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# **VOCAL SYSTEM OF ALBANIAN SPEECH IN THE PRESEVO VALLEY**

## **ABSTRACT**

of a dissertation for the award of the scientific and educational degree  
"Doctor"

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Chairman: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Tarpomanova -reviewer

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adriatik Derjaj, University of Tirana

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rusana Beyleri, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

The dissertation is written in Albanian and has a total volume of 200 standard pages. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and an appendix. The bibliography of the dissertation contains 50 titles in Albanian and English. The abstract consists of 35 pages in Bulgarian, according to the requirements of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

**Key words:** *vocal system, Albanian speech in the Presevo Valley, Praat program, intensity, length, frequency, comparison.*

## CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

### ***INTRODUCTION***

#### ***Preface***

The aim of this dissertation is to explore the vocal system of the speech in which my informants tell their stories. The focus of the study is on the speech variants of the residents in this area. Their choice is made on the basis of sociolinguistic components such as: age, gender, education, place of residence. The study includes those aspects of language (sounds, words, word forms and constructions) that are considered essential in defining a language system.

The study is based on a set of stories recorded in eastern Kosovo, whose name comes from the geographical division, while the Presevo Valley is the official name of the area we are considering. Thus, the descriptive approach identifies and describes the language variables that characterize language variation in this area. In this way, the degree of linguistic influence of one

variation on another is mutually studied, and certain linguistic elements, according to the statistical approach, are also studied in terms of the frequency of their use. The results of the study of this quantitative study, obtained on the basis of statistical data, as well as their interpretation, lead me to answer the questions.

### **Subject of the research**

Albanian is an Indo-European language, and in many works on comparative linguistics it is accepted as a direct successor to Old Illyrian.

The subject of this study is the description of the vocal system of speech in the Presevo Valley. As it is somewhat isolated from the northeastern Hegeian system to which it belongs and is divided by administrative boundaries, speech in this area differs in inventory and phoneme quality from the group to which it belongs, but also from the sound system of the standard Albanian language. Therefore, this paper aims to highlight the relevant differences.

On the other hand, since the Presevo Valley is under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Serbia and since the official language in this part inhabited by Albanians is Serbian, the results of the study were compared with the parameters of the vocal system of this language to identify its phonetic influences on the respective speech.

The interference between these two languages, which are in constant contact, is probably reflected mainly in the sound system, especially in the inventory and the quality of the vowels in the Albanian language, which is spoken in the Presevo Valley.

The present study, which includes speech in the Presevo Valley (Presevo and Bujanovac and its surroundings), was also carried out through acoustic analysis, which was done with the help of the computer program Praat.

Informants are of different ages, genders and different backgrounds.

The comparative part of the northeastern Hegei dialects and the standard Albanian language spoken in Kosovo is taken from reliable research by various authors. While a comparison of our data, based on contacts with the Serbian-speaking population, shows that Albanians in the Bujanovac area, particularly in the village of Tërnoc, do not use the phoneme / y /, which is the

result of interlingual interference caused by the functioning of these two languages in this field. Publications on the vocal system in this language were also used for the research.

In order to study the vocal system, one must have prior knowledge in a number of areas of linguistics. First of all, one must know the vocal system in the standard Albanian language and know the values of the frequencies (of the first formant F1 and the second formant F2 of the pitch). Such measurements were made by Bahri Beci, who selects all recorded informants from the territory of Albania. These vowel measurements represent their acoustic characteristics in standard Albanian. To compare these values with the speech in eastern Kosovo, I follow all the rules of experimental phonetics to get acceptable results.

Experimental phonetics studies sounds in the acoustic aspect. Some of its tasks are to measure the length, pitch (frequency) and physical intensity of sounds. For our work, we have followed certain steps to achieve reliable research as follows:

- initially determine the inventory of phonemes of this speech;
- to obtain the characteristics of each phoneme; to find the minimum pairs of phonological opposition for each of them, to be supplemented with specific examples based on words, where the vowel phonemes are articulated;
- to determine the acoustic characteristics of the vowel phonemes in this speech through acoustic analysis. In this way the measurements of the first formant F1 and of the second formant F2 of frequency (height), measurements of length and physical intensity are made;
- to present the line of convergence of the inventory of phonemes of each age group, which is a native speaker in eastern Kosovo.
- to analyze all the collected material in order to make a conclusion about the tendencies of the influence of the speech of each group in the cities inhabited by Albanians.
- to compare the physical and phonological characteristics of the vocal system of speech in the Presevo Valley with those of the standard Albanian language and, on the other hand, to consider the consequences of the mutual influences in this system with the Serbian language.

### **Significance of the study**

The importance of the study of the "Vocal system in the Presevo Valley" lies in the fact that for this speech and especially for his vocal system no comprehensive studies have been done so far. All the descriptions made so far concern only questions of the perception of certain values based on what is heard with the naked ear, without the use of any apparatus or computer program. However, the research papers of Ayeti and Ismaili, published decades ago (1960), have made an undeniable contribution.

The study of this speech from the mentioned three dimensions becomes even more important due to the fact that for the first time an attempt is made to determine the degree of influence of the standard Albanian language in this area. It is isolated from the northeastern Hegei, as the use of the standard Albanian language is more noticeable in the Presevo area than in the Bujanovac area, and the reason for the use of standardization is the high level of education. On the other hand, there is the fact that Serbian, as the official language, influences this speech mainly in the vocal and lexical system.

