

**THE GREEK ELEMENT IN THE FIRST
ETIMOLOGIC DICTIONARY OF
ALBANIAN LANGUAGE**



Linguistics

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Abstract

The Albanian language and its history have always attracted the attention of the scholars during the last two centuries. The Etymologic Dictionary of Albanian language by Gustav Meyer is one of works that has set the foundations of Albanian studies in the history of Albanian language. It is an obligation to honour all those scholars that kindly dedicated their lives to language, history and culture. We have inherited a valuable scientific research in the field of albanological science, so that a selected fund of important works in Albanian language can be created. The aim of this paper is to introduce and point out the linguistic values of the Greek borrowings (elements) in the Etymologic Dictionary of Albanian language by Gustav Meyer (Strasbourg 1891). Furthermore, through the comparative method we are going to compare them with the Greek borrowings found even nowadays in the “Dictionary of Albanian Language” (Tirana 2006). This paper aims not only at promoting the values of his work, but also at pointing out some limitations and shortages that time has proved.

1. The history of the Albanian language

Albanian language and its history has attracted more and more the attention of researchers over the last two centuries. The efforts of several generations of scholars, native and foreign, have made it possible to examine the increasingly well known system of this language and its history. Works and studies which have been devoted to this language and its history are numerous and full of values.

“Etymological dictionary of Albanian” of Gustav Meyer is considered as one of the foundational works in the history of the Albanian language and studies.

Initiatives undertaken recently in Tirana and Prishtina for the translation and publication of the outstanding works Albanologists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, such as the works of Hahn, Pedersen, Cimochowsky, Ippen, etc, and recently the work of G. Meyerit, are commendable and to be supported in order to continue further with the translation and publication of other works, because not only they settle an obligation to honor all those who kindly devoted all their lives, to our language, history and our culture and left a very valuable scientific heritage in the fields of albanological sciences, but also because in this way is created a chosen fund of the basic works in Albanian that will help today's and future researchers to better recognize the inherited values and to undertake new studies in these areas.

The purpose of our paper is the recognition of linguistic values and to highlight the greek loanwords in the “Etymological dictionary of Albanian” of Gustav Meyer (Strasbourg 1891). But we shouldn't stop here and through the comparative method we will confront them with the Greek

loanwords preserved until today in the “Dictionary of Albanian language”, publication of the Albanian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Linguistics and Literature, Tirana 2006. Emphasizing the values and importance that carries this work is a noble duty of every scholar of linguistics who deals with the treatment of this work.

Along this way, we will be accompanied from many linguists and researchers, who with their studies and analysis about this work will lead us to reflect in a more thorough way the historical and linguistic values that this research involves being as one of the oldest etymological research in the field of Albanian language, as for example the one of Gustav Meyer with the “Etymological dictionary of Albanian Language”

Once we bring to the light all Greek loanwords listed in the etymological dictionary of Meyer then we will put them in a comparative plan with the Greek loanwords of today’s Dictionary, making a detailed approach to all the Greek loanwords up to today in Albanian. But at the same time we will carefully analyze all the changes they have undergone, either phonetically or semantically.

Each paper has etymological connection with the state of lexical studies of its time. One should always have in mind when assessing the work of Gustav Meyer or when it is compared with today’s works, especially from the course of the current state of knowledge of the Albanian vocabulary. Enrichment of this vocabulary in this one century and onwards was conducted in a broader measure and with a faster pace than in earlier times. Works on which we will rely on the design of this study will be numerous, but those that will occupy a prime location will be the works of Çabej, which comprise the most consolidated studies about the history of the Albanian language. Through its analysis Çabej will orient us toward a more precise definition of the Greek loanwords status, reflected in the Meyer’s etymological dictionary.

Despite the extraordinary merits and values of his vocabulary, the Meyer’s Dictionary is a work of his time as to the criteria used and applied in the etymological study in Albanian, also to the case of the Albanian language that is involved in it. This study aims to promote the values of this work, but also to recognize some limitations and shortcomings that time has proven.

2. Greek borrowings in Albanian

The Albanian language is one of the oldest languages of the Balkans, which has no kinship with any of the other Balkan languages, as well as abroad. The geographical position where this language was spoken has been very favorable for the mutual influences between different tribes and peoples in various areas of social, political and cultural life. Because of these relationships languages of the neighboring peoples have left many traces in the lexical field of the Albanian language of its mother tongue, Illyrian.

As to the source of foreign words, which are documented in Albanian, these should be divided into two major groups: 1) Words from foreign sources that Albanian inherited from its ‘mother’ language. 2) words which come from foreign sources that Albanian has borrowed directly from

other languages which had historical relations. So Albanian borrowings themselves are only words from foreign source in the second group, while those of the first group are borrowings of the ‘mother’ tongue of the Albanian language and as such should be considered as inherited words, but from the foreign source.

Words from foreign sources are subject to phonetic and grammatical rules of the receiving language and they have followed the same evolutionary path as those of the inherited fund of the Albanian language. Obviously more changes have underwent foreign words of the first group, which in many cases only through etymological studies can be separated from the fund of the inherited words.

In the first group of words from foreign sources should be included in the first place those which have penetrated from the pre-Illyrian substrate to the Illyrian. But separating these words nowadays presents insurmountable difficulties.

A considerable place in the Albanian language lexicon take the Greek borrowings. Greek, being documented in writing from the fourteenth century B.C., is divided into three periods: the ancient Greek, middle Greek and in the modern Greek. Ancient Greek lasted roughly until the VI century AD, when the middle Greek begins, which continues until approximately XII century. Whereas the modern Greek includes the period after the XII century and until today.

Borrowings from Ancient Greek

Ancient Greek has been divided into five main dialects:

- Doric dialect
- Aeolic dialect
- Arcado-Cypriot dialect
- Ionic-Attic dialect
- Mycenaean dialect of Linear B tablets

The ancient Greeks, as well as Phoenicians before them, established settlements outside the territories of Greece, e.g., in southern Italy, on the shores of Anatolia, on the shores of the Adriatic and the Black Sea etc. These settlements are not set in a desolate land. Through these settlements they came into contact with indigenous people around. Relations with non-Greek peoples of the Balkans, the ancient Greeks held not only through their settlements on the eastern shores of the Adriatic and the western shores of the Black Sea, but also through the border areas within the Balkan Peninsula.

