

## Thematic Classification of Turkish And Albanian Common Words<sup>1</sup>

DOI: 10.26466/opus.555807

\*

Mehmet Gedizli\*

\* Dr. Öğr. Üyesi, Sakarya Üniversitesi, Eğitim Fakültesi, Sakarya / Türkiye

E-Mail: [mgedizli@gmail.com](mailto:mgedizli@gmail.com)

ORCID: [0000-0002-2562-9492](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2562-9492)

### Abstract

*The number of common words in Turkish and Albanian is quite large. We cannot deny the significance of this attempt to scrutinize the commonality in language in terms of the Turkish Albanian relations in general as well as in terms of scientific, cultural, educational and social interaction. In light of the existing texts and records the history of the Turkish – Albanian relation can lead us to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This sociological relation that continues for seven hundred years reflects in the existence of common words as basic element of the language. Based on the Turkish language, this article will make a thematic classification of words found in the Albanian dictionaries, which are common to Turkish in structure and meaning. Thematic classification is a topic that interests many fields of science. One of the main tasks of the scientific studies is to classify data in order to produce scientific results and sound interpretation. Data production and classification is especially significant in social studies. There is noticeably limited number of studies regarding the interaction between the Turkish and Albanian language.*

**Keywords:** Turkish – Albanian, Common words, thematic classification, language relations.

---

<sup>1</sup> This article has been reproduced from the oral proceeding presented during IBU-ICSSH2017 (International Balkan University, II. International Congress on Humanities and Social Sciences, held on 12-14 May 2017 in Skopje, Macedonia)

## Türkçe ve Arnavutçada Ortak Kullanılan Kelimelerin Tematik Tasnifi

\*

### Öz

*Türkçe ve Arnavutçada ortak kullanılan kelimelerin sayısı oldukça fazladır. Türk-Arnavut ilişkileri bakımından dildeki bu müşterekliği irdelemenin bilim, kültür, eğitim ve sosyal ilişkiler açısından önemli bir girişim olacağı yadsınamaz. Özellikle 19. ve 20. yüzyıllarda dünyadaki ayrıştırıcı yaklaşımların aksine 21. yüzyılda uzlaştırıcı, birleştirici ve yakınlaştırıcı öğelere dikkat çekmek gerekmektedir. Türk-Arnavut ilişkilerinin tarihini metinler ve kayıtlar ışığında 14. yüzyıla götürmek mümkündür. Yedi yüz yıla yaklaşan bu sosyolojik ilişkinin dillerdeki yansımalarından birisi de dilin temel unsuru olan kelime ortaklıklarıdır. Bu makalede Türkçe esas alınarak, Arnavutça sözlüklerde bulunan ve Türkçeyle yapı ve anlam bakımından ortak olan kelimeler tematik bir tasnife tabi tutulacaktır. Tematik sınıflandırmalar, pek çok bilim alanının ilgisini çeken bir konudur. Verinin bilimsel sonuçlar ve sağlıklı yorumlar ortaya koyabilmesi açısından sınıflandırılması bilimsel çalışmaların temel görevlerinden biridir. Özellikle sosyal bilimlerde veri oluşturma ve sınıflandırma önemlidir. Türkçe-Arnavutça dil ilişkileri hakkında yapılan çalışmaların literatürde sınırlı olduğu gözlemlenmektedir. Bu araştırma ile hem dil ilişkileri hem de dile yansıyan bu leksik ilişki diğer disiplinlerin ilgisine de sunulmuş olacaktır. Şimdiye kadar Türkçe-Arnavutça dil ilişkilerinin Türkçeden Arnavutçaya kelime geçişleri üzerinde durulmuş fakat bu geçişler hakkında yorumdan öteye geçmeyen irdelemeler yapılmamıştır.*

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Türkçe-Arnavutça, Ortak kelimeler, Tematik tasnif, Dil ilişkileri

## Introduction

Words are the visible side of inter-linguistic relations. Words are elements that could be recognized by almost everyone and could be interpreted to a certain extent. Many of the ideas about the meaning of the words on the subject of structure and affiliation are far from linguistic approaches. Words that are used by everyone but the notions of which linguists are trying to produce are one of the problematic elements of both languages and inter-linguistic relations. The origin of the problem lies in the opinion that the transfer of words in some cases is welcomes while in other cases is considered to be damaging in terms of the language to which the words are transferred. Yet, words, which are the basic units of every language and have similar functions in every language, in terms of the speakers have a practical, in terms of experts a problematic or gainful and in terms of individuals, groups and communities, which have high level of affiliation doubt, they have vital significance.

