

Comparative Analysis of English and Albanian: The Communicative Function of Sentences

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Abstract

This paper is focused on the linguistics of both English and Albanian language, as the two languages belong to the same parent language, the Indo-European, but undeniably each of them has its own features. Precisely, this paper is concerned with aspects belonging to the study field of syntax. The paper does have on focus the types of sentences according to their communicative function. By saying that it is focused on the types of sentences according to communicative function, it is understood that in both languages these sentences will be analysed by the syntactic point of view. As the title signifies, this paper will be a comparative paper, falling under the study field of comparative syntax, meaning that it will analyse the types of sentences according to function in both languages and the similarities and differences will be pointed out. This research within this paper is ought to analyse and determine how these types of sentences are translated in Albanian and how do English sentences fall into Albanian. This is also a study of concerns that would be beneficial to new students of English and Albanian language.

Keywords: *language; syntax; sentence; English; Albanian.*

1. Introduction

In general, this paper is concerned with aspects of syntax perceived from the viewpoint of two different languages; English and Albanian. Grammarians consistently and conventionally divide grammar in two different yet interconnected fields of study: morphology and syntax. However, this paper is concerned and limited on analysing sentences from the syntactical viewpoint.

According to Burton-Roberts (2011) syntax is traditionally the name given to the study of the form, positioning, and grouping, of the elements that go to make up sentences.

According to Vesel Nuhiu (2002), syntax deals with the structure and classification of phrases, clauses and sentences. It can be called 'grammar outside the word'. The syntax of phrases can be called minor syntax, and the syntax of clauses and sentences can be called major syntax.

Both languages, Albanian and English, are part of the Indo-European language family. Even though both languages have its place in the Indo-European family of languages, in addition to mutual features, they normally have differences from one another. In this paper, the aim will be at pointing out similarities and differences between these two

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languages when contrasted in terms of sentences according to communicative function. By examining the types of sentences according to communicative function it is meant to syntactically inspect in detail the complexity of the sentences based on their form, content and the complexity of their usage to convey a specific message in a specific communicative function. Also, by elaborating the types of sentences according to communicative function it is meant to carefully involve all the complicated details of different types of sentences that are interrelated.

It can be noted here that there is already a gap in comparative studies between English and Albanian language. While Albanian students are using English as their primary source of information about the world, be it an academic research or extensive non-academic reading activities, there is a tendency among professors and even academics to ignore the field of comparative studies over English and Albanian linguistics. It must be noted also that both, English and Albanian departments at universities, do not cover courses where the main aim would be at pointing out similarities and differences between languages.

However, a few studies currently have been focused in English and Albanian language (Kurani&Trifoni, n.d.; Millaku, 2014; Millaku, 2016; Nuhiu, 2013). Those aforesaid studies have had their focus in particular areas of linguistic fields such as phonetics, morphology, morphosyntax, syntax, and semantics. From these previous researches, it can be documented that the types of sentences according to their communicative function in English and Albanian is still a topic that lacks in discussion so that this research is of particular novelty. It is highlighting that the novelty is taken from the fact that such research is focused in comparing English and Albanian which is rarely conducted, the limitation of this study is on analysing, comparing and contrasting the types of sentences according to their communicative function which is a detailed case. The aforementioned are the novelty and originality of the study to complete the gap of this certain case. In this focus, as theoretically, this study will enrich the literature of English and Albanian studies. Hence, the novelty of this research paper fills the gap among former studies in this particular field.

1.1. Literature review

This section will adapt to ground theory surrounding this research concern of types of sentences according to their communicative function in English and Albanian.

1.1.1. Types of sentences according their communicative function in English language

Sentence communicative function refers to the purpose of the speaker in uttering a clause or sentence. According to Aarts (2001), sentences, based on their communicative function, are divided into four classes:

1. Declarative sentences.
2. Interrogative sentences.
3. Imperative sentences.
4. Exclamative sentences.

Also, Verspoor and Sauter (2000) state that English sentences can be classified according to communicative functions and patterns into four basic finds: Declarative, Interrogative, Imperative and Exclamatory sentence patterns.

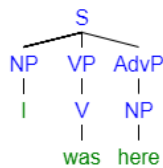
These four classes of sentences according to their function are grouped into: communicative sentences and informative sentences.

Communicative sentences aim the speaker rather than the listener. These sentences are used to express what the speaker wants or feels at the very moment of uttering. Communicative sentences include exclamatory and imperative sentences.

