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**ANALIZË KRAHASIMORE E MBIEMRAVE NË GJUHËN
ANGLEZE DHE ATYRE NË GJUHËN SHQIPE**

**КОМПАРАТИВНА АНАЛИЗА НА ПРИДАВКАТА ВО
АНГЛИСКИОТ И АЛБАНСКИОТ ЈАЗИК**

**CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH AND ALBANIAN
ADJECTIVES**

Abstract

Language is considered as one of the most vital means of communication. Many are those who try to learn a foreign language, but often face difficulties when it comes to transforming their ideas from one language to another. Punctuality in the use of the two languages requires deeper knowledge of both languages, and in particular the similarities and differences between them. Considering the fact that English has become a global language, and consequently is an important language for everyone in the world, including Albanian learners, its grammatical part is important and indisputable. Grammar plays a very important role in both languages. Since in grammar adjective is one of the most basic parts of the speech, and since it is often used, our research is

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devoted to this part of speech, i.e., adjectives. This paper deals with the contrastive linguistic analysis of the adjectives in English and their counterparts in Albanian; their usage, function, and meaning, in order to find out the main similarities and differences that exist between them. The methodology of the study is descriptive and contrastive. Although the languages under study belong to the Indo-European family, yet again we may encounter many differences as well as similarities between them. They do share similarities and differences both in morphological and syntactical terms.

Key words: English and Albanian adjectives, contrastive analysis, similarities, differences.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to show the form, use, division, etc., of adjectives in both languages, and then to compare and contrast the morphological and syntactic category of adjectives in two different languages, in this case in English and Albanian in order to find the similarities and differences between them.

Research Hypothesis

The current study is based on the following hypothesis: English adjectives share similar features with their Albanian counterparts both in terms of their structure and usage.

Research Questions

The study is based on the following questions:

- What are the similarities between English and Albanian adjectives?
- What are the differences between English and Albanian adjectives?
- When are adjectives in English and Albanian used?

The importance of research

Compared to other contrastive analysis of the other parts of the speech, adjectives somehow were given less importance. So far, we have not come across to a single comparative research of this part of the speech between English and Albanian. Therefore, the current research is of great importance to the researchers in general, and to the teachers

and students in particular. In addition, the research can be considered as a reference material for a deeper understanding of adjectives of both languages.

Research Methods and Procedures

The main methods used in this research paper are:

- Descriptive, and
- Comparative method.

The initial procedure was descriptive where the major points regarding adjectives in English and Albanian were explained, and then came the one-by-one contrastive method where we compared the adjectives of two languages in order to find out the differences and similarities that exist between them. We collected the data from different sources. Different relevant materials, including books, journals, as well as digital sources were explored, systematized, and analyzed carefully.

The importance of comparative analysis

Comparative analysis among linguists is known as a systematic study of two languages with the aim of identifying the similarities and differences between them. According to Fries (1945), the most efficient materials are those based on scientific descriptions of the language that is intended to be taught, carefully compared with a parallel description of mother tongue. Lado (1957) shares the view that comparative analysis is extremely important in curriculum development, selection of teaching materials, and the identification of problems encountered during learning.

Adjectives as part of the speech in Albanian and English

Adjectives belong to the open set of words in both languages and it is common for new adjectives to be added to these languages. They play an important role in many languages. Neither Albanian nor English language make an exception of it. In English as well as in Albanian, adjectives are considered a separate lexical category, just like nouns and verbs. According to Huddleston and Pullum (2002), English-language adjectives are characterized as words that modify, clarify, and regulate the meaning of the noun. The same function is played by adjective of the Albanian language. In Albanian, adjective modifies and describes the noun or pronoun (A. Dhrimo et al., 1984).

Morphological characteristics of adjectives

Derived adjectives in English and Albanian

Regarding the formation of adjectives with affixation, both languages share similar characteristics. Even though the majority of adjectives are formed by suffixes, there are also few which are formed by prefixes. These adjectives are derived from nouns, verbs, and other adjectives (Kabashi, 2000).

On the other hand, adjectives of Albanian language are derived by means of prefixation, suffixation, and articulation/clitics (Agalliu A et al. 2002). Some of the suffixes that make up the adjectives in English through derivation are: *-able, -al, -ary, -ate, -en, -ful, -ic (al), -ish, -less, -like, -ly, -ous, -que*, etc.

E.g.,

readable, musical, documentary, lucky, golden, careful, historical, foolish, harmless, springlike, lovely, glorious, picturesque, etc.

The suffixes that make up adjectives in the Albanian language are as follows: *-(ë)s, -ar, -tar, -or, -tor, -ak, -shëm, -ian, -(ë)t(ë)*, etc. (Jashari A. et al, 2012).