One of the apparent and visible sides of inter-linguistic relations is the field of relations and interaction. Factors such as historical process, proximity to a place, elements of inter-communal interaction (trade, politics, art and literature) have an important role in determining the origins of inter-linguistic relations.

Relations between Turkish and Albanian languages are based on a historical fact. Being informed about the historical facts should suffice in order to pay attention to the relation between two different languages such as Albanian and Turkish, which existed under the roof of one state. It would be useful to interpret the five hundred yearlong political, social, religious, administrative, cultural and scientific interaction process and the preservation of the inter-linguistic relations, despite the one hundred yearlong discontinuity and the latest political, trade, humane, educational and cultural closeness, which will contribute the language interaction, in light of scientific evaluations.

Relations between Turkish and Albanian languages are pursued closely by researchers from both sides and the resulting studies become widespread as language relation examples and they also contribute to

having an increased number of studies of Turkish and Albanian languages. The scope and goal of this study should be pondered in this context.

This study has been executed based on Albanian, Albanian – Turkish and Turkish – Albanian dictionaries and the data (common words) that has been discovered in the process. The ongoing process of compiling the book about common words in Albanian and Turkish has discovered thousands of common words in these two languages. In order to determine the scope of such a large number of quantitative data we decided to perform a thematic classification of the words.

### **About Turkish and Albanian**

In accordance with the world classification of linguistic families Turkish and Albanian languages belong to two different groups. Turkish belongs to the Altaic branch of the Ural – Altaic language family. As an agglutinative language, Turkish is the fifth mostly spoken language in the world covering a vast space and 250 million speakers. Turkish is a language that emerged in the Asian steppes and spread to Anatolia, Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Siberia and came to these days by interacting with many languages, going through many different existence adventures, improving by expanding, remaining unchanged in the process of improving and preserving itself by dividing into dialects. Pursuant to its historical characteristic it continues to exist both in places where it was already present as well as different parts of the world where it appears for the first time such as: South and inner Africa and South America<sup>2</sup>. Turkish, which draws attention with the vastness of the space where it is spoken as well as the rich writing systems it uses, being deprived of the support of the systematic practices until the beginning of the twentieth century, continued its existence through vocal / oral cultural forms only through its people and artists. The interaction between the languages used in this vast space with Turkish is remarkable.

---

<sup>2</sup> [www.yee.org.tr](http://www.yee.org.tr)

Albanian is a language of the Indo – European family. Nowadays it is accepted to be the successor of the Illyrian, which is classified as dead language. Due to this reason it is considered not to have any close relatives among other Indo – European languages. Having unique characteristics, Albanian is the native language of Albanian nation, which occupies a wide space in the Balkans. Albanian has the status of an official language in Albania and Kosovo. The number of people speaking the Albanian language in Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Serbia and Turkey should not be underestimated. Standard Albanian, known today, has two distinct dialects: Gheg, dialect spoken in northern regions and Tosk, dialect spoken in southern regions. Furthermore, these two dialects are also divided into sub-dialects. Written Albanian uses the Latin alphabet. The Albanian alphabet consists of 36 letters 7 of which are vowels and 29 are consonants: a, b, c, ç, d, dh, e, ë, f, g, gj, h, i, j, k, l, ll, m, n, nj, o, p, q, r, rr, s, sh, t, th, u, v, x, xh, y, z, zh. Nine of the above-mentioned letters (dh, gj, ll, nj, rr, sh, th, xh, zh) are written by combining two letters but are pronounced as one phoneme. Moreover, eight letters (c, dh, gj, nj, q, rr, th, x) do not have counterparts in the Turkish phonetic system. These Albanian phonemes can be learned only by listening and studying. As Albanian is pronounced as written, reading it after learning the phonetic system is not hard.<sup>3</sup>

### **Turkish and Albanian common words**

Taking into consideration the lack of a concrete data regarding the number of common words in Turkish and Albanian we took advantage of the data gathered from the dictionaries stated in the reference parts which are currently in a publication stage. It was determined that around four thousand words were found in the aforementioned dictionaries. (Gedizli; 2018).

