

# THE SPEECH OF FUSHË-ARRËZ AND ITS PERIPHERY IN THE DIALECTICAL SEPARATION OF ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

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## **Abstract**

The speech of Fushë-Arrëz and its suburbs is a speech that represents a special interest for the linguistic position definition. This speech has its own individual elements which differ from those of the Mirdita's or Puka's area. This individuality seems clear in the linguistic aspect because the speech of this zone has a lot of differences in the phonetic features, morphological and anosmatic glossary of rare words. This speech, of course, is part of the geg dialect but as the approaches related to the speech are not unique, in this study we will give some arguments which show that this speech is part of the central geg dialect. The speech of Fushë- Arrëzit and its suburbs despite of the individuality that represents has a lot of similar features with the speech of Mirdita, but also with the speech of Puka, because this two speeches are in the same administrative district. This speech has a continuously reciprocal relationship with the speech of Puka (this speech is included in the eastern geg dialect). This study will show the features that characterize this speech including it in the central geg dialect. Between this, the more important: diphthong of the stressed vowel **i**, the evolution of the vowel **y**, pre lingual palatial consonant **g,gj**, the groups of palatial consonants **tj,dj**, in the consonant of middle tongue **q, gj**. Also we will show in this study the penetration of some northern geg dialect features and northeast of this speech. The study will show linguistic features of the northern geg dialect, northeast or northwest that have penetrated in this speech but we will include it in the speech of the central geg dialect because the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and its suburbs has more features of the central geg dialect.

**Keywords:** *Speech, Geg dialect, Central, Feature, Consonant.*

## ▪ Distinguishing features of Fushë-Arrëz's speech and suburbs with the standard speech

The speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs is a speech that presents a special interest for the definition of linguistic position. Certainly, this speech is part of the geg dialect but seeing that the points of views related to the speech groupings of geg dialect, are not unique, we have included the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs in the central speeches of geg dialect, which as it is known they are situated in these regions: Fushë-Krujë, Mat, Mirditë, Dibër, Lumë and today Western Macedonia<sup>1</sup>.

The most general phonetic and morphologic features of these speeches are in some cases similar, however between them there are some changes. These changes represent the specialty of these speeches.

The speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs has a lot of similar features with the speech of Mirdita but however this speech has some similarities with the speech of Puka because these two speeches collaborate in the same administrative division. The speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs is continually in reciprocal relationships with the speech of Puka. They take and give different features from each other.

The speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs, in this study is seen in a comparative plan, by comparing it with the today standard Albanian language, sometimes with the speech of Mirdita and some other times with the speech of Puka for the distinctive and similar linguistic features that this speech has in comparison with these speeches and standard.

The speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs has those differently feature from the standard language<sup>2</sup>:

- Differently from the standard language, in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs there are some words that in the indefinite form are pre oxytone: *káfe, pare, kállli, njèri*.
- After the **i** stressed vowel there is a **j**: *shpij, prijll, dhij, rakij, cakijc, mhËjr*
- The changes of vowel **e** into **i**. this is a very spread phenomena in this speech: *mêr, mek, shllên, mullê, kufê, shâme*.
- The vowel **y** in opened and closed syllables in a group of words, changes into **i**: *bilbil, brim, dill, drini, grik, hËna, rrip, shtip*.
- The diphthong **ie** changes in **i** and **je**: *dill, je:ll, e djel*
- The diphthong **ue** change into **u**: *harru: pagu:, dru:, gru*
- The consonant **g** in some words changes into the palatial sound **gj**: *gjardh, gjaca, gjota, lugji, me pagju, legjen, zogj*.
- The consonant **h** in some verbs changes into the labial sound **f**: *njef, mshef, mif, prefem*
- The pronunciation of dorsal **q** and **gj** as dorsal (palatial) consonant , **j**: *she er, jam, jak, jel*.
- The consonant **t** in a very limited number of words voicing in **d**: *sod, gadi, per vedi*.
- The group of double consonants **tj** is changed in the palatial sound **q**: *fqak (ftujak), aqe, qetër, gje, gjep*.
- The group of double consonants **ngj** changes in **gj**: *jal, jallet, jesh*

<sup>1</sup> B.Beci, *Mbi katër inovacione fonetike të të folmeve të gegërishtes së Mesme*, "Konferenca e Parë e Studimeve Albanologjike", 15-21 nëntor, Tiranë, 1965, fq. 139-140.