Century relations between the Greeks and the neighboring Balkan nations will definitely leave marks on their tongues. Here it is the word, primarily, for the traces of the Greek language spoken in the western, central and eastern Balkans, i.e., in Illyrian, Dacian, Thracian and Macedonian, respectively. Also, there wasn't missing the interest of representing the tracks that the neighboring languages have left in Greek.

Many centuries' relations between Greek and Albanian ancestors have left their mark in Albanian. We are talking about elements from the old Greek that Albanian has inherited from the 'mother' language of its own. The presence of a considerable number of the old Greek words in the Albanian language is already convincingly argued. But, on the other hand, it is also proved that some old Greek words entered in the 'mother' language of Albanian through Latin.

Among the elements of the old Greek in Albanian it is accepted also the noun *mokën / mokër*. This word, which has its origins in Doric dialect, came into the Latin language several centuries ago BC in its form *machina*. From the Latin language this word is inherited in Romance languages, such as: Italian *macchina*, French *machine*, Romanian *macina*. But the word *mokën / mokër* of the Albanian could have penetrated through the Latin, because one Latin long -a- gave only -a- in the Latin element of this language. It is therefore rightly recognized that evolution - a - > - o -, that is regularly certified in the element i.e Albanian has involved also the oldest layer of Greek borrowings from the 'mother' language of Albanian. This layer should be several centuries earlier than the oldest layers of Latin borrowings from the 'mother' language of Albanian.

At best of the great age of the word borrowing *mokën / mokër* shows also the reflection of the Greek sound - *kh* - with - *k* -, which shows that the loan is made at a time when the Greek sound *kh* was pronounced still as an aspirated closed consonant *k*. Even the strong R - n- > - r - in the southern dialects is another proof for the age of this loan.

Between the Greek preLatin element of Albanian A.Thumb marks the word *bretëk* (*bretkosë*), that seems to come from Greek Hellenistic period *Brothakos*. If Greek source is correct, then it must be admitted that this word has entered the 'mother' language of Albanian at a time when in Greek the consonant *b* was not yet transformed into *v*. This transformation is quite recent, but not later than the 1st century of the new era. But according to Thumb in Albanian there are 21 words from Ancient Greek. Among these words can be also mentioned: *drapën / draper*, *laken / lakër*, *pjepën / pjepër*, *preshe*, *qershë*, *shpell*, etc. Even in Çabej's works it is given special attention to the Albanian elements from the Ancient Greek.

In these works it is held a critical stance towards some previous statements and are noted in other words the Albanian, which have origins in Ancient Greek. Thus, it is questioned or challenged the Greek source of source words, like: *qull*, *shtamë*, etc. In addition, it must be recognized that some words of this resource will have gone out from their use in the stream of centuries. However, the source words from Ancient Greek are fewer in number than those that have penetrated from the middle and new Greek. The former have undergone a significant change compared with the latter, especially those of the phonetic character and they are all Albanian. While the second, in most cases, are more prevalent and strong in southern dialects and have undergone little changes.

The presence of a small number of words with a source from the Ancient Greek into the documented Albanian gives clearly an evidence for the early contacts between the Greeks and the Albanian ancestors. These words have penetrated in "mother tongue" of Albanian through people

who lived in the Greek settlements on the Adriatic Coast, as well as in the northwestern part of Ancient Greece. On the other hand, the relatively small number of these words proves that old Greek influence on the 'mother tongue' of the Albanians has been limited. Greek small settlements of the Adriatic couldn't practice a major impact on the local population which was greater in number. Such influence couldn't be exercised either through border areas that in ancient times lied even further south.

Borrowings from middle and new Greek

Apart from the Ancient Greek elements inherited from her "mother", Illyrian, Albanian language has borrowed a considerable number of words from the middle and new Greek. The latter are incomparably numerous with the elements of Ancient Greek. And this is explainable, if one bears in mind that the Greek influence over Albanian has been added after the Greek became the official language of the Byzantine Empire there from c. VII AD. This effect has also enabled further the fact that a large portion of the Christian population of Albanian lands were Orthodox and Orthodox churches as liturgical languages used the Greek. Also, the relationships between Greeks and Albanians, especially in border areas, have been increased.

Borrowings from the middle and the new Greek have undergone less changes from the Ancient Greek elements. But, certainly borrowings from the middle Greek and new Greek, especially the former, yet have not remained unadapted to the phonetic system irregularities and grammatical structure of the Albanian language. P.sh. *te krahasohen huazime të tilla si kllogjer dhe trëndafil me trajtat e vetë greqishtes kallajeros dhe triandafyllo*. Eg., to compare loans such as *kllogjer* and *trëndafil* to the Greek forms *kallajeros* and *triandafyllo*.

High borrowings from the middle and new Greek have penetrated stronger in the southern dialect of Albanian. But borrowings from the middle Greek have penetrated in the northern dialect. Such are the words of the religious sphere *kllogjen, monastery*, as well as other spheres such as: *benevreke, dafne, farmëk, hir, kallem, keq, qefali, skile, trëndafil* etj.

Greek borrowings mostly have penetrated in Albanian through the spoken language. But earlier times have entered in Albanian words from Greek sources through written language, here is the word primarily for the concepts, which are built by the Greek root and that in Albanian have entered in Albanian greatly through the Roman language.

It comes to terms such as: aristocracy, democracy, dialogue, diameter, phonetic, geography, geology, geometry, hypertony, hypotony, monologue, morphology, perimeter, polygon, syntax, etc.

Together with borrowed words have entered in Albanian some suffixes from the Greek source, to which were added to the roots of non-Greek source. Such are mainly suffixes;

-it: *gjirokast-rit, labov-it, libohov-it*, etc.

