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The Path of Standard Albanian Language Formation

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Abstract

In our paper we will talk about the whole process of standardization of the Albanian language, where it has gone through a long historical route, for almost a century. When talking about standard Albanian language history and according to Albanian language literature, it is often thought that the Albanian language was standardized in the Albanian Language Orthography Congress, held in Tirana in 1972, or after the publication of the Orthographic Rules (which was a project at that time) of 1967 and the decisions of the Linguistic Conference, a conference of great importance that took place in Pristina, in 1968. All of these have influenced chronologically during a very difficult historical journey, until the standardization of the Albanian language. Considering a slightly wider and more complex view than what is often presented in Albanian language literature, we will try to describe the path (history) of the standard Albanian formation under the influence of many historical, political, social and cultural factors that are known in the history of the Albanian people. These factors have contributed to the formation of a common state, which would have, over time, a common standard language. It is fair to think that "all activity in the development of writing and the Albanian language, in the field of standardization and linguistic planning, should be seen as a single unit of Albanian culture, of course with frequent manifestations of specific polycentric organization, either because of divisions within the cultural body itself, or because of the external imposition" (*Rexhep Ismajli, "In Language and for Language", Dukaqjini, Peja, 1998, pp. 15-18.*)

Keywords: formation and development of the Albanian Standard Language, Albanian culture, the history of Albanian people

Introduction

The whole process of the standardization of the Albanian language has gone through a long historical path, for nearly a century. When talking about the history of the standard Albanian language and according to the Albanian language literature, it is often thought that the Albanian language is standardized in the Albanian Language Orthography Congress, held in Tirana in 1972¹, or after the publication of the Orthographic Rules in 1967 (which was a project at that time), and the Linguistic Conference decisions, which was of great importance, held in Pristina in 1968. All of these have influenced chronologically alongside a very difficult historical journey, to the standardization of the Albanian language.

Considering a slightly wider and more complex look than what is often presented in Albanian language literature, we will try to describe the path (history) of the formation of standard Albanian language under the influence of many historical, political, social and cultural factors that are known in the history of the Albanian people. These factors have contributed to

¹ Instituti Albanologjik, *Kongresi i Drejtshkrimit të Gjuhës Shqipe*, Prishtinë, 1974, f. 95.

the formation of a common state, which would have, over time, even a common standard language. It is fair to think that "all activity in the development of writing and the Albanian language, and therefore in the field of standardization and linguistic planning, should be seen as a single unit of Albanian culture, of course with frequent manifestations of specific polycentric organization, either because of divisions within the cultural body itself, or because of external impositions. "

In chronological order during the historical development of standard Albanian, this development is closely related to the attempt to unite the alphabet with the "Society for the Publication of Albanian Writings" of Istanbul (1879) and continues with the gathering of "the Union" of Shkodra¹ (1899) out of which came out three important alphabets: the one of Istanbul, the Arbëresh (1895 and 1897) and that of "the Union" of Shkodra. All of these collective efforts have been finalized in the second phase of this stage: at the Congress of Manastir (1908) from which the present alphabet came out, which would be put into the base of the standardization of the Albanian language at Shkodra's Literary Commission (1916-1917) and later in the Albanian Language Orthography Congress in 1972.

The unification of the Albanian language orthography, planned at the Congress of Manastir, was initially accomplished in the period of World War I, at the Albanian Literary Commission of Shkodra in 1916-17. In this important event, the standardized Albanian language was born for the first time in the history of the Albanian people; its norm was based on Elbasan variant, which functioned for several decades. This standardized language had a proper orthography published, which served with great success for all those who wanted to respect it in writing and speaking.

It should be noted that this literary variant was used after World War II, in Kosovo and Macedonia as the only spoken and written norm of the Albanian literary language, until the Orthography Congress (1972), but also had a slightly wider basis and included linguistic elements of other Gheg variants (especially of Kosovar, Debar etc.).

