

# OBSERVATIONS ON THE USE OF THE ALBANIAN AND ITALIAN INFINITIVE

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## Abstract

The lack of a proper infinitive form in the Albanian language has always aroused extensive discussions among the Albanian linguists. Different opinions and theories have been concerned with this issue, but it has not been given a definitive answer yet, taking into consideration the existence of the two main dialects of the Albanian language; the Gheg dialect spoken in the northern part of Albania, which is presupposed to carry the proper form of the infinitive the same as the other Indo-European languages and the Tosk dialect spoken in the southern part of Albania, which on the other hand is considered to be the basis of the Albanian standard language. This discussion takes a new dimension once exposed to the difficulties of its translation into a foreign language and vice versa. Consequently, here it naturally comes the beginning of our study question: What grammatical forms and tools would result as the most appropriate for the expression *of the mode* of the subjunctive and the infinitive form in both languages? What would be the most appropriate form for the expression of certain functions or *modes* in each of these languages and between them, the subjunctive or the infinitive form? In what cases the Italian infinitive form corresponds to the Albanian infinitive form and vice versa? In what cases the Italian infinitive form corresponds to the Albanian subjunctive form and vice versa? In what cases both languages avoid the respective verbal forms? This article is focused on giving a complete response to all these questions and other issues related to them.

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**Keywords:** Infinitive, subjunctive, mode, verbal group, translation

## Introduction

The Albanian linguists of the Italian language, often encounter various difficulties in the translations from the Italian language into the Albanian one and vice versa. This is understandable, because every language embodies its own nature and specific features. In order to be as close as

possible to the original version, it necessary to have a thorough understanding of all the specific features of both these languages, which naturally requires time and perserverance. In the multitude of the translation problems, the translation of the *mode* of the subjunctive or the infinitive form in the Albanian language as well as in the Italian language or vice versa, constitutes a delicate moment. The problem arises from the known fact that the Albanian language does not have a proper infinitive form, which very often corresponds to the subjunctive form in different translations; while in the present Italian language exists both forms of the proper subjunctive and the infinitive forms.

Consequently, our paper is particularly concerned with giving an answer to the following question: What grammatical forms and tools would result as the most appropriate ones for the expression of the mode of the infinitive forms in both languages?

As far as the Albanian language is concerned, the question of the avoidance of the infinitive form appears complex, because it must be first determined the type of the infinitive form, whether it is a *synthetic infinitive form* similar to that of other Indo-European languages, or an *analytical infinitive form* "*me ba-(to do)*", that in the documented period of the Albanian language appears mainly in its northern dialect. As it is well known, the up today studies on the Albanian language have not reached a conclusive view on the question: Has the Albanian language ever had a *synthetic infinitive form* deriving from its "mother" language?

Some linguists believe that the Albanian language has had such an infinitive form in earlier periods; besides, they notice some traces of the synthetic infinitive form in the documented Albanian language. While some other linguists think that the Albanian language has never had such an infinitive form. Some of the first linguists to support *the first thesis* are: A. Xhuvani M.Domi, E.Çabej, etc. While those who support the second view are mainly Albanian foreign linguists such as: Meyer, who speaking on the form of the type "*për të bërë – to do*" claims that it used "to express the missing infinitive form", Weigand also supports the idea that the Albanian language lacks the infinitive form, etc..

A careful observation of the dissenting opinions of the above-mentioned linguists, shows that both opposing groups of linguists have failed to conclusively argue their views. So, for example, the argument that the Albanian language as an Indo European language, must have previously had a *synthetic infinitive form*, has not been argued yet; it has simply been laid down as a thesis, when there have been other Indo-European languages that have not developed such a verbal category at all.

As it is known, the Albanian language during its historical evolution has created the *non-finite form* of the type "*me ba-to do*", which is used

with the characteristic functions of the infinitive form such as: the subject, object, purpose, conditional, comparative, consequential functions, etc.. It seems that is formed by the transformation into a verbal form of the word group consisting of the preposition „me-with“ and a verbal noun when it is not preceded by an article.<sup>20</sup>

The grammatical usage of such a group, which is almost equivalent to an infinitive form has now been accepted by all researchers of the Albanian language. But while some linguists argue that this grammatical usage of such a group, that is generally lacking in the southern dialect, is used earlier before in the northern dialect<sup>21</sup>(E. Çabej 1975, 55); others claim that in the early stages of the Albanian language, it has been present in both dialects and it has been avoided from use in the southern dialect in a relatively old stage<sup>22</sup>(La Piana, 1939, 143, 146; <sup>23</sup>M.Domi, 1961, 67).

However, this issue remains open to discussion. As it is noted, during the last centuries, the verbal group of the type "për + të + bërë- / to do", composed of the preposition "për / to" and the neutral verbal noun of the type "të bërë- done" has been grammatically used in both the Albanian language dialects. The claim accepted by a number of linguists is that the grammatical usage of both these groups "me ba- to do" and "për + të + bërë / to do" has influenced on the limited use of the subjunctive form in the Albanian language<sup>24</sup> (Demiraj, Sh., *Gramatikë historike e gjuhës shqipe*, Tiranë, 1986. f. 156.).

Naturally some questions arise:

- What would be the most appropriate form for the expression of certain functions or modes for each language and between them, the subjunctive or infinitive form?
- In what cases the Italian infinitive forms respond to the infinitive form of Albanian language and vice versa?
- In what cases the Italian infinitive form responds to the subjunctive form of the Albanian language and vice versa?
- In what cases both languages avoid the appropriate verbal forms?

Our paper aims at giving a full answer to all these questions and other questions related to them by comparing the infinitive and the subjunctive forms in both Italian and Albanian languages referring to the examples

<sup>20</sup> Demiraj Sh., *Gramatikë historike e gjuhës shqipe*, Tiranë, 1986. f. 163

<sup>21</sup> Cabej, E., *Gramatikë historike e gjuhës shqipe*, Tiranë, 1975. f. 55.

