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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Syntactic Functions of Adjectives: A Comparative Approach with Examples from Albanian, English, German, French and Italian Languages

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	The present paper explores the attributive, epithetic and predicative functions of adjectives in the Albanian language, by considering the most relevant and contemporary theories such as the valency theory and the concepts of generative linguistics. Two reasons make this paper an important contribution to the domain of Linguistics: firstly, the syntactic functions of the adjectives in Albanian language have been analyzed insufficiently due to the fact that Albanian Linguistics is based on traditional theories and concepts. Therefore, many issues related to the syntactic functions of the adjectives remain unexplored. Secondly, as the paper focuses on the adjectives in Albanian language in terms of attributive, epithetic, and predicative functions, each function is illustrated with examples by comparing and contrasting them with other Indo-European languages. Therefore, this paper can be a reference to other non-Albanian researchers whose interest is either in understanding the syntactic issues of the Albanian language or attempting to compare and contrast it with other European languages. This paper is an extract from the doctoral dissertation, which I have reviewed and supplemented for the reader to have an insight into the syntactical system of the Albanian language with focus on adjectives, and to highlight the similarities and differences that exist between the Albanian language and other European languages.

INTRODUCTION

The theory of valence, which is connected with the name of the French researcher, L. Tesniere, was initially applied only to verbs. But later on, the range of its application was extended to two more lexical classes (nouns and adjectives).1 The application of this theory to nouns and adjectives explicated many phenomena that neither traditional nor structural grammar could have explained. Thus, the theory of valence is of relevance not only to semantic and generative grammar but also to other language theories nowadays.

Albanian linguistics, for the reasons already known, has not investigated the concept of valence or a number of other theoretical concepts which had entered the world of linguistics in the 50-s of the last century. As a result, many issues of the Albanian

language have remained unanswered. Only in the last two decades, some Albanian writers examined the concept of valence, but their studies remained restricted to their personal scientific investigations and more with a demonstrative value. The foreign authors studying Albanian language, at the time when Albanian linguistics was close to the achievements of world linguistics, are O. Buhalci and W. Fidler, who have discussed both verb and adjective in the light of the theory of valence in their book *Albanische Grammatik*, (Buchholz and Fiedler, 1987). The study of these two German researchers has resulted in confusion regarding the concept of valence in the context of Albanian Linguistics.

METHODS

The paper follows qualitative research which includes comparative methods in order to achieve realization of analysis. The data are analyzed through interpretation. With the help of other theoretical literature, and necessary materials related to this topic, the research problem has been discussed in terms of classification, naming, and interpretation of the Syntactic functions of adjectives in the Albanian language.

DISCUSSION

Syntactic functions of adjectives
The syntax is a linguistic discipline which, together with morphology, deals with the formation of larger units such as phrases and sentences. While morphology studies structure of a word and relationship of the components inside, syntax considers the relations of the words in phrases, of the phrases in a sentence, and the relations of the sentences. The word is the smallest syntactic unit, a component of a sentence, phrase, and sentence.
The adjective as a part of the speech has a syntactic status similar to the other four lexical classes which can be used as lexical heads of a phrase. Thus, nouns, verbs, adverbs, and prepositions are included in lexical categories. As can be seen, an adjective is a very complex lexical class in a morphological and lexical-semantic aspect, as well as in a stylistic and syntactic aspect. These three aspects – morphological, semantic, and syntactic - of the adjective (like other classes) are three language prisms strongly connected

with each other. Thus, owing to unfamiliarity or non-treatment of these fields in the study of the class of the adjective, leads to a uncertainty. The problem I met at the beginning of this study, is that the adjective compared to the noun and the verb, in all Albanian Grammar Books, appears to be more investigated in the morphological aspect, but not so much in the syntactic and semantic aspect.

To fill this gap in grammatical tradition, both semantic and morphological aspects of adjectives need to be studied by focusing on their syntactic aspect. But first, a brief survey of some grammar books about the Albanian language is necessary. A short study of the syntactic functions of adjectives recognizes two syntactic functions of adjectives: attributive function, for example: *dat. sg. ńerin tɛ mirɛ*, dat. pl. *ńiersve tɛ mirɛ; gra tɛ mira, grave tɛ mira, tɛ mirave gra*; and predicative function, for example: *grātɛ janɛ të mira* (Pekmezi, 1908).

I. D. Sheper has conducted a more interesting study about the syntactic functions of adjectives. According to Sheper, adjectives have the function of a qualifier and attribute (predicative), for example: *njeri i madh, udh' e gjatë (cilësor)*; *e kam librën të mirë, i bleva rrobat të shtrênjta* (attribute or predicative), (Sheperi, 1927). We find a similar study about the syntactic functions of adjectives in a book of K. Cipo, who was to a great deal influenced by Sheper's ideas. He discusses the syntactic functions of adjectives briefly, but without bringing any innovation. These functions of adjectives are also recognized by other grammarians like O. Myderizi, J. Rrota, Sh. Demiraj, but an in-depth study is not available. Demiraj brought innovation in Albanian grammar in many aspects. However, his study of the syntactic functions of adjectives is very short, in comparison with the treatment of the morphological and semantic classification of adjectives in general.

This aspect of adjectives has not been analyzed by A. Dhrimo in his monography about the adjectives, which includes this claim: 'The adjective in Albanian language recognizes two uses: as a determiner (epithet), and as a predicate, and as such it can stand: (a) after a characterized noun or (b) before a characterized noun, (c) after or before a verb – as a constitutive part of the predicate" (Dhrimo, 2008). Also, in the academic grammar book of the Albanian language (1976) the classification according

to the syntactic criteria was not affected, which shows another defect. We presume that this failure is not a consequence of not knowing about the issue of the Albanian language (especially in their reprints of 1995 and 2002), but it comes out as an ignorance of the problem. This short study about the issue shows that in the history of Albanian grammatology, we still don't have a detailed study about syntactic functions of adjectives, supported by scientific criteria. It is not enough to say that the adjective is in this or that syntactic function because the issue is not so simple.