The standardized language at Shkodra's Literary Commission did not spread in the entire Albanian language terrain. In the southern part of Albania there was still functioning a variant of the literary Tosk. Perhaps, this could be due to the fact that the vast majority of the participants in the Literary Commission of Shkodra were citizens of Shkodra. Even Shkodra's representatives did not apply the norm of the standard language of the Albanian Literary Commission of Shkodra, because in the daily practice they kept the variant of literary Shkodra.

Most literary languages in the early stages of their historical development have had literary variants. But in cases of the literary language where there are variants that have not had any differences between them, they have ended in a single form of standard language. This can happen in standard homogeneous languages, spoken and written by homogenous nations.

However, when speaking of written Albanian dialects, they appear in the first written documents of this language, such as "The Baptismal Formula" (1462) and Von Harif's Dictionary (1497), which are of the literary variant of Gheg, while the "Gospel of Easter" of St. Matthew, which belongs to the end of the 15th century, comes out in the literary variant of Tosk. Nevertheless, the clearest and most complete differences of Albanian literary variants emerge in the second half of the 16th century. Buzuku wrote his "Meshar" in the variant of literary Gheg, while the work of Lekë Matrënga, "*Embsuame e krështerë*", is written in the variant of the literary Tosk.

Later, in the 19th and 20th centuries on the basis of this literary variant, another variant would be formed. Less widely spread functioned the literary variant based on the Elbasan's variant, which is known as the variant of the middle Gheg. This form was chosen because they tried to find a middle of both dialects in the entire Albanian speaking territory, where it was located the Elbasan.

It is well known that the variant of Elbasan with its orthographic rules foresaw the preservation of non emphasised vowel *ë* in all the positions of the word, just as it also emerged in the literary variant of Tosk. In the period of Zog I's government, it was accepted and proclaimed as an official language of Albania by decree in the 1923 Official Gazette, since it had previously been accepted by the Lushnja Educational Congress, eventually receiving the standardized language seal².

¹ Alfabeti i shoqërisë "Agimi" të Shkodrës, është rezultat i punës individuale të Ndre Mjedës.

² Shih F. Raka, *Historia e shqipësisë letrare*, Prishtinë 1997, f. 182.

However, the Albanian Government of Post-Liberation ignored this completely by sending orders from its top authorities so that all the schools in Albania use the ABC-book of the literary *tosk* variant¹.

It is known that the northern variant of literary Gheg or literary variant of Shkodra has a history a bit earlier than other variants, distinguishing it from "Meshari" (this is mentioned by B. Beci in "For the dialect affiliation of" Meshari ", Seminary XVIII, p. 393) from the other authors of that time. Also, Shkodra's variety was followed as a literary variant at the time of the Albanian National Renaissance in the works of Gjergj Fishta, Filip Shiroka, Ndre Mjeda, and other writers of Shkodra.

These characteristics of literary variety of Shkodra can be found in the language texts and in the other writings of A. Xanon, Justin Rrotës, in the Dictionary of "the Union" of Shkodra, etc. After the end of the Second World War, the use and value of the variety of Shkodra started to fade, especially when it became the standardization of the literary norm.

However, the former variants of Albanian, as well as their dialects, always remain a precious treasure for enriching the standard Albanian language².

As will be discussed below, in linguistic terms, the source of this phenomenon is found in the fact that both literary variants of Albanian were based on the source of everyday language and in the Albanian dialect language.

The effort of National Renaissance for Standard Albanian: The treatment of standard Albanian began since the Albanian National Renaissance period, dating from the second half of the 19th century. The interest in the writing of literary Albanian began with various articles published in the magazines of that time. The national conscience began to rise for a language that is written in Albanian, with propaganda not to write about the interests of foreign states of Istanbul, Athens, Vatican and various Balkan centers who tried to prevail in our country through their language and writings.

However, it influenced the rulers of that time in the anti-Albanian propaganda from Ottoman long rule, where they did not allow publishing magazines and newspapers in Albanian, not even in Albanian speaking territory. This helped our Renaissance people in the further development of the Albanian literary language against anti-Albanian propaganda. Various magazines and newspapers began to be published in other European countries, such as Romania, Bulgaria, Italy etc. During the Renaissance, many different magazines were published in Albanian and other European languages, even in Arabic³, run by patriotic societies, private persons, religious political organizations etc.