E.g.,

i bujshëm, mbjellës, kombëtar, dimëror, vocërrak, shekspirian, i artë, etc.

Formation of English and Albanian adjectives by prefixation

The most common prefixes which form adjectives in Albanian are: *pa-, jo-, ndër-, anti-, para-, pre-*, etc. (Jashari A. et al, 2012).

E.g.,

i paafreshëm, jokapitalist, ndërkombëtar, antiajror, parafundor, etc.

On the other hand, in English, most of the prefixes are added to words that are already adjectives. In most cases, prefixes form the negative meaning of those adjectives (Fisiak, 185).

E.g.,

That was an *uninteresting* story. (i.e., the story was not interesting at all.)

Therefore, even though English and Albanian adjectives are formed by prefixes, it is obvious that adjectives of Albanian language formed with the prefixes do not always have a negative meaning, whilst those of English use the prefixes to convert the adjectives into the negative context.

Compound adjectives in English and Albanian

In this respect, both English and Albanian language adjectives share some similar features. In Albanian, as well as in English, the compound adjective is formed by the union of two or three stems in one word. According to Quirk et al. (1985), English adjectives are formed by the combination of:

1. Noun + adjective

acid-free, machine-readable, computer-literate, etc.

2. Adjective + adjective

Egyptian-Syrian, cognitive-affective, classical-scholarly, etc.

3. Noun + past participle

hand-operated, a well-informed person, a self-employed author, etc.

4. Noun + present participle

data-handling, a good-looking girl, a heart-breaking story, etc.

5. Numeral + noun + adjective

41-year-old, one-year-old, nine-month-old, etc.

According to Dhrimo A. et al. (1984), compound adjectives in Albanian are formed by the combination of:

1. Noun + noun

gërshetë-degë, kokëderr, sylesh, etc.

2. Noun + adjective

ballëhapët, belhollë, ditëgjatë, etc.

3. Quantifier + adjective

Dyvjeçar, njëmujoj, i njëanshëm, etc.

4. Quantifier + noun

Njërrokësh, dykatësh, tringjyrësh, etc.

5. Reflexive pronoun + noun/adjective

Vetëshërbyes, vetëdashës, vetëmbushës, etc.

The syntactical function of adjectives in English and Albanian

The position of adjective within the sentence determines its syntactical function. Many adjectives in English and Albanian can be placed in two positions: either before the noun, or after it. Those who

precede the nouns are called attributive adjectives (Gërmizaj Sh. 2004). These adjectives' function is to modify the nouns.

In Albanian, on the other hand, adjectives usually come after nouns. There are cases when these adjectives can come before the nouns. This happens when the speaker wants to emphasize a certain quality of a human or object.

E.g.,

I live in a *big* house.

She bought a *small* table.

The *old* man was knocking at the door.

Pse nuk mendonte kështu edhe për fatin e *të mjerit* Alban?

Të dashur vëllezër dhe motra!

Të nderuar miq!

In the first, second and third examples, adjectives *big*, *small*, and *old* are used attributively, as it happens most of the time with adjectives in English. On the other hand, adjectives *të mjerit*, *të*

dashur, and *të nderuar*, are again used attributively, but this happens very rarely, only in cases when the speaker wants to emphasize the person or the object.

Adjective order in English and Albanian

In everyday life, we often try to use more than one adjective to describe a noun. In theory, we can use the adjective in whatever order we want to, depending on the particular quality we want to emphasize, but adjectives in English depend on each other in an unbroken sequence. Hence, there is a hierarchical relationship between them. According to Wishon (1968), English adjectives have the following sequence:

- a. quality, e.g., good, bad,...
- b. size, height, length, e.g., big, short,...
- c. age, temperature, e.g., old, cold,...
- d. shape, e.g., square, round,...
- e. colour, e.g., red, black,...
- f. participle, e.g., neglected, amazing,...
- g. origin, e.g., English, Albanian,...
- h. material, e.g., stone, iron, etc.

E.g.,

An expensive, big, square, antique, brown, Italian, wooden, table.

In the above example, *an* is indefinite article, *expensive* is an adjective indicating quality, *big* is an adjective indicating size, *square* is an adjective indicating shape, *antique* is an adjective indicating age, *brown* is an adjective indicating colour, *Italian* is an adjective indicating origin, *wooden* is an adjective indicating a type of material.

While in English there is a fixed sequence of adjectives, in Albanian on the other hand, such an order does not exist, i.e., the order choice is up to the speaker.

E.g.,

Djalë *i mençur dhe i ditur.*

Djalë *i ditur dhe i mençur.*

Adjectival articles

In Albanian, in most cases, adjectives are articulated. This is in direct contrast with their correspondents in English. English adjectives are not characterized by this feature. They never take articles. In nominative case, adjectival articles have three forms: *i* for the masculine singular, *e* for feminine singular, and *të* or *e* for neuter singular as well as for the plural of all three genders (Çitaku F. and Jashari A.).