When during the inter-linguistic interaction words are added to the language, they undergo certain changes according to the sounds (phones) of that language. Some phones are added to the existing ones, some are removed and some change. It is quite natural to observe these phonetic

---

<sup>3</sup> [http://akyaka.meb.gov.tr/meb\\_ys\\_dosyalar/2017\\_02/23111037\\_ARNAVUTYA\\_EYYTYM\\_PRO-GRAMI.pdf](http://akyaka.meb.gov.tr/meb_ys_dosyalar/2017_02/23111037_ARNAVUTYA_EYYTYM_PRO-GRAMI.pdf)

changes in words as the smallest structural unit. On the other hand, in some cases commonly used words that have the same structure may preserve the structure but display changes in meaning.

Some common words in Turkish and Albanian could have the same meaning or they could remain within the same conceptual field. Certain Turkish words which are presumed to have been transferred to Albanian have preserved the morphological properties of Turkish. For example, words that have a Turkish affix are used in the same way in Albanian. On the other hand, word that has expanded by taking an affix in Turkish may form a new and common meaning by adding the same affix to the root or the stem of the word. As in the following words given as an example: "biletçi"-*"biletshitës"* (ticket seller); "boykotçu"-*"bojkotues"* (boycotter); "çapraz"-*"çaprashik"* (cross / diagonal).

Some of the common words used both in Turkish and Albanian languages do not originate from either of the two languages but they have the same structure and meaning. These words can be explained based on the historical relations. For example, we would like to emphasize the existence of Arabic and Farsi words. Albanian language never had any direct connection to these two languages. It is obvious that Arabic and Farsi words, which were widely used in the Ottoman period, transferred to Albanian during this period and they have since been present in both languages.

### **General classification of Turkish and Albanian words**

Many criteria can be used in the classification of words. They can be classified according to their structure, meaning, functional and syntactic properties. Classifications according to the meaning bring about disputable topics. Linguists have not reached a mutual agreement about the propounded views on the boundaries and structure of the meaning. This matter becomes even more complicated by the general linguistic approach which pushes the limits and the fact that almost all languages have their own cultural identity. Ultimately every language finds opportunity to exist in its own private space.

This study makes a thematic classification of common words in Turkish and Albanian language and interprets them according to the results

obtained by this classification. The main issue of the thematic classification is rooted in the fact that generally speaking theme and subject are close. The difference between theme and subject requires special attention.

### 1. Thematic classification of common words in Turkish and Albanian

Common words in Turkish and Albanian can be subjected to a thematic classification based on fifteen titles. Of course, the number of titles could differ. Because the amplitude of words could both reduce the thematic classification to the lowest number as well as increase it even more. Due to the fact it is the first study on this topic and due to the lack of universal scale the classification is completed in line with the means offered by the established data. Thereby the established themes are generated by generalizing. The path of re-framing the words gathered under the thematic title has not been taken. Due to the fact that it would have expanded the study we worked on creating a generic thematic classification.

*Table 1. Words related with the theme of means*

Turkish	Albanian
adaptör	Adaptor
ajanda	axhendë
albüm	album
amblem	emblemë
araba	araba
atlet	atlet, fanellë
bakraç	bakraç
bandaj	bandazh
baston	bastun
battaniye	batanije
bavul	baule, valixhe
ceket	xhaketë
cezve	xhezve
cibinlik	xhiblik
cüppe	xhybe
çadır	çadër, shatorr
çakşır	çakçirë
çanak	çanak
çanta	çantë
çapa	çapë
dosya	dosje

düdük	duduk
erzak	zahire
eyer	samar
falaka	fallaka

*Table 2. Words related with the theme of faith*

Turkish	Albanian
abdal	abdall, dervish
abdest	abdes
ahiret	ahret
amin	amin
babai	babai
bektaş	bektaşi
cami	xhami
cennet	xhenet
dergah	teqe
derviş	dervish
dua	dua
duacı	duaxhi
ecel	exhel
ezan	ezan
fetva	fetfa
günah	gjynah
günahkar	gjynahqar
hac	haxh
huri	hyri
iftar	iftar
iftarlık	iftarllëk

*Table 3. Words related with the theme of title and occupation*

Turkish	Albanian
hacı	haxhi
hacılık	haxhillëk
hadis	hadis
hafız	hafëz
kabadayı	kabadai
kabadayılık	kabadaillëk
kadayıfçı	kadaifçi
kadı	kadi
kadılık	kadillëk
kahveci	kafexhi
kalaycı	kallajxhi
kamyoncu	kamionist
köfteci	qoftexhi



kömürçü	qymurxhi
leblebici	leblebshitës
müezzin	myezin
müftü	myfti
parlamentar	parlamentar
paşa	pasha
paşalık	pashallëk
seyirci	sehixhi
seyisbaşı	seisbash