Research in the field of experimental phonetics of the Albanian language began in the 1960s. The first to work in this field was Anastas Dodi. In 1960/1961 he specialized at Leningrad University (now St. Petersburg) and soon published his first works describing the vocal system in the Albanian language. After him, other scientists from Albania and Kosovo began working in the field. Sedat Kuci published a summary of these studies. Later, Bahri Beci published a special article on the experimental phonetics of the Albanian language. Aljula Jubani, who has also published a similar work, describes in many other articles the articulatory and acoustic characteristics of Albanian phonemes.

And Giovanni Belushio is launching a new perspective in experimental research into the phonetics of the standard Albanian language. His research is descriptive and comparative.

Experimental research in the field of Albanian phonetics is divided into two groups:

1. The first group includes studies whose object of study is the articulatory and acoustic description of phonemes in Albanian, ie. their physical characteristics;
2. The second group includes comparative studies between the system of sounds in Albanian and that in other languages.

### **Purpose**

The present work aims to take a new step forward in the study of Albanian dialects with the idea of contributing to the description of dialects. In particular, the study focused on the vocal system.

The determination of the inventory, system and functions of the phonemes in the language of eastern Kosovo is part of the aim of the study, which was carried out by experimental comparison with the computer program Praat. In this case, the role of stress and intonation in the phonemic vocal system of this speech is studied. Computer analysis has drawn conclusions about the trend of changes that have occurred within this dialect. These changes depend on various linguistic and non-linguistic factors.

### **Methodology**

This study contains several levels of research, which is why the method of work is adapted to research in the field of phonetics. For the preparation of this dissertation I rely on the materials collected in the field and on the research of some authors.

The main method of work is quantitative (and deductive).

For the research "The Vocal System of Speech in the Presevo Valley", I first used four important characteristics in determining the number of informants who had to be registered for this study.

These four characteristics are:

1. Place; 2. Gender; 3. Age; 4. Level of education.

От записите на информаторите получих тези езикови явления, които са характерни във фонетичен аспект. Представянето на резултатите има за цел да подчертае особеностите на говора. Те са разгледани по-подробно в съответните глави, където са изследвани вокалната система и нейните функционални стойности.

Направени са интервюта с информанти, чиито разкази са подложени на фонетична транскрипция, която се прави с цел разглеждане на звуковите характеристики в речта на носители на различни говори, свързани с определен регион и социална прослойка.

Участниците в това изследване са носители на говора в региона на Прешевската долина. Корпусът включва общо 100 местни лица, записани с диктофон, разделени на групи по пол, възраст и степен на образование.

Gender	Age	Education
Men and women	First group: 14-29 years	First group - primary education
	Second group: 30-49 years	Second group - secondary education
	Third group: over 50 years	Third group - higher education

The respondents were selected from different social groups: housewife, farmer, teacher, doctor, nurse, hodja, civil servant, student.

The study of the inventory of vocal phonemes of this speech and its sub-variants was made on the basis of the stories of the pre-selected informants. Their task is to tell a story (Little Red Riding Hood), a story or to tell something from their lives. An analysis of the phonemes found in this corpus was then made; the inventory and its sub-variants were defined, the oppositions realized in the three positions of the word - initial, middle and final, were also defined.

For the collection of data for the research, the interviewees were recorded to tell a story. It then found the number of phonetic variables in the pronunciation of vowel phonemes in their interviews. In order to detect these phonetic changes, it is necessary to apply phonetic transcription to the entire assembled corpus.

A language can have many speech variants, the result of various social factors. Phonetic changes have been included in the current study, because the speech in the Presevo Valley has a special emphasis on pronunciation, which differs from that in Kosovo.

It was explained to the informants that the records they made would be used for scientific research. During the recordings, their task was to tell a story of their choice, and their story had to last up to five minutes. Working in the field was not so easy because there were people who did not know when to stop.

There are differences between informants in age, education and place of residence. Vowel results are represented by measurements provided by Praat software. The informants' stories have been transcribed and their dialect has been compared to standard Albanian.

Initially, the results of the measurements in the spoken language of the informants from Bujanovac were presented, then the results obtained from Presevo. We have a total of one hundred informants, evenly distributed in the vicinity of Presevo and Bujanovac.

The acoustic characteristics of the vowels are expressed through the formants, which depend on the shape and size of the larynx. In the spectrum of vowels there are usually several formants, which are denoted by numbers (first formant, second, third and fourth formant) F1, F2, F3, F4. In addition, the fundamental tone F0 differs. The first two formants play a decisive role in the characteristics of the vowels.

### **Tasks of the dissertation:**

- 1. To enroll informants, respecting the selection criteria;*
- 2. To transcribe the texts;*
- 3. To find the contrasts between the vowel phonemes;*
- 4. To choose the words according to the criteria for analysis of vowel phonemes;*

5. Implement the Praat program.

6. Implement the SPSS program to derive the averages of F1, F2 and dB.

7. Implement the Excel program for presenting graphs.

### **Characteristics of speech in the Presevo Valley:**

#### 1. Phonetics

- The main feature of the phonetic system of speech in Presevo are the long vowels;
- The diphthong / ua /, used in the Albanian Tosk, in the speech in the Presevo Valley is transmitted with / u /;
- There are nasal vowels in some villages around Presevo;
- In some villages around Buyanovac and Presevo the vowel / y / is missing.
- The palatal consonants -q, -gj in the Presevo Valley remain the same, they do not change.
- Transition of the diphthongs -oe, -ae into front, semi-high vowels -ö and -e (open): vö, pe.
- The transition of the stressed -a in some words into a more forward and closed sound (ä) nält, zjärm.

