Studies of the linguistics of the text in the Albanian language

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Abstract

This paper deals with some of the linguistics studies of the text published by Albanian researchers. Theoretically, the paper is based on the treatments of the authors from Kosovo and Albania, who have dealt with studies of the linguistics of the text, generally, with textual studies.

As a whole, this paper presents concepts, hypotheses, works and summaries of studies that have treated the text as a linguistic unit. In this theoretical paper, we have carefully looked at and read several studies on the linguistics of the text, which mainly belong to the last few years. The studies that we have included in the paper are diachronic flow in the field of linguistics. Taking into account linguistic developments over the years, these studies mark results in Albanian textual linguistics.

The work was carried out according to the comparative approach, while the hierarchy of information belongs to the contrast-comparison order. So, the paper confronts the arguments of several researchers and provides an overview of the used literature.

Key words: *communication act*, *text category*, *structure*, *text linguistics*, *text*.

Introduction

Starting from ancient philology (III-II century BC) and onward, many researchers have dealt with different aspects of text structuring, in particular with the meaning of the expression and the form of the expression. At the end of the sixties and the beginning of the seventies, the linguistics of the text received a faster scope of development, especially in the lead with the researchers: Peter Hartmann, Harold Weinrich, Roland Harweg (H.Mujaj, 2004:17).

The impetus for the birth of this linguistics came from many sides; on the one hand, there were the internal causes themselves, which were directed towards the text, because "there are quite a few semantic-syntactic phenomena that develop in a wider context than a simple statement (phrase). For its explanation, one must go beyond the limits of the phrase" (Sh.Rrokaj, 2001:127). On the other hand, there were also extra-linguistic requirements, first of all from the practical fields, automatic processing of natural languages, translation, which favored the text. Thus arose the request to see not the phrase, but the text as the highest linguistic unit (A.Çeliku, 2005:21).

Text linguistics is a relatively new discipline of linguistics. Although elements of text linguistics go back to ancient rhetoric, from ancient Greece and Rome, through the Middle Ages to the present day, the modern discussion of this discipline belongs to the 20th century. As stated in 1997, Antos/Tietz for 25 years, text linguistics belongs to linguistic subdisciplines. During this time, he took old traditions in a new form and advanced them (eg, gender theory, rhetoric, stylistics, argumentation and narration). Teun van Dijk emphasizes that the linguistics of the text has developed as an interdisciplinary discipline of special sciences, such as: poetics, rhetoric, psychology, pedagogy, theology, history and jurisprudence.

In Albanian philology, some steps forward have been made in the study of modern theories of the science of European and American linguistics. The initiators of this new turn are the researchers: Rexhep Ismajli, Besim Bokshi, Ibrahim Rugova, Sabri Hamiti, Xhevat Lloshi, Thoma Dhima, Shezai Rrokaj, Shefkije Islamaj, Hasan Mujaj, Tefe Topalli, Arbër Çeliku, Klodeta Dibra, Nonda Varfi, Linda Mëniku , Lindita Aliu, Lindita Sejdiu-Rugova, Bardh Rugova (H. Mujaj, 2004:21). Since the linguistics of the text is in the stage of development, although there were textual studies since the 70s, but within the framework of studies of other disciplines. As a separate science, it has been discussed to be called text linguistics or text science.

Some issues that can be raised during this paper are: Do we have genuine textual studies in Albanian linguistics? Are the Albanian linguists influenced by those of the world to deal with textual studies. The paper summarizes the studies of this field of linguistics, which pose many controversial issues for the text and linguistics in general. The paper has as its object of study the text studies of Albanian researchers, published in the Albanian language. The paper is based on some of the studies of the linguistics of the text and is carried out according to the theoretical-comparative approach. The corpus of this paper consists of the studies: "*Plurality of text*" (1980) by Rexhep Ismajli; "Knowledge of the stylistics of the Albanian language" (1988) by Xhevat LLoshi; "*Text language*" (1999) co-authored by Klodeta Dibra and Nonda Varfi; "*The language of the text*" (2004) by Hasan Mujaj; "*Introduction to Linguistics*" (2014) by Rami Memushaj; "*The Language of Newspapers*" (2009) by Bardh Rugova; "*Introduction to the grammar of the Albanian*

language text" (2015) co-authored by Bardh Rugova and Lindítë Sejdiu-Rugova, as well as three doctoral theses: "*Text connectors in the Albanian language*" (2013) by Linda Mëniku; "*The similar in the linguistic organization of the text of the internal monologue in prose and poetry*" (2006) by Lindítë Tahiri; "*Contrastive textual analysis of dependent clauses determined according to content in different types of text in English and Albanian*" (2008) by Lindita Sejdiu-Rugova. So, the paper includes these studies, which have dealt with the text and the elements in the framework of linguistics. The focus of the entire paper is the comparative approach of these studies, based on commonalities and differences between them.

