

# The Albanian linguistic terminology during the years

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## Introduction

The definition of the linguistic terminology has been one of the problems in the grammatical studies and texts. One way was the use of foreign (Greek or Latin) terminology and the other way was focused in creating Albanian linguistic terms. During our National Renaissance was done a great job with the grammars of K. Kristoforidhi, S. Frasheri, P. Vasa. A major role in crystalizing and strengthening the Albanian linguistic terminology was played by the scholar of linguistic terms in the Albanian Commission in Shkoder (1916 – 1918) and in the Educational Congress of Lushnja (1920). L. Dodbiba<sup>1</sup> has also worked hard in this field, J. Kastrati<sup>2</sup> and some other authors.

## Analysis of linguistic terminology by J. Kastrati, S. Riza, L. Dodbiba

J. Kastrati by analysing the grammar of 1901 (Dode Koleci is thought to be the author) writes “In the end the text has an indicator of the grammatical terms accompanied with its proper translation in Italian. I think that the main merit of this book stands on the fact that this scholar tried to put an Albanian terminology. There are 118 linguistic terms some of which are used before Kristoforidhi, Pashko Vasa and some others were a creation of the Union company.<sup>3</sup> The discovery of new documents like for example the leaflet “The news of the Albanian Commission” in Shkoder 1918, nr.2<sup>4</sup> verifies some terms by giving their authors and the dates of some writings from the company “Bashkimi”.

They give light for many linguistic terms. These terms were also discussed in the Educational Congress of Lushnja (1920).<sup>5</sup>

Professor S. Riza has given many opinions concerning the Albanian linguistic terminology. He focused on some phonetic terms including the grammar of Ilo D. Sheperi. By analysing these terms, he makes critics, but he also gives his opinions.<sup>6</sup>

In this material we will try to give the right time, when these linguistic terms were used.

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<sup>1</sup> Lirak Dodbiba “The development of Albanian linguistic terminology from the Renaissance to nowadays”. *The first Conference of Albanological Studies*, Tirane 1962, pg. 183-191.

<sup>2</sup> Jup Kastrati, Albanian Grammars, “Scientific Bulletin”, 1964, pg.291-295.

<sup>3</sup> *The Albanian Grammars*, III, 1966, pg. 20-21.

<sup>4</sup> Tomorr Osmani, “*The Albanian literary Commission*” (1916 – 1918), Shkodër, 2012, pg. 292-296.

<sup>5</sup> The Educational Paper, Tirane, nr.1, March 1921.

<sup>6</sup> Selman Riza, “How should be understood in Albanian the first elements of the spoken pronunciation and their two main groups”, *Philological Studies*, 1964, nr.1, pg. 189-192.

There were also linguistic terms before the Renaissance, but they were just a few and they were mainly translation of foreign terms.

L. Dodbiba mentions some terms that we found in elder authors like *gojetare* for *oratory* (Buzuku, today *gojetar*), *laterar* –an educated person (Buzuku); *leteruor*, *i paletere* (analphabet, Budi); *xanes shkollë shkollat*, *liber*, *urates (orator)*, etc. (Bardhi), *ligjerate* (speech) *gjuhetar* (orator), *bashkari*, *emeroj*, (Bogdani).

### **Linguistic terminology in K. Cipo's Grammar of 1949.**

It should be mentioned that the number of literary terms could be big and different, but the development of Albanian language has made that not all terms have remained the way they were used at first, some are now out of use and some have been changed. The whole Albanian terminology has tried with time to leave behind foreign terms by replacing them with Albanian terms. Literary terms today are Albanian and international. We'll bring to illustrate the terms published in K. Cipo's grammar of 1949. Cipo published the "Albanian grammar" text in 1949, which is the first grammar text to be published after World War Two. It is obvious that the author has tried to use Albanian terms, but not always. He doesn't follow a strict criterion. So in some cases he gives a foreign term, while in brackets the one in Albanian or the other way around. Some foreign literary terms aren't followed by Albanian terms. Like: *sistemi vokalik*, *sistemi konsonantik*, *velaret*, *palatalet*, *dentalet*, *bilabialet*, *imperfekti aoristi* etc.

