

Pavia Indo-European Summer School (September 2013)

Introduction to Albanian

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Day 1: *On the Albanian Subjunctive*

Newmark et al. (1982:78): “The subjunctive mood is basically the mood that indicates dependency of the verb. In most sentences a subjunctive verb form will be preceded by an antecedent modal, verb, adjective, adverb, conjunction, noun, or particle to which it is subjoined ... in English when the verb is dependent in this way, an infinitive form, with or without the proclitic **to**, is often used; in Gheg dialects of Albanian similar constructions use the infinitive with the proclitic **me**; but in present-day standard Albanian, finite subjunctive forms of the verb indicating the person and number of the subject are used instead.”

(Note also that the subjunctive can be used without an “antecedent” modal, etc., and then it “conveys dependence on the speaker’s will ... [expressing] the speaker’s desire for an action” (whereas the indicative “affirms the independent reality of the action”).)

E.g.:

- a. Duhet **të** shkoj ‘I need **to** go’ (literally: “it-is-necessary that I-go”)
- b. Mund **të** shkosh ‘You are able **to** go / you can go’ (literally: “It-can that you-go”)
- c. Vazhdojmë **të** shkojmë ‘We continue **to** go’ (literally: “We-continue that we-go”)
- d. Është e veshtirë **të** shkojmë ‘It is difficult for us **to** go’ (literally: “it-is difficult that we-go”)
- e. propozimi **të** shkojmë ‘the plan for us **to** go’ (literally: “plan-the that we-go”)
- f. Nuk dinim ku **të** shkonim ‘We didn’t know where **to** go’ (literally: “not we-knew where that we-went”)

Note these Geg examples with infinitive (**me** + invariant participle):

- g. filluën **me** lëvisë ‘they began **to** stir’
- h. dëshiroj **me** ju pa ‘I wish **to** see you’
- i. puna është **me** e shue ‘the task is **to** wipe it out’