

The phonetic evolution of the vocal system of the Albanian language short vowels and vowels formed within Albanian

Dr.Sc. Yllka R.Imeri

University "Fehmi Agani" Gjakovë Faculty of Philology

Abstract

The sound system of Albanian has its origin in the ancient Indo-European language, which had a highly developed vowel system, but the evolution of that system from the earliest times cannot be known, because there are no documents for such periods of the language. However, relying on the sound systems of the languages that are its daughters, the sound system of that language has been roughly reconstructed, starting from a certain period of development.

The researchers who dealt with this linguistic phenomenon of phonetic evolution, and who paid special attention to it, were: Kolec Topalli, Eqrem Çabej, Shaban Demiraj, Rexhep Ismajli.

Benjamin and Fortson say that the i.e. language possessed five short vowels /i/, /e/, /a/, /o/, /u/. Some branches merged at least two of the vowels (usually a and o, as in Indo-Iranian, Germanic and Balto-Slavic) and all vowels underwent many sound changes in different phonetic environments (Benjamin & Fortson, 2005: 60).

The purpose of this paper is to see the treatment of vowel issues by different speakers. The paper method is a comparison of opinions, and their presentation in language books.

Key words: *vowel, comparison, researcher.*

Introduction

The word consists of different phonemes, which are connected to each other to form a word with meaning, because the sounds (phonemes) alone have no meaning, and their combination forms what is called the meaning of the word. For example, the phoneme sh alone has no meaning, but when it is connected with other phonemes such as sh+k+o+ll+a= school, then it gives us the meaning of an object (educational institution) as a concept.

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the characteristics of the phonemes of the Albanian language, using the descriptive method, since the study of these characteristics is found in the already studied literature, such as researchers Eqrem Çabej, Shaban Demiraj, Besim Bokshi, Norbert Jokl, Holger Pedersen etc.

The aim of the paper is to make these characteristics known to those interested and to see with examples how the Albanian language has evolved and what has been the influence of other Indo-European languages or languages of the world on the Albanian language.

Albanians always faced difficulties. The wars with different peoples, the struggle for existence, the effort to preserve the Albanian language were among the main reasons that the Albanian language lagged behind in terms of study compared to the other languages of the Balkans, and that anyway the presence of other peoples in the Albanian

territory affected also in the language, since from that time to today many Latin, Greek, Roman, Turkish, etc. borrowings have entered the vocabulary of the Albanian language.

The first linguist, who pointed out the presence of a phonetic overlap between the Balkan languages, was Mikloshiči. Here, among the common phenomena of the Balkan languages, he has also included the presence of the /ë/ vowel in Bulgarian, Romanian and Albanian. Then, the rhotacism of /-n-/ in Albanian (Tosk) and Romanian was also pointed out (Demiraj, 2004: 83).

Literature Review

The literature reviewed discusses these issues;

We do not know Indo-European vocalism, or we reconstruct it from a comparison of Indo-European languages among themselves. We have the vowels a, e, i, o, u and ə (ë) which is pronounced (shva) in a word of Hebrew grammar (Çabej, 2012: 25). We can safely say that there are three main factors that gave impetus to the establishment of Indo-European linguistics. There are three sets of ancestors from three historical factors.

- The first factor would be that of geographical discoveries in the 16th century, especially the discovery of the route to India.
- The second stage can be called the invasion of India by the British Kingdom there from the third part of the XVIII century.
- And the other, third factor, which gave a great impetus, is the romantic movement in Europe, especially the German romanticization (Çabej, 1986: 10).

Referring to the two researchers Çabe and Topalli, we see that the classification of the vocal system is the same, but the treatment of the issue differs. Starting from the fact that vowels are divided into the series of short vowels and the series of long vowels.

The same issue is treated by Demiraj (1997, 2015) and Ranko Matasovic, and some others in a more superficial way. It was thought that Sanskrit in the beginning had a great importance, almost the position of the mother tongue to other languages, and it was remembered that the vocal system of Sanskrit and that these three vowels of European languages had come from the /a/ of Sanskrit. Then it was seen that the oldest vowel system was e, o, a, i, and u.

Methodology

The methodology of this work is descriptive. Many language researchers have dealt with this issue of vowels, and we as researchers are interested in knowing their opinion and the scientific treatment of vowels.

The Albanian language is one of the most difficult languages in the world, and one must be very careful in dealing with language issues.

Results

As a result of this paper, we have the discussion of the vowels formed in the Albanian language, such as the vowel /y/ and the vowel /ë/.

The appearance of the vowel /y/ in all languages where it has appeared is an internal development, such as in Greek, German and French. In the Albanian language, the vowel /y/ is a manifestation of later, a strange development of it. Although it is an internal development, the vowel /y/ is ancient in Albanian and its sources are different.

The vowel /ë/ is a Balkan feature that appears in Serbian, Bulgarian, Romanian and Albanian.

The vowel /ë/ is a vowel that was formed within Albanian. The word is for the accented vowel /ë/ of the Southern dialect, because a mid-rise vowel, which appears with the same grapheme in the Albanian language, is formed throughout the Albanian territory in an unstressed position.

If their appearance is the same, their timbres and ways of formation are different.

Discussions

Compared to short vowels, long vowels have undergone greater changes, since those vowels have changed their timbre and length.

Given that the historical evolution of the system of a language, in general and of its grammatical structure, in particular, is not a chaotically developed process, the historical study of the grammatical structure, I should aim, first of all, to discover the general direction of its evolution as well as the trends and main factors that have given rise to that evolution (Demiraj, 2015: 23).

Conclusion

□ From internal linguistic developments, the vowel /y/ was formed by joining /u/ with the semivowel /i/, e.g.; to the name fruit from fruit, which the old writings have.

□ Topalli emphasizes that this vowel has its source also from the vowel /i/ when it was close to a throat or lip consonant; for example.; the pronoun this khs. On the contrary, he, half metathesis from half of half, that Buzuku has.

□ Another source is the vowel /u/, when it is assimilated from the vowel /i/, the ending of plural forms, eg gynj for knees, grynyra for wheat, in the old authors lymena for lumenj (rivers).

The vowel /ë/ is a Balkan feature that appears in Serbian, Bulgarian, Romanian and Albanian.

The vowel /ë/ is a vowel that was formed within Albanian. The word is about the accented vowel /ë/ of the Southern dialect, because a vowel of middle rise, which appears with the same

grapheme in the Albanian language, is formed throughout the Albanian territory in an unstressed position.

If their appearance is the same, their timbres and ways of formation are different.

References

Benjamin. W. (2005) *Indo – European Language and Culture*. Australia: Blackwell.

Çabej, Eqrem. 1975. *Studime gjuhësore I-V*. Rilindja. Prishtinë.

Çabej, Eqrem. 1988. *Studime gjuhësore V*. Rilindja. Prishtinë.

Çabej, Eqrem. 2008. *Hyrje në Indoeuropianistikë*. Tiranë.

Çabej, Eqrem. 2012. *Fonetikë historike e gjuhës shqipe*. Tiranë.

Demiraj, Shaban. 2015. *Gramatikë historike e gjuhës shqipe*. Tiranë.

Demiraj, Shaban. 1986. *Gjuha shqipe dhe historia e saj*, Tiranë.

Demiraj, Shaban. 1996. *Fonologjia historike e gjuhës shqipe*. Tiranë.