A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF IMPERATIVE SENTENCES IN ENGLISH AND ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

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This article focuses on the syntax and structure of imperative sentences in English and Albanian language. Imperative is commonly used to express a command, an order or a request. These sentences generally have no subject and may have either the main verb or an auxiliary in the base form followed by the appropriate form of the main verb. Concerning the clause patterns of imperative sentences, they have the same patterns as declaratives. They imply a wide range of illocutionary acts depending on the situational context. The article is concentrated on the similarities and differences that both languages demonstrate. By analyzing and comparing the traditional verb forms included in the imperative paradigm, the grammatical categories specific to English and Albanian, including other mood forms conveying the imperative meanings, we present a full description of the morphology of imperatives. We analyze the word order, the nature of the imperative subjects and problems related to that, negative imperative as well as the use of other elements such as adverbs or particle and their function in these sentences, in order to introduce a thorough analysis of the syntax of imperative sentences. Although both languages obviously display distinctions, as we know English has a rigid word order while Albanian has a richer verbal morphology and freer word order, they still possess similarities in the structure of clause patterns, range of illocutionary force, issues related to subject and negative imperative. Thus this article is an empirical and comparative account about the captured similarities and distinctions of imperative in both languages.

Keywords: imperative, Albanian, English, sentence, language

According to the communicative function, descriptive grammarians classify sentences in three types as: narrative (declarative), interrogative and imperative. This classification is common for indo-European languages, where English and Albanian language fall under separate branches. Imperative sentences are commonly used to express a command, request, advice or an order. The beginning of the XX-th century demonstrates little attention concerning the linguistic theory of imperative sentences, as until then, the language was regarded as being separated and independent from the speaker. Previously, the study of the structure of languages had been the primary focus for the linguistic scholars. Later on the speech was considered as an important aspect of the human activity. Due to special semantic and

pragmatic features, the imperative sentences were brought into the target or focus of the linguists, aiming at a thorough research and analysis of the communicative situation, communication speech, the participators (speaker – recipient of prescription) and their role or status in the speech act.

The third type, i.e. imperative sentences seem to be of interest to be studied as they include sentences which express the speaker's will in the form of a command, request, wish or order. So these sentences carry with themselves a modality. These sentences include the subtype of the imperative sentences, (expression of the speaker's will in the form of a command), and also there are included sentences which show the speaker's will, not as a real fact, but as a desired one, (this group includes sentences implying a curse, wish or greeting) – e.g. Por të lutem na ler të flemë (Kongoli , 2005:160). *(Please, let us sleep)* – Ja, kështu të jetë mot për mot! (Kuteli, 1972:80) (*Well, May it be the same in the years to come!*)

Within the group of imperative sentences there are distinguished the sentences that simply express a speaker's will and the sentences that express the active attitude of the speaker towards what he wishes to do or have and his efforts to make others perform or not an activity. The grammatical category of mood is the main means to express the modality of will in the form of a wish, order, request, advice etc.

English Albanian. An order*:* Write the letter – Prisni këtu (Kadare, 1996:223). (*Wait here*). Request: Stay with us tonight – Nëm vulen më të mirë (Kadare, 1996:48) (*Give me the best seal possible.*) Advice: Try to be more attentive – S'eshte nevoja te ligeshtoheni ashtu (Kadare, 1996:67). (*It is not right to fade in this way*.) Permission, warning, liking or acceptance: Let him join the others – Ju shkoni te flini, qe te rriti (Kuteli, 1972:91)*, (You go to sleep, to grow up.)*

Imperative sentences are characterized by an affective content and often are pronounced by a vocative intonation. Intonation is specific for these sentences and sometimes it is this intonation that distinguishes if sentences are declarative, imperative or other. Concerning punctuation, in general they take an exclamation mark in cases of a vocative intonation and in other cases they take a dot. Both languages display similarities in the semantics of sentences and also other grammatical aspects; but of course, they show distinctions concerning the morphology, syntactic structure, word order etc.