The first Albanian newspaper is "The Albanian of Italy"(L'albanese d'Italia), which was directed by De Rada in 1848, the newspaper "Pellazgu" in 1860 by the Greek arbëresh Anastas Byku, the newspaper "Prizren" in 1871-74 in Prizren , as well as the newspaper "Kosovo" in Pristina in 1877-88, in Pristina (both of them were published in Turkish and Serbian)⁴.

Other papers were also published, which devoted special importance to the protection and development of the Albanian literary language such as " Fjamuri i Arbërit " (1883-1887) and "Drita-Ditura" (1884).

The newspaper of A. Kulluriot was entirely in the service of Albanians to protect and develop Albanian literary language. This newspaper made a fiery propaganda against Greeks saying that **"The Albanian language was not capable of being written and serving the national idea of freedom"**⁵ The newspaper countered with great skill against this propaganda, where the issue of Albanian language and education was protected with much love and patriotism.

In addition, there was another magazine "Albania", which was published in Brussels and London during 1897-1909, led by one of the most important national Renaissance personalities, Faik Konica. This magazine had as a special purpose the purity of the Albanian literary language from the foreign elements that prevailed at that time. There were discussed the problems of uniting the Albanian alphabet, the spelling of literary Albanian, the theoretical treatment of Albanian orthography by many well-known authors of this period such as: Konica, Gurakuqi, Xhuvani, Logoreci and others⁶.

¹ Shih B. Beci, *Gjuha letrare shqipe dhe baza e saj dialektore*, Seminari XVII, Tiranë 1995, f. 202.

² Shih M. Samara, *Roli i dialekteve të shqipes për zhvillimin e normës letrare në fushë të leksikut*, Konferenca shkencore "Gjuha letrare kombëtare dhe bota shqiptare sot", Tiranë 2002, f. 333.

³ R. Fadil, *Historia e shqipes letrare*, Prishtinë 2005, f. 175

⁴ Po aty.

⁵ Po aty.

⁶ M. Blaku, *Rreth trajtimit të gjuhës letrare në organet e shtypit të Rilindjes*, Seminari 4, f. 183.

As noted above, other European countries where the National Renaissance magazines and newspapers were published were Romania and Bulgaria. In Bucharest was the newspaper "Albania" in 1897-99¹, where it played a very important role for education and raising the national awareness of the Albanians. It also contributed to the unification of the alphabet of the Albanian language. It should be mentioned that it was the newspaper that used the Latin alphabet during the whole time of its publication.

The issue of the common literary language also appeared in "Dituria" that was in Thessaloniki in 1909. It can be said that during the Albanian National Renaissance a greater awareness of all Albanians was achieved to see the acceleration of the liberation of Albanian lands from the Ottomans, Greeks etc, as well as the issue of a very valuable importance that we can boast with this period of development of the unity for a common Albanian literary language.

Among the first and old sources of Albanian dialect in Kosovo, written and published for the first time in their discourse, was the work of Pjetër Bogdani written in Padua, Italy in 1685. So, from that time are preserved the tracks of the old Kosovar, especially in the phonetic aspect (the change of the consonant cluster kl, gl in the k e g, a quality that shows and confirms the age of a phenomenon of the Albanian variant in Kosovo). Also a not too long time after Bogdani, in Albanian language is also the writing of the Gjakovar Nikollë Kazazi, who in 1743 published "The Christian Doctrine" in Rome, where in the absence of full material, a short fragment was found where, apart from the diphthong *uo*, usually encountered *u*, it has no great value for Albanian language. With the death of Kazazi, ends the literary activity of the old Albanian authors where there was a long pause of Gheg dialect writing.

The first place based on antiquity takes "Vehbija" of Tahir Efendi Gjakova, which was written in 1835, published in Istanbul. Always with this Arabic-Turkish alphabet, at the end of the century (1900), a mevlud was written by the author Tahir Efendi Popova (from Popovë of Vushtrri). Later it was discovered in the field of literature and with this alphabet, Sheh Maliq of Rahovec.

