrase modifying mother is My aunt's boyfriend, and the genitive phrase modifying boyfriend is my aunt. The genitive modifying aunt is the determiner my. Here we have structure embedded within structure.

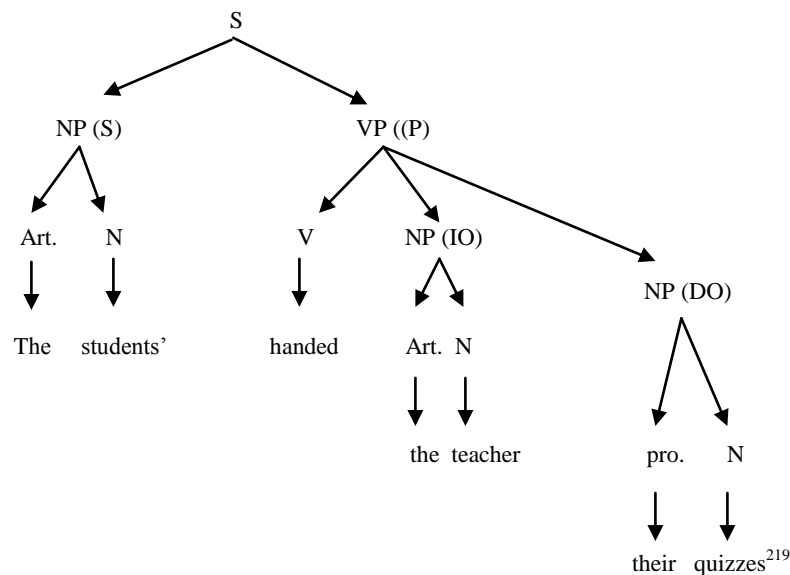
My aunt's boyfriend's mother's car.

Genitive in English and Albanian often has internal grammatical structure. With the exclusion of genitive determiners, genitive are noun phrases and can contain its own determiner, just like any other noun phrases. In phrases: **This boy's father**, this modifies boy not father, the genitive construction modifying father is actually the phrase this boy's. When the nominalized clause is intransitive and thus lacks a direct object, the subject may occupy either the pre-nominal or post-nominal genitive position. Thus consider:

- The city's growth.*
- The growth of the city.*
- Paula's escape to Malta.*
- The escape of Paul to Malta.*²¹⁸

The genitive (word) can be in the sentence at the beginning, middle or in the end. The tree or diagram of the simple sentence can follow the genitive that is in the beginning of sentence:

The students' hands the teacher their quizzes.



This diagram of the sentence "**The students' hands the teacher their quizzes**" the genitive is the subject "the students" and it is not correct with the indirect object, because it needs to be one tree by noun phrase and by it to generate direct or indirect object.

²¹⁸ T. Givon. (1996). **English grammar**. Philadelphia, p. 292.
²¹⁹ Max Morenberg. (2002). **Doing Grammar**. New York, p. 43.

References

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