Characteristics of imperative sentences in Albanian language

In Albanian language imperative sentences express the clear request of the speaker for the realization or not of an activity and sentences give various expression of the will from an order to a proposal, advice warning etc. In this group there are included sentences that express the speaker's order to achieve something ("*Ndize o Cute-tha ago Zylali,*" – Kuteli, 1972:257) (*Light it, you Cute – said Ago Zylali*), and also the second subgroup expressing the speaker's wish to do something including wishes, curses, greetings, vows etc ("*Ik e mos u kthefsh!*" – Kuteli, 1972:171)*, (Go and never come back again!*)

According to the modal meanings and the respective grammatical forms in Albanian there are distinguished six verb moods, all with the category of tense, person and number, due to the richer verbal morphology that Albanian language has. The imperative mood has forms only for the second person singular and plural, present tense. So only these two are the grammatical forms of imperative mood. This mood does not have the tenses that other

moods have because of the modality it has. The more modality it displays, fewer tenses it will have. The grammatical forms are: *e.g Meso (Ti)* Learn (you) II Singular; *Mesoni* (*Ju*) Learn (you) II Plural.

Due to the typical characteristics of Albanian language as an inflectional one, the category of number or person or other is inflectionally distinguished. The inflectional character of Albanian language is recognized by the specific imperative endings for the verbs used in this mood: M*eso-***o** and in plural *Meso*-ni. These endings mark the category of person and number. This means that the person and number are easily distinguished in an imperative sentence, without mentioning the subject. Anyway, in cases when the speaker wishes to order more than one person that does not take part in the conversation, then he uses the third person singular and plural of the subjunctive mood, present tense preceded or not by the particle "*le*" (let). The use of the verb in the tenses of subjunctive mood is specific for imperative sentences in Albanian language. (The subjunctive mood in Albanian language has four tenses) (Grammar..., 1995:330): e.g Të shkoj të shikoj njëherë c'bëhet (Kadare, 1996:143)*.* (*Let me see what is going on*.)

Also of an imperative value may be even the first person plural subjunctive mood when the speaker urges a group of people to perform something, where he is a part of; e.g Hajde shokë t'i japim te gjithë xhaxhos sa të mundim (Kuteli, 1972:195). (*Come on guys, let's give to the uncle as much as we can*.) (Kuteli, 1972:87).

The category of tense is present in the meaning of imperative sentences. For instance, in cases when there are emphasized a number of repeated actions occurring in the past, it is used the second person singular imperative mood for the three persons, singular and plural. In this case, there is a repetition of the same verb in imperative mood or being linked by coordinative conjunction or either asyndetically – e.g *Prish, shkreto, shkatërro*! (*Demolish, destroy, devastate*.)

Concerning the structure of the sentence it appears to be without a subject. As Albanian has a free word order, the use of subject is limited or either not used at all. The role of the inflections is important in marking the subject; the second person plural is distinguished by the verb ending: lexo-ni (*Read*),(you- plural) or either lex**-**o (*Read*) (you-singular). (Grammar..., 2002:129)

The imperative sentences in Albanian may be simple or independent clauses or either part of matrix sentences. E.g *Shko,shko, se do ta gjesh. (Go away, go away*, *you will find it…*). (Kuteli, 1972:277).

The clause pattern in the imperative sentences in Albanian and English language has this form:

1. Degjo, *Jump* (V intrasitive) *(Listen)*
2. Merrme edhe mua , *Swallow* it(destiny 761) (V +O) (*Take me with you*)
3. Ji i arsyeshem *Be reasonable* (S+V+C) (*Be reasonable*)
4. Mos shko andej *Get inside* (V+ Adverbial) (*Don't go there*)
5. Mos ma merr per te keq *Don't give him that staff* (VOO) (*Don't misunderstand me*)
6. Prit radhen aty. *Consider yourself lucky*). VOC. (*Wait for your turn*)
7. Vini doren ne zemer. (Kuteli, 1972:336, 77, 74, 284, 188) *Put the flowers on the table*(S)+V+O+Adjunct) (*Feel pity*) (Beauman, 1988)

Intonation is one of the significant features that distinguish the sentences from the other groups. The intonation of an order helps the speaker to convey what he aims to order to the referent. Sometimes the intonation may group sentences either being imperative or declarative: e.g Shkojme. (Declarative) (*We leave*); Shkojme! (Imperative) (Go); Shkojme? (Interrogative) (Shall we go?)

As we see, the same sentence falls under the three main types of sentences. In Albanian language the negative meaning is expressed through the negative particle"mos" – the imperative verb form and always preceding the verb form. E.g Une mesoj mesimin. (*I learn the lesson*) (Declarative); Mos e lexo mesimin! (Don't *learn the lesson*) (Imperative); Mos trego! (*Don't tell*).

When the verb is in subjunctive with the particle (le), the negative particle "mos" follows "*le te*" and precedes the verb: e.g Le te *mos* vije. (*Let him not come*).