The Congress of Manastir - an important event for a common Albanian language: The awareness of Albanians of this period continued to grow even more. Different political events in the Ottoman Empire further influenced the development of patriotic activities for the opening of schools in Albanian language. A task of great national, scientific and political importance was also the issue of forming a common alphabet, which started to grow in this period.

The efforts to organize a congress at the national level in order to see and reach a unified conclusion of the alphabet issue in the interest of all Albanians were becoming numerous. The initiative was taken by the "Union" club of Manastir, which in its meeting of August 23, 1908 decided to organize a congress aimed *"to end this great need for the unification of all Albanians in one language"*². This congress was attended by many representatives from all the countries where Albanians lived, there was a total of 50 delegates, representatives of 23 societies of Albanian clubs, while the right to vote was accepted only to 32 people. Participants were newspaper directors, writers and linguists, National Renaissance veterans, and delegated from different cities where Albanians lived³. It lasted for nine days, while the interest was quite large, where about 400 people participated in the plenary session. Through the discussions, unique stands were achieved for the national alphabet for all Albanians. In addition, in these plenary sessions were approved important decisions, such as:

- a) It was supported the idea that the base of the next alphabet of the Albanian language would exclusively be the Latin alphabet;
- b) The congress chose an 11-member⁴ Committee or Commission that would decide on the Albanian alphabet, while congressional participants vowed to accept the decisions of the Congress Committee⁵.

¹ I. Dermaku, *Rilindja Kombëtare dhe kolonitë shqiptare të mërgimit*, Prishtinë 1983, f. 183.

² Shezai Rrokaj, "çeshtje te gjuhes shqipe 2" Kongresi i Manastirit: një alfabet, një gjuhë një komb". Kongresi i Manastirit, "Liria", Selanik 8 Vjeshtë e tretë 1908, Mot i parë, nr. 15, f.1-3, cit. nga R. Fadil, Historia e shqipes letrare, Prishtinë 2005, f. 186.

³ Mahir Domi, Alfabeti i gjuhës shqipe dhe Kongresi i Manastirit, f. 7.

⁴ Komiteti/Komisioni kishtë këtë përbërje: Gjergj Fishta (kryetar), L.Gurakuqi (zv.kryetar), N.Mjeda, Gj. Qirazi, M.Frashëri, G. Cikla, T.Buda, Sh. Kolonja, S.Peci, B.Topulli e N.Vrioni.

⁵ R. Fadil, Historia e shqipes letrare, Prishtinë 2005, f. 187.

The congress would look at the Latin letters for the alphabet of the Albanian language, because those three alphabets that were in circulation had small graphic changes of sounds, which Latin language does not have, but they were in Albanian. The committee would select one of these three existing options:

1. Take one of the three alphabets that were most prevalent in Istanbul, the "Union" or "Agim" of Shkodra with or without any changes, as they were until then;
2. Create an alphabet with the elements of the three systems, merging the three alphabets into one;
3. Create a new alphabet, regardless of the alphabets that existed and were used until then¹.

The Commission decided to create a new alphabet, thus complying with the third point. There were many discussions especially for letters that Latin did not have (*dh, gj, nj, ll, rr, ë, y, sh, th* etj).²

After nine days of work, the Congress of Manastir successfully completed the work on November 22, 1908 and entered the history of Albanian culture as the Congress that decided to unify the alphabet of the Albanian language. It was a victory of special importance to the entire Albanian people, from the Albanian National Renaissance period to the present, helping to establish a common Albanian literary language. As professor Rrokaj rightly states, this Congress finally gave the Albanians the Latin alphabet by turning them towards the West, removing them from the clutches of the Turks and territorial greed of the neighbors. Language and blood this binominal DNA of our nation³.

The Albanian Literary Commission of Shkodra (1916-17): After the Congress of the Manastir for the designation of the Latin alphabet, it was thought that another convention would be held, but this time it would be devoted to the orthography of the Albanian language.

