

Press Releases of International Institutions, Language Register and their Impact on Albanians based on their Translation and Interpretation by Political parties

Dr. Ymer Leksi

University of Elbasan

Abstract

This paper concentrates on the functions and uses of English in the political discourse of Albania after the political changes in the 1990s. Its focus is on the English translations and interpretations of the political declarations and press releases of US Embassy in Tirana. Political discourse is characterized by rich figurative language which is distinguished for its stylistic power and informal register. Focusing on the use of similes, metaphors, and informal language, this paper shows how certain aspects of communication are affected by translation and their interpretation to the public by the political parties based on their political interests.

Keywords: *Press releases, register, translation, interpretation*

English in the albanian context

English has become a worldwide language. The range and functions of its use, however, differ across countries and continents resulting in a plethora of varieties. In addition to cross variety differences, an English variety undergoes important diachronic changes. Differences from period to period are especially salient when socio-political systems change. Thus, the major political changes that took place in Eastern Europe in the last decades have resulted in considerable shifts in the functions of English. A common aspect of the sociolinguistic context of the East European countries before 1990s was the use of Russian, the language of the Superpower, as an internal language of the Socialist Block. In addition, these countries used English as an external medium of communication in contacts with countries that were not members of the Socialist Block. Although Albania had many aspects in common with the East European countries, it also developed differences in its profile due to its specific political context. Before 1990s, English in Albania was mainly used in contacts with English and non-English speakers who were representatives of political entities of certain countries and showed interest in the policies

the Party in power was then pursuing. More specifically, spoken English was mainly used in the Party Congresses and some other political events, along with Russian and French, in the form of interpreting for foreign delegations. It was also used to communicate with the limited number of tourists who could visit Albania during the Socialist Period. On the other hand, written English was predominantly used in translations, which included political works of the Albanian leaders of that time, as well as literary works of some renowned Albanian writers. Consequently, a quick search of U.S. libraries concerning books and documents in English published in Albania during that period of self-isolation shows that a high percentage of them belong to political discourse. They include works like *35 Years of Socialist Albania*, an album that shows the glorious aspects of life in Albania then; selected works of Enver Hoxha, the Albanian political leader, which describe the struggle of the Party of Labor of Albania with modern revisionism (Soviet, Yugoslav, and others) and the Party's work to revolutionize the country life. Among these publications in English, a number of memoirs written by Enver Hoxha also catch readers' attention. They occupy an important place in the political translations in English. Some of the titles found in American libraries include *With Stalin*, *The Khrushchevites*, *The Superpowers*, and *Reflections on China*.

Whereas the publications of the party leader memoirs in Albanian aimed at convincing the Albanian people about the righteousness of the political decisions made through the subtle use of intimation and solidarity strategies, their English translations were intended to have international propagandistic effects. In the case of the translations of the memoirs in question, a switch takes place "from internal political communication to external political communication" (Schaffner, 1998, p. 186). In other words, the reader of the original text, i.e. the Albanian people, is now replaced by the reader of the translation, i.e. the international community. As Horowitz (1987) points out "language and [discourse] grow out of human needs to construct, negotiate, and interpret meaning for an audience and the personal intentions of a speaker or writer" (p. 122). Therefore, it is of interest to see how the change of readership, which also brings about changes of writer's intentions, affects discourse. In other words, how can language be adjusted to appeal to a foreign audience? Studies on translation have provided important insights on the changes that take place during translating.

Politics in Albania and translations in english

Immediately after World War II, the only party in power, the Communist Party of Albania, which was led by Enver Hoxha, strictly pursued Stalinism in both ideology and economy. As a result, the Soviet Albanian relations deteriorated with the coming of Khrushchev to power after Stalin's death in 1953 since the new leader of the Soviet Union denounced Stalin's crimes. In addition, Khrushchev rehabilitated Tito, the Yugoslav leader, whom Stalin and the Information Bureau had expelled from the Socialist Camp in 1948. In Hoxha's view, Tito was leading Yugoslavia on the road of capitalism, whereas Stalin was a loyal follower of Marxism–Leninism. Even though Hoxha was in need of the Soviet Union's economic aid, he would make no concessions with regard to the Marxist–Leninist principles. Faced with the revisionist and anti-Stalinist attitude of Khrushchev, and being aware that economic dependence would lead to political dependence, Hoxha and the Party of Labor of Albania designed and supported an all-round development of the Albanian economy. The Albanian leadership disregarded all other alternatives of development suggested by the Yugoslavs and, later on, by the Soviets. Such policy led to the Soviet–Albanian ideological and diplomatic break in December 1961 and later relegated Albania to the most isolated and dogmatic country of Eastern Europe. As a result of the strict implementation of the Marxist–Leninist ideology, political discourse always occupied a central place in the literature of socialist Albania.

recipients.