This issue does not arouse interest of even later researchers. In the book of L. Newmark, the valence is not mentioned at all, and N. Resuli has discussed it in a very short study. Only in Buholc–Fidler "Albanische Grammatik" (1987), we find a thorough study of syntactic functions of adjectives, in comparison with previous Albanian language grammar books.

In grammar books of other European countries, special attention is dedicated to the syntactic functions of adjectives. One of them is the German grammar book of Duden, who pays special attention to this issue (Duden, 2009). In his grammar book, except the functions, the valence of the adjectives is discussed. I will suffice with these examples at this stage considering that I will treat these issues one by one.

ATTRIBUTIVE FUNCTION OF AN ADJECTIVE

The adjective in its attributive function historically comes out to be clear and crystallized in the very first scripts of the Albanian language. This means that adjective was used in this function from the beginning, because the existence of an adjective itself is connected with the syntactic function, and is used to determine (modify) a noun. Let us discuss some examples from the first works in written Albanian, taken from Mulaku (2012). For example: *guur i paçmuem* (p. 3), *aar o guur të paçmuom* (p. 351), *me një guur të madh* (p. 58), *një guur fort të bukur e të paçmuom* (p. 209), *dy edha të mirë* (p. 147), *turmeci i egërë* (p. 47), *erë të bukurë* (p. 23), *gjella e amblë* (p. 41), *djalëth i vogëlë* (p. 36), *qen i zij* (p. 265), *një niegullë e zezë* (p. 256), *faqe e zezë* (p. 220), *kankë të ree* (p. 269), *arën e punueme, tokën e trashegueme* (Kasneci, 2016). As it can be seen from these examples, noun or prepositional phrases are

formed from a noun in the function of the headword of the noun phrase and the adjective as a determiner. It can be clarified with the help of more examples of the usage of an adjective in this function in the current Albanian language compared with few languages of a kind, for example, *libër i mirë, djalë punëtor, kjo vajzë punëtore, ditë e ftohtë, dukuri interesante, fenomen i pakapshëm, ide e mirë, shkollë elite, vend demokratik, ekonomia bujqësore-ushqimore, shkollimi edukativo-arsimor, teknikat metodike-didaktike*, etc.

The same happens in English, French, German and Italian languages where in the first two languages the adjective stands in front of a noun, whereas in French and Italian, as in the Albanian language, it stands behind, for example:

English: the *yellow* fish, a yellow fish, *yellow* fish; the *red* flower, a *red* flower, red flower; the *blue* car, a *blue* car, *blue* car;

German: der *gelber* Fisch, ein *gelber* Fisch, i Fisch; die i Blume, eine *rote* Blume, *rote* Blume; das *blaue* Auto, ein *blaues* Auto, *blaues* Auto; (Zorach et al., 2009).

French: le poisson *jaune*, un poisson *jaune*, poisson *jaune*; la fleur *rouge*, une fleur *rouge*, fleur *rouge*; la voiture *bleue*, une voiture *bleue*, voiture *bleue*;

Italian: il pesce *giallo*, un pesce *giallo*, pesce *giallo*; il fiore rosso, un fiore *rosso*, fiore *rosso*; l'auto *blu*, una macchina *blu*, auto *blu*;

Albanian: peshku *i verdhë*, (një) peshk *i verdhë*; lulja *e kuqe*, (një) lule *e kuqe*; vetura *e kaltër*, (një) veturë *e kaltër*.

This is a universal function in which the adjective has a frequent usage, because it is a lexical-semantic which nominates the quality of a being or thing. Having this kind of semantics, an adjective requires to be connected with a noun within a noun phrase so that it can realize its syntactic and semantic connections. The adjective in an attributive function adapts with an assigned noun (the head of NP) in number, and gender (and for an article adjective in a case as well) we understand from this that grammatical categories of an adjective are not autonomous (except the category of degree) and are non-interpreted characteristics (characteristics which it takes from a noun after determining it), because the alternation of the number, gender, and case with an adjective does not bring semantic changes, for example: *ditë **e ngrohtë** – ditë **të ngrohta**; pëllumb **i bukur** – pëllumba **të bukur**;*

*ditën **e ngrohtë**, pëllumbin **e bukur**; burrë **i mençur** – grua **e mençu**r.* In the process of forming a noun phrase, the adjective enters with minus values of non-interpreted characteristics, and connecting with a noun, the adaptation operation is activated, which assigns positive values to these characteristics which means that it adjusts adjectives in number, gender, and case, with a noun.

Another characteristic of adjectives in the Albanian Language is the topic of an adjective according to the word order in a sentence. According to this characteristic, the adjectives of attributive function in the Albanian language usually come out after the noun which they assign, i.e. on the right side of the head of the phrase. It means that in the Albanian language, it acts as the parameter of the head on the left. This is the ordinary syntactic order of the adjective in the Albanian language, for example:

*një emër **të madh**, shtëpi **e mejtuar**, një harmoni **e rrallë**, çupë **e dashur**, shpirt **i mbyllur**, mikeshë **ideale**, një nxënës **serioz**, zhvillime **romantike**, qetësi **melankolike*** (Konica, 1997); *gjë **e gjallë**, shpendët **e bekuar**, një botë **e mjerë**,* (Agolli, 1997). *acarim **i mëparshëm**, vajzë **e përndezur**, vetja **e ndërlikuar**, qetësi **e padurueshme**, ngatërresat **e mundshme**, pjesa **teatrale*** (Kadare, 2009).