However, after many events that occurred in that period, such as the liberation from the Ottoman Empire, the First World War, and considering also the invasion of northern and middle Albania by Austro-Hungary, in order not to further make Albanians angry, decided to give some rights to Albanians for their national affair. In the framework of these rights, the Austro-Hungarian conqueror allegedly attempted to solve the issue of the common nationwide Albanian language, so they sent scientific staff from the Vienna Academy of Sciences and organized the Albanian Literary Commission of Shkodra, which was led by the Albanian linguist dr. Gjergj Pekmezi. In Shkodra Albanian Literary Commission were outstanding fighters and workers of well-known Albanian culture: L.Gurakuqi, N.Mjeda, A.Xhuvani, M.Logoreci, S.Peci, H.Mosi, Gj.Fishta, A. Maraskaj, N.Paluc and others. There were participants also two foreign Albanians: Rajko Nahtigal and Maksimilian Lamberg, the first one is from Graz of Austria and the second one from Vienna⁴.

Albanian Literary Commission of Shkodra, which operated for a year with irregular interruptions, arrived on January 3, 1917 to announce its decisions in Shkodra. The orthography of this committee marked an important step for the structure of the word, while maintaining the literary variants of Albanian.

When talking about the variants, regarding the base of dialect where the orthography would be based, the variant of the middle Gheg was preserved. This proposal was presented by Luigj Gurakuqi who was the chairman of the commission of the Shkodra's Albanian Literary Commission. It had to rely on this variant because this literary variant also has linguistic elements of literary Tosk. This proposal by L. Gurakuqi was fully endorsed by the Albanian Literary Commission of Shkodra.

In the decisions of this Commission, the phonetic principle was of great importance for later orthography, as they achieved a correct linguistic solution.

- It was specifically mentioned the vocal field of the preservation of not emphasized – ë, when used in the body of the word in the pre-stressed position (shtëpi, (home), shëndet (health), etc.); in the final position of female nouns (mollë (apples), lugë (spoon), punë (work)) to the plural of male nouns (punëtorë (workers), fshatarë (peasants), qytetarë (citizens), etc.).

¹ R. Selman, *Tri monografina albanologjike*, Tiranë 1944, f. 52.

² D. Shaban, K. Priti, *Kongresi i Manastirit*, Tiranë 1978, f. 79.

³ Sheza Rrokaj, *Cështje të gjuhës shqipe 2*, Tiranë 2009, f. 66

⁴ J. Kastrati, *Për historinë e ortografisë shqipe*, Përpamiri 1971, nr.7, f. 607.

F. Jakopin, *Kontributi i R. Nahtigalit shkencës së albanologjisë*, Gja VII-1978, 221-228.

V. Fidler, Maksimilian Lambert, GJA 1965, 2, 331-340. cit. nga Fadil Raka, *Historia e shqipes letrare*, Prishtinë, 2005, f. 192.

Also, in the first person and in the third person of the present tense (lexojmë(we read), punojmë (we work), rrëfejme (we confess) shkojmë (we go),etc.) Preserving the ë in the final position was also an achievement of the approximation of literary Gheg to that of literary Tosk.

The matter of preserving the two Albanian literary variants by approaching the writing, as well as maintaining the full structure was also approved for the use of vowel groups of the type ie, ue, ye (diell, miell (flour), mësuë (learn), punuë (work), lye (paint), fyell (flute) etc.

- Preserving the graphic sign (^) in only two occasions: zâ, âsht, pê, frê etc.

- The consonant groups should also be fully preserved (mb, nd, ng, ngj etc)

The Orthography of the Albanian Literary Commission of Shkodra is of great importance for the first orthography in our history in a scientific gathering; the approximation of two written forms of literary variants of Albanian; and we can say that for the first time the Albanian literary language was standardized. In addition, this standardization was also approved in the official acts of King Zog's Government in 1923.