After 1990s the political universe includes three types of politicians. The first type includes the businessmen politicians-unfortunately overwhelming majority in the Albanian world-who have chosen politics as a genuine business, completely for materialistic aims. The extreme of the first type are the thoroughly idealists, otherwise called "statesman", who since a time that is difficult to remember, do not exist in the Albanian politics. The other group is the intermediary group where materialism and idealism are mixed up. It is exactly here that our clear distinction from the others is shown, because even if there exist such representatives in the affirmed Albanian politics, their number for sure does not outnumber the fingers of a hand. Meanwhile, in the consolidated institutionalized states, the above-mentioned group makes up the majority politically decisive.

The western democracies, in proportion with the Albanian state and Albanian areas are divided into countries that have authentic economic interests represented by Greece and less Italy in their most prominent way,

and countries with strategic long-term interests with a geo-political foundation, that are represented by the Anglo-Saxon countries with USA as their main representative. The other countries are extended in combined ways in between the above-mentioned extremes.

Language use and its interpretation in english

On every event the US embassy in Albania releases a Press Release in English and based on that both main political parties of the country interpret them based on their political interests.

Let's see the following example:

Remarks by U.S. Ambassador Alexander A. Arvizu at Elbasan Municipality

I thank the Mayor for convening this round table. Trafficking in persons is a horrible crime; it exists everywhere in the world, it exists in the United States, it exists in Albania. Some of you are familiar with the annual Trafficking in Persons Report. It is prepared every year by the State Department. It is mandated by Congress. Although there has been some progress, regrettably, it was our assessment that over the past year, the performance of the Albanian Government in addressing trafficking issues had declined. The practical result of that is that Albania was downgraded to what we call the Tier 2 Watch List.

In our conversations with Mr. Rama, with Mr. Meta, with some of their key aides, we have made very clear that we hope to engage very early and effectively with the new government in trying to reinvigorate some of these efforts that have been underway.

One specific example of the kind of thing that we are trying to do is, I'm happy that IOM – the International Organization for Migration – is the recipient of \$500,000 grant from the United States Government, to work on trafficking in Albania. Specifically, what is it that they are going to do? As you know, IOM is an international organization; it is commonly referred to as an NGO, but it is not an NGO. It is actually an international organization affiliated with the United Nations. In order to effectively address an issue like this, there has to be cooperation between NGOs, international organizations, local governments, central governments, the police, and prosecutors. Everyone has to work together in order to be effective. One thing that IOM is doing is creating these mobile assistance teams that will be able to respond more quickly and more effectively to reports of people who are at risk. This is the kind of an example of a very effective partnership at the local level here in Elbasan, and I do want to

thank all the people who participated in the round table discussion under the leadership of the Municipality.

The United States, for our part, will continue to partner with as many people as we can, not just in the area of trafficking. Trafficking is a terrible crime and a very important problem, but there are also other issues, like corruption, that need to be addressed in Albania. The laws exist and they are pretty good. There are very dedicated people in the police who understand the law and who are trying to do their job.

The same thing can be said for the prosecutors as well. The problem is they don't work together. In fact, sometimes, I get the impression that they are trying not to work together. That is going to be a priority for the United States Government moving forward with the new administration here. I was pleased to see the President had a meeting yesterday with the heads of the so-called independent institutions, and obviously one of the cornerstones of a democracy is for institutions to function independently, and we support that completely.

But the message also needs to go – in fact the most important message – needs to go to the police and the prosecutors to work together. Your performance will be judged by how effectively you work together. There need to be more successful arrests, prosecutions, and convictions for crimes, whether it be corruption and impunity cases or common criminals; there needs to be more effective cooperation. That's what the citizens of Albania demand and that's what they deserve.

Thank you very much.

Socialist Party Interpretation:

US embassy and Government believes at the opposition that we are going to be able to fight corruption when we will come into power because Albania is the most corrupted country in Europe and the courts and police and other institutions are not working or cooperating together because of corruption.

Democratic Party Interpretation:

US Embassy and the American Government thinks that Albanian government is working against corruption and it does not exist only in Albania but it is a widespread phenomena in the whole world.

The Albanian government has prepared very good rules and police and judges are working hard to fight corruption.

Conclusion

The language interpretation in the Albanian political discourse displays some interesting features. This is simply an example which needs further study and a more detailed analysis in order to show the real features used and expressed by Albanian politicians.

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