But we also have the opposite order of these components of the phrase (adjective + noun) which appear in the first scripts of the Albanian language. It can be seen in the following examples taken from (Mulaku, 2012): *një **i madh** profetë duol ndër nee* (p. 181); ***të madhe** luftë; **më të madhe** dhunë kletë bduom; të lidhun **me të forta** burgje* (p. 367), *zunë **të madh** peshk* (p. 281); *një **të madh** zaa* (p. 346); ***e madhe** nevojë* (p. 21), ***i madh** dimënë* (p. 143), ***me të madh** kujdes* (p. 16), *kjo **e madhe** Kafshë* (p. 47); ***e bukurë** grue* (Ba., f. 27), ***i butë** Njerij* (p. 55), ***i pëlqyeshim** Djalë* (p. 73), etc.

From these examples, it is observed that in old scripts the adjective stands in front of an indefinite noun, mainly in the singular. Regarding this phenomenon, Shaban Demiraj observes that to place the adjective regularly after a noun, this determiner, in Albanian and other languages, should have had a freer order. He supports this hypothesis with the fact that "also in the documented period of the Albanian language, the adjective hasn't lost at all the ability to change its usual

order, being used in some circumstances in front of a noun, because of some certain stylistic purposes" (**?** , 1988).

But comparing the examples of the old authors and the modern Albanian language, it can be seen that with the old authors the noun which has an adjective placed in front, comes out in an indefinite form, whereas the adjective does not have a definite indicator. In the modern Albanian language, the adjective in front of a noun usually takes the definite indicator of the noun, coming out formally in a definite form, but the case when the adjective stands in front of a noun and which does not take the definite indicator, is rare. Let's compare:

> Old Albanian: *dimënë i madh – i madh dimënë*
> Today's Albanian: *Luli i shkretë – i shkreti Lul, nëna e shkretë – e shkreta nënë*

Noun phrases with an adjective in front, formally definite, prevail in the modern Albanian language: ***i shkreti** Lul* (Migjeni, 1998); ***të vetmen** temë; **i shkreti** ati im, **të madhen** këngë në Tiranë, **të shumta** zitë e dertet, **e madhe** stivë, **të zëna** peng, **të qeshura** të kota!!!, **të vocklat** hapa, **të shenjtin** emër, **e njëjta** erë e zhurmë, **të njëjtat** shpresa, **i njëjti** ankth, **e njëjta** erë e luftës* (Agolli, 1997) But noun phrases, like those we find with old authors are rare: *Ama, **të bukur** njeri që ka gjetur të pyesë? Gjithë sherri për atë u bë, ky na e paska marrë shahit!* (Xoxa, 2022); ***Të bukur** të çkoqitur që kanë për t'u bërë…* (Xoxa, 2022); *O Pilo, O Leks, delni ore! Oho, më ndejtki te gardhi e më bëki sehir? **Të bukur** punë mashalla!* (Xoxa, 2022).

Some grammarians tried to explain the place in front of adjectives. Among them the first one is K. Cipo, who gives answers the question: where is the place of a qualifying adjective? "the nature of the language has determined its place after a noun, that's why we say: *shtëpi e bardhë; lule e merme*; *dele e butë*. But when the circumstances require it can stand in front of a noun as well. The circumstances are: (1) the context itself (2), the psychological dispositions of a writer, 3) the need to emphasize a quality, 4) when we express surprise and pain, for example: *Me të bukurën gjuhën tonë munt të çfaqim mendime [...], të bukur kalë kish blerë [...], e mjera nënë se ç'pa me sy [...]*

To say it briefly, the adjectives with face meaning, usually, stay in front of a noun, and those with proper meaning stay, in general, after a noun (Cipo, 1949).

The presence of the article with front adjectives leads Cipo to the conclusion that adjectives have definite and indefinite forms.

However, Sh. Demiraj has another position about this problem. Among other things, he adds: "As for the articles, adjectives as words, that define a quality of the noun either directly or indirectly, cannot differentiate between definite and indefinite articles. Therefore, as adjectives they get a postposed definite article. However, when used before nouns, they can also be marked definite, except in cases the nouns are formally indefinite, i.e. they are not definite-marked, even though the definite article can only attach to nouns. i.e.: O moj Shqypni, *e mjera Shqypni*, kush të ka qitun me krye në hi?" (Demiraj, 1971). As it can be seen, Demiraj is very clear about these issues.

A. Dhrimo also expresses his view: "While adjectives express characteristics which might belong to different things, it means that they have lexico-grammatical and adverbial meaning, the noun formed from adjective is used autonomously. Now it does not show any characteristics belonging to different things, or to a certain thing, but through the characteristics, he names directly the thing itself, which has the given features. So he gets the basic lexico-grammatical meaning of a noun, thing or characteristics..." (Dhrimo, 2008). Dhrimo is very clear about this issue, because noun-meaning adjectives restrict a semantic and adjectival meaning, nominating a being or a thing according to the quality or features which characterize it, for example: ***Të keqes*** *nuk mund t'i thuash e mirë;* ***Të mirit*** *nuk mund t'i thuash i keq* etc.

