

# *Locutions with value of numeral in the Albanian Language*

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## **Abstract**

Locutions are the less studied units in Albanian language and in foreign languages. The object of this survey will be numeral locutions, a special group of locutions, for which little is spoken. Their treatment will be done on the method of analysis of the linguistic facts, extracted from the material collected for this purpose. The analysis will be done in the structural plan, as in the semantic plan they form a single set. Numeral locutions have a structure composed only of meaningful words or of meaningful words and of not meaningful words. The constituent elements have lost meaning and the whole structure has a single meaning. The locutions with two-word consist of a numeral and one of the words thousand, million, milliard etc. or by a name derived from an adjective with numeral backgrounds. Locutions formed by more than two words consist of three meaningful words (two numerals and the point or comma word) or by meaningful words and by not meaningful words. The linking of their elements is coordinated, subordinated or mixed. Regardless of the number and the morphological form of the elements, the whole structure functions as a single unit and has a complete meaning, indicates a certain amount tableware etc. The number of numeral locutions is many times greater than the number of the numerals and their structure is very varied. These locutions are present in the communication, not replacing the numerals and not being replaced by them. Their use is indispensable. This study will serve to distinguish these locutions as separate language units.

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**Keywords:** locution, meaningful words, not meaningful words, structure, semantic value

## ***Introduction***

Today there is a common approach for the locution as a unique language unit, formed by merging two or more words into a single entity that has the value of a part of speech. Locutions are open structures and have the semantic value of a word. They consist of two or more elements with a stable connection. In the Albanian language, the locution with a value of each part of speech is used. Locutions with the value of an unchanging part, mainly the locutions with the value of an adverb, a prefix or a connector are more studied. From the locutions with the value of a variable part, only locutions with the value of a verb are handled. And a little has been spoken about these locutions.

The quantity of items can be expressed even by the units with a structure composed of the stable union of two or more words. These structures function as a single unit and show a certain amount, thus being semantically equal to the numerals.

Numerals and locutions with value e a numeral are clearly distinguished from the structure. The numeral has a closed structure, one of the main criteria for distinguishing the word from the phrase,<sup>1</sup> while the locution has an open structure. The numerals have their own categorical meaning, their morphological forms, grammatical categories, syntactic functions and characteristic grammatical links on the basis of which they are classified.<sup>2</sup> Locutions do not have these features and grammatical categories. The number of numeral locutions is

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<sup>1</sup> Thomai Jani, *Leksikologjia e gjuhës shqipe*, Tirana, 2011, p. 37.

<sup>2</sup> Agalliu Fatmir, *Çështje të morfologjisë së gjuhës së sotme shqipe*, Tirana, 1988, p. 70.

many times greater than the number of numerals and their structural composition is more varied.

Locutions with a value of a numeral are composed only of meaningful words or meaningful words and not meaningful words, which have generally lost their meaning. The whole structure has a single meaning. In the number system, these units correspond to full natural numbers with two or more digits, fractional numbers or decimals (21; 101; 1001; 4/5; 3,6 etc.). Unlike many locutions of other groups, these locutions do not have synonyms.<sup>3</sup>

Special studies for numerals and for the locutions with a value of a numeral to date have been missing in our language literature.

Kristoforidhi K. has not mentioned the locutions nor the numeral locutions, but he has reflected the structures with the second element one from words *hundred, thousand, million* etc. and those with the connector *e*, by writing them separated: *një qind, një mijë, një miliùn, njëzet e një, një qind e një*.<sup>4</sup>

Xanoni A. the structures: *njizet e nji, njizet e dy, tridhet e nji, nji milûû, dy milûi* has brought as examples for numeral adjectives.<sup>5</sup>

Sheperi I. D. in a note has called mixed numbers even type structures *njëzet e një, njëqind e gjashtëdhjetë e pesë*.<sup>6</sup>

Myderrizi O. has known numeral locutions *dy fish, tre fish, dy herë, tri herë, dy nga dy, tre nga tre, nja dy, nja tre*.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The equal words are also missing for a large part of the nominal locutions (See Xhaferi Haredin, "Not about locutions Nominative in Albanian Language", 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Sciences (Vol. III), Pristina, 2015, p. 144).

<sup>4</sup> See Kristoforidhi Kostandin, *Vepra I*, Elbasan, 2001, p. 96 - 98.