<sup>2</sup> ÇABEJ E. (1957), *Kuantiteti i zanoreve të theksuara të shqipes*, BUSHT, SSHSH. FJALORI I SHQIPES SË SOTME, Tiranë, 2002, fq. 46.

- The old groups of consonants **kl**, **gl** are made palatial in dorsal occlusive consonant respectively in **q**, **gj**: *gjuha, qan, gjuni*
- A lot of masculine nouns form their plural by ending in **-a**: *koca, speca, gjishta, plisa*.
- Some nouns that end with the consonant **k**, **p** form their plural by changing the length of the vowel: *camardhok~ camardho:k, konop~kono:p, dyshek~dyshe:k, dallap~dalla:p*.
- Some masculine nouns that end with the consonants **k**, **g** in the genitive and dative case take the ending **-u**: *dushkut, zogut, pragut, lekut*.
- The ablative case of singular feminine nouns in the definite form changes in **-s**: *mish prej deles, tâmel prej lops, shi prej qills*.
- The locative form also is mentioned: *dola n malt, shkova n fusht*.
- Adjectives formed from the participle of the verb in vowel theme are formed with the suffix **-m**: *i caktum, i birum, i dam, i fejum, i martum*.
- The demonstrative pronouns are presented with the prefix **-** : *ekjo, ata, aj*.
- The imperfect tense of indicative mode for the singular first person presents the endings **-sha** and **-shëm**: *punosha, lexosha, knojsha, rujsha, shkojshëm, lujshëm*.
- Some verbs that end with a vowel theme present **-n** of the simple past tense in the first, second and third person of singular : *frêna, grîna, merrêni*.
- The second imperfect tense is created from the past tense of kam (have) and the participle of the verbs *m'ka pa lan, m'ka pa dash, keni pa shku*. The past perfect tense is formed with kam (have) and the participle of the verb: *kishte pa shku, kishte pa nejt, kishin pa dek*.
- The plural first person of present simple tense of passive voice ends in **-(h)na** *vrahna, martohna, ulna*.
- Time adverbials formed as compound with the words **her** and **dit**: *kahe:r, përneheri, menihe:r, kurrihe:r, përdit, kadit*.

#### ▪ **Distinctive features of central geg dialect in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs**

The speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs has features that characterize the central speech geg dialect. Amongst the most important are:

- **The diphthong of stressed vowel i**. This is the most characteristic phenomena of the central geg dialect. In the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs the stressed oral and nasal vowel **-i** long, middle or short, in the beginning or in the middle of the word, in opened or closed syllable with a few exceptions, is decomposed in secondary diphthongs **ei**, **ëi** which in some words are changed in **e** or **ë**.<sup>3</sup> For example: *dhej, rakej, kusê, mek, mêt, kufê* etc. this phenomena is spread in all central geg speeches, but in speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs are mainly spread the variants of **ei**, **ëi**, **e**. Despite these variants in other central speeches are listened other variants.
- **The evolution of the vowel y**. In the central geg speech, the labiateae, oral or nasal vowel y is developed in three ways: **y > i**, **y > ai**, **y >** . In the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs the vowel y has changed in I, and in a few words in , and this shows that this speech is part of the speech of central geg dialect

<sup>3</sup>Nowadays “*diftongimi*” of the stressed vowel **i** in **ei**, is founded only to the oldest.

- **The changes of palatial consonants from g in gj.** This phenomenon is spread in all speeches of central geg dialect but also in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs. In this speech **g > gj** in the beginning of the words before vowels, in the middle and in the end of the words: *gjur, gjot, gjisht, largj, zagjar*. The consonant **r** is accompanied with **g**
- **The change of palatial sound of consonants tj, dj in palatial consonants q, gj:** *qetër, gjadh, gjal*.
- Like the speech of central geg dialect, the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs the singular third person of present simple tense of subjunctive mode of the verbs that end with a vowel is formed with the suffix **-(j)e**: *(ai) t'punoje, t'lexoje, t'shkoje, t'kullose*.

