

The Contrast of Common and Genitive Cases: The Case of Albanian and English Language

Dr. Shkelqim Millaku, Dr. Shpetim Zymberaj

Corresponding Author: Prof.ass.Dr. Shpetim Zymberaj

Abstracts

Case is a grammatical category which shows the noun's relationship to other parts of speech or its function in the sentence. Albanian standard language has five cases and they are: Common case, genitive, dative, accusative and ablative case and English nouns today have only a two-case system: the unmarked common case (book, teacher, boy) and the marked genitive case (book's, teacher's, boy's). In Albanian the possessive cases can be with the definite article i, e, të and së, so between English language and Albanian it is the contrast because English has two forms of possessive and usually used after the noun e.g. Mary's book, Time's house, students', worker's children's women's; This is Arta's jacket; This is my mother's jacket. This is the dog's food. If a plural noun does not end in /s/, add /s/, women's, men's, children's etc. The common case doesn't have any contrast between Albanian and English, but the genitive in Albanian has some definite article that usually use before the noun as i emrit (name's), i leximit (read's), e vajzës (girl's). In this paper we will studies the contrast of the Alb. and Eng. cases.

Keywords: Contrastive, common and genitive case, Albanian and English.

Introduction

English language today has common and possessive cases. Albanian language, on the contrary, has five cases (nominal, genitive, dative, ablative and accusative), so it is a clear contrast between the two languages. In English the genitive suffix is marked off in writing by an apostrophe. The genitive of regular plural nouns is showed in writing by the addition of an apostrophe: boys – boys'. The form with '-s, and it usually can see after the noun e.g. Mary's book, Tim's house, my father's office, the boy's toys, Tim and Jane's house etc. The next model of possessive is when the noun is in plural usually get just the apostrophe e.g. workers', students', dogs' etc.

The category of Case

The noun performs a variety of syntactic functions in relation to the other parts of the sentence, and its form varies accordingly. The forms of the noun which reflect its function in the sentence are called its case, *rasa* in Albanian. When we speak of cases as grammatical categories, we have in mind both the particular forms of nouns and the grammatical functions reflected by them. The

totality of case forms forms of the noun is called its declension (lakim). All nouns in Albanian are declined, regardless of their source. In contemporary Albanian it is necessary to distinguish five cases: emërore ‘nominative’, gjinore ‘genitive’, dhanore ‘dative’, kallëzore ‘accusative’, and rrjedhore ‘ablative’ (L. Newmark).

A nominative case form not preceded by a preposition may serve as subject of a sentence, predicate nominative e.g.

Erdhi në shkollë.	He (she) came school.
Shkoi te fëmija.	He (she) went to his children.
Erdhi në zyre.	He came office.
I sëmur prej gripi	He became ill with (from) the grippe.
Table 1	

The nominative case form is used as the citation form, for example has not any contrastive form between Alb. and English, so after the preposition nga (from), te, tek (to) nominative case form are used in Alb., but in English is without it.

Genitive or possessive Case

The possessive when it refers names, places, things or concepts usually can saw after the noun e.g. half of the chapter, the door of the room, the box of matches etc. However, the construction+ noun can also be used for the noun of the people e.g. “the daughter of John and Jane, the wife of Mr. Brown, the works of Shakespeare” etc. In Albanian the possessive cases can be with the article i, e të, and së, so between two languages it is the contrast because has two forms of possessive and usually used after the noun e.g. Mary’s book, Time’s house, students’, worker’s, children’s women’s, this is Arta’s jacket, this is my mother’s jacket. This is the dog’s food. If a plural noun does not end in /s/, add /s/. women’s, men’s, children’s etc.

This case forms are mainly used for a variety of determining functions expressed in English by prepositional phrase introduced by of, by the so-called possessive ‘s, or by nouns use as adjective. They often follow a referent noun or pronoun, explicit or implicit in the sentence (L. Newmark).

If the noun in the plural ending with the consonant and in the common cases it in the possessive gets just apostrophe (‘s), (‘) boys’, students’, books’. The noun in singular can ending with the consonant and in the common cases it in the possessive gets apostrophe or apostrophe and –s e.g. today’s, last week’s, a mother’s, tow mothers, ‘s boss’, son-in-law’s, sister-n-law’s, man’s, Richard’s, cat’s, dog’s. The boy’s book is one the table. The wife’s house is near here. If the singular nouns in –s, there are two possible forms, the first apostrophe and –s how my wife’s or only an apostrophe Thomas’ teacher etc. If the compound words or phrasal it has this function: mother-in-law, get add’s mother-in-law’s, son-in-law’s, sister-n-law’s. Both of languages have their contrast for this phenomenon of grammar, Albanian has the article /i, e, të, së/ and English has /s/. The Albanian language has the dative that isn’t in exist English e.g. Tregoi babait. Iu afrua Teuta. This case in Albanian description the indirect object and it doesn’t exists in English. It is same with another case that has Albanian but doesn’t have English (genitive, dative and accusative). The genitive case forms are mainly used for a variety of determining expressed in English by prepositional phrases introduced by /of/, by the so-called possessive –s, or by nouns

used as adjective. They often follow a referent noun or pronoun, explicit or implicit in the sentence and indicate:

a. The afflation with or ownership of the referent: libri i bibliotekës – the library book’, oborri i shkollës – the school yard’.

b. Lulet e majit - The May flowers. Hapja e dritareve – the opening of the windows. Shumica e studentëve – the majority of students. A noun in the genitive case modifying another noun must either be definite or be indefinite and proceeded by a determiner: një nxënës i shkollës – a pupil of the school’, but një nxënës i një shkollë – a pupil of a school (Sh. Millaku).

