

The Direct Object



Linguistics

Keywords: Simple sentence, contrast, the direct object, nouns, pronouns, phrases or clauses (nominal clause), structure.

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Abstract

The direct object is the structure contained within the predicate. It is typical the noun phrase that follows the verb, although indirect object and subject complements can also occupy this position, as you will see it shortly in this paper. The direct and indirect object has some characteristics in common, and this is the fact that can justify their sharing the term object. Like the subject, the direct object is normally a noun phrase or a nominal clause. In Albanian and English language we have the direct object (indirect object) and it is possible to show by the nouns, pronouns, phrases or clauses (nominal clause) that receive the action of the transitive verb. The direct object is the structure contained within the predicate.

Introduction

In Albanian and English language we have the direct object (indirect object) and it is possible to show by the nouns, pronouns, phrases or clauses (nominal clause) that receive the action of the transitive verb. The direct object is the structure contained within the predicate. It is typical the noun phrase that follows the verb, although indirect object and subject complements can also occupy this position, as you will see shortly. The direct and indirect objects have some characteristics in common, and this is fact justifies their sharing the term object. Like the subject, the object is normally a noun phrase or a nominal clause. There are constraints on the types of nominal clause that can be indirect object: generally, only nominal relative clause.¹³²

In both of languages the object normally follows the subject and the predicate or indirect object usually comes before the direct object e.g.

The kids devoured **the liver**.

S P DO

John gave Hanrry **a book**.

S P IO DO

“Most people would probably regard a subject + verb + direct object sentence as the prototypical English sentence”.¹³³

In both of languages the typically, “a direct object” follows the verb and it answers the *question* "What?" or "Whom?" after an action verb (in the following of examples, the direct object is **bold** and the verb is underlined).

Gëzimi për leximin shton guximin për lexim të ri.

The direct object can be the subject:

a. *Gëzimi për leximin shton guximin për lexim të ri.*

b. **Guximin** për lexim të ri shton gëzimin për lexim.

c. John gave Hanrry **a book**.

S P IO DO

The book was given by John.

S P DO

You can ask **yourself**.

S DO

Teuta met Benin.

S P DO

Beni was met by Teuta.

S P DO

¹³² Randolph Quirk (...). (1985). *A comprehensive grammar of the English language*, New York, p. 726.

¹³³ Lynn Berk. (1999). *English syntax*, New York, p. 27.

In Albanian and English sentence we saw the same structure and same function of direct object. A single complement may generally be said to function as direct object if it follows immediately after a verb phrase which (a) can occur in a passive sentence and (b) after passivization preserves its meaning. As the last three examples show, the lexical verb may also be a prepositional verb, phrasal verb or a phrasal-preposition verb.

a. *Shakespeare* wrote **Hamlet**.

DO

b. Hamlet was written by **the Shakespeare**.

DO

a. *The Senate* has discussed **this issue**.

DO

b. This issue has been discussed by **the Senate**.

DO

a. Our neighbours are looking after **the children**.

DO

b. The children are being looked after by **our neighbours**.¹³⁴

DO

We sent Benit a copy of the letter.

S P IO DO

After dinner, Teuta always serves a cake. In this sentence the determinate the direct object, ask who was acted on by the verb.

In Albanian language we have the same direct object with English language, in fact they have different structure in the sentence, but the direct object it's same with function. The frequent type of object generally takes the form of a deverbal noun preceded by the a common verb of general meaning, such as do, give, have, make, take.¹³⁵

They are having **an argument**.

S P DO

Djali i vogël mbaroj **detyrat** e shkollës.

DO

Artën s'e kam takuar që një kohë të gjatë.

DO

In English and Albanian a noun or pronoun answering a "who (m)" or "what" after an action verb. A direct object "receives" or is the "object" of the action e.g.

Teuta ate **meat**.

Arta read a book.

We play **tennis**.

In this sentence above, '*Miranda wants some flowers*', the word 'flowers' is not the subject of the sentence, but is the **object** of Miranda's wants. So, grammatically, it's known as the **direct object**. An object of a sentence has something done to it, or is being considered in some way by the subject of the sentence. In the sentence "Arta read (s) a book", the word "a book" is not the subject of the sentence, but it is the object of the Arta read (s). Arta is the subject, read(s) is predicate and a book is direct object. This is simple sentence and is same in both of the languages (Albanian and English).

In English language the direct object can realize by:

- Noun (John played **tennis**.)
- Noun phrase (Abreni luan **me top**.)
- Finite clause (two types: with that-clause and who-clause)
- A non – finite clause (three types –ing, -ed and participle to)
- Anticipator it + finite/ non –finite clause.¹³⁶ (Just with it + it + finite/ non –finite clause)

¹³⁴ Flor Aarts. (1988). **English syntactic structure**. Cambridge, p. 138.

¹³⁵ Rodney Huddleston, (1976), **An Introduction to English transformation syntax**, New York, p. 750.