▪ **Distinctive features between the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs with the speech of northern geg dialect**

If we want to compare the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs with the speech of the northern geg dialect results that in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs are not spread the most important features of the speeches in this group.

- The group of the consonants **kl, gl**, that in the western speeches of northern geg dialect have given respectively **k-j, g-j**. in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs have given respectively **q, gj**: *gjûni, gjûha, qûmshti etc.*
- Different from the speeches of western group of northern geg dialect where the ending **-me** is generalized in the formation of the plural first person in the simple past tense of the indicative mood in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz with suburbs is generalized the ending **-m**.
- In the speech of western group of northern geg dialect we hear: *(na) bâme, rame, shame*, whereas in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs we hear: *bâm, râm, sham etc.*
- Different from the speech of western group of northern geg dialect, where the consonant group of **ngj** in a category of words is changed in **nj** and in the speech of Fushë –Arrëz and suburbs is changed in **gj**: *gjal, gjesh, gjit etc.*
- In some speeches of northern geg dialect the past simple tense and the past perfect tense of some intransitive verbs *jam a:rdh, jam i:k, jan met mrên* are formed with the verb **jam**. In the speech of Fushë-Arrëz this phenomena does not happen.

**In the speech of Fushë –Arrëz and suburbs have entered some features of northern geg dialect. Amongst them the most important are:**

- In this speech is generalized the ending **-(h)na** for the formation of plural first person in the present simple tense of inactive verbs which is also spread in the speeches of northern geg dialect: *(na) lahna, ulna, xehna*.
- The speech of Fushë –Arrëz and suburbs like in other speeches of north-eastern geg dialect forms the plural first person of imperfect tense with the ending **-shna**: *(na) bashna, shkoshna, lujshna etc.*
- The definite form of masculine nouns that end in **ue**, like the speeches of northern geg dialect, in the speech of Fushë –Arrëz and suburbs is formed with the ending **-ni**: *prru:~prroni, thu~thoni, kru:~kroni*.

▪ **Distinctive features between the speech of Fushë –Arrëz and suburbs with the speech of Mirdites**

-The speech of Fushë –Arrëz and suburbs even though it has similarities with the speech of Mirdita, it has a lot of distinctive features. Amongst the most important ones are:

- The stressed nasal vowel **â** in the speech of Mirdita is presented as a labial vowel **â**. This vowel in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs is not a labial vowel<sup>4</sup>: *mâna, thâna*.
- The oral vowel **a** in the words *tash, zarm* ends in **e**. In the speech of Mirdita this phenomenon does not occur.
- After the stressed vowel **i** oral or nasal, long, middle or short usually appears **a-j**, but in the speech of Mirdita this does not occur.
- Different from the speech of Mirdita in which **y > Ø** is very spread, in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs is found only in the word *pËlla*
- The vowel groups of **ae, oe** have the ability to decrease in **a** and **o**: *m'dha, m'pa, vo;*, *vnoj m ro* (vëmë re). In the speech of Mirdita these groups of vowels are saved.
- The change of **g > gj** in the speech of Mirdita has a bigger extension than in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs. The consonant **g** in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs is saved before the consonant **r**: *jorgan, gru, grimc* etc. There are cases when the consonant **g**, is in the beginning or in the middle of the word before the vowels and in the end of the word: *pagu, jorgân, breg, gabel*.
- The suffix **njan** ( that serves to form nouns that refer to people of a country) in the speech of Mirdita is kept whereas in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs changes in **j**: *kuksjan, matjan, italjan, lezhjan*.
- The nouns of masculine gender that end in **h**, in the definite form in the speech of Mirdita take the ending **i** while in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs take the ending **u**: *krahu, ahu, plehu, sabahu*.
- In the speech of Mirdita the nouns that end with a vowel in the genitive and dative case take the ending **et** and in the definite form produce a **v**. In the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs present the **v** consonant not only the names with vowels but also those nouns that are presented with a consonant: *tur vet, krujshvet, bijavet, robvet, dhijvet* etc.
- The verbs with a consonant theme in the first singular form, different from the speech of Mirdita in which are not with an ending, in this speech they appear with an ending: (*unë*) *vjeli, vari, mifi, mjelli, pjeku, repi, korri* etc.
- Some verbs a consonant theme, in the second plural form in the speech of Mirdita vowel mutational in **i** the vowels **e ae, a** in the word. In this speech the vowel mutational is not complete: (*ju*) *repni, mjellni, pjekni, ethni*
- The formation in the first plural form in the past simple tense is formed with the ending – **shna (na)** *bashna, shkoshna, vishna*.
- The types of verbs *me than, me dhan* in the singular second form differently from the speech of Mirdita which came with the ending **e**, in this speech came in this form: (*ti*) *dha, tha*.
- Changes between the speech of Mirdita and Fushë-Arrëz are also in the lexicon especially in the rare regional words. For example in the lexicon of the speech of Mirdita are included words like: *akolle, bromc, dallazh, hoka, koba, muma, murralli, meishka, paca*, etc. which in the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs correspond to the words: *rrokull, thermeka, mprapsht, iri, mullari, ashka, pa ir* etj. (rreth e rrotull, grimca, gabim, qiri, mullri, ashka, pasqyra).

