Terminology and generative concepts of the phrase

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Abstract

The aim of this research is the reflection of the semantic values of the generative terms and concepts in the Albanian language syntax. With the introduction of descriptive, comparative, and explanatory methods, and with the use of a rich literature in Albanian and foreign languages, I have achieved the following results:

a) The classification of the sentences, based on the relation between main and subordinate clauses is made under these viewpoints:

I) The type of the relation that links the subordinate clause with the main one;

II) The form of the subordinate clause, which might be identical or different from the main clause;

III) The mood of the verb of the subordinate clause.

b) Predicative units with functional terms accomplish parallel functions.

1) In the known European languages the theme is usually the subject, whereas the *rema* is the predicate. From the traditional point of view the *subject* of an active transitive sentence is the doer *of the action,* whereas the object is *the aim.* In the ergative construction languages, the syntactic characteristic of the case would determine both subject the noun and the "aim" of the intransitive sentence.

2) The predicate complement is syntactically necessary for the accomplishment of the predicate structure (for this reason it is called "complement").

3) Based on the number of nominative units by which verbs are linked to form the core sentences we make a classification of verbs. It is through this classification that the distinction between the subject and the object is made possible. The actual models distinguish the different verb classes presuming the existence of a special functional category, SV of which is its complement. This category is marked as *v.* The thematic net of a particular lexical voice is a structure with predicates and arguments that are typical of the language analysis, which have been formulated based on contemporary approaches.

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> The use of the aforementioned results introduces innovation in the linguistic and conceptual terminology of the generative syntax of Albanian language.
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> **Key Words:** *Classification of the sentences, confrontation, predicative units, functional terms, parallel functions.*

Generativism is one of many linguistic directions, known as transformational generative grammar, which is an answer to most of the theoretical issues related to the different linguistic structures. Discussing transformed linguistics is not an easy task, since people are theoretically and practically used to traditional grammatical concepts. The difficulty arises in the use of terminology and methods not only in the theoretical study in the field of generativism but even in the practical implementation of genitive-transformational linguistics, based on the teachings of the American linguist Noam Avram Chomsky. The linguistic studies in Albanian generativism perspective belong to the last decade. The aim of this study is to reflect the conceptual values of generative terms and concepts in Albanian language syntax, mainly in the sentences (complex sentence) and the parallel functions of predicative units to functional words. Below I am briefly presenting the results of my study using descriptive, comparative and explanatory methods, together with a rich literature.

Terminology and generative concepts of the phrase (complex sentence)

Prishiani, a Latin grammarian (who lived in Byzantium) in the 5th century A.C. defined the sentence as a coherent combination of words that express a full meaning. This would mean a good word order, which means a good combination expressing "a complete meaning." The full concept transmitted from one sentence cannot be identified in the context of a judgment. A subordinate clause does not express a full meaning because it is inferred from the complete sentence where it is included. The sentence is classified in the interaction between the main clause and subordinate clause; they are called subordinate because there are also non-subordinate clauses, according to Graffi

[Sintaksa, 2003, pg. 131] who sees them as standalone sentences. With "simple phrases" according to Renzi [1988:35] we understand sentences in which none of the elements consists of a phrase, so all the element are represented from different kinds of phrases. According to Renzi [1988:35] "complex sentences" have a structure where at least one of the elements is represented by a sentences. Sentences created in the same period may be compound or subordinate (subordinate is a connection when one of the sentences is characterized as dependent; while when the phrases that form a complex sentence do not represent a type of subordinate clauses it is said that they are coordinative). For the subordinate clause the classification is done in three ways.

The kind of relation that connects the subordinate clause with the main clause.

The form of the subordinate clause which can be identical or different from the main clause.

The tense of the verb in the subordinate clause.

I) The first point of involves some traditional grammar. Subordinate clauses are different in three cases: 1.1 Nominative subordinate clause 1.2 Adjective subordinate clause and 1.3 Adverbial subordinate clause.

I.1) The nominative subordinate clause and the adverbial clause in the valence theory meaning, the first appear as arguments and the second as situational; on the other hand the adjective clauses, according to the valence theory, have an attributive function. It is not grammatically correct to leave nominative subordinate clauses out of the sentence. This shows the typical position of arguments. For example:

Albanian: a) Është e mundur që Xhani të niset nesër. a') * Është e mundur.

English: a) It is possible that Johnny leaves tomorrow.   a') It is possible.