-jot: *gramsh-jot, himar-jot, mallakastri-jot, delvi-njot*, etc.

-om: balt-omë, bur-omë, kredh-omë, zez-omë, etc.

-is: kallaj-is, paj-is, përrall-is, rast-is, tigan-is, vaj-is, etc.

-os: ajr-os, barr-os, bring-os, brum-os, celnik-os, balk-os, fund-os, gjak-os, hekur-os, plag-os, tym-os, vend-os, vul-os, etc.

In addition to these borrowings, which have entered into various time periods in the history of the Albanian language development, a number of Greek loanwords in Albanian penetrated after 1990. This period coincides with the collapse of communist rule in Albania and the Albanians flow to various European countries, especially neighboring Greek and Italian. This socio-political change was accompanied by a change in the Albanian language lexical terms. Greek borrowings of this period have penetrated throughout Albanian, but a vast place they occupy in the southern Albanian dialects, which are close to Greek influence. New Greek borrowings were from various fields, but most of them make up their daily communication as *suflaqe*, *kartopcetë*, etc.

Besides various borrowings from Greek language, Albanian efforts to clean unnecessary foreign words that were launched since the last century have made it possible to be avoided from the Albanian also quite of replaceable Greek words.

In turn, the literary Albanian has exerted a powerful influence on the daily discourse of the population to eliminate or partially eliminate of the sufficient Greek words. It comes to such borrowings, which had had a limited regional spread or have passed on historicisms.

3. About the etymological issues of the Albanian language and the role of Gustav Meyer in the field of Albanology

With the issues of Albanian language etymology, since the time before the application of the principles of the Indo-European linguistics compared in a broader scale, were engaged various scholars, like Thunman, Malte-Brun, Pouquevill, Xylander, Hahn, and others, and between those comparisons that they made, there are some that still have a value even today. Earlier than these scholars, Leibniz the genius had paved the criteria in judging the character of Albanian should be separated country elements from the borrowed elements, and with this he has shown the way that he automatically followed, that even today continues to pursue linguistics itself.

In this research field, a systematic work and with the principles of proper scientific methods, as for other languages but also for Albanian was launched with the establishment of the comparative Indo-European linguistics with Rasmus Rasku activity, and for Albanian with the work of Franz Bopp. This scholar in determining the character of the Albanian language, he rightly did put as a base primarily the grammatical forms, but with his work he did enable that many sources of many words should be consulted mainly by the lexis of Indo-European language.

The well-known Slavist F. Miklosich in his *Forschungen Albanische* reviewed Slavic elements, Roman language with borrowed verbs forms of the Albanian. On the other hand, in his

dictionaries and in various Slavic and Romanian researches for the first time he noted the impact of an Albanian and its extent on ancient neighboring languages. Later (1884-1890) he also studied borrowings from Turkish in this language, looking at the broad picture ‘Turkish elements in the languages of Eastern and Southeastern Europe’, such work that he fulfilled it with some ‘appendixes’. The work of this scholar was preceded and clarified by the scholar H. Schuhardt especially with regard to Latin-Roman influences in Albanian, and F. v. Kraelitz-Greifenhorst in terms of Ottoman-Turkish borrowings.

The central figure of the Albanian language etymological study was however, and still remains, to a certain view, even today, Gustav Meyer, with his etymological dictionary (1891), with Albanian Studies I-IV (1883-1897), to which he added extras as regards neogreek case studies I-IV (1894-1895) and of the Turkish Studies (1893).

The Indoeuropeanist, Albanologist, and Balkanist the great Gustav Meyer was born on November 25, 1850 in Gross-Strehlitz of Silezia. Studies of classical philology, indoeuropean philology, new Greek and Sanskrit began in 1867 at the University of Breslau, where he graduated in 1871.

In the second half of the nineteenth century had begun work on drafting the comparative grammar and etymological dictionaries of various European languages. At this time also the foundations were laid for the scientific study of the Albanian language and its history.

After linguistic and historical studies undertaken by eminent scholars, as mentioned above like J.Thunmann, G.hahn, F.Bopp, F.Miklosich, who with his works threw light on many aspects of the history of Albanians, the origin and the Albanian language, its relationships with other languages, another true master of etymological studies and historical phonetics gave the Albanian language since in the last quarter of the nineteenth century an etymological dictionary, which reflected the so far achievements in the field of historical study of phonetics and the vocabulary of Albanians during the time they were recognized and studied in his time.

Meyer began to be interested in Albanian, Albanian language and its history in the early 80s of the XIX century. As the main sources for knowledge of the history of Albanians and their language served him the work of G.Hahnit “Albanian studies” (1854) finally equipped with a glossary of Albanian, the work of J.Thunmann “Research in the history of the peoples of Eastern Europe” (1774), “An outline of the comparative grammar of the Albanian language” (1886) from the Arbresh Dh.Kamarda especially “Albanian studies” I-III (1870-71) of Miklosich and his other studies for the Turkish elements in the Southeastern European languages and also the etymological dictionary of Slavic languages. Visits that he undertook towards Arbëresh settlements helped him to collect material from these linguistic dialect of Albanian detached long time ago from its trunk. Meyeri entered into correspondence with the Albanian scholars and Arbëresh in that time, with Th.Mitko, K.Kristoforidh, J.De Rada, Dh.Kamarda, etc.

In 1883-1897 he published six volumes of "Albanian Studies" in which he addressed multiple problems in historical phonetics and grammar of the Albanian, the etymology and

vocabulary, Albanian relations with other languages. Particularly important for the historical phonetics and for the Albanian language and its etymological studies, as two areas closely related to each other, is the third volume (1892), where are presented sounds developments of the Indoeuropean language in Albanian, thus by laying the foundation of the Albanian historical phonetics for its early period.

G.Meyer in the large sharing with Indo-European languages in satema and centum, upon reflection labial consonants, he includes the Albanian language in the group of satem languages. So, when he began work on drafting etymological dictionary of Albanian, G.Meyer had studied many aspects of its historical development. Regarding the origin of the Albanians and their autochthony Meyer believed that "Albanians live in Albania or at least a part of it since very old times, they are descendants from Illyrians ..."