Albanian terms that are followed by foreign terms too are: *parashtesat* (prefiksats), *emri* (substantivi), *shumesi i thyer* (pluralis fractus), *mbiemri* (adjektivi), *folja* (verb) etc.

Foreign terms that are given in Albanian too are: *prezenti* (i tanishem), *perfekti* (i kryeri), *koniuktivi* (m. lidhore), *imperative* (m. urdherore) etc. In nowadays texts all these terms are translated in Albanian.

Based on published studies, but our own studies as well, we'll present in this paper (kumtese) the most important literary terms, their history till now, according to literary disciplines: phonetic, compound nouns, morphology, syntax and general terms. We think it is a modest contribution in this range.

We are presenting some literary terms, from the phonetic and morphology range, showing how they have advanced till now, being based mainly on L. Dodbiba, J. Kastrat's papers of Albanian Literary Committee in Shkoder (1916 – 1918) and in our own observations.

### **Albanian terms in Phonetic**

*Shkronje*: it is a letter of the alphabet. We got it from K. Kristoforidhi 1869 and it was later used by Samiu in *Shkronjetore* in 1886. KLSH uses *shkroje*. It is used nowadays too. While its rival, *germe*, which we see being by geg authors in the beginning of the twentieth century, it is being used less and less till it will be our for good.

*Zanore*: This term we see it *zantore* in Kristoforidh (1869, who later used it is *zanore* (1872) which is also used today. It belongs to geg dialect. It was spread by Aleksander Xhuvani, even though it had some mild changes in some grammars, and so Ilo Sheperi “toskerizoi” in sound, and idea was supported by some linguists, but the tradition won. KLSH in Shkodra has a vowel, which was approved by Lushnja Congress (1920).

Consonant as a word was used for the first time by A.Xhuvani, but in a similar form with it we also use by KLSH, which was later approved even by Lushnja Congress. *Dyzanuerori* for *diphthong*, L. Dodbiba thinks that A. Xhuvani has used it for the first time in 1919. This is not correct, because before 2 or 3 years this was approved by KLSH. The classification of consonants according to the place of formation was made by S. Frasherri with some little phonetic changes. But at KLSH some of them are just like we use today: *labial, dental, palatal, ruff, nasal, with sound, without sound*.

### **Albanian terms of Word formation and part’s of speech.**

The terms ending, *prefix* and *suffix*, that are used in different forms, haven’t seen before KLSH, even though L. Dodbiba says that the last ones are used by Kostaq Cipoja in the 1949 *Grammar*. This is not correct, because we have seen the three terms at KLSH.

Generally are defined with some corrections that can be: *article* and *verb* Xhuvani used for the first time adverbs in 1919 (from Latin–*adverbium*). KLSH has used it before him.

Adverbs were approved by Lushnja Congress. KLSH use *subjunctive connectors*, which were approved by L. Congress. We will talk about some terms that a lot of scholars have corrected them.<sup>7</sup> According to L. Dodbiba, Xanoni used *Grammar* in 1909, but in 1901 D. Dode Koleci published *Grammatika ia folmarmia shqyptare*. It continued later with the same name. The term “*rasa*” is not from L.Gurakuqi, but from “Bashkimi” Society at “*Oroe permii abetare shqype*” brochure.

We see the term verb at S.Peci and at the same brochure from “Bashkimi” Society. We thought that apostrophe was used by L.Gurakuqi for the first time, but we see it at “*Oroe permii abetare shqype*”. We will explain some other terms. The term prepositions came from A.Xhuvani and was approved by Lushnja Congress, but KLSH used it first A.Xhuvani used interjection in 1924, but it was approved by L. Congress before.

KLSH named it “*thirrme*”. Genre belongs to A.Xhuvani. Other terms like dative, lokal, comparative and superlative belong to KLSH in Shkodra. Even pronouns *vehtur, diftues*, in *active* and in *passive* are part of KLSH in Shkoder.

In conclusion we emphasize that the new discoveries, of the grammar’s authors will clarify better some used terms in different publishings. It can be noticed that these terms in this material are not the end of everything. We will finally have to define the way that the Albanian linguistic terminology has followed up to nowadays.

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<sup>7</sup> Jup Kastrati, *the mentioned article*, pg. 293-294.

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