In this category we can call it an argumentative clause using a term which includes the same element in all the units: verbal,

nominal, or another one which represent fulfilled valences of verbs. In between these categories of phrases we distinguish :

I.1.1) Subject sentences. For example:

Albanian: Është e mundur (kjo gjë) që Xhani të niset nesër.

English: It is possible (this thing) that Johnny leaves tomorrow.

I.1.2) Correlated situational sentences (the term "correlation" is more preferred than the traditional "object"). For example:

Albanian: Xhani ka thënë (këtë gjë) që do të niset nesër.

English: Johnny has said "this thing" that he will leave tomorrow.

I.1.3) Indirect question phrases (or subordinate questions). For example:

Albanian: Xhani nuk e di kush do të niset nesër.

English: Johnny doesn't know who is leaving tomorrow.

Valence is a feature not only in the verb category but also in the noun category which are called "argumentative nouns". Even subordinate clauses might be an argument not only of the verbs but even of the argumentative nouns. For example: *Fakti që ushtarët janë sjellë kështu nuk çuditi askënd*. The fact that the soldiers behaved in this way doesn't surprise anyone. The noun "fact" is an argumentative noun.

I.2) Subordinate clauses that traditional grammar calls adjectives have the same meaning as the relative subordinate clause. In Albanian these are the relative clauses. These sentences play the role of the adjective with a modified function. This explains even the definition of "adjective phrase".

I.2.1) Here are some relative clauses. For example:

a) Lisi që ishte i madh është rrëzuar.

b) Lisi për të cilin kishte folur poeti, është rrëzuar.

c) Stuhia ka rrëzuar lisin, nën të cilin djali plëngprishës kulloste derrat.

In these examples we understand that the relative clause modifies the meaning of the main noun of the nominal phrase (SV). *Oak* (lis) is defined as the preceding element of the defining relative clause.

I.2.2) In the adjective phrase we include only defining relative clauses and its preceding noun in which we have the division of

restrictive relative clause in which we include the phrases that modify the meaning of preceding nominal phrase restricting the scope of the sentence.

For example: Albanian: Studentët *që nuk janë regjistruar në sezon*, nuk mund të japin provimin.

English: Students who did not enroll on time cannot sit exams.

I.2.3) The division of apposite relative clauses including subordinate clauses which add new information. For example: Albanian: Albani *që nuk është e regjistuar në sezon*, nuk mund të jap provimin.

The difference between restrictive relative clauses and apposite relative clauses is based on the semantic level and syntax level.

I.2.4) We have defining relative clauses without preceding elements (this is called "independent" or "free". For example: Albanian: Ai *që prek telat* vdes.

Free relative clauses modify a meaningless sentence which is phonetically unrealized.

I.3) The phrase defined as adverbial includes sentences which clarify circumstances like:

I.3.1) Phrase of reason: *Duke qenë se Genci arriti vonë*, na u desh të hamë darkë me nxitim. **I.3.2)** Phrase of time: *Kur arriti Genci*, mundëm të hamë darkë.

I.3.3) Phrase of purpose: Pritëm ardhjen e Gencit , *me qëllim të hamë darkë të gjithë së bashku*.

In Albanian syntax the phrases are called "phrases of circumstances".

II) Based on the **classification** of the subordinate clause according to **their forms** we have expressed subordinate clauses and implied subordinate clauses.

II.1) Expressed subordinate clauses are treated above.

II.2) Implied subordinate clauses are:

II.2.1) Phrases with infinitive verbs. For example:

Italian: Gianni ha promesso a Maria di studiare ogni giorno.- Xhani i ka premtuar Marisë për të studiuar çdo ditë. In Albanian we would say: Xhani i ka premtuar Marisë të studiojë çdo ditë.

Characteristic of this phrase is that we can never phonetically express their subject even though it has a good explanation, in this case in our example there is nominal phrase Xhani, the subject of the main clause.

II.2.2) Phrases with a gerund. The missing subject should be definitely identical to the subject of the main clause and it shouldn't be identical to the object of the main clause. For example : Italian: Avendo incontrato di nuovo Maria, Gianni non voleva piu vedere Pietro.

In Albanian: Duke pasë takuar përsëri Marinë, Xhani nuk donte të shihte më Pietrin.

II.2.3) Abbreviated phrases. For example:

a) Kanë zgjedhur *Marion president*.

b) Me *Marion president* situata ekonomike mundet veç të përmirësohet.

