

ON THE HISTORY OF THE ALBANIAN LANGUAGE AND ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER LANGUAGES

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The "Hylli i Drites" Journal, published by the Franciscan Printing Shkodër (Albania) during 1914-1944, reflected many problems of the Albanian society of that time. Full authority would have to be given to that journal concerning many problems and issues of the Albanian language, as a language which was still unconsolidated at the time.

Among other problems addressed, those of the language are temporary whereas a series of articles were devoted to problems of the history of the Albanian written language and its relations with other languages such as, Romanian, Greek, etc. Above mentioned articles were written by the following authors; J.Rrota, E. Çabej, M. Sirdani, K. Floqi, O. Myderrizi, N. Jokli, G. Caragata, etc.

The article I would like to publish, tackles the afore problems while giving a support analysis to the following articles; "On the business relations of Albanian and Romanian language" ("Mbi marrëdhëniet gjuhësore të shqipes me rumanishtes ") and "The Albanian people and its language" ("Populli shqiptar dhe gjuha e tij"), written respectively by G. Caragata and N.Jokli.

Based on the importance of knowledge that a comparative study between languages has, Romanian Professor George Caragata, in 1939 wrote an article in the "Hylli i Drites" Journal entitled "On the Albanian-Romanian language relations." The purpose of this study is to provide a practical and downright description of Albanian-Romanian language relations, mainly their phonetics, morph-syntax and lexicon.

1. – The phonetic similarity between Albanian and Romanian languages, claims the author, are numerous and important. It is particularly noted through the changes undergone by the Latin element of these languages. For example, the unaccented Latin vowel *a* varies into a more guttural, says Caragata, written as *ă* and *î* (in Romanian) unto the *ë* (in Albanian). According to him, Romanian and Albanian have shared this same sound, though written differently in both languages.

The phenomenon of phonetic sameness, emphasizes the author, "is nothing less than the continual resemblance these two languages have in the way of reviewing the vowels"¹.

The basis of articulation is not the same between these languages. This is proven, according to the author, by the accent, in the broadest sense of the word.

2. – morph-syntax resemblance. The common phenomena need to be carefully observed, underlines Caragata in particular; if phonetic phenomena belongs only to Albanian and Romanian language, those of morph-syntax can also be found in neighboring languages like Bulgarian, Slavic and the new Greek.

So it is a more open phenomenon.

3. – The common lexicological part: The author points out two major groups in this field.

(a) Lexical similarity of the Latin root.

(b) Lexical similarity of the original pre-Latin root which would determine the degree of parental ethnicity of these languages.

Romanian language has borrowed about 29 original words from Albanian, while the Albanian language has borrowed about 26 original words from Romanian language. These borrowings mainly come from the livestock sector.

¹ H.D. 1939 nr 37 f 219

The article “**The Albanian people and its language**”, related to Albanian language, was published in 1944 in the temporary "Hylli i Drites" Journal. It was an extract derived from the book "**Die Erforschung der indogermanischen spachen**" (1917), from the known scholar **Norbert Jokl**.

"The language of the Albanians has remained a poor child of the Indo-Germanic language family ... yet today, the Albanian language is expecting a solution for a large amount of issues"²

This has its own reasons, of internal and external nature, further states the author. And as he explored on the history of the country and the Albanian people, he briefly touched on the fate of the Albanian language.

Describing the geographical position and borders of the Albanian language in general, the author underlines that this language has undergone major changes and that the large amount of dialect is closely related to the social change that prevented creation of a full merger of the state by highlighting the fact that, in Albania, tribe is the ultimate defender of life order, acting upon the “Kanun” (life order manual) inherited through generations.

Albania continues the author, is a country of a major controversy of climate and morphological nature, because here you can find the Mediterranean climate and there you can feel the alpine freshness from the northern Alps. Due to this, the social and dialectal differences follow at large.

However, **Jokl** notes, the differences between two dialects, Geg and Tosk, can be compared with the German high and low dialects.

Regarding the issue of mixing the Albanian language, the author points out that our language is not a mixed language due to the fact that has an extraordinary mosaic of vocabulary; the grammatical constructions, inflexion of the words and the word formation have resisted the impact of foreign influence . Every language of the world has undergone a Linguistic mix in its broad meaning of the word.

Bibliography

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² H.D. 1944 nr 6,7 f 326