

Adverb formation process in Albanian and Bodo Languages: A comparative study¹

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Abstract

This study examines the Albanian and Bodo languages in regard to the morphological processes in adverb formation and the aim is to reveal the similarities and differences between these languages in regard to the type of the word before formation such as a)noun, b)adjective, c)pronoun, d)number, e)verb, f)adverb and the type of morphological processes in the formation such as a)prefixation, b)suffixation, c)compounding, d)reduplication. To achieve this, the contrastive analysis (CA) is applied which is composed of three steps as (1) description; (2) juxtaposition; (3) comparison (Krzyszowski 1990: 35). This contrastive study shows that these languages share lesser degree of similarities and more of differences in regard to both the type of the word in the pre-formation form and the type of the morphological process in the adverb formation process. In regard to the type of the word in the pre-formation as an adverb, it is found that Albanian and Bodo languages have both common points and differences in terms of the noun and adjective category, however they totally differ from each other in terms of numeral, pronoun and verb categories. As for the morphological processes realized in the adverb formation in Albanian and Bodo languages, both languages have prefixation, suffixation and compounding processes. However, Albanian language has also reduplication in the adverb formation while Bodo has not. As CA provides better understanding of linguistic difference between two languages, this study may be applied to the field of translation and might help the learners of Albanian and Bodo languages.

Keywords: Contrastive study, morphological process, Albanian language, Bodo language, adverb formation

1. Introduction

Word formation is a great interest for linguists as it gives information about other aspects of language and as it affects the language vocabulary enhancement. Adejumo and Osunbade (2014) defines word formation as “the process by which words are brought into existence.” One of the main word formation process is suffixation, “the formation of a new word by attaching an affix to the right of a root” (Göksel and Kerslake, 2004: 43). Another one is the prefixation in which a new word is created by attaching an affix to the left of a root. The other one is the compounding, “the combination of two or more lexemes into a complex word” (Booji, 2012: 77). The last formation process enlarging vocabularies and forming new lexical forms is the reduplication, “the repetition of a word or part of a word” (Göksel and Kerslake, 2004: 90). All these processes have distinctive patterns in language families. Table 1 illustrates the word formation processes in language families:

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Table 1. Language families with respect to word-formation processes and to types of prefixation, suffixation, compounding and reduplication

Word-formation processes	Types of prefixation	Types of suffixation	Types of compounds	Types of reduplication
Afro-Asiatic	Afro-Asiatic	Afro-Asiatic		Afro-Asiatic
			Altaic	
	Australian	Australian		
Austro-Asiatic				
				Austronesian
	Dravidian			
Indo-European	Indo-European	Indo-European	Indo-European	
	Japanese			
	Kartvelian	Kartvelian		
		Khoisan		
		Matacoan		
				Movima
			Niger-Congo	Niger-Congo
	Sino-Tibetan		Sino-Tibetan	
		Siouan		
			Totonacan	
		Trans-New		Trans-New
		Guinea		Guinea
	Uralic	Uralic		Uralic

(Štekauer et al., 2012: 322)

As shown in table above, language families differ from each other in regard to the presence and absence of the word formation process according to its types. In this study, the Albanian language from Indo-European language family and the Bodo language from Sino-Tibetan language family are compared in regard to the morphological processes. According to the table 1, the word formation processes realized in Indo-European language family are prefixation, suffixation and compounding while in Sino-Tibetan family these are prefixation and compounding.

In this study, the Albanian and Bodo languages are compared with each other in regard to the morphological processes in adverb formation. Taking into consideration that adverbs are the least universal lexical class among the four major classes of lexical word that appear most widely across languages (Givon, 2001 in Brahma, 2016), it is expected that these two languages differ from each other in regard to the adverb formation process.

