

# LINGUISTIC SIMILARITY BETWEEN GJAKOVA ( KOSOVA) AND SHKODRA (ALBANIA)

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## **Abstract**

Given this study is based on the determination of the standard in both zones Gjakova and Shkodra as anticipated in this project, researching activities will be developed considering the influence of political system, economic conditions and education in these two zones which are not far from each other. This shall be a preceding study that will fill the PhD thesis "**Extension of Standard Albanian in Gjakova**". The question may be raised: Why Shkodra? The reason is that people always said that there are a lot cultural, historical and linguistic resemblance between Gjakova and Shkodra. They both have northern dialect, same phonetic, morphological and lexical characteristics, with small nuance of difference. Therefore by analyzing the dialect differences and similarities especially after determining the standard and influence of the abovementioned factors, through questionnaires that Gjakova and Shkodra people will take, always via deductive method from generality to particularity.

The main method will be the method of researching and interpretation, while an important role considering this subject will have the method of survey via questionnaires regarding the extension of standard language in Gjakova and Shkodra. We will compare the situation that is planned to be studied in Albanian language, which have longer tradition of standard language, and places that have similar standard developing situations with that of Albanian language.

*Key words: Gjakova, Shkodra, resemblance, standards, different factors, education, etcetera.*

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The prevailing methods during my stay in Shkodra were methods of research and interpretation, while an important place in the treatment of this topic is given to methods of survey / questionnaire about the extent of the standard language in Shkodra.

We have compared the situation pretending to elaborate in Albanian Language, more or less differences with the situation in other languages, which have a long tradition of standard language, as well as countries that have similar situations standards development as Albanian standard Language.

Method of survey / questionnaire is the central point made in urban, state institutions, schools, either in writing or by oral recordings.

It is also method of comparison used, whenever we identified the problems associated with the violation of the standard, while descriptive method helped us to describe the real situation in the affected areas.

Working of this research would be treatment of this issue at a time when scientific and other debates related to standard language, place and eligibility of Albanian speaking aerial are being developed.

We are trying to take into consideration the lecture treatment of these two regions, where many idioms of dialectology compared with the other regions of Kosovo are missing.

This review would create a clearer idea about the fundamental differences of standard Albanian spoken language, extended in Gjakova, specifically in the case of Albanian language. It may give some guidance on further development and contribution of standard language and would build the bridge on relation of standard language with other vernacular or Albanian language dialects.

Generally in the spoken (dialect) Albanian language, the biggest problems are presented in the field of phonetics, the greatest changes to our language we may found in the implementation of the phoneme sound.

Regarding this dialectology presentation issue, the best known dialect researchers Jorgji Gjinari and Gjovalin Shkurtaj, have emphasized at University Book

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"Dialectology", while accurately have pointed: "Each aerial has a certain phoneme inventory, which distinguishes it from other aerial dialect. None aerial has not all of the vowel phoneme inventory number of all idioms taken together".

Even the Gjakovar's dialect is part of the Geg's aerial group (it is spoken language of north Albania), which includes groups of vowels groups, consonants piles, as well as phonetic changes which include: assimilation, deafness, dissimilation, reduction, contraction of vowels and consonants, aphaeresis, elision, syncope, epenthesis, metathesis, agglutination etc.

So Gjakova's dialect is very similar to northern Albania, namely the highlands of Gjakova, Bajram Curri and Shkodra. We have identified issues that have come out to the old Geg vernacular, who preserve until today avoidance from standard voice series with jealousy on functional length, spelling of the vowel- *ë*, according consonantal system (affricate and reverberating - *h, f, th, f,*), pair of consonants (*mb, nd, ngj*), which needs reconsideration, the formation of plural nouns, for a further specification paradigm, the Geg's infinitive etc. The work of Peter Bogdani written in Padua, Italy in 1685 was among the very first and oldest sources of the Albanian's dialect in Kosova, which are written and published for the first time in their discourse. So, since that time are preserved traces of the old Kosova's language especially in phonetic terms (i.e. change of consonantal cluster *kl, gl* in *k* and *g*). It is a quality that shows and proves the ancient age of the Kosovo Albanian Dialect phenomenon.

Not too long after a famous writer Bogdani, in the Albanian linguistics appeared another written work by Nikole Kazazi from Gjakova, who published "Doctrine of Christian" in Rome, 1743, where in the absence of complete material is found a short piece, and except domed diphthongized *uo* that we usually find it *ue*, there is no great value for Albanian linguistics. With the death of the writer Kazazi ends the old Albanian authors' literary activity and after that there was a long pause of gega's dialect writing.

The Albanian language has brevity, half-length and length of vowels, eg. word mal (e pashquar), a is shorter, while in the word mal-i, a is longer, while the longest voval pronunciation of a can be found in words: *hata, ka dru, za etj*.

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The dialect of Gjakova and Shkodra has another language length that appears next to the word of the preceding syllable, which example shows: the last letter, which is *e* in the certain word, comes out reduced, e.g.: patë=paat (p t), fletë=fleet (fl t), borë=boor (b r), etj

So, even to the urban dialect we are discussing for, there are three ways of vocal significant length presented on, as in all the Geg's dialects. In the vocal area, when it comes to quantity of vowels, there is nasal presented as the feature. In this case, a nasal vocal of a Geg's dialect differs from a discourse of the spoken geg's too. Old geg's dialect nasal. E.g. on the written work of Buzuki it is found an "ë" reduced as it is pointed in the sentence: "gneh nierii pat dy biih". Budi also uses *një-nja*, while to Bardhi's papers we find *një* and *nja*, but to Bogdani's written papers only *nji*. Even in the Gjakova's and Shkodra's dialect we figure out three options: *nji*, *ni* or *nja*.

