



**FACULTY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

MASTER THESIS:  
**English Vs Albanian: Impact of English on Albanian Language  
in Post-War Kosovo**

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Prishtinë, 2016

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## ABSTRACT

The English language is in practical terms the most popular language in the world today, the so-called *lingua franca*.<sup>1</sup> Language; media, music, politics, economy, art, science, etc. etc. are many fields that are discussed and viewed through the prism of English. In this context, the “smaller” and “less” influential Albanian language in Kosovo, especially after the 1999 war and intervention of the international community against the Serbian security forces, has in the post-war period of time here come into a much closer contact – and impact – of English; countless organizations that simply flooded Kosovo after July 1999, civilian or military alike, also brought many changes and impact on the Albanian society too, among other things. And when it comes to the language itself, the Albanian one, the impact was not always and necessarily a positive one, as it will be shown in more detail and in depth in the thesis.

The work itself is not a re-invention of the wheel, since this is a widely recognized issue locally, and not only locally, but rather an attempt to localize and define comprehensively the very roots that lie at the heart of the subject, apply various research methods that will shed light on the topic and detail the core of the issue, and offer optional alternatives and suggestions.

Discussing and analyzing such an intimate human topic as language, maybe *the* most intimate one, is and always has been a deep, challenging and complex dip in the very human soul, because after all the languages and dialects that we all human beings speak are nothing but a mere reflection of the human soul. In our brightest heyday and happiest moments as well as in our darkest hour and deepest sadness, language is and always will be the vocal tool that will palpably express our inner self; the outer reflection is just a physical wave of sounds, morphemes and phonemes, while the inner and deep source is the eternally hidden human spirit and human soul. Some might argue that there are also human beings who for various reasons, mental and physical alike, cannot express themselves vocally and in this way appear of lacking the capability of lacking this unique gift called human language, but this could not be farther the truth; the language element is still there, in them, in their blood, their DNA, their soul, their very being. There is no physical thing and force that can stop the unstoppable and free human spirit, and in turn free choice of language expression.

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<sup>1</sup> *lingua franca*, (Italian: “Frankish language”) language used as a means of communication between populations speaking vernaculars that are not mutually intelligible; Encyclopædia Britannica.

Language is with us, this unique kind called mankind, since the very beginning, it can and will never split apart from the fabric of mankind, and will ultimately follow the fate of mankind, whatever that fate is going to be.

From the perspective of this big picture, the English-Albanian relationship can be viewed from two principal viewpoints: firstly, this is obviously a much smaller, more specific and more narrowed part and angle of the overall language puzzle. After all, the English and Albanian native speakers comprise a smaller part of the total world population and number of countries, right. Sure, but this is only one part of the truth. The other part of the truth, in fact the colossal one, is that in essential terms both pictures are just - the same; both one single human being soul and all mankind combined equals, still, one single – human soul.

Also, one of the main objectives of this paper is going to be the description, portrayal, reflection etc. of the developments in this particular field just as they are, without *any* national-romantic or nationalistic/patriotic connotations whatsoever. Zero ones, preferably. A review, analysis and research about the English-Albanian interaction among Kosovo Albanians *without* Albanian feelings.

**Key words:** Albanian, English, anglicisms, borrowings, language, translation, chaos, diamond, impact, responsibility, free, creation, inferiority.

## CONCLUSION

Since man is, should and must be a free creature, so needs language too. Being doubtlessly the most intimate peculiarity of a people, community, tribe or group, its inner and outer soul, deepest heritage and reflection of its forefathers and their silent graves, language will always remain the lighthouse of every nation. In the same way as man permanently strives to expand and explore his world and his self, freely and along man's mysterious ways, so does language too long to flow naturally down its course, unobstructed, freely. After God, language is the brightest, and only true diamond a nation, group, community and individual possesses, its beginning and its end, its very soul. Take away the language from a man, and you leave this man in darkness and despair. There are many smartly arranged definitions about language, each one finer than the other, sophisticated and structured, but in essence language represents in fact nothing else but his very, very – self.