2. Aim and methodology

This paper aims to analyze the adverb formation process in Albanian and Bodo languages. In parallel to this aim, the study attempts to answer the following research questions:

1. How is the adverb formation process realized in these languages in regard to the type of the word before formation? a)noun b)adjective c)pronoun d)number e)verb f) adverb
2. How do these languages differ in regard to the following morphological processes realized in the adverb formation? a)prefixation b) suffixation c)compounding d)reduplication

To achieve these goals, contrastive analysis method is used which is composed of three steps: (1) description; (2) juxtaposition; (3) comparison proper (Halliday et al 1964 in Krzeszowski 1990: 35). In the first step, the items to be compared are selected and described in two languages. In the juxtaposition step, cross-linguistic equivalents of the selected items are searched and identified. Krzeszowski (1990: 35) explains that the juxtaposition of the items in two languages enables to decide what is to be compared with what and to whether or not element X in one language is equivalent with element Y in another language. The comparison proper, the third and final step of the contrastive procedure presents the similarities and differences existing between two languages.

This study is organized as follows. Section 3 describes the adverb formation process in Albanian. Section 4 describes the adverb formation in Bodo language. Section 5 comparatively analyzes the adverb formation process in these languages. Section 6 presents the conclusions derived by the comparative analysis.

3. Adverb formation process in Albanian

Albanian is an Indo-European language and it occupies a separate branch in the Indo-European language family (Kulla, 2010). It has no other close relatives. The Albanian language is spoken by nearly seven million people, not only in Albania, but in Kosova, Montenegro, Macedonia, Greece and Turkey (Frucht, 2005). The adverbs in the Albanian language are formulated by suffixation, prefixation and compounding.

A1. Adverbs formulated from nouns with suffixation/no affixation

A number of adverbs are formulated by adding suffixes or with no affixation. The suffixes which are added to nouns in the Albanian language to formulate adverbs are: *-isht*, *-as (-azi)*, *-thi*.

noun + suffix > adverb

kalim-i “passage” + *-thi* > *kalimthi* “on the way”

bark “belly” + *-as* > *barkas/barkazi* “flat on one’s stomach”

natyrë-a “nature” + *-isht* > *natyrisht* “naturally” Camaj (1984: 64-65)

A2. Adverbs formulated from nouns with compounding

The Albanian adverbs can also be formulated from nouns by putting together two nouns conjoined with *e* “and”.

noun + conjunction + noun > adverb

ditë “day” + *e* “and” + *natë* “night” = *ditë e natë* “day and night” (Nuji, 2013:101)

B1. Adverbs formulated from adjectives with suffixation/no affixation

Adverbs in the Albanian language can be formed from adjectives by adding suffixes to the adjective stem.

suffix + adjective > adverb

-isht + bujar-e “generous” > bujar-isht “generously” (Camaj, 1984: 65)

-as/-azi + (*i*) *fshehte* “secret” > *fsheht-as/fsheht-azi* “secretly” (Genesin and Matzinger, 2015: 3134).

B2. Adverbs formulated from adjectives with the compounding process

The Albanian adverbs can be formulated by adding preposition *me* to a substantivized adjective.

preposition + adverb > adverb

më + *keq* “bad” > *më keq* “worse” (Kurani and Muho, 2014: 44).

C1. Adverbs formed from numerals with suffixation

In Albanian there are some adverbs which are formulated from cardinal numbers with suffixation.

suffix + number > adverb

-fish “time” *dy* “two” = *dyfish* “doubly”

-fish “time” *tre* “three” = *trefish* “triple” (Nuhui, 2013: 101).

C2. Adverbs formed from numerals with the compounding process

Adverbs in Albanian language are also formed by putting together two parts of speech as the basic numerals together with the noun *herë* “time”

number + noun > adverb

një “one” + *herë* “time” = *një herë* “one time”

dy “two” + *herë* “time” = *dy herë* “two times”

tri “three” + *herë* “time” = *tri herë* “three times” (Nuhui, 2013: 101).

D. Adverbs formulated from pronouns with suffixation/no affixation

pronoun + suffix > adverb

as “neither” + *kund* “everywhere” = *askund* “nowhere”

E1. Adverbs formulated from verbs with suffixation

verb + suffix > adverb

rëshqit “scroll” + *-as* > *rëshqitas* “slidably”

E2. Adverbs formulated from verbs with prefixation

prefix + verb > adverb

ku “where” + *do* “(it) wants” > *kudo* “everywhere”

ku “where” + *di* “knows” > *diku* “somewhere”

F1. Adverbs formulated from other adverbs with suffixation

adverb + suffix > adverb

natë “night” + n > natë-n “at night” (Genesin and Matzinger, 2015: 3136).