#### 2. Accentology

- Thanks to the penultimate syllable of the words vèri, qìri, nìëri

#### 3. Morphology

- The formation of a certain form of masculine nouns ending in an accented labial -i with an ending typical of feminine nouns of -j-a; bari-ja, kadi-ja, haxhi-ja, Ali-ja, Sali-ja.
- The formation of a definite form in the nominative case of masculine nouns ending in -ue with the ending -ni: prue, proni (found as pruni in the Prešëvo Valley) / thue, thoni, and in the accusative case a definite form take the ending -nin: prrue, prronin / thue, thonin. This feature is attested in all the dialects of the northern Hegei.

- The formation of the first person, present tense, expressive inflection of verbs of the first conjugation, first class, with the help of the ending -i; (unë) lidhi, hapi;
- The formation of a third person, singular, present tense, subjunctive with the ending -in (jn), which is the same as the ending in the third person, plural: (ai) t'lidhin, t'presin, t'hajn, t (lajn (in the Preševo Valley the form is: t 'lidhë, t'prit, t'han).
- The forms djali jem (em) 'my boy / son', vajza jeme (eme) 'my girl / daughter' (with missing iotation in parentheses) in the nominative case, first person, possessor and possessor are in the singular, these forms also exist in the speech in the Preševo Valley.
- The forms of the possessive pronoun in the speech of the Preševo Valley are found as: djali jem, vajza jeme, which in some places occur without the initial –j: djali em, vajza eme.
- In the speech in the Preševo Valley the combination fsh is not simplified: mufsh, shkofsha, kofsha and others.
- The definite article -u in nouns ending in the pharyngeal -k, g, (bujku, zogu) in some parts of the Preševo Valley is found as: bujki, zogi. Also verbs based on -k, g (pjeku, djegu, lagu) appear as: pjeki, djegi, lagi.

Observing these distinctive features of speech in the valley of Presevo, it can be noted that speech in this region has enough features that make it worthwhile to do research.

The linguistic characteristics that the language of the Preševo Valley has are those that distinguish it from other dialects.

Peculiarities of the vocal system in the speech of Presevo and its surroundings:

The following series of vowels are found in the speech in Presevo and its surroundings: short non-nasal, long non-nasal and nasal vowels, which are used in some villages around Presevo, which are in contact with areas in Macedonia and part of Kosovo.

- *Short vowels are: ă, ě, ë, ĭ, ō, ŭ, y.*
- *Long vowels are: a :, e :, i :, o :, u :, y :.*

• *Nasal vowels are: ã, õ.*

### **- Length of vowels:**

The length of the vowels is a characteristic of the vocalism of the Hegeian dialect. (Dodi, 1970: 60). Like any speech from the Hegi dialect, which has a rich vocalism, the speech in Presevo and its surroundings has a system of vowels with different variations of vowel phonemes.

Accented long vowels are found in words with an open final syllable: grā, vllā, shkī, burrnī, shpī, pleçnī, mushknī, sȳ-si, kcȳ and others. There are such vowels in foreigners as: premī, armī, penzī, fukarā, evlijā, hatā and others. They are also found in closed syllables, eg: gjāl, gjāth, būrr, hōxh, fīrm, slīk, shtāg, mūj, ullūk, dhīmt, rrōjt, morāv, skllōpk, xhāl.

The stressed vowel in a closed syllable in this speech, unlike the other dialects of the Northeastern Hegei, is also pronounced in some masculine and feminine nouns in the position before the consonants -r, -ll, -n. These nouns are usually two-syllable words, less often three-syllable. Eg: ofiqār, beqār, samār, mahāl, drakūll, būll, damār, shumār, magār, centrāl, budāl, mixhallār, hoxhallār, litār, kumār, zāl.

Long vowels are also struck in those cases when we have monophthongization of diphthongs such as: mīll, dīll, çīll, būll and others. We have long vocal phonemes in foreigners with infinitives and feminine nouns originating from the Slavic languages and ending with the consonant phoneme / t /, as well as with some other consonants with the suffix -icë.

Eg think: vadīt, zagllavī, rasadīt, zakaçīt, gazdarīcë, gospogjīcë, Zhunīcë, Raīncë, Corrotīcë, Rahovīcë.

The vowels are long and in some verbs in the past indefinite tense, in the participle, such as:

*Kimi kalū, kūm ardh, jūm kōn* and others. With long vowels are also some nouns in the accusative case, when the consonant -v enters between the vowels. Eg: dhe: vin, thi: vin, ka: vin, shi: vin, etc.

### **- Medium long vowels**

Long vowels become medium in length in cases where nouns in the indefinite form end in -r, and in other consonants. For example: samār - sama'ri, poshtār - poshta'ri, beqār - beqa'ri, dinār - dina'ri, guvedār - guveda'ri.

### **- Short vowels**

For this speech we can say that the short vowel becomes middle in the structure of nouns when used in a certain form, eg: drëç - dre'çi, shofër - shofe'ri, shōç - sho'çi, duhōn - duho ' ni, kalëm - kale'mi, māl - ma'li, dāsh - da'shi.

According to Beci, it is generally accepted that length has no functional value in today's literary Albanian language. Analyzing the physical parameters of the vowel (a) and the vowel (s), Beci found that the differences observed in the length of the stressed vowels in words such as plak-plakë are unstable and so small that they cannot play a role in their opposition. The connection between the long vowels and the accent is evident in certain cases when monophthongization of the diphthongs is observed in the examples mentioned above (eg mīll, dīll). In conclusion, the length of the vowels is typical of the language of eastern Kosovo.

### **- Nasality**

Speech nasality in the Presevo Valley is one of the main features in some villages around Presevo because they are influenced by neighboring areas such as Kumanovo in Macedonia and part of Gilyan, where nasality is not as high as in some other northern dialects. Hegian.