*Table 4. Words related with the theme of trade and economy*

Turkish	Albanian
banka	bankë
banker	bankier
banknot	bankënotë
esnaf	esnaf
gümrük	gjymryk
gümrükçü	gjymrykçi
işveren	patron
patron	patron
patronaj	patronazh
pazar	pazar
pazarlık	pazarllëk
sermaye	sermajë
siftah	sefte
tüccar	tyxhar
verecek	borxh
verecekli	borxhli
veresiye	veresie
vergi	vergji
vezne	vezme
veznedar	kasier

*Table 5. Words related with the theme of food*

Turkish	Albanian
kebap	qebap
kestane	gështenjë
keşkek	qeshqek
konserve	konzervë
köfte	qofte
kurabiye	gurabije
külbastı	gjylbasti
leblebi	leblebi
limon	limon

limonata	limonadë
macun	maxhun
mandalina	mandarinë
marul	marule
muhallebi	muhalebi
musakka	musaka
tarçın	dalçin
tarhana	tarhana
vişne	vishnjë
vitamin	vitaminë

*Table 6. Words related with the theme of housing*

Turkish	Albanian
baraka	barakë
cumba	xhumbë
çadır	çadër, shatorr
çardak	çardak
çerge	cerge
hangar	hangar
hapishane	hapsanë
kamp	kamp
kervansaray	han
konak	konak
köşk	qoshk

*Table 7. Words related with the theme of music*

Turkish	Albanian
darbuka	darabuk
davul	daulle
keman	qemane
musiki	muzikë
müzik	muzikë
müzikal	muzikal
müziyen	muzikant
piyanist	pianist
piyano	piano
ritim	ritëm
ritmik	ritmik
saksafon	saksofon
saz	saze
sazcı	sazexhi
solfej	solfezh
solist	solist
solo	solo

tambur	tambur
tamburi	tamburaxhi
taverna	tavernë

*Table 8. Words related with the theme of nature*

Turkish	Albanian
ekolog	ekolojist
ekoloji	ekoloji
ekvator	ekuator
fırtına	furtune
tayfun	tajfun
tropik	tropik
tropikal	tropikal
tufan	tufan
uzay	kozmos

*Table 9. Words related with the theme of health*

Turkish	Albanian
ödem	edemë
pankreas	pankreas
parazit	parazit
penisilin	penicilinë
perhiz	pehriz
pratisyen	praticien
reçete	recetë
şırınga	shiringë
tansiyon	tension
terapi	terapi
tetanos	tetanos
tifo	tifo
tümör	tumor
ülser	ulcer
verem	verem
veremli	veremli
virüs	virus

*Table 10. Words related with the theme of science and technology*

Turkish	Albanian
otomat	automat
otomatik	otomatik
otomobil	automobil
radyo	radio
radyoaktif	radioaktif
radyum	radium

teknik	teknikë
teknoloji	teknologji
telefon	telefon
teleks	teleks
teleskop	teleskop
televizyon	televizion
telgraf	telegraf
telgrafçı	telegrafist
vektör	vektor

*Table 11. Words related with the theme of housing measure, quantity and time*

Turkish	Albanian
ikinci	iqindi
kantar	kandar
kilo	kilo
kilogram	kilogram
kilometre	kilometër
kilovat	kilovat
kulaç	kulaç
milyar	miliard
milyarder	miliarder
milyon	milion
okka	okë
öşür	yshyr
periyod	period
periyodik	periodik
sabah	sabah
sabahleyin	sabañle
terazi	terezi
ton	ton
tonaj	tonazh
trilyon	trilion
vakit	vakt
vaktiyle	vaktile

*Table 12. Words related with the theme of behavior and manner*

Turkish	Albanian
babacan	babaxhan
babacanlık	babaxhanllëk
sabır	sabër
sabırlı	sabërli
sümsük	budalla
sünepe	meskin
şamata	shamatë

şamatacı	shamataxhi
şükür	shyqyr
şüphe	shybe
tembel	dembel
tembellik	dembellëk
üşenç	dembellëk
vesvese	vesvese
vesveseli	vesveseli
yalan	jallan
yaltak	lajkatar
yaltaklık	lajkatim
yavaş	javash
yavaşlık	javashllëk

