

## INITIAL TRIALS OF STUDYING THE GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE OF ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

*Ma. Yllka Imeri Phd.C*

[Yllka.imeri@uni-gjk.org](mailto:Yllka.imeri@uni-gjk.org)

*University of Gjakovo "Fehmi Agani"*

### Abstract

The Albanian language is one of the oldest languages in the Balkans, however was documented very late, around the 15th century. The Albanian language is part of the trunk of Indo-European languages. The oldest language of this trunk is the Sanskrit language. The main and greatest writers of the time, the authors who made the first attempts to study the structure of the grammar of the Albanian language were: Lekë Matrënga, Pjetër Budi, Frank Bardhi and Pjetër Bogdani. The aim of this paper is to highlight the lexicon of old Albanian authors. Our main goal is the realization of the lexical results of the selected authors.

*Keywords: Ancient Albanian literature, author, lexicon, contribution.*

### Introduction

The ancient Albanian literature, initially began and was covered in the first three centuries of its writing from renowned authors ranging from Barleti to De Rada, through which one can get a better comprehension of its historical and typological view. Through the historical view is given the almost three-century time course of the emergence of the old Albanian literature as well as its development in the Albanian environment. The ancient Albanian literature has undergone through three stages:

First; The literature of humanism in the sixteenth century, with Marin Barleti as its main representative.

The second; Philo-biblical literature represented by the authors of the XVI, XVII, XVIII centuries.

The third; The secular, secular literature of the Poets (Bejtexhinjve) of the XVIII century. (Hamiti, 2010: 74). The ancient Albanian literature, being the literary production of different cultural circumstances and times from Barleti to De Rada, and despite the fact that in the historical course there is no established unit and continuity, it has had many different writing models.

In this paper we will address the lexicon of selected authors and their works. Where the standard language does not necessarily correspond to the literary language, nor to the national literary language. (Ismajli, 2005: 35). The authors selected for this article each have their own linguistic characteristics, which we will discuss. Albanian lexicography, grammar and etymology, albeit in a simple way, starts with local authors (Kastrati: 75).

### Complementary lexicon extracted from the work of Lekë Matrënga (1567-1619)

Lekë Matrënga is the oldest author of Arbëresh literature. The language of Lekë Matrënga reflects the ancient Tosk Albanian, with some phonetic, morphological, syntactic and lexical features. His language is the Albanian / Arbëresh dialect of the Hour of Arbëresh of the century. XVI. His work bears the title "E mbsueme e Krishterë ..." and Italian

"Dottrina Christiana" (1592), which has 28 pages and about 450 words, written in the Latin alphabet, using combined letters for the sounds of the Albanian language, which cannot be found in Latin language. Lekë Matrënga is considered the earliest writer of the Arbëresh of Italy and the author of the first poem written in Albanian. (Hamiti, 2010: 155).

### **Analysis of the main features in the work of Lekë Matrënga**

1. As new units, from the point of view of their emergence as lexicon-grammatical and word-forming categories: purify (purified) and purification (verbal noun) and powerful by power;
2. Words that have served to replace foreign words: purify and purify;
3. Words that have served as limbs of terminological phrases (prepositional, compound or partial adjectives): fast, powerful, put, crossed, beaten, riding.

### **Complementary lexicon taken from the work of Pjetër Budi (1618-1621)**

Pjetër Budi has enriched the Albanian language with 2453 words, with his published work called the "Christian Doctrine (Dottrina Cristiana)".

Analysis of the main features in the work of Pjetër Budi.

1. Words that have served to replace foreign terms: qepër - kapriatë, mjedis ← ambient, themel- fundament, i gërryer ← i abroduar, tra ← shtab, hulli ← brazdë, thërrmijë (grimcë) ← korpuskul, qiri ← kandelë, i plogët ← inert, lodh ← fëdig, nxit ← eksitoj, duq ← rubinet. (*translation:* onion - caprice, environment ← environment, foundation, foundation, eroded ab abroded, beam ← headquarters, groove ← groove, particle g corpuscle, candle ← candle, sluggish ← inert, lodh ← fëdig, stir ← excite, duq. faucet).
2. Words that have served as limbs of terminological phrases (prepositional, compound adjectives, participle adjectives): i ashpër(sipërfaqe), i(e) afërt(pikë), i derdhur, i dredhur (fill), i frytë, i ftohtë, i hapët, i hollë, i kulluar, i lidhur, i ndezur, i pafund etj. (*translation:* rough (surface), i (e) close (point), molded, twisted (thread), fruity, i cold, open, thin, pure, bound, heated, infinite etc.)

