

THEMES OF GRAMMATICAL FORMS IN THE NOMINATIVE SYSTEM



Morphology

Keywords: Thematization, grammatical form, noun system, grammatical category.

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Abstract

The grammatical phenomenon of transforming a grammatical form into a new topic, as a representative form of speech or as a topic within a paradigm, we will call grammatical thematization. This phenomenon has been quite widespread in the historical development of the morphological structure of Albanian language. It is spread throughout the morphological system of variable parts of speech. Thematizations of grammatical forms are new linguistic states obtained for psychological, social, and linguistic reasons. In the noun system, the most numerous and obvious cases of thematization of grammatical forms are observed in the grammatical category of number. The most common process has been to use many grammatical plural forms as singular. These conversions from the plural form to the singular are generally called singularized plurals. Due to the occurrence of this phenomenon in different periods - often even in very old periods - they have completely replaced the singular and formed a new plural. The thematization of grammatical forms should not only be ascertained but should also be followed historically. However, the paper deals with special issues that can serve as a starting point for further studies and in-depth studies.

THEMATIZATION OF GRAMMATICAL FORMS IN THE NUMBER CATEGORY

In the noun system, the most numerous and obvious cases of thematization of grammatical forms are observed in the grammatical category of number. The most common process has been to use many grammatical plural forms as singular. This transition process can be observed even in our days. These conversions from the plural form to the singular are generally called singularized plurals. Due to the occurrence of this phenomenon in different periods - often even in very old periods - they have completely replaced the singular and formed a new plural. A special study on this phenomenon was carried out by the professor Eqerem Çabej², (Posnaniensis, 1959) (ASHAK, 2008) first published in German and translated into Albanian with the title “*Fjala vise dhe shumësat e singularizuar në gjuhën shqipe*”. In this paper Çabej emphasizes “...This grammatical phenomenon is much more frequent in Albanian than it has been thought until now. The process that acted in this way in most cases was twofold: first a plural noun was used; then a new singular is formed from the plural form, the plural is singularized.

¹ This paper was presented on the 5th International Multidisciplinary Scientific Conference (IMSC-2022) held by The Association-Institute for English Language and American Studies, Tetovo, North Macedonia.

² The study was originally written in German and was published in the Polish provisional *Lingua Posnaniensis*, VII (1959), but later it was also translated into Albanian and reprinted, yes in Albanian, in the compilation entitled “*Studime shqiptare (Vepra të zgjedhura)*”, published from ASHAK, Language and Literature Section, Book 39, Pristina, 2008. Çabej, “*Shumësi i singularizuar në gjuhën shqipe*” (in: *Albanian Studies*, ASHAK, Book 39, 169)

This process, which also appears in other languages, has often taken such deep roots; the covering of the previous singular by the plural has been the tracing ability of the linguist to dictate it.”³ (Pedersen, Kelt. Grams. I 374; V. Henry, Miscellanea Ascoli 1901.

1. Singularized plurals can be classified into two groups: Singularized plurals that have lost the former singular and as such use the new plural form, such as: “*vile (rrush)*”, “*rrodhe*”, “*shkurre*”, “*dele*”, “*partalle*”, “*fertele*”, “*shqelm*”, “*thes*”, “*rreth*” etj.⁴ (Topalli, 2000)

2. Singularized plurals which, in addition to the singularized plural form, also have another singular form, but which have not preserved the same gender, like:

“*fill*”~“*filli*”~“*fije-fija*”,
 “*gjeth*”~“*gjethi*”~“*gjethë*”~“*gjeth*”,
 “*qelq*”~“*qelqi*”~“*qelqe*”~“*qelqja*”,
 “*djep*”~“*djepi*”~“*djepe*”~“*djepja*”,
 “*tul*”~“*tuli*”~“*tule*”~“*tulja*”,
 “*sepet*”~“*sepeti*”~“*sepete*”~“*sepeti*”,
 “*llaf*”~“*llafi*”~“*llafe*”~“*llafja*”,
 “*simit*”~“*simiti*”~“*simate*”~“*simitja*”,
 “*djep*”~“*djepi*”~“*djepe*”~“*djepja*”,
 “*llokum*”~“*llokumi*”~“*llokume*”~“*llokumja*”,
 “*tallagan*”~“*tallagani*”~“*tallagane*”~“*tallagania*”, etc.