When we use the particle *nuk* sometimes the subject is used to complete the meaning: Ti nuk do te ikesh, pa ardhur une. (*You will not leave, before I come back.*)

Characteristics of imperative sentences in English language

There are almost three universal grammatical characteristics of imperative sentences such as:

1. They do not have a subjective mode (so the subject is almost not obvious) words as e.g. I think, to my mind.

2. The use of causative narrative sentences neither for direct/indirect speech conversions as: e.g. The mother warned the children not to approach the river.

3. The imperative sentences are pronounced with a specific intonation.

The study of imperative sentences includes the analysis of category of mood, the syntactic structure, the use of subject, illocutionary acts. So, in other words the analysis comprises a number of notional and formal components of imperative sentences.

Mood

Imperative mood is characteristic of imperative sentences, but in Albanian in different cases the subjunctive is used in case it is meant an activity or state related to third person singular or first and second person plural.

English Albanian

Light this for me! Lexoje shpejt! (*Read it quickly*) (*You-second person singular*). Don't tell her! Hapeni deren!(*Open the door*) (*you-second person plural*). Let's do it again! Le te shkojme per peshk! (*Let's go fishing*) (*You and I, so we, first person plural*). Somebody sees us! (Beauman, 1988:28, 68, 97, 83) Ta beje dikush kete! (*Somebody does this*) (*He, third person singular*).

From the above examples, we observe the use of imperative mood verbs in all sentences for both languages, in English having the same from of indicative 2-nd person and in Albanian that of an imperative verb having the respective inflections specific for the imperative verbs. The difference lies in the fact that in English language examples the subject is generally absent (*Open the door*), while in Albanian the subject either is present in the sentences or underlined through the inflections marking the person or number the speaker is referring to (hape*ni* –the ending *ni* marks the second person plural). So, the category of person and number is distinguished in Albanian, but not in English. The usual tense used in imperative mood is the

present tense and the verbs appear in their base form like in indicative or less commonly the auxiliary in the base form followed by the appropriate form of the main verb.

Morphology

The majority of the scholars accept that the English imperative paradigm comprises the following form and elements:

	2-nd person	Combined Persons.	1st person	3rd person Masculine	3rd person feminine
singular	write	Let us write (you sing and I)	Let me write	Let him write	Let her write
Plural				Let them write	

Compared to the paradigm of indicative mood there is a difference with the imperative in:
    1. Combined person form.
    2. Imperative mood paradigm distinguishes the 1st, 2nd and 3rd person forms that are the same with the indicative forms (except for the 1st and 2nd person form in the present simple, which are opposed to the 3rd person form singular (I *write* and he/she *writes*).
    3. The imperative third person forms distinguish the gender.
    4. They do not distinguish tense.

The negative imperative forms are represented by: don't (analytical) +infinitive constructions: e.g. Don't worry," Mr Lewis said (Beauman, 1988:369).

In this case the indicative and imperative show a homonymy in the verb forms, except for the verb *to be,* which in negative does not take the auxiliary *do*, but the negative particle *not.*

1. You are not the best 2. Don't be superior. First person imperatives are negated by the insertion of *not* after the pronoun following *let,* while third person by the use of *not* after *let* or the initial *don't.* Even in Albania when the verb is in subjunctive with the particle (*le*) we have mentioned above the negative particle "mos" follows "*le te*" and precedes the verb: Le te *mos* vije. (*Let him not come*.) E.g. Let us leave it there ,all right? – Let us leave it there or do not let leave it there.

Voice

The imperative displays characteristics of both active and passive voice, but they irregularly included in the paradigm of imperative. Practically are mostly used in negative imperative sentences, in cases when we give a warning or in standard commands such as: Don't be involved / be seated.

Tense

Imperative shows no category of tense. The implied action in the imperative sentences refers to the future time. Theoretically, the imperative distinguishes three aspects-tense categories: the main, progressive and the perfect, practically in reality the main category is used. The progressive aspect is used only when the speaker addresses to an action which is in

progress at the moment of speaking. E'g Be finishing your essay, while I am out.

Also the perfect is rarely used and in this case the speaker refers to a preceding action. E. g. Study the project and have performed it until the boss returns (Xrakovskij, 2001:357).

Syntax

Generally the syntactic structure of imperative sentences comprises no subject. E.g Read the letter/ Open the door.

