


Exploring the Formation of Agro-mechanics Terminology: Principal Derivational Processes at Work			Linguistics
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Abstract			
<p>Derivational processes have always played a significant role in Albanian language in terms of expansion of both general and technical vocabulary. Recent years have witnessed a surge of interest in the role of derivational morphology in technical lexicon, and current research shows an equally strong interest in the paradigmatic analyses of the resulting terms from such a process. This paper will be exploring the area of term formation in agro-mechanics from a theoretical and methodological perspective. On this basis, the theoretical and practical role of derivational affixes in coining new terms in the field of agro-mechanics is discussed critically. The study shows that terminology in agro-mechanics, created through derivational affixes, is not as short of appropriate terminology as it was perceived to be. It is shown that the shortage of terms in the field of agro-mechanics, as opposed to much broader fields, is sufficiently remedied by the application of derivational processes. In Albanian we have a number of suffixes -ak; -ar; -esë; -ëz; -th; -ues and prefixes ç-; sh-; zh-; mbi-; për-; ri-; para-; mos-; kundër-, which are considered to be highly productive in the formation of terms in the field in question. Its contribution to the process of creating new terms to designate new concepts is duly taken notice of and appreciated.</p>			

Introduction

Terminology is the study of terms and their use. Terms, as used in the field of agro-mechanics, are just simple word forms (*grirëse/shedder*), compound words (*hambar drithi/grain shed*) or multi-word expressions (*frezuese prashitëse për bimë në rreshta/rotary cultivator for row crops*) that in specific contexts are given specific meanings. Yet, extended word combinations are burdensome and should be shortened over time (Duro, 2001). Many terms, primarily compound ones, may deviate from the meanings that they own in other fields or domains of science and knowledge. For example, the term ‘*ejector*’ is used in the aircraft industry as in ‘*ejector seat*’, in railroad locomotives as ‘*steam ejector*’ and in *agro-mechanics* as in ‘*manure ejector*’.

It should be noted that terminology is a discipline that studies, among other things, the development of terms and their interrelationships within a specialized domain (*Terminology*). Terminology in agriculture, as in other domains of science and technology, involves the study of concepts, conceptual systems and their labels (*terms*). Whereas terminology in agro-mechanics is much narrower than that of agriculture. The terms of agro-mechanics assume a special importance, because they are situated between two fields, *agriculture* and *mechanics*, hence the term *agro-mechanics* (Shumeli, 2013).

The work on the terminology of *agro-mechanics* consists primarily of the following aspects: (i) analyzing the concepts and concept structures used in the field of agro-mechanics; (ii) identifying the terms assigned to the concepts; (iii) creating new terms through various means (i.e., *derivational processes* etc). Under the label ‘*Lexical derivation*’, as it is known, is included ‘*derivational processes*’ which modify the *lexical semantics of the base word*, such as Alb. *shij – shirëse* → ‘*shirëse orize*’, Eng. *thresh* → *rice thresher* or Ital. ‘*trebbiatura del riso*’ (see Kuryłowicz 1936, Beard 1998).

Based on the above, it should be argued that the terminology of agro-mechanics incorporates many terms designating a range of disciplines like mechanical engineering (*agricultural machinery and automated machine systems*), soil science (*crop nutrient and fertilization*, etc.), environmental sciences (*drainage and irrigation*), plant biology (*seeding and plant growth management*), animal science (*farm animals and housing*) etc.

The terminology of the field in question is examined in the context of terms closely tied with concepts such as soil, agricultural implements and processes (*shartoj/engraft*). In the case of the agro-mechanics terminology three factors are taken into account: the *field*, the *term* and the *concept*. Moreover, it should be acknowledged that derivational processes in term formation relate to a wide variety of ‘*term*’ categories including: (1) the terms denoting processes (*mbjellje/planting, korrje/reaping*); (2) terms denoting hand tools (*lopatëz/ shovel; belëz/ trowel*) (3) terms denoting agricultural machinery (*mbjellëse/seeders; shirëse, thresher*) (4) terms denoting persons operating agricultural machinery (*traktorist/ tractor man* etc

The Albanian language employs different ways and means to create terms and word combinations in the field of agro-mechanics: *morphology*, *semantics*; and *syntax*. Of the three, the morphological aspect is widely-used and as such deserves adequate attention.

In linguistics, morphological derivation is the process of forming a new term on the basis of existing ones. New terms have continued to be made from old ones, and have thus added to the existing store of terms/ word combinationa. In general, it can

be said that term formation is concerned with the process that expands the lexicon of a language in any field of science and knowledge (Kortmann:2005:94). Meanwhile, similar to O'Grady and Guzman, Katamba (1993: 45) says that derivation is altering the meaning or grammatical category of the base. Derivation, as "*the most common term formation process*" (Yule, 2006: 57), forms new terms from existing ones by adding derivational affixes (morphemes) to roots and stems. Derivational affixes do not necessarily alter the lexical category; they merely change the meaning of the base, while leaving the category utterly unchanged.

