

The Albanian Lexicographic Developments in the Second Period

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Abstract

Albanian lexicography is the oldest and the richest field of our linguistic. Its division into two periods, based on temporal criteria (the first period: from the beginning until the second half of the XX century; the second period: from the second half of the XX century until nowadays) fits with the features, characteristics and especially with different levels of development of our lexicography in corresponding periods. They depend to a great extent on the level of social development and the language as well. During the second period, Albanian lexicography was developed side by side with the social and cultural development, like all Albanian linguistics. Albania was already the main centre of lexicographic studies and dictionary compiling. Albanian lexicography developed as a science with a proper aim and study methods. Albanian lexicographic thought was processed and developed, having as a main reference Albanian language lexicon, phraseology and Albanian lexical semantics, being the most important elements of explanatory dictionaries. During this period, previous achievements were evaluated, there was a critical examination of inheritance, to separate the valuable from the invaluable so as to continue work in an organised way in search of words, phrases coming from the folk source.

Keywords: Albanian Lexicography, The Second Period, Word, Periods, Albanian Language

1. Introduction

The period after the publication of "The Albanian language dictionary" (1954) is the most dynamic one in the history of lexical development and crystallising the lexical normative. New meanings were added to previous words, there we changes in lexical strata and the stylistic value of lexical phraseological means increased. This period was dynamic even in the Albanian lexicographic field. Theoretical studies were applied in this period and lexicography crystallised as a science. Theory began to proceed practice. Even previous lexicographic achievements were better elaborated, which led to elaboration of Albanian lexicographic thought. This achieved through studies about "The Albanian language dictionary" (1954) as well as following studies about the lexicon, phraseology, lexical semantics, polysemy, antonymy, homonymy and stylistics. These studies gave solutions to lexicography. Now there was the need to compile a large dictionary having many volumes, but it was interrupted by the urgent need of a typical medium sized dictionary which was published in 1980, "The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary". It was a medium sized dictionary containing 41.000 words, 7.000 phraseological units, and over 18.000 meanings compiled by a group of

lexicographers of the Linguistic and Literal Institute: Androkli Kostallari, Jani Thomai, Xhevat Lloshi, Miço Samara, Josif Kole, Palok Daka, Pavli Haxhillazi, Hajri Shehu, Ferdinand Leka, Emil Lafa, Kornelia Sima, Thanas Feka, Beatrice Keta and Agim Hidi. It was a great achievement of Albanian linguistic in general and Albanian lexicography in particular. It presents the main treasure of the lexical phraseological and semantic fund of the Albanian language. It also presents the linguistic national normative and helps further imprinting of the lexical-semantic normative.

Three main requests have been taken into consideration and realized to compile this dictionary: applying a scientific contemporary methodology which focuses on the word as a lexical unit and closely connected with the real notion it shows, crystallising the linguistic normative including folk creation in national culture; making correct use of the lexical phraseological and semantic fund in accordance with the volume of the dictionary and evaluation of this fund as a common national, cultural proof despite the speech and the creator; presenting everything good that our lexicography had gained from the experience of the world lexicography, especially in concrete methods of work to compile national explanatory dictionaries.

Concerning the lexical, phraseological and semantic fund it contains, wider than in all previous dictionaries,

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the systematic and normative character as well as the scientific quality of treating the fund and lexicographic solutions in contemporary linguistics, this dictionary marks a great step forward in the development of our new lexicography.

Based on a rich card-index of the Albanian lexicon, it had the possibility to: choose the best part of the lexicon, give the deserved place to the beautiful folk words or phrases, put into practice many known and unknown phrases, present the semantic structures of words in a wide range, opening the way to the native Albanian lexicon and phraseology.

This dictionary responded to the features of further crystallisation and development of our standard language during that period. It also made the stratification of the lexicon and phraseology according to the needs of linguistic and stylistic normative. Normative, lexicographic codification is done in all directions.