Literature review

According to B.Rugova (2009:33), the study of units larger than the sentence in the Albanian language started relatively early, not falling far behind the studies that had started in the world. Textual studies started in Kosovo in the early seventies, more precisely with the studies of Rexhep Ismajli "*Sign and idea*" (1974), "*Plurality of text*" (1980) and "*Language of the Assembly of Arbën*" (1985), which had addressed units beyond the sentence, including speaking stance and perspective on verb tenses. Also, at the end of the eighties, other researchers, such as Tafil Kelmendi and Lindita Tahiri, deal with the tenses of verbs, expanding further to the concepts of the sentence. Whereas, in Albania, after the fall of the monist system, at the end of the nineties, university texts and other scientific works from this field of language study were published.

Meanwhile, L.Mëniku (2013:32), in her doctoral thesis, presents a chronology of text linguistics studies. According to L. Mënik, these studies in the Albanian-speaking sense began in the late 90s. As the first publication in this field, he considers the university text "*Language text*", published in 1999, with two co-authors: Klodeta Dibra and Nonda Varfi. The authors have made a chronological part of the history of the birth of the language; the definition of the concept 'text', the type of text, as well as the study of other linguistic phenomena with in the text, being mentioned in the Albanian language. Then, as a second edition, it presents the text published in 2004, in Pristina by Hasan Mujaj, with the title "*Language of the text*". This text is separated from the German authors and focused on changing the language of the text with extralinguistic disciplines, which are considered before to see the broad function of language.

Another publication, under the influence of German authors of text linguistics, in 2005 is the publication of Arbër Çeliku "*Textual coherence-introduction to the basic concepts of text linguistics through a comparative approach of Albanian and German*". With this text, the author has given a presentation of the main directions and approaches of the linguistics of the text, the basic concepts of coherence and cohesion, as well as made an effort to provide a comparative plan of the means of construction of the text in Albanian and German. Another study is from the year 2011, "*Language text*", by Tefe Topalli, which focuses on the text as a discourse category, the act of communication in language texts and typologies of texts, giving a place to the analysis of narrative and poetic text.

However, in recent years, it should be mentioned that the researcher Bardh Rugova has two publications, within the textual linguistics studies; in 2009 the study "*The language of newspapers*" and the other in 2015, co-authored with Lindítë Sejdiu-Rugova "*Introduction to the grammar of the Albanian language text*". The first study presents the analysis of the language of newspapers, focusing more on the formal and structural side of the text. Also, in this study,

the author has analyzed the journalistic discourse, comparing the language theories of newspapers in developed countries with the results of the Kosovar corpus. While, the other study "*Introduction to text grammar*" presents a descriptive treatment of the grammatical notions of Albanian, but without being limited within the punctuation marks of the sentence. This grammatical study, supported by other preliminary studies, approached with a critical eye and carried out on empirical research data can be taken as a theoretical basis for further studies of the text. A distinguishing feature in this study is the use of the feminine gender in examples and notions, eg, listener, receiver, sender, reader, which we have not encountered in previous studies.

The studies carried out in the field of text linguistics, before and during the 60s, brought new ideas, methods and proposals. Thus, structuralism raised language into a system, while functionalism recognized the functional perspective of the sentence, although without going outside the frame of the phrase. At the beginning of the 60s, the researchers of "Textsyntax" start the analysis from the text, calling it "initial linguistic sign". The originators of "Tagmemika" went beyond the sentence, however the text for them remained the higher unit than the phrase purely from a grammatical point of view.

During the 70s, the linguistics of the text is in a turning point of development; the transphrastic analysis outlined in the 60s had moved on to the design of grammars of textual discourse, grammars that dealt with linguistic phenomena no longer in sentence grammars. While, the textual grammars of Petof and Van Dijk are a typical expression of the efforts of the last years to correct the direction of the transformational grammar from which they took their inspiration. Earlier studies only made room for some modifications, while later studies sought to realize a conception of grammar with independent foundations.