<sup>22</sup> La Piana, M., *Studi linguistici albanesi. Prolegomeni allo studio della linguistica albanese*, Palermo, 1939. f.143, 146.

<sup>23</sup> Domi, M., "Morfologjia historike e shqipes", *dispense*, Tirane, 1961, f.67.

<sup>24</sup> Demiraj, Sh., *Gramatikë historike e gjuhës shqipe*, Tiranë, 1986. f. 156.

taken in the literary work of the Albanian writer Ismail Kadare entitled "The Castle" and their translation into the Italian language.

### **The Infinitive form in the Italian language**

The Classical Latin language as the precursor of the Italian language has developed the infinitive forms, especially in the function of the noun being called the noun infinitive. However, its functions have gradually been reduced. This fact has been noted by various linguists. Following the process of loss of the infinitive form in the Balkan languages and in southern Italy, Gerhard Rohlfs<sup>25</sup>, notes that besides the territories where the infinitive form has been completely lost, there are some areas in which the infinitive form being used after some verbs, has maintained a certain vitality. According to the author's observations carried out in the north of the Balkan Peninsula and in the south of Italy, the verb "potere/mund-/can" is followed by both cases of taking either the infinitive form or the subjunctive form, while the verb "dovere/duhet-/should" has endured more its use in the subjunctive form, being built almost exclusively in the infinitive form.

Even in other languages in which the infinitive form is used after the verb "potere-mund-can", only the infinitive form is used. Thus, even if the infinitive form in the Latin language used after many verbs could be replaced with the subordinated construction: -ut + subjunctive, the infinitive form was regularly used after the verb "posso/mund/can".

Well, as it turns out from what was said above, the verb "potere/mund/can" appears as the most resistant verb to preserve the use with the infinitive form and the subjunctive form. The reasons for this phenomenon lies on the grammatical semantic nature of the verb "potere/mund/can".

Rohlfs<sup>26</sup> highlights that in the language spoken centuries ago, the accusative form together with infinitive form (*l'accusativo + infinito*) could be used after such verbs as: *sapere, pensare, volere* and after *impersonal verbs*. While today, according to Skytte<sup>27</sup>, this structure can happen inside the category of dependence itself, but being used after a few verbs and such use is mainly limited to the written language.

In the process of evolution from the Latin language to the Italian language, the phenomenon of the language simplification have also occurred. This fact is most obviously reflected in its morphological and

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<sup>25</sup> Rohlfs, G., *La perdita dell'infinito nelle lingue balcaniche e nell'Italia meridionale*, 1958, fq. 233-244

<sup>26</sup> Rohlfs, G., *Grammatica storica della lingua italiana e dei suoi dialetti*, Torino, Giulio Einaudi editore s.r.l 1966-1969, fq. 706.

<sup>27</sup> Skytte, G., *Il cosiddetto costrutto dotto di accusativo con l'infinito in italiano moderno*, 1978, fq. 293

syntactic evolution to the extent that it can be said that although these two languages derive one from the other, they appear as two different types of languages, almost totally different from each other.

Thus, the classical Latin language has as its own characteristics, a great facility of the words order in sentences. However, the verb position was at the end of the sentence and was normally following the subject and the predicate, while quite differently from the Latin language, in the Italian language, the verb follows the subject and the object. These changes are not independent from one another, but they reveal the same trend: the change of the latin word order: **Modifier- Modified** in the reversed order of **Modified - Modifier**.

So the dominant order of the elements in the Latin language is: S(oggetto) + O(oggetto) + V(ERBO), (Subject+Object+Verb) eg:

- *Lupus marcum uorat.*
- (Il lupo Marco divora.)
- (Ujku ha Markon.)
- (The wolf eats Marco.)

While differently from the Latin language, in the Italian language, the dominant order between the subject and the object is inverted and the verb generally precedes the object. However, this order is not rigid in neither of both languages. Examples of SVO order are not rare in the classical Latin language, especially in the vulgar language. This trail is also observed in some proverbial expressions such as: - *Cosa fatta capo ha.*, in which Rohlfs points out, that in the early stages of the Italian language as well as in the Latin one, the modal and auxiliary verbs often follow the main verb. This inversion between the verb and the subject (VS) starts gradually to become common even with verbs in which the grammatical subject introduces new information in the sentence, eg: *E' successo un incidente.* (There has been an incident.) *E' arrivata la Polizia.* (There police has arrived.), Etc..

### **The Subjunctive form in the Italian language**

It is already known that the Italian infinitive form is generally translated with the Italian subjunctive form and vice versa, as it can be seen from the following examples:

**1. Aspect verb.** When after the *aspect verbs* that show the beginning or the continuing of an action are used the subjunctive forms, then they are translated into the infinitive form preceded by prepositions “*a*” or “*di*” as in:

- *Filloi të qëmtonte një shi i imtë.* Pastaj, menjëherë pas pikave të para diku larg, nga mesi i kampit *filluan të binin* trishtueshëm daullet e shiu.