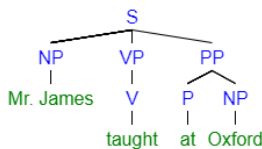
On the other hand, informative sentences are beneficial for both the speaker and the listener. These sentences do aim to give, get, convey, receive information so they require the interaction of both the speaker and the listener involved, which leads to greater cooperation. Informative sentences include declarative and interrogative sentences.

According to Kim and Sells (2008), a declarative makes a statement, an interrogative asks a question, an exclamative represents an exclamatory statement, and an imperative issues a directive.

Declarative sentences or statements are those sentences that are mostly used to convey information. These sentences must consist of the primary sentence elements, a subject and a predicate that have to be concord in tense and number but they may contain also secondary sentence elements. Declarative sentences have a fixed word order. The subject comes first, followed by the predicator. The predicator precedes the indirect object (if present) which is followed by the direct object (if present).



I was here. (S+P+A)



Mr. James taught at Oxford. (S+P+A)

According to Swick (2018), declarative sentences may be of two types; the first one constituent of verbs which show an incomplete action or one in progress and the second one constituent of verbs that denote a completed action.

Interrogative sentences or questions are divided into further subcategories. The first type or subcategory is that of Yes/No question which is called so because the answer which is expected begins with the affirmation Yes or negation No.

The second type or subcategory is the one which begins with an interrogative word: who, what, why, which, when or how. These questions are known as wh-questions. Through the use of wh-words, specific information about the subject, object complement or adverbial can be retrieved.

The third type or subcategory of interrogative sentences deals with the alternative questions. These questions offer as a reply one of two or more options which are presented in the question.

Imperative sentences or commands, are used to direct someone to do or not do something.

Imperatives can be of three kinds:

1. Imperatives without Subject.
2. Imperatives with Subject.
3. Imperative with Let.

Exclamative sentences are used to express the speaker's own feelings towards the reality. These sentences do show strong emotions. Exclamative sentences are formed with an

initial wh-word and they end in an exclamation mark. Exclamative sentences do consists of an exclamatory phrase and the predicate

1.1.2. Types of sentences according their communicative function in Albanian language

In Albanian literature, the sentence is defined as the basic syntactic unit through which the thought is formed, expressed, communicated. In the monograph of the Academy of Sciences of Albania, entitled "Grammar of the Albanian Language 2" (2002), the sentence is defined as "a fragment of speech usually consisting of two or more lexical words joined according to certain ratios, based on rules of a language, in a single entirety." Albanian professor of English, Vesel Nuhiu (2002), defines the sentence as "the longest grammatical unit and the smallest communication unit".

In speech, the speaker usually informs about something, expresses the desire or request to see or perform an action or condition, or asks about something. From this, based on the communicative function, three types of sentences are distinguished: declarative sentences (fjalitë dëftore), imperative sentences (fjalitë dëshirore, fjalitë nxitëse), interrogative sentences (fjalitë pyetëse).

Alb. Fjalitë dëftore are sentences that convey facts or reality. Through such sentences we conclude, ascertain, give opinion, show our judgment or opinion about something. In discourse, declarative sentences are the most common and most used.

Example: (Alb) Dëbora po shkrinte në të gjitha drejtimet.

(En) The snow was melting everywhere.

Declarative sentences in the Albanian language usually follow this word order: subject + predicate + object + adjunct. However, Albanian language does not have a fixed order. This makes it possible for the predicate, the object, or even the adjunct to appear at the beginning of the sentence. Whereas in the structure of declarative-exclamatory sentences, exclamatory word appear at the beginning of the sentence.

In the declarative sentences in the Albanian language, two types of sentences are clearly distinguished; the simple declarative sentence (fjalitë e thjeshtë dëftore) and the declarative-exclamatory sentence (fjalitë dëftore-thirrmore).

Example: (Alb) (Ne) Po i afrohem pyllit. (Fjalitë e thjeshtë dëftore)

(En) We are approaching the forest. (Simple declarative sentence)

(Alb) Arritëm! Arritëm! – bërtiti shoferi i autobusit. (Fjalitë dëftore-thirrmore)

(En) We arrived! We arrived! - the bus driver shouted. (Declarative-exclamatory sentence)

When we show or describe something with a particular feeling (surprise, joy, sadness, fear), the declarative sentence is called declarative-exclamatory sentence. At the end of it we put exclamation mark.