Çabej explains the reasons for the use of plural forms as singular: “... From a grammatical point of view, the principle that operates in this process is analogy: it is the tendency to equalize the noun, the singular and the plural. As in most processes of analogy, here too we are dealing with a phenomenon of the popular language, which in most cases appears in dialects. In borrowings, these formations derive mainly from the fact that the common people do not know the singular form of the words in the language from which they were taken (such as in Turkish).” (Çabej, 2008)

The role of analogy here is well known, but we believe that the main reason for these transitions can be related to the fact that this phenomenon occurs mainly in nouns that in the plural undergo changes in the subject and, as we have emphasized in the over characterization, the new form of the plural it is conceived as another word, as a new representative form, and another plural is built on this form; or the plural form, obtained through changes in the subject of the representative form, for a certain period may have also been used as a singular, and then this form has been over characterized by another plural indicator.

³ Examples from Celtic in Pedersen, Kelt. Grams. I 374; V. Henry, Miscellanea Ascoli (1901) 213, 221 f. From German and Romance languages to Jokli IF 30, 205; sh. also W. Havers, Handbuch der erklärenden Syntax 224. For Romanian khs. Capat, lature, paiu, tarmurç of Puscariu, Etym. Wb. D. rum. Spracher No. 269, 950, 1248, 1715. Cf. And J. Byck-A. Graur, De l'influence du pluriel sur le singulier des noms en roumain, Bulletin Linguistique I (1933) 14-57.
 See for this Albanian Studies, Libr.39, Pristina, pp.177-188; K.Topalli, Shndërrime historike në sistemin zanor tëgjuhës shqipe, 2000, pp.140-141.

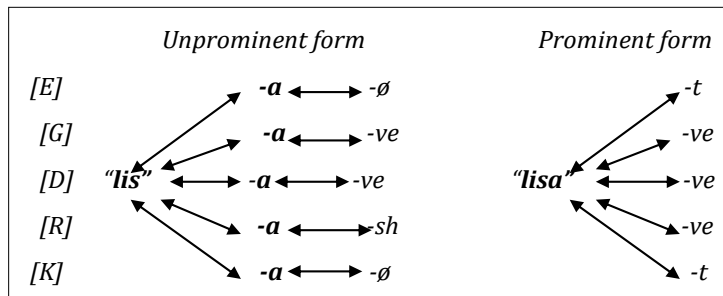
The use of some nouns only in a singular form, derived from the singularization of its plural form, seems to be connected, in the first place, with the circumstance that these nouns, in general, imply a plural, that is, they have the meaning of the plural almost carried over, and therefore their first preceding form has not accepted a singular form. The other group of nouns that today can be used in two singular forms, the plural form, also used as singular, was created, and used later. For the other use, both possibilities are not excluded: either it is also new, formed by withdrawal from the new singularized form, or it is the remnant of formation and precursor uses.

However, to give a more complete and convincing judgment about these uses, it is necessary to make a collection and a more detailed study of their formation and use.

