

The Grammatical Nature of Time Referral

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ABSTRACT

As long as the time in its entirety is absolute, however, in the discourse it is “made up” or concretized from the phenomenon or concrete event taken into consideration, thus we cannot ‘abstract’ the grammatical dimension of the statement under any circumstance, as we cannot abstract the objective time and observer, because only in co-fulfillment they “fulfill” each other. Identification of the time mark from which the event is expressed with the verbal form in time, the grammatical nature of these moments, as the moment of speech (of speaking time), which is of instant nature, timely extension and most wide, then the time of the action and the time of expression of the statement are with the same orientation function for the time reference will be the subject of consideration during the elaboration of this paper. Obviously, other observations that are of interest to our consideration, with the character of uncontested grammatical facts in context, such as realistic reports of timely events, relative character of grammar setting etc., will be at the center of attention to as much as the nature of this paper.

OBJECTIVE, PURPOSE, AND METHODS

The main objective of this paper will be the time points that have the reference function for the temporal characterization of the verbal forms in the Albanian language, such as the discourse moment (speech act), then other moments with this function, as well as the actual reports of the events timely placed in the structure of the Albanian language. The paper is an attempt to research, analyze and systematize the forms of the Albanian verbal system in its practical use in discourse through a pragmatic approach to grammatical or non-grammatical nature, according to the principle of interconnectivity and interdependence of their positions in the system.

The realization of this paper has implied the interlacing of some of the methods by which the objectives of the work were intended such as induction, deduction, analysis, synthesis, abstracting, concretization, generalization, specification, argumentation, etc. Especially on the side of inductive analysis, efforts have been made to outline essential justifications that are responsive to the nature of this paper. The surveillance or observation method has also been intertwined with other methods, on the basis of which the necessary findings have been provided. For the implementation of

this paper, a description, analytical and interpretative methodology has been applied, which is considered to contribute to the detailed analysis and to substantially contribute to the overall quality of the work and to draw conclusions about the aforementioned issues.

INTRODUCTION

In each line of analysis, consideration should be given to the interaction between the three positions: the objective time, the grammatical time and the time reference, so that a verbal form accomplishes its time function as well as the statement to express the concept of time as a component of the understanding structure in the context of a more efficient communication.

Therefore, the clarification of the grammatical nature of these positions and their role in the time characterization of the verbal and temporal meaning of speech is an objective that should be clarified in view of the discovery of the overall values of the language structure.

Undoubtedly, timing refers to the nature of the relation and the interdependence of the linguistic facts, then the effort should be made to show the character of these bonds and the dependence of these reference points by the verbal

form or by the structure of the statement in its entirety in all circumstances of the occurrence of actions, situations or phenomena given by the verbal forms in different discourse contexts, an objective that will be attempted to be realized in this paper.

TIMING AND ITS GRAMMATICAL NATURE

The time-relevant category, in addition to localization, is of interest for comprehensive treatment, based on their importance in performing the function of the grammatical category of time in Albanian. The timing of the verbal terms according to the past, present and future time axes is done by the coexistence of the objective, physical time with the grammatical time, expressed in the verbal form, always starting from a certain moment with the function of time reference point. In this context, the examination of the grammatical nature of this moment in function of creating the “temporal identity” of the various verbal terms necessitates the necessity to understand all the grammatical factors that enable the realization of the temporal characterization of the verbal terms of language’s time system, and of the Albanian language in particular.

Despite the fact that any action, condition, event or phenomenon occurs in an objective temporal reality, even outside of human will, in the act of communication they necessarily are subject to grammatical requirements. One such component is the time reference point as a grammatical moment that enables the classification of the constituent elements of the verbal paradigm of a language according to the essential axis of time, and in the practice of Albanian grammar this function has three moments: the speech moment, the time of verbal action and the moment of pronouncement of the statement (saying), while two other points: the observation moment (finding) of the event and the moment of perspective have other complementary functions in the mechanism of functioning of the time system and the approach of the analysis of the linguistic facts.

Speaking Moment (Speaking Time)

By accepting the inalienable speech-referencing function in the expression of time relationships, the question arises what is the real grammatical importance of the momentum, whether it can be called “moment”, even just for practical linguistic reasons, because the situation of speech is not built only upon a “moment,” but a lot of moments, which is almost impossible to outline boundaries, though it has the characteristics of an objective grammatical fact. This “grammatical fact” with a point of reference feature in the discourse process has the character of a “non-linguistic entity”, which should be illuminated throughout its existential nature: as a peculiar, stretch and as a wider situation.

