

SOME PHONETIC INFLUENCES OF THE ALBANIAN ON THE SPEECH OF THE AROMANIANS OF KORCE AREA

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Abstract

The present article aims at highlighting several phonetic changes in the speech of the Aromanians living in Korce area, belonging to the Fersherot group, changes which may be attributed to the influence of the Albanian language. Our analysis is based on recent data collected during our field work developed in Korce area, between 2012 and 2015. It will focus particularly on the semivowels *i* and *u*, which also appear in the diphthongs *ia* and *ua* in the speech of the Aromanians from Korce. The studies of Albanian historical phonetics demonstrate that these semivowels were also present in the diphthongs from Indoeuropean, which the diphthongs in Albanian evolved from. Thus, in Indoeuropean there were short and long diphthongs: the short ones consisted of *ã*, *ẽ*, *õ*, as well as *a*, *e*, *o*, while the long ones were *ā*, *ē*, *ō*, as well as *ai*, *au*. In the case of the short diphthongs, the semivowel, in general, disappeared, but in some cases it modified the timbre of the whole vowel it formed the diphthong with. For example, the short diphthong *ẽ* evolved the vowel *e*, like in the case of the word *tre* 'threei' <gr. *tréis*. This is how we may account for the tendency of the Fersherots to pronounce the diphthong *é̃* as *e* (*tréspr dǎțe* instead of *tréispr dǎțe*, in the other Aromanian speeches) or the monophthongation of *õ* to *o* (*dóspr dǎțe*, instead of *dóispr dǎțe*). In the case of the long diphthongs the semivowel disappeared too, but without modifying the timber of the whole vowel it formed the diphthong with. Transformarea acestor diftongi în vocale simple se consideră că a avut loc de foarte timpuriu, dar nu în același timp. Some diphthongs in the Fersherot speech (such as *ei*, *oa*) suffered similar changes, just like their correspondents in Albanian. These changes are present only in the speech of the Fersherots from Albania, which supports our hypothesis concerning the influence of the Albanian language.

Keywords: *article, changes, demonstrate, Albanian.*