G.Meyer in 1888 published a "short grammar of the Albanian language", equipped also with texts and reading parts in Tosk dialect and also with a glossary of these texts.

But the basic work of G.Meyer which are synthesized all his achievements in the field of historical study is "The etymological dictionary of Albanian language". By being the first work of its kind for the Albanian language and by remaining the only work of its kind for nearly a century, the etymological dictionary of Meyer has played a tremendous role in Albanian historical linguistics during the twentieth century. All subsequent studies of historical phonetics and etymology of the Albanian language and its relationship with other Indo-European languages were referred to this work. Albanological works of Meyer were recognized and praised by prestigious institutions and personalities of the time. French Academy gave him the Werner price. Faik Konica in his magazine "Albania" 1897 No. 8 would write: "We will not teach our readers, mostly albanologists, who is Professor Gustav Meyer".

Etymological dictionary of Albanian language has served and still serves as an encouragement and support for scientific research in various fields of historical study of the Albanian language and helped its history be better known in many European scientific and cultural circles of the world and in this way to spread the Albanian content which is included in the comparative grammar dictionaries of different languages.

It has served as a starting point and as the basis for subsequent studies on Albanian etymological such as "Etymological Studies in the field of Albanian" of Çabej in seven volumes, "Albanian etymology" of Bardhyl Demirak and "etymological dictionary of Albanian language" of Vladimir Orelitetj, and other studies in the field of the history of the Albanian language and Balkanology. Even today, after a century and a quarter, when etymological studies are studied much broader and with new applications and methods in accordance with the discipline of epistemology and when the knowledge and the scientific study of the Albanian language can not be compared with the time when Meyerit dictionary was published, this work has not lost not only its historical value but also scientific.

Despite the extraordinary merits and values, Meyer's vocabulary is a work of its time, as for the criteria used in the etymological study conducted in Albanian, as for the case of the Albanians that he has included in it, for the degree of its recognition and for the conclusions that has brought about the composition of the vocabulary of this language after the etymological analysis.

After Gustav Meyer the line of Albanology development is most strongly determined with the names of Jokli and Pedersen. Pedersen was dedicated more to the Albanian grammar problems and issues related to them rather than those of its etymology; it seems that finding some historical phonetics rules which were unnoticed properly before him and clarification of some morphological structure sides of the Albanian language caused the removal of many etymological comparisons of Mayer, and also opened the way for a fairer view of the history of some words of this language.

His work in this field is more qualitative than quantitative. More complex appears for the Albanian the work and activity of Norbert Jokli, who in time came and focused mainly in this branch of study, in contrast with Boppi, who had been above all a languages comparativist, from Miklosich, who was the ballkanist and Slavist, from Gustav Meyer that except that he was studying Greek and Albanian, from Pedersen, who left earlier from the Albanian studies.

Jokli's scientific interests, except that for the problem of Albanian etymology and his links with ancient Balkan languages, were driven more strongly by the etymology of the word history rather from the meaningful grammar. He took on a larger scale that his predecessors and contemporaries the Albanian material, the written and spoken, there not only the linguistic evidence, but also objective data of cultural material and ethnography. Etymologies of Jokli stand to explain the morphological structure of the word, in the area of disclosure of certain phonetic syllabic features of liquids and nasals.

A work of paramount importance remains also keeping of his attitude towards international scientific activity in the field of epistemology and the Albanians over the years 1916-1940, who appears in his peer-reviewed "Indogermanisches Jahrbuch" yearbook IV XXIV. The work of this scholar, with all the results indicated, remained unfinished. With his suffered death in 1942, he couldn't finish his etymological dictionary and The Albanian Historical Grammar, which could have been the work of his life. Viewed in its entirety and in its effects on the further direction of Albanology, the way that Pedersen opened and then extended and continued Jokli after a longitudinal work, mark a turning point in the linguistic field of archeological research. Albanian was never seen again, as before, as a mixed semi-Roman language. It was already recognized as in the grammatical system but also in vocabulary, many of its inherited features, unnoticed well from before.

Along with these scholars, with the problems of epistemology at the same time are many others who dealt with the same issues, by approaching to the Albanian from their specialization standpoint like Indo-European language, Hellenic, Slavic, and particularly from Romanian

languages, who among them were especially Stier, Thumb, Miklosich, Schmid, Tagliavin, Mann, Restel, etc. The result of this work more than fifteen years of work is this one, that in the comparable etymological dictionaries of the last two generations of Albanian vocabulary occupies a larger place as it has occupied earlier. Among these dictionaries, the one of Walde - Hofmann gives some of the Albanian etymology announced to the author by Jokli through letters.

Among Albanian linguists who have contributed to the history of Albanian etymology are Kamarda and La Piana from Arbëresh's of Italy, Furiki from those of Greece, Kristoforidhi, Xhuvani and Çabej in Albania.

Among these, Kamarda is distinguished with his talent of a rare combination, but has been damaged by the lack of scientific distinction of the local element of vocabulary by the foreign element. The work of La Piana should be complete by what is known, if we judge from this that a large part of his manuscripts remained unpublished.

From the comparisons of Kristoforidhi, those that are right or at least questionable were treated in various works. The works of Alexander Xhuvani present a more accurate orientation and a higher scale of linguistic research. The source words of Turkish-Oriental, after a preliminary work of Th.Mitko, has been tracked especially from T.Dizdari, the author of a manuscript with broad-Orientalism over the Albanian language.

In general lines, in the autochthonous etymologists the lack or the decrease of external comparison is compensated with a full knowledge of the mother tongue. This has often enabled to more tightly with intuitive way to dictate some internal closeness which were not noticed by foreign scholars. In the field of Slavic-Albanian relations, has got merits the author called I. Ajeti. There isn't also without interest Pjeter Mazëreku from Prizren, Archbishop of Tivar since 1632, which saw that the translation of some Albanian words with the Italian, coming thus as an ancestor of Albanian etymological studies.

