

**OCCURRENCES AND TRANSLATION PROBLEMS OF PREFIXED WORDS IN ENGLISH AND ALBANIAN LANGUAGE**



**Morphology**  
**Keywords:** Prefixation, prefixed words, translation, principles of correspondence, original text, target text.

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**Abstract**

Translation could be generally defined as the reformulation of what is spoken or written in the original text, by means of words of another language. It is of vital importance to translators that target text readers accept the translated information in the same way as the source or original text readers. Translation cannot be considered as really accomplished, unless the translation naturalness and accuracy is conceived and felt by target readers. This is the reason why translation process may be considered as very challenging an activity and therefore difficulties arise during this process as each language has its own originality when describing the world, its morpho-syntactic structures, its grammatical rules, etc. The Albanian and English languages derive from two different language families. Thus, they differ in many linguistic aspects such as grammar, word-order, sentence types, verb forms, adverbs, adjectives, time aspects, types of articles, etc,of which problems arise in translation. Translation problems have also been observed with prefixed words from English into Albanian language. This study treats occurrences and translation problems of prefixed words in English and Albanian language, based on a well-chosen linguistic corpus in order to illustrate and observe prefixed words occurrences from English to Albanian. Results were observed and conclusions were drawn based on principles of correspondence in terms of prefixed words comparatively in both languages.

**Introduction**

It is widely known that the Albanian and English languages are members of the Indo-European language family, so they descend from a family of a common source. The evolution of Indo-European languages has caused great changes, in which all subgroups have diverged from each other.

Some of them still survive as languages of special characteristics e.g., the Albanian language. Whereas, the English language has derived along with German and Norwegian from the old German language.

Due to the historical evolution, the Albanian language has been transformed from a language of synthetic-analytical type, which is far from the old type of Indo-European languages. This means that even though they belong to the same family they fall under separate branches, which lead to natural differences and distinctions.

Difference is noticed in the morphology of sentences, in the syntactic structure of sentences etc. Thus, if we compare both languages, the Albanian and English language, we should admit the fact that they differ in many linguistic aspects such as grammar, word-order, sentence types, verb forms, adverbs, adjectives, time aspects, types of articles, etc,of which problems arise in translation. Translation problems have also been observed in translating prefixed words from English into Albanian language, which is the focus of this study.

Translation could be generally defined as the reformulation of what is spoken or written in the original text, by means of words of another language. It is of vital importance to translators that target text readers accept the translated information in the same way as the source or original text readers. Translation cannot be considered as really accomplished, unless the translation naturalness and accuracy is conceived and felt by target readers. This is the reason why translation process may be considered as very challenging an activity and therefore difficulties arise during this process as each language has its own originality when describing the world, its morpho-syntactic structures, its grammatical rules, etc.

This study focuses on the translation occurrences and issues emerged from translating prefixed words from English into Albanian language, based on a well-chosen linguistic corpus in order to illustrate and observe prefixed words occurrences from English to Albanian.

Results were observed and conclusions were drawn based on principles of correspondence in terms of prefixed words comparatively in both languages.

## **Literature Review**

### *1.1 Translation process and strategies*

Scholars consider translation a mental activity in which a meaning of given linguistic discourse is rendered from one language to another. Translation process is an act through which the content of a text is transferred from the source language into the target language (Foster, 1958). The language to be translated is called the source language (SL), whereas the language to be translated into or arrived at is called the target language (TL). The translator needs to have good knowledge of both the source and the target language, in addition to a high linguistic sensitivity as he should transmit the writer's feelings, ideas, original thoughts and opinions in the translated version as precisely and faithfully as possible.

Kings (1986:18) defines translation strategy as “translator's potentially conscious plans for solving concrete translation problems in the framework of a concrete translation task. According to Seguinot (1989) there are at least three global strategies employed by the translators: (a) translating without interruption for as long as possible; (b) correcting surface errors immediately; (c) leaving the monitoring for qualitative or stylistic errors in the text to the revision stage.