Linguistic Conference of Prishtina (1968): In contrast to all the events that took place for a standardization of the Albanian language organized in the Linguistic Conference of Prishtina organized by the Albanological Institute and the Department of Language and Literature of the Prishtina Philosophical Faculty, on April 27-28 1968, with 150 participants, all authors, writers, politicians, the renaissance people of this period were from ethnic Albania. The linguistic conference of Prishtina was opened by the director of this Institute, Fehmi Agani. This meeting was intended to reach a position for Albanian language in Kosovo and those areas where Albanians lived in the former Yugoslavia. The goal was to designate one of the two existing opportunities that had emerged in the 1967 project, so whether or not to accept the orthography of the Albanian language (1967), which implied the common Albanian inclusion of Kosovo Albanians and other ethnic areas, or to continue the path of the existing literary Albanian of the areas where Albanians lived and to be used to variant of literary Gheg. The 150 participants who participated in the Language Conference in Prishtina '68 decided to choose the first variant that is the most straightforward way of unification of the Albanian literary language.

Linguistic Conference of Prishtina '68, was also of great importance, where the persistence of all Albanians was noted for the standardization of the Albanian language; which was undoubtedly an important step in Kosovo and throughout the Albanian territory. This Language Conference was the route that preceded the preparation of the Albanian Language Orthography Congress in 1972. According to the member of this Linguistic Conference professor Idriz Ajeti emphasizes the importance of this meeting: **"Although at that time we did not see the possibility of the rapid spread of the unified Albanian literary language, the insistence that its issue was brought by the experts and other representatives present in this Conference, their unreserved disposition to use the common Albanian literary language gave us greater hopes than being accepted it would soon expand into the school, in editions and in radio and television programs"**¹

Orthography Congress, Standardization of Albanian: As we described above the historical path of the standard Albanian language, it is noticed that the vast majority of the writings, meetings, congresses were intended to reach a full definition of the standard of Albanian language in the whole Albanian speaking territory. Different principles have been established for an adequate acquisition of written Albanian, ranging from the phonetic principle, the morphological principle and the syntax principle (where the spoken form of the Albanian language was in direct proximity to the spoken language of the people).

The final standardization of the Albanian language throughout the Albanian speaking territory was a historic and actual necessity for national unification. This began in 1972 with the holding of the Orthography Congress held in Tirana, which must be said without doubt that it was the result of the numerous efforts of all the intellectuals and prominent patriots whom we aforementioned. It should be noted that this koine came as a nationwide result, as an imposed language that even Albanians will eventually have a common language and will eventually be a more organic and more united nation than before.

¹ Idriz Ajeti, *Rruga e zhvillimit të gjuhës letrare në Kosovë*, KDGJSH 1974, f.37

Since the time of the final standardization of '72, over 40 years have passed that we are very strictly observing the protection of standardization, always bearing in mind the political challenges that the people of Kosovo have overcome. We can already say that this language has stood and is continuing to stand up to the challenges of the time.

"The Orthographic Congress is primarily directed at the Albanian school as the core of linguistic formation of younger generations ... to evaluate the acquisition of unified literary and spelling norms approved by Congress as a fundamental duty and to completely implement new orthographic rules, starting from 1973-74 ¹". Hence, it was of particular importance that the linguistic formation to be learnt correctly and systematically, starting with the 8-year-olds of that time in our schools.

In Kosovo, it is well known that a high percentage of school literature was in Slavic (Serb-Croat), and that literature began to be translated in Albanian, where there was considerable violation of the norm, especially in the field of syntax. As we will discuss in the following chapters, we find these violations to this day, but not so much in writing as in speaking in Kosovo. In the Orthographic Congress '72, the normative sanctioned Albanian code was introduced: "Today's structure of the literary language is open and will remain so." Otherwise, the development of the literary language would be discontinued. Hence, "the ultimate crystallization of the norm" is never really final, eternal, static, but constantly evolved and perfected².

In adopting the literary norm according to the 1977 Orthography Congress, Kosovars tried to stay on the standardization to the fullest so that there were no Slavic words and non-original translations and often turned out with different meanings in different school literature. This was also reinforced by the Kosovar education within Kosovo at the University of Prishtina where the Albanian language was studied, without having to be educated in other republics of former Yugoslavia, where it was necessarily influenced by Serbian language. Also, the educational and cultural integration was influenced by the change of the political situation in Kosovo, the great literature contributions from Albania in the drafting of texts not only in language subject, but also in other subjects where the importance was multifaceted and of great benefits in acquiring the standard.