This dictionary has a special value in the semantic analyses of the word, building semantic structures, poly-semantic words and explaining meanings. It is distinguished for a detailed semantic analysis of every word, defining meanings and notions scientifically, and following their order in the dictionary according to derivation and frequency of usage in accordance with all lexicographic needs of an explanatory dictionary. These meanings and notions are accompanied with numerous sayings, which are realised and become concrete in them. Mostly the treasure of a dictionary is seen in the number of words it includes, forgetting the most important issue, that of semantic and connotation analyses of a word.

It should be emphasised that from the informing point of view every meaning and notion in the dictionary has somewhat the value of a whole word. It should be said that the semantic analyses in this dictionary, goes over the limits of a typical medium sized dictionary. The need for a more practical, smaller dictionary, that would serve wider social strata such as teachers, students, pupils, workers of culture etc. led to the compilation of "The Nowadays Albanian dictionary" (1984). This dictionary with about 34.000 words, published by Androkli Kostallari, Jani Thomai, Miço Samara, Josif Kole, Palok Daka, Pavli Haxhillazi, Hajri Shehu, Kornelia Sima, Thanas Feka, Beatrice Keta and Agim Hidi was compiled mainly based on "The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary" (1980), but with a more general and synthetic lexicographic treatment. It contains the congested main values of "The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary" (1980), but it is distinguished by more concise semantic structures, for more laconic definitions and for some technical lexicographic solutions.

This dictionary was recompiled by Jani Thomai, Miço Samara, Josif Kole, Pavli Haxhillazi, Hajri Shehu, Thanas Feka and Kamelia Sima and was published again in 2002. The words were increased with 1000 new words thus bringing forward a new lexical phraseological fund also increasing the specific weight of the Albanian word. The second compilation has paid special attention to the de

politicisation of those words coming from different spheres of social activities. In some cases the previous dictionary has been corrected in definitions, in stylistic meanings of words, in orthography, in making the lexical normative perfect, thus responding to the development of the Albanian language in general, and its standard in particular during a 20 year period since the publication of "The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary" (1984). Compilation in both publications is an important achievement of Albanian linguistic, with lots of theoretical and practical values for schools, science and our national culture.

Although these explanatory dictionaries have great values, still there was a need of a pocket dictionary, which would be more practical. Its absence was fulfilled by the "The Albanian Language Dictionary" (2006) with about 48.000 words, compiled by Jani Thomai, Miço Samara, Pavli Haxhillazi, Hajri Shehu, Thanas Feka, Valter Memisha and Artan Goga. It contains a larger number of words than previous dictionaries but its physical volume is smaller achieved by the lexicographic treatment of a smaller vocabulary.

The dictionary is distinguished for great semantic synthesis which congest semantic structures of words and braid the lexemic type with the nested one in words with direct derivation. As a result it can be defined as a half-nested dictionary. This dictionary in corporation with "Electronic Albanian Centre" was processed electronically and was copied on a CD in 2012 under the title "The Electronic Albanian Dictionary" thus adding a valuable element to it, the pronunciation of words according to orthoepy normative of Standard Albanian.

During this period another trend of development in Albanian lexicography has been the compilation of special dictionaries mainly national explanatory and normative ones, as well as phraseological, antonymic, synonymic, terminological, regional dictionaries etc.

A good support for the phraseological fund presented in the dictionary have been; The card-index of the Albanian lexicon, explanatory Albanian dictionaries, especially "The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary", regional dictionaries with phraseological units and bilingual phraseological dictionaries. But to expand the phraseological fund there have been yearly gatherings from different fields and expeditions.

During this period "The Antonymic Albanian dictionary" was published (in 1999) with about 2.000 antonymic pairs, compiled by Miço Samara, the first of its kind in Albanian lexicography. All main structural and semantic types of Albanian language have been introduced and treated lexicographically in the antonymic pairs; antonymic words with different roots, antonymic words with different prefixes and compound antonymic words.

"The Synonymic Albanian Dictionary" (2004) with about 29.000 words, compiled by Jani Thomai, Miço Samara, Hajri Shehu and Thanas Feka contains only synonymic words with semantic divisions, with congested explanations and examples from artistic literature,

journalism, folk, speech and everyday language. In this dictionary the synonyms are classified according to the field, values and by giving explanations and adding notes that distinguish normative units from the narrow regional words or old ones.