The genitive case today is the only case form that exists in English. The use of the genitive case is mainly to animate nouns and some pronouns (Sue’s sister, that child’s, somebody’s hat). However, this rule is not strict the genitive case is sometimes found with certain nouns, mainly nouns denoting inanimate objects: England’s population, a ship’s heating system, a motor-bike’s engine etc (J. Kabashi).

Th contrastive form of the genitive case

English (singular)	Albanian (njëjës)
Alma’s book.	Libri e Almës.
My sister’s car.	Vetura e motrës.
Beni’s library.	Libraria e Benit.
Agim’s son.	Djali i Agimit.
The arrive of friends’	Ardhja e miqve
The month of July’.	Muaji i korrikut.
He’s Gad’s.	Ehtë i Zotit.
The oldest of the family.	Më i vjetri i familjes.
A pupil of the school.	Një nxënës i shkollës.
Table 2	

In Albanian language the genitive case is with definite article and in English is formed by adding the inflection ‘s.

The genitive inflection is added in Eng. and with article in Alb.:

English (plural)	Albanian (shumës)
Children’s book	Libri i fëmijëve.
The men’s job.	Puna e burrave.
Sheep’s wool.	Leshi i deleve.
The majority of students’	Shumica e studentëve.
Workers’	E punëtorëve
Table 3	

English	Albanian
Doctor’s (singular genitive).	i (e) doktorit (singular genitive)
Doktors’ (plural genitive)	të doctorët (plural genitive)
Doctors (plural number).	doktorë (plural number)
Table 4	

In the tables we can see contrastive report between Eng. and Alb. genitive and as we see we two different forms:

1. The inflectional morpheme /'-s/, which is added to nouns referring to persons or animals e.g. Alma's book; or my sister's car and Beni's library are the contrast with Albanian language because in Alb. the definite article is in the function to create the genitive like e.g. Libri e Almës; Vetura e motrës and Libraria e Benit.

2. In cases when the noun is in plural, then only the apostrophe is added as in the table number three, or e.g. students', workers', doctors', women's etc, but in Alb. it is with definite plural article (të).

Dative Case

Dative case forms are usually used with verbs to make the referent (indirect object) of the verb. Usually, then, they indicate (L. Newmark):

Glory and honour to labor.	Lavdi e nder punës.
Arben did not receive the book	Arbenit nuk erdhi libri.
The language had helped	Gjuhës i kishte ndihmuar
Table 5	

Accusative Case

In contemporary Albanian an accusative case form may indicate as the direct object, the predicate complement of the object as in the example in the table 6

We opened the school at 8:00	Shkollën e kemi hapur në orën 8:00.
It rained all day long.	Gjithë ditën ra shi.
He drank the water	Ai ka pirë ujën.
She thought of her son.	Mendonte për djalin e saj.
I went with my father.	Unë shkova me banën.
Table 6	

Ablative Case

This case forms may be used with verb, nouns and after preposition, so ablative forms are used after a number of temporal and locative preposition such as prapa 'behind', pas 'after', prej 'from etc, as in the table:

A few days ago.	Para disa ditësh.
It gets very hot here in the summer.	Verës këtu bën shumë nxehtë.
It snows in the mountains.	Maleve bie dëborë.
Table 7	

Discussion and method

Albanian language has five cases: "emërore – nominative, gjinore – genitive, dhanore – dative, kallëzore – accusative, and rrjedhore – ablative" and for definite and indefinite have some endings than in English language has two cases: the unmarked COMMON case and the marked GENITIVE" (Pennebaker, 2011; Björk, 1955). Albanian and English language are the contrast with cases, because in Alb. has five cases and Eng has two. The second contrast is in Alb. has

different endings for all the cases, has definite and indefinite nouns (the masculine nouns for Albanian language has some ending's: -i, -it, -in, -it, -u, -un, -ut, for feminine -e,-a, -ja, -je, -s, -së, -në, or for neuter nouns with -i, -it and for indefinite nouns is: /një/ and in Eng. has only definite article /the/and for indefinite /a, an/ than in Albanian have some endings, as you can see in the table 1 to 7. The latter is sometimes called the possessive.

Conclusion

The aim of this studies is to point out of similarities, differences, contrasts of the five cases in Alb. And two cases in English. The first contrast of the case is in the first table. The full contrast between two language was seen at the possessive case, in Albanian language can be realize with the article (for masculine, feminine and neuter) i (m), e (f), të (n) and së (f) or with definite endings -i, it, -in, -ve (m), or -u, -ut, -un (m), but in English this case used with the article /the/ for definite nouns (m, f, n), or a and an, so between two languages, it is the contrast, because it has two forms of possessive and usually used after the noun e.g. Mary's book, Time's house, students', worker's, children's, women's, This is Arta's jacket, This is my mother's jacket. This is the dog's food. If a plural noun does not end in /s/, add 's. women's, men's, children's etc.

This study is completed with the contrastive examples and all of them are from table one to seven.

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