The nature of the discourse trice as momentum

Communication situations can be varied, ranging from ordinary to very direct, when the speaker and the listener are part of the same situation at the same time and space, in dialogue,

and the same situation when the speaker and the listener are not found in the same situation at the same time and same space. So it turns out that “the speaker is, as it were, the center of the situation in which the expression is made” (Lyons, 2001, p. 259), which can present the communication content realistically as verifiable judgment or as a subjective or perceptual judgment, which may be less or ultra real in relation to objectivity.

In this analysis perspective, the speaker, in the momentum of developing the speech act, has a passive attitude to the lecture moment, respectively, for the speaker only the objective present exists, in terms of the presentation of the linguistic facts, because it aims to faithfully refer to those facts of reality that are the primary object of interest in those moments. So, for the speaker “factually” there is no grammatical present and, for no other motive, neither the past nor the future of that nature, but under the impetus of an effective communication presents vital facts according to their essential essence and time, without bearing in mind the prolongation of the speech act itself, while using the linguistic “arsenal” as a linguistic dress of these objective events, having a choice of freedom in its act of communication, dependent also on socio-cultural or non-linguistic factors.

The act of instantaneous speech is atypical, rarely encountered and only in certain dialogical discourse contexts, when the interlocutor’s answer is of a very short nature, with ‘yes’, ‘no’, ‘so’, ‘not’, etc. In this category there are also indirect dialogues, such as:

-*As për të qarë nuk keni, - i tha polici me armën në dorë.*

-*Gjuaj, ç’pret! - i tha Cuba.*

-*Qepe gojën, - i bërtiti njëri nga ta. (Kelmendi, 2012, 122).*

- You mustn’t even cry – the policeman shouted holding the gun on his hand.

- Shoot! What are you waiting for? – answered Cuba

- Shut your mouth! – one of them shouted. (Kelmendi, 2012, 122)

The nature of speaking momentum as language scope

The time stretching of the act of speaking is of a dominant nature, can be of different dimensions, without clearly outlined borders from the lecture point, but implicit from the starting point of the speech to its point of completion. Thus, the identification of the linguistic speech’s goals remains almost impossible, while the speaker really has a central position on this plane, reflecting on the nature of this moment as a grammatical external fact in the saying.

“Every language expression is accomplished in a given place and time; it takes place in a situation that occurs in a specific time and space. It is performed by a certain person (speaker) and is usually addressed to another person (listeners)” (Lyons, 2001, 259).

Thus, in such a situation of communication:

-*Unë kisha punë me veten time dhe jo me shoqërinë. Aq më bënte për shoqërinë, nuk më hante palla nëse këto gjeste dhe ky refuzim që në të vërtetë nuk ishin as gjeste, as veprime, nuk bëhej për të shtyrë përpara proceset ose për t’i zmbarsur ato. (Basha, 2011, 64)*

- I was dealing with my self and not with the society. I **wasn't bothering** about society, I **wasn't giving** a fuck whether such gesture and this refusal, which in reality wasn't a gesture at all, neither an action, wasn't done to postpone the processes or to decoy them. (Basha, 2011,64)

the speaker, also expressed with the personal pronoun **I**, realizes the communication in an objective present, in relation to the time of speech, but no evidence of limits for the duration of the act of speaking can be identified within the discourse, except realizing it from non-discourse circumstances.

In this context, other time localization tools may also remain outside the survey.

Likewise in the examples below:

-... ju lutem, nuk është as vendi, as koha. **Mund të shihemi** në ndonjë rast tjetër, **të flasim** sa **të doni**, por jo **tani**, sot më **duhet të sajdis** të ftuarit. (Kongoli, 2005, 99)

-... ja ku po ta them: edhe në **u dënosh** ndonjë ditë dhe në **u vërtetoftë** se **të vrava** pas shpine, e vetmja gjë që **s'do të merret vesh** kurrë është pikërisht ajo që ti **kërkon**: shkaku (Kadare,2009,87)

- ... please, it's neither the place nor the time. **We can meet** another time, **to talk** as much as you **want**, but not **now**, today I **have to look after** the guests. (Kongoli, 2005,99)

- ... I am declaring my self: even if I am condemned one day and if it is proven that I stabbed you behind your back, the only thing that will never be heard is exactly what you are asking for: the reason (Kadare,2009,87)

the speaker's identification is clear, the momentum of speech is realized in the objective present, in relation to the actuality of the discourse, whereas the events referred to the speaker belong to different time segments: in the first statement a possible future, indefinite in time (**we can meet each other..., to talk...**); in the second case we have a situation where the speaker refers to the events that belong to the three timelines: the present (**you are asking for**), the undetermined past (**that I stabbed you behind your back**), as well as a possible or hypothetical future (**if I am condemned..., if it is proven...**).