Another lexicographic work in the synonymic field is "The synonymic dictionary of Albanian Language (2002) with about 30.000 words, compiled by Ali Dhrimo, Edmond Tupja e Eshref Ymeri. This is not an explanatory type, but it has proper values as a synonymic dictionary. It has a great fund of synonyms grouped under the central synonymy but without semantic division, explanations or examples. Thus, this dictionary is compiled based on the principle of a semantic group of lexical means without presenting distinguishing values of semantic notions, of emotional and stylistic connotations, principles of usage etc. Of great importance is the presentation of synonymic phraseological units with the same or similar meaning.

Despite national explanatory dictionaries, regional dictionaries were compiled during this period. There's an almost complete table of these dictionaries in the material.

Their publication, although based on narrow regional bases, being not nation-wide concerning the words they include, still is a great achievement because they bring forward a valuable lexical, phraseological and semantic wealth of Albanian language, that serves not only to the linguistic and literature practice, but also expanding the dialectic bases, lexical standard and furthermore enriching different dictionaries to this standard.

Etymological research is a great, important achievement in Albanian lexicography during this period. Eqërem Çabej's etymological studies in the Albanian field, summed up in a work with 7 volumes, are valuable not only to the Albanian language, but also to Balkan and Indo-European studies.

Another work in the field of etymology is "Albanian etymology, investigations in the inherited dictionary", Amsterdam-Atlanta by Bardhyl Demiraj, published in German, in which the compiler has treated 572 words in the form of an etymological dictionary which belong to the Indo-European source.

The history of Albanian lexicography is enriched with another etymological dictionary "The Albanian language etymological dictionary" by Vladimir Oreli in 1998, published in English. It is a classical dictionary that treats the origin of 3.350 words with Indo-European source and relatively old borrowings from Old Greek and Latin, which he calls Romanian, and other languages that have intruded in Albanian language until the XII century A. D. This dictionary does not include Turkish and new Italian borrowings, except those of special etymological interest. Albanian lexicography has a tradition in etymological dictionaries and etymological studies, but we lack tradition for historic dictionaries. In 1948 the English Albanologist S. Mann published "Albanian-English dictionary" which he called a historic dictionary because he has included a rich linguistic staff borrowed from old

books, previous dictionaries, the literature before the Second World War and the lexicon collected from dialects in different forms. However, as the critics say, this work does not fulfil the lexicographic structure to be a real historic Albanian Dictionary. Xhevat Lloshi finds it similar to a thesaurus dictionary concerning the Albanian part.

A great contribution to the historic Albanian dictionary is no doubt the work of Kolë Ashta "The historic lexicon of Albanian language" in some volumes. This work includes the lexicon of documents and old books from the "Baptising Formula" (1462) up to Gjon Kazazi (1744). The words taken from "The Latin - Albanian dictionary" by Frang Bardhi, "Mesari" by Gjon Buzuku, three works by Pjetër Budi, "Çeta e profetëve", by Pjetër Bogdani, "Kuvendi i Arbënit", "E mpsuame e krishterë" by Lekë Matrënga, are explained, illustrated with examples in sentences, often accompanied with etymological notes and comparisons among authors.

One of the greatest achievements of the second period was the creation of card-index of Albanian lexicon in 1955 which resulted in more organized and less partial lexicon collection.

The creation of the Card-index which now contains over 4.000.000 file cards, for words collected from all Albanian dictionaries, folk and hundreds of thousands of pages published since the Renaissance period and on. They were also collected from the speech of all parts of Albanian territory and tens of lexicographic expeditions and hundreds of foreign collaborators. It has been and still remains the greatest treasure of keeping the fund and the most objective direct source to compile general and special explanatory dictionaries, for lexicographic, etymological and grammatical studies.

In the monolingual Albanian lexicography the real, normative explanatory dictionaries belong to a later period, but their development has had improvements and achievements. These dictionaries respond to a great extend to the periods of the Albanian language development in particular, through scientific and lexicographic processing and codification.

In the fund of 25.000 word in "The Albanian Language Dictionary" (1954) is represented the most active strata and a small part of the passive strata that is important to understand the nowadays English.