While collecting the materials, I noticed that the nasal vowels are available, eg: θat /, / ãft ni: far veni ſkret ã /.

Nasality is most pronounced in the village of Miratoc and in the villages around Karadak in Preševo. In the village of Miratovac, this feature is characteristic due to the neighborhood and marital relations with residents of Kumanovo, respectively from the villages Llojav / Lojav, Vaksincë / Vaksince, Orizare / Orizare, Sllupçan / Slupčan and others. While the villages of Tërnavë / Tarnava and Strezoc / Strezovce have linguistic similarities with the village of Miratovac, due to the geographical proximity and contacts between people. Characteristic similarities are observed in the verb - bëj, where the nasal -a is used, e.g. / bāj –bājke /.

During the project we did not have the opportunity to perform measurements of the nasality parameter, as the Praat program does not offer such an opportunity. Therefore, due to the impossibility of proposing figures based on measurements, we rely only on the auditory perception of this feature in Hegei, which is very reduced in this speech.

### **- Short vowel phonemes**

The short vowels in the speech in Presevo and its surroundings are characteristic of one-syllable and two-syllable words, which end with a closed and an open syllable. In this case, verbs and nouns ending in a consonant and a vowel are pronounced with a short vowel. Eg: *pī, zī, shtī, rrī, mīk, mīsh, xhāk, rrāfsh, māl, kōs, duhō, msūs*, etc.

Short vowels are also available in some adjectives such as: *i kēq, i lākt, i shtrēmt, i prīsh, zengīn, pasanīk* and others.

Features of the vocal system in the speech of Bujanovac and its surroundings:

Accented long vowels are found in words with an open final syllable: *fmiā, shkojshmī, kurxhō, shtī, çikā, xhalī, vallā, kaprollā, dritā, amā, marrē, pērparā, autostradā, luginā, tē mdhajā, tē voja*.

Such vowels are also found in foreigners, such as: *strujā, autostradā, vallā, bakllavā*.

A stressed vowel in a closed syllable is also pronounced in some masculine and feminine nouns in the position before the consonants r, ll, n, and these nouns can be two-syllable and less often three-syllable words. For example: *bunār, kultūr, habēr, detelīn*, etc.

We have long vocal phonemes in foreign words with infinitives and feminine nouns of Slavic origin, ending in the consonant phoneme / t /, some other consonants and the suffix -icē.

For example, think: *Llobavīt, stērvīt, bullīc, llubenīc*.

With a long vowel are some nouns in their form in both nominative and accusative cases, eg: *dhōndrin, mīkin, shōkin, grūn, qīkēn* and others.

We have the transition of the vowel / y / into the long vowel / ī /, eg: Krī, sī, dī, tī, frīm, tlīn, fūr, fīx, indīr, xhīms, hī. These nouns in a certain form also have a long vowel, eg: krīja, sinī, frīma, tlīni.

### **- Medium long vowels**

Long vowels become medium in length in cases where nouns in the indefinite form end in / r /, and in some other consonants. Eg: samār - samari, poshtār - poshtari, beqār - beqari, dinār - dinari, guvedār - guvedari.

### **- Short vowels**

It can be said that in this speech the short vowel of nouns turns into a vowel of medium length when these nouns are used in a certain form, eg: Kimik - kimīki, burek - burēki, plak - plāki.

### **- Short vowel phonemes**

The short vowels in the Bujanovac speech are mainly present in the following words. Eg: Kă, dī, milēt, nīs, kī, etj

Short vowels are also characteristic of some adjectives, such as: I līdh, tē mdhajă, tē voglă, etc.

### **Dialect characteristics in the Preševo Valley**

Verb forms in which there is an accumulation of vowels / ye / in seg. vr., in min. nesv., yav., podch. and led. nakl. are spelled as follows: lyej, lyejsha, tē lyejsha, kryej, kryejsha, tē kryejsha. (Ismajli, 2005: 447).

In the speech in the Presevo Valley these verb forms are found in the following form:

#### ***In the speech in Presevo:***

#### ***In the speech in Bujanovac, in the village of Tërnoc***

*Lyj*

*li*

*Lyjsha*

*lisha*

*T' lysha*

*t' lisha*

*Kry*

*kri* (за СВЪРШВАМ)

*Krysha*

*krisha*

*T' krysha*

*t' krisha*

These changes in vowel phonemes are mostly found in the village of Tërnoc / Tarnovac, while other villages sometimes retain the vowel -y, as in Preševo and the surrounding area.

Speech in the Preševo Valley is also characterized by the transition of the vowel / y / to / i /, where this feature is a result of the influence of the Slavic languages.

During the collection of the material, the words that change the vowel / y / to / i / were registered in the corpus:

- The speech in the Preševo Valley (Tërnoc / Tarnovac - Rincë / Rince): Kri, Si, Di, Ti, Frim, Ftir, Tlin, Indir, Fix, Xhims, Hi.
- Standard Albanian: Koka (Krytë), Sy, Dy, Ti, Frymë, Fytyrë, Tlyn (yndyrë / fat), Indyrë, Fyx (pe për qepje / sewing thread), Gjysmë, Hy.

The nouns Koka, Sy, Frymë, Fytyrë, Tlyn in this speech and in a certain form when pronounced are with a long vowel, eg: kri: ja, si: ni, fri: ma, fti: ra, tli: ni. With a short vowel are the nouns atĩ - aty, fĩll - fyll, dĩ - dy.