When an adjective takes a position in front of a noun within the structure of a noun phrase, it definitely has to get a noun form, in order to get the grammatical category of a definite form. Although here our focus is on a formal definition, since it takes other categories, number, and gender from the noun, whereas semantically, to the basic adjectival meaning, a stylistic-emotional sema is added. The front-placed adjective can also be used itself, taking the syntactic functions and semantic values of a noun that suffers an ellipsis. For example:

> a) ***E mjera*** *grua kishte luftuar gjatë gjithë jetës...*
> ***I ziu*** *plak kishte heq e vuajtur shumë.*
> b) ***E mjera*** *kishte luftuar gjatë gjithë jetës...*
> ***I ziu*** *kishte heq e vuajtur shumë.*

In the example (b) the noun is missing, but this does not impinge the meaning of the word, on condition that the context makes it clear what or who was talked about, but the noun which is dropped, has been mentioned before. Here we have to do with a context of a noun, which has to be different from the real noun formed from an adjective. The noun which has been derived from the adjective, apart from the adjective formed from the context, carries out the syntactic functions itself, like all the other nouns, which means that it might come out in the same syntactic functions as a noun comes out, for example.: ***I keqi*** *është me fat;* ***E mira*** *është pa fat.* ***Të mirin*** *është vështirë ta gjesh;* ***Të keqes*** *i ndihet era nga larg;* ***Të keqen*** *edhe po e gjete në rrugë, mos e merr.*

It is important to analyze the syntgma noun with the X-bar scheme at three levels of projections, for example:
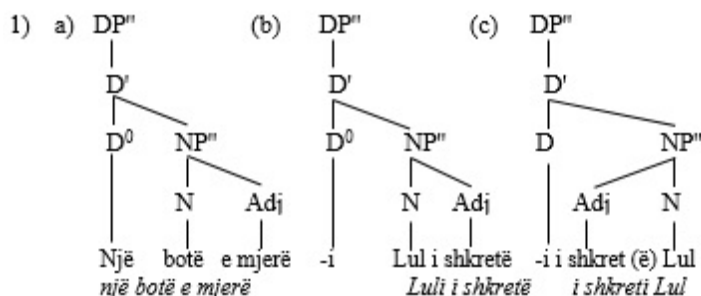
X-bar schemes of these phrases clearly show the syntactic connection of their components, expressing their topic of a defining word as well as the attributive and syntactic function of an adjective. In the NP

(a) and (b) the adjective with an attributive function, occurs after the noun that it defines, whereas in SE (c) the adjective comes out before the noun (the head of the noun phrase), at the time when the definite article makes two movements at the beginning, from noun to adjective, then from the final position of the adjective to the starting position of the phrase.

Both positions of the adjective within the noun phrase (after the noun and before the noun) exist in the first documented scripts and in the modern Albanian language. But the usage of adjectives after nouns is the most significant topic of this lexical class and contains one of the language parameters which make the Albanian language differ from English, German and other languages in which the adjectives with the attributive function in the noun phrase structure, take place before the noun head (see the above examples). As it is known, the noun head of noun phrases does not come out only with a function of the subject, but also in other capacities, since its functions are determined by the verb valence, for example:

> 1) *Nxënësi i mirë punon*. (The good student works.)
> 2) Mësuesi e shpërbleu **nxënësen e mirë** me një dhuratë. (The teacher rewarded the good student with a gift.).
> 3) Gerioni fle **në krevatin e vogël**. (Gerion sleeps in the small bed.).

As can be noticed, the noun head of the phrases in the three examples has different functions. In the first example the noun "*nxënësit*" has the function of the subject (actor), in the second example the noun "*nxënësen*" is a direct object (benefactor), and in the third example the noun head "**krevatin**" of NP "*krevatin e vogël*", is a part of a prepositional phrase "*në krevatin e vogël*" with the function of a place circumstantial. In these three noun phrases, the adjective is represented with an attributive function because it gives a quality, or characteristic of a noun, a being, or a thing, no matter what kind of syntactic function the noun phrase carries out in a sentence. The syntactic (attributive) function of the adjective remains unchanged, since, as I have mentioned above, the adjective in this function, gets a syntactic connection with a noun only. I illustrate this with examples of noun phrases of the type: noun + adjective:

a) With a function of the Subject: *Një deriçkë **e**

mbyllur nga dy anët me rreze*... (Xoxa, 1989); *Djali **i vogël**, sa herë që e rrihte i ati, qeshte* (Xoxa, 1989); *Një veprimtari **e ethshme** kishte shpërthyer ndër komunistët dhe patriotët antifashistë.* (Xoxa, 1989); *Gurrëshoshasit **e vegjël**, kur dolën nga stani i dhive kujtuan se hynë në një botë tjetër* (Jakova, 1986); *Njeri **i pafe**, që rreh priftënt, njeri ngatërrestar* (Jakova, 1986); *Oda **e madhe** e shtëpisë së kryetarit ishte mbushur qoshe më qoshe me njerëz* (Agolli, 1990); *Njerëz **të çiltër**! – tha ai duke përveshur mëngët e këmishës* (Agolli, 1990) etc.

b) In the capacity of an object: *Besa e burrave nuk u jepet grave **të bukura*** (Jakova, 1986); *Ai shikoi shokun e vet, agronomin **e heshtur***, në cep të tavolinës (Jakova, 1986); Dr. Gjilpëra shikonte *qytetin e varfër*... (Konica, 1997); *Një mustaqe **e pakrehur***, dhe një ballë e rrudhur e mbuluar *me një qeleshe **të zezë***, i jepnin *ngjyrën **e fundit** kësaj fytyre **qesharake e të frikshme*** (Konica, 1997) etc.

As it can be noticed from these examples, no matter what syntactic functions NP has, noun + adjective, with the attributive adjective, nothing changes; it keeps merely a syntactic relation and this syntactic relation is realized only with the head of a noun of a prepositional phrase.