From the ranks of the Arbëreshs of Italy, in manuscripts and works especially of N.Keta, A.Masci, J. V.Dorsa. De Rada, in the most unstable combinations, can be found also any fair etymological comparison. But the linguist who gave a great impetus to the etymology of the Albanian language and to the whole Albanian study, while marveling him at all angles in his works, it is definitely Eqrem Çabej. His works in the field of Albanian epistemology are numerous, but the most conspicuous of those which carry an inexhaustible potential for the Albanian language and its etymology are Language Studies I-II and Etymological Studies in the field of Albanian I-VII.

Etymological studies have a dual character, he is also very well-built as a critics. In addressing every word the author departs from a review of the work that has been done since then, by a screening of the thoughts that have emerged, aiming to achieve a certain balance of results since then. While the critical documentation, maintaining attitude, appearance of the condition of the Albanian language etymological study, the objective assessment of previous work represented one side of the paper overall character. In addition, starting from the platform of criticism, Çabej

struggled in a positive way, often with new interpretations, to give a personal opinion on the history of the source of many Albanian words. This is made possible by relying often on a previously unused material, with taking into account of several new tools and research results. With these features this paper is presented with a new character, essentially different from the studies undertaken until then in this branch of Albanian studies.

4. Preparatory work of Gustav Meyer

The main aim according to the etymological Vocabulary of Meyer is to present the Albanian language vocabulary in the most complete way, and this dictionary he seeks to investigate in view of his background. The linguistic subject of the Albanian language he has studied from everything he could find in dictionaries, glossaries, grammars and printed texts, which he partly controlled during his travels in Turkey, Greece, South Italy and Sicily, by adding it to the new subject.

The starting point for his collections was a list of words that Hahn had added to his own work 'Albanesische Studien' this list, excluding some misunderstandings and separate inaccuracies, which is worked with exemplary care and reliability, and should be evaluated even more since the author lacked the phonetic training. Meyer in most cases has taken in his book unreservedly forms and meanings noted by Hahn.

From the other lexical levies must mention with special assessment the glossary at the end of Dozon's Manual and 'Noctes Pelasgicae' of Reinhold'. According to Meyer both dictionaries of Ross are not as rich as one may think by their volume, but nevertheless necessary for the recognition of Shkodra dialect, while the form and meaning must be seen constantly critical because these cases hold temporarily the seal of an absolute uncertainty.

At the end of the work Meyer provides a list of information on what he has learned from the Albanian literature or the literature on Albanian. Most of it he has seen and studied with attention to himself. Meyer regrets that he could not see the Puljevski four language Dictionary, to which he could have provided a small appendix of words. Vintage manuscript has not been at hand, except a small collection of words from Borgo Erizzo, for which he has already announced in the "Albanische Studien" I 14.

Ways of reproducing sounds of Albanian is just what Meyer has implemented in his "Kurzgefasste albanische Grammatik". Because he did not want to give a collection of phonetic preparations and has avoided any beautification, who in his new grammar works he preferred even where it was not necessary.

Meyer admits that he was not able to hear with his ears all the words which were collected by him, that's why it can not be achieved the uniformity. He even leaves messages to the future Albanian researchers to make an improvement give the supplements. A great importance Meyer gives to Miklosich's works, which have helped him so much in determining elements in Roman languages elements, Slavic or Turkish. But Meyer did not leave unmentioned some interpretations

of the case of Ascol and Schuchard, whom he vividly thanks for their oral announcements hypotheses.

Meyer said that the case of the vocabulary collected by the Turkish Albania and from the Albanian settlements in Greece and Italy appears extremely diverse in its origin. From 5140 words that contains his book, 1420 have resulted from the Roman origin (versus 930 in Miklosich's) 540 Slavic (in Miklosich 319), 1180 Turkish, 840 Greek, where only about 400 he has been able to prove more or less probably as with an ancient Indo-European heritage, about 730 went out unfathomable to his interpretive efforts.

Accessories that were necessary for Meyer to work with have been partly very scarce because the lexical grammatical study of all Balkan languages was still in its first steps. For Turkish it was somewhat different, because as apart from the oldest known dictionaries Meyer managed to use also the dictionary from Turkish to French of Yousouf, as well as the Italian - Turkish dictionary of Ciadyrgy, which he hardly found it in an antiquarian in Istanbul. For Bulgarian, except summaries of popular songs, he was driven primarily to Cankov dictionaries, Mors and Dozon.

For the Romanian language Meyer used the researches of Dr. Weigant, which were rich enough with new material. Even for the Greek there is not much to be said; dictionaries of Legrand of Jannarakis, with all their merits, according to Meyer they are only necessity tools.

Well-intentioned pickings of the dialectal case, as we find them scattered in numerous summary folk songs, the glossaries of Joannidhis, Museos, Paspatis, Papazafirooulos and of others, in editions of "Sillogos" in Istanbul and in other countries, as if they lay on a single bed and filled with scientific spirit would be one of the most laudable and patriotic tasks that the upcoming Academy of Sciences of Athens must lead " - ends Meyer.

About the approach to foreign words with Albanian, there where he has brought foreign words, they serve to clarify the origin of the Albanian word, whereas as regards the borrowings, in order to mark the path they have taken, or at least scholars should show the place of the Albanian word within a circle of similar words. In this case Meyer is limited to the Balkan languages and those which are closest to them directly. Another issue is that of transcription, where Meyer speaks with desperation. In this case it is moving in constant compromise between traditional uses, sometimes found and officially recognized, and to the personal and scientific obedience, while all the time are seen certain deficiencies and inconsistencies that have as a consequence these compromises.