- *Prese a cadere una pioggia sottile. Poi, subito dopo le prime gocce, in qualche punto lontano, verso il centro del campo, i tamburi della pioggia cominciarono a rullare, tristemente.*<sup>28</sup>

- *A fine drizzling rain started to fall; then, immediately after the first rain drops, somewhere far away, in the middle of the camp the rain drums started to sadly beat.*

or

- *Ata ecën më tutje dhe poeti vazhdoi të murmuriste me vete. Ai po thurte me sa duket një vjershë.*<sup>29</sup>

- *Preseguirono, e il poeta continuava a mormorare fra i denti. Stava evidentemente componendo una poesia.*<sup>30</sup>

- *They walked away and the poet continued to murmur. He was apparently composing a poem.*

2. The Albanian subjunctive forms can be translated into the Italian infinitive forms when they are used after the modal verbs: *potere/mund/can, dovere/ duhet/must -e.g:*

- *Në tri katër vende skicografi kishte vënë pikëpyetje me ngrë të kuqe. Ato tregonin vendet nga dyshohej se mund të kalonin qyngjet e ujës-jellësit të kalasë. Tursun pashai për një kohë nuk i hoqi sytë nga ato pikëpyetje.*<sup>31</sup>

- *In tre o quattro siti il disegnatore aveva tracciato con l'inchiostro rosso, alcuni punti interrogativi indicanti i luoghi dai quali dovevano verosimilmente passare le tubazioni dell'acquedotto. Per un bel po' il pascià non staccò gli occhi da quei punti.*<sup>32</sup>

- *The sketch man had put some red question marks in three or four places. They showed the suspected places, where the castle water supply's pipes could be lying down. Tursun pasha could not get off his eyes from those question marks.*

or

- *Mund të sulmojnë?* – pyeti kronikani.<sup>33</sup>

- *“E potrebbero attaccarci?”* domandò il cronista.<sup>34</sup>

- *Can they attack?* - asked the chronicler.

<sup>28</sup> Tamaro Susanna, *Va dove ti porta il cuore*, Milano, 1997, Baldini & Castoldi s.r.l . fq. 17

<sup>29</sup> Çela Dritan - *Thuaj zemrës po*, Shtëpia Botuese "Cabej", Tirane, 1996. fq. 43

<sup>30</sup> Tamaro Susanna, *Va dove ti porta il cuore*, Milano, 1997, Baldini & Castoldi s.r.l . fq. 49

<sup>31</sup> Çela, D., *Thuaj zemrës po*, Shtëpia Botuese "Cabej", Tirane, 1996. fq. 12

<sup>32</sup> Tamaro, S., *Va dove ti porta il cuore*, Milano, 1997, Baldini & Castoldi s.r.l . fq. 19

<sup>33</sup> Çela, D., *Thuaj zemrës po*, Shtëpia Botuese "Cabej", Tirane, 1996. fq. 23

<sup>34</sup> Tamaro, S., *Va dove ti porta il cuore*, Milano, 1997, Baldini & Castoldi s.r.l . fq. 31

## **The infinitive form in the Albanian language**

In the southern dialect of the Albanian language as well as in the Albanian literary language, which both lack an infinitive form to fulfill all the functions of a proper infinitive form, the subjunctive form is used extensively. In this wide range of uses, it should be determined its fundamental mode. In such cases it can not be spoken of the existence of the subjunctive mood.

*Synonymy* with the infinitive form should be looked at inside the Albanian literary language system and not in the external comparative aspect. In contrast to that, the infinitive form will not be recognized its mode in those subordinate sentences in which it functions as the infinitive form in the Albanian northern dialect.

In uses such as: *s' dua te shkoj-non voglio andare- I do not want to go, po shkoj te blej - sto andando a comprare- I am going to buy*: the subjunctive form as a finite form can not be opposed to the indicative mood from the point of view of the confronting mode of **real to fact or non real to fact**. In a language system in which the infinitive form lacks as the nominative form of a verb capable of an independent usage, there is no room for such parallelism.

An important fact to be considered is the one regarding tense discrepancy in the translation into the Albanian language, which also constitutes a violation of the Albanian language syntax rule. So, in the Albanian literary language, when a verb used in the subjunctive mode comes after another verb, it accords in tense with the verb, but as Ali Dhrimo<sup>35</sup> points out that in the Albanian language translations, it is noted that being influenced by the original language, the infinitive form is used instead of the subjunctive mode, which as a non-finite verb form does not have tense indications. Moreover, in our translations (in Albanian language) this verbal form is often used in the present of the subjunctive mood instead of the imperfect tense, which in fact constitutes a violation of the Albanian language syntax rules.

## **The Infinitive and the Subjunctive forms in the literary work "The Castle" as compared with its translation into the Italian language**

### **A-When the Albanian infinitive form is translated the same as the Italian infinitive form**

#### **The infinitive form by the type of the verb**

According to the analysis of the types of the sentences in this Albanian literary work, it is generally noted that:

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<sup>35 35</sup> Ali Dhrimo - *Gjuha jonë*, 2/1984

1. When after the verbs: sherbej, coj, vij/servire, portare, andare/serve, take, come are used the infinitive forms, the Albanian infinitive form is translated the same as the Italian infinitive form for example:

- Furra sipër bodrumit shërbente vetëm për të maskuar hyrjen e llagëmit. Oxhaku i saj lëshonte ditë e natë tym, por brenda nuk piquej asnjë bukë.<sup>36</sup>

- Il forno, sopra serviva solo a nasconderlo. Il camino fumava giorno e notte, ma non vi si cuocena mai pane.<sup>37</sup>

-The baking house over the basement served only to cover the entrance of the underground tunnel. The chimney emitted fumes day and night, but not a single loaf of bread was baked.

or

- Me baltën e nxjerrë nga gërmimi i llagëmit mbusheshin thasë të panumërt dhe qerret i çonin për t'i shkarkuar shumë larg, prapa një pylli. pg. 95

- Quando uscivano, invece, erano pieni e di qualcosa di ben più pesante del pane: di innumerevoli sacchi ricolmi della terra rimossa, che andava a scaricare lontanissimo, dietro il bosco. pg.100

- The mud extracted from the underground tunnel was loaded in countless sacks and the carts took them to dispose far away, back in the forest.

or

- Një ditë më vonë Gjergji erdhi për të inspektuar kështjellën. pg. 4

- L'indomani Giorgio venne a ispezionare la piazzaforte. pg. 11

- A day later, Gjergj came to inspect the castle.