Example: (Alb) Sa këmbëngulëse që është mësuesja jonë!

(En) How persistent our teacher is!

(Alb) Qenke me të vërtetë i zoti!

(En) You are really good!

Alb. fjalitë dëshirore, fjalitë nxitëse - In the Albanian language these sentences are of two subtypes:

1. (Alb. Fjalitë dëshirore) Sentences that express desire from the speaker and that have a characteristic verb mood called mënyra dëshirore in Albanian. It is one of the verb

moods in the Albanian language, which expresses an action or condition that is thought by the speaker as a wish for something that he/she wants to happen. This mood is not present in English. Such sentences include congratulations, curses, greetings and oaths.

Example: (Alb) Këndofshi përjetë!
(En) I wish you sing forever!

(Alb) Qofsh i gëzuar!
(En) I wish you to be happy!

2. (Alb. Fjalitë nxitëse) Sentences that express the clear request of the speaker to accomplish something. Such sentences include a definite command, proposal, message, advice, prayer. These sentences have as a characteristic the verb in an imperative manner.

Example: (Alb) Merruni armët!
(En) Take their weapons!

(Alb) Nisemi pra!
(En) Let us go!

Alb. Fjalitë pyetëse are sentences by which the speaker seeks to learn something he does not know at all or does not know completely, or wants to be assured of the truth of a fact.

Example: (Alb) E kujt është kjo makinë?
(En) Whose car is this?

(Alb) Çdo ky?
(En) What does he want?

1.2. Research questions

This research is a study that aims to analyse the types of English and Albanian sentences according to their communicative function and also point out similarities and differences between two Indo-European languages when comparing types of sentences according to their communicative function.

Precisely, the following research questions were addressed:

1. How declarative sentences in English are translated and classified in Albanian?
2. How interrogative sentences in English are translated and classified in Albanian?
3. How imperative sentences are translated and classified in Albanian?
4. How exclamatory sentences are translated and classified in Albanian?

2. Method

The research part of the study concentrates on a comparison of the types of sentences according to their structure in English and its equivalent form on Albanian translation in actual texts.

2.1. Sample / Instrument

The idea of this research was to gather 40 items for the English – Albanian translation part. These 40 items would be divided into 10 items per each type of English sentence according to function. For excerpt purposes, one book was chosen translated from English into Albanian. The book examined is George Orwell's 1984 translated into Albanian by Çelo Hoxha.

2.2. Data collection and analysis

Among the 40 samples in the examined English text, there are 10 cases of declarative sentences, 10 of interrogative, 10 of imperative and 10 of exclamative sentences. However, among the equivalent of the same 40 sentences in the Albanian text, it turned out that the structure of this division of 10 samples for each type of sentence changes. Instead of having a translation of the sentences in Albanian according to the same communicative intention given in the author's language, the translated version highlights the differences between the English imperative and the types of *urdhërore*, *dëshirore* and *nxitëse* in Albanian. The inequality between the occurrence of types of sentences according to the communicative function in the text is in fact the first finding of the study.

3. Results and discussion

This is the section for presenting the results from the collected data and the section for discussing them. The aim of this section is to present the results as simply and clearly as possible. A second aim of this section is to present the results objectively, without expressing subjective opinion. The results will be presented in tables, followed by a discussion.

#	Sentence in the English version	Communicative function in English	Sentence in the Albanian version	Communicative function in Albanian
1.	It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.	Declarative	Ishte një ditë e ftohtë dhe e shndritshme prilli, orët e qytetit ranë trembëdhjetë here.	Dëftore
2.	A sense of complete helplessness had descended upon him	Declarative	E kaploi një ndjenjë pasigurie.	Dëftore
3.	The Parsons' flat was bigger than Winston's, and dingy in a different way.	Declarative	Apartamenti i Parsonsve ishte më i madh se i Uinstonit, por i pistë në një tjetër kuptim.	Dëftore
4.	The diary would be reduced to ashes and	Declarative	Ditari do të bëhej hi, ndërsa ai do të avullonte.	Dëftore