F2. Adverbs formed from other adverbs with the compounding process and irregular formation process

Some adverbs are formed by putting together two adverbs with conjunction *e* “and”

adverb + conjunction + adverb > adverb

aty “there” + *e* “and” + *ketü* “here” > *aty e ketü* “here and there”

Adverbs can be formulated from other adverbs with the irregular agglutination of the adverbs such as *sakaq* “immediately” and *dosido* “anyway”

F3. Adverbs formulated from other adverbs with prefixation.

prefix + an adverb = adverb

për- + *gjithmone* “always” > *përgjithmone* “forever” (Xhina, 2013: 257).

4. Adverb formation process in Bodo

The Bodo language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family. It is a major language of the North-eastern India (Dash, 2016). Bodo is spoken in the northeastern Indian states of Assam and Meghalaya and in Bangladesh (Bodo language, 2017). The adverbs in the Bodo language are formulated by suffixation, prefixation, compounding and reduplication. How the adverb formation process in the Bodo language is explained below with the examples taken from the study of Brahma (2016).

A1. Adverbs formulated from nouns with suffixation

noun + suffix > adverb

ok^hraŋ “sky” + *-ao* > *ok^hraŋ-ao* “in the sky”

hazü “hill” + *-ao* > *haz ü-ao* “in the hill”

A2. Adverbs formulated from nouns with the compounding process

noun + noun > compounding adverb

p^huŋ “morning” + *belase* “evening” > *p^huŋ-belasi* “whole day”

san “sun” + *hor* “night” > *san-hor* “regularly”

B1. Adverbs formulated from adjectives with suffixation

adjective base + suffix > adverb

t^hab “quick” + *-ui* > *t^hab-ui* “quickly”

muzan “nice” + *-ui* > *muzan-ui* “nicely”

B2. Adverbs formulated from adjectives with the reduplication process

adjective + adjective > adverb

Güçlü, R. (2017). Adverb formation process in Albanian and Bodo languages: A comparative study. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Education Research*, 3(5),1842-1850.

guduí “sweet” + *guduí* “sweet” > *guduí guduí* : sweet sweet

duɲbur “medium hot” + *duɲbur* “medium hot” > *duɲbur duɲbur* “in medium hot”

C. Adverbs formed from numerals with prefixation

prefix + number > adverb of number

k^hón-k^héb- + *se* “one” > *k^hón-se k^héb-se* “once”

k^hón-k^héb- + *nui* “two” > *k^hón-nui k^héb-nui* “twice”

D. Adverbs formulated from pronouns with suffixation

pronoun + suffix > adverb

bé “this” + *yao* > *bé-yao* “here”

bobé “which” + *yao* > *bobé-yao* “where”

E1. Adverbs formulated from verbs with the compounding process

verb + verb > adverb

p^huɲza “to be the morning” + *sanza* “to be day” > *p^huɲza-sanza* “early in the morning”

horza “to be night” + *sanza* “to be day” > *horza-sanza* “any day”

E2. Adverbs formulated from verbs with the reduplication process

verb + verb > adverb

k^hon-i “sing” + *k^hon-i* “sing” > *k^hon-i k^hon-i* “by singing”

musa “dance” + *musa* “dance” > *musa musa* “by dancing”

F1. Adverbs formulated from other adverbs with suffixation/no affixation

adverb + suffix > adverb

p^hun “morning” + *ao* > *p^hun-ao* “in the morning”

belasi “evening” + *ao* > *belasi-yao* “in the evening”

F2. Adverbs formed from other adverbs with the compounding process

adverb + adverb > adverb

gabun “tomorrow” + *soɲp^hur* “the day after tomorrow” > *gabun-soɲp^hur* “almost two or a few days later”

sant^hrub “wholly-day” + *hort^hrub* “wholly-night” > *sant^hrub-hort^hrub* “restlessly”

5. Contrastive analysis of adverb formation process in Bodo and Albanian languages

The adverb formation process in the Bodo language and the Albanian language are discussed above separately. The contrastive analysis between these languages in regard to the adverb formation process is given below firstly from broad perspective and then specifically focusing on the research questions.