With the beginning of the 80s, the increase of interest in the linguistics of the text lays the demand for a methodological turn of this discipline, because both the structuralist and the generative linguistics could not realize the goals of the linguistics of the text. The latter is not so much interested in describing abstract language systems, as the processes through which language finds concretization. Therefore, the trend of studies in these years is characterized by the 'procedural method', with which attention is paid to the act of communication.

In this way, the opposition oral text/written text has faded since the discovery of the presence of dialogue in the novel and of the narration in the conversation; traces of dialogism in newspaper editorials, interviews written in newspapers and argumentation in everyday conversations.[1]

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[1]Klodeta Dibra, Nonda Varfi. (1999). *Linguistics of the text*. Tirana, p.7-20.

Text grammar

With in the linguistics of the text, as part of its study is the grammar of the text. Traditionally, we have learned grammar by parsing the sentence down to the point. However, grammar goes even further; analysis beyond the sentence, i.e. to the text as a wider linguistic unit.

According to B.Rugova (2015:22), the treatment of the text as a product deals with concepts such as coherence, thematic organization and communication functions. Whereas, the treatment of the text as a process deals with its production, reception and interpretation. So the grammar of the text deals with language as a product; with the possibility and manner of linguistic tools to express broader, interrelated concepts of communication.

According to H.Mujaj (2004:70), the hierarchical constitutive units of the text are: phonemes, morphemes, lexemes, syntagms, sentences, periods. The text is the unity of these units. Therefore, we must follow the construction and decomposition of the text through these sciences: phonology of the text, phonetics of the text, morphology of the text, lexicology of the text, syntax of the text, semantics of the text, stylistics of the text, onomastics and pragmatics of the text.

According to B.Rugova (2015:185), studies of the grammar of the text are studies of grammatical descriptions in general, considering the text as a whole. The classification of adjectives, verb tenses, conjunctions, pronouns and so on is not only determined by their function within the sentence, but in the text as a whole. Likewise, research in text grammar, as well as in the other two fields (text linguistics and text analysis) can be qualitative and quantitative - based on the amount of samples within the corpus. For example, the determination of a text as a text with objective or subjective representation is based on quantitative data, from the total number of pronouns or verbs in the first person, adjectives expressing attitude and so on. This number is usually compared to a control group so that the data can then be interpreted.

It should be noted that the grammar of the text includes five main elements: context (circumstances, speaker's condition, audience, medium), categorization (separation of text types, composition (text design), perspective and varieties (variability).

Grammatical tools in textual linguistics

According to B.Rugova (2015), the tools of Albanian that play a role in text representation are: *deixis*, *persona*, *classification of adjectives and adverbs, tense of verbs*, *mode* (evidentiality) and *modality*, *aspect*, *diathesis* and *focus*.

Deixis is about orientation in space and time during the message-carrying interaction. For example, the adverb *yesterday* can be interpreted in relation to the time of the statement, so it is categorized as a temporal deix; *this* and *here* refer to the location close to the speaker, while there and those far from the speaker. The self is that category of the speaker's point of view that serves to distinguish between the deictic references of the discourse units: *emitter-receiver*-the world being communicated. The category of self is realized through pronouns and verbs.

The traditional grammar of Albanian classifies adjectives in three basic levels: *formal*-conjugated and unconjugated; *semantic*-functional: qualitative-relational and according to semantic taxonomy, in which case the division is in five groups: *color*, *shape*, *size*, *spatial extension*, *spatial taste*, *physical properties* or *state of mind*, *character quality* or *physical quality*. However, the classification of adjectives according to the concepts of the grammar of the text takes into account the notion of the perspective of the text, seeing the representation in objective and subjective texts, division into qualitative and relational adjectives is not enough. So, on this basis, Albanian adjectives can be divided into adjectives that express attitude and those that do not express attitude.