<sup>5</sup> Xanoni Anton, *Gramatika Shqyp*, (Qi përdoret n' seminarë e n' mbështetje të sh' Françesk Saverit), Shkodra, 1909, p. 58.

<sup>6</sup> Sheperi D. Ilo, *Gramatika dhe sindaksa e gjuhës shqipe*, Vlova, 1927, p. 51

<sup>7</sup> Myderrizi Osman, *Gramatika e ré e shqipes. Fonologji e morfologji*. Vol. I, Për shkollat e mesme, Tirana, 1944, p. 98.

In the works of later authors, the term "locution" is known and mentioned.

Cipo K. has mentioned this term for a separate group of numerals, who has called plural numerals: *një fish, dy fish* etc. He has reflected the structures with the connector as a separate group.<sup>8</sup>

Demiraj Sh. the structures with the connector *e*, such as: *njëzet e një, njëzet e dy, tridhjetë e pesë, dyzet e shtatë* etc. and the fractions he called locutions.<sup>9</sup> This attitude has even kept Beci B.<sup>10</sup>

In later grammars, numerical locutions are distinguished as a separate group of numerals. Different scholars have used the term "expression" instead of the term "locutions". The term "expression" also is used in the fundamental works of Albanian and other languages.<sup>11</sup> In our grammars these locutions are represented by structures with connector *e*, like: *njëzet e një, njëzet e dy* etc. and from structures that have a numeral and one of the words *hundred, thousand, million* etc.: *një mijë, një milion* etc.

From the above submission, it appears that locutions with a value of a numeral have not been in the attention of the researchers to be treated. They are not known as specific lexical and grammatical units. For the first time they are known and accepted by Domi M. He has noted that "Into the basic numerals are many categories and cases when the number is expressed by joining into an inseparable unit two or more words." After he has written the examples: *njëzet e tre, dy mijë, treqind e pesë, tridhjetë mijë e një, treqind e pesëdhjetë*, has added that "Such unions have

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<sup>8</sup> See Cipo Kristaq, *Gramatika shqipe*, Tirana, 1949, p. 87 - 88.

<sup>9</sup> Demiraj Shaban, *Morfologjia e gjuhës së sotme shqipe*, Prishtina, 1971, p. 87 - 88.

<sup>10</sup> Beci Bahri, *Gramatika e gjuhës shqipe*, Tirana, 1997, p. 66 - 67.

<sup>11</sup> See more Xhaferi Haredin, *Locutions in Albanian language*, Saarbrücken, Germany, 2015, p. 9 - 11.

nothing to not be called "numeral locutions"<sup>12</sup> This attitude has also been supported by. Spahiu A.<sup>13</sup>

### ***The classification***

Numerical locutions are classified according to their structure. They are composed of two or more words.

### ***Locutions with structure with two words***

Locutions of this type have the first element a numeral, while the second element they have one of the words *thousand, million, milliard* etc. or a derived name from an adjective with origin from a numeral. The first element of these locutions does not change when using the locution.<sup>14</sup>

**1.1. Locutions that have the second element one of words *hundred, thousand, million, milliard* etc.** These locutions indicate a certain amount of full units. In the counting system, these units correspond to numbers consisting of two elements: from a different number from *zero* and from the latter used several times (100, 2000, 3000 000 etc.). With such structure is even the word *ten* (10), which today is considered a simple numeral.

Word *ten* and words *hundred, thousand, million* etc. have features and common features:

- All these words show a certain amount of spirits or items.
- When they get the prefix - *ra* - or, - *a*, they are used as pronoun: *dhjetra, qindra, mijëra, miliona* etc.
- In conjunction with a numeral, they form the same structural patterns, such as: *pesëdhjetë (pesë dhjetë), pesëqind (pesë*

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<sup>12</sup> Domi Mahir, "Disa çështje të lokucioneve", *Studime filologjike* Vol. I, Tirana, 1985, p. 216.

<sup>13</sup> Spahiu Agim, "A përbëjnë lokucionet një mënyrë të veçantë të fjalëformimit?" *Gjuha jonë* Vol. I - IV, Tirana, 2005, p. 163.

<sup>14</sup> This remark was made even by Demiraj Shaban only for the upper element of the fractions. (Demiraj, op. cit. p. 88.).