*“One does not inhabit a country; one inhabits a language. That is our country, our fatherland – and no other.”<sup>2</sup>*

English versus Albanian or the other way around, Albanian versus English, what is the difference? “Good” languages and “bad” languages, “big” languages and “small” languages, all kinds of languages. Seemingly. Deep down and again, there is only: language.

Expanding like the universe, being the world's lingua franca and the most known language in the world, English seemingly *appears* so, so superior to Albanian, and to many other languages for that matter, but this is just an illusion. Firstly, there are *no* “superior” and “inferior” languages, as was already discussed above. Secondly, if somebody or something should feel inferior, in that case it should be the Albanians themselves; not inferior because of being less worthy and less valuable than the other human beings – the English-speaking ones, for instance - but rather because of the very essential fact they have allowed for a diamond called Albanian language – and every language is a diamond – to have to go through this shameful and utterly ugly process.

A diamond thrown to the pigs is not worth a penny – from the pigs' perspective.

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<sup>2</sup> Emile M. Cioran. Romanian philosopher and essayist (1911-1955)

Again and once again, without any (pseudo) romantic, nationalistic, sentimental, puritanical, false, flattering etc., all the facts, hard evidence, study research, analyses and information in this paper unanimously and irrevocably confirm the final conclusion that the main – and *only* – culprit for today's dire state of the Albanian languages are the Albanians themselves and no other one. Here in Kosovo, but also in Macedonia, Albania and in the other Albanian-populated areas.

“God defend me from myself” (Spanish proverb).

Obviously, one cannot blame English and the anglicisms for this, nor the Martians, as it was shown above, despite the fact that English is directly involved in this matter. First it was the Ottoman (and Turkish), then it was the Slavs (and Serbian), now it is the internationals – and English – this is a never-ending story...

The story goes that long time ago the king of Albania once visited his Egyptian counterpart and after the latter boastfully told his Albanian guest that he was a king of many millions of people, the Albanian king replied ironically:

“I am the king of two million kings – *who* is a greater king?”

From this angle, this paper should *not* have been titled “English vs Albanian” but rather “Albanian vs Albanian.” Or even better and fully honestly – “*Albanians* vs Albanian.” Further and in this line, is this paper, analysis and hypothesis going to change something or anything on the ground? Nothing, no doubt. Just like all the trash and pollution throughout Kosovo; there is an environment ministry, there are very smart and thoughtfully compiled laws, rules and other legal documents, countless and again countless meetings held for overcoming this issue, all this with one and only one end state: the trash is still there.

Does anybody care?

If language is a process of free creation, this creation called language called Albanian must be enabled to run freely along its path, unobstructed, unrestricted, freely. Just like the way a river flows naturally down valleys and flatlands. Without the “dirt,” barriers, distortions and other ugly things that were mentioned above – and only with possible administrative measures and interventions as a last resort and in an act of self-defense. Emergency cases rushed to hospital and

with life-threatening injuries are not treated with roses and cookies, but rather with bitter and painful medicine.

Therefore, the final goal, not of this paper but of the overall Albanian language issue in general, to get rid of the internal “trash,” then and in turn get rid of the various “vs’s”, as it is in this case with English, and then ultimately return to its original and initial state, the one of a diamond. Anglicisms, and other borrowings for this matter, do not represent regressive things, but there needs to be and must be order. If, and hopefully there will be no need for this “if” to ever occur, the current chaos and anarchy prevail and all the attempts to overcome this issue fail, then the Albanians, here in Kosovo and broader will have no one else to blame but themselves. All six, seven million of them – or whatever their number is.

This paper’s goal was to describe the facts, hard evidence and information on the ground, with all the examples, comparisons and recommendations that go altogether with it. An even higher goal was and is to protect the Albanian language from all the detrimental, damaging and destructive elements that are suffocating it.

Still, the noblest and ultimate goal, far above all the rest, was - to protect the truth.

Nothing else but the very truth.