About the attributive function of adjectives, G. Graffi says: "It is clear enough that adjectives are not arguments, because their presence is not necessarily required by a noun or a verb" (Graffi, 2003). He illustrates this idea with two examples:

> a) *La quercia è caduta* – "Lisi është rrëzuar"
> b) *La **grande** quercia è caduta* – "Lisi i madh është rrëzuar"

He makes a comment: "In sentence (a) the noun phrase with the role of a subject (quercia), does not contain an adjective, but it is as much grammatical as the sentence (b), where there is a presence of an adjective" (Graffi, 2003). Since the adjective has an attributive function, it appears to be simply as a modifier of a noun and its presence is not binding. Moreover, the change occurs when the adjective comes with a predicative function because in this function it has a double connection: on one side, it is connected with the noun which it determines; whereas, on the other side, it develops a predicative connection with the verb predicate.

ADJECTIVES WITH EPITHETIC USAGE

As it has been mentioned above, the adjective seems to be quite complex and very important, not only in semantics and morphology but in syntax as well. This complex character of the adjective is shown not only when we deal with its valence, or in the nature of its categories, but in its functions too, which proves that the adjective is a lexical class difficult to be treated.

Together with its attributive function, which I have mentioned above, and the predicative function, which is discussed in the ensuing lines, the usage of the adjective as an epithet is also mentioned. In the grammar books of the Albanian language, we do not find any detailed study about this concept. Few grammaticians have discussed the attributive, predicative, and epithetic functions, but their attempt does not cover it thoroughly due to following the tradition. Thus, this research is superficial and often accompanied by conceptual confusion. It is true about Sheper, Cipo, Dhrimo, and some others who confuse attributive and predicative functions of the adjectives with their epithetic usage.

As we can see, general meanings are linked with the term 'attribute', which have no connection with grammar, but the meaning as a grammatical concept is missing. About the term 'epithet' the dictionary gives two meanings in which it can be used, as a concept in the field of literature and as a grammatical concept. But the explanation "qualitative adjective" which is given to this meaning, actually applies to the adjectives with the attributive function, as well as to the adjectives with the epithetic function. Furthermore, the epithet can be expressed also with a noun, (Leka, 2013). So at this point, the vocabulary reflects deficiencies of the grammar.

The right difference between the syntactic and stylistic functions of the adjective is made by Xh. Lloshi who is of the view that, "The adjective is what grammar says. The epithet is an adjective plus evaluation, the evaluation of the speaker, or the epithet = adjective + subject of the speaker" (Lloshi, 2001).

Having Xh. Lloshi's definition in mind, we come to the conclusion that the attributive and predicative function of an adjective belongs to a syntactic field (grammatical), and the function of the adjective as an epithet is of a stylistic nature (figurative). According to this view, the first two functions of an adjective, are the functions of syntactic order, whereas the epithetic function of an adjective is of the stylistic character, because the adjective (either with the attributive or the predicative function) might also be an epithet, if it comes out with a connotative (figurative) meaning. We find the adjective with epithetic values in literary works and in verbal literature in the Albanian spoken language, etc.

To come out as epithetic, the adjective should have expressive and emotional meaning. Since the epithetic adjective carries expressive and stylistic meanings (emotional and evaluative meaning + subject), the stylistics carries out the study of the epithet, which as a study object has the secondary language organization (Lloshi, 2001). To be an epithet the adjective must have a connotative (figurative) meaning, for example *vullnet i hekurt, pyll i shqetësuar, det i egërsuar, dhomë e heshtur, ëndërr e prerë, dëshirë e vrarë* etc. All these adjectives are epithets because "*vullneti*" cannot be "*i hekurt*" (since it is an abstract noun), but with this, the speaker gives a subjective evaluation, for a man has a strong will, and is invincible. Similarly, in "*pylli i shqetësuar*" the forest (*pylli*) cannot be disturbed (*i shqetësuar*) (we also have the personification figure), so the adjective "*i shqetësuar*" comes out as an epithet (metaphoric meaning). The epithetic adjective, according to my opinion, manifests two relations; a) a syntactic relation (in the attributive or predicative relation) and b) a stylistic relation in an epistatic (metaphoric) relation. As it can be noticed the epithetic adjective has nothing to do with syntax (grammar) because it is not important for the syntactic relations (phrase) if the adjective is used in a figurative sense or not. Thus, the epithet (metaphoric adjective) has to be studied as any other adjective with an attributive function (or predicative). For example, about the German Chancellor A. Merkel, it is said figuratively "*Zonja e hekurt e Gjermanisë*" (The Iron Lady of Germany). In this case, the syntax considers the adjective "*e hekurt*" an adjective with an attributive function, but in stylistics, it is an epithetic adjective (it means a skillful lady, strong, brave, firm, etc.). It can also be said that every epithetic adjective is at the same time an attribute, but not every adjective with an attributive function might be an epithet. A good explanation of this issue is given in the Croatian Language Encyclopedic Dictionary (1969) which says:

"every epithet is an attribute; every epithet is not an epithet" (Simeon, 1969).

Whether the adjective as an epithet can be nominated or not, it can be placed after a noun, but it ca not exclude the topic before the noun, for example: *Akili kembeshpejti* through the inversion, it can be placed before the noun which it determines: *kembeshpejti Akil*; or *Luli i shkrete, i shkreti Lul*, etc. About the position of an adjective, Xh. Lloshi says: 'The place of an adjective is compulsory in Albanian language, so the inversion of an adjective is noticed very often. Now adjectives with an emotional charge are regularly positioned before a noun like: *i ziu, i shkreti* (Lloshi, 2001).