Budi always writes in quatrains, and in alternating poetic rhymes. These didactic and poetic features of Budi's writing are enshrined in his anthological poem Laudans invocabo dominum. (Hamiti, 2010: 120).

### **Lexicon taken from the "Dictionarium latino-epirocum" by Frang Bardhi (1635)**

Frang Bardhi is one of the most prominent figures of Albanian national culture of the XVII century. The first attempts for lexicography and the study of the grammatical structure of the Albanian language, by local linguists in the XVII century, begins with Frang Bardhi (1635).

With his dictionary, Latin-Albanian, begins the Albanian lexicographical tradition. He wrote the dictionary in order to help the Albanian language, which was in danger of being lost over time. For the first time, Albanian language was put face to face, in a complete and codified lexical plane, with Latin language, which was the most elaborate international language of that time.

The dictionary has 5,000 Latin words and 2544 Albanian words. The author has translated some Latin words with a single Albanian word or uses a periphrastic translation method (it is thought that as autochthonous words they are half

of the number 2544, i.e., about 1300 words; removing Greek, Latin, Turkish and Slavic borrowings). The dictionary contains various place names, expressions, special grammatical elements and 113 Albanian proverbs, which constitute the first collection of Albanian folklore. (Ismajli, 2000: 244).

### **Analysis of lexical features in the work of Frang Bardhi**

1. Substitution of foreign terms: ballë → front, çast → moment, gisht ← spinot, gurrë → burim, kunorë → koronë, lëkundës-i → oshilator, majth → çekiç, mjedis → ambjent, skaj → ekstrem, themel → funament, thjerr → lentë, timetar → oxhak. (*translation*: forehead → front, moment → moment, finger ← spinet, fountain → source, crown k crown, oscillator or oscillator, majth - hammer, environment → environment, edge → extreme, foundation → fundament, lens, lens, timer → chimney).

2. Word-forming microsystems: rreth-rrethim, mbjellje-mbjellës, ftohje-ftohëse, nxehtësi-të nxehtit, peshojë-peshor. (*translation*: circle-sowing, sowing-sowing, cooling-cooling, heat-heat, weigh-scale).

3. Suffix constructions: -es: dëlirëdhëmbes, fikes-i, lëkundes, mbjelles-i, nxites, kthyes, shpejtues-i, shkumues-i, shënjues-i, turbullues-i. -ojë: mbulojë, peshojë. -or: peshor, rëror, nyjor, hekuror. -tar: timëtar, -ëri: papërshtatshmëri. (*translation*: -es: chaste, extinguishing, swaying, sowing, stirring, turning, accelerating, foaming, marking, disturbing. -oj: cover, weigh. -or: scales, sand, knots, iron. -tar: timtari, -ëri: inadequacy.)

The Dictionary also contains an appendix which is divided into seven chapters: nouns and numerals, family titles, cities and castles, adverbs, prepositions, exclamations, proverbs, dialogues and greetings. (Hamiti 2010: 132).

### **Lexicon taken from the "Company of Prophets (Cuneus Prophetarum)" by Pjetër Bogdani 1662-1689)**

Pjetër Bogdani's work has a special linguistic significance with the material it brings to the historical grammar of Albanian language, especially with its lexicon. Bogdani created new words for the concepts he needed to express.

The purpose of the work "Company of Prophets (Cuneus prophetarum)" published in 1685 in Padua, reprinted in 1691 and 1702 in Venice with different titles, was the education of the people, the creation of a fund of vocabulary of terminology in relation to the fields or subjects. The book "Cuneus Prophetarum", or according to the translation of Justin Rrota "Company of Prophets", is one of the most important works of Albanian literary heritage. In 1675 in Rome he had asked to be allowed to publish the work "Flavissae Prophetarum de Adventu Messiae". (Ismajli, 2000: 277).

### **Conclusion**

The contribution of scholars in the Albano-logical sciences is innumerable. These works relied on the cited books, which can be found in sufficient sources. We have conducted a carefully crafted this paper by following precise and thorough systematic and selective research. We have been able to describe and compare the contributions of the authors in a direct way. This paper is of interest to all those who are interested in the contribution of Albanology.

## Literature

1. ISMAJLI, Rexhep, (2000), Tekste të vjetra, Dukagjini, Prishtinë.
2. ISMAJLI, Rexhep, (2005), Gjuhë standarde dhe histori identitetesh, Tiranë.
3. KASTRATI, Jup, (2000), Historia e albanologjisë, Tiranë.
4. HAMITI, Sabri, (2010), Letërsia e vjetër shqiptare, Tiranë.
5. ÇABEJ, Eqrem, (1976), Studime etimologjike në fushë të shqipes. Tiranë.