

Review  
Prof.dr. Valter Memishaj

Yllka Imeri, "VOCAL SYSTEM OF ALBANIAN SPEECH IN THE PRESEVO VALLEY"

Mrs. Yllka R. Imeri, in search of the degree "Doctor of Linguistics" appears before the jury to defend the work "Vocal system of the Albanian dialect in the Presevo Valley" prepared under the scientific guidance of Prof.dr. Biliiana Mihaylova. The paper comes in the already consolidated line of successful and quality defenses of theses on Albanian at the Department of General, Indo-European Linguistics and Balkan Faculty of Slavic Studies, St. Kliment Ohridski University in Sofia, Bulgaria (Department of General, Indo-European and Balkan Linguistics, Faculty of Slavic Studies, University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski").

The author of the paper comes from the circle of university researchers and, among other things, is a pedagogue of the subject of Albanian phonetics, which has enabled and facilitated significantly scientific treatises of issues that have become the subject of analysis and has crowned the achievement of goals set at the beginning of the work for the performance of this work. The work reveals consistent values derived from a long work and responsible of the doctoral student, as well as from a good and professional scientific direction, that has embodied the collaboration, but also the realization of the thesis in a good scientific format.

Where should the achievements and values of this paper be seen as a doctoral thesis?

1. The first value is displayed in the selection of the study topic, which is displayed as a field of interest primarily for albanological studies, for the dialectal phonetics of Albanian, but also for Balkan linguistic studies, thus gaining a scientific radiance. The presented thesis deals with the sound / vocal system of the Albanian dialect in the Presevo valley, focusing on two ethno-geographical spaces: in the linguistic area of Bujanovac and in the linguistic area of Presevo. This has enabled the arrival of an abundant subject analyzed and interpreted and that has motivated and justified the research venture. 2. The paper, with about 210, is structured in 3 chapters, followed by Results, by Conclusions, from an Appendix and from the Bibliography. Each chapter is generally structured accurately, with scientific logic and with a structural transparency that enables submissions, analysis

of sustainable deductions. The issues within each chapter and the loops within them show how the general overview of the sound system in this dialect, as well as the cooling treatments for the types phonemes / constituent phonemes of this system.

3. Methodologically correct, the author has given in-depth information at the beginning of the paper encyclopedic for the Presevo Valley (respectively for the municipalities of Presevo and Bujanovac), presenting brief geographical, demographic, cultural, historical information, political, educational, administrative, etc. This information has its value and weight because, among other things, there are several extralinguistic factors related to these areas, which also determine the inventory of features phonetic features of this Albanian-speaking area, as well as the inseparable connections (continuity) with the population Albanian speakers in Kosovo and beyond.

4. Doctoral student Yllka R. Imeri, with good scientific training, vocal / vocal system of Albanian folmes in the Presevo valley, treats it through a fair scientific taxonomy: language Albanian - its dialectal development in the phonetic aspect - Geg and Tosk (Albanian dialects) Albanian and groupings corresponding to the dialects within them - the transitional dialects - and the Albanian dialect in the Presevo valley the system of vowels in the dialect of Bujanovac and the surrounding area & the system of vowels in the dialect of Presevo and the surrounding area. The taxonomic look is also associated with the main features / characteristics of sound system for each diatonic incision, until it descends to the features of the sound system in both dialects, where the object of study is concentrated. We mention here the consideration in the system of the length feature of vowels in Geg (three types of length) and within this system, this feature in the dialect of Presevo and Bujanovac.

5. The paper correctly establishes the relations between the vocal system of eastern Gegërisht and its distinctive features (even of Tosk Albanian) and the vocal system of The dialect of Valley and its distinctive features (12 features). The author recognizes contributions to scientific studies for dialectal phonetics (I. Ajeti, J. Gjinari, Gj. Shkurtaç, B. Beci etc.) and easily passes by e general to specific.

6. The paper was drafted through a combination of several methods: surveyor-recorder, statistical-quantitative, computer, deductive. The author should be evaluated for transcripts phonetic, of a corpus comprising a total number of 100 speakers, registered in Voice Recorder, divided into groups according to basic sociolinguistic variables (according to, place of residence, gender, age and level of education).

7. The author admits that in the dialect of Presevo and its surroundings (in some villages of Presevo that have contact with the areas of Macedonia and a part of Kosovo) encounter three series of vowels: vowels short oral (ă, ě, ě, ĭ, ō, ŭ, y), long oral vowels (a :, e :, i :, o :, u :, y :) and nasal vowels (ã, õ). The author rightly emphasizes the fact that, although long or short vowels can pass under certain combinatorial and especially positional conditions, do not form opposition and do not enter into phonological contradictions, leaving the system with three series and not in four. The paper generally has good phonemic changes (as a historical phenomenon) (vowel) with vowels, vowels with vowel group, with vowels, etc.), phonemic contradictions, etc., these processes that have ultimately determined the vocal / vocal systems of the dialect itself Presevo..