It is worth mentioning that the development of the Albanian standard language has had an Albanian support, even to the Arbëresh of Italy, bringing dexterity into the further development of the Albanian language itself.

According to Professor Fadil Raka³, the process of standardization of the Albanian language is divided into two periods of time: "the first, the years 1972-90 and the second, from 1990 to the present day". We think that a particular stage of development should be treated after the post-war period in Kosovo after 1999. To tackle this issue, one should also observe the role of some of the important non linguistic factors that directly affect the Kosovar variant, taking into account the circumstances, geopolitical contexts, various interlingual contacts, etc. Through verifications in the structure of discourse we have come to some theoretical conclusions about the many sociolinguistic phenomena that have occurred there. We will observe these phenomena in the following chapters as they relate to the development of standard Albanian language in different grammatical aspects.

The dialect base of standard: Regarding the graphical representation of standardized Albanian, we can examine from the point of view of dominance of its two main dialects⁴. Thus, as we know, the two main dialects of the Albanian language Gheg in the north and Tosk in the south are roughly separated from the Shkumbin River. Gheg and the Tosk have branched out for at least a millennium, and their less extreme forms are in a mutual way understandable.

It is known that both dialects have their own specific: phonetic, morphological and syntax forms. Looking at the perspective of the development of the dialect base of standard Albanian, we will notice some features that are common, but also have differences between them. We will try to present these differences in the phonetic, morphological, lexical-semantic, and the word that is not considered in Albanian standard Albanian.

¹ ASH e Shqipërisë, *Drejshkrimi i gjuhës shqipe*, Tiranë 1973, f. 25. Cit. nga F. Raka, në "Studime rreth shqipes standarde", Prishtinë, 2007, f. 25.

² Gazeta ditore "Koha ditore", *Dymbëdhjetë propozime për pasurimin e standardit të shqipes*, e die 19 dhjetor 2011.

³ Fadil Raka, *Studime rreth shqipes standarde*, Prishtinë, 2007, f. 35.

⁴ *Ky burim grafik i rolit të dialekteve në standard është marrë nga interneti.*

From the chronological presentation of the development of standardization of the Albanian language, we noticed that especially during the National Renaissance, but even later, during the years until the end of the 20th century, Albanians had as a means of communication both variants (as in speaking also in writing).

Albanians worked and acted to have a common nationwide language that eventually came to be configured at the 1972 Orthography Congress. In the standard Albanian language structure, are noticed the common language elements that are included in the grammatical system of the standard Albanian, such as:

nouns: mal-i,(mountain) thes-i,(sack) mur-i,(wall)

adjectives: i ri(new,young), i vjetër(old), bukurosh,(handsome)

personal pronouns: unë,(I) ti(you) ai/ajo(he/she), ne(we), ju(you) ata/ato,(they)

Interrogative pronouns: cili,(which) kush,(who)

numerals: dy,(two) tre,(three) pesë,(five)

auxiliary verbs: kam,(have) ke, (have)ka,(has) kemi,(have) keni,(have) kanë,(have)

Adverbs: atje,(there) këtej,(this way) bukur,(pretty) tepër,(extremely) kur,(when) në,(in) sa(how much/many) etj.

Therefore, in terms of both phonetic structure and grammatical form and word formation are the same in both dialect variants and in standard Albanian language.

As it is already known, the Albanian language has 7 vowels and 29 consonants, which are found in both the literary variants of Albanian as well as according to their vernaculars. Unlike the Gheg dialect, which has the nasal vowel system, it is also known that this system is left out of the standard of the Albanian language. Vocal groups, ie, ye, are prevalent in our two dialects, but they have ended as the simplest vowels (i, y), or that are known in particular in one of these dialects.

Among the common features of the two dialects we have the definite and indefinite form of nouns, the system of adjectives, most of the forms of the pronoun system, the modes of verb tenses etc. Likewise, we have cases in the Albanian lexicon, which includes the internationalisms that have entered our lexicon and have become an inseparable part of it especially lately with the respective developments in different fields.