They are called in this way because they always express the subject, but they don't have a preceding clause. So if the implied sentences are extended to the "first suburb" of the phrasal structure it means that they content only the "center". For example: Italian: Cerco una spalla *su cui pianghe*. In Albanian : Kërkoj një shpatull *mbi të cilën të qaj*. At Graffi [Sintaksa, 2003, pg. 149-169].

III) Based on the **classification** of the subordinate clause according to the manner of the verb of the subordinate clause it is known what kind of manner, tense, and person the verb is; its valence does not change, despite the morpheme of different eptims. The attachment of manner and of the time between the periodic phrases demonstrates that the verb of the main clause defines the manner and the time of the subordinate clause, but the verb of the main clause cannot lexically define the verb of subordinate clause. So, both verbs, as they have a dependence on the manner and time, do not have a lexical dependence. For example:

a) Ciraku i vogël **ëndërronte të bëhej** si ustai i vet.

The verb of the main clause **ëndërronte** defines the relative manner of the verb of the subordinate clause, but does not define it lexically. Lexically it might be a different verb.

We can say even *ëndërronte të vishej, të fliste etc..*

b) Kur **hynte** treni në stacion, **dëgjoheshin** disa fëshkëllima të zgjatura.

The verb of the main clause *dëgjoheshin* defines the tense of the verb in the subordinate clause *hynte* which means, if we destroy this connection, there is no longer a period of time. But the verb of the main clause does not "determine" that the main clause should contain the verb *hynte. I*t might be another verb like: *ndalonte, nisej etc.*.. At Mita [Hyrje ne sintaksen gjenerative, 2005, pg. 26].

Parallel functions of predicative units with its functional elements

As it was explained, subject and verb are essential-constituent, while adjustments are non-essential-constituent. According to Hockett the human or the object which we mention will be called *teme*, while the saying about the person or the object- *reme.*

1) In the known European language *tema* is usually the subject, and *rema* the verb.

Tema respectively "point of the conversation" is described as the element which is given in a general situation, or an explicit requests which the speaker has answered, while *rema* part of the phrase which gives something new (gives extended information to the listener). Let us see the phrase: *Hansi vret Alfredin* the structure of which consists of two nouns and a verb *Hansi* is the subject and the complex *vret Alfredin* the verb, which consist of the transitive verb *vret* and the noun *Alfredin* as object. The main point of view is between the noun *Hansi* in the sentence *Hansi vret Alfredin* and the subject of a non-transitive sentence, it's obviously a grammatical parallelism between *vret Alfredin* and the verb of a non-transitive sentence (as the subject and the verb are defined with a non-transitive sentence, only with a nominal). Traditionally *the subject* of the active transitive sentence is *the author of the action* while *the object* is the word which defines the action (Albanian: *pësuesi ose synimi)*. In the languages with ergative structure syntax of the characteristics of possessive form define as a subject the noun "synim" of the passive sentence. The subject of a non-transitive verb becomes the corresponding object of the transitive

verb and a new ergative subject is included to introduce the reason of the mentioned action. The ergative or causative function (for example : Xhoni lëvizi gurin) is a personal noun characteristic of the subjects transitive verbs (the term "ergative" derives from Greek grammar which means "cause" ,"do", "produce") according to Lyons [Hyrje në gjuhësinë teorike, 1968, pg.326-327]. This is opposite to the point of view that the subject of the sentence is the actor and not the aim. Most of the linguists think the object of a transitive verb has the same eptim as the subject of a non-transitive verb. In the passive aim the non-active might be seen as the subject, because the actor is essentially a facultative constituent (For example : "Bill was killed" is a full sentence, while "John killed", isn't). The transformation *by John* into *Bill was killed by John*, is traditionally added to the main actor, which may be compared syntactically with the use of the "instrumental" element *with a knife* to *Bill was killed with a knife*. Lyons [Hyrje në gjuhësinë teorike, 1968, pg. 311-318].

2)Till this moment the term "complement" was used only related to the noun and adverbial phrases, which are related to the copula in the sentence as: a) *Afërdita është një vajzë e bukur.* and b) *Afërdita është e bukur.* With the verbal complement all the words or groups of words (excluding the verb) are emphasized, which are definitely constituent to the verb as, for example, the object of a transitive verb. Complement verbs are necessary to complete the structure of the verb. The complement is used especially for the adverbial phrases. The difference between adjustments and a complementary verb is clear: the first is a facultative (non-essential) constituent of the sentence, whereas the last one is a necessary (essential) constituent. Lyons [Hyrje në gjuhësinë teorike, 1968, pg.320-321].