So, following the literal reality, the identification of the speaker is not a problem, until the identification of the goals of the act of speaking is but the act itself from the starting point to the point of its conclusion. Hence, the unsurpassed function of non-lecturing factors in this plane gets its importance.

The nature of speaking momentum as a wider situation

The speaking situation coincides with the speaker's present time; there is also an unlimited length of time, wider, implicit in the context and with non-linguistic factors. Usually, this event also includes events from the past, which are updated in the process of speaking, interlinking with the actual content of the discourse.

So, in this passage:

-Derisa po flisja me të m'u **kujtua** dasma e djalit tim, që, meqenëse nusja **kishte mbetur** shtatzënë, **u bë** po atë vit që më **kishte vdekur** bashkëshorti. (Tssiampousis,2010,69)

- While I was talking to him, **in my remembrance came** my son's marriage, since my daughter-in-law **got pregnant** the wedding happened at the same year when my husband **had died**. (Tssiampousis,2010,69)

the content itself expresses the correlation between the two timing axes: partial timing between speech action and **remembrance** at the speaker's speaking time and the past three moments of time, three events occurring at different time points: **the pregnancy** of the daughter-in-law, **the spouse's death** as well as **the wedding event**.

Hence, the role of the speaker amongst this situation emerges only as referral role, speaker who represents partial linguistic reality in its real dimensions without interfering in its objective character.

Likewise in the passage below:

-Se çfarë ishte vërtet Cerberi, unë e mësova vite më vonë. Atë mbrëmje unë nuk e **kasha njohur** ende Sergerin, nuk e **kisha dëgjuar** as fjalën Cerber. Po kur **u shfaq** burri trupmadh befas, unë **ngriva**. Sot do të thosha, **u hipnotizova**. (Kongoli, 2005,148)

- What Cerber really was, I learned years later. That evening I had not yet known Serger, I had not heard the word Cerber. But when the burly man suddenly appeared, I stood up. Today I would say, I was hypnotized. (Kongoli, 2005,148)

the content refers to a wider period of time in the past, but which is objectively related to the speaker's present (today I would say), implying a wider state of mind.

From the examples drawn for the realization of this paper it is concluded that the moment of lecture as of extension is the most frequent use, then comes with the nature of a wider situation and very little of instantaneous nature, as shown in this graph.

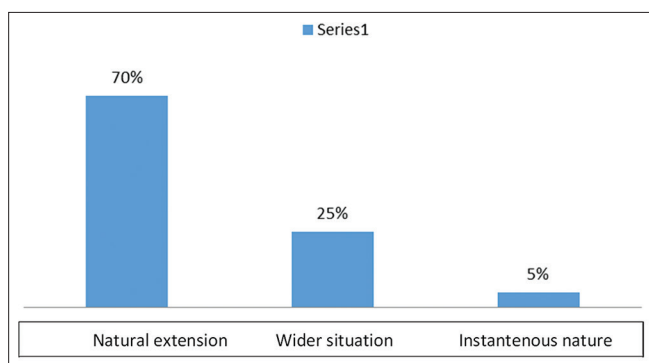
THE MOMENTUM OF ACTION

Although the present of speech plays a central role, no less important are other clearly identifiable time reference points, which have the function of determining the time of certain verbal forms. There are structures of statements in which time characterization takes its coloration precisely on the basis of the time point that coincides with a certain event. The event, on the one hand, is closely related to the subject, its carrier, or other incentive causes when it has an inhuman nature, such as, the phenomena of nature, while, on the other hand, relates to the observer, who records the event in his mind and may, depending on the circumstances beyond the discourse, pronounce it shortly after its occurrence or at later times in different communication situations. In the passage below:

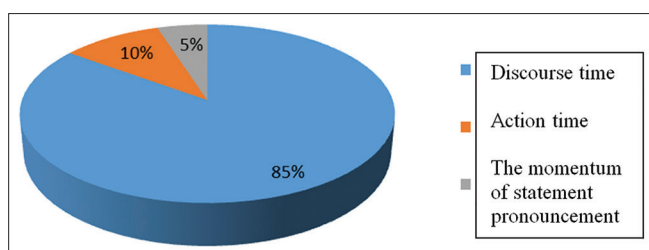
- **Tek ecja** ngadalë duke vështruar fasadat e pallateve, **u habita** që deri në atë çast nuk e kisha vënë re atë mrekulli që shpërfaqej para meje... (Kongoli,2005,271)