E.g.,

Veturë *e bardhë.*

Djalë *i ri.*

Njerëz *të mirë.*

Possessive adjectives are articulated as well, although the article appears as a separate word only for third person singular, and for first and second person forms with plural agreement: *i tij* 'his', *i saj* 'her', *i tyre* 'their', *e mi* 'my (masc. Pl.)', *e mia* 'my (fem. Pl.)', *e tu* 'your (masc. Pl.)', *e tua* 'your (fem.pl.)' (Agalliu. A et al. 2002).

Adjective Number

English adjectives are uniform or invariable in form. They do not change depending on the number of nouns.

E.g.,

A tough **character**.

Tough characters.

On the other hand, adjectives in Albanian have two numbers: singular and plural. The structure of the plural form depends on the number of the noun.

E.g.,
abstrakt – abstraktë,
kimik – kimikë, etc.

The plural of Albanian adjective is formed by changing article *i* and *e* into *të*.

| English adjective | Alb. adj. Singular | Alb. adj. Plural |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| nice | i/e mirë | të mirë |
| glorious | i/e lavdishëm/shme | të lavdishëm/shme |
| beautiful | i/e bukur | të bukurë/a |
| blind | i/e verbër | të verbër/ra |
| rough | i/e ashpër | të ashpër/ra |

Adjective Gender

Adjectives in English are unchangeable by form. They do not change regardless the noun gender.

E.g.,
A fair-haired girl.
A fair-haired boy.

The opposite happens with the adjectives of Albanian language. Adjective in Albanian agrees with the noun in gender (Çitaku F. and Jashari A.). Depending on the noun, adjective's gender is determined.

E.g.,
Top *i kuq.* - **Red ball.**
Veturë *e kuqe.* - **Red car.**
Djalë *trim.* - **Brave boy.**
Vajzë *trime.* - **Brave girl.**

From the above examples, we can see that the adjective '*kuq*' has changed its clitic from *i* to *e* depending on noun's gender. It has also taken the ending *-e* when the noun was in feminine, whereas it has not taken any ending in masculine. On the other hand, the adjective '*red*' in English has not changed its form regardless noun gender. The same has applied with the adjective '*trim – brave*'.

Substantivization of adjectives in English and Albanian

Another similar feature we can encounter in English and Albanian adjectives is substantivization. Adjectives of both languages under the study are substantivized through the conversion process. In Albanian, they take the attributes of nouns without adding prefixes (Dhrimo A. et al. 1984).

E.g.,

I bardhi, i verdhi dhe i ziu, të gjithë kanë të drejtë të rrojnë të lirë.

The white, the yellow and the black, all have the right to live freely.

In English, adjectives can be converted into nouns fully or only partially (Kabashi J. 2000).

E.g.,

A criminal behaviour, a criminal lawyer (= a specialist in crime).

But '*criminal*' has all the characteristics of a noun, since it can be:

a. Subject of a sentence: *The criminal* pleaded guilty to all charges.

b. Subject complement: He is probably *a criminal*.

c. Object: They have arrested the *criminal*.

d. Inflected for the plural: one *criminal*, many *criminals*.

e. Used in the possessive case: the *criminal's* sentence/defence.

f. Preceded by articles and other determiners: *a criminal*, *that criminal*.

g. Premodified by an adjective: *a violent criminal*.

Degrees of adjectives in both languages

Adjectives of both languages under the study have three degrees: positive, comparative, superlative.

The positive degree of adjectives of both languages

The positive degree of adjectives in English and Albanian is the same. They, i.e., adjectives of this degree stand alone. They do not compare the noun with another of its equivalent.

E.g.,

She was a *smart woman*.

Ajo ishte **grua e mençur**.

The positive degree of adjectives in both languages expresses the characteristic of a human or an object beyond any comparison.

The comparative degree of adjectives in English and Albanian

The comparative degree of adjectives in both languages indicates that the quality of a human or an object is compared with another quality. Therefore, in order to make a comparison between two or more qualities, we must have at least two elements, two sides of comparison. This form of comparison is quite different from in Albanian and English. While in English the comparative degree of adjectives is formed by inflection *-er* and *more*, in Albanian this is formed by *më i/më e/më të*.

E.g.,

He is *more intelligent* than Sarah.

Ajo është *më e bukur* se e shoqja.