In certain cases the subject may be optional, when the speaker is referring to a broader context (Han, 2000). Even in cases when the subject may be used to emphasize the fact to which we are referring to, it precedes the verb in the imperative mood. As the English language has a fixed word order, in some cases the use of the subject is important to clarify the meaning. The subject is compulsory in this case. *Let* sentences with pronouns used in objective cases and nouns in common cases:

1. *Let us leave it there, all right?*
2. *Let him leave it there.*
3. *Let the student leave it there* (Beauman, 1988:594).

In Albanian the verb endings mark the person and in this way the meaning is clear. In 2nd person imperatives the subject should be used in the sentences, where the agent is not definite and the use of the subject is obligatory in order to make the meaning complete and clear: e.g. somebody call the police/write the address the student who has got it.

In some cases there is noted the use of the vocative in imperative sentences. It can also occur with the subject of the sentence. In 2nd person it refers to the agent of the action: e.g. Sara, read the letter/ Sara, let's read the letter, in 3d person the vocative is related to another outside person: e.g Sara, let him (your brother) read the letter. Sometimes they can not be distinguished, but concerning the sentence word order the subject precedes the verb, while the vocative may be put in any position in the sentences. E.g. let him read the letter, Sara.

Another point to distinguish about the syntax of imperative structure in English language is the tag-questions. They are used in the 2nd person imperative expressing politeness or anti-politeness. They question is formed with the modal verb and the pronoun; this is similar to the indicative general questions. E.g. Give them to me, will you? (*M'i jep mua ato, apo jo*?)

Tag-questions are not used with modals in Albanian language. The use of tag questions is specific for the English language only for the fact that they use the modals will you/ would. E.g Don't mention this to anyone, will you, darling? (Beauman, 1988:70); Or cases of anti-politeness with *can*, *can't you*. The use of *would you* and *could you* are the most polite forms. E.g Help me with this exercise, would you?

Semantics

There is a wide range of illocutionary acts that imperative sentences are used. The illocutionary force is related to the relative authority of the speaker and hearer and it is relevant to the situational context, so not always possible distinctions are made. The meaning of imperative sentences is of several types, expressing an order, a request or command. These types of meanings are dependent on the meaning of the predicate, the agent referred to, the

person and number and also the participants' relations in a certain imperative situation.

Predicate denoting actions that good or bad for someone or other meanings. Person number 2nd person imperative sentences convey a variety of meaning; the 3rd person meanings are limited (Greenbaum, 1990).

Referent agent – the meaning of an instruction is expressed through a sentence where the agent is not specified or has no referent. We are further mentioning some examples of the usual possible cases: *order/ command*: go to your room (Beauman, 1988:795); *prohibition*: don't smoke; *request*: so, tell us (Beauman, 1988:796); *advice/recommendation*: lock the door before you leave; *warning*: mind the steps!; *suggestion*: let's propose him our plan; *instruction*: turn left; *invitation*: come in; *offer*: have a glass of wine; *good wishes*: have a nice time; *imprecation*: go to hell; *self-deliberation*: let me have a look. Anyway, depending on the situational context, the illocutionary act may show various meanings, but the modality of imperative sentences in both languages does not show any difference in meanings. Semantically, these languages have no noticeable distinctions.

Conclusions

Albanian and English languages are members of the Indo-European language family, so descending from a family of a common source. The evolution of Indo-European languages has caused great changes, where all subgroups have diverged from each-other. Some of them still survive as languages of special characteristics e.g. *Albanian* language. But, there are also language groups like Germanic languages, (English, German, Norwegian), which have derived from the old German language. Due to the historical evolution, Albanian language has been transformed from a language of synthetic- analytical type, which is far from the old type of Indo-European languages. Although they belong to the same family they fall under separate branches, which lead to natural differences and distinctions. Besides, these differences and specifics that both languages show relating the imperative sentences (seen on different aspect), they also display similarities and linguistic contacts.

The imperative sentences and their structure involve universal features, which are recognized in many languages. Similarities between languages are viewed in many aspects. English and Albanian language besides the distinctions, there are noticed similarities in the semantic plane: the imperative modality. As we mentioned above, they express almost the same imperative meanings with relation to the situational context where this communicative act occurs.

Difference is noticed in the morphology of sentences, as Albanian language is of a richer morphology and has inflections which mark the category of tense person or number, while English language has an impoverished morphology.

Also the differences in the syntactic structure, the English has a fixed word order and the use of subject is optional while in Albanian it may not be used at all as it is marked by the inflectional endings. The rich inflectional system influences the lack of subject in the imperative sentences. Thus, this paper aimed at presenting an account about the captured similarities and distinctions of imperative sentences in English and Albanian language, as languages of separate branches, but displaying universal features and characteristics.

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