But in Shoshajë / Shushaja, Rahovicë / Oraovica, Corroticë / Čarnotince, Norçë / Norča and in other villages the vowel -y is available and widely used.

According to the spelling rules, the vowel -y is available when writing and in the villages, where it is not pronounced when pronounced.

The words mysafir, myfti, myshteri, byro, byrek in the studied speech have the form: mysafir, mifti, mishteri, birov, burek.

- And the vowel -y in the speech in the Presevo Valley is presented in this form:

- Long;

- short.

According to Dodi (1970: 54), the vowel -y in northern Albania is characterized by lower labialization than in southern Albania, especially when it comes to the short -y.

The long vowel - y in our corpus is in open and closed syllables, eg: sy, dry, ty, frym, ftyr, qyk, pyk, pshtym, tlyn, dyr, ndërsy, kry, xhys, lys, xhym, fyx, yndyr, myrtaj, gryk, dyçy: sh, çysh, kurçysh, e dyta, ndryshe, tybe, shybe, etc.

The vowel -y is also used as a long verb in the paskajore / infinitive, in the indefinite tense forms of verbs, and so on. Eg: me hy, kum hy, jum hy; Me kcy, patmi kcy; Mi fry, i kena fry; Me lyp, kimi lyp; Me shtyp, na ka shtyp; Mu ka zvyr, me shpërthy, me shky, me ly, me myt, u shpërthy, nuk vyke, etc.

The numeral dy 'two' respectively the long vowel -y occurs when accompanied by feminine nouns, and the short -y in the numeral - dy 'two' occurs when accompanied by a masculine noun, eg: / Gjy: la i ka dy: çì: ka /; / Artani i ka dÿ gjem /.

This case represents a phonetic change.

The vowel -y is long for adjectives: / I thy: em /, / I ly: m /, / I nxhy: m / and others.

Some words that use the long -y in the indefinite form, such as: sy :, fry: m, dry: tly: n, pshty: m, xhy: s, qy: k, py: k, which in the definite form are also appear with this vowel, eg: sy: ni, fry: ma, dry: ni, tly: ni, pshty: ma, xhy: sa, qy: ka, py: ka, etc.

The short vowel -y is usually found in one-syllable words, but also in some two-syllable ones:

*Tym, fyll, myk, i mykt, ngryk, kryp, qyp, fyt, dyll, xhysh, kryt, babaxhysh, gjymbysh, kyçyk, ymyz. Syfyr, gjygam, huxhim, shyqyr, etc.*

This vowel - long or short, especially long, in the villages Raincë / Raince, Bushtran / Bushtrane, Geraj / Geray, and less often in the village Çukarkë / Chukarka near Presevo, has been replaced by the vowel -i. Substitution of - y> i is found mainly in the Bujanovac dialect and the surrounding area, including the villages of Tërnoc / Tarnovac, Samolicë / Samolitsa, Nasalcë / Nesalce, Letovicë / Letovica.

### **Opposition of pairs of vowel phonemes**

Opposition to the pair of phonemes / i / - / y / can be found mostly in the middle and end of words. The study examines words that begin with the phoneme - y. There are very few speakers in this group. This is the reason for the lack of opposition at the beginning of the speech.

Opposition in the middle of the word we have: mik - myk 'friend', fill-fyll 'immediately', (fill is used for immediately).

Opposition at the end of the word we have: di - dy (eg ai di shumë gjëra, ajo ka dy lule).

- Opposition of the pair of phonemes / i / - / u /

The middle of the word is the only position in which the phonological opposition of the pair - / i / - / u / is attested. Eg:

Gisht - gusht; Pis - pus; Fis - foot (and foot, for sale); Lis - lus (e lus per i lutem).

- Opposition of the pair of phonemes / i / - / e /

The middle of the word is a position in which the opposition of the phonemes -i and -e is attested, as well as the end of the word.

Rrin - rren (rrin në qendron, rren për gënjënë); Edhi - edhe (edhi kafshë)

- Opposition of the pair of phonemes / i / - / a /

The functional value of this pair in opposition is manifested in the middle and end of the word.

Pis - dog; Plis - plas; Mish - mash; Rris - rras (rras për ha / behind the pit); Si - sa

We find all these phonological oppositions of the phonemes in the speakers of the speech in the Preševo Valley, which are relevant for all groups speaking Albanian.

## **Phonetic transcription**

During our research we used the international phonetic alphabet. Transcription is a necessary element in the work of phonetics. The transcripts of our materials are given in the appendix at the end of the research. For phonetic-phonological phenomena we relied only on auditory evaluation. While the measurements for pitch (or tonality) F1, F2, Hz and length (q / s), as well as for the physical intensity dB, were made with the Praat program.

When working with this program you can see the type of acoustic sound waves, where the higher the waves, the higher the sound intensity.

The reason why the study texts need to be transcribed is to analyze each vowel when used at the beginning, middle and end of the word in one hundred interviews.

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **SPEECH IN BUYANOVAC AND SURROUNDINGS - PHONETIC ASPECT VOCAL SYSTEM**

#### **EXPERIMENTAL PHONETICS**

The system of vowels in speech in the Preševo Valley is the subject of this study. In this part of the research I present the system of vowels in the speech in Bujanovac and its surroundings. It differs from the speeches in the surrounding villages. One of the reasons for this difference is the fact that in this city there are many migrants from the mountainous areas in this area.

According to Richard A. Hudson, human migration affects their speech because they modify it to adapt to new circumstances. That is why I encountered some difficulties in choosing informants. Great care had to be taken, especially when choosing female informants, because there are many Kosovo women married in Bujanovac and the surrounding area who are married here. This is found in all settlements in the Presevo Valley, which includes all villages and two towns.