In addition, Loescher (1991:8) defines translation strategy as “a potentially conscious procedure for solving a problem faced in translating a text, or any segment of it.” In this regard, Cohen (1998:4) asserts that “the element of consciousness is what distinguishes strategies from these processes that are not strategic.”

In terms of translation strategies Venuti indicates that “Translation strategies involve the basic tasks of choosing the foreign text to be translated and developing a method to translate it.”

Jaaskelainen considers strategy as, "a series of competencies, a set of steps or processes that favor the acquisition, storage, and/or utilization of information." He maintains that strategies

are "heuristic and flexible in nature, and their adoption implies a decision influenced by amendments in the translator's objectives." (1999:71) Meanwhile, he divides strategies into two major categories: some strategies relate to what happens to texts, while other strategies relate to what happens in the process (2005).

### *1.2 Differences between translation methods and translation procedures*

Newmark (1988b) studied the difference between translation methods and translation procedures and according to him "while translation methods relate to whole texts, translation procedures are used for sentences and the smaller units of language" (p.81).

Newmark introduces the following translation methods:

a. *Word-for-word translation*: in which the SL word order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings, out of context.

b. *Literal translation*: in which the SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.

c. *Faithful translation*: it attempts to produce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures.

d. *Semantic translation*: which differs from 'faithful translation' only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value of the SL text.

e. *Adaptation*: which is the freest form of translation, and is used mainly for plays (comedies) and poetry; the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and the text is rewritten.

f. *Free translation*: it produces the TL text without the style, form, or content of the original.

g. *Idiomatic translation*: it reproduces the 'message' of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.

h. *Communicative translation*: it attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership (1988b: 45-47).

In terms of translation procedures Newmark (1988b) proposes:

1. *Transference*: it is the process of transferring an SL word to a TL text. It includes transliteration and is the same as what Harvey (2000: 5) named "transcription."

2. *Naturalization*: it adapts the SL word first to the normal pronunciation, then to the normal morphology of the TL. (Newmark, 1988b: 82)

3. *Cultural equivalent*: it means replacing a cultural word in the SL with a TL one. However, "they are not accurate" (Newmark, 1988b: 83)

4. *Functional equivalent*: it requires the use of a culture-neutral word. (Newmark, 1988b: 83)

5. *Descriptive equivalent*: in this procedure the meaning of the CBT is explained in several words. (Newmark, 1988b: 83)

6. *Componential analysis*: it means “comparing an SL word with a TL word which has a similar meaning but is not an obvious one-to-one equivalent, by demonstrating first their common and then their differing sense components.” (Newmark, 1988b: 114)

7. *Synonymy*: it is a “near TL equivalent.” Here economy trumps accuracy. (Newmark, 1988b: 84)

8. *Through-translation*: it is the literal translation of common collocations, names of organizations and components of compounds. It can also be called: calque or loan translation. (Newmark, 1988b: 84)

9. *Shifts or transpositions*: it involves a change in the grammar from SL to TL, for instance, (i) change from singular to plural, (ii) the change required when a specific SL structure does not exist in the TL, (iii) change of an SL verb to a TL word, change of an SL noun group to a TL noun and so forth. (Newmark, 1988b: 86)

10. *Modulation*: it occurs when the translator reproduces the message of the original text in the TL text in conformity with the current norms of the TL, since the SL and the TL may appear dissimilar in terms of perspective. (Newmark, 1988b: 88)

11. *Recognized translation*: it occurs when the translator “normally uses the official or the generally accepted translation of any institutional term.” (Newmark, 1988b: 89)

12. *Compensation*: it occurs when loss of meaning in one part of a sentence is compensated in another part. (Newmark, 1988b: 90)

13. *Paraphrase*: in this procedure the meaning of the CBT is explained. Here the explanation is much more detailed than that of *descriptive equivalent*. (Newmark, 1988b: 91)

14. *Couplets*: it occurs when the translator combines two different procedures. (Newmark, 1988b: 91)

15. *Notes*: notes are additional information in a translation. (Newmark, 1988b: 91)

