

## **The impact of natural and socio-economic conditions change the speech of the Albanian language (case of Albania)**

**Msc. Albert Kurti**

External Lecturer

"Alexander Xhuvani" Elbasan, Department of History and Geography

**Msc. Fation Abdurramani**

Education Department, Lushnjë

### **Abstract**

Over the centuries languages create their own features, such as grammatical structure, phonetics and vocabulary. These elements contain the Albanian language, which ranks among the oldest in Europe. Language, especially spoken language varies not only between nations but also within its own. In the Albanian language there are observed differences between provinces without changing its base, forming dialects.

Determinant factors are the natural and socio-economic conditions. Natural conditions (first), especially the relief forms a significant influence on the formation of dialects. Albanian relief is predominantly mountainous, with high mountain ranges, which makes difficult people contacts, causing a relative isolation. This did that the inhabitants of a region with the time pass by speak an Albanian, which has differences with the other provinces. There are seen differences between the speech of Elbasan with that of Lushnjë, etc.

The socio-economic poor state of the Albanian succeeded over the years an underdeveloped road and rail infrastructure, while hindering not the less the movement of people from one region to another, especially in mountainous areas. Even low income did not allow frequent movement of people and their good education, etc. These factors hinder the ongoing communication of the inhabitants of different regions. The presentation will be illustrated examples of words from several dialects, where accent makes differences in relation to the standard language.

**Keywords:** *natural obstacles, relative isolation, artificial obstacles, phonetics, dialects.*

## **Introduction**

If the use of signs from human or his behaviour is almost the same apart from where he live: In Europe or in Asia, on the mountain or field, etc. We can't say the same thing for the language, where humanity does not speak the same language. Different population groups have created their own language which changes in grammar, vocabulary, syntax, phonetics, etc, with another language. In the entire world thousands of languages are evidenced, but also within the country may be found in dozens of such languages that can be spoken, for example, in Nigeria and India ore used in over 200 languages.

Differences in speech can be observed even within a language, which form dialects. In dialects written and spoken words does not change the basic of the standard language. Here doesn't make any exception even the Albanian language, in which is formed two dialects: Gheg and Tosk. Within these dialects are distinguished other subdialects with territorial expansion and smallar population. By Robert Elsie Albanian language has 75 subdialects which 29 belong to the Tosk dialect and 46 that of the Gheg.

This diversity of our speech language is effected from a number of factors, where natural conditions and social -economic situation of the population play an important role. To highlight the role of the relief as the factor with the most important role in the group of natural conditions we have taken as examples the speech of Mat and Dibra provinces. While for identifying more clearly the role of social economic conditions we have taken into consideration speech differences in those provinces Lushnjë, Peqin and Elbasan.

## **The spoken of Albanian language in some provinces, and the difference with the standard language**

In order to achieve this article we have got to study some provinces, mainly in the northern dialect where there is a significant difference of speech not only to language standard, but also between provinces, although they may be adjacent to each other. To identify these changes, we conducted a survey of residents of these provinces. Words or expressions are selected in such a way to reflect as much as possible these changes.

*Table. No. 1. The difference between of Albania language speech between provinces and the raport with standart language*

