

# THE ALBANIAN LANGUAGE IN THE FACE OF GLOBALIZATION CHALLENGES: THE ISSUE OF BORROWINGS

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## Abstract

Today, due to the rapid development of globalization almost all languages, perhaps are facing more than ever the powerful phenomenon of borrowings. In this course of changes, it is quite natural that even the Albanian language is part of them. But, if languages such as: English, French, Italian, German are widely spoken and are relatively protected, the Albanian language as a language spoken only by a small population, faces a more delicate situation for the protection of its own linguistic and cultural identity.

But what are the languages which have more supplied the Albanian language with borrowings and what institutional precaution should be taken in order to protect it from an uncontrolled flow of borrowings by preserving its values? By this article, we will try to give a more complete overview of this phenomenon and the efforts needed to preserve it as pure as possible.

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**Keywords:** Mother tongue, foreign language, borrowings, globalization, required measures

## Introduction

Every language has experienced the phenomenon of linguistic borrowings from different languages during certain historical periods. This phenomenon has emerged as a result of various factors such as: the historical, the cultural, the geographical proximity factors etc. The Albanian language has not been an exception of such a phenomenon. The crystallization of the Albanian language as a standard one, took place after the Orthography Congress held in 1972. The periods before and after this year mark different situations in the Albanian language as far as the issue of borrowings is concerned. Before the end of the Second World War most of the borrowings were from languages such as: the Latin, the Greek, the Turkish or the Italian languages. While after the Second World War , the

Albanian State of that time, worked for the creation and the crystallization of the Albanian standard language, culminating with the Congress of the Orthography about the Albanian language undertaking different state initiatives that brought a certain kind of purification of the Albanian language from foreign borrowings, with some exceptions, which lasted until the early 90's. While after the year 1990 with the opening of Albania towards the Western prospective, it has been observed a boom of foreign borrowings from many other languages, especially from the Italian and English ones, a phenomenon that is much present even in today's spoken and written Albanian language, thus facing it with the problems of foreign borrowings whether necessary or not, in the era of globalization, a challenge that it should face in order to protect its special linguistic own identity.

### **Foreign language borrowings in the Present Albanian language**

Today, it seems to have been removed the previous barriers used to stop the adoption of foreign language words, which appear to have flowed into the Albanian lexicon. Nobody seems to make any serious efforts to cope with the problem of the influence of the foreign borrowings, apart from some individual efforts in some rare articles published in the newspapers. During this period, the adoption of the foreign words into the Present Albanian language has been very vigorous and it seems as if the defenders of the Albanian language are not able to handle the large inflow of them. Today's life development has made everything more dynamic while we are used to slowly tackle such problems. In the face of such dynamism, we have been unprepared and confused to deter this phenomenon and to properly resolve problems arising from it. In the past, a foreign word used to be spoken and written for many years in the Albanian language until it eventually could be part of it, going through the processes of adaptation, assimilation and integration. But today, due to the global openness to the world of our country's policy, economy and culture, there is a strong and dynamic penetration of clusters of foreign words into the Albanian language due to the strong influence of the information technology and the technology, in general. Our predisposition to react to any foreign language elements directly and needlessly introduced to our language, has proved to be unsuccessful.

### **The historical borrowings from the Latin and the Greek language in the Albanian lexicon**

According to the scholar Paolo D'Achille: "The lexicon is the most exposed level of language in contact with the extra-linguistic reality and consequently it is "constitutionally open". It is continuously enriched with (new words or neologisms) in order to define newly discovered or innovative

items and new concepts, but at the same time to some extent, it suffers some losses (words that with the passing of time become outdated and archaic)”<sup>19</sup> It is known that the language is a living organism, which lives, develops and it is enriched by the people who uses it. Each language has its own lexion. But is this lexion sufficient enough for a language without the need to borrow new words from other different languages? The rate of word receivings or givings is always disproportionate to the fact that which of the languages has been dominant over the other one, at a certain stage of the social and cultural development. Sometimes urged from the neccessity, some words are borrowed from other languages but often due to the development of the language that borrows foreign words, they risk becoming obsolete and ending up as forgotten ones. It is exactly as it has happened with the Albanian language. Historically our language, in need of words, has borrowed new words from different languages such as the Latin, the Greek, the Turkish langauges, etc. Recently, it has borrowed new words from the Italian, the English and from other languages as well. If we take a look at the history of the Albanian language, we will note that its lexicion incorporates lexical words of the Latin language origin, such as: *monitor-monitor*, *elokuent-eloquent*, *erudit-erudite*, *investigoj-investigate*, *involvej-involve*, *pprononcoj-pronounce*, *okular-witness*, *kamera-camera*, *kancer-cancer* etc. The influence of the Latin language on the Albanian one has occurred because it is known to be the predecessor of the Italian language. In addition, there are word borrowings even of the Greek language origin, which have been used and are used today in the Albanian language such as: *monizem-monism*, *nomade-nomadic*, *ikone- icon*, *nikoqir-thrift*, *takse-tax*, etc, or even other words such as: *Rentai (nga rend)-to rent sth*, *vllamis (Vellam)-to become like brothers*, *zhul/lere-slime*, *kaciqi-kid*, etc.