	himself to vapour.			
5.	Thoughtcrime does not entail death: thoughtcrime IS death.	Declarative	Krimi i mendimit nuk do e përcjell vdekjen: krimi i mendimit është vdekje.	Dëftore
6.	Winston was dreaming of his mother.	Declarative	Uinstonit iu fanit nëna.	Dëftore
7.	We're getting the language into its final shape—the shape it's going to have when nobody speaks anything else.	Declarative	Gjuha po merr trajtën e plotë – trajtën që do të ketë kur nuk do të flitet gjuhë tjetër veç saj.	Dëftore
8.	He smiled, sympathetically he hoped, not trusting himself to speak.	Declarative	Ai buzëqeshi, duke shpresuar të dukej dashamirës, ngaqë s'kishte besim tek fjalët.	Dëftore
9.	Winston heard a succession of shrill cries which appeared to be occurring in the air above his head.	Declarative	Uinstoni dëgjoi një seri piskamash që dukej sikur vinin nga ajri sipër kokës së tij.	Dëftore
10.	Perhaps one did not want to be loved so much as to be understood.	Declarative	Ndoshta njeriu do më shumë që ta kuptosh sesa ta duash.	Dëftore

Table 1- Declarative sentences in English and their equivalents in Albanian

In the table above, the sample collected from George Orwell's "1984" is given. In this table, there are 10 sentences which were collected from the abovementioned book. The given sentences are all declarative sentences according to their communicative function. In the same table, in the column of the sentences in Albanian language, 10 sentences are given which are the equivalent sentences identified in the translated version of George Orwell's "1984", translated into Albanian by Çelo Hoxha. From the analysis made on the communicative function of the sentences given in both English and Albanian language, we conclude that all 10 sentences have the same communicative function in both languages.

#	Sentence in the English version	Communicative function in English	Sentence in the Albanian version	Communicative function in Albanian
1	Don't you see the beauty of that, Winston?	Interrogative	E shikon sa e bukur është, Uinston?	Pyetëse
2	How could you tell how much of it was lies?	Interrogative	Si mund ta kuptoje se cilat nga këto ishin gënjeshttra?	Pyetëse
3	May I see your papers, comrade?	Interrogative	A mund të shikojmë pak dokumentat, shok?	Pyetëse
4	'You haven't broken anything?'	Interrogative	Mos ke thyer gjë?	Pyetëse
5	Isn't it bloody?	Interrogative	Nuk te duket e tmerrshme?	Pyetëse
6	'You are prepared to commit murder?'	Interrogative	Jeni të gatshëm të bëni vrasje?	Pyetëse
7	'Julia, are you awake?'	Interrogative	Xhulia, zgjuar je?	Pyetëse
8	Why should the fruit be held inferior to the flower?	Interrogative	Përse fruti duhet të ishte më i përulur para lules?	Pyetëse
9	They don't know how to treat a lady, do they?'	Interrogative	Ata s'ia kanë haberin të sillen me zonjat, apo jo?	Pyetëse
10	'Then where does the past exist, if at all?'	Interrogative	Atëherë, në qoftë se e shkuara ekziston, ku ndodhet?	Pyetëse

Table 2 - Interrogative sentences in English and their equivalents in Albanian

In the table above, the sample collected from George Orwell's "1984" is given. In this table, there are 10 sentences which were collected from the abovementioned book. The given sentences are all interrogative sentences according to their communicative function. In the same table, in the column of the sentences in Albanian language, 10 sentences are given which are the equivalent sentences identified in the translated version of George Orwell's "1984", translated into Albanian by Çelo Hoxha. From the analysis made on the communicative function of the sentences given in both English and Albanian language,

we conclude that all 10 sentences have the same communicative function in both languages.

#	Sentence in the English version	Communicative function in English	Sentence in the Albanian version	Communicative function in Albanian
1	'Stand easy!' barked the instructress, a little more genially.	Imperative	Mjaft! – urdhëroi instruktorja, ca më përzemërsisht.	Fjali nxitëse thirrmore e mirëfilltë
2	'Remain exactly where you are. Make no movement until you are ordered.'	Imperative	Qëndroni aty ku jeni. Mos lëvizni derisa të merrni urdhër.	Fjali nxitëse thirrmore e mirëfilltë
3	'Up with your hands!' yelled a savage voice.	Imperative	Duart lart! – klithi një zë me egërsi.	Fjali nxitëse thirrmore e mirëfilltë
4	'Come back!	Imperative	Kthehu!	Fjali urdhërore
5	Attention! Your attention, please!	Imperative	Vini re! Ju lutem, vini re!	Fjali nxitëse thirrmore
6	Take your places, please.	Imperative	Zini vendet, ju lutem!	Fjali nxitëse thirrmore
7	Look here!	Imperative	Shiko!	Fjali nxitëse thirrmore
8	'Let's pick up a gin on the way.'	Imperative	Gjatë rrugës marrim nga një xhin.	Fjali nxitëse
9	Go and sit on the other side of the bed.	Imperative	Shko ulu në anën tjetër të krevatit.	Fjali nxitëse
10	Don't come up to me until you see me among a lot of people.	Imperative	Mos u afro derisa të më shikosh mes turmës.	Fjali nxitëse thirrmore e mirëfilltë, e drejtpërdrejtë