Nr	Standart	Lushnjë	Peqin	Elbasan	Mat	Dibër	English
1	<b>Rrugë</b>	Xhade	Xhade	Rrugë	Rrugj	Rrug	<b>Road</b>
2	<b>Fshat</b>	Fshat	Katund	Fshat	Katun	Katun	<b>Village</b>
3	<b>Nënë</b>	Nënë	Nonë	Nanë	Nanë	Nanë	<b>Mother</b>
4	<b>Grurë</b>	Grurë	Grunë	Grurë	Grunë	Grunë	<b>Corn</b>
5	<b>Gjalpi</b>	Gjalpi	Tlyni	Tlyni	Klin	Klin	<b>Butter</b>
6	<b>Babi</b>	Babi	Lala	Bab	Beba	Babi	<b>Father</b>
7	<b>Djalë</b>	Çun	Çun	Djalë	Majci, Meci	Voc	<b>Son</b>
8	<b>Vajzë</b>	Çupë	Goca	Vajzë	Cucë	Cucë	<b>Daughter</b>
9	<b>Xhaxhi</b>	xhaxhi	Xhajë	Xhaxhi	Xhexhi, Axha	Xhaxhi	<b>Uncle</b>
10	<b>Ulliri</b>	Ulliri	Ullini	Ullini	Ullini	Ullej	<b>olivaceous</b>
11	<b>Këmbë</b>	Këmbë	Komë	Kamba	Kama	Kama	<b>Foot</b>
12	<b>Çfarë bëre</b>	Çfarë bëre	Ç'a bone	Ç'a ke ba	C'a ke ba	Cish bere	<b>What doings</b>
13	<b>Shqipëri</b>	Shqipëri	Shqipri	Shqipëri	Shqipni	Shqipri	<b>Albania</b>
14	<b>Vaj</b>	Vaj	Voj	Voj	Voj	Vëj	<b>Oil</b>
15	<b>Këngë</b>	Këngë	Kongë	Kangë	Kangë	Kangë	<b>Song</b>
16	<b>lart</b>	Lart	Nalt	Lart	nalt	Nalt	<b>Up</b>
17	<b>Dhëmbi</b>	Dhëmbi	Dhomi	Dhami	Dhami	Dhami	<b>Tooth</b>
18	<b>Truri</b>	Truri	Truni	Truni	Truni	Truni	<b>Brain</b>
19	<b>Shtëpi</b>	Shtëpi	Shpi	Shpi	Shapaja	Shpi	<b>House</b>
20	<b>Akoma</b>	Akoma	Hala	Akoma	hala	Ala	<b>Still</b>
21	<b>Është</b>	Është	Oshtë	Ashtë	ashtë	ashtë	<b>Is</b>
22	<b>Tavan</b>	Tavan	Tavon	Tavon	tavan	Tavan	<b>Ceiling</b>
23	<b>Dysheme</b>	Dysheme	Çimente	Çimento	disheme	Disheme	<b>Floor</b>
24	<b>Mirëmëngjes</b>	Mirëmëngjes	Mimjes, si u gdhive	Mirmëngjes	mimxhes	Mingjes	<b>Goodmorning</b>
25	<b>Mirëmbërma</b>	Mirëmbërma	Mirmroma, si u nryset	Mirmroma	Mairmrama	Minmrëma	<b>Goodevening</b>
26	<b>Më vonë</b>	Më vonë	Më vonë	Ma vanë	ma mrapa	Ma vonë	<b>Later</b>
27	<b>Hënë</b>	Hënë	Hona	Hana	hana	Hana	<b>Moon</b>
28	<b>Mbarësi</b>	mbarësi	Marsi	Marësi	Marsi	Marsi	<b>luckiness</b>
29	<b>Nëntë</b>	Nëntë	Nont	Nantë	nantë	Nantë	<b>Nine</b>
30	<b>Pëllumbi</b>	Pëllumbi	Pllumi	Pëllumi	Pllumi	Pllumi	<b>Dove</b>
31	<b>Përmytje</b>	Përmytje	Përmytje	Përmytje	Përmytje	Përmyt	<b>Flood</b>
32	<b>Perëndimi</b>	Perëndimi	Perënimi	Perëndimi	Perenimi	Prenejti	<b>west</b>
33	<b>Trekëndësh</b>	Trekëndësh	Trekondsh	Trekanësh	Trekanshi	Trekënësh	<b>Triangle</b>

*Resources: Questionary realised with the people of these residents*

### **Comparison of speech of the Albanian language between provinces**

Among the common features of the two dialects we have distinctiveness and indistinctiveness of the names, surnames system, pronominal system, 48 time verbs etc<sup>1</sup>. Conciliatory extremes of words ore more approximate with them, which also have some relation With valley of Shkumbin and in distal extremities where it is difficult to comprehend people of the two

<sup>1</sup> Doli (Kryeziu)., Scope of standard Albanian Gjakova (Doctoral Thesis), pg. 48

dialects that communicate among themselves. For example: In a TV interview the player Ergysh Kace has said that he has a difficult communication with Shkelzen Gashi. In this article we have taken in consideration the domesticated extremes and central Gheg. Even here changes in the Albanian speech language are not scarce.