However, the proffessor Mancaku points out that the different phenomena that appear during the process of word borrowing and that may belong to the sematic-lexical, the fonetic, the syntax, or the word formation aspect, can not be analized and interpreted if it is not known the kind of relations between these two languages, “*because the first task presented to the scholars studying the Albanian-Greek language relationships is to distinguish the similiarity connections in the indo-european level from the*

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<sup>19</sup>D’Achille P., *L’italiano contemporaneo*, Bologna, 2003, Il Mulino: “Il lessico è il livello della lingua più esposto al contatto con la realtà extralinguistica e perciò esso è “costituzionalmente aperto”, si arricchisce continuamente di nuove entrate (le parole nuove o neologismi), per indicare nuovi oggetti scoperti o inventati e nuovi concetti individuati, ma al tempo stesso subisce anche, seppure in misura minore, delle perdite (ci sono parole che dopo un po’ di tempo cadono in disuso e diventano arcaismi)”.

*borrowing relationships.*”<sup>20</sup>. But all the words of the Latin or the Greek language origin, which have been widely used for a long time in the Albanian language, can now be considered as an essential part of the Albanian lexicon.

### **Foreign borrowings from the Turkish language**

The presence of elements of a language into another language implies that, the process of word borrowing from one language to another one has occurred. In principle, the phenomenon of the linguistic borrowings is the result of the contact between the speakers of one language community with the speakers of another language community. Such contacts may be the result of a series of circumstances and factors ranging from the cultural and religious ones to the historical, geographical, political, economic, social factors etc. Based on this perspective, the nature of such a contact, determines the dynamics of the borrowings, while the rate, the extent, the duration and its density, at least in principle determines their typology. The existence or non-existence of such a contact helps in determining not only the nature of the word borrowing and its causes, but also its dynamics. For example, in the English language we encounter a great number of words borrowed from the classical Latin language, though it has not existed a strong and dense language contact between the English speakers and the Latin ones. In this regard, the only "contact" point has been the writings and works written in the Latin language, which helps in determining the dynamics and the classification of these borrowings according to the causes that brought about them and exactly if they are borrowings of a poetic, philosophical, political or religious nature. Moreover, we can bring other examples of the Arabic and the Persian borrowings into the Albanian language; there has been no intensive contacts among Albanians, Arabs and Persians. The claim that such borrowings are made possible by an indirect linguistic contact through the influence of the Turkish language is partly true and insufficient for the simple fact that: the dynamics of the Arabic and Persian borrowings in the Albanian language is richer than their dynamics in the Turkish language. Besides, the lexical borrowings can display some more complex forms, such as the case calques, which is the morpheme transfer of a word, a phrase or sentence from one language to another, keeping intact its structure and semantics, as for example it appears in the case of the words " *mëmëdhe* " - "motherland", " *fiskulturë* " - "physical culture/gym" etc, which are the morpheme to morpheme translation of the Turkish words "*anevatan*"

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<sup>20</sup> Mansaku S., *Probleme te historise se gjuhes shqipe ne driten e marredhenieve te saj me greqishten, Seminari nderkombetar per gjuhen, letersine dhe kulturen shqiptare*, Prishtine, 2004, 22/2, fq.109

and "*bedenegitim*". In addition, borrowings may be of other language nature, such as the phonological ones, which happen when a language adopts from another language new sounds that it lacks.

In this paper, we have started with the Turkish language of the period of the Ottoman Empire, which in its core is one of the Turkish versions of the Western Oguz developed between XI-XIII centuries in Anatolia after the invasion of this area by the Oğuz Turks. The analysis of the Turkish language of this period is based on the fact that this Turkish language version coincides with the period of the direct linguistic contact between the two communities of speakers which ends up as it is known in 1912, the year in which the Albania was definitely separated from the Ottoman Empire and declared its independence. The Declaration of the National Independence, which expressed the administrative separation and the political and economic autonomy from the Ottoman Empire, which had entered the inevitable disintegration, marks itself the termination of the direct language contact between the two communities of speakers and more specifically, in 1928 due to the reforms in the field graphology, it took place the replacement of the Arabic alphabet with the Latin one, which was later followed by the linguistic reforms of the year 1932, which radically affected the morpho-phonological, the morpho-syntax as well as the grammatical aspects of the Albanian language. Taking into consideration the large number of Turkish language borrowings into the Albanian language, it is worth shedding some light into the issue of the Turkish borrowings chronology in the Albanian language, which has always been an issue of particular interest for many scholars. Many foreign scholars of the Albanian language and Albanian scholars as well have expressed their own views on this issue, which can be summarized as follows: The eminent Austrian scholar of the Albanian language, Norbert Jokl (1877-1942) was one of the guests invited by the Albanian government to the celebrations organized on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, in November 1937. The well-known Albanian translator and publicist Tajar Zavalani, took the opportunity to discuss about the issue of the use of the Turkish borrowings in the written Albanian language. Norbert Jokli explained that during the Albanian Renaissance, the fight against the Turkish borrowings was part of the struggle for the Albanian Independence. But, 25 years after the independence, when the Albanian Government had established friendly relations with the Republic of Turkey, N. Jokli expressed a more objective approach to the Turkish borrowings into the Albanian language. According to him, it is neither right nor necessary to take out of use the Turkish borrowings rooted in time in the Albanian language, which are understood by everyone and by replacing them with new words or borrowings from the Western languages, which people do