The derivational affixes in Albanian language are open-ended. Since it would be impossible to enlist such derivational affixes exhaustively, we will be looking at just a few *representative* examples. According to Xhuvani and Çabej (1980: 422) 'the Albanian language is characterized by the presence of a huge number of affixes'. Admittedly, a number of suffixes in the Albanian language form terms which may serve as nouns, like the suffixes *-ës* (ndarës); *-ar* (kopshtar); *-ist* (motorist) etc.

The agentive and autochthonic suffixes

The *agentive suffixes* produce agent nouns, or nouns that identify the person or other entities performing the action. Whereas *autochthonic suffixes* are suffixes which are embedded in the Albanian language and are so qualified because they create purely Albanian words and terms which have been around in the language for lengthy periods of time. We will examine below the main representative suffixes which are reported to have contributed significantly to the process of term formation in the field of agro-mechanics.

To begin with, the agentive suffix *-ës* is used to designate professions or work, or people according to their job: *mbledhës gruri* (Eng. wheat gatherer); whereas the suffix *-ëse* is used to designate tools or farm machinery as in: *grirëse gëzhutash* (Eng. cake-breaker); *vjelëse* (Eng. reaper); *zhvëshëse* (Eng. stripper, shaver); This suffix is also encountered in hyphenated compounds of the type: *ngjeshëse-lidhëse me spango* (Eng. twine baler) etc.

It should be noted that the suffix *-ës/ -ëse* is commonly found in subordinate compounds of the type *noun + deverbial agentive nouns*. Most of these nouns designate tools or instruments. In these types of compounds the first element serves as complement to the second as in: *kallingritëse* (Eng. cob-lifting instrument); *misërzhvëshëse* (Eng. maize-husker); *gurëmbledhëse* (Eng. stone picker); *nyjelidhëse* (Eng. knotter S. twine knotter). Moreover, the suffix *-ës* is also used to coin terms from other nouns: *mullis* (Eng. miller). Whereas the suffix *-ar* serves mainly to create *agentive-profession* terms from nominal stems that indicate the object of the profession or a good many autochthonic nouns indicating the name of the place: *kopshtar* (Eng. gardener); *lopar* (Eng. cowherder) etc;

Along the same lines, the suffix *-ist* of foreign origin is very productive in the Albanian language. Using specific stems, this suffix forms terms that refer to people according to their profession or the work they do: *ekskavatorist* (Eng. steam shovel operator); *makinist* (Eng. machinist); *specialist drithi* (Eng. cereal specialist) etc; Further to this, terms of persons formed with foreign suffixes ending in a consonant have corresponding feminine stems with the suffix *-e* as in: *traktoriste* (Eng. tractor operator);

There are a few other terms formed with the suffix *-er* and *-ier*: *karrocier* (Eng. coachman); (karrocë: coach); *kombajnër* (eng. combine operator) (*kombajnë*: combine harvester) etc. On the other hand, the suffixes *-or, -ore* are also used in the formation of many inanimate terms designating objects according to the substance they are made of or the function they perform. Thus, we have: *dozator* (Eng. dozer/adjustor); *kultivator rrotativ pa rrota* (Eng. wheelless rotary cultivator);

The related forms *-ore* and *-tore* are used to coin terms that indicate a place associated with the objects being designated by an underlying nominal stem. For example, the place where it is sown, extracted, processed or sold; or less frequently a place characterized by the referent of an underlying verbal or adjectival stem: '*elbore*' (Eng. barley field) (a field that has been sown with elb "*barley*"); *misërore* (Eng. corn field); *bulmetore* (Eng. dairy). In some words designating places the suffix *-ore* usually has a diminutive value *-bregore* (Eng. knoll); *fushore* (Eng. small field); *lugore* (Eng. small valley).

In addition to the above, the suffixes *-je, -im* are quite productive in forming *gerundial nouns*, particularly in literary language; in general what of the two is used depends on the form of the participle of the underlying verb: *-im* is generally used for verbs whose participle ends in *-uar* and for some whose participle ends in *-yer*; whereas *-je* of the participle has some other forms. They include terms of the type: *mbjellje* (Eng. planting sowing); *korrije* (Eng. reaping); *rrallim* (Eng. thinning); *prerje* (Eng. cutting, chopping, mowing); *krasitje* (Eng. chopping off, cutting off, pruning); etc.