### 2.1.1 Methods

In this comparative study we employed descriptive and comparative methods, by juxtaposing derived words with prefixes from both languages. This comparison is achieved in terms of the formal, semantic, etymological and historical change of words. Secondly, the method of semantic analysis has been applied to make thorough and at the same time exhaustive analysis, which means analysis through conceptual and lexical-semantic fields. Thus, in a broad concept, we have also used the method of linguistic approach to confrontation and comparison of lexical and semantic units. Thirdly, in order to illustrate issues of translating prefixed words from English into Albanian as a linguistic corpus, we selected the novel “The Forsyte Saga” by the English classic John Gollsworth, translated into Albanian by the Albanian well-known translator Vedat Kokona.

### 3.1 Prefixed words in English vs. Albanian language

From the linguistic corpus mentioned above we extracted about 350 examples of prefixed words observed and studied comparatively by figuring out the translation methods that the translator applied to translate them at best, that is, source language versus target language. Here we have modestly included several of them to illustrate the way our study was conducted in order to figure out the potential of Albanian language to respond to the multiplicity of English prefixes.

Pg. number	Prefixed word within the sentence extracted from source language text.	Explanation of the translation method	Prefixed word translated in the target language text.
12	.. -evidence of that mysterious concrete tenacity which renders a family so formidable a unit of society, so clear a <b>reproduction</b> of society in miniature.	The author has applied the translating method of calculus that is, translating one by one the constituent parts of the prefixed word respectively a reproduction — riprodhim.	Ai ka gjetur proven e asaj lidhjeje konkrete e të mistershme që e bën familjen një njësi aq të forte të shoqërisë, një <b>riprodhim</b> shumë të qartë të shoqërisë në miniaturë.

348	He had always disliked his cousin.	359. It is translated in Albanian by means of the literal translation method.	Xhorxhi nuk e kish dashur kurrë të kushëririn.
348	The shaft of a passing cab brushed against his shoulder and made him leap aside.	359. It translated in Albanian by means of the word-for word translation, literal translation method.	Timoni i një karroce që po kalonte e goditi në sup dhe e detyroi të hiqej mënjane.
348	.., and freed from the strain of geographical uncertainty, his mind returned to Bossiney's trouble.	359. In Albanian it is given by means of the translation method of modulation by changing the point of view of the same extra linguistic phenomenon realized in the field of content. The name "uncertainty" is not translated into Albanian equivalents one by one. Also the verb returned.	Këtu ai mund ta gjente rrugën symbullur dhe meqë nuk kish frike se mos humbte rrugën, zuri të mendohej prap për hallin që e kish zënë Bosinin.
349	The memory of a night when in the darkest shadow of a lawn he had overheard from a woman's lips that...	360. It is translated in Albanian by means of the word-for word translation, literal translation method.	Kujtimin e një nate kur në hijen e dendur të një lëndine Xhorxhi kish dëgjuar nga goja e një gruaje se ai nuk qe i vetmi që e kish hedhur në dorë.
349	A cab rolled out of blackness, and into blackness <b>disappeared</b> .	361. Në shqipe është dhënë me anë të metodës përkthimore të <i>modulimit</i> duke ndryshuar këndvështrimin e së njëjtës dukuri jashtëgjuhësore realizuar në rrafshin e përmbajtjes. Folja në anglishte " <b>disappeared</b> " nuk përkthehet me ekuivalentë një për një në shqipe.	Një karrocë doli nga errësira dhe <b>u fut prapë në errësi</b> .
350	"Corpse" said, in ëhom the <b>recollection</b> of his defeat at Richmond flared up.	361. Është dhënë në shqipe me anë të metodës përkthimore të <i>zhvendosjes</i> ku ndryshohet pjesa e ligjëratës. Emrit të prejardhur me parashtesim <i>recollection</i> i përgjigjet në shqipe folja "i ukujtua".	Kufomë! Tha Darti, të cilit <b>iu kujtua</b> papritmas disfata që kish pësuar në Richmond Park.