Determining the inventory of vowel phonemes in the speech in Bujanovac and its surroundings

The differences in the inventory of phonemes in speech in Bujanovac and its surroundings are visible in the first place in the vocal system. This inventory varies for the total number of phonemes depending on the settlement where the majority of the inhabitants are Albanian-speaking. In some villages the inventory of vocal phonemes consists of one phoneme less - the phoneme / y / is not realized in the villages Tërnoc i Madh / Veliki Tarnovac, Turi / Turia, Lluqan / Lucane, Oslarë / Oslare.

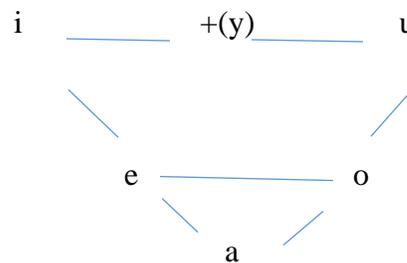
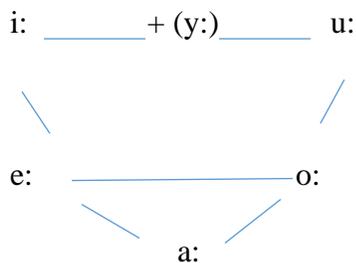
The lack of the phoneme / y / is a result of the direct linguistic contact of the inhabitants of these settlements with the Slavic ethnic group and their Slavic language.

On the other hand, in many villages in Bujanovac and in general the phoneme / y / is preserved, which makes this system similar to the phoneme system typical of the language spoken in Kosovo. Therefore, the vocal system in this region can be considered to be composed of five + one phoneme / y /.

All these phonemes are in oppositional relations, so we can say that the speech in Bujanovac and its surroundings knows two series of vowels, the series of the long ones and the series of the short ones. The qualitative differences between these series are discussed in the relevant chapters.

Another characteristic that distinguishes this speech is the lack of the stressed phoneme / ě /, which is always replaced by the vowel / ε /.

Based on these findings, the inventory of vowels from this speech can be presented and you speak in the vicinity with the following triangles:



Based on our corpus, it can be seen that the speech system in Bujanovac and its surroundings also differs in the regional affiliation of the speakers. Thus, his vocal system can be described as follows:

The first sub-variant (of the dialect) is related to the demographic uniformity of the inhabitants of Bujanovac and some surrounding villages, while the second is related to the mountaineers coming from the Baygorska Shala district in Bujanovac and some surrounding villages.

Therefore, the following inventory sub-variants are distinguished:

1. The first group, composed of the inhabitants of Bujanovac and its surroundings, has the following phonemic inventory:

a, e, ε, i, o, u, / a :, e :, i :, o :, u:, / Ā, ě, ĭ, ů, ŏ / (16 vowel phonemes).

2. The second group, which consists of the mountaineers who came to Bujanovac and the surrounding area, knows the following composition of phonemes:

a, e, ε, i, o, u, y / a :, e :, i :, o :, u:, y: / Ā, ě, ĭ, ů, ŏ, ŷ / (19 vowel phonemes).

The phonological values (sound values of a phoneme) of the vocal system of speech in Bujanovac and its surroundings are discussed later in the dissertation.

Results of the Praat speech program in Bujanovac and its surroundings

Field research has led to sufficient results to detect the frequencies of the vocal system. The Praat program for each vowel in the study was used to track sound frequencies.

1. In the vowel / i / we have an increased frequency of f2, in the third group of men, while in women - the highest frequency is represented in f2 in the first group or younger in age;

2. In the vowel / y / the frequency of f2 is the highest in the first group of men, almost the same is the value of f2 in the group of women, the first group, the younger ones;

3. In the vowel / u / the highest frequency of f2 is in the first and third group of men, while in women the highest frequency of f2 is in the second group, with middle age;

4. The vowel / e / has the highest frequency of f2 in the first and third groups of men, while in women f2 has the highest frequency in the third group, of the elderly;

5. In the vowel / o / we have the highest frequency of f2 in the third group, the older ones, in men, while in women the highest frequency of f2 is in the first group of women, at a young age;

6. The vowel / a / has the highest frequency of f2 in the first group of young men, and in women also of the first group, young men.

From these results it is clear that the frequency of f2 is higher and this is due to the stronger pronunciation of the phoneme. The actual values of the formant frequencies also depend on the length of the speaker's vocal tract. So it is not the absolute values of the formant frequencies that

determine the phonetic information, because they can vary depending on the pronunciation of the phoneme in the order in which it is placed in the word.

The frequency of the first formant is determined mainly by the height of the middle part of the tongue. The frequency of the latter is determined mainly by the front and back of the tongue.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### ***The speech in Presevo and its surroundings - phonetic aspect***

#### ***Vocal system***

In this chapter we will consider those phonetic and phonological phenomena of the Albanian dialect in eastern Kosovo, which affect the dialect in Presevo and its surroundings, which have their own linguistic features.

Results obtained with the Praat program for speech in Presevo and the surrounding area

During the research in Presevo and its surroundings, enough material was collected to detect frequencies in the vocal system. Each vowel of the study was analyzed with the Praat program to display sound frequencies and intensity values.

1. In the vowel / i / there is an increased frequency in the formant F2, F1 turned out to be higher in the second group of women with 856 Hz, while in the first group of men F1 showed 111 Hz, dB is represented in the second group of women with 76.7 dB, and for men - 74.58 dB.