Among the 33 words studied only 10 are the same in the region's of the north dialect, which are : *village (katun), mother (nana), foot (kama), song (kanga ), tooth (dhami ), brain (truni), is (ashtë ), moon (hanë), nine (nantë ), dove (pllumbi )*.

The words which differ between Dibra and Mat are: *road, father, son, uncle, olivaceous, what's doing, Albania, oil, house, still, good morning, good evening, later, flood, west, triangle*. From 33 words, 15 are said differently.

The words that differ between Elbasan and Mat are: *street, dad, village, what, butter, father, son, daughter, uncle, foot, Albania, up, home, still, ceiling, floor, good morning, good evening, later, prosperity, dove, flood, west, triangle*. More than half of the words 24 or 73 % are spoken differently among one region to another.

The words that differ between Elbasan and Peqin are: *road, village, nine, what, father, son, daughter, uncle, walk, what's going, Albania, song's, up, tooth, still, is, floors, good morning, later, moon, prosperity, nine, dove, flood, west, triangle*. Although Peqin is in a short distance from Elbasan and used to be under its administration power, it has a lot of visible differences in the spoken language. 26 words are different which make around 79%.

The words that are different between Peqin and Lushnja are: *village, mother, what, butter, father, daughter, uncle, olive, foot, what's doing, Albania, oil, song, up, tooth, brain, home, still, is, ceiling, floor, good morning, good evening, moon, prosperity, nine, dove, flood, west, triangle*. Comparing one region with another, the differences between Lushnja and Peqin are the biggest. 30 out of 33 words or nearly 91% of them are different.

Between Elbasan and Lushnja differ 25 words and they are: *road, village, mother, butter, father, son, daughter, olive, walk, what's doing, oil, song, tooth, brain, house, is, ceiling, floor, good evening, later, the moon, prosperity, nine, dove, triangle*.

### Comparing the standard spoken language with the veginal one

The Albanian language of dialects and subdialects differs in the phonetic aspect from the standard language. The difference is clear with the north dialect. Phonetically speaking, nasality continues in both vowels which come before and after the nasal consonant. The stress vowel /e/ is not part of the spoken geg, whereas /o/ doesn't apply the nasality rule<sup>2</sup>.

Below we are giving the differences noticed in the use of words mentioned above; The province of Dibra: *village (katun), butter, (klinë), son (voc), daughter (cucë), up (nalt), still (ala)* are words that differ significantly to that standard. On the other hand 3 words belong to standard language. What distinguishes this province more than others is an expression of interrogative pronoun "what" which is used (cish), for example *what's doing (cfarë bëre -çish bere)*.

With Mat province: *village (katun), butter (klinë), father (beba), son (majci, meci), daughter (cucë), uncle (axha), house (shapaja), still (hala), good morning (mimxhes), good evening (mairmrama) and later (mbrapa)* change exactly and make about 33.3%. Just the word ceiling is the same as standard. 21 others have small changes. In this region is faced often the imposition of consonant "gj" which is spoken of as "xh" for example *good morning (mirmëngjes -minxhes)*, etc.

The province of Peqin: words that differ completely are: *road (xhade), village (katund), butter (tlyni), father (lala), son (çuni), daughter (gocë), up (nalt), still (hala) and floor (çemente)*. This represents about 27% of the words obtained in this study. Just the word *latter (më vonë)* is talked as in the standard. Generally, the words are spoken with some changes that make the difference. For example the letter "ë" and "a" is replaced with "o" or does not say for example, is (është-oshtë) and roof (tavan-tavon). Consonants usually are placed after the letter "n" and "m" is not expressed, for example: *west (perëndimi -perënimi), dove (pëllumbi -pëllumi)*, etj. The latter is widely used in Northern dialect.