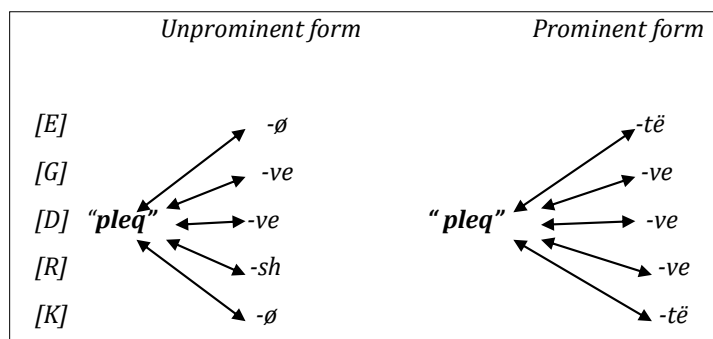
Historically, all so-called plural themes are nothing more than accusative plural forms that have been conceived as representative plural forms. It is very possible that the plural formants have their source in special accusative forms of the plural. A case form of the plural, the most visible, the most general and the most useful can be thematized; it may have been conceived as a subject and then the other case endings of the plural have been attached to this case-subject. And if it is accepted that Albanian once had a plural formant of the nominative *-i, which has left its mark on the nouns “plak” ~ pleq”, “dash” ~ desh” etc., then it turns out that it is the form of the nominative that has been thematized; endings are then added to it according to the cases. It usually happens that the representative form is generalized, but when there are other forms like it within the relevant paradigm, then thematization is more acceptable and more common. (Likaj, 2015) Thus, p. sh. in the plural paradigm of the noun “lis”, regardless of the historical circumstance that the plural morpheme -a is the result of the coincidence of two early morphemes, in an early or later period, it must have represented the case morpheme of the noun in the plural number, and in later times the corresponding word form was thematized. Within the plural case paradigm this word form appears as a separate subject, which is generally called a plural subject. If we follow the explanations so far of the formation of the plural of nouns in the Albanian language, then within each case form of the plural we must see two case forms of the plural, a very early form that extends throughout its case paradigm and a form newer built with the suffixation of the new racial formant.

The most obvious manifestation of these transitions, of a plural form being used as a singular, can be observed in the old plural forms caused by the presumed case ending of the plural noun -ī in the nouns “gjethe” (from gath- -ī and -e), “fije” (from fill- -ī and -e) etc. In this category of names, formal returns and returns are still in use today. Thus, from the former singular form “gjath”, the plural form “gjeth” was built, which was used as singular; even today this form is also formalized as a singular, taking the endings of a masculine noun (gjeth-i); even the over characterized form of the plural with the morpheme -e (“gjethe-e”) continues to be used as a singular with feminine morphological characteristics (“gjethja”). So, if we follow the developments that this plural form has undergone, it is well understood that in this course of

development, the form has been unified (singularized) twice, both as the first form “gjeth” ~ “gjeth-i”, and as the second form (“gjethe” ~ “gjethja”). The occurrence of transformations of this type must have involved older forms of these plurals, because the later plurals have preserved only the first degree of singularity. (Likaj & Hadaj, 2019)



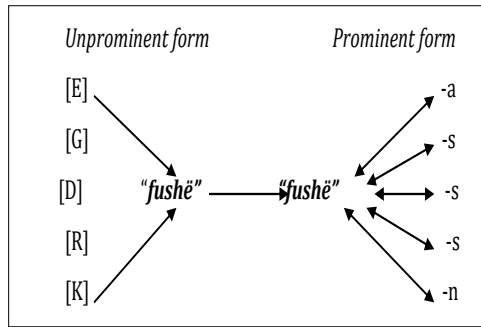
The most representative cases of such developments are observed in the plural subject obtained through internal phonetic changes in the representative subject, such as in the plural forms of the noun “plak”, “dash” etc., where the phonetic consequences of the changes that the early forms of plural nouns, which, as is generally accepted, are developments of ancient forms of plural nouns “*plakī*”, “*dashī*” etc.



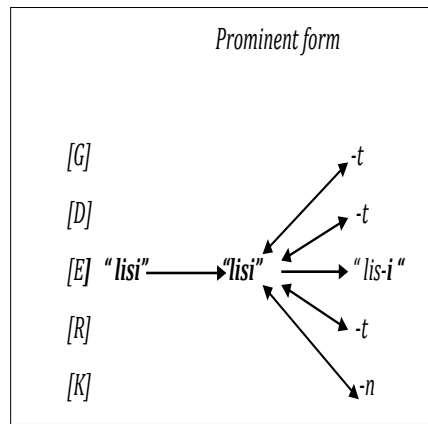
THEMATIZATION OF GRAMMATICAL FORMS IN THE CATEGORY OF CASE

In the racial paradigmatic system, in the synchronic view, thematizations are limited. Thus, in the feminine singular, the case forms of the prominent form are not built from the forms of the prominent and the corresponding nodal forms but based on the form of the nominative and the prominent predicate, which has served as a new topic within this paradigm.