It should be further noted that the suffixes *-je* and *-im* are also found in other constructions of the type *noun + deverbial gerundial*. In these compounds the first element again serves as compliment to the verb underlying the second: *zhvëshje e misrit* (Eng. corn stripping); *shkoqje e fasuleve* (Eng. bean shredding); *zhvoshkje e misrit* (Eng. maize husking); *hapje brazdash* (Eng. furrowing); etc.

On the basis of their stems, the suffix *-ishte* and its variant *-ishtë* create terms that generally indicate the place where the thing designated by the derivational stems is to be found in quantities: *fidanishte* (Eng. nursery), (*fidan*: sapling); *misërishte* (Eng. corn field); (corn:misër); *pemishte* (Eng. orchard); *thekërishte* (Eng. rye field); *plehëra* (Eng. manures); *ahishte* (Eng. beech grove); *ullishte* (Eng. olive groves). At the same time, the dialectal suffix *-ajë* is used with the same meaning as that of the suffix *-ishte* above: *dushkajë* (Eng. oak forest); *lismajë* (Eng.oak forest) etc;

A small number of nouns designating inanimate objects are created from the longer productive suffixes *-açe*, *-ashkë*; *-ac*; *-ak*; *-ëz* as in the following: *lugaç* (Eng. spout adz); *furkaçe* (Eng. forked stick); *ngarkaçe* (Eng. forked stick for loading); *thumbac* (Eng. tip of goading sheep) etc; Moreover, the suffixes *-ak*, *-ëz* create terms from noun stems which designate tools: *bishtak* (Eng. shaft of a tool); *dorak i parmandës* (Eng. plough handle); *ballçak* (Eng. cutter, miller), *këmbëz e parmendës* (Eng. plough stilt), etc.

The suffix *-el* forms diminutive terms from other nouns: *bocel drithi* (Eng. cereal container). Words ending in *-ëz*, which is a diminutive or endearing suffix, is used to designate tools which are widely used by people, primarily farmers who in the process of farming their land, have established such terms that show them being as close to the tool as it gets, or to denote a tool that is a diminutive replica of the actual one: *shatëz* (Eng. hoe); *sakëz* (Eng. axe); *këmbëz* (Eng. stilt); *gjuhëz* (Eng. tumbler); *bishtëz* (Eng. shaft); *hundëz₁* (Eng. share point) *hundëz₂* (*spërkatëse*) (Eng. nozzle); *hundëz₃* (*teh i plorit*) (Eng. tip of share) etc..

There is yet another suffix *-th*, which indicates terms that have lost their diminutive character over time and have assumed a real concrete meaning stating real tools: *cekth* (Eng. tapering point of a pickaxe). In addition, certain words with this suffix have also acquired a lexical meaning quite different from that of the underlying stem.

Another group that appears to be of interest is the group of words ending in *-ues* which is a form typical of the northern variety of Albanian language, which has already made its way into standard Albanian. It is typical for such word forms to be standard terminology: *vegël shkallmuese* (Eng. subsoiling tool); *pluhurizues i varur* (Eng. tractor mounted atomizer), *paraplugues* (Eng. skimmer) etc.

Noun stem derivations with prefixes

Prefixal derivations of nouns is only slightly productive. There are over twenty prefixes, but only a few of them are productive in the field of agro-mechanics.

The prefix *mos-* serves principally to form antonyms of gerundial nouns: *mosfunksionim* (Eng. non-functioning); *mosmbjellje e farës* (Eng. non-sowing of seeds).

Prefixes derived from other prepositions have a more limited use, and are found mostly in very limited fields: *nën-* ‘sub- or under-; *mbi-* (over); *kanal kullues nëntokësor* (Eng. sub-soil drainage tiles); *mbishtresë* (overlay) etc.

Some words exhibit a foreign prefix before a stem that is an independent word in Albanian: *kundër/-anti- kundërpres/ë-a* (Eng. anti-ledger plate); *kundërrafës (aparati shirës)* (Eng. anti-concave frame); In the borrowed nouns with an international character prefixed elements such as *auto-*, *poli-*; *bio-* and others, appear before stems that may or may not be independent in Albanian: *automjet* (Eng. moto- vehicle); *autokombajnë elektrike* (Eng. electric combine harvester); *autokositëse* (Eng. motor-mower); *automat-i (fut fidanët në aparatin shpërndarës)* (Eng. automatic devize); *automatizim* (Eng. automatization);

By way of conclusion, it should be noted that there is a need to compile a dictionary in the field of agromechanics which should incorporate not only simple terms (*nouns or noun combinations*), but also other parts of speech, primarily *verbs* that denote processes, which are created through the derivational morphemes.

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