*qind*), *pesë mijë*, *pesë milionë*; *gjashtëdhjetë* (*gjashtë dhjetë*), *gjashtëqind* (*gjashtë qind*), *gjashtë mijë*, *gjashtë milionë* and so on.

With all the same feature, the word *hundred*, *thousand*, *million*, *billion* etc. are not classified in the same lexical and grammatical class with the word *ten*. In Grammar of Albanian language 1 the latter is treated as a numeral, while the other words are called names, which function only in conjunction with a number.<sup>15</sup> In the Albanian language dictionaries, the word *ten* is written two times as title word: as a numeral and as a noun. Other words are written only as names, with its main categories (gender, number etc.). However, in the first sense they are explained as the numeral *ten*.

Between these words and the word *ten* are also noted differences such as:

- The word *ten* is used without the numeral *one* (*ten books*, *ten boys*, *ten girls* etc.), while the other words, although reflected separately in the dictionary, are used only with this numeral (*njëqind*, *një mijë*, *një milion* etc.).<sup>16</sup>

- With the words *thousand*, *million*, *milliard* etc. a interrogative pronoun instead of the numeral can be used. For example: *Sa mijë lekë kushton një dash në këto anë? Rojtari harxhonte disa milionë lekë për vreshtin çdo vit, sikur ta kishte të vetin.*

- The word *ten* does not change when it is related to another numeral (*pesëdhjetë*, *gjashtëdhjetë*, *shtatëdhjetë* etc.), while the other words (apart from the word *hundred*) differ in number (*dy milionë*, *tre miliardë* etc.).

- The word *ten* is used only with simple numerals (*thirty*, *fifty* etc.), while the other words (in addition to the word *hundred*) are even used with attached numerals or with numeral locutions (*njëzet mijë*, *dyqind e tridhjetë milionë* etc.).

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<sup>15</sup> *Gramatika e gjuhës shqipe* Vol. I, Tirana, 2002, p. 207, 208.

<sup>16</sup> In other languages, as French, Italian etc. these words are used separately and function as numerals: *cent* (one hundred), *mille* (one thousand) etc.

As noted above, differences are also noted between the word *hundred* and the words *thousand*, *million*, *billion* etc.

- With the word *hundred* cannot use a pronoun instead of the numeral.

- Word *hundred* is used only with simple numerals (*njëqind*, *dyqind ... nëntëqind*), like the word *ten*, while the other words are even used with not simple numerals or numeral locutions (*tridhjetë mijë*, *njëqind e dyzet milionë* etc.).

- Words *thousand*, *million*, *billion* etc. are reflected in the dictionaries in both numbers. Connected with a numeral, they change the number: *një milion - dy milionë*, *një miliard - dy miliardë* and so on. The word *hundred* is only given in the form of singular. This word does not change when accompanied by different numerals (*dy qind*, *tre qind*, *katër qind* etc.).

- Locutions that have the word *hundred* in structure can be elements in more extensive structures (*njëqind mijë*, *njëqind milionë* etc.), while the locutions formed with the words *thousand*, *million*, *milliard* etc. are not elements of any such structure.

From the differences above, it turns out that the word *hundred* should be treated as a numeral, like the word *ten*, with which there is much similarity, while the words *thousand*, *million* etc should be treated as names. Also in the orthography of the Albanian language, it is decided that the structures that have the second element this word, is written as a single word (*njëqind*, *dyqind* etc.), as well as structures that have the second element the word *ten* (*shtatëdhjetë*, *tetëdhjetë* etc.). For structures that have element one from words *thousand*, *million*, *billion*, is set to be written separately, although in different grammars are written even as attached words.<sup>17</sup> In our opinion, there is no reason why these structures should not be written as a single word, equally as the attached numerals *tridhjetë*, *dyzet*, *pesëdhjetë* and so on.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> See *Fonetika dhe gramatika e gjuhës së sotme shqipe*. Vol. II, Tirana, 1976 p. 169. *Gramatika*, op. cit. p. 204, 205; *Demiraj*, op. cit. p. 86.

<sup>18</sup> *Drejtshkrimi i gjuhës shqipe*, Tirana, 1973 p. 126, 131.

During their pronunciation, they feel more such, with the primary emphasis on the second element.

