



## First Developments of Terminology of Mechanical Engineering in Albanian language lexical

**Edita Stojani**

Faculty of Mathematics Engineering and Physics Engineering,  
Centre of Foreign Language, Polytechnic University of Tirana

Email: frasherie@mail.com

### Abstract

The purpose of this article is to present evidence of building up of terminology of Mechanical Engineering in Albanian language lexical. Mechanical Engineering of Albanian language lexical has its beginnings around the year 1910 and across the years it has been enriched with many borrowings, neologisms, and Albanian words. The borrowings in this lexical are considered as an enrichment source. The methodology used is the research and consultation of studies previously carried out by Albanian and foreign linguists, in the field of terminology, to continue with the research and analysis of how these terms have been integrated into the lexicon of the Albanian language, as well as in the collection of the corpus of Italianisms in this field, which prove the influences that the Italian language had on the Albanian language. From the analysis that was made of the lexicon of mechanics in this period, some main characteristics can be ascertained, which we are briefly discussing. First, in this lexicon, a significant number of foreign terms borrowed from different languages such as Italian are observed. The few attempts to create the special lexicon in the field of mechanics are permeated by the tendency to pronounce as much as possible. The linguistic borrowings, is conditioned not only by the tendency to make this lexicon as understandable as possible but also by the historical circumstances of the time.

**Keywords:** terminology, borrowings, mechanical terminology, Albanian language, Italian language

## Introduction

As it is generally known, since terminology is the ensemble of terms that responds to a certain system of concepts within a given field, it is at the same time a reflection of the evolution of scientific thinking in this field, of the processing level of this thinking that is displayed in the way of concept cultivation and formulation, as well as in their dressing with respective terms. Analysis of terminology within a certain field in a certain period of time involve: firstly recognition of the situation of the technology development level in certain period of time; secondly, the penetration into the scientific thinking of this period; and lastly, a survey on opportunities and language marking means of that period. Harmonized elaboration of these three requirements is possible only with the support of a sufficient technical literature, where not only the terms used in this field will be reflected, but at the same time also the description of respective concepts. Thus it gets really difficult to study a certain terminology within a certain period of time, taking into consideration that the level of progress in a new branch of technology has its impact and it is in fair proportion with the level of scientific communication within this field. At initial phases of development of scientific thinking in a certain field, the professional communication will still be weak; it is reflected in the visible lack of technical publishing, as well as in the usage of a special inadequate lexical that is characterized from the presence of a big amount of terminological synonyms, the treatment as synonyms of terms that represent concepts with inner partial concurrence or zero, the usage of many foreign unnecessary terms, nonscientific wording of concepts, the proper construction of formal structure of terms etc

## Results and discussion

Relations between Albania and Italy have been established for centuries and the two countries have traveled many paths together. Italianisms are also present in other languages of the Balkans due to historical, economic, commercial, political, cultural factors, etc., in this way the Albanian language could not "save". This also leads to the exchange of Balkan languages with each other, where they have influenced the penetration of Italianisms not directly, but indirectly. Jorgaqi K. (**Jorgaqi K.**, 1995, p 69 – 73 *Italianizma të shqipes standard si ballkanizma, Studime Filologjike, Akademia e Shkencave e Republikës së Shqipërisë, Instituti I Gjuhësisë dhe I Letërsisë nr 1-4*) stratifies the influence and penetration of Italianisms in two layers, in the period of the late Middle Ages (XIII - XVIII centuries) where the influence of the Venetian dialect is felt and at the end of the last century, of Italian.

Italianisms have created their own layer in the Albanian lexicon, having as a legacy the influence left by Latin, although the Latin element is distinguished from the Italian one. The main difference is that Latin words have undergone greater changes in their phonetic form than Italian words, which are newer. Italian words have influenced both spoken and written language. Italian political and commercial interests and the continued presence of the Catholic Church marked the beginning of the introduction

of Italianisms from the 11th century. According to Di Giovine (**Di Giovine 2008, p 107 – 139, *Un millennio di storia linguistica albanee: l'influsso lessicale della lingua italiana, "L'Italia dialettale", rivista di Dialettologia italiana, vol LXIX (Serie terza V), Pisa, Edizioni ETS***), the Albanian language has been receptive to Italianisms due to historical and cultural factors and for this reason the number of Italianisms in it has increased. Also, a strong influence has been felt in the dialect of Shkodra, Himarë and the coast of the sea. While in the written language, words and terms belonging to the field of technique, science, arts, navigation, army, etc. have penetrated.

The Italian words that entered during the 20s (**Thomai J., p 251, *Leksikologjia e gjuhës shqipe, Tiranë 2006***) in the period of the establishment of the state, were seen by intellectuals as words of culture and civilization; then in the 30s (**Thomai J., p 251, *Leksikologjia e gjuhës shqipe, Tiranë 2006***), with the invasion of Albania by the Italians, they penetrated the written language and are words, but also terms that belong to the ecclesiastical field, technology, science, art, navigation, the army, economy, etc.