2. The vowel / y / F2 has the highest frequency, the highest frequency is F1 in the women of the second group with 1409 Hz, and dB 76 is again in the second group; in men F1 shows 1588 Hz in the third group and dB 76 with the highest power is in the third group.

3. At the vowel / u / we have the highest frequency in F2, the frequency of F1 is represented by 836 Hz in the second group of women, dB 72.93 in women, while the highest intensity of the voice is represented in the second group of men for the vowel / u / with 72.93 dB, while the frequency of F1 is represented by 1125 Hz in men - third group, older.
4. The vowel / e / has the highest frequency in F2, the highest is the pitch of F1 in the first group of women with 920 Hz, the highest intensity for this vocal is in the third group, women, with dB 84. In men - F1 with 922 Hz for the third group, and for the first group, the young dB 84.
5. The vowel / o / has the highest frequency in F2 for both sexes. In women, the vowel / o / with a higher increase in F1 was noted in the first group with 891 Hz, while the intensity was presented with 74 dB in the second group, in middle age. In men, the formant F1 has the highest result in the third group with 882 Hz, and with the highest intensity in the first group - the young, with 83 dB.
6. The vowel / a / has the highest frequency in F2 for both sexes. In women, the highest F1 values were reported in the third group with 881 Hz, and the highest reported intensity was again in the third group with 84 dB. In all men, F1 had the highest values in the third group with 975 Hz, while the second group reported the highest intensity compared to the other two groups, showing 82.32 dB.

From the above results it can be seen that the frequencies are presented in different ways depending on the groups from which the body of the study is derived. From the shown results it is established that F1 with the highest values in all vocals is represented in the third group - the older ones, while the intensity dB is represented by the highest values in the second group, ie middle-aged people.

## CHAPTER 3

### *Comparison of dialect words from the Presevo Valley with the standard Albanian language*

The study of dialects is the basis for all linguistic research. As the famous French scholar Antoine Meyer points out, "there is no history of language without dialectology, and especially without a comprehensive linguistic geography well studied."

The Presevo dialect has its own distinctive dialectal features, such as each dialect, political divisions, the influence of the economy and cities, and the proximity of Serbian cities, so that in addition to Albanian dialectal features, some dialects are used. Below are the dialect words used by informants compared to the standard Albanian language.

During the linguistic expedition in Bujanovac and Presevo, it was possible to hear a smooth Albanian language, very close to the standard Albanian language. Special mention should be made of the speech in Presevo, which is very close to literary Albanian, and with which the work in the field of dialects and vocabulary was easy, as not only from the recordings made with electronic devices, but also from conversations outside the main topic. the expedition, the inhabitants of Presevo and Bujanovac and their surroundings speak purely their northeastern Hegei, with very few borrowings from foreign languages, especially from Slavic, with which they have contacts.

Among the interviewed informants, some dialectally spoken words were found, in particular the verb forms in the infinitive (për të punuar), for which the majority of the informants use the verb form from Hegi. Also, the participle of some verbs, which in the standard language end with the suffix -ur, is pronounced by the informants with -ë. The use of nouns, adjectives, numerals and pronouns in their dialectal form is also noticed in the interviews, usually by informants with lower education or by young informants.

### ***Borrowings in speech in the Presevo Valley***

Borrowings usually became part of the unofficial language for various reasons, and in the case of Albanian, due to prolonged occupations (especially by the Ottoman Empire and the Slavs); the proximity or proximity to the Balkan peoples has led to the use today of some borrowings in both dialects of the Albanian language.

It is generally believed and said that the main bearers of borrowings or the causes of language interference are bilinguals. Of course, these cases are influenced by many other social and linguistic factors. Language does not always accept every foreign element. Rare are those foreign elements that are layered in the host language, compared to those that manage to impose themselves immediately in the language. However, over time, these elements may gradually come together and enter a large extent in the host language (Nuhio 1990: 9).

Slavic borrowings (after all examples of borrowings the Albanian word corresponding to them is indicated by a dash): *brisaç-fshires*, *zid-mur*, *fjoka-sirtari*, *kaput-pallte*, *ograda-rrethoja*, *svillemendafsh*, *akumulator-bateri*, *kompluki-pedalja e makines*, *menjaçi-nderruesi i shpejtesise*, *felga-disku*, *vilica-nofulla*.

These loans are used mainly by the older population and those with lower education.

Turkisms (used by the older population): *tenxhere*, *sandëk*, *mangall*, *shilte*, *këllëf*, *nishan*, *argat*, *mintan*, *çizme*, *dimia*, *budalla*, *amanet*, *haber*, *hatër*, *haram*, *zor*, *telash*, *sebep*, *sevap*, *milet*, *shaka*, *dynja*, *haram*, *gjynah*, *xham*, *konak*, *oxhak*, *tavan*, *okllagi*, *alet*, *çare*, *dalldis*, *badihava*, *hesap*, *axhami*, *hiç*, *hise*, *bahçe*, *bajat*, *ama*, *bardak*, *adet*, *begenis*, *bilmez*, *harxh*, *vesvese*, *çarshi*, *jazëk*, *kësmet (kismet)*, *oda*, *jeshil*, etc.

Borrowings from German: *pllaci-trualli*, *gepek-bagazh*, *shllajf-makine mprehese*, *banhof-stacioni i trenit*, *ploshtad-sheshi i qytetit*, *bullduzher-eskavator*, *parkpllac-vendparkim* and others.

This type of borrowing is usually found among the younger, children who were born and raised abroad, mainly in Germany and Switzerland. With the arrival of emigrants especially for the holidays, they use these German-speaking foreigners.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS:**

The vocal system of speech in the Preševo Valley is a topic that has not been considered by researchers so far from the point of view of experimental phonetics.