The same also occurs with the adjective in a predicative function, which is a predicative-epithetic, except the double syntactic relation which it possesses. It should have a figurative (connotative, metaphorical) meaning too to show up as a phrase. Let's take some examples with an adjective (± epithet) with its two syntactic functions for example:

> a) Dita **e mirë** shihet në mëngjes [[+ Adjatributive] [– Adjepithetic]];
> b) Vjollca është **i sinqertë** [[+ Adjpredicative] [– Adjepithetic]];
> c) Deti **i egërsuar** gjëmonte pa pushim [[+ Adjatributive] [+ Adjepithetic]];
> d) Dallgët e detit bëhen **të egra** [[+ Adjpredicativ] [+ Adjepithetic]].

It can be seen clearly from these examples that adjectives with attributive or predicative functions can sometimes be accompanied by the epithetic function, which results in four options. What applies to the cases when an adjective, in addition to the grammatical function, associated with the epithetic function, is that the stylistic function concerns stylistics by focusing on figurative meaning of words instead of grammar, and is indifferent towards connotative meanings.

PREDICATIVE FUNCTION OF ADJECTIVES

Another syntactic function of adjectives is the predicative function, which comes out to be more complex than the attributive one because the adjective in a predicative function creates a double syntactic correlation: it attains a syntactic relation with a noun phrase with the function of a subject or an object and the second relationship with a predicate (verb). This double relation of an adjective in a predicative function is determined by the verb valence, because an adjective might not realize this function in case of all verbs a sentence, for example with verbs: *emëroj – emërohem, gradoj – gradohem, ngarkoj – ngarkohem, propozoj – propozohem, mbaj – mbahem, iki, ndiej, kërkoj, fut – futem, zë – zihem, vesh – vishem* etc. the predicative determiner with a noun phrase (noun) can realize this, but not with an adjective, for example:

*Agnoni u emërua **drejtor**.*	*2Agimi u emërua i mirë.*
*Genti u gradua **kapiten**.*	*Petriti u gradua i sjellshëm.*
*Ky student u propozua **asistent**.*	*Ky student propozohet i suksesshëm.*

Three examples marked with an asterisk are non-grammatical predicative structures because the semantics of the verbs in the given sentences requires them to be completed with nouns with predicative function or in the form of adjuncts (complements). This group of verbs, and other alike, do not take a complement expressed with an adjective, because the adjective is not able to come out with the function of the argument (actant); a noun may come out with the function of the arguments of the verb, prepositional phrases or a sentence, which saturate the valence of the verb.

About the adjectives with the attributive function,

G. Graffi says that they cannot be arguments, since, "the presence of a modifier is not obligatory" (Graffi, 1994). But this claim does not apply to the adjectives in the predicative function, about which he claims, 'The other function which an adjective can take is of predicate and in this case its presence is obligatory" (Graffi, 1994). In the first case, the adjective joins the noun phrase as a head modifier, which can also be omitted, nevertheless, the phrase remains grammatical. Thus, the sentence: "*Pashe një shtëpi të mirë*" remains grammatical even if the attributive adjective is removed, which applies to the Albanian language, as it can be seen in these examples:

shqip *Pashë një **shtëpi të mirë**.*   *Pashë një **shtëpi**.*
ang. *I saw a **good house***.   *I saw a **house***.
gjerm. *das **gutes Zuhause**.*   *das **Zuhause**.*
ital. *Ho visto una **buona casa**.*   *Ho visto una **casa**.*
rus. *Ja videl **novyj dom**.*   *Ja videl **dom**.*

But in cases when it comes out as a predicative (predicate), the predicative adjective is obligatory, since the sentence becomes nongrammatical without it. This is not only when the adjective is placed after an active or passive verb, but also when it comes out as a noun predicate after the auxiliary verb "*jam*" (to be). For example, let's compare the forms in examples (a) and (b):

a) *Shikimin e kishte **të pastër***   **Shikimin e kishte [?]*
*Djemtë ndiheshin **shumë të gëzuar***   **Djemtë ndiheshin [?]*
b) *Shtëpia është **e mirë***   **Shtëpia është [?]*

Between examples (a) and (b) the grammar makes a difference, considering adjectives placed after verbs, meaningful predicatives, and those after the auxiliary verb BE, noun predicative (Ashsh, 2002). Nevertheless, this difference is not as deep as it seems to be, and this has made the predicative concept doubtful. Having in mind the relation between these adjectives with verbs, R. Memushaj considers both cases as part of a complex predicate. The meaning of the verb in these forms is not complete, so the meaning of the predicate comes out of the adjective (or the noun which is used with the same function), which is necessary (Memushaj, 2008). This dealing of adjectives in the build-up verb + adjective is typical of the adjectives with the predicative function, which was noticed by M. Çeliku, who says that in the case of adjectives which are called – predicative, the verbs which they are used with "are meaningless; it is necessary for them to be completed semantically by the following components" (Çeliku, 2012).

In the European languages of same type, the adjective with the predicative function is necessary, as it can be seen from these examples, the verbs cannot stay by themselves, which contains additional proof that an adjective is part of a predicate:

ang. *The house is **good**.*   **The house **is** [?]*
gjerm. *Das Haus ist **gut**.*   **das Haus **ist** [?]*
ital. *Casa è **buona**.*   **Casa **è** [?]*
rus. *Dom **nov** "shtëpia është e re".*   **Dom* (Graffi, 1994, p. 97)

I have mentioned above the verbs which do not accept adjectives in a predicative function, while the attributive function of an adjective is not determined by the valence of a verb because with this function, the adjective creates syntactic reports within the noun phrase. In academic grammar, it is said, "With the function of predicative determiner, the adjective has a wider use than the noun. The circle of verbs which accept predicative determiners, expressed with an adjective, especially the verbs which express activity, is much wider than the verbs which accept predicative determiners, expressed by a noun. The verbs like *dëgjoj* (listen) *dëgjohem* (be heard), *dorëzoj* (surrender), *derdh* (spill), *flas* (speak), etc. accept adjective determiners (Ashsh, 2002). To this group also belong verbs such as: foljet *jam* (I am), *kam* (I have), *bëj* (I do), *çmoj* (appreciate), *akuzoj* (accuse), *rri* (stay), *tregoj* (tell), *qëndroj* (stay), etc.