9. Acoustic analysis of the sounds of speech through occupies an important place in the work Praat computer system, studying the length, height (frequency) and physical intensity of them). Thus he brings new contributions to scientific aids in phonetics studies experimental, walking in the groove of studies conducted on acoustic phonetics in language

Albanian by scholars, such as Anastas Dodi, Bahri Beci, Aljula Jubani, Giani Beluscio etc.

10. Having a clear conception of the components / components of acoustic phonetics, the author should be evaluated that completes the paper with studies of the cross-segmental plane for the word and sentence syntagm, addressing both the role of accent and intonation in the phonemic system vowel in this dialect.

11. The paper has combined the information of historical phonetics with that of phonetics synchronous, focusing on the phonetic evolution of the Albanian vocal system and taking it as benchmarks for approaches, analyzes, arguments and conclusions. Of interest is also the eye for "Vowels formed within Albanian", focusing on the vowels y and ě.

12. The heart of the work is formed by Chapter II, Case study, "The speech of Bujanovac with

environment - the phonetic aspect the system of experimental phonetic vowels". (Here, I do not understand why the construct "Case study" is used, when the whole work is a study !!!). It is given there information on the inventory of phonemes as well as the presence of two series of vowels (long and short). The author notes that Bijanoc's native speakers have a system with 16 phonemes) and incoming speakers (highlanders located in this area) an inventory with 19 vowel phonemes. Thus direct and accurate observations create value of the work.

Determination of

the vocal system is done straight, even through finding the minimum pairs of words in speech and careful selection of phonological contrasts of vowels. The same positive assessment is carried for Chapter II, The speech of Presevo and its surroundings -phonetic aspects of the vocal system. Following an encyclopedic information (which can be carried to the heading input, attaching to the information provided for this ethno-linguistic area), the paper introduces us with subjects by mode and gender. He dwells extensively on the vowel system in the dialect of Karadaku where three series of vowels appear (8 short vowels: / ĭ /, / ŭ /, / Ě /, / ě /, / ǎ /, / ǒ /, / ǎ /, / ǐ /; 6 long vowels: / i:/, / y:/, / o:/, / e:/, / a:/, / u:/; 6 hundred vowels; / ĭ /, / Ě /, / ǒ /, / ě /, / ǎ /, / ŭ /.

For both dialects we have scientific information on Format 1 and Format 2 and physical intensity of sounds (dB) for different sound types / phonemes (/ i /, / y /, / u /, / e /, / o /, / a /, etc.). All acoustic analyzes are accompanied by detailed analyzes with the program Praat.

13. In the paper should be evaluated loops "Results obtained with the Praat program by Bujanovac speech with the surrounding area "and" Results obtained with the Praat program from the speech of

Presevo and its surroundings "bring not only observations, but directly with conclusions and with the word

of the study author. The accompanying graphs and diagrams are feeds into the studies of phonetics experimental of Albanian.

14. Another comparable value of the paper is the comparative study of the system vowel of the dialect under study with the vocal system of standard Albanian (Chapter III Comparison of dialect words of the Presevo Valley with standard Albanian). The paper is accompanied by lists of dozens of words, grouped according to lexical-grammatical affiliation.

15. In a short loop is also given a list of some Slavic and Turkish borrowings, but also German in The Valley dialect, showing also the ways of their entry into this speak with.

16. Of scientific interest are also 36 spectrograms for different sides, being based on acoustic recordings by age, gender variables. This again is a feed in our contemporary studies.

17. The author not only analyzes, but also raises the concern that "Studies on this region inhabited by Albanians are few. There are several demographic publications for the Presevo Valley, while studies on the dialect of this linguistic area are both scarce but also fragmented. Linguists Idriz Ajeti (1969) and Rexhep Ismajli (1971) decades ago have

touched on phonetic and morphological issues of this dialect, while there is no study which would reflect the current state of use of Albanian in this area and even more so

comparative studies between the dialect of the Valley with the standard language are completely lacking

Albanian and southern Serbian, with which this Albanian varied has direct contacts." This finding calls for other studies, which can be undertaken by the author himself of this doctoral thesis

18. The monographic work is evaluated both for the Results of the work and for the Conclusions of

extracted, generally scientifically correct, structured at the end of the analytical treatment e science of the subject, raising and problems that are open and that need to be solved in it the future.

19. The paper is also evaluated for the Bibliography, which is related to the phenomena and processes treated and grasping the linguistic planes.

20. The working language is generally consolidated, with clear syntactic constructions e understandable as well as with a standardized national and international terminology.

As a conclusion I consider that Yllka Imeri's thesis entitled "Vocal system in the Albanian speech of the Preshevo Valley" under the scholarly supervision of assoc. prof. dr. Bilyana Mihaylova is a completed work and meets the requisite criteria of the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in Philology.

Prof. Dr. Valter Memisha