This dictionary is generally penetrated by a scientific, contemporary theory to choose the words that compile the fund. Although it was compiled based on literal Tosk, it includes its own fund of words from all the Albanian stock, common words or phrases for all Albanian speakers, enlarging the lexical fund with words or phrases from both dialects, to present the best communicative abilities of Albanian language.

"The Nowadays Albanian Language Dictionary" (1980) with 41.000 words and 7.000 phraseological units marks the greatest lexical fund compared to previous dictionaries. The sensitive expand of words in quantity and quality presents the conditions and tendency of development of the literal lexicon in the phase of its

complete crystallization. This is done not through separate words but through lexical semantic classes and lexical-derivational classes which mark a considerable increase in the fund of this dictionary.

“The Albanian language dictionary” (2006) maintains the increase in the number of words compared to “The Albanian language dictionary” (1980) as well as the new words presented in “The Nowadays Albanian dictionary” (2002). The number of words in the dictionary even marks a further increase compared to all previous explanatory dictionaries, although it does not include grammatical and phonetic variants, narrow regional words, very special terms, many words with a clear derivational structure easy to understand, thus compounds and derivatives easy to understand by every Albanian speaker or that do not have a wide use, typological derivatives with specialized prefixes like **pa-**, **për-**, **ri-** etc. archaisms and historical words, borrowings that are no longer used, any derivative or lexical variant etc.

In the corpus of explanatory Albanian dictionaries, besides the lexicon, presentation of phraseology occupies a considerable place, considered to be a linguistic incomparable treasure.

Phraseology has always been part of different words. In the history of Albanian lexicography it appears in the first lexicographic work “The Latin - Albanian dictionary” by Frang Bardhi, but presentation of real phraseologies in explanatory dictionaries depends on the scientific concept we have about phraseology. It also includes the importance of the phraseological unit, the limits which decide the real structure of each phraseological unit, the difference compared to non-phraseological structures etc.

In “The Albanian Language Dictionary” (1954) phraseology is widely presented with defined criteria. Within the lexicographic point of view, phraseological units are spread based on the meaning they are related to, whereas in the cases where their general meaning is not directly connected with the meaning of the explained word, it is placed in the end after a vertical line. Application of the principle of spreading phraseological units according to meaning has led to the blending of direct and derivative meanings with their phraseological meanings. There are also cases of blending types of phraseologies among them and phraseologies with free combinations of words.

In “The Nowadays Albanian Language Dictionary” (1980) there is a completely different presentation concerning phraseological units, as well as the scientific concept about phraseology and its lexicographic treatment, and the great number of phraseological units included in this dictionary. Phraseology is placed in the end, after the meaning of the word. In “The nowadays Albanian Dictionary” (1984) and in “The Albanian Language Dictionary” (2006) there have been improvements in presenting phraseology concerning order, simplifying the structures of phraseological units etc.

Semantic analyses and explanation of words in explanatory Albanian dictionaries is well done and based on clear lexicological and lexicographic principles.

“The Albanian language dictionary” (1954) is an important step forward in the field. Right, scientific criteria have been applied in meaning analyses, in accordance with the type of the dictionary, a pocket one. Meanings are rendered according to the frequency of usage, presenting the meaning first and then derivative ones according to the connection between them. Different meanings are divided with Arab numbers, similar meanings with semi-colon, whereas synonymic meanings with a comma.

“The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary” (1980) is mainly distinguished for detailed semantic analyses of words; structure of lexical content; being scientifically motivated. There has been a steady tendency compiling this dictionary, which goes over the levels applied in a medium-sized dictionary concerning semantic analyses of words towards levels of a big dictionary. It is a great value because every meaning in the dictionary, or better say every semantic notion in a way is equal to the meaning of one single word. As Jani Thomai points out, this dictionary has many words with 30 meanings, or sometimes over 40; over 500 words with more than 10 meanings, about 80% of the words have more than one meaning so they are poly semantic, whereas the whole dictionary has over 180.000 semantic units (lexical meanings). It has brought a great value of lexical semantics not codified or noticed before.