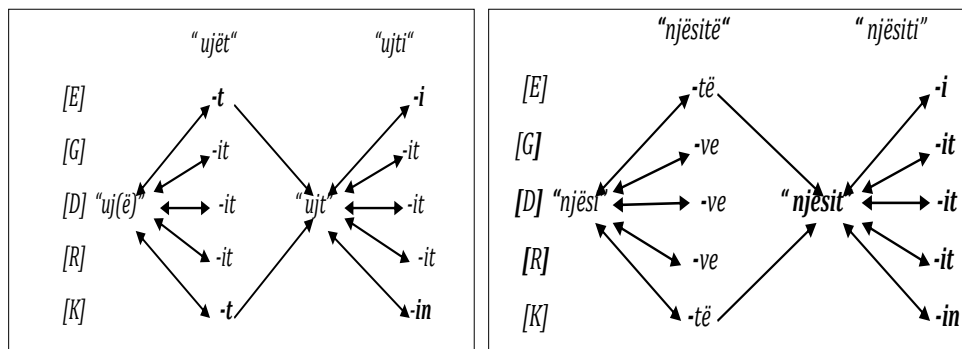
We would normally expect that here, as in the other formations, the prominent case forms are built from the corresponding unprominent case forms followed by the back nodule forms:



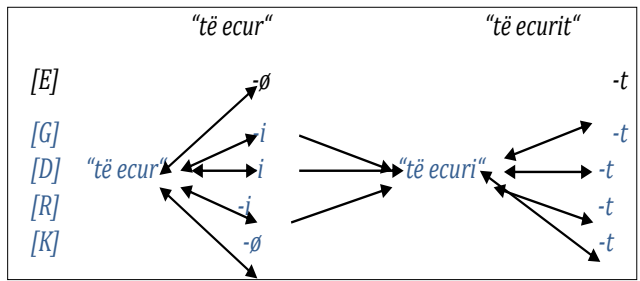
Regardless of the historical developments that have taken place (Çabej, 1963/3), even in the paradigm of the singular of masculine nouns, at first glance it is clear the line that separates, on the one hand, the form of the singular noun "lisi", on the other hand, in oblique cases, case forms of back knots.



The phenomenon of thematization of a racial form is clearly observed today in some spoken language, such as the case of thematization of the form of the prominent neuter of the noun "ujt": "ujti", or of the prominent plural of the noun "njesiti" ~ "njesi", where the corresponding forms of the singular ("ujti"), acc. plurals ("njesite") are transformed into themes and a new paradigm is built on their basis; the noun *ujti* is now inflected as a noun of the first declension, while the noun "njesi" ~ "njesiti", has changed not only the case paradigm, being inflected as a noun of the first declension in the prominent form, but also the number:



Indeed, in today's view, in the prominent inflection paradigm the unprominent endings no longer play the function they did in the unprominent inflection. Within the prominent inflection the forms of the unprominent feel more like separate subjects than case forms. Thus, in the paradigm of neuter nouns in the singular prominent number, p. e.g., the morphematic dividing line clearly distinguishes, on the one hand, a form identical to the accusative form of the dative - unprounceable stem, on the other hand, the backward nodule, therefore formally it also seems that the prominent form of these nouns is constructed on an unprominent racial form that is thematized:



Conclusions

In the noun system, the most cases of thematization of grammatical forms are observed in the grammatical category of number. During the development of the morphological structure of names, many plural forms were used as singular. These plural forms used as singulars are generally called singularized plurals. Because of this transition, most of the time these plural forms are only conceived as singular, therefore they form a new plural. Historically, every plural form of today's nouns is thought to have its source in the thematization of the grammatical noun form of the corresponding noun. In the racial paradigmatic system, in the synchronic view, thematizations are limited. Thus, within the paradigm of the prominent declension of singular feminine nouns is the form of the unprominent accusative which serves as the internal theme for the construction of the other accusative forms of the prominent. As for the masculine gender, it is thought that it is the distinguished singular noun that serves as an internal theme to build the other cases.

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