Time, aspect and modality are notions that intertwine with each other and in Albanian it is difficult to make a sharp division between them, even more so when we consider that in Albanian these notions are expressed with endings and other inflectional elements that are similar to them these categories the grammatical attribute. Regarding the issue of the function of verbs within the text, Rexhep Ismajli emphasizes the fact that linguistics has researched, sometimes successfully and sometimes unsuccessfully, paradigmatic reports, leaving aside syntagmatic reports. Analyzing literary texts, he makes a classification of verbs, which emerges from the level beyond the phrase. This classification not only highlights the inconsistency of the philosophical and linguistic concept of time, but especially highlights the multiplicity of morphemes and verbal roots, such as: *time*, *aspect*, *manner* and *diathesis* (Ismajli 1980, cited by L.Tahiri 2006:46).

The issue of dividing the tenses of verbs in textual studies is done according to three criteria: *perspective*, *facilitation* and *speech attitude*. In textual studies, the criterion according to the attitude of the speaker is important, according to which verb tenses are divided into telling and narrative (commentary) tenses. Narrative tenses are: *imperfect*, *simple perfect*, *perfect* and *superlative*, while verb tenses are *perfect* and *more than perfect*.

The category of mode or morphological mode is a verbal category, which in many languages of the world expresses a certain modality, such as: *order*, *desire, (non)factivity* or *(non)reality* and *similar*. In Albanian, *the demonstrative*, *the subjunctive*, *the subjunctive* and *the imperative* are *indisputable*, because they are grammaticalized. Whereas, *the conditional* remains controversial, since as a structure it expresses an action of the relative through the subject, and more than the subject has the modal meaning of the non-relative.

The modality in the Albanian language is expressed with modal verbs, as *should, can* and *will*, with lexical verbs in semi-modal function: *let*, *let*, *know*, *dare*, with the moods of the verb: *desire*, *connection*, with modal adverbs: *maybe*, *definitely*, *for sure*, then with modal adjectives: *sure*, *doubtful*, *forced*, etc.

Aspect as a grammatical category of the text is closely related to the speaker's stance and to the way the speaker sees or presents the communication situation from the time point of view (with time as the flow of action, not as verb time). It can be taken more as a semantic category. Albanian has grammatical markers of this categorization which are the personal endings of the imperfect and the present indicative: *working* (imperfect) and *I worked* (perfect) as opposed to the ending of the simple perfect: *worked* (aorist). So, similar to the Indo-European languages, Albanian has preserved the three-subject system, as a result of the aspectual difference: *perfective/imperfective* and *durative/non-durative*.

Diathesis is a grammatical category, which affects the structure of the verbal phrase, the structure of the sentence and the text in general. Albanian grammar, in addition to the active/inactive diathesis, also presents other diatheses; personal, past and middle.

Focus is an aspect of perspective that indicates the linguistic choices of changing the angle of view (focalizer) from which the phenomena in the spatio-temporal context are treated. We have a widening and narrowing focus. When we start from specific details towards broader units, both in time and space, we have an expanding focus, and the opposite, we have a narrowing focus, from the broad to specific details.

Metholodogy

Some issues that can be raised during this paper are: Are there genuine textual studies in Albanian linguistics? Are the Albanian linguists influenced by those of the world to deal with textual studies. The paper summarizes the studies of this field of linguistics, which pose many controversial issues for the text and linguistics in general. The work for object of study has the studies of the text of the Albanian researchers, published in the Albanian language. The paper is based on some of the studies of the linguistics of the text and is carried out according to the theoretical-comparative approach.

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Conclusions

Text linguistics has been seen on the one hand as a linguistic sub-discipline within linguistics and on the other as a broader approach which has attempted to address and solve textual problems.

The linguistics of the text has been expanded as an interdisciplinary field of study, in which case the results of studies in other fields have been integrated; such as those of action theory or cognitive sciences, to study the text not simply as a product, but also to understand the process of its production and processing. Also, the studies made in the linguistics of the text have been used and continue to be used in other disciplines such as didactics, in the teaching of foreign languages, in the analysis of media texts.

As mentioned above, text linguistics deals with the various aspects of the structural and functional construction of the text and with the classification of texts. However, for these categories of the linguistics of the text, researchers in this field have brought specific definitions, often different from each other.

 In conclusion, we can say that text linguistics investigates the study of language as a product and as a process, going beyond units such as the sentence. Thus, the scope of her research includes the study of language in units larger than the sentence, addressing seven standards of textuality: cohesion, coherence, situationality, intentionality, acceptability, intertextuality and notability, as well as the regulative principles of the text: efficiency, effectiveness and suitability.

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