- There are three morphological processes in adverb formation in the Albanian language which are suffixation, prefixation and compounding while in the Bodo language there are four

types of adverb formation process which are suffixation, prefixation, compounding and reduplication.

- Both languages have the suffixation, prefixation and compounding process for the adverb formation.
- In the Bodo language many adverbs are formed by the reduplication of verbs and adjectives while in the Albanian language the adverb formation is not realized with the reduplication process.
- In the Albanian language, some adverbs formulated from nouns, adjectives and pronouns can preserve the basic form while in the Bodo language there is not any adverb formation process realized without any affixation.
- In the Albanian language, some adverbs can be formulated from the other adverbs with the irregular formation while in the Bodo language there is not any adverb formation process realized with the irregular formation.

The contrastive analysis below explains how the adverb formation process is realized in the Albanian and Bodo languages in regard to the type of the word before formation:

Noun

- In both languages, adverbs can be formulated from nouns with suffixation while Albanian adverbs can also be formulated from nouns without any affixation.
- In both languages, adverbs can be formulated from nouns with the compounding process. However, in Albanian a conjunction can be used in the compounding process while in Bodo language nouns are compounded without any conjunction.

Adjective

- In both languages, adverbs can be formulated from adjectives with suffixation while Albanian adverbs can also be formulated from adjectives without any affixation.
- Albanian adverbs can be formulated from adjectives with the compounding process while in the Bodo language adverbs can be formulated from adjectives with the reduplication process.

Numerals

- While Albanian adverbs are formed from numerals with suffixation or with the compounding process in the Bodo language adverbs are formed from numerals only with prefixation.

Pronoun

- In both languages, adverbs can be formulated from pronouns with suffixation while Albanian adverbs can also be formulated from pronouns with no affixation.

Verb

- While the Albanian adverbs are formulated from verbs with suffixation or prefixation in the Bodo language adverbs are formulated from verbs with the compounding or reduplication process.

Adverb

▪ In both languages, adverbs can be formulated from the other adverbs with suffixation and with the compounding process. However, the Albanian adverbs can also be formulated from the other adverbs with the prefixation or irregular formation process.

The contrastive analysis below explains how the Albanian language and the Bodo language differ in regard to the following morphological processes realized in the adverb formation:

Prefixation

▪ While in the Bodo language the prefix is attached only to the numerals, in the Albanian language prefix is added only to the verb and adverb in the adverb formation process.

Suffixation

▪ In both languages, in the adverb formation process the suffix is attached to the noun, adjective, pronoun or the other adverb. In Albanian, it is also attached to the numerals to formulate adverb.

Compounding

▪ In the Albanian language, adverbs can be formulated from noun, adjective or numeral with the compounding process while in the Bodo language adverbs are formulated from noun, verb or adverb with the compounding process.

Reduplication

• In the Bodo language, adverbs are formulated from adjective or verb with the reduplication process while in the Albanian language there is not any adverb formation realized with the reduplication process.

6. Conclusion

The aim of the study was to explore adverb formation processes in Albanian and Bodo languages comparatively and reveal the differences and similarities between these languages in regard to the morphological processes realized in formation process and the type of word before formation. In regard to the morphological processes, Albanian adverbs can be formed with suffixation, prefixation and compounding processes. In addition to these processes, Bodo adverbs can also be formed with reduplication process. As for the type of word before formation, both languages can form adverbs from nouns, adjectives, numerals, pronouns, verbs and other adverbs. With suffixation, the Albanian adverbs can be formulated from all the categories, while the Bodo adverbs can not be formulated from numerals and verbs with suffixation. With prefixation process, the Albanian adverbs can be formed from verb and other adverbs while the Bodo adverbs can be formed only numerals with this process. With compounding process, the categories of the word before formation are noun, adjectives, numerals and other adverbs in Albanian language while in the Bodo language these are noun, verb and other adverbs. Not any adverb is formed from these categories with the reduplication process in Albanian. However, in the Bodo language reduplication of the verbs and adjectives are available in the adverb formation process. In addition, the Albanian nouns and adjectives can form adverbs with not any affixation while in the Bodo language the only category that can form adverbs with no affixation is pronoun. On the

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basis of these findings, it can be concluded that the Albanian and Bodo languages share lesser degree of similarities and more of differences in regard to the adverb formation process.

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