There are differences in the phonetic system, namely the structural composition of the pronounced vowel -ë, which replaces the nasal -â that is characteristic of Gheg and its former variant.

It is also important the process of rotation, such as: emër (name), rërë (sand), bëri (did) etc, which is taken from the variant of Tosk, but we should not forget the language units that are included into the standardization according to the variant of Gheg e.g.ranishte (sand), rini (youth), zanore (vowel) etc.

However, the fact remains that the group of old, significant and relatively compact isoglosses, whose northern limit (rotation and development of *uo in ue in the [Gheg] or in ua in [Tosk] in syllables that end with a sound) is along the course of the Shkumbin River, and the southern belt of which is extended some ten to twenty kilometers southwards (with the change of *vo-> va- in the middle position), represent a decisive moment in the history of the Albanian language, unlike other languages which are distinguished by the Albanian language from their contact with Latin.

It is the same case with the vowel diphthong of Gheg ue that is not outside the norm of standard Albanian language, it is found at the type of nouns: mësuës,(teacher) punuës,(worker) lexuës,(reader) botuës (publisher) etc. Also, this phenomenon is noticed at the derived adjectives with the productive suffix: - shëm, e.g i lexueshëm,(readable) i punueshëm(acceptable) etc. Moreover, the verbs that are supported by the former variant of Gheg of the first person in the declarative case in the present tense with -j (puno-j, (work) mëso-j,(learn) lexo-j (read)etc), but in the imperfect declarative mood of the present tense have entered in the norm of the Albanian language according to the personal suffixes, such as : -ja, -je, -nte (that is the same with the Gheg suffix), -nim, -nit, -nin(punoja,(I worked) punoje (you worked), punonte (he/she worked), punonim (we worked), punonit (you worked), punonin (they worked) where they are left aside from the former Gheg variant : - jsha, -jshe,-nte, -jshim, -jshit, -jshin, (punojsha, punojshje, punonte, punojshim, punojshit, punojshin), it is left aside of standard -nja, -nje, -nte, -njim, -njit, - njin (punonja, punonje, punonte, punonim, punonjit, punonjin).

Another important phenomenon is the infinitive of Gheg, which is formed by prepositional particle and participle Gheg me shkue (to go), which is removed from the standard Albanian language, however is inserted in the standard according to the type of subjunctive mood with the participle: për të lexuar (to read), për të punuar (to work) etc.

Regarding the infinitive, which is the earliest mood of Albanian language history, so the infinitive "me" ("to") the sigmatic imperfect. The main phonological features are simultaneously emblematic, but also datable. The fact that the division between the two dialects dates after the contact with Latin, is clear since Latin borrowings undergo the corresponding developments in these two dialects, for example, > *vorfën/varfër*, (*h*)*arënus* > *ranël/rërë*. Also, it is certain that these changes occurred before medieval migrations of Arvanites and Arbëresh, which are obviously Tosk. However, between the *terminus ad quem* e *terminus a quo*, it is extended a period of seven or eight centuries during which another important event occurred in the history of the Albanian language: Slavic invasions.

The case of the participle of the standard Albanian language is included in the norm according to the support of the former Tosk variant: lexuar (read), punuar (worked), kënduar (sang) etc.

Regarding the separation between Gheg and Tosk, there are three main thoughts about the chronology of the division of these two dialects:

1. has been conducted prior to the contact with Slavic languages;¹
 2. started before, but continued during contacts with Slavic languages;²
- and
3. started after contact with Slavic languages.³

In order to establish the dialect base of the standard Albanian language, the first work that was done was the norm of completely similar phenomena in both dialect variants, thus matching the entirety of the linguistic system. Although most think that the dialect of Tosk is the standard dialect of the standard Albanian language, this can be noticed even according to the percentage of Albanian speakers and the acquisition of standard language.

However, Gheg speakers have some language difficulties in speech, which we will also see in response to the respondents and those who are recorded. Therefore, many scientific meetings, symposiums, conferences and scientific congresses, is being seen again the possibility of flexibility that the standard language should have, extending to the different linguistic inclusiveness, which lie within the grammatical systems in phonetic, morphological, syntax, lexical, and word-formation field.

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