

Pavia Indo-European Summer School (September 2013)

Introduction to Albanian

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Day 1: *The Albanian Verb: Formally Marked Grammatical Categories*

FINITE

Person

1st
2nd
3rd

Number

Singular
Plural

Voice

Active
Nonactive (-*(h)e-*/PRES; *u* /PAST.DEF)

Mood

Indicative
Subjunctive (*të*)
 Conditional (*do të*)
 Jussive/Hortative (*le të*)
Optative (-*f(sh)*, -*ç-*, -*sh-*)
Admirative (abbreviated participle + suffixed 'have')
Imperative

TENSE

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Aspect

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Time

Common	Present
Progressive	Past
Perfect	Future (<i>do (të)</i>)
Definite	
Imperfect	

NONFINITE

Participle ("past passive")
Infinitive (*për të* + participle (Tosk); *me* + participle (Geg))
Gerundive (*duke* + participle)
Absolutive (*me të* + participle)
Privative (*pa* + participle)

Verbal Categories/Forms Marked-by/utilizing “Proclitics” or “Auxiliaries”

(Note L. Newmark, P. Hubbard, P. Prifti (1982) *Standard Albanian. A reference grammar for students* (Stanford U Press), p. 23: “Verbs are typically thought of as single words, but in Albanian one or more proclitics and auxiliaries may precede the main verb and the whole sequence is then still referred to as ‘the verb’ [BDJ: maybe “*verbal complex*” would be better]; many of the conjugational forms of a verb are thus formed with proclitics and/or auxiliaries”)

Future:	DO TË shkoj ‘I shall go’ (also, colloquially, DO shkoj)
Progressive:	PO shkoj ‘I am going’ PO shkoja ‘I was going’
Subjunctive:	TË shkoj ‘that I go’
Conditional:	DO TË shkoja ‘I would go’ (= Future + Imperfect)
Jussive:	LE TË shkojmë ‘let’s go’
Nonactive	
Past Definite:	U lava ‘I was washed’ (vs. nonactive present: lahem)
Perfect:	KAM shkuar ‘I have gone’ (and note pluperfect, future perfect)
Infinitive:	PËR TË shkuar ‘(in order) to go’ (cf. Geg ME shkue ‘to go’)
Gerundive:	DUKE shkuar ‘(while) going’
Absolutive:	ME TË shkuar ‘having gone; upon going; by going’
Privative:	PA shkuar ‘without going’

and note various weak object pronouns (so-called “clitics”) that mark nonsubject arguments (and a few other things).

Some Noteworthy Non-English Categories/Forms in Albanian:

OPTATIVE

“Modality of desire is expressed by the optative mood verb forms as a wish, blessing, or curse” (Newmark et al., p. 89)

- a. Dhe ti, o bir, **qofsh** i gëzuar ‘And you, O son, ma-you-be happy!’
- b. Ju **këndoftë** zemra ‘for-you may-sing the-heart!’ (= ‘May your heart sing!’)
- c. E moj Parti, të **qofsha** falë për këto gëzime që na jep ‘Oh Party, you may-I-have thanked for these joys that us you-give’ (= “Oh Party, may I have thanked you for these joys that you give us”)

ADMIRATIVE

“In general, the admirative mood is used to express reality accompanied by the speaker’s sense of surprise at an unexpected action which has taken place in the past or is taking place at the moment of speaking” (Newmark et al., p. 76)

- a. **Qenkeni** invalid! ‘You really are an invalid!’
- b. Po e **hëngërka** me gjithë tavë ‘He is eating it with the whole casserole (to boot)!’
- c. **Qenke ngritur** në këmbë, Po më çudit. ‘You have been raised on (your) feet [= ‘you’re standing up’] – you are surprising me!’
- d. C’ ju **paska ngjarë** more djem? ‘What (in the world) has happened to you, boys?’