2. Even when the Albanian infinitive forms appear to be used after the verbs such as: *mbetem/rimanere/remain*, *dergoj/mandare/send*, they correspond to the Italian infinitive forms, as in:

- Sipas taktikës së tij të përhershme, ai do të mbetej për të luftuar jashtë mureve. pg. 4

- Fedele alla sua tattica doveva rimanere fuori delle mura per combattere più liberamente il nemico. pg. 11

- Following his old tactics, he would remain to fight outside the walls of the castle.

or

<sup>36</sup> Kadare, I., *Kështjella*, Tirane, 1970, Shtepia Botuese "Naim Frasheri", fq.95

<sup>37</sup> Donaudy, A., *I tamburi della pioggia*, Longanesi & C, Milano, 1981,"La Gaja Scienza", volume 27, fq. 100

- Ai ishte një ushtarak sa i zoti aq dhe mizor. Pardje ai dërgoi tek njerëzit e tij, për të na bërë propozimin për dorëzimin e kështjellës. pg. 15

- E' un guerriero abile quanto crudele. L'altro ieri ci ha mandato una deputazione per invitarci ad arrenderci. pg. 23

- He was as skilled as cruel a military. The day before yesterday, he sent his men to propose us the surrender of the castle.

In these structures appear the Italian infinitive forms, since it is required by the meaning of the main verb and it is preceded by the preposition “a” or “per” that indicate the intention of the action.

3. Likewise, when the verb them/dire/say, hidhem/gettarsi/jump, shtyj/ spostare/ push/ or ngre koken/ /alzare la testa/ raise the head are followed by the infinitive forms, in the Italian version, the infinitive forms are translated in the same way as in the Albanian infinitive forms eg:

- Kronikani duke u dredhur nga tronditja, kish thënë shumë fjalë të gjata e të frikshme për të vizatuar pamjen e maleve, por atij nuk i kishte pëlqyer asnjë nga përshkrimet. pg. 8

- Tremante di paura, il cronista aveva redatto per raffigurarli, una lunga serie di epiteti impressionanti: che però non avevano incontrato il favore del pascià. pg. 15

- The chronicler shaking from the fear had said many long and scary words to describe the mountains landscapes, but he did not like any of these descriptions.

or

- Ai pa se si oficerët e tij ngrinin kokën lart, herë nga e majta herë nga e djathta, për të shikuar më mirë. pg. 7

- I suoi uffuciali alzavano la testa, si giravano a destra e a sinistra per vedere meglio. pg. 15

-He saw how his officers raised their heads up looking from the left to the right to get a better view.

or

- Shpesh herë ato hidheshin nga shkëmbinjtë dhe copëtoheshin nëpër humnera, kur ushtarët'u afroheshin për t'i kapur. pg. 9

- ..... molte, per sottrarsi al nemico che le inseguiva, si gettavano dalle rocce negli abissi. pg. 16

-They often jumped off the cliffs and their bodies smashed into the precipice, when the soldiers approached to catch them.

In this case, it is noted the change of the order of the sentences, in which the second sentence takes the place of the first sentence.

or

- Dervishët rufai kishin filluar të kërcenin. Ushtarët shtynin njëri-tjetrin për të shikuar më mirë se si ata hidheshin pa pushim nën ritmin e daulles. pg. 45

- I rufai avevano cominciato a danzare e i soldati si accalvacavano per vederli meglio saltare senza sosta al ritmo del tamburo. pg. 51

-The dervishes had started to dance. The soldiers were pushing each other to get e better view of the dervishes' unstoppable jumping under the rhythm of the drum.

In this case after the infinitive form used after the verb shtyj/spostrare/push indicates the direction of an action.

4. In the Albanian language, when the infinitive form is used after the verbs: vrapoj/correre/run, shpejtoj/affretarsi/hasten, which are in the indicative mood and are preceded by the particle "po", it concords to the Italian infinitive forms, as for example in:

- Ja tani trupat e çrregullta arritën te buza e hendekut. Të parët u hodhën në hendek dhe po vraponin për të arritur në buzën tjetër. Te hendeku u krijua një katarakt i gjallë. pg. 59

- Le truppe irregolari avevano raggiunto il fossato: i primi uomini che si gettarono dentro di corsa per varcarlo lo empiro di un torrente vivo. Da lontano, sembrava una visione da incubo. pg. 65

-Now the irregular troops reached the side of the moat. The first troops jumped into the moat and were running to get to the other side of it. A living cataract was set up in it.

or

- Ai e dinte që kryemekaniku do të revoltuhej nga urdhri i pashait për të rrahur topin e tij me kamzhik, prandaj po shpejtonte për të ulur gjakrat. (fjali rrjedhore). pg. 55

- L'intendente in capo era preoccupato per il suo amico Sarugia. L'ingegnere ne era sicuro, si sarebbe ribellato all'ordine del pascià, e lui ora si affrettava ad andare a colmarlo. pg. 61

-He knew the chief mechanic would rebel to pasha's order to whip his cannon that is why he was hastening to cool them down.

5. When in the Albanian language it is noted the use of the infinitive form after the verb "bëj/to do" in the simple past tense, which is preceded by the indirect object, it coincides to the Italian infinitive form as well, for example as in :

- Të nisesh – tha pashai dhe i bëri shenjë sekretarit për të shkruar vendimin, që ai e mori pa u këshilluar me të tjerët, gjë që e bëntë rrallë. Pas kësaj, ai kaloi menjëherë në çeshtjen kryesore: si do të vazhdonte lufta dhe ç'mënyra propozonin ata për të marrë kështjellën. pg. 84

- “Accordato”, disse il pascià e fece cenno al segretario di trascrivere la decisione che, contrariamente all’uso, egli aveva preso senza consultare i suoi consiglieri. Passò quindi al punto essenziale: il proseguimento dell’assedio e i mezzi da adoperare per impadronirsi della piazzaforte. pg. 89

-Go-pasha said and made a sign to his secretary to write down the decision he took without the others’ consults, a thing he rarely did. Afterwards, he went straight to the main point: on how the war would continue and what ways they were proposing to conquer the castle.