From the indicators of words at the end, in whose designs Meyer obliges a big thanks to his listeners Karl Hiecke for his support, the first, that contains Albanian words, serves to ease the plight of those words that are not *lema*, an indicator as the etymological Dictionary of Miklosich back then. Others of course do not claim to represent all the words that have been brought to be compared from other languages. Meyer has considered at the first place only the first classes of the old Indo-European elements of the Albanian, in the second case are taken only those Romanian,

Slavic and Greek words, etc for the explanation of which seems to give some assistance here and there. The author thinks that Albanian and Greek patriots are in need for an annexation, which this is indispensable for easing the great dogma of every Albanian word as a support for their Pelasgian theory or whichever other theory, when they will take in their hands his book will not enjoy much for the colorful mosaic that will appear there. Meyer also adds that the dilettantes of the type of the late Fligier Cornelius will not remain silent, who in their dreams would like to put the Ilirian instead of Celtic withdrawn long time ago. Meyer, in the end gives a wish to his book to accompany it during all its way, along with the works of the great scholars, to whom it is not dedicated as an unworthy and completed contribution to the study of the Albanian language.

5. Çabej's opinion on the importance of this etymological dictionary in Albanian, as well as the review of the status of Greek loanwords in this dictionary

In his very rich scientific activity of prof. E. Çabej, the central place occupy 'etymological studies in Albanian area, the work of the author's life. This work is the result of comprehensive knowledge of the native language, the generalization of deep knowledge and rich experience of the author in the field of the history of the Albanian language, the balkanology and the Indo-European language. Research on the history of the Albanian language and especially for etymological studies have a relatively long tradition. But, like all other fields of knowledge and life in general, even in etymological studies of Albanian, only after Liberation there were created conditions for a scientific and systematic organized activity.

To this hard and so important work got engaged diligently and with passion, perseverance and rare competence professor Eqrem Çabej, who began to work in this area in the early years of his scientific activity.

A part of the results of his work in this field of study was published in the form of studies entitled "Studies on the etymology of the Albanian language", since 1960 to 1963 in the 'Bulletin of the University of Tirana, social sciences series' and then in 'Philological Studies' from 1964 to 1968.

In recent years, Eqrem Çabej his perennial fruits of his labor in the field of epistemology began to fulfil, to further develop and present them in a major work in several volumes, in the 'etymological studies in the field of Albanian'.

In his work 'Etymological Studies in the field of Albanian', through a critical examination of his finer work done in this field until then by other scholars, with convincing arguments professor Çabej has rejected a number of erroneous conclusions that were drawn for different reasons. He not only dealt with tracing the source of words, but also with their history, the environment where they were formed, their geographic spread within the land of the Albanian and abroad. Linguistic phenomena are observed and studied in their overlapping and comprehensive

information about the history, culture, ethnography etc. In this work Çabej a great importance paid to the work of Meyer “Etymological Dictionary of Albanian language”.

Albanian among the smallest Indo-European languages and it is one of the few which is lucky enough to have an etymological dictionary since the last century. The dictionary, published since 1891 by the greatest Albanian of the time, Gustav Meyer, professor at the University of Graz in Austria, it remains even today an essential work for any study in the field of Albanian, and beyond Albanian thus for the Balkan linguistics, too.

In addition to these assessments that Çabej makes to Meyer’s etymological Dictionary, he calls for revision of this work. This happens for two main reasons. On one side, it is enriched the Albanian vocabulary. The new material has come to light since the end of last century, either through dictionaries that were published in monographs or dialectological sketches. To this dictionary it is added a new material that has come to light with the discovery of several major works of Old Albanian literature, which are found in the time after Gustav Meyer.

On the other hand, in the two generations since the publication of this etymological dictionary are advanced Albanian studies in general and in particular those of Albanian etymology. Long time ago, Çabej writes that we are added to the etymology of Albanian and we are on the way to prepare a study in this field. There is a balance of work carried out since the publication of the etymological dictionary of Gustav Meyerit, among them the Meyeri himself. To this scholar Çabej adds that only the untimely death cut off his momentum, because it is no wonder that on time he would have made any major new study or a second edition of the dictionary. In his "Studies on the etymology of the Albanian language", according Çabej the main purpose is to present the current state of the Albanian etymology. So with a more complete overview of the different opinions of scholars with a critical analysis of their synthesis is intended to separate wheat from the chaff, to leave the remaining ones which are worthy and removed those that are unworthy. One principle which is based on the work of Çabej is that for the words that are studied to make a revision within the bounds of the possibility a history of words. It also aims to set up to some extent the geography of words, especially to be distinguished those that are of the language in general, and those which belong to a dialect or sub-dialect, or to a branch of dialect.

The issue studied so much on how much autochthonous is the Albanian lexical depository and how much is foreign is important to determine its linguistic character. Çabej concludes that one of the main obstacles and shortcomings of the studies suffer from the etymology of the Albanian is from the deficient recognition of linguistic material. This is one of the main reasons that Gustav Meyeri misjudged quite a lot of words from the Albanian vocabulary. Despite the great advances that are listed here, a good part of this linguistic dough lives up to this day in the folk’s legend and compiled and registered in dictionaries. Below, Çabej follows a more thorough etymological analysis of words by redefining again the new status of the words.

From 840 Greek words that Meyer reflected in the etymological dictionary of Albanian language, Çabej in his ‘Etymological studies’ has addressed many of them. Çabej has once again

revised their origin relying on the opinions of other linguists as foreign or domestic, such as: Hahn, Weigand, Giordano, Pedersen, Jokl, Mann, Popovic, Kristoforidh, Leghorn, Xhuvani Gosturani and many others who have paid great attention to the history of words.

Among Greek words that Çabej discussed above, some of them changed their previously determined source from Meyer, by making them indigenous or from other foreign source. There are also not absent cases when the discussion about their origin has remained open or too difficult to be explained. Below the researcher has made a ranking of some of the "Greek words" of G.Meyer, which Çabej found them as suspicious, by analyzing their status once again:

bajloz m. "ambassador". According to Meyer this word derives from the Turkish word *bailos*, and this from middle Greek *μπαίλος*, this from Venetian *bailo*. In Italian the word is derived from the French. There is also likely that the Albanian word comes out of French.

boçkë f. The plant name *Scilla maritime*. This word appears in the Serbo-Croatian. The Serbo-Croatian words of Montenegro and the word of the new Greek to have derived from Albanian.

brohoroj "approve it with a loud applause". Meyer pick up this word from the New Greek *βρουχω*. According to Çabej this is not the right etymology, because the Greek letter *v* is not reflected in the Albanian with *b*. It is an onomatopoeic formation.

cingël m. "small stick". Meyer sees this word as coming from the New Greek. The Meyer's etymology doesn't have a concrete foundation, but this is seen more as a diminutive of Cing-Cing.