Meanings are rendered according to dependence on each-other. Usually the first comes the most common and well known meaning. Notions within a meaning are divided by a comma.

Meaning explanations has followed philological purposes and not encyclopaedic ones. It is aimed that they should be complete, correct, as simple as possible and clear. These aims have been well achieved in this dictionary.

Synonyms have been widely used as a direct means of completing explanation. As a direct means they appear when a derivative variant is explained or when a foreign word which is still in use, but which can be replaced with an Albanian word, when the word has a clear stylistic connotation, when it is old or regional compared to another, or when a lexical variant is used less than another etc.

The stratification of the lexicon included in the fund of explanatory dictionaries through abbreviations that nominate different strata of the lexicon is a clear indicator of normativity.

An important strata in this dictionary is the dialectic and regional lexicon. This lexicon is widely presented in all explanatory Albanian dictionaries as an inexhaustible source. Anyway the scale of presentation differs from one dictionary to another. This is conditioned by some factors: the condition of the standard language in the time of publication, criteria and their application while compiling

the dictionaries concerning normativity, the type of the dictionary connected with the size it represents, the similarity of standard language to the everyday speech etc.

The biggest word-classes making the lexical strata included in these dictionaries are: words, especially the ones with a concrete meaning which are connected with nature and life, some of them do not have general synonyms such as those nominating folk clothes, household items, tools of work and art, toys, celebrations and customs, thus the so-called ethnographic; abstract words in a wider meaning; words widely used in folk and artistic literature, original or translated; words that bring special elements to enrich lexicon and semantics, word formation and stylistic in standard language. These word classes have been considered as regional concerning the source and the past, whereas from the national and the future point of view they are seen as a common contemporary potential.

Terminological lexicon comprises an important place in the fund of Albanian explanatory dictionaries. In "The Albanian language dictionary" (1954), the number of words, terms and terminological meanings, is smaller compared to the oncoming dictionaries, conditioned by the Albanian terminology at that time, as well as the type of the dictionary. Anyway, units and terminological meanings included in it, are marked with corresponding notes in the field of usage they belong to.

"The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary" (1980), has the greatest number of terms compared to all explanatory dictionaries. The medium-sized type makes this possible. Anyway, the same principles and special criteria that determine the composition words in a normative dictionary have been applied to include the terms in the dictionary. Based on the main principle, widely used scientific and technical terminology has been included in the dictionary, whereas very specific terms are not included. It should be emphasized that in the terminology included in the dictionary special attention has been paid to maintain the ratio of terms belonging to different fields or between each other.

"The Albanian language dictionary" (2006), has not only maintained the terminological fund of previous explanatory dictionaries, but has also enriched it with new terms belonging to other fields of development such as ICT, business, trading economy, bank activity etc. thus, responding to the changes in time and the Albanian society in particular.

The terminological lexicon of explanatory dictionaries, besides necessary foreign terms, especially international, and their translation mostly, is made up of new forms with derivative means of Albanian language, as well as words of folk origin turned into terms through terminology.

Archaisms and historic words, have their own place in explanatory Albanian dictionaries, for informing purposes, because they appear in all types of literature for different functions. In "The Albanian language dictionary" (1954) a

small number of archaisms is included, whereas in "The nowadays Albanian dictionary" (1980) they are relatively wider; the medium-sized type of the dictionary has made this possible.

Explanatory dictionaries clearly present polysemy in poly-semantic words which introduce changes in their semantic structure, increase or decrease in the volume from one dictionary to another. These changes have affected different factors like semantic developments, the time the dictionary was compiled, volume and type etc. Synonymy is widely used in these dictionaries. In "The Albanian language dictionary" (1954), synonyms have been mostly used alone, as a means of explanation in the less used synonymic words, when we refer to the basic synonym. Synonymy is more widely used in "The Albanian language dictionary" (1980) because this medium-sized dictionary has analysed in details the semantic connotation of poly-semantic words, so that polysemy has been fully presented in poly-semantic words. Values of synonymy have been maintained even in other explanatory dictionaries compiled after "The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary" (1980).