The corpus of the study includes a total of 100 informants, men and women, divided into three groups: the first group of 14 - 29 years, the second group of 30 - 49 years, the third group - over 50 years.

The informants have primary, secondary and higher education, working and non-working. They are from the towns and villages around Bujanovac and Presevo.

The study is divided into four parts:

- The first part includes introduction and methodology of work;
- The second - contains a study of speech in Bujanovac and its surroundings, acoustic and experimental phonetics and results from the Praat program, calculations made with the SPSS program and graphs performed with the Excel program.
- The third part - the speech in Presevo and its surroundings, acoustic and experimental phonetics and results from the Praat program, the calculations made with the SPSS program and the graphs performed with the Excel program.
- The fourth part is about the vocabulary, which includes foreigners used in the Presevo Valley and comparisons of words used in Hegei with the standard Albanian language.

In the research I made some suggestions and focused primarily on experimental phonetics, as this is a topic that has not been developed so far. It has been noted that earlier research in phonetics was mainly related to the acoustic properties of sounds, but did not affect experimental phonetics. Due to the lack of experimental phonetics and the small number of studies in general, the Vocal System of Speech in the Preševo Valley fills these gaps in previous research through measurements, and the overall study is prepared with great diligence and dedication.

The first part of the dissertation is devoted to the scientific literature related to phonetic and dialectal topics, which have been discussed by various linguists.

a. The language in Presevo and the surrounding area is pure Albanian, although local Albanian speakers deviate from the standard Albanian language. The same goes for the speech in Bujanovac and its surroundings.

b. Speech in the Presevo Valley has its linguistic features, which are:

- Replacement of the vowel / y / with the vowel / i / in some villages in the Presevo Valley;
- Pronunciation of vocal and consonant phonemes according to the speech norms of the standard language in some settlements in the Presevo Valley;
- Use of long vowels in some villages in the Presevo Valley.

c. The Hegeian dialect in Presevo and its surroundings does not differ much from the Hegeian subdialects;

d. In the speech in the Preševo Valley there are a large number of foreigners from Serbian and Turkish, there are also English words used by the interviewed informants;

e. The dissertation in the field of phonetics pays special attention to acoustic and experimental phonetics, because in this way the phonetics of the Albanian language is enriched in these two aspects, thus offering proven results to the readers of the research;

f. The present work can be extended further, taking into account aspects of phonetics as a branch of linguistics;

g. Regarding adstrata as a linguistic feature that manifests itself in a language under the influence and in contact with a neighboring language, adstrata has an effect on the phoneme / y /, which as a result of contacts with Serbian speakers sometimes changes and turns into / i / ;

with. Given that acoustic phonetics is a branch of phonetics that deals with the physical characteristics of speech sounds during their articulation, this section presents the contrasts between vowel phonemes, which are considered in the study of speech in Bujanovac and Presevo;

i. Experimental phonetics is a way to study phonetic data based on measurements made with instruments used in the exact sciences in order to test scientific hypotheses. The data of experimental phonetics are quantitative, ie based on numbers. Experimental phonetics relies on various devices, instruments and laboratories. The part on this topic was made through the Praat and SPSS programs. The results for F1, F2, and dB are derived from them.

According to the results achieved, which were discussed after each completed part of the speeches, I came to the conclusion that the amplitude of a certain frequency at a certain time is

represented by the intensity of nuances (these definitions are made when the informant pronounces a sentence and determines the intensity and the decibels of a phoneme.

- From Part IV of the study, which compared dialect words with words in the standard Albanian language, I found that in Presevo older people informants use the standard language, paying special attention to this. This is due to their education, while informants of the same age group in Bujanovac and the surrounding area do not pay attention to the standard Albanian language spoken. In Bujanovac and the surrounding area, middle-aged people (30-49 years old) pay more attention to the spoken standard Albanian language.

- Regarding foreigners, in Preševo and the surrounding area the largest number of words borrowed from Turkish is reported, while in Bujanovac and the surrounding area I found a large number of borrowed words from the Serbian language. These foreigners are found mainly among the elderly population, while the young and middle-aged are much more English or German.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The studied corpus shows the inclusion of phonetic-dialect units in scientific work, which are realized on the basis of the vocal system, which belongs to the field of phonetics, and the words that are the subject of lexicology are found in the two dialects of Albanian - in the dialect of Presevo and its surroundings there are more words than the standard Albanian, and in the dialect of Bujanovac and its surroundings there are more dialect words. The whole study is based on interviews with informants from the Albanian-speaking region, a region that has been neglected in all aspects - economic, political and scientific.

In conclusion, all the objectives set at the beginning of the study were met. Based on the findings of the corpus, it can be concluded that the "Speech in the Presevo Valley" is a pure speech that has preserved the variants of the Hegei and Standard Albanian languages. The dialect in the Preševo Valley belongs to the group of northeastern Hegei and this dialect should be of scientific interest to linguists in all fields.

## **SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE DISSERTATION:**

- a. Experimental study with the Praat program;
  - b. Highlighting the phonological opposition;
  - c. Analysis of the ratio of standard language - dialect in the speech in the Presevo Valley;
  - e. Phonetic and morphological characteristics of speech in Bujanovac;
  - f. Phonetic and morphological characteristics of speech in Presevo;
  - g. Assessment of the current language interaction with the Serbian language
- with. The developed topic contains new information and is presented for the first time in Bulgaria.

- i. This dissertation is one of the priorities of Eurolinguistics in terms of research on how minority languages work in relation to the official national languages in European countries.

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