

## The Realization of Time Adjuncts in Albanian and English Language



### Linguistics

**Keywords:** time adjunct, realization, phrase, syntagm, syntactic structure.

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### Abstract

This research paper is based on the comparative approach of English and Albanian language as far as the realization of time adjuncts is concerned. The main focus would be especially directed toward the differences and similarities between the realizations of time adjuncts in both languages according to semantic subtypes of time adjuncts since the structure with which these time adjuncts are realized in great account depends on their semantic subtypes. In some cases, there is a clear line of differences between these two languages. Both languages use different grammatical tools for these adjuncts. In some cases it is not just the syntactic structure that differs but also the semantic type is understood differently. The comparative method is the main research method used in this paper since the nature of such research requires for this material to be compared in order to highlight the differences as well as the commonalities that would eventually appear between these two languages. The descriptive method is also used to describe the language phenomenon which is the subject of this research. The description of grammatical units in this paper is based on accordance with the modern world grammarians. The survey method is another form of research that helped to classify, compare and analyze the material, thus coming to a conclusion. The differences, as well as the commonalities that came out of this paper, gives as a strong believe that the syntactic forms and structures achieved in one language through specific grammar tools can be reached by other grammar tools in the other language.

### Introduction

One of the most diverse constituents of the sentence, not only by semantic types but also by syntactic structures, no doubtfully is the adjunct. This is as a result of its ability to move in different positions in the sentence (which is quite different from the other sentence constituents), as well as its ability to indicate each and every form of circumstances upon which the action takes place.

In most of the cases, as far as the realization of time adjuncts is concerned, there are similarities between Albanian and English language. It seems that the need of different people to construct syntactic structures in order to point out temporal expressions is quite similar even though the language differs. But yet, there are differences, especially on the linguistic approach of Albanian and English language toward such structures with an accent on their nomenclature.

In order to highlight their similarities and the differences between Albanian and English language, the comparison must be made between them regarding the elaborate subtypes of time adjuncts according to the most distinguished and modern grammarians. The realization of the time adjuncts by dependent clauses is not taken into consideration in this research paper since their forms are quite different from the words-phrases discussed in this paper and being quite diverse by

types of dependent clauses as well as by different semantic indications. As such, they deserve a research on their own.

### **Time Adjuncts in Albanian and English Language**

In Albanian language, time adjuncts are described as secondary sentence constituents that express time characteristics of the action or the state (Çeliku M. at al. 2002: 273). As such, they are divided as follows:

- Time adjuncts which modify the action or state without specifying the temporal goal.
- Time adjuncts which characterize the action or state with a temporal goal can indicate the starting point and the end point of time.
- Time adjuncts which indicate extension in time (shtrirje në kohë).
- Time adjuncts which indicate an approximate temporal goal.

The semantic classification and subdivision of time adjuncts in the English language is not an easy task at all, especially when taking into consideration the enormous rich linguistic research on the issue. Thus, while Huddleston & Pullum (2002: 694) elaborate the time adjuncts by dividing them as temporal location, temporal extent: duration, polarity-sensitive aspectual adjuncts, and adjuncts of frequency, Quirk et al. (1985: 526) offer another subdivision, which is taken into consideration in this research since partially is closer to the semantic subdivision in the Albanian language. According to Quirk et al. (1985: 526), Time adjuncts are divided as:

- Time position adjuncts
- Forward span
- Backward span
- Duration
- Time-frequency adjuncts

As far as the duration group is concerned, Huddleston & Pullum (2002: 703), except the starting point and end point, they point out to a subgroup of time adjuncts named intermediate point, which is realized by the preposition through and a noun phrase.

[1] Through the entertainment a shadow of a doubt would creep into the tyrant's morbid mind.

### **The Syntactic structures of time adjuncts**

In Albanian language time, adjuncts are realized by adverb or adverb structure (lokucion ndajfoljor), a noun with or without a preposition (in Albanian language prepositional phrases are not recognized as syntactic units), syntagm (togfjalësh), and with nonfinite forms of the verbs. The types of adverbs, the prepositions with which the noun occur, as well as the internal structure of the syntagms somehow depend on semantic subgroups of time adjuncts. Hence, their analysis must be made for each subgroup separately.

– Time adjuncts which modify the action or state without specifying the temporal goal are realized by:

**Adverb:**

[2] Kështu përfundonin, zakonisht, përplasjet e tyre.

**Adverb structure:**

[3] Tani, çdo ditë, me afrimin e mbrëmjes dyndeshin në kokën tonë edhe mendimet për magjitë.

**A noun with a preposition:**

[4] Edhe mua ashtu më dukej vetja në fillim.

**Noun without a preposition:**

[5] Netëve, me siguri, i vinte të ulurinte.

**Syntagm:**

[6] Fjala kasaphanë hynte në numrin e atyre fjalëve që përdorëshin kohët e fundit gjithmonë e më shpesh dhe me një kuptim jo shumë të përcaktuar.

– Time adjuncts which describe starting point usually are used with the particles që/qysh and an adverb, a noun with a preposition or syntagm.

**Adverb:**

[7] Ndaj s'kishte pse të ngutej qysh tani.

**A noun with a preposition:**

[8] Kështu, kryhet ajo që është paralajmëruar qysh në fillim prej Anselmit.

**Syntagm:**

[9] Të hënën në mëngjes, në rrugën ku nuk ishte ndier këmbë njeriu qysh prej disa ditësh, u dëgjuan hapat e dikujt.