I do, I become, I appear, I remain.

The necessity of the adjective with the predicative function makes it a kind of an inner argument, and together with a verb it determines the thematic role of the outer argument for the subject, which apart from the predicative adjective, might be omitted.

From the above examples, it can be noticed that the relation of predictiveness is a dependent syntactic report. This reliance is not created only between a noun phrase with the function of a subject and verb predicate, but also between predicative determiner expressed by an adjective which together with a verb

contains a verb phrase. In comparison with the relationship head – modifier (NP), which is realized by the attributive relation, for example: *Migena e sinqertë* (NP), the triple relation (Sub. + predicate + predicativeAdj) realizes the predicative relation, for example: *Migena kishte qenë e sinqertë*.

In the beginning of this study, it has been said that the adjective with this function has the ability to create syntactic relations (determining) with a noun phrase in the Nominative and Accusative case and at the same time join syntactically the verb predicate (verb).

It means that the predicative function of an adjective is of two types; a) the function of a predicative of a subject (subject predicative) and b) the predicative function of the direct object (the predicative of the direct object), for example:

> a) *Alb.* Shpresa është **e sjellshme**.
> *Germ.* Astrit ist **höflich**.
> *Eng.* Astrit is **courteous**.
> *It.* Astrit è **cortese**.
>
> b) *Alb.* Genta e ka **veturën** *të shpejtë*.
> *Germ.* Peter hat **das** *schnellste* **Auto**.
> *Eng.* Peter has **the** *fastest* **car**.
> *It.* Pietro ha **la macchina** *più veloce*.

As it is evident that in examples of group (a) we have the subject-predicate, because the adjective with this function determines the subject (gives a quality, or characteristic of a subject) and completing the copula as its noun member. In case of the group (b) the adjective determines the object (gives a feature or characteristics of an object). When it has the function of subject and object predicate, the adjective having an article fits in number, gender, and case. It should be clear that the adjective with the function of the direct object predicate takes the article TË and not E. This has been expressed by J. Rrota as well, who is of the view that, "Check the simple attribute change of the article from the predicative attribute when it is an adjective or participle. For example: *Kanë ardhë të gjithë djemtë e armatisunë* (a simple attribute), *Kanë ardhë djemtë të gjithë t' armatisunë* (predicative attribute) (Rrota, 2005). About this issue, the authors of the handbook "Albanian literary language for everybody", comment about the usage of front articles of an adjective, "Adjective which comes after a direct object, expressed with a noun in a definite accusative, takes the article e, when it is a determiner, the article **të**, when it has a predicative function" (Kostallari et al., 1984). This change in the article comes as a result of the indirect relation of the predicative adjective with a noun phrase determined by itself. It's exactly the double relation that determines this. Another characteristic of the adjective with an attributive function and the predicative function is its topic, in relation to a noun phrase (noun), when it has the attributive function, it necessarily has to be near the noun it determines, but when it comes out with a predicative function, it is in a distance, except the case when it has the function of the direct object determiner (it can stay near the head or in a distance from the head), for example:

Modifier	Predicative
Teuta kishte veturën e shpejtë.	Teuta e kishte veturën të shpejtë.
	Të shpejtë e kishte veturën Zana.
	Veturën e kishte të shpejtë.
I dua mollët e ëmbla.	I dua mollët të ëmbla.
	Të ëmbla i dua mollët.
	Mollët i dua të ëmbla....

Another topic I consider reasonable and necessary to discuss is a matter raised by some authors if the predicative determiner exists as part of a sentence. As it has been said above that Memushaj considers the predicative as part of a complex predicate, so he does nnot accept it as a special part of a sentence. Also, M. Çeliku is doubtful about the existence of a predicative determiner, knowing that about this issue various authors have their own views. That is why the author says that the arguments incline in favor of not recognizing the predicative as a special second part of a sentence but in recognizing it as a builder or part of a noun predicate and of copula sentences. According to this concept, the copula sentences are added, because among them there are included not only those that contain a copula verb jam (to be) but also some other verbs which have been made meaningless, also copulated as: *kam, bëj, dukem,*

emërohem, gjej, mbes, ndjehem, shpallem etc.: Koha ishte e freskët; Lojtari dukej i lodhur; Ai ndihej më i ri; Qyteza dukej e përgjumur; Këmbët i kishte të rënda" (Çeliku, 2012).

My approach about this issue is different from the approach of the authors who deny predicative determiners for many reasons which I am going to discuss.

Firstly, if we undo the predicative determiner (predicative) and join it to a complex predicate or noun predicate, it results in loss of the predicative function of the adjective (and undo this function in general). It is clear that this issue in different European languages is studied in detail.