- **As I was walking** slowly looking at the facades of the palaces, I **have been surprised** that by that time I had not noticed the miracle that appeared before me... (Kongoli,2005,271)

the emotional state expressed by the present perfect **have been surprised** occurs at a moment in time while the **walking** action of the subject of the statement proceeds,



The discourse timing in function of time reference



The range of use in elaborated examples

in relation to the real time of which is determined its time meaning, which lies in partial simultaneous relations with it. This grammatical momentum actually has an extralinguistic identity because it relates to the real, objective timing of an event, which is expressed by the verbal form of the statement taken in the observation. As stated above, the action takes place irrespective of human will, and in the relevant context, the most pronounced value takes the time in which the event really happened, as well as the grammatical nature of the verbal form that marked the event, which in co-operation expresses a certain semantic and time reality. This moment must be identified in relation to another time point, to determine the grammatical nature of the Albanian time system, and this is done only by the speaker, as an observer of the event.

The momentum of saying pronouncement

In the discourse of the past, in stories and other styles of discourses that deal with past events in relation to the objective present, in such a situation as a point of reference for the time characterization of the verbal terms, is taken the time of pronouncing the saying and we can apply this approach based on the theory of saying, "whose founders, besides Benveniste, can also be R. Jakobson". (Kelmendi, 2006, 27)

According to this theory, in the narrative style, where the identification of the speaker as a participant of the event is minimal, in the contexts related to the consecution of events or actions according to their occurrence in the objective reality, on the foundation of which lies chronological time, as a point of reference for the time determination of the verbal terms the time of pronouncement of the saying is taken, which is meant to have disconnected relation with the moment of discourse. Accurate targeting of these uses does not always seem easy, because they are the conjugates of verbal

forms and the general lecture context that conditions concrete uses of this nature. In the example below:

- *Kishte një vit qyshkur **ishin hapur** zërat se një ushtri e panumërt është duke u grumbulluar nga të gjitha vendet vazale të Sulltanit. Fushën e Kosovës e **kishin caktuar** si pikënisje dhe për këtë ia **kishin çuar lajmin** edhe ushtrisë osmane pak para se të nisej nga Bursa. (Haxhaj, 2008, 17)*

- It had been a year since the rumors **have been spread** that an innumerable army was gathering from all the vassal countries of the Sultan. Kosovo's field **had been set** as a starting point and for this they **had sent the news** to the Ottoman army shortly before leaving from Bursa. (Haxhaj, 2008, 17)

the speaker is almost unrecognized, even trivial, for any kind of analysis, because the object's treatment, the content belongs to a distant past, which in no way can be related to the current moment. In this context, the time-frames of the past, expressed by the past perfect, realize their time meaning in relation to the time of statement, that is, the actuality of expressing the saying, which in some way localizes the indicator **had been a year**. Through the observation moment of the event as well as the moment of perspective we can find traces in certain structures of the sayings which have other nature and functions but are not objects to be observed in this case.

Analyzing from a statistical point of view, I have come to the conclusion that the lecture moment with the orientation function of the time-setting of verbal terms in Albanian is dominant, while at least in the least the use of the moment of action and the timing of pronouncing the saying.

CONCLUSION

Looking at this interpretation plane, the Albanian system of time can be judged that the verbal forms of this system realize their temporal features on the basis of three moments, of which the speaking time itself is a central role.

As the main point of reference, from surveys made according to the practical use in the language in the works taken for analysis, looking according to its nature, the timing of the lecture of a span of time dominates in relation to the full. Then comes the nature of this time span as a wider time situation and finally comes instantaneous uses.

While, looking at the statistical aspect, immediately after the speaking moment, with this orientation function we use more limited the moment of verbal action and then the time of the pronouncement of the saying.

Observed from the aspect of the Albanian discourse styles, it can not be judged that there are limitative targets of different natures, respectively three of these reference points, with more or less dominance, we encounter their determining functions in the time characterization of Albanian verbal forms.

While looking at the relationship of these three point references with the position occupied in relation to the speaker as the bearer of the message of thought, it turns out that only in relation to the act of speaking the speaker holds an essential role, while in relation to the moment of action and the

timing of the pronouncement of speech has a secondary role, respectively, it leaves fewer traces in the discourse.

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