6. In the quantitative subordinate sentences, when the Albanian infinitive form is used after the modal verb “duhet/e’ necessario/need”, it is noted that it is translated in the same way as the Italian infinitive forms, for example as in:

- Ai shpjegoi pastaj sa kohë duhej për ta hapur atë llagëm dhe sa ushtarë mund të kalonin nëpër të për një kohë të gjatë. pg. 86

- Completò quindi tali spiegazioni indicando il tempo necessario a scavare codesto passaggio e il numero dei soldati che avrebbero dovuto percorrerlo in un determinato tempo. pg. 91

- Then, he explained how much time was needed to open the underground tunnel and how many soldiers could pass in it for a long time.

7. Even when in the Albanian version, the infinitive form appears after the verb "jam-essere-to be" which is in the present or the past continuous of the indicative mood, it is translated into the Italian simple infinitive forms, for example as in:

- Për shpëtimin e shpirtit? – pyeti Çelebiu, të cilit iu duk se kjo ishte një gjë e bukur për ta shkruar në kronikën e tij. pg. 28

- “Di salvarsi l’anima?” – domandò Celebi, cui pareva che quella circostanza meritasse figurare nella sua cronaca. pg. 36

-For the soul salvation?- Çelebiu asked. To him, it seemed that it was a beautiful thing to write about in his chronic.

as well

-Kjo do të kërkojë shumë kohë – tha pashai. –Ai thotë se kjo është e vetmja mënyrë për të mos u dëgjuar zhurma. pg. 97

- “Sarà una cosa lunga”, disse il pascià”. E’ l’unico mezzo, secondo lui, di avanzare senza farsi scoprire. pg. 101

-This will take a long time-pasha said- he says that it is the only way the noises can not be heard.

or

- E shihni ç’bëhet? – thirri duke treguar me dorë nga topi. Kjo është për të vënë kujën. pg. 55

- Vedete che cosa fanno? – gridò additando il cannone. C'è da urlare! pg. 62

-You see what's going on? - He cried out as he was pointing at the cannon. This is to cry out.

In this case, the Italian infinitive form is preceded by the preposition “da”, since it is widely used before the infinitive form in different expressions.

8. The Albanian infinitive form can coincide with the Italian infinitive form, even when it is used after various expressions. Thus, when the infinitive form is used after the reflexive phrase "bëhem gati të / mi preparo di /preparsi-get ready to ..., bëj përpjekje/sforzarsi/endeavor....." which are in the past continuous tense, it also coincides with Italian infinitive form, for example as in:

- Ndërsa bëhej gati për tu nisur për në Shqipëri, e kishte vrarë mendjen disa herë që të merrte apo jo me vete disa femra të harremit. pg. 9

-Mentre si preparava a partire për l'Albania aveva a lungo esitato sull'opportunità o no di portarsi dietro qualcuna delle sue donne. pg. 16

- As he was getting ready to go to Albania, he had been thinking over and over again to take with him some of the harem's females.

The same thing happens in the examples below:

- Ata u qepeshin mureve me brohoritje dhe ulërime, duke tundur jataganët, flamurët, çomangat, heshtat, emblemat, gati për të përbushur të gjitha kërcënimet, paralajmërimet e mënxurat me të cilat qenë përpjekur të na frikësonin muaj me rradhë. pg 71

- Hanno cominciato, furiosamente, a dar la scalata ai nostri bastoni, con grida e urla d'esaltazione, brandendo iatagan, lance e mazze d'armi, bandiere e insegne, pronti a mettere in atto tutte le minacce profferite per tanti mesi. pg. 77

-They were climbing up the walls with applauses and screams, waving the swords, the flags, the sticks, the spears, the emblems ready to fulfill all the threatenings and warnings that they had endeavored for months to frighten us.

or

- Ata nuk kuptonin shumë gjëra nga ato që thoshte ai dhe as që bënin ndonjë përpjekje për të kuptuar sepse e dinin që askush nuk ishte në gjendje të korrigjonte asgjë në projektin e llogarit. pg. 86

- Ben poco gli altri comprendevano delle sue spiegazioni. Del resto, non facevano alcuno sforzo per comprenderle, in quanto nessuno di loro era in grado di suggerire la minima correzione al progetto della galleria sotterranea. pg. 91

- They did not understand much of what he was saying and *did not even try to understand* because they knew that nobody was able to correct anything in the project of the underground tunnel.

9. In some cases it may happen that the Albanian infinitive form used after *the gerund form* may coincide with the Italian infinitive form as in:

- *Duke lëvizur* njërin gju, *për të zënë* vend më mirë, atij ui drodh bërryli dhe nga penda i ra një pikë bojë e zezë mbi shkresat. E fshiu pikën me mëngë, shpejt e shpejt, *për të mos e parë* njeri, sepse pika e zezë quhej shenjë e keqe, dhe prapë e mbajti pendën gati. pg. 34

- *Nello spostarsi* un tanto *per star* più comodo, urtò inavvedutamente il gomito contro il ginocchio e una goccia di inchiostro nero cadde sui fogli. Si affrettò ad asciugarla con la manica, sperando che nessuno *se ne fosse accorto*, dato che le macchie nere venivano considerate di cattivo ausicio, e tenere di nuovo la penna pronta alla scrittura. pg. 41

- While *moving one of his keens to get* more comfortable, his elbow trembled and a drop of the black ink from the quill fell on the papers. He quickly wiped out the ink drop with his sleeve so that *nobody could see him*, as the black drop was seen as a bad sign, but he kept the quill ready despite of that.

10. The Albanian Infinitive form can be translated into the Italian infinitive form, when the verb of the main sentence is in the past tense and is preceded by *a short form of the verb in the function of the direct or indirect object* eg:

- Ai firmoi shpejt e shpejt dënimet dhe vuri nga një shënim të shkurtër mbi raportet e tjera. Dy raporte ato më të gjatat, *i hoqi* mënjatë *për t'i parë* më kujdes. pg. 98

- Si affrettò ad apporre la firma in calce ai decreti e siglò rapido i rapporti. *Ne mise da parte* due, i più lunghi, *per esaminarli* attentamente. pg. 102

- He signed the sentences quickly and made a short note on the other reports. *He took* apart the two longest ones *to look through them carefully*.