### 3.2 Findings of the study

As it can be seen from the analysis of the translation methods in the table, translator V. Kokona has used all the translation methods staying loyal to the meaning, message, semantic layer, stylistic coloring in the translation of prefixed words: The problems he has encountered involve not translating the equivalent words one by one, but translating the meaning into such sentences where the translation with other words stands out, by changing the part of speech, by changing the point of view of the same linguistic phenomenon etc.

However, in the translation of words with prefixes by Kokona, there are cases in which the translator chooses to use the translation method of modulation or the word-for-word translation method by translating the constituent parts of the word one by one.

#### Discussions

**a.** The following are excerpts from examples of words with prefixes translated from English into Albanian not by means of their Albanian equivalents:

- a. Uncomfortable – *i parehatshëm*; është përkthyer *i turbulloi*.
- b. Disappeared – *zhduk*; është përkthyer *u fut në errësirë*.
- c. Indispensable – *e pazëvendësueshme*; është përkthyer *e domosdoshme*.
- d. Extraordinary – *i jashtëzakonshëm*; është përkthyer *i çuditshëm*.
- e. Unconscious – *i pandërgjegjshëm*; është përkthyer *në disa mënyra*.
- f. Uncharacteristic – *jo karakteristike*; është përkthyer *në kundërshtim me natyrën*.
- g. Disappearance – *zhdukja*; është përkthyer *të humbiste*.
- h. Unbearable – *i urueshëm*; është përkthyer *i çuditshëm*.
- i. Unfortunate – *ipafat*; është përkthyer *fatkeq*.
- j. Shih Fjalët që janë përkthyer me fjalë të tjera; *extraordinary fq që vijon*.

The above examples clearly demonstrate the fact of how rich the Albanian language and vocabulary is. The translator Kokona chooses to use a variety of translation methods considering not only the emotional strength that the word gains, but also bringing the text into Albanian as naturally as it is read in the original literary work.

**b.** The prefixed words below do not have a one-to-one equivalent in Albanian, which means that they cannot be translated through the calculus translation method by translating one by one the constituent parts of the prefixed words from the original to the target language text:

- *Oversleep* (flemëgjatë),
- *Enable* (mundësoj),
- *Overlook* (shohnga),
- *Uneasy* (ishqetësuar),

- *Uneasiness* (parehati, shqetësim),
- *Withdrew* (tërheq), *income* (të ardhura), *bethink* (kujtohem, mendohem), *upturn* (ngre, lartësoj), *unless* (potëmos), *overtake* (arrij), *withstand* (i qëndroj, i bëj ballë).

c. A distinctive feature of the Albanian language is the conjunction of adjectives, which does not happen in the English language. In English we have the prefix **in-** and its 4 allomorphs (***Il, ir, Im, in***), phonetically conditioned based on the initial consonant of the word where they are attached. We do not find this phenomenon in Albanian.

## Conclusions

The extracted examples also speak of the richness of the Albanian language and vocabulary. Prefixed English words, not only negative prefixed words, in addition to the one-to-one equivalent in Albanian or the possibility of translation through the literal translation method, can also be translated in other ways while preserving and conveying beautifully the artistic and stylistic values of the literary work in the original language.

Given that languages have different morpho-syntactic and lexico-semantic structures, if we refer to the problems of translating words with prefixes from English to Albanian and vice-versa, it is clear that there can be no absolute correspondence between them.

Consequently, the translations of formations with prefixes are not completely accurate, although the work translated into Albanian is highly appreciated. However, the use of more than one equivalent of the prefixed English word has also been noticed, which indicates the richness of the Albanian lexicon.

Thus, to the question posed “How does the Albanian language respond to the multiplicity of English prefixes, even under the influence and pressure of linguistic relativism hypothesis, after an in-depth study of a linguistic corpus, we came to the conclusion that the Albanian language has many morphological and semantic possibilities, as well as full lexical potential to face new units or new prefixed formations.

We strongly believe that this study will be of great interest to the teaching/learning process for teachers and lecturers who are involved in courses such as text analysis, intensive text study, or lexicology and semantics, but at the same time to the process of translating from English to Albanian and vice-versa.

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