The superlative degree of adjectives in English and Albanian

The superlative degree of adjectives in both languages indicates that the quality of a human or an object is compared with three qualities at least. Therefore, in order to make a comparison between three or more qualities, we must have at least three elements. While the superlative degree of adjectives in English is formed by inflection *-est* and *most*, once again in Albanian it is formed by *më i/më e/më të*.

E.g.,

Ensar is *the best-looking* guy of all his friends.

Sara is the *most intelligent* student in her class.

Diari është *më besniku* nga të gjithë.

The comparative and superlative degree of Albanian adjectives does not depend on the syllable of the adjectives as it happens with English adjectives.

Comparison of Equality

Another similar feature of adjectives of both languages is that of degree of equality. The equality degree of adjectives, both in English and Albanian, is used to compare two humans or objects of the same quality. It has no particular form. It is almost as same as the positive degree, except in the Albanian it is usually associated with the adverbs of the quantity *aq* or *kaq* which are placed before the adjective, while the rest of the comparison is linked with the conjunction *sa* (Agalliu A. et al, 2002). In English, on the other hand, the adjective is linked with *as...as*.

The formula of equality degree adjectives in Albanian would be: **po aq + adj. + sa + adjective or noun**, while in English: **as + adjective + as**.

E.g.,

This building is *as long as* the other one. (Which means, both buildings are of the same height).

Kjo ndërtesë është *po aq e gjatë sa* edhe ajo tjetra. (Që do të thotë, se të dy ndërtesat janë të së njëjtës lartësi).

Comparison of inequality

The degree of inequality in both languages indicates that two objects are not the same regarding their quality. In English, this is degree is formed by means of *not so...as*, while in Albanian it is formed by adding the adverb *pak* before the adjective of positive degree. Sometimes, the adverb *më pak* can be accompanied with the adverb *shumë*. Consequently, this degree's scheme would be: *shumë më pak + adjective* (Dhrimo et al., 1984).

E.g.,

Kosova është *shumë më pak e zhvilluar* sesa Franca. (Meaning that Kosova and France are not the same regarding their development.) This comparison is almost the same with the comparative degree: Franca është *më e zhvilluar* se Kosova.

John is not *as tall as* his brother.

Conclusion

In the course of this paper we addressed the main questions identified at the beginning of it. By studying the rules of one language and then by comparing them with the ones of the other language, we help the student to understand the differences that exist between the two languages. This contrastive analysis of adjectives highlights the similarities and differences that exist in both, English and Albanian languages. While these two languages share many things in common, the differences between them are inevitable.

Although English and Albanian belong to the Indo-European family, we can still come across many common and distinctive points, both in terms of usage, position, degree, as well as in many other aspects. In terms of similarity and distinction we find that:

- Adjectives in English and Albanian, like all categories are a separate class of words. They modify a noun or a pronoun by describing, identifying, or quantifying it.

- While adjectives in English have the same form for singular and plural, masculine and feminine, their counterparts in Albanian reflect the characteristics of the noun. Thus, if the noun is feminine, the adjective will have a feminine ending. If the noun is plural, the adjective will have a plural form.

- Adjectives of English and Albanian occur at two opposite side of the noun. (E.g.: This is a *heavy* bag – attributively; this bag is *heavy* – predicatively. / Nëna e *shkretë* nuk dinte ç'të bënte. – Predicatively; *E shkreta* nënë, nuk dinte ç'të bënte. – Attributively.)

- Suffixation is one of the most productive methods of formation of adjectives in both languages from other parts of speech.

- Both English and Albanian adjectives form their negative meaning by adding prefixes.

- Adjectives in English and Albanian can be formed by conversion.

- English adjectives do not take articles, i.e. they are never articulated. On the other hand, their counterparts (Albanian adjectives) are mostly articulated. However, they can also be unarticulated.

- Adjectives of both languages can be formed by compounding, from the union of two sometimes three stems.

- Regarding number, English and Albanian adjectives differ completely. While in Albanian, the adjective must agree with the head

noun in number, the opposite happens in English. (E.g.: Vajzë *e mençur* – (njëjës); Vajza *të mençura* – (shumës). A *clever* girl - (singular); *Clever* girls - (plural))

- Another similarity of adjectives of both languages is that of degree. Both languages have positive, comparative and superlative degree. (E.g.: Positive: Ai është *i bukur*. ‘He is *handsome*.’ Comparative: Ai është *më i bukur* se Agroni. ‘He is *more handsome* than Agron.’ Superlative: Ai është *më i bukuri* nga të gjithë. ‘He is *the most handsome* of all’.

Therefore, in this paper, we provide evidence which partially support our hypothesis that adjectives in English share similar features with their Albanian counterparts as far as the structure and usage of the resulting word is concerned. Through this research, it is hoped that the contrastive analysis of this part of speech can be of some help to language learners and especially to those who want to teach or learn grammar.

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