3) Based on the number of nominals with which verbs are connected to form the core sentences we define the verb classification. Based on this classification the difference between the subject and the object is shown, because the reasons are related to the problems of the transitive form of the verb. Based in the classification, *vdes* needs only a noun for an argument to become essential. This verb is called equivalent. A transitive verb is two-valence, one valence is the subject and the other is the object. For the three-valence verbs there is the

essential connection between the subject, direct object and indirect object.

Actual models are distinguished from the different classification of verbs supposing the existence of a unique function category (functional category is the grammatical tense, for example : the future), SV is its compliment. This category is written with *v (foljez)* (English - light verb). This "foljez" shows a new category that is not specified further, but for the presence or absence of some features. There are two features: a) a external argument (subject); b) defining of possessive form object. If *v* category has these features, it's the main part of transitive argumentative structure which contains a state verb (for example: Italian: conoscere), or action (Italian: colpire), in this case it is called *v** and a clause which is written as S*v**. In transitive structures SN is an external argument of S*v** and "foljeza" has the feature [cakto Rkall] which verifies the non-interpretation of SN (italisht: quell' uomo) [~~KALL~~]. The two elements *v** of SN and V of SN are connected through concordance report. So SN (Italian: quell' uomo) is evaluated [KALL], because it is defined from "foljeza" which is in the connection Agree. [KALL] is an uninterpretating feature which means unevaluated, as the adjectives whose gender is defined from the noun that defy, according to Graff [C'eshte gramatika gjenerative?, 2010, pg.104]. For example: Italian: *Gianni conosce quell'uomo.*
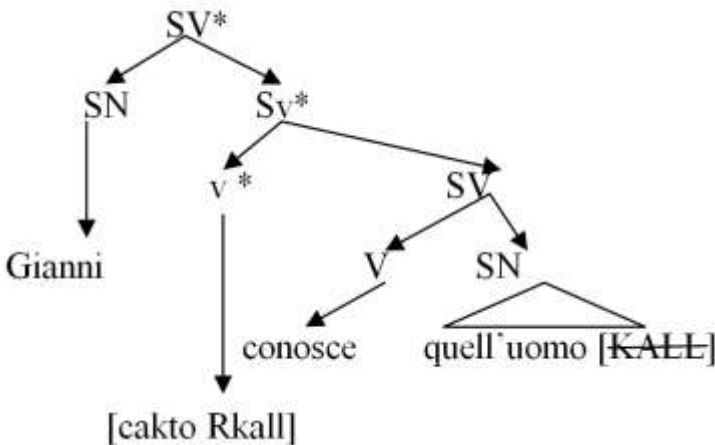
The thematic network of a definite lexical voice is an analog structure with its predicate and argument, typical of linguistic analysis, formulated from the contemporary conscious. The connection of this sentence for example: *Vandalët plaçkitën Romën*, should be symbolized in this way: a) S (x,y)   b) x=v   c) y=r

S is the symbol of predicant *plaçkis* that shows two arguments, **x** and **y**; "**v**" and "**r**" show the values taken by the arguments (*vandalët and Roma*). In this analysis the predicant is defined related to all the arguments, where none of them have a privileged role. External argument according to Uilliams [1981] the subject might have different thematic role and with the same lexical voice, while with the other arguments this doesn't happen. The thematic roles are not in the same level, but are ranged as a partial hierarchy shown from the fact that one of them (subject) is different from the others. Is the principle of the extended projection (the introduction of every syntax level, which means FL, structure – th and structure – s, are projected from the lexis and all the words should have a subject), that forces the realization of the external argument, but which is not functional in the noun phrases, according to Graffi [Sintaksa, 2003, pg. 190-198]. For example : *Plaçkitja e Rom*ës.

Conclusion

In this thesis the terminology and generative concepts of the phrase are reflected according to their classification based on the repudiation between main clauses and subordinate clauses. The parallel function that predicative units realize with the functional elements and the syntax necessity of adverbial complementary is also reflected. It is treated the verb classification based on the nominal number with which is connected the existence of a unique functional category written with v. the usage of these results is an innovation in the structural analyses of Albanian language formulated from the contemporary logic and also linguistic terminology and generative concepts of Albanian syntax.

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