not understand.<sup>21</sup> Furthermore, Zavalani highlights that: „ *Proffessor Jokli argues that the Purity noted in some Albanian language publications does not seem to be reasonable. Particularly, reaction against the Turkish word is widespred among you. It is true that in the past, you had many reasons to hate everything related to the old Turkey. It is quite natural that fighting for your Independence, it can be considered a sign of patriotism to fight against any remains of the foreign rule. But now after twenty five years of independence, now that with the revived Turkey you live in a friendly relatinship, it is high time to become a bit more objective. It does not seem to me either right or necessary, that you leave out of use those Turkish words, which have been deeply rooted in the language of your country; especially when the Turkish word understood by all people, is replaced with another foreign word, which is hardly undersood by anyone or by a small minority. Then remember that the dissemination of the Turkish words has not only happened in Albania. This is a phenomenon that is encountered in the Balkans as well. In today’s Serbian and Greek language there are used many Turkish words, too. It can be explained because the Turks have brought Urbanismin in the Balkans and they consequently brought new words related to the city life. So be at least merciful to the Turkish words. Do not castigate the Turkish language thinking that you are cleansing it*”<sup>22</sup>. As it can be seen, it is clearly implied that Jokli himself was in favour of word borrowings from another foreign language after a long use of them. But, of course, the borrowed words have undergone changes due to the phonetic and grammatical system of the Albanian language.

The Turkish words encountered in our everyday speech or in writing have been directly or indirectly adopted in the Albanian language. The direct Turkish borrowings were adopted in the Albanian language during the five centuries of the Ottoman rule in Albania and some of them to be mentioned are: *themel- foundation, tepsi- pan, oxhak-chimney, hajat-porch, çardak-lobby, tullë, konak-house, bahçe-orchard, hambar-barn, kurban-sacrifice, xhambaz-rogue, qoshk-carrel, hesap-give account*. While the indirect borrowings have been introduced into the Abanian language through the Turkish language from the Arabic or the Persian language, eg from the Arabic language: *kalem-pencil, nur-grace, hallall-halal, haram-curse, alem-booze, ahiret-eternity, hatib-hatib, kafe-coffee, mashalla- a type of complement*. Given their large presence in the Albanian language, the lexical borrowings from the Turkish language have some features:

<sup>21</sup> Lafe E., *Një gjykim i Norbert Joklit lidhur me qëndrimin ndaj turqizimave*, Tirane 2005, Perla, X3, fq.202

<sup>22</sup> Zavalani T., *Interviste e publicistit Tajar Zavalani me albanologun Norbert Jokl*, Tirane, 1938, Perpjekja Shqiptare, Nr. 13, fq. 45-46

a) Most of them belong to the fields of mobility such as the field of the social, the economic, the administration, the war, the urban planning, the clothing, the religion, the cuisine, the customs relations etc.<sup>23</sup>

b) Many words borrowed from the Turkish language have carried thrilling stylistic colour (mainly with a negative connotation) and some of them are stored in our lexicon exactly for such a connotation eg: (p.sh. *dembel-lazy, surrat –muzzle, matrapaz-rogue, topçi-cannoneer, pazarllëk-chaffering, mejhanepothouse, dyfek-riffle, dynja –the world* etc).<sup>24</sup>

c) Many words borrowed from the Turkish language into the Albanian language do not serve as stems to form other new words.<sup>25</sup>

d) Some Turkish borrowings are used in our lexicon only as idioms; they can not be used out of such context.

e) There are also some Turkish-based words, which have remained only in our spoken language and have not become of part of the lexicon of the Albanian standard language.<sup>26</sup>

To sum it up, the lexical borrowings from the Turkish language should be stratified according to their value in the Present Albanian language. This means that the value of lexical borrowings in the modern Albanian language is revealed through the confrontation with Albanian words and between the historical observations of these borrowings. The linguists have shown two different attitudes regarding the presence of the foreign words in a language. The first group of the linguists thinks that borrowings enrich a language, while the other group is of the opinion that the foreign words damage a language and therefore they should be taken out of use. Some of the borrowed foreign words in the Albanian language have already taken their place. They have become part of the Albanian lexicon and their replacement with other words is impossible as eg: *shëndet-health, qytet-town, faqe-face, xhep-pocket, fis-the relatives, vaj-oil, pemë-tree, mjeshër-master, kusi-pot, etc.* The truth is that word borrowings damage the language when they are accepted and are needlessly used. There is no doubt that the language purification process from the word borrowings in general, and from the Turkish borrowings in particular has been a long and a complicated process. Observing such a problem, it is required that continuous efforts should be made in order that part of the standard language can become only those language borrowings which give to the language expressive opportunities being associated with the current thematic moments of various literary genres.

### **Foreign borrowings during the years 1944-1990**

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<sup>23</sup> Thomai J., *Leksikologjia e gjuhës shqipe*, Tiranë, 2002, fq. 219.