¹³⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 154.

There isn't any difference between the structure of noun phrase realizing the function subject and that of noun phrase with the function direct object. The direct object in the both of languages can make with noun phrase of course in the function of noun e.g.

Sivjet në këtë zonë kanë mbjellë **lule dielli** me shumicë. **Mizën e ullirit** e kishte luftuar me sukses.¹³⁷

The both function (in Albanian and English) can be realized by simple sentence as well as by complex sentence (noun or noun phrase), for example:

- a. John played **tennis**.
- b. My friend likes **music**.¹³⁸
- c. Arta lexon **librin**.
- d. Abreni luan **me top**.
- e. **Who** has Teuta been ringing up?
- f. The driver at the school couldn't see **anything**.
- g. He has now finished **the second-story**.

There are in English language two types of finite clause that can realize with the function of direct object.

- a. The first type can realize with that-clause.

We hope **that the expedition will be a success**.
We agree **that we would meet at six o'clock**.

- b. The second type can realize with: who, what when, where, why,(etc) -clause e.g.

They do not know **what our teacher can do**.
Why don't you listen your teacher **what he is saying?**
Today we can discuss **when the next meeting is...**

In Albanian language the **direct object** can use with **the pronoun** that can has the function of noun e.g.

- **Këtë** dua t'ia them.
- Dëgjohej një zë ku ndiqej **diçka** nëpër shtëpi.

In English are three types of non-finite clause as direct object and it can change the noun e.g.

- a. The direct object can functions as infinitive clause with –ing.
I remember **Arta saying that**.

The depend wh-interrogative clause occurs in the whole range of function available to the that-clause, and in addition can act as prepositional complement:¹³⁹

Subject: **How the book will** sell depends on its author.
Direct object: I can't image **what made him do it**.

The direct object can functions as infinitive clause with –ed past participle clause e.g.
In the story alley we found **ourselves surrounded by the happening**.

- b. **The third type can make with the infinitive clause may or may not contain the participle to e.g.**

I did not know **what to do**.
They still could not **decide where to go**.

- c. **Anticipator it + finite/ non –finite clause**

The fourth type is made with it + finite/ non – finite clause e.g.

I saw it **that Beni was late**.

¹³⁷ Mehmet Çeliku (...). (1996). **Gramatika e gjuhës shqipe II**, Tiranë, p. 255.

¹³⁸ Noam Chomsky. (2002). **Syntactic Structure**, London, p. 86.

¹³⁹ Randolph Quirk. (1973). **A university grammar of English**. London, p. 317

The object function requires the objective form for pronouns that have distinctive case forms:

I gave him my telephone.
S P IO DO
 They gave me some books
S P IO DO
 I gave them some books.
S P IO DO
 Ata m'i dhanë mua disa libra.
S P IO DO
 Unë i dhashë atij disa libra.
S P IO DO

Shkolla ka **dhjetë studentë**. In Albanian language **the direct object can be the number** that has the function of noun. When the subject complement is NP, it is the predicate nominative. Since predicate nominatives are NP-s that follows verb in the predicate, they look at great deal like direct objects.

I **am a student**.
S P DO
Predicate nominal
 I love a teacher.
S P DO
Predicate nominal
 I like a book.
S P DO
Predicate nominal

In the sentence “I am a student”, “I” and “a student” are noun phrase that refer to the same individual. If the speaker in the second sentence “I love a teacher” uses a transitive verb, I and a teacher refer to different people.

The direct object and indirect object are both structures within the predicate e.g.

S Predicate
 ↓
 I **gave Benit my dictionary**.
 P IO DO
 S Predicate ↓
 Beni handed **Artas the gift**
 IO DO

She always reads the book before breakfast.

S A P DO A (adjuncts-rrethanor)

I read the kids of story.

Predicator Complement

Strictly complement could be used with reference to all those constituents that obligatory complement the verb. The predicator complement can realize by the noun phrase e.g.

The boy resembles **his father**.
 After a few minutes it began **to rain**.
 Father suggests Tomin **to see a doctor**.
 Could you help me **to find this book**?

If the predicate complement is realized by a non-finite clause containing a to-infinitive, the infinitive may be preceded by a noun phrase functioning as direct object of the finite verb, as in:¹⁴⁰ Mother persuaded Mary to see a doctor. Could you help me to move this cupboard?

The noun in the sentence can be direct and indirect object. It has the same function for both of languages. The direct object and indirect can make with noun, noun phrase, noun with preposition etc. The direct or indirect object is the second object in the sentence. In Albanian and English language we have seen the function of the direct object (indirect object) and it is possible to show by the nouns, pronouns, phrases or clauses (nominal clause) that receive the action of the transitive verb. The direct object is the structure contained within the predicate.

¹⁴⁰ Flor Aarts. (1988). **English syntactic structure**. Cambridge, p. 143.

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