The translation of the infinitive forms in both languages generally coincides, even when the Albanian infinitive form, *is found in the determinative subordinate sentences with the main verbs used in the passive voice*.

- Dihej se akënxhinjtë gjatë ekspeditave të tyre fluturonin si era, të ndjekur nga një turmë e madhe kuajsh të lirë, në kurrizet e të cilëve ata *hidheshin* gjatë ecjes, *për të çlodhur* kalin e tyre. pg. 90

- Sapevano, come tutti, che gli akinxhi, durante la loro spedizione, filavano come il vento, seguiti da una gran quantità di cavalli non

montati sui quali si gettavano in piena corsa per far ripassare i loro.  
pg. 95

- It was known that akenxhijte were flying like the wind during their expeditions, being followed by big herds of free horses on the backs of which they mounted during their ridings to have their horses reposed.

An interesting case of the coincidence between the infinitive forms in both languages is observed, when in the Albanian version the main verb is in the past tense of the *passive voice*, as in:

- Ai donte të shkruante një poemë të madhe për këtë luftë, - tha kronikani, duke menduar kroniken e tij. – Prandaj, siç duket, u sul i pari për të parë me sytë e tij si do të shpërthej porta – tha astrologu. pg. 80

- “Voleva scrivere un grande poema su questa campagna” – disse il cronista pensando al proprio lavoro. “Perciò forse è stato tra i primi ad avventarsi per vedere da vicino lo sfondamento della porta”, disse l’astrologo. pg. 85

-He wanted to write a great poem about this war-said the chronicler, thinking about his own chronic.- That is why apparently he was the first one to rush into the place in order to eye witness the gate’s breakdown.- the astrologer said.

### **The Infinitive form by the type of the sentence**

1. When the Albanian infinitive form appears in a time subordinate sentence proceeded by the time conjunction “kur/quando/when“, when translated it coincides with the Italian infinitive forms too, eg:

- Kryeveqilharxhi e ndoqi një copë herë me sy. - Më duket se me këtë xunkth thuren trinat, me të cilat mbulohe luftëtarët kur luftojnë për të mos u djegur – tha. pg. 20

- L’intendente li seguì per un momento con lo sguardo. - “Servono, credo, alla lavorazione dei graticci di cui i guerrieri si fanno scudo per proteggersi dai proiettili infiammati.” pg. 22

-The chief intendant kept looking at them for a while – I think the rush is used to make the lattices, used by the warriors when they fight not to get burned.-he said.

The Albanian infinitive form also coincides with the Italian infinitive form when it is used in time subordinate sentences in which the main verb is in the past tense of the passive voice proceeded by the particle “u“, for example as:

- Serdengjeshtrët – tha me zë të mbytur dhe tamam në kohën që adjutanti u hodh mbi kalë, për të çuar urdhrin, pashai duke u ngritur tri gjishta, shtoi: tre taborë. pg. 68

- “I Serdengestleri!” disse con voce sorda e, nel momento in cui l’aiutante di campo balzava a cavallo per trasmettere l’ordine, aggiunse, alzando tre dita: “Tre compagnie!”. pg. 73

-Serdengjeshtleret- said in a faint voice and as the adjutant mounted the horse to deliver the order, the pasha raising three fingers, added: three battalions.

2. In the Albanian language, the infinitive forms as part of a compound predicate, correspond to the Italian infinitive forms, when they are used in purpose subordinate sentences, after a subjunctive form preceded by the conjunction “që/che/-that”, as in:

- Ai ishte i pakënaqur që Tursun pashai nuk i kishte lejuar akoma akënxhinjtë që të lëshoheshin për të plaçkitur krahinë. pg. 35

- Era indispettito dal fatto che il pascià non avesse ancora permesso ai suoi akingi di dilagare nella contrada per metterla a sacco. pg 43

- He was unsatisfied that Tursun Pasha had not permitted the akerxhinjte to assail the province to get it looted.

3. The negative infinitive form that comes after the verb “di/sapere/know and kam/avere/have”, proceeded by the manner conjunction “sikur/come se/as”, corresponds the same in the translation with the Italian infinitive form, as in:

- Kronikani e dinte këtë gjë, ashtu sikundër dinte shumë gjëra të tjera, të cilat shpesh herë bënte sikur nuk i dinte për të mos i hequr mikut të tij të lartë kënaqësinë që të jep shpjegimi i gjërave të panjohura. pg. 61

- Questo il cronista lo sapeva, come sapeva molte altre cose che il più delle volte fingeva di ignorare per non privare il suo eminente amico della soddisfazione di spiegarglielo. pg. 68

The chronicler knew that, as he knew many other things, which he quite often appeared as he was unaware of, not to take the pleasure to his distinguished friend of explaining unknown things.

4. The infinitive form used in the determinative subordinate sentences preceded by the expounding conjunction “që/che/that” with the main verb used in the past continuous of the indicative mood and preceded by the particle “po”, often coincides with the Italian infinitive forms in the translation, as in:

- Tursun pashai dha urdhër të hidheshin në sulm trupa të freskëta. Ndërsa ndiqte me sy taborrët e persianëve dhe të kaukazëve, që po vraponin drejt mureve për të zëvendësuar trupat e vijës së parë ... pg. 63

- Il pascià diede l’ordine di lanciare all’assalto truppe fresche. Mentre seguiva con lo sguardo i reggimenti di Persiani e Caucasiche che

correvano verso le mura a sostituire in prima linea gli asapi e gli eskingi .... p. 69

- Tursun pasha gave the order to launch the attack with fresh troops. As he kept looking at the Persians' and Caucasians' hordes, running towards the walls to take the place of the troops of the first line.....