<sup>4</sup> B.Beci. *Grupi perëndimor i nëndialektit verior të gegërishtes* “Studime Filologjike”, 1970, Nr. 3, fq. 136  
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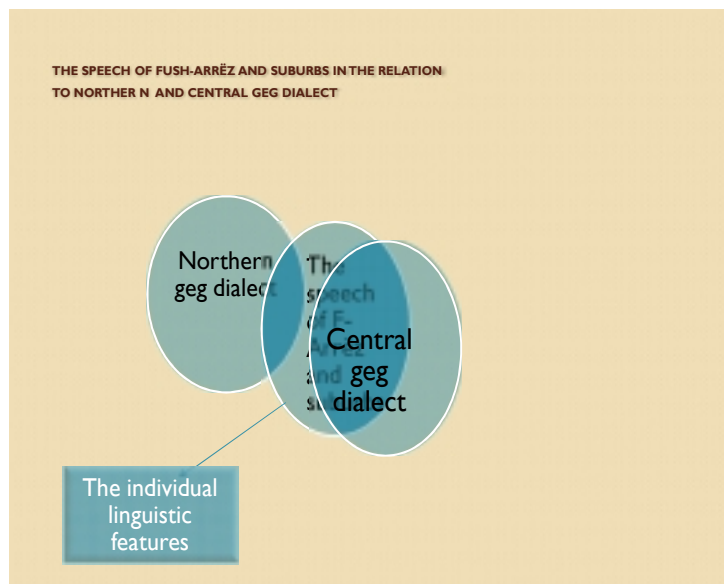
## ▪ Conclusions

In this study, the presented information on this speech is collected mainly in 13 villages situated along the river Fan i Madh, in the villages: *Gojan i Madh, Gojan i Vogël, Gjegjan, Kalivare, Kimëz, Dom, Rras, Kuzhnen, Shkozë, Breg, Lumzi, fshati Fushë-Arrëz, Lumbardhë*. The questionnaire is done by asking people that belong to different generations but mostly we are referred to the third generation, because they present a language that has resisted the changes from the standard language.

Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs as a administrative division belongs to the district of Puka, but there are similarities on linguistic and ethnographic features between these two. However the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs has some different linguistic features with the speech of Puka, because these two speeches take and give continually different linguistic features to each other. So this speech sometimes comes closer to the speech of Puka and sometimes with the speech of Mirdita, and other times with the standard language and often it has its own linguistic and ethnographic features in the phonetic, morphologic, ethnographic features and especially in the glossary. The speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs is included in the speeches of geg dialect. The whole study is realized in a comparative plan, by comparing this speech with the standard language and sometimes with the speeches of northern geg dialect and other times with the speech of Mirdite the phonetic, morphologic, lexical distinctive and common features that these speeches have in common.

By analyzing the phonetic, morphologic, lexical features of the speech of Fushë-Arrëz and suburbs we think that this speech is included in the speeches of central geg dialect. However, by adding that in this speech have also entered some features of the northern geg dialect, but this speech has more features of the central geg dialogue.

With this study we have presented a speech of north western geg dialect by giving an example and to lead the studies of this field on other speeches that are in the boards of dialectic areas.



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