çuçuris "whisper". Meyer sees this word as coming from the New Greek, but this seems to be more like an onomatopoeic formation.

darkë, according to Meyer this corresponds etymologically to the Greek word *δάρπον* "dinner". But the morphological relationship of words remains unclear.

gurgule f. "commotion, noise". The approach that Mayer makes with the New Greek *γουργουρίζω* cannot stand in this form. This deals more with an onomatopoeic formation.

gjigant m. Meyer gives this word from Kristoforidh *gjiga*, from the New Greek *γίγας*. But Çabej sees this form *gjigant* coming from Latin *gigante*.

jothi f. "violet". Meyer brings this word from the New Greek *ίον*, with the diminutive suffix of Albanian *-th*. Such a diminutive would be *joth*. Thus *jothi* after all its likelihood is a singularized plural.

kapitem "heavy brething". Meyer sees this word with reserve coming from the New Greek, but Jokli finds here an autoctonuous word, comparing it from within the Albanian language

with *kem*. Çabej sees it as an extension of the verb *kap* with *-it*, perhaps in a formal analogy of some words with similar meaning as *godit*, *drobit*.

mëllagë f. “*malva officinales*”. Meyer explains this from the Greek *μαλαχη*, and doesn't fail to notice that *g* for the Greek *χ* is odd. The Greek and Albanian forms are generally derived from a non-Indoeuropean language.

shutupë f. “The thick portion extracted from the flax and hemp”. Meyer gives the form *stupë* “cork”, and explains it from the new Greek, this itself from Latin *stuppa* and this from Old Greek *στούπη*. The form with *sh-*, seems to have derived directly from Latin *stuppa*, whereas the form with *s-*, seems to have derived from the new Greek.

ziej. This word Meyer brings from the new Greek *ζέω* “simmer, boil”. But it was thought that one *ζέω* of Greek to give one *zes*, not *ziej* of Albanian. It can be seen that in these circumstances *ziej* is an autoctonuous word, close to the Greek word.

From right now it can be noticed that there is a transfer of reports, and this both in terms of the inherited vocabulary. In the first field are drawn down lots of previous constructions, and some other takes their places. In terms of borrowings' relationships, it is to be put a special attention the impact of Albanian on neighboring languages which has not been marveling at the whole and not appreciated enough, an impact that with the meetings of the languages among one another, with the situation of the “languages in contact”, in reality it is taken for granted.

Besides these studies one should take into account that not less common words have all Balkan languages, and borrowings among these languages constitute an important aspect of their outer history. In these circumstances, in a comparative look at the phenomena find many solutions many problems, which otherwise with an isolated review and confined within national targets will remain a different construction for scientific researches.

6. Greek words which do not encounter in today's literary language and their literary status in discourse

Drawing on Greek words found in the Etymological Dictionary, which constitute a fund of 840 words, 274 of them are still found today in the Albanian language dictionary, so that they have managed to survive to the time and the continuous efforts to replace them with their equivalents in Albanian.

The fact that Çabej looks on the number of Greek words issued by Meyer is relatively small, it leads you to the conclusion that the number of Greek words which allegedly resisted during the time should be the least. Among the Greek words that are observed in the Meyer's etymological dictionary, there is a relatively small number of Greek words which are no longer found in today's literary language, but still have a narrow use in everyday discourse.

We come to this conclusion, starting respectively from my own experience. Many of these words that do not belong on today's Vocabulary are heard to be used by people belonging to the

older age, who have never left their villages, Pilur, Piqeras, Lukovë, St. Basil, Nivica Bubar, Kudhës, etc. These are very old words that have a very limited use. Most of them, due to age and coexistence with Albanian words have phonetic changes by adapting its rules.

1. **aformi** f. “cause”. In the village of Pilur this word has undergone phonetic changes in its form *furmi*.

2. **argali** “handloom”. This word is not used only for the handloom, but in general for all the tools.

3. **cinxife** f. “hide”. In villages Lukovë, Piqeras, St. Basil it is used in the form *cinxërfeta*. So the word has undergone a phonetic change that can hardly be explained.

4. **dhisk** m. “metal plate”. This word is also used to designate the different trays.

5. **dhjatë** f. “will”.

6. **dhjavas** “read”.

7. **dhjozmë** “mente, menexhik”.

8. **dhrom** m. “street”.

9. **egerle** f. “oleaster”. In the above villages it is used in the form *argële*.

10. **fundaks** “bloat”. This word has not undergone formal changes, but semantic. Now it is used to mean “appear (shfaq)”.

11. **fanepsem** “appearing”.

12. **foti** f. “kerosene lamp”.

13. **gajdhur** “donkey”.

14. **gone** f. “corner”.

7. Conclusions

The study and treatment of one of the fundamental works in the field of epistemology of the Albanian language, as it is the Etymological Dictionary of Albanian, designed by Gustav Meyer is a merit and duty of every researcher who wants to know the the first steps of the Albanian etymology, as well as its history.

It is this work which was the first one which led to the further development of the full value of the history of Albanian etymology. Although the first edition of this work was with sporadic studies, which have been designed to address the history of the Albanian language vocabulary, none of them left an indelible mark as Meyeri left in his work on the etymology and history of the Albanian vocabulary.

Etymological dictionary, published in Strassburg, 1891 is a golden foundation stone in the etymology of the Albanian language, values of which are promoted in many subsequent studies with national and international character. Albanian and foreign scholars as Pedersen, Jokl, Xhuvan, Çabej, Demiraj, Mancaku, etc, have paid great attention to this work, giving to it the medal that it deserves.