Locutions of this type are used in conjunction with any kind of name and perform the function of the determinant (the only function that performs the numeral). For example: *Skënderbeu dhe këmbësoria e tij prej **shtatë mijë** luftëtarësh sulmuan në qendër. Apartamentin e kishite shitur **pesëdhjetë milionë** lekë.*

**1. 2.** *Locutions that have the second element an name with adjectival backgrounds.* The name of locutions of this type is generally used in nominative and objective, in the prominent form<sup>19</sup> in the singular number, when the first element is the numeral *one* and in the plural when the first element is another numeral (like name thousand, million etc.): *një e dyta, dy të tretat, tri të katërtat, gjashtë të dhjetat* etc. The name does not save the basic meaning. Outside the locution structure, it means "person, item etc. named in the order that it has in relation to a person or other item ". The numeral in these structures is unstressed.

These locutions correspond to the regular fractional numbers (*një e dhjeta, dy të dhjetat, pesë të dhjetat* etc.) and decimals numbers having the *zero* before the comma (0.1; 0.3 etc) when read as a fraction (*një e dhjeta, tre të dhjetat* etc.).

Locutions of this type are used in conjunction with the name of a unit of measurement (*kilogram, liter, meter, kilometer, hectare, hour* etc.) or with several other names that denominate quantities, such as *piece* etc. and show a certain quantity of them. The accompanying name is used in the not prominent form. The grammatical form of its number depends on the first element of the locution. When the first element is the numeral *one*, the name is used in the singular (*një e dyta **kilogram**, një e treta **metër**, një e pesta **pjesë*** etc.). In conjunction with another numeral, it is used in the plural (*dy të tretat **kilogramë**, tri të katërtat **kilometra**, katër*

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<sup>19</sup> Myderrizi Osman has reflected in the grammatical form of not prominent form. (Myderrizi, op. cit.p. 98.)



të pestat *pjesë* etc.). For example: *Ena nxinte një të dytën kilogram ujë. Tri të katërtat kilometra rrugë ishin të asfaltuara. Katër të pestat pjesë të tokës kodrinore atë vit i kishin mbjellë me grurë.*

When these locutions are followed by a name in the genitive or a pronoun, they have the value of a name and perform his functions. In this case, the name in their structure varies according to cases. For example: *Tri të katërtat e pjesëmarrësve e ndiqnin bisedën në këmbë. Librat e tri të katërtave të nxënësve ishin të rinj.* When used after the name, the locutions of this type have the adjective value (like the numerals). For example: *Thyesa një e dyta është e barabartë me thyesën dy të katërtat.*

### ***Locutions formed by more than two words***

These locutions have very diverse structural composition. They consist only of meaningful words or from meaningful and not meaningful words.

**2. 1.** *Locutions that have only meaningful words in the structure.* They are with three limbs. Their structure is composed of two numerals and the *comma* name (or *point*), inserted between them. All three elements are used unchanged. These locutions are used accompanied by a name of a unit of measurement (*kilogram, meter, quintal, hectare, hours* etc.). For example *Gjerësia e kanalit ishte dy presje tetë metra. Rruga zgjati katër presje pesë orë.* They correspond to decimal numbers *zero presje pesë (zero pikë pesë), një presje katër (një pikë katër), dy presje gjashtë (dy pikë gjashtë)* etc.

Locutions of this type are used to indicate the quantity of parts of complete units (*zero presje dy, zero presje tre* etc.) or the quantity of complete units and their parts (*një presje dy, dy presje katër* etc.). During use, they appear as the only word. or locution (*njëpresjedy* or *një presje dy* etc.). Generally, they are uttered with emphasis on the last element, just like the words and can be treated as such.

**2. 2.** *Locutions that have elements meaningful and not meaningful words.* They are numerous and quite varied by the structure.

They indicate the number of full units or complete units and their parts. Not meaningful word In their structure is connector. The links between the elements are different.

**2. 2. 1.** In the structures *njëzet e një to nëntëdhjetë e nëntë* (except the numerals with attached structure, such as *tridhjetë, dyzet, pesëdhjetë* etc.) the meaningful words are related *with coordination*. The first element, in any case, is a numeral with word structure. For this reason, the elements in these structures have the opposite order, compared to structures with preposition *mbë* (*njëmbëdhjetë, dymbëdhjetë* etc). The last element is not a derivative numeral, which indicates the quantity that is added her that is indicated by the first numeral. The meaning of the locution is different from the meaning of each of the elements.