Table 3 - Imperative sentences in English and their equivalents in Albanian

In the table above, the sample collected from George Orwell's "1984" is given. In this table, there are 10 sentences which were collected from the abovementioned book. The given sentences are all imperative sentences according to their communicative function in English. In the same table, in the column of the sentences in Albanian language, 10

sentences are given which are the equivalent sentences identified in the translated version of George Orwell's "1984", translated into Albanian by Çelo Hoxha. From the analysis made on the communicative function of the sentences given in both English and Albanian language, we conclude that imperative sentences in English are translated in different (fjali nxitëse, fjali urdhërore and fjali thirrmore) types of sentences in Albanian.

#	Sentence in the English version	Communicative function in English	Sentence in the Albanian version	Communicative function in Albanian
1	'You're a traitor!' yelled the boy	Exclamative	Ti je tradhtar! – bërtiti fëmija.	Thirrmore
2	'It exists!' he cried.	Exclamative	Ekziston! – klithi.	Thirrmore
3	'Goldstein!' bellowed the boy as the door closed on him.	Exclamative	Goldstein! – ulëriti djali ndërsa u mbyll dera.	Thirrmore
4	Oh, rubbish!	Exclamative	Oh, gjepura!	Thirrmore
5	'Comrades!' cried an eager youthful voice.	Exclamative	Shokë,- klithi një zë i padurueshëm rinor.	Thirrmore
6	O cruel, needless misunderstanding!	Exclamative	O keqkuptim mizor, i panevojshëm!	Thirrmore
7	O stubborn, self-willed exile from the loving breast!	Exclamative	O arratisje, kokëfortë dhe e vetkërkuar, nga gjoksi i dashur.	Thirrmore
8	Victory!	Exclamative	Fitore!	Thirrmore
9	Julia, my love!	Exclamative	Xhulia, shpirt!	Thirrmore
10	What a bore!	Exclamative	Oh, ç'bezdi!	Thirrmore

Table 4 - Exclamative sentences in English and their equivalents in Albanian

In the table above, the sample collected from George Orwell's "1984" is given. In this table, there are 10 sentences which were collected from the abovementioned book. The given sentences are all exclamative sentences according to their communicative function. In the same table, in the column of the sentences in Albanian language, 10 sentences are given which are the equivalent sentences identified in the translated version of George Orwell's "1984", translated into Albanian by Çelo Hoxha. From the analysis made on the communicative function of the sentences given in both English and Albanian language, we conclude that all 10 sentences have the same communicative function in both languages.

4. Conclusions

This research was based on the identification of sentence types according to their communicative function in English and Albanian. The main purpose of this paper was to provide knowledge about the communicative function of sentences in English and Albanian. From the analysis made on the available literature, we can conclude that in the English language there are 4 different types of sentences based on the communicative function. While, in the Albanian language, from the analysis of the available literature, we conclude that there are 3 types of sentences, with one type having 2 subtypes.

Moreover, research has been conducted with the main aim on the identification of the types of sentences in English and Albanian texts. From this research, a comparative analysis was made between the 4 types of sentences identified in the English language and the same sentences in the same texts translated into the Albanian language. From this analysis, we can conclude that declarative sentences and interrogative sentences in all cases have the same communicative function in Albanian as in English. However, exclamatory sentences in the English language are in each case translated with the same communicative function, but in the reviewed literature, we do not find this type of sentence in the Albanian language. Finally, imperative sentences in the English language are not always translated with the same communicative function in the Albanian language. Imperative sentences in the Albanian language have the communicative function of the exclamatory sentence, the subjunctive sentence and the imperative sentence, which in the English language are all included in the imperative sentence.

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