Before year 1944, the mechanical industry was represented mostly by some small production manufactories or generally with repairmen functions owned by foreign and domestic investors. Also the technical literature published at that time was very little, bilingual vocabularies of this period are mostly bilingual vocabularies of general usage, except the only technical terms vocabulary of agriculture Italian-Albanian and Albanian-Italian of M. Bindoni (in the circumstances of absence of an Albanian Explanatory vocabulary in that period, the lexical material cumulated is leaned mostly on two resources: firstly on bilingual vocabularies Albanian-italian of Bashkimi `1906; Dizionario Albanese -italiano of A. Lestit 1935; Dizionario italiano-albanese of F. Kordinjano 1938; italian-albanian vocabulary of K. Floqi, italian-albanian and albanian-italian Vocabularies of M. Bindoni and secondly on technical literature of that period and mostly on the book AUTO published in 1931, also in official gazette of that time).

Thus the lexical material cumulated, has helped to accomplish, up to a certain level, the analyses of mechanical terms used at that time. These analyses will include not only the context of expression but also the penetration into the conceptual origin of terms. The motivation of their conceptual origin will be accomplished from the terminological point of view, not from semasiological point of view, though being leaned on the initial concept and not on the first meaning of the word for example: the term fluturonjës (flyer) has as initial concept fluturoj (to fly), not flutur (butterfly) (a word that belongs to another field), or the conceptual origin of term punëtore (laborer) is zero, because the derived forming punë + tore (work + tore as a suffix) is at the same time a representative of initial concept. Thus the motivation of conceptual origin of a certain term begins with the identification of initial concept.

From analyzes made to the lexical of mechanics of this period, are evidenced some main characteristics, which will be represented briefly in this article. Firstly, in this lexical, is noticed a considerable number of foreign terms borrowed from other

languages such as Italian for example: Altimetër, biellë, bronzinë, freksion, korp, korent, kandel, kollodok, kapilete\ë, kacavidë, graso, ingranazh, balestër, marshë, manivelë, parafango, pedal, timon tambur, Volant (eng.:connecting rod, brass, friction, body, current, spark plug, kolodok, capilette\ë, screwdriver, grease, gear, crossbar, gear, crank, fender, pedal, drum steering wheel, Volant) etc, from French such as debrazhë, voltazh, litrazh, etj. Time to time there are encountered two foreign terms that cover the same concept, but borrowed from two different languages, for example, about the concept “machine part that serves for alignment and disjunction of axis in the transmission system, especially in movement” there are used two foreign terms and particularly freksion from Italian and debrazh from French.

Secondly, those few efforts for creating special lexical in the mechanical field are traversed by the tendency of albanisation as much as possible. Linguistic wearing of concepts from Albanian dough, meaning albanisation of terms, is conditioned not only from the tendency of doing this lexical more comprehensible, but also from historical circumstances of the time. It is understandable that under the pressure of a foreign technology and under the foreign invader’s dominance, efforts to preserve national language are more emphasized.

Albanisation of foreign terms is attained mostly in these ways, firstly by giving this word already a new meaning, something that has led into the broadening of its semantic structure.

We can mention here the terms: qiri (kandelë), kosh (karoceri), karrike-ja(unazë e pistonit), kokërr-a (sferë e kushinetës), kështjellëz-a (karter), shpejtësi-a (marshi), drejtuesi (timoni), lëkundës -i (manovelë), ndërruesi (kambio) ajrim (ventilim), kazan (serbator) (eng.: candle (spark plug), basket (body), seat (piston ring), ball (bearing ball), castle (crankcase), speed (gear), steering (steering wheel), rocker -i (crank), shifter (gearbox) ventilation (ventilation), boiler (reservoir) etc.

Secondly by covering the concept with a new word that is created from the own of Albanian language and with its formative means. We can mention here derivative formations: hovësi-a (Volant), përdas-i (distributor), përmes-i (diametër), kullojë-a (filtri), shpejtësim-i (akselerim), tymës-si (skapamento), njënjësi-a (ekuilibër), i rrokullt (sferik), përgjerim (perimetër), grykëse-ja (bronzinë), shkritore (fonderi), shpeshitim (frekuncë) (eng.: flywheel, distributor, through (diameter), drain (filter), speed (acceleration), smoke discharge, unit (balance) , rolling (spherical), expansion (circumference), throat (brass), foundry (foundry), frequency (frequency) etc. It is noticed a versatile use of Albanian language affixes, by which it is accomplished up to a certain level, the differentiation of close or different concepts for example about the concept “curved or broken line that enclose a geometric figure” it is used the word rrokullore-ja whereas about the concept of sphere it is used the word rrokullinë-a. In some cases, concerning the conceptual differentiation, it is used also the change of gender for example the word rrahës - i is used about a beating tool in agricultural machineries, whereas the word rrahëse-ja is used about a beating machinery. Beside

the front and derivative words from Albanian, in order to cover the concepts there are used also some compounds for example tharmatës –i (acidometër), avullore (lokomotivë), erëmarrës-i (aspirator) etj. In rare cases, unable to express the concept with words, if this is a derivative or a compound, there are used explanatory phrases for example about the concept temperim - dhamja of steel water, about the concept automat – machinery that works.

## Conclusion

From the analysis that was made of the lexicon of mechanics in this period, some main characteristics can be ascertained, which we are briefly discussing. First, in this lexicon, a significant number of foreign terms borrowed from different languages such as Italian are observed. The few attempts to create the special lexicon in the field of mechanics are permeated by the tendency to pronounce as much as possible. The linguistic borrowings is conditioned not only by the tendency to make this lexicon as understandable as possible, but also by the historical circumstances of the time. It is understood that under the pressure of a foreign technology as well as under the rule of the foreign conqueror, the efforts to preserve the national language are more pronounced.

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