In earliest times, into the locutions of this type the prefix *without* is used instead of the connector *e*: *pesë - dhjetë pa një, një qind pa një, një mijë pa një në vend të dyzet e nëntë, nëntë - dhjetë e nëntë, nëntë qind e nëntë - dhjetë e nëntë, dyzet pa dy, dyzet pa një, pesëdhjetë pa dy, pesëdhjetë pa një* etc.<sup>20</sup>

These structures have a single lexical meaning, indicate a certain amount of spirits, of items etc., as well as the structures with the preposition *mbë* (over). Their constituent elements feel melted into a single unit, the meaning of which derives from the sum of the meanings of the constituent elements. This semantic feature has generally the attached words, for which Kostallari A. has written that their elements constitute the climbing of the syntagm.

The latter results in a single unit of semantic with a value equal to the number of meanings of the attached limbs, which

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<sup>20</sup> Kristoforidhi, op. cit. p. 98.

are even related to the particle of the discourse.<sup>21</sup> Even the connector element does not retain any previous grammatical features. This phenomenon has also been pointed out by Buxheli L. when he writes that these structures are feeling as attached. The vowel *e* has to lose semantic and functional links with the coordinating connector.<sup>22</sup>

The structures in question can be treated as a unit composed of one word.. This position is also expressed during discussions of the Orthography of the Albanian Language.<sup>23</sup> Today there are quite an attached words in Albanian of this model.

**2. 2. 2.** large number constitute the numeral locutions with elements connected *to the mixed link*. Within the structure of these locutions, the words are with independency link and dependency link.

**a.** One locutions type is formed by a numeral and a numeral locution. Such we mention: *një e dy të dhjetat*, *dy e pesë të dhjetat* etc. These locutions are used in two forms: with the connector *e* (*një e pesë të dhjetat*) or by the name *comma* or *point* (*një presje (pikë) pesë*). In both cases, they are accompanied by the names of the metering units in the without prominent form. For example: *Një e pesë të dhjetat hektarë tokë i kishte mbuluar uji. Shishja plastike nxë një presje pesë litra qumësht*. In the second form these locutions be rarely used. Semantically they show complete units and parts of these units.

**b.** Locutions *njëqind e një*, *një mijë e një*, *dy mijë e njëqind e një*, *një milion e tri mijë e katërqind e pesëdhjetë e shtatë* etc.) are formed by one or more locutions and one or more numerals associated

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<sup>21</sup> Kostallari Androkli, "Mbi disa veçori të fjalës së përbërë në gjuhën shqipe", *Studime mbi leksikun dhe formimin e fjalëve në gjuhën shqipe*, Vol. I, Tirana 1972, p. 85.

<sup>22</sup> Buxheli Ludmilla, "Çështje të shkrimit të fjalëve të përngjitura dhe të disa strukturave analitike," *Shqipja në etapën e sotme: politikat e përmirësimit dhe të pasurimit të standardit*, Tirana, 2011, p. 357.

<sup>23</sup> Petriti Çelik, "Çështje të drejtshkrimit të numërorëve," *Kongresi i drejtshkrimit të gjuhës shqipe*, Vol. II, Tirana, 1973, p. 351.

with independence link. Regardless of the number and morphological form of the elements, the whole structure functions as a single unit and has a comprehensive meaning. The phrase elements inside the locution are more closely related and, as noted above (II.2.2.1), feel like a word.

## ***Conclusions***

From the above analysis, it turns out that in the Albanian language are present numeral locutions. They are not replaced by numerals and do not replace them. Their use is indispensable during the lecture. The number of numeral locutions is many times greater than the numerals and their structural composition is more diverse. Numerical locutions are classified according to the structural criterion. They consist of two or more elements. Like numerals, they serve as word-forming topics (adjectives with numerical origination.)

Many of these locutions today can be treated as an attached word. Locutions formed by two or three words have the greatest possibility to be used as a word, while those that have more elements in structure represent difficulties in writing and pronunciation as a word. However, their elements be used united when these locutions are in the function of the word-forming theme, forming nouns or adjectives: *njëzetedyshi*, *tridhjetegjashta*, *i njëqindetridhjeteshtatë*, *i njëmijetreqinenjëzetetetë*, *njëmilionedyqindmijetreqindedyzetepesë*.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> See even *Drejtshkrimi*, op. cit. p. 127.

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