**a-**The coincidence of the infinitive forms in both variants appear in the Albanian determinative subordinate sentences, in which the infinitive form is preceded by the relative pronouns: “*i cili/e cila+ një folje në dëftore/ il quale/la qualae..+un verbo in indicativo-who, which .... + a verb in the indicative mood*”, as in:

- Ai thotë se është era e shëllirës me të cilën spërkatën themelet për t'i gërryer më lehtë. Arkitekti tregoi përsëri diçka në skicë. pg. 96

- Lui dice che è la moia con cui si innaffiano le fondamenta per intaccarne il cemento. L'architetto tracciò qualche altro segno sul progetto. pg. 101

-He says that it is the smell of the brine that is used to splash the foundations for easily eroding them. The architect showed again something in the sketch.

**b-**In the determinative subordinate sentences proceeded by the conjunction “që/ e cila+folja ndihmese“*duhet-che, la quale + verbo modale dovere-that (which) qe*”+ the modal verb “need” it is noticed that the Albanian infinitive forms is the same as the infinitive form translated into Italian, for example:

- Pastaj duke marrë me mend se si mizëria e ushtarëve të lodhur u hapte atyre rrugën me respekt, ai po llogariste kohën që iu duhej serdengjeshblerëve për të çarë turmën e sulmonjësve. . pg.68

- ....poi, immaginando che i soldati sfiniti gli avrebbero aperto rispettosamente un varco, calcolò il tempo che avrebbero impiegato per giungere ai piedi dei bastioni. pg. 73

-Then guessing how the hordes of the exhausted troops made way for them respectfully, he was calculating the time that sergjenshtleret needed to break through the mob of the attackers.

**c-** In the determinative subordinate sentences proceeded by the conjunction “që/che/that”, when the verb of the main sentence is an impersonal verb and is followed by an infinitive form, then the Albanian infinitive form is the same as the Italian one, as in:

- Kampi i tyre nxin dhe hesht. Dëgjohet vetëm zhurma e qerreve që vijnë posht mureve tona për të ngarkuar kufomat e ushtarëve të tyre. pg. 72

- Il loro campo è immerso nelle tenebre e nel silenzio. Non si ode che il rumore dei carri che vengono ai piedi dei nostri bastioni a caricare i cadaveri dei loro soldati. pg. 77

- Their camp is looking dark and silent. *It is heard* only the noise of carts *coming down* our walls *to carry* the corpses of their troops.

**5** The Albanian infinitive form also coincides with the Italian one, even when it is used after the forms of the present subjunctive mood in *purpose subordinate sentences*, as in:

- Prandaj ata shfaqën mendimin *që(me qëllim që)* hëpërhë *të kërkoheshin* rrugë të tjera *për të arritur* atë që nuk u arrit me sulm. Ata thonë se kurorën e lavdisë së një ushtrie e *zbukurojnë* xhevahirët e fitoreve, pavarësisht nga mjetet e përdorura *për t'i arritur* ato.pg. 85

- Ritenevano pertanto necessario almeno per il momento, *ricercare altri mezzi per ottenere* quanto non si era potuto ottenere mediante l'attacco diretto. Per un esercito, questa la loro opinione, la vittoria è una *perla aggiunta* alla sua corona di gloria, indipendentemente dai mezzi adoperati *per riportarla*. pg. 90

- That's why they were of the opinion *that* for the time being they *should look for* other ways *to achieve* what they did not by attacking. They say that the crown of glory of an army is ornamented by the jewels of the victories, no matter the means used to conquer them.

When the Albanian subjunctive form is used after the conjunction "*që/che/ that*" in the *purpose subordinate sentences*, it is translated into the Italian infinitive form, as in:

- Çelebiu dëgjonte i habitur. Sulltani ka bërë marrëveshje me Venedikun, *që* tregëtarët e tij *t'i shesin* ushqime dhe pajime ushtrisë sonë. pg. 20

- Çelebiu lo ascoltava stupito. Il Sultano ha concluso un accordo con la Serenissima, in base al quale i mercanti veneziani *devono fornirci* viveri ed equipaggiamenti. pg. 28

- Celebiu was listening in astonishment. Sultan has reached an agreement with Venetia, *that* its merchants could *sell* food and equipment to our army.

Thus according to A.Dodit<sup>38</sup>, it is noted that in the translations after the phrase "*me qëllim që/allo scopo di/ in order to*" the infinitive forms "per te- to do....." are used instead of the subjunctive forms. Apparently this wrongly use, comes as a result of the influence of the foreign languages that very often use the infinitive forms in these structures.

**6.** Coincidences of the infinitive forms in both languages are also noted in the *concessive subordinate sentences* respectively preceded by the conjunctions: *megjithatë + një tog fjalësh (emër+paskajore)/tuttavia +un sintagma (nome+infinito)/however + a word group (a noun + an infinitive form)*, as in:

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<sup>38</sup> A.Dodi – *Gjuha jonë*, 2/1992, fq. 97

- *Megjithatë shpresa për të dëgjuar* britmën e ngadhënjmë nuk e linte. Diçka do të bënte gjithnjë ai përrua që u derdh atje brenda. Diçka do të bënte patjetër. pg. 69

- E *tuttavia* non lo abbandonava *la speranza di udire* il grido di trionfo. Quell'enorme flutto che si era riservato attraverso quella porta doveva pur produrre un qualche risultato. Idiscutibilmente. pg. 74

- However *the hope to hear* the shout of triumph did not abandon him. The enormous stream of troops rushing inside the castle would for sure do something. It would succeed in.

## Conclusion

In our study on the mode of the infinitive form in the Albanian and Italian language, we have tried to shed light on its main uses and values in both languages, by pointing out their similarities and different features.