In "The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary" (1980) synonymic relations of synonyms have been clearly presented, even the scale of their meaning similarity, paying attention that the words fitted most semas or fundamental ones, or common or similar syntagma and to be generally different from the derivational and etymological point of view.

Another value of this dictionary is that it views antonyms as an organized microsystem in the highest point of crystallization of lexical normative of standard language. Analyses of opposite semantic constituents of antonymic words is based on a full scientific concept for antonyms.

Explanatory Albanian dictionaries have also included real lexical homonyms among nouns, partly among verbs, very little among adjectives and rare among unchangeable parts of speech. Their lexicographic treatment is the same in all Albanian explanatory dictionaries. They are treated as separated lexical units. In "The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary" (1980) and other explanatory dictionaries following it homonyms are treated as separated units, but also accompanied with Roman numbers according to order. This does not appear in "The Albanian language dictionary" (1954). This element seems to be the right scientific choice, especially for homonyms that derive from polysemy, because in a way it reminds you of their derivations, even though they are now not similar at all. Words and meanings with stylistic and emotional notion appear in explanatory dictionaries and are marked as such with characterising corresponding notes, which are presented with abbreviations next to the word or its meaning. In "The Albanian language dictionary" (1954) these characterising notes are almost missing; the only abbreviation used is "fig." to characterise words with figurative meaning. On the other hand in "The Albanian language dictionary" and

others following it, these notes for words and meanings are frequently used.

Syntagma is a very necessary factor in explanatory dictionaries, because the word gets a fully real meaning within the context. Thus, after explanation of meanings the words are illustrated with sayings, which make the meaning of words clearer and more concrete. "The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary" (1980) is distinguished for a great number of sayings compared to other explanatory dictionaries. For the words: *besë, bëj, bie, vë* which are poly-semantic, this dictionary has 219 sayings, "The Albanian language dictionary" (1954) has 182 sayings and "The Albanian language dictionary" (1904) has 34 sayings. For explanatory dictionaries, normativity has been one of the main purposes because it is reflected in all macrostructural components of the vocabulary, but the scale of representing is different from one dictionary to another. This happens because every dictionary presents the phase of development of the standard language at the time when the dictionary was published.

As presented in the introduction "The Albanian language dictionary" (1954) cannot be an exact guide of standard language normative. But it marks another step forward towards linguistic codification. This is understandable if we consider the time it was published, when the standard language itself was on the first steps of development and normative as a historic category would represent this normative condition. It should be emphasized that the fund on which this dictionary was compiled was not enough to make an objective judgement on concrete issues concerning literal normative in the dictionary as there was not a card-index of the Albanian lexical available. Furthermore there was no tradition in Albanian lexicography in compiling explanatory Albanian dictionaries and theoretically there was a lack of lexicological and lexicographic studies. There was no theory of Albanian lexicography.

"The Nowadays Albanian Dictionary" is distinguished for a high level of normativity. All the lexical and phraseological fund in the dictionary compiled by A. Kostallari, chosen according to principles and criteria, is distinguished for the systematic character and symmetry presenting word classes in it.

Phonetic variants have been avoided in this dictionary. The results of word formation have been presented widely thus introducing different pragmatic groups which did not appear "The Albanian language dictionary" (1954). There are also later formations created after the dialectic after the publication of this dictionary, such as words belonging to dialectic and regional lexicon, judging the units not by their source, but by their real values in literary language. An objective attitude has been held for foreign and international words.

The high level of normativity is also seen in making semantic structures of poly-semantic words. A scientific hierarchy of semantic order has been applied. It shows the level of order for each meaning in these structures as well as their semantic derivation.

"The Albanian language dictionary" (2006) has been maintained and improved the values of previous dictionaries concerning information and normativity. This dictionary includes many words, expression and meaning which are used in the nowadays Albanian language, but do not appear in previous dictionaries. Among them there are new formations, necessary terms belonging to the new fields of science and technology and that respond to the increasing needs of nowadays literary language. All these make the dictionary more modern.

Despite the great achievements that explanatory dictionaries have introduced up to now, still there is an urgent need to compile a big dictionary which would respond to the upward trend of the nowadays literary Albanian language.

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