<sup>24</sup> ibidem

<sup>25</sup> ibidem

<sup>26</sup> ibidem

The termination of the Albania's relations with the Western Europe after the World War II led to its complete isolation, but that did not prevent the pressure of borrowings from the European languages. The Albanian language had an increasing demand for new words in order to keep up with the latest developments in various fields of industry and cinematography.

It is true that the established ideological, the state and the economic system followed the model of the Soviet Union, but the Russian borrowings into the Albanian language were limited. However, it is an indisputable fact the influence of the Russian language and culture on the Albanian language and culture for many years. Most of the concepts of the centralized economy of that time were formed and came into being precisely due to the exchanges in human resources and ideas. Hence, such words: *hozrashot*, *kolkhoz*, *rabat*, were borrowed fairly quickly in the Albanian language of that time. The influence of the Russian language has been evident mainly through the calque composites and it has left significant traces in this field. The reason is that the same policy of the calque composites was followed by the Russians purists as well as by the Albanian linguistics, which used to follow the traces of the Russian linguists despite the fact that the relations between the countries had broken up since the 1960s. Remaining faithful to its own definition, the Albanian totalitarianism was capillary permeated through every aspect of the social life by affecting all the administrative and state activity and the everyday life. Linguistically, such an involvement was reflected not only in the homogenization of the language of the country, or of the so-called standardization of the language, but also in the massive adoption of a variety of new terms and phrases to the public discourse vocabulary, which made reference to the practices, the institutions and the new social categories that were brought into being by the regime of that time.

It is a specialized and a specific lexicon or a technical and hardened jargon, partly influenced by the bureaucratic discourse. The existence of a specialized lexicon and the adoption of the technical jargon in the public discourse, gave to the Albanian language of the time a nature of a "langue de bois" (a hardened language). The terms used to refer to the institutions, the structures and the practices of the time helped the further politicization of the everyday life. These trends were reflected in the language which considered it as "reasonable" the replacement of the term **bashki-municipality** with the term **komitet ekzekutiv-executive committee**, the replacement of the word **parlament- parliament** with the term **kuvend-popular assembly**, the replacement of the word **pune botore- public works** with the term **pune komunale-municipal works** or the replacement of the word **xhandar-gendarme** with the term **policeman**. However, the totalitarian state institutions, in many aspects, were substantially different from those of the democratic states, whose experience Albania and the Albanian language had



followed until 1939. Therefore, the terminological revolution was not simply imposed by the desire to introduce new terms, but also from the need to name the forms and methods borrowed from the Soviet Union like: **plenium-plenium**, **aktiv- active**, **byro (politike)- (political) bureaus**, **presidium-presidium**, **degë (e brendshme)- (internal) branch**, **organizatë (bazë)-grass roots**, **kontrolli punëtor- worker control**, **kooperativat e konsumit-the cooperatives of consume**.

### **The official purist policy (1981-1991)**

However, the Albanian state of that time paid particular attention not only to the phenomenon of borrowings, but also to the clearance of the Albanian unified language from the unnecessary foreign words and phrases. This work was conducted based on a rich tradition originating from the Renaissance, subsequently strengthened after the liberation of the country in 1944. The Albanian press of the time, not only the periodical and linguistic bodies, but also the daily press, dedicated various articles and publications on these issues. For this purpose, the Permanent Commission for the further clearance and enrichment of the literary language decided to establish a special working group, consisting of the following researchers: Androkli Kostallari (chairman), Mahir Domi (Vice/president), Engjell Angoni (secretary), Shaban Demiraj, Anastas Dodi, Emil Lafa, Jani Thomaj, Ali Dhrimo, Xhevat Lloshi, Ferdinand Leka, Reshat Konçi, Stefan Bulo, Kole Ashta (members). After a meticulous work, the group approved a series of proposals to replace the foreign words with the Albanian ones. The work of this group has been regularly reflected in the pages of the magazine "Our Language", which has continuously published reviews on the foreign borrowings, which could and should be replaced with the Albanian words. The work was focused on the words of the general vocabulary as well as on the words used as terms in different fields of the science, technique etc. The work for the further clearance and enrichment of the literary language was based on the scientific criteria defined by the specific platform, which was approved by the Permanent Commission for this purpose. Taking into consideration this platform, the working group based its activity, especially on the "The Dictionary of the Present Albanian language" (1980), in the Filing Section of the Albanian lexicon as well as on studies on various fields of linguistics and in the special Filing Section at the Institute of Linguistics and Literature of that time. However, the efforts to replace the foreign words with the Albanian ones tended to be based as much as possible on the scientific criteria of the time. The emergence of the functional linguistics in the "20's of the last century and the development of the language sociology or of the sociolinguistics in years" 60 -70s" created a stable ground which gave rise to the first steps of that linguistic discipline,

which is now generally being called as " the language planning". Today, the linguistic planning represents not only a practice, a wide complex activity, but also a theory, which is gaining independence and it is being consolidated more and more in terms of the teleological (principles), the methodological (methods) and the tactical (tactics of implementation). The core of the linguistic planning consists of the problems of the language standardization. This standardization is a creative process, which is subsequently followed with the perfection of the standard language. According to Einar Haugen<sup>27</sup>, the linguistic planning activity varies according to the specific stages of the standardization of languages, which he names as follows:

1. The linguistic policy formulation and the selection of a standard norm
2. The codification of this norm
3. The processing of the different functions of the language
4. The acceptance and implementation of the standard variant from the relevant linguistic community

While Charles A. Ferguson suggests that the concept of the language development is reached through three stages:

1. The writing of a language
2. The standardization (the selection of the standard variant)
3. The modernization (the structural and functional perfection of the language to better responds to the new communication functions)

In the process of work for the replacement of foreign borrowings, an article published in the journal "Philosophical Studies" has treated the problem rising from the planning of the replacement of the foreign borrowings with the Albanian words and professor Xh.Lloshi regarding the issue points out that:"It is already known that the Albanian literary (standard) language managed to significantly crystallize a single superdialectal and national norm, ie a " standard norm ", in the mid '60s. This happened through a long and natural process, which was mainly influenced by extralinguistic factors of a political, social and cultural nature. There have been two types of planned linguistic interventions to avoid the use of a number of foreign borrowings in the Albanian language: the first one was the identification and the reactivation of the system of words of the Albanian standard language; the second one was focused on the new words building based on the domestic or the foreign structural models"<sup>28</sup>.

The lexical meanings of these units had taken into account three key elements the denotation, connotation and distribution - which fully match among them. As it will be analyzed below, generally such substitutions have

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<sup>27</sup> Haugen E., *Dialect, Language, Nation në "American Anthropologist"*, Cambridge, 1966, Harward University Press, Cambridge, Mass., nr. 68

<sup>28</sup> Lloshi Xh., *Njohuri për stilistikën e gjuhës shqipe*, Tirane, 1987.

taken place in the text language as well as and in the terms of different fields, which are distinguished for their monosemic character and the lack of connotation, for example: **cilësi/quality–kualitet/quality; cilësor/qualitative – kualitativ/qualitative; kusht/condition – konditë/condition; mbizotëroj/prevail-predominoj/predominate ndërhyrje/intervention–intervencion/intervention;shpërpjesëtim/disproportion–disproporcion/disproportion, etj.**

About 1/3 of the other Albanian existing words, which are proposed to replace the respective borrowed lexemes stay with the latest ones in partial synonymy reports, because the Albanian word replaces the borrowed one only in a part of its semantic structure, as eg: **shëtites/seller - ambulant (tregtar shëtites)/strolling merchant; grumbulloj/collect - akumuloj (grumbulloj pasuri)/ accumulate (wealth); shtyj/postpone – azhurnoj/ (shtyj mbledhjen)/adjourn (a meeting); shoqëri/association - kompani (shoqëri teatrale)/company (theatre company).** In addition, 1/3 of the Albania lexemes proposed to replace the borrowed ones, stay in close synonym reports with their respective borrowings. In more than half of the cases, the Albanian word and the borrowed one are clearly distinguished for their connotation. Generally, these differences are of a stylistic and discursive nature. In many cases, the reports between the Albanian words and borrowed ones represent differences in the discursive aspect. Quite often, the borrowing that belongs to the conversational discourse corresponds to an Albanian alternative choice of a neutral registry. In other cases, the borrowing belongs to the conversational discourse or it is part of a neutral registry, while the Albanian proposed lexeme to be used for the replacement belongs to the text discourse, eg **listë pagash/payroll – border/paylist; nëpunës shërbimi/shërbim ditor/daily service employee – dezurn/day shift.** In many cases, the proposed Albanian alternative choices are not the exact semantic equivalents of the borrowings. The Albanian equivalents are either generic words or very ambiguous lexemes because of the traditional semantic meaning that they carry. Such examples have been frequently encountered and in order to correctly identify their meanings, it has often been needed to use the method of the analysis of the semantic components.

The calques constitute over half of the neologisms created to replace the respective borrowed equivalents. Less than half of the word-forming neologisms proposed to replace the correspondig borrowed lexemes are built on the basis of the Albanian model.

### **The Albanian language in the face of the globalizatin after the 90s**

The Present Albanian Language has reached such a state that it needs a deep intervention. It has already deviated from the standard norms established by the Orthography Congress held in 1972, which are

unacceptable for the standard norms. Today, there are two kinds of the violations of the Albanian standard language:

a) The violation of the linguistic norms not only on the grammatical, the morphological and the syntactic sphere but also on the lexical one, particularly evident in the spoken language.

b) The usage of words borrowed from the foreign languages, particularly from the English language.