In two distinct dialects there are clearly presented nasal vowels which has phonological value, although in a certain extent it is limited and constrained by the speed of pronunciation that creates an intonation and syntactic loop during communication process.

Also, the spoken language in Gjakova is been treated in a more specific way of research, where have been done the survey of reality of today's language and surveys that have been done until today in order to come up with different conclusions of other Albanian language researchers.

As we have said above, Gjakova's and Shkodra's spoken language has also had similarities between themselves. It is known that the northern version of gega's literary or Shkodra's literary has earlier history than other versions, as we may mention here "Meshari" (B. Beci mention this to "Concerning the dialect of the" *Meshari* "seminar XVIII, p. 393), to the other authors of the time.

It was also followed Shkodra's dialect as a literary variation of the Albanian National Renaissance, in the works of Gjergj Fishta's, Filip Shiroka's, Ndre Mjeda's and other writers from Shkodra. These literary language of Shkodra town, may be required on

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the literary language textbooks and other writings of A. Xanoni's, Justin Rrota's, in the vocabulary "Bashkimi" in Shkodra, etc.

After World War II, has begun to vanish the use and value of the Shkodra's variation, especially when the standardization of literary norm became.

We already know that both dialects of Shkodra and Elbasan have been conditioned by the general cooperative movement in profound popular basis and purpose of strengthening national, in historical and social terms. It has more to do with the Albanian idealism and patriotism of the time. However, ex-variations of Albanian language, as well as their dialects, will always remain as a valuable treasure in order to enrich Albanian Language standard.

As will be discussed below, the source of this linguistic phenomenon will be found in the fact that two literary Albanian variations were based on the popular Albanian language and dialect speech. Issue we need to consider in Kosova is, that as we all know, there has been a lack of Albanian school literature and books, since a high percentage of the literature were in Serbian and Croatia language. When this literature began its translation there have been found violation rate during procedure, especially in the area of syntax, although Gjakova has always tried to be careful on originality or more specifically dealt with purity, generally trying to be as pure as they could on borrowed expressions that are introduced into our everyday speech, specifically in Kosovo.

We have started from the renaissance up to today's authors who work hard on purity as a necessary part of pure standard language in order to avoid orientalism of that period from Albanian language.

Something special we should specify, particularly in Gjakova municipality from other Kosova municipalities, there are political and geographical factors that have influenced on their dialect of spoken discourse.

Why geographical factor? It is clear that Gjakova is the nearest town of our home state Albania, and because of the technological aspect of Albania TV, Gjakova always had a TV signal. The whole gjakovars with delight but in secret from politics and Serbian invaders followed all programs that a public TV of Albania (TVSH) offered,

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which has really affected positively on their dialect than other cities in Kosova. But politically, there is another feature that should be consider that is widespread in Gjakova municipality.

For centuries there have emerged distinguished patriots from Gjakova town who are persecuted and abused by the serbian regime. There have been a lot of marriages between albanians from Albania and albanians from Kosova. Trade has been more opened and based on the fact of social exchanges Gjakova municipality it caused proximity to standard Albanian language. Therefore, regarding the scientific aspect, Gjakovars were more interested to search, view and analyze standard language settlements in Gjakova and Shkodra, always on academic approach that would be the only study of the similarities of these two areas of northern Albania and Kosovo. During surveys conducted in Shkodra, except different questions, they were asked to write a story according to their dialect. 90% of respondents have written to oral history / legend of Shkodra town, well known story of Rozafa.

Questionnaires were made at the Faculty "Luigj Gurakuqi", with the same age groups of students in this faculty and students of Gjakova town, precisely in the Faculty of Education where the survey has been done. We came up with concrete conclusions presented in this study about implantation of standard Albanian language in both speaking areas; if the political system, economic status and school education between these two areas where Geg's dialect is used, really had influence. In Shkodra town there are encountered many effects of Slavs, Turks and Italian borrowings, but that are basically very well preserved.

The differences we have encountered were these words:

<b>Shkodranishtja</b> <b>Shkodra's dialect</b>	<b>Gjakovarishtja</b> <b>Gjakova's dialect</b>	<b>Standardi</b> <b>Standard language</b>
Naqe	Loqkë	Zemër
Ifije	Pakës	Një çik/pak

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Kertoll	Kompira (nga serbishtja) /patate	Patate
Mollotarta	Patlixhona	Domate
Burofresk	Margarinë/tlyn	Gjalp
Si ke nje	Qysh je qu?/a flejte	Si je gdhirë
Qyfyre	Hajgare	Shaka
Kasavet	Kujdes	Kujdes
Tami [theksi bie ne fund]	Tamin	Hamendje
Perri	Bukuroshe/syret (nga serbishtja)	E bukur
Nadje	Natje	Mëngjes
Çajre	Çahre	Rrugëdalje
Avlli	Hasherim (nga turqishtja)	Mur që rrethon oborrin
Pullaz	Kulm	Çati
Çardak	Çardak	pjesë e hapur, e rrethuar zakonisht me parmakë dhe e shtruar me dërrasa, në katin e dytë të shtëpive të vjetra (e ngjajshme edhe në Gjakovë)
Safallek	Hajat (nga turqishtja)	Hapësirë

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