*Table 13. Words related with the theme of community*

Turkish	Albanian
cemaat	Xhemat
cemiyet	Xhemiet
komşu	Komshi
mahalle	Mëhallë
mahalleli	Mëhallës
millet	Milet
namertlik	Maskarallëk
namus	Namus
namuslu	Namusqar
öksüz	Jetim
prestij	Prestigj
statü	Statut

*Table 14. Words related with the theme of entertainment*

Turkish	Albanian
komedi	komedi
komedyen	komedian
komik	komik
maskara	maskara
maskaralık	maskarallëk
palyaço	palaço
palyaçoluk	palaçollëk
piknik	piknik
sirk	cirk
soyтары	palaço
soyтарılık	palaçollëk
şaplak	shuplake

şebek	shebek
taverna	tavernë
tavla	tavllë
tombala	tombolë
zevk	qejf
zevzek	zevzek

*Table 15. Words related with the theme of politics, administration and military*

Turkish	Albanian
muhtar	myftar
padişah	sulltan, padishah
padişahlık	sulltanat
parlamenter	parlamentar
parlamento	parlament
parti	parti
partizan	partizan
saltanat	sulltanat
sancak	sanxhak
sancakbeyi	sanxhakbej
senato	senat
senatör	senator
sendika	sindikaté
sendikacı	sindikalist
silah	silah
sipahi	spahi
sipahilik	spahillëk
siyaset	politikë
siyonist	sionist
strateji	strategji
stratejik	stratejik
süngü	syngji
süngü	singji
topçu	topçi
vakıf	vakëf
vakıfname	vakëfname

## Conclusion

This study containing plenty of data will undoubtedly offer the possibility of drawing many conclusions. On the basis of the scope, goal and method of this study it is possible to draw the following direct conclusions. The quality of the common words in Turkish and Albanian and their quantity

(around four thousand) is remarkable. The existence of quite a few common words in almost all fields of life will give opportunity to many different scientific studies. Especially if the matter is reviewed by those researching Turkish and Albanian language it could offer opportunities for new findings and results with regard to both languages and linguistics.

These commonalities determined in the word level with regard to language relations could also be assessed in terms of social linguistic and cultural relations. Commonalities determined between two languages, which belong to different language families, could contribute to new approaches and interpretations of the past and future relations between Turkish and Albanian people.

One of the most contemporary conclusions of this study could be contemplated on the level of language learning and language teaching. Both languages could take advantage of these common words in the process of learning and teaching. Especially in the process of learning the quality and quantity of these words could actively be used in language teaching sources.

In conclusion the thematic classification of common words in Turkish and Albanian languages is closely associated with semantics as subfield of linguistics. The thematic classification of words is not viewed as popular topic of study. In this respect this study could also be assessed as novelty.

## Kaynakça / References

- Gedizli, M. (2018). *Dilinizdeki kelimelerimiz*. İstanbul: Akademik Kitaplar Yay
- Karaağaç, G. (2008). *Türkçe verintiler sözlüğü*. Ankara: Tdk Yay.
- Korça, M. (2009). *Arnavutça-Türkçe ve Türkçe-Arnavutça Sözlük*, Üsküp/Shukup: Logos A Yay.
- Ndreca, M. (2007). *Fjalor, botimet*. Tiran:Toena Yay.
- Neziri, S. (2007), *Türkçe- Arnavutça sözlük*. Tiran: Edfa Yay.
- Thomai, J. (2006). *Fjalor*, Tiran
- Voci, H. (2003). *Arnavutça-Türkçe Sözlük*. Tiran: Infbotues Yay.

Ymeri, Haki-Osmani, Z. (2008), Reçnik-Fjalor (Makedonca-Arnavutça Sözlük), Üsküp/Shukup:Menora Yay.

Ymeri, Haki- B. (2012), Fjalor-Reçnik (Arnavutça-Makedonca Sözlük), Üsküp/Shukup:Logos A Yay.

[www.yee.org.tr](http://www.yee.org.tr) (15.05.2018)

[http://akyaka.meb.gov.tr/meb\\_iys\\_dosyalar/2017\\_02/23111037\\_arnavutya\\_eyytym\\_programi.pdf](http://akyaka.meb.gov.tr/meb_iys_dosyalar/2017_02/23111037_arnavutya_eyytym_programi.pdf) (15.05.2018)

#### **Kaynakça Bilgisi / Citation Information**

Gedizli, M. (2019). Thematic classification of Turkish and Albanian common words. *OPUS–International Journal of Society Researches*, 11(18), 2616-2631. DOI: 10.26466/opus.555807