With province of Elbasan: Different from Peqin, Albanian language is spoken more standard, where only 2 change: *butter (tlyni)* and *floor (çimento)*. 9 words are standards and 22 others differences in vowels and consonants. In the parlance of elbasan the vowel "s" is often replaced with

---

<sup>2</sup> Hamiti, A., Nasal vowel in terms of starting Gheg phenological acts, Vol. 1, No. 1, pg. 85

"a" as for example: *is (është-ashtë)*, etj. This way of speech is used in many of the Gheg dialect regions..

The province of Myzeqe (Lushnjë): Only 3 words change by standart language. There are: *road (xhade)*, *son (çun)*, *daughter (çupë)*.

In the speaking of the provinces to get word study we can conclude words that we can speak only in one of these provinces; *daughter (gocë)*, *good morning (mimjes or si u gdhive)*, *moon (hona)*, *nine (nont)* are spoken in Peqin; *triangle (trekanësh)*, *floor (çimento)* in Elbasan; *father (beba)*, *son (mjaci or meci)*, *uncle (axha or xhexhi)*, *house (shapaja)*, *good morning (minxhes)*, *still (ma mrapa)* are spoken in Mat; *son (voce)*, *olivaceous (ullej)*, *oil (vëj)*, *still (ala)*, *west (prenejti)* in Dibra and Myzeqe Lushnjë is *daughter (çupë)*.

### **The impact of natural conditions**

Although Albania is a country with an area of 28748 km<sup>2</sup> it is distinguished for slim contrast, in terms of forms of relief. The average heigh of relief totaling 708 m, which means double of the European average height<sup>3</sup>. About 80 % of the country is extended over 200 m high from sea level<sup>4</sup>. The highest point is Mount Korab 2751 m and the lowest -8 m in the municipality of Lushnjë, in Tërbuf. These parameters of the relief have enabled a complex relief, made up of mountain ranges and hilly, mountainous neck rapids, deep valley's and lowlands hollow pits. Raised relief forms in different periods of history have served as the main factor in the formation of languages and dialects (subdialects). According to the geographical speech studys language differences between dialects and subdialects primarily depend on reestablished barriers (relief, climate, forest, vegetation, etc.

The main forms of relief that divide or connect the provinces included in the study are: Mati from Elbasan divided by Highland Martanesh (1846 m) and Çermenikë (1668 m), while Dibra separates mount Allaman (2101 m) and Mount Deja (2246 m). The valley of Shkumbin serves as a bridge between the provinces of Elbasan, Peqin, and Myzeqe (Lushnjë).

The mountains relief is an obstacle to the movement of people, thus creating also natural barriers. These are evident in the region's of Northeastern Region (Mat and Dibra), of which about 45% of the words are not spoken the same. Besides relief and climatic conditions, especially

---

<sup>3</sup> Dh, Doka., Draci, B., Geography of Tourism, pg. 181

<sup>4</sup> Dh, Doka., Draci, B., Geography of Tourism, pg. 181

in the north of Albania exacerbate the difficulties of communication between province residents.

Most noticeable in this situation is observed in winter, where snowfall (create the thickness of up to 1 m ) and frost due to temperatures below 0 degree Celsius block roads, isolating remote areas, and in some cases cities. In this situation the movement of people is just tough. In surveys conducted with this people, natural conditions contributed to 60 %<sup>5</sup> in the speech of the Albanian language and is considered also as the main cause of the prevalence of provincial dialect in comparison with the standard languages.

### **The impact of social -economic conditions**

Besides natural conditions, an important role in the formation of subdialects of Albanian language plays also the social-economic situation. In many regions these conditions effects more in forms of relief or climatic conditions. The most typical case is the subdialect of Peqini, which differ markedly from Lushnja and Elbasan, although the relationship between them is the villay of Shkumbin: the distance between the city of Elbasan and Peqin does not exceed 36 km.

This not good economic situation, forced residents to not move a lot, even at the time of centralized economy system has had many residents of the province of Peqini (40%<sup>6</sup>) who had never been in an important city to our country, even in Elbasan. This insulation just reinforced the regional dialect, without coming in touch with state services where was spoken more the standard language. Although revenues increased and vehicles were added, increasing the communication between residents, speaking of peqin continues to be prevalent in the community. Exception here do family which have members with higher education, cafes frequented by teachers and state institutions.