Naturally, the subject of most deviations from the language norms is in the spoken language used in the forums and the official institutions, in the electronic media, but they are also noticed in the written language, in the mass media and in the discourses of public figures, in general. It is said that borrowings have accompanied the language since its emergence. So the process of borrowings is a long experience for all languages. The Albanian language has continuously experienced the phenomenon of borrowings with different intensity in different periods of time. This is a very normal phenomenon. However, there are some established standards regarding the linguistic borrowing. Until recently, the process of borrowing was made according to the established rules set by the linguists of the field<sup>29</sup>. The foreign language element is borrowed if a new notion is introduced and it does not exist in the receiving language and for this reason it is not easy or possible to find any relevant term or phrase to replace it<sup>30</sup>. All the linguists interested in the issue of borrowings are aware that all the word and phrase borrowings need to be analyzed in detail for their phonetic and phoneme composition, for their grammatical structure and particularly for their semantic aspect. After a detailed analysis of the linguistic elements, the linguistic experts usually should come up with proposals that with such linguistic elements be acted in one of the following ways:

- a) The borrowed word or phrase be assimilated;
- b) the borrowed word or phrase be replaced with any word or phrase of the receiving language;
- c) The borrowed word or phrase be translated into the receiving language;
- d) The receiving language be rejected.

The linguists are of the opinion that it is easier to borrow foreign words than to replace any element of the foreign language with any other language element of the receiving language (Wenreich 1953). But, on the other hand, it seems that it is far better for the receiving language to replace the foreign word or expression with a word or phrase of it, or even far better to have it translated into the receiving language rather than to borrow it. The

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<sup>29</sup> Weinreich U., *Language in Contact: Findings and Problems*, New York, Linguistic Circle of New York, No. 1, Mouton, The Hague, 1953 (rishtypur në vitin 1963);

<sup>30</sup> idem

lexical borrowings in the Albanian language are classified according to the following criteria:

a) **According to the way the borrowing has been assimilated into the Albanian language.** The lexical borrowings can be either direct or indirect<sup>31</sup>, i.e the direct ones are those which have been directly borrowed from another language, e.g the Slavonic borrowings are direct ones, while indirect borrowings are those received from another language to the relevant language, e.g, the Turkish word borrowings have assimilated the Arabic language words themselves, which on the other hand have been imposed on the Albanian language. These are known as indirect borrowings.

b) **According to the content of the borrowings.** The Albanian lexical borrowings may **be complete**, and this is the case when they are kept intact in the receiving language from the source language of the borrowing, or **structural**.

c) **According to the extent of the embeddedness in the language system.** The lexical borrowings can be embedded or non- embedded (barbarism).

d) **According to the general value.** The lexical borrowings can be divided into foreign words and international ones. The international words have been easily adopted and have been quickly assimilated by the language and therefore they have become more firm.

It is for such reasons, that different academic discussions should take into consideration these criteria in order to understand, to explain and to find the best ways for the replacements or the classifications of various borrowings that are present in today's Albanian language.

### **Borrowings from the Italian language**

It is already known that languages serve as means of communication among people. D'Achille points out that: *“After all, languages resemble to the people, they build relations, they create friendships, they give and take from one another by thus being mutually enriched; and they make compromises in the sense that after assimilating borrowings, “The language which serves as the source of borrowings“ is so generous as not to have them back again. Moreover, it is pleased if the language which has borrowed such words uses them by proving that at least they replace these words with other ones, that embody an authentic national value and when it fails to succeed, it attempts to model them according to its phonetics and morphology to better serve its users in order to get familiar with them*

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<sup>31</sup> Prof. Dr. Jani Thomai, *Leksikologjia e gjuhës shqipe*, Tiranë, 2002, fq. 216.

*after lots of difficulties*".<sup>32</sup> Surely, the Italian language must be considered as one of the greatest languages of the world cultures. In fact, its civilization has given an invaluable contribution to the cultivation of the Western cultures: it is just enough to mention some of the fields, in which Italy has been an important point of reference for other European countries in different historic moments such as: literature, music, visual arts etc. Because of the Italian prestige in these areas, many Italian words have been adopted from other languages, which now belong to the international lexicon. We can bring many examples, such as the words: *sonetto, allegro, pianoforte, affresco, maccheroni, dolce vita, ciao, etc.* Interesting enough is the list of the Italian borrowings in the Albanian language included in the dictionary entitled "*Dizionario di Italianismi in francese, inglese, tedesco*" of Treccani, under the supervision of Stammerjohann Harro<sup>33</sup> as well as the study carried out by Paolo di Giovine-s<sup>34</sup>. Let's present a list of them which shows the Italian omonimic borrowings in the Albanian language like:

**A** - *abbandonare* – *abandon(oj,-) (abandon), acido* – *acid-(acid), agenzia* – *agjensi-agency, agriturismo* – *agriturizëm-agrotourism - agrumi* – *agrume-citrus*; **B** - *bagno* – *banje-bathroom, -balsamo* – *balsam -balsam, banca* – *bankë-bank, banchetto* – *banket -banquet, banchiere* – *bankier-bank official, banda (di musica)* – *banda (muzikore) –music band*; **C** - *balestra* – *balestër-suspension, ballerino* – *balerin, ballerina* – *balerinë-ballet dancer, ballata* – *baladë-ballad, caffè macchiato* – *makjato-, caffè macchiato, calpetto* – *kalçet-football, cambiale* – *kambial-bill of exchange, cameriere* – *kamarie-waiter, camicia* – *këmishë-shirt*; **D**- *deduzione* – *deduksion-deduction-, delicatezza* – *delikatesë-delicacy, devoto* – *i devotshëm-devoted, dialogo* – *dialog- dialogue, dieta* – *dietë-diet, disciplina* – *disiplinë-discipline, disegno* – *dizenjo-design*; **F** - *fallimento* – *falimentim- bankruptcy, fantasia* – *fantazi-fantasy, fantasma* – *fantazëm-ghost, fantastico* – *fantastik-fantastic, faraone* – *faraon- pharaoh -, etc.*