In Albanian language the subjunctive form is almost synonymous with the infinitive form and for this reason the Italian infinitive form generally is translated in different forms of the subjunctive forms and in the vice versa. The action expressed by the infinitive form does not denote the time of the action, while the subjunctive form expresses the idea of time in an indefinite manner. Consequently, it stands between the infinitive form and the indicative mood.

Generally in the Italian language as well as in the Albanian one, the choice of manner is indicative of a definite stylistic registry. The less informal the style is, the less the subjunctive form appears. In general, L.Renzi also highlights the fact that the choice of a verbal manner in a sentence is indicative of a definite stylistic registry: the less informal the style is, the less the subjunctive form appears. This is particularly true to the informal speech, in which the subordinate sentences present a greater autonomy being used often with the subjunctive form.

The use of the Italian subjunctive form can be avoided in some cases, as volitive mode can be expressed by other means, such as: the modal verb "*duhet-Dover-must*" or a structure with the infinitive form and thus making the sentence mode be expressed by the syntax reports.

The Italian infinitive forms are commonly used after the main verbs denoting the perception of a fact. The verbs that generally are followed by the infinitive form can be classified into:

- Auxiliary verbs, such as *dovere, volere/ should, can, want + the infinitive form.*
- Causative verbs such as: *fare, lasciare /do, leave + the infinitive form.*

- Aspect verbs such as: *cominciare, continuare, iniziare, finire, cessare, smettere, insistere, etc..* + *the infinitive form (start, continue, begin, finish, stop, insist)* + *the infinitive form.*
- Phrasal verbs such as: *andare, lasciarsi, sentirsi, trovarsi, riuscirsi* + *the infinitive form. (to be listened/heard/mat/managed/)* + *the infinitive form.*

In order to express their full meaning, these verbs need to rely on other verbs.

An important fact to be considered is the one regarding the tense discrepancy in the translation into the Albanian language, which also constitutes a violation of the Albanian language syntax rule. So, in the Albanian literary language, when a verb used in the subjunctive mode comes after another, it accords in tense with the verb, but Ali Dhrimo points out that in the Albanian language translations, it is noted that being influenced by the original language, the infinitive form is used instead of the subjunctive mode, which as a non-finite verb form does not have tense indications. Moreover, in our translations (in the Albanian language) this verbal form is often used in the present of the subjunctive form instead of the imperfect tense, which in fact constitutes a violation of the Albanian language syntax rules.

The subjunctive form used after the conjunction (*qe-che-that*) I translated into the infinitive form when it occurs in purpose subordinate sentences. Thus according to A.Dodit<sup>39</sup>, it is noted that in the translations after the phrase "*in order to- me qellim qe-allo scopo di*" the infinitive forms "*per te- to do...*" are used instead of the subjunctive forms. Apparently this wrongly use, comes as a result of the influence of the foreign languages that very often use the infinitive forms in these structures.

The Italian infinitive form is often accompanied with different prepositions such as: *a, di, da, in, etc..*, which apparently gives it other shades of meaning.

Thus the preposition "da" used with the infinitive forms generally gives the concept of the future meaning, the preposition "di" can be altered with other prepositions such as: *as, a, da*, while the preposition "per" usually expresses a purpose meaning and sometimes even a causative one.

These semantic nuances are the result of the changes that the sentence structure has undergone from the Latin language SOV into the Italian language SVO. In such cases it is often noted the alternation of the non-finite verb forms with the corresponding finite forms. A meaningful example is the alternation of the non-finite forms of the infinitive forms particularly proceeded by the neutral preposition "di" (de) of the Latin

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<sup>39</sup> A.Dodi – *Gjuha jonë*, 2/1992, fq. 97

language with the finite verbal forms preceded by the conjunction “*che*” /*that*, which reflects the great grammatical options the language produces for an overall communication of extra linguistic facts. As we pointed out the main uses and tendencies of the subjunctive mood in both languages we have also seen their respective uses in their comparative bilingual translation. Thus, while in the Italian verbal system exist both forms of the infinitive and the subjunctive and the Albanian language generally lacks the proper form of the infinitive, in most cases the Italian infinitive form is usually translated into different forms of the subjunctive.

In other types of sentences the Italian subjunctive mood is often translated into other verbal manners in which most of the cases are in the indicative mood highlighting the continuous tendency of the language toward more simplified forms of communications.

Another interesting phenomenon in the infinitive and subjunctive forms of translation in both languages is that of the convergence of some of the Albanian infinitive forms with the Italian ones. So, if it is generally noted that the Albanian subjunctive form is translated into the Italian infinitive forms, in some other cases it is noted that the Albanian infinitive form can be translated with the Italian infinitive ones. Such an equivalence is more often observed when it is used in *manner subordinate sentences* preceded by the conjunction “*sikur/come se/as*” also in *purpose sentences* preceded by the conjunction “*që/me qëllim që/che/that*” (in order) also in *determinative subordinate* preceded by the expounding conjunction “*që/i cili*”/che/that, ..., in some cases with *time subordinate sentences* preceded by the time conjunction “*kur/quando/when*” and when it is used after *the modal verbs such as: need, want, etc.. The Albanian infinitive form also coincides with the the Italian infinitive one when used after the particle “vetëm” or after such verbs as: vij, shkoj, guxoj, matem/ venire, andare, osare, emulare/come, go, dare, emulate, etc..*

The convergence of the infinitive form in both languages highlights the fact that the infinitive form of the Albanian normative type “*për të bërë/fare/ to do*” responds better to the Italian infinitive forms, thus giving way to the thesis supported by some of the Albanian linguists that the grammatical form of the type “*për të bërë/ fare/to do*” is perhaps the most acceptable lexical-grammatical form in the translations of the Albanian infinitive form into the Italian one, despite all the controversial issues on the appropriate Albanian infinitive form.

The finite and non-finite forms of the infinitive and subjunctive forms in both languages are often found alternated between them as a meaningful tendency that shows more grammatical possibilities that the language produces for an overall communication of extra linguistic facts.

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