But the researcher who has treated the Meyers etymological dictionary with more rigorosity to enlighten as much the background of the Albanian language through centuries is Çabej, initially with the etymological studies and later with a summary of their major manifold volume work as the “Etymological studies on the field of Albanian.”

Etymological dictionary of Albanian language unless it is among the first dictionaries of its kind, it constitutes one of the works from which are also supported many other works of later studies. The values of this dictionary will not perish even though it belongs to nearly two centuries ago. But we should not forget that each paper belongs to a certain time and it needs always to be seen against the background of his time. Along the values as the first etymological dictionary in Albanian it also occupies there a very wide space of deficiencies that affect the historical and lexical image of the Albanian, as a language with its potentials.

I say this because during the study of the first etymological vocabulary over the Greek words and their spreading I concluded that Albanian words itself constituted a very small number in comparison with words borrowed from other languages. But is it possible that from 5140 covered there, only 400 words to belong to the Albanian source? It is impossible for a language such as ancient and native Albanian. Albanian language derives from Illyrian, one of the few languages that were spoken in the Balkans. One of the greatest shortcomings observed in the first etymological dictionary is also the large number of borrowings involved in it. The land of Albanians has been for centuries prey to foreign invaders, who besides slavery brought many elements of their tradition and cultural history. But they didn't leave without violating the Albanian language.

Relying on these facts not so pleasant for us Albanians, today in Albanian are found many foreign words, starting from Roman, Latin, Greek, Turkish, and Slavic languages, etc. Again, these data do not justify the presence of such a large number borrowings in Albanian, an ancient language, and independent of other languages with which is surrounded. Again, another strange question comes to us: how could the ancient and heroic Albanian have more foreign elements than elements of its own? This question we necessarily raise on the basis of results obtained in etymological dictionary of Albanian language, where from 5140 words in total there are 1500 resulting from Roman origin, 540 Slavic and 840 with the Greek origin. These figures will surprised anyone. It is unacceptable that a personal fund of such language as the Albanian to be formed only by 8-9 % of the words. We shouldn't leave without mentioning the number of about 800 words, which were not at all repatriated in this dictionary due to their explanatory difficulties.

Well, these are the data which are not accurate and strange that make us judge the first etymological dictionary of the Albanian language, not only a work with full value, but also a “lame” work. Factors that contributed to the damage and deformation of Albanian language data are some, starting from the time when it was compiled this dictionary, which corresponds to a dark period for the knowledge of the Albanian language. Until the nineteenth century there was no serious study of Albanian vocabulary or history. Acts of our old authors who represent a treasure wealth of knowledge on the Albanian language to that time were unknown. And above all the first

etymological dictionary of the Albanian language as the author has a foreign researcher, who did not recognize Albanian so well and the most part of the data collected from various but not very correct sources. The premature death of Meyer perhaps deprived the Albanian language by many other studies, which may have been the most successful. This view of Çabej finds support in many linguists and researchers who evaluate the research work of the scholar, Gustav Meyer.

The aim of this work was the selection of Greek words reflected in the etymological dictionary of Albanian language, as well as their confrontation with the Greek words in the Albanian language Dictionary, edition of the Academy of Sciences of Albania, Tirana 2006. Through a careful filing of them was achieved not only the comparison of the Greek words in the Albanian language etymological dictionary of those days with the current ones, but also a view of phonetic and semantic changes during the years and decades. At the end of selective analysis it resulted that the number of vocabulary words of Albanian with the origin from the Greek in the Dictionary of Meyer was 840. Then these Greek words were seen in a comparative perspective with Greek words that resisted to the pressure of time and survived until today, through the Albanian language Dictionary in 2006. The total number of Greek words still surviving in Albanian, now as part of its vocabulary with all the rights to adapt and create new words turned out to be 274. We talk with these data relying always on the report of Greek words in the Etymological Dictionary of Meyer with those Greek words of the Albanian language Dictionary, 2006.

During the analysis it was observed that the words with the Greek source in the Albanian language, in their long and hard way had undergone not only phonetic changes, but also changes in the meaning, getting reformed with new nuances and overtones. In this aspect we shouldn't forget to leave unmentioned also the constant struggle of the Albanian language to enrich its lexical fund with its own dough and replace at the same time with same foreign words from its dough. To this fate couldn't be avoided even some Greek words, which entered with the Albanian source.

The core of our issue is not consisted only by a Greek words observation at the two above mentioned dictionaries, but its beam aimed still at a wider scope, the way they had done so far, transformations they have undergone, as well as the place they enjoy now in the literary language of the daily discourse.

We could have appeared incorrect if we conclude our topic and aim here. The above given data, especially those drawn by Gustav Meyer in the first Etymological Dictionary of Albanian were also seen in another point of view, under the critical eye of scholars and linguists, especially those of Eqrem Çabej. After a predominant part of the volumes "Etymological studies in the field of Albanian" were carefully studied, it was seen that the number of loanwords in Albanian was smaller than that observed in the Meyer's Dictionary. Many Albanian words which derived from the "mother language" were treated etymologically wrong, passing to the address of other languages. In this context are also included many "Greek words" which during our study resulted that 1/3 of them were words from the Albanian source. Analysis and careful treatments that

followed this study were strongly relying at the arguments of Albanologists like, Pedersen, Jokli, Mann, as well as Albanian linguists like: Kristoforidhi, Xhuvani, Çabej and Demiraj, etc.

However, Meyer with his etymological study for the Albanian language words threw the main step in the emergence and development of the language discipline of the Albanian etymology which deals with the trace of the origin of words which constitute its lexical fund. The Etymological Dictionary of the Albanian language could not be left out from the hands and the attention of researchers and Albanian etymologists.

The exposure of the historical, cultural and above all linguistic values of the first Albanian Etymological Dictionary, as well as findings of its deficiencies was a sacred duty for me as a scholar and admirer of the Albanian language, its history and lexical fund. The Albanian language is an inexhaustible source, where even wrong conclusion cannot harm it.

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