<sup>32</sup> D'Achille P., *L'italiano contemporaneo*, Bologna, 2003, Il Mulino: "In fin dei conti le lingue assomigliano alle persone, instaurano rapporti, fanno amicizie, danno e prendono l'una dall'altra, insomma si arricchiscono a vicenda e scendono a compromessi nel senso che una volta prestato un termine o una parola la "lingua donatrice" e così generosa da non volerlo più indietro anzi è proprio contenda che tu ne usufruisce invece la lingua che prende in prestito se non deve restituire prova almeno a sostituire le suddette parole con delle altre di matrice nazionale e ogniqualevolta non ci riesce, si assicura di modellarle secondo la propria fonetica e morfologia dandole quel pizzico che sa di proprio, per servirla meglio ai propri utenti in modo che lo mastichino senza troppe difficoltà".

<sup>33</sup> Stammerjohann H., *Dizionario di Italianismi in francese, inglese, tedesco*, Firenze, 2009.

<sup>34</sup> sito internet [www.treccani.it/magazine/lingua\\_italiana/speciali/nazioni/digiovine.html](http://www.treccani.it/magazine/lingua_italiana/speciali/nazioni/digiovine.html).

In general, the Italian press, culture, politics and values serve as the main source of the borrowings in the Albanian language, because the Italian language and culture is closer and easier to be referred to. It is more accessible to the Albanians because it is one of the most richest languages in the world from the lexical and numerical point of view.

This new lexicon that tends to be absorbed from the Albanian language has its reasons and its channels that create it. It is understandable that one of the suppliers, the main promoters of this spirit are the journalists, the politicians, who tend to be much closer to a standard or to the model of the language norms of media and information. When one hears the use of such terms as e.g. *inicioj-initiate*, instead of the Albanian word *filloj, ze-start* or the use of other words such as: **emergjencë** (ital. Emergenza)-*emergency*, **klandestin** (ital.clandestino)-*smuggled person*, **trafik** (ital. traffico)-*traffic*, **fluks** (ital.flusso)-*flow*, **asocim** (ital.associazione)-*association*, **monitoroj** (ital.monitorare)- *monitor*, **konsensus** (ital. consenso)- *consensus*, **ekstradim** (ital.estradiione) -*extradition*, **kontraktues** (ital. contrattuale) -*contrator*, it seems to be quite exaggerated. These foreign lexical items attempt to gain ground in the usage, but it is not very easy. The reasons are different. The people working in the media try to make use of the foreign words. However, quite often that is conducted inappropriately and inadequately. Apparently, a large part of them appear to be redundant and unnecessary since they have their equivalents in the Albanian language. Another category of foreign borrowings could be the words that identify the concepts that really lack in the Albanian lexicon and which is obliged to accept; these words gain their definite lexical "status" and start to be used independently by fully deserving their own place in the Albanian language. An interesting fact to be considered is the semantic weight that the foreign word bears from its language into the Albanian one, because it comes and lives in the Albanian linguistic "reality". It is understandable that the borrowing can have other semantic nuances once exposed to the Albanian reality but it always preserves its basic meaning.

It can theoretically happen and perhaps practically too, that a foreign word can enter the Albanian language without any sort of competence and semantic reference from its own language. It enters the Albanian language simply because it seems necessary and moreover it appears only as a phonetic combination, whose semantic meaning has no importance. It is used in a "speculative" meaning in the Albanian language because we have to enrich it for the sake of enrichment, but not being too much interested in its semantic meaning. To sum it up, it is not simple to discuss about the phenomenon of the borrowings and moreover to give a rapid and acceptable solution not only to all the speakers but also to the required Albanian standard language.

However, there will always be argument debates and assumptions about the issue of borrowings until their position will take a definitive form in the Albanian language and only time will tell.

### **Borrowings from the English language**

Today, the English language is also a source of borrowings for the Albanian language. The question is whether they are really necessary or simply redundant in the Albanian lexicon. Is it likely to be expressed the meaning of the word “internet” in the Albanian language (which literally translated, it means ‘nderrjet’- inter-net’)? Of course, taking into account all the linguistic and the sociological circumstances, the outcome would be that such a calque composite would have difficulty in functioning. The word “Internet” is widely used and it already belongs to the group of the international borrowings. The term used for the apparatus **of printer**, which prints materials produced by the computer, marks a particular notion in the context of the work involving the use of the computer. The word **shtypespress**, which some believe to be used as its replacement, has a very generic meaning, with a wide polysemical usage such as in the words: to typewrite, to crush/to quell a revolution or uprising, to suppress the people. Therefore, the term “printer” should be adopted in the Albanian language. May be the verb “**print**” should be adopted as well, because it is a totally different process from the ordinary press one. This term has now become very common and apparently the language lacks the lexical capacity to replace it with another term. Likewise, there have been attempts to replace the term **bord-board** with the term **keshill- council**. This can happen. However, it continues to be used as a borrowing. The term **bordi- the board** could also be replaced with the term **kolegjium-college**, which has existed earlier or with the term **këshillin drejtues-the steering council**, but however there have been nuances in their semantic use. Of course this borrowing could stand to compete with the term **këshillin drejtues-the steering council**, but only for the economic organizations (including those of the education, the health, the cultural etc.), but not for the political or party organizations. Instead, the term **këshillin drejtues-the steering council** could better suit to the political organization. Recently, the word **staf-staff** has been used to name the people who are employed in an organization or an enterprise. But it often brings semantic derivatives as well. Those to whom once we referred to as “**kuadro- the high educated peopleworking in an state insitution**”, now we can refer to as “**staf-staff**”, while to those who are employed **in techical duties** (eg the cleaning people, the drivers, the forest guards, maintenance workers) we can refer to as “**personel-the personnel**”. The word **prokurim-the procurement** has also been adopted in the field of the finance. The experts argue that this term has a wider semantic field than the term