Secondly, if it is in the German language, or in the English language, the verb *jam* (to be) in these languages is considered a verb that creates a predicative relation with an adjective, noun, etc. For example, in the grammar book Duden, in the paragraph, "Nur predicative gebrauche Adjektive" (The adjective used only with predicative function). According to this grammar book, with verbs *jam* 'sein', *bëhem* 'werden', *qendroj* 'bleiben' comes out of the syntactic relation of the subject-predicate (Subjektspredikative), while with the verb *bëj* 'machen' comes out the syntactic relation of the direct object predicate. (Objekts pradikative) for example:

> *Das ist klar* – (Kjo është e qartë.)
> *Die Suppe ist heiß* – (Supa është e nxehtë.)
> *Er ist daran schuldig* –"A i është fajtor për këtë."
> *Der Tag war neblig* – "Dita është e mjegullt /me mjegull."
> *Das Farrad ist kaputt*– "Motoçikleta është e prishur." (Duden, 2009)

Thirdly, the adjective with the predicative function is an independent part of a sentence, which in certain syntactic constructions comes out as obligatory. Whereas the adjective with the attributive function is not an independent part and its absence does not make the sentence non-grammatical, for example:

> a) Rina *e vogël i ka flokët* **të gjatë***. -* Little Rina has **long** hair.
> b) Rina i ka flokët ***të gjatë***. – Rina has **long** hair.
> c) *Rina e vogël ka flokët [?] – **Little** Rina has hair [?] (**long**)
> d) Rina i ka [?] (***të gjatë***). – Rina has [?] (**long hair**)

In sentence (b), the adjective with the attributive

function is missing, but the sentence is as much grammatical as sentence (a); in sentence (c) the missing adjective with the predicative function makes the sentence a non-grammatical one; whereas in (d) the sentence is grammatical, on condition that the meaning of the predicate – the adjective is clear from the context.

Fourthly, a nominal predicate, according to my opinion, has to be included within the predicative, because, we raise the question: Are predictive reports not created in the sentences that in the academic grammar book as well as in the grammar book of M. Çeliku are considered as noun predicates, for example:

> *Djali u bë **i mirë**; Ai u emërua **nëpunës**; Jeta është **e shkurtër**; Ajo është shumë **e tronditur**; Koha s'ka qenë **e mirë**; Ato janë **mosmirënjohëse**; unë jam **shqiponja** dhe ju jeni **krahët e mi**; Kush je ti; Kjo tokë është **e popullit**; Ai është si **i shtëpisë**; Dhe një këlysh nepërke mund të ishte **i bukur*** (Çeliku, 2012).

If we refer to the theory of valence and thematic roles, then we must admit the fact that the verb "jam" (to be) is of one valence, it discharges one role and only one thematic role on the noun phrase in the function of the subject. But one adjective, a noun or a pronoun, etc., might come out as a necessary complementary (adjunct) because the semantic of the verb "*jam*" requires it so that it can be modified and complemented by them. This happens also with the verb "*shkoj*" (to go) and other verbs like the following:

> a) **Pleurati shkoi* [?] b) **Platori është* [?]
> *Pleurati shkoi **në Tiranë**.   Platori është **në Prizren**.*
> *Pleurati shkoi **me makinë**.   Platori është **i sjellshëm**.*
> *Pleurati shkoi **i trishtuar**.   Platori është **me shokët**.*

The subject "*Pleurati*" in the examples of group (a) is an argument of the verb "*shkoi*", and the phrases "*në Tiranë me makinë*" (circumstantial), "*i trishtuar*", (predicative), etc. are necessary complements and these phrases have the same function in the examples of the group (b) as well.

In academic grammar, it is said: "As a copula the verb "*jam*" is used, which being used in this way, has an abstract meaning of the existence of a characteristic. That's why its main function is to express predictivity, manner, tense, and person" (Ashsh, 2002). It seems to us that the formulation of this issue is not clear enough, because the verb jam nominates a being of something, the existence of a thing, a being, or a

phenomenon. I consider that there is nothing that makes this verb abstract. And every inflexible verb has a function to express predictivity: manner, tense, and case. I have attempted to answer the above question about this topic, which anyway remains open.

CONCLUSION

This study treats the syntactical functions of the adjectives in the Albanian language through the illustrations of examples which are further compared and contrasted with the other Indo-European languages, with a special focus on the attributive, predicative, and epithetic functions (the latter has a stylistic value).

As far as the attributive function is concerned, I have provided explanation by elaborating all the characteristics of the adjective in this function. More specifically, when an adjective in a sentence plays the role of the modifier to the noun, it enters into syntactical relations with the noun that modifies and builds up the noun phrase. The adjective is the modifier to the headword of the phrase, aligning to the head in number, gender, and case (except the article-less adjective, which does not have a case).

The adjective in Albanian language appears more typical after the noun, but it can also appear before it. The fact that the prepositional adjective takes the prominent indicators of the noun that follows it is interesting. I have tried to analyze this phenomenon by means of the X-bar scheme. The two positions of the adjective within the noun phrase - after the noun and before the noun - appear both in the first documented writings and in contemporary Albanian language. However, the backward position of the noun is the most natural position of the adjective in today's Albanian language. The postposition of the adjective constitutes one of the linguistic parameters that distinguish the Albanian language from English, German, French, and other languages, in which adjectives with attributive function are placed before the noun in the structure of the noun phrase.

In this study, I have also focused on the epithetical use of the adjective and this particular position of adjective is used predominantly for stylistic (figurative) reasons. The predicative function of the adjective is much more complicated than the attributive function because the adjective in this function is twofold: (a)

predicate of the subject (complement to the S) and (b) predicate of the direct object (complement to the DO). On the other hand, the adjective in this function also creates a connection with the verbal predicate. As a consequence of such relations, the adjective in the predicative function has two connections: a determining (modifying) connection with the subject or the direct object and a predicative connection with the verbal predicate. This double connection of the adjective in the predicative function comes as a result of the valence of the verb.

This research is based on my dissertation, which I have completed for publication in English. It is worth saying that the issues addressed have been supported with many examples both from the Albanian language and other European languages. This way of discussion facilitates readers of other linguistic background in Europe and beyond, who can see through theoretical aspects and examples, the similarities and differences between the Albanian language and other European languages.

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