In social education places like school and kindergartens standard language, which adversely affect the speech language in the future. Since most standard Albanian language words come from Tosk dialect, its use has been correct in the province of Myzeqe (Lyshnjë), therefore the number of words used locally is very small. Unlike from Lushnja, in Elbasan and Peshkopia the use of Albanian standard language in schools is related to social functions power and controls in teaching have been higher than in schools of Peqin and Mat. In the latter, due to poor controls and

---

<sup>5</sup> Questionary realised with the people of these residents

<sup>6</sup> Questionary realised with the people of these residents

recognition of education inspectors with used without problem in teaching language of the province.

Even during the survey, more than 60%<sup>7</sup> of the asked people declare that subdialect is used in educational institutions. Peshkopi schools, Elbasan and Lushnja, this figure does not exceed 20%<sup>8</sup>. Greater connection with the central government of the city of Elbasan and Dibra compared with subordinate cities (Peqin and Burrel), has driven much more broader use of standard language. This led to increased educational and cultural level, where prior to 1990 held various activities such as theater, cinema, circuses, sports, etc. Certainly in these social entertainment facilities was used standard language. The same situation can be said to Lushnjë. Quite the opposite was Peqin and Burrel, which were smaller towns and such activities were lower and lower turnout. As mentioned above, the function of government is an important social factor. The decisions that he has taken had have a significant influence on the determination of the Albanian language report with provincial standards. By setting Tosk dialect as dominant of the standard language spelling in the albanian language writing congress, held in 1972 in Tirana, has made that the higher % of standard language words which are spoken in the South Albania (south of the River Shkumbin). Therefore the subdialect of Lushnja represents the speech that has the largest number of standard language words with 30 words or 91% of the world's in the study. If in the decision-making would have been taken more in account the northern dialect than the situation would be different.

## Conclusions and suggestions

The first difference of language between dialects speech was concluded that a thousand years before. Although there are over 40 years which has a standard for writing and speaking Albanian, changes in speech between dialects, subdialects (provinces) continue to be visible. Words that differ completely from standard language are; road- rrugë (xhade), butter-gjalp (tlyn, klinë), father- babi (lala, beba), son-djalë (çun, majci, meci, voc), up-lart (nalt), house-shtëpi (shapaja), daughter-vajzë (gocë, çupë, cucë), uncle-xhaxhi (axha, xhexhi), still (hala, ala), later- më vonë (ma mrapa), west-perëndimi (prenejti). Natural conditions and social-economic role has influenced in the formation of sub dialects of Albanian language, creating natural and artificial obstacles.

---

<sup>7</sup> Questionary realised with the people of these residents

<sup>8</sup> Questionary realised with the people of these residents



This causes a relative movement isolation of residents regardless of distance and relief forms. In the provinces of northern Albania relief plays the most important role, while in the centre social -economic conditions play a primary role in this regard.

Social -economic conditions has effect so much that Elbasan has more words spoken the same with Lushnja than with Peqin, although the latter is almost 2 times near the town of Myzeqe.

To improve the speaking of Albanian language standards should be some measures, which may include;

- Improvement of road infrastructure, that residents to move freely between provinces and not only.
- Increase the standard of living level, encouraging the movement of people.
- The discipline of teachers, especially those who teach the Albanian language subject, so that when they teach to speak in standard and not -regional, etc.

The high number of Albanian subdialects, constitutes a major national asset and a real attraction for the development of cultural tourism in particular. Therefore we suggest that to become a reflection of whether with television advertising or brochures to reflect the speech of the Albanian language for every province. ,etc.

## **Bibliography**

Dh, Doka., Draci, B., *Geography of Tourism*, Tirana, 2002

Doli, Kryeziu. S. *Scope of standard Albanian in Gjakova* (Doctoral Thesis), Tirana 2013.

Hamiti, A., *Nasal vowel in terms of starting Gheg phenological acts*, Vol. 1, No. 1

Questionary realised with the people of these residents Lushnjë, Peqin, Elbasan, Mat and Dibra.