**furnizim-the provison.** Therefore, it can be accepted in the Albanian language. However, *the performer or the person who executes the process of the procurement* should not be called **prokuror- a prosecutor**, as it sometimes happens, because it would express another notion which belongs to the judiciary field. Actually, the right term to refer to that person would be **prokurues-the procurement agent**. Likewise, the words **menaxhment- the management, menaxher-the manager and menaxhim- the management** corresponding to the Albanian language terms like: **udhëheqje-the lidership, udhëheqës-the lider, të udhëhequrit/udhëheqje-the leading** are frequently used in everyday life. But given the fact that they can be used in the fields of economy and politics, they take different semantic nuances. Consequently, it can be said that the English terms would be better used in the terminology of the economic field, while the Albanian equivalent terms would better suit to the field of politics. Besides, quite often certain English borrowings appear to be unnecessary or redundant. For example, it is unnecessary the use of the word **adresoj (një çështje, problem )-to address ( a problem)** in the Albanian language, as it has its own verb equivalents such as: **shqyrtoj një çështje a problem- examine** an issue or problem, **merrem me një çështje a problem- deal with** an issue or problem, **përpiqem të zgjidh një çështje a problem-try** to solve an issue or problem etc. The basic meaning of the word **address** in the English language is: **adresoj- to address, drejtoj-to manage, dërgoj-to send, paraqes-to submit** (a letter, document, application, commodity etc.) to someone or somewhere. This foreign word, ‘to **address / addressed** ‘used in the above mentioned context is unnecessary in the Albanian language. It sounds very artificial and inappropriate in the Albanian speech. One of the Albanian synonymous words should be used instead of it. Some unnecessary long English borrowings are the words **Implementim/ implementoj/ implementues (implementation-implement-the person who implements sth**, because the Albanian language has its own terms for them: **zbatim/ zbatoj/ zbatues**. The semantic meaning of these borrowings does not contain or express nothing more than the respective Albanian words. The English borrowing **involvoj/ involvim-to involve/involvement** is not needed in the Albanian language because it has its own words that express the meaning of it and which can be used in different meanings and contexts, such as: **përfshij/ përfshirje -include / inclusion** and **përzihem/ përzierje-to get involve/ involvement**. Even the words **suport-support** (as a noun) or **suportoj-to support** (as a verb), which are mainly used in the Albanian spoken language are unnecessary in the Albanian language since there are two basic words of the Albanian language that express very well the semantic meaning of this English lexeme. Instead, the Albanian language has two words namely **përkrrah/ përkrrahje**, or

**mbështes/ mbështetje**, for expressing the semantic meaning of the English word **support/to support**.

As it is clearly stressed above, the international borrowings from the English language, which have started to become common in the Albanian spoken and written language must be carefully examined, particularly when their usage is unnecessary and useless. Their adoption in the Albanian official lexicon must be done only on the basis of the well-known scientific criteria. Moreover, it requires special care, attention and academic-scientific commitment in order to give the right responses to one of the most delicate problems, which the Albanian standard language is facing today.

### **Conclusion**

Since a long time, the Albanian language has experienced the linguistic phenomenon of borrowings, just like every other language. Actually, it can be talked about historical borrowings. They have been adopted in the Albanian language from the Turkish one for a period of nearly 500 years; from the Italian and Greek languages due to the geographic proximity with them and from the Present English language in the form of cultural-international borrowings. On the one hand, the phenomenon of the borrowings has brought the growth of the Albanian lexicon and their adaptation according to the Albanian –phonetic and grammatical rules, but on the other hand there has been an institutional uncontrolled use of them, especially after 90s, with the openness of Albania to other foreign countries, other cultures and languages. Apparently, the onflow of borrowings has triggered problems, which the Albanian language is encountering today in the face of such a rushing globalization. It is obvious that languages give and take among them for their needs of communication, however every language is a special treasure of the human culture and each of them needs to preserve as much as possible its own identity and authenticity. Therefore, besides being open to the necessary international borrowings, the Albanian language must safeguard itself from any unnecessary and redundant foreign words, that attempts to become part of the Albanian lexicon, by trying to preserve its beauty and its special linguistic originality.

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