– Time adjuncts which indicate the end point of time are used with the particles deri/gjer and an adverb, a noun with a preposition or syntagm.

**Adverb:**

[10] Deri tani kubeja kishte qenë një pjesë pa rëndësi e shtëpisë.

### **A noun with a preposition:**

[11] Ndërpriten përkohësisht proceset gjyqësore gjer në një lajmërim të dytë.

### **Syntagm:**

[12] Kështu vazhdon disa javë, ndoshta disa muaj, gjer ditën e katastrofës.

– Time adjuncts which indicate extension in time are usually realized with the particles *gjatë* and a noun without a preposition or syntagm.

### **Noun without a preposition:**

[13] Në bulevard, fshesarët po hiqnin copëza mbeturinash e pankartash të shkelura me këmbë *gjatë* përleshjes.

### **Syntagm:**

[14] *Sytë* e ftohtë të psikiatrit shfaqeshin here nga e djathta, here nga e majta e pasqyrës, *gjatë* gjithë atij dimri.

– Time adjuncts which indicate approximate temporal goal are realized by a noun with the prepositions *nga*, *rreth*, *në*, *më*, often connected with the adverbs *aty*, *andej*.

### **Noun with the prepositions *nga*, *rreth*, *në*, *më* etc.:**

[15] *Aty nga* ora pesë e mënjgjesit, Rovenë ishte dridhur në gjumë.

[16] *Aty rreth* orës dy, ishte zgjuar i trembur.

Clauses as structures through which most of the adjuncts are realized are not taken into consideration in this research since they contain properties that are very different from the words-phrases, and as such, they deserve a research on their own.

Structures with which the time adjuncts in the English language are realized can be listed as Adverb phrases, Prepositional phrases, noun phrases as well as clauses. The internal structure of these different phrases is of various different forms, which in a great account depend on their semantic function. No other type of adjunct has such a wide range of grammatical realizations available as has the adjunct of time, Quirk, R. et al. (1985: 526).

– Time position adjuncts are realized by adverb phrase, prepositional phrase, noun phrase, and clause.

### **Adverb phrase:**

[17] Now, so many years later, in front of the hotel window, his back was just as blank and uncomprehending.

**Prepositional phrase:**

[18] At such moments, try as she might, Rovena could not cope with the tide of her emotion.

**Noun phrase:**

[19] And so, one night in late summer, he started to imagine their story.

It is worth mentioning that noun phrases, with which time adjuncts are realized, are constructed by the headword and at least one modifier, i.e. a noun phrase consisting of only the headword without modifiers cannot be used.

**Clause:**

[20] What happened to the passengers when the car hit the ground?

– Forward span adjuncts are realized with until/till and adverb phrase, prepositional phrase, noun phrase, as well as a dependent clause.

**Adverb phrase:**

[21] Until yesterday you were complaining that it was my fault that you aren't free.

**Prepositional phrase:**

[22] They would talk again in their own language until after midnight.

**Noun phrase:**

[23] During his later years he served as commissioner of the navy and was president of the board of naval commissioners from 1833 till his death.

**Clause:**

[24] They can wait until Jona gets up.

– Backward span adjuncts are realized by since and a phrase or dependent clause.

**Adverb phrase:**

[25] They said that two of the leaders of the first Crusade, Robert Giscard, Count of Normandy, and Robert, Count of Flanders, had slept a night at the inn a mile down the road from us, which since then had been called “The Inn of the Two Roberts”.

**Noun phrase:**

[26] There had been continual complaints about the delayed repayment of sums borrowed by our liege lord from “Ferries and Rafts” since the time of the unfortunate campaign against the Duke of Tepelena.

**Clause:**

[27] They even went further afield, where few had been since the Duke of Gjin had been ambushed there.

– Time duration adjuncts are realized by:

**Adverb phrase:**

[28] For the first time in months we were temporarily out of business.

**Prepositional phrase:**

[29] This country had kept the two victims under surveillance for a long time.

**Noun phrase:**

[30] They have been together so many years.

– Time-frequency adjuncts are realized by adverb phrase, prepositional phrase, noun phrase, and a dependent clause.

**Adverb phrase, such as: always, never, occasionally, again and again, once/twice, usually post-modified by a week/a month etc:**

[31] Again and again the researcher came back to the same question.

[32] From February to July 1898, Mr. Keith came out to Wrentham twice a week, and taught me algebra, geometry, Greek, and Latin.

**Prepositional phrase:**

[33] ‘I have got problems with Besfort’ Rovena had said on several other occasions, just generally, as anybody might open a conversation of this kind.

**A noun phrase with nouns which indicate time interval used with each and every as modifiers (quantifiers):**

[34] Each day they changed positions in line so that no one ate the dust from all the wagons every day.

### Clause:

[35] Whenever she described the final dream, she never forgot to mention the building's midnight glow, which was a reflection of the plaster, or perhaps of despair.

According to Huddleston & Pullum (2002: 713) time-frequency adjuncts are separated semantic groups from time adjuncts and are called adjuncts of frequency (without implication of temporal expressions), So they are analyzed as specific adjuncts which indicate the quantification in the sentence and they can be compared to quantifiers in the inner structure of the noun phrase.

### Conclusion

From the above examples for both languages, it is evident that the structures, with which the time adjuncts are realized, for the most cases, are the same in shape, but their nomenclature in Albanian and English language is different. Hence, the time adjuncts realized by an adverb or adverb structure in Albanian language, presented with the examples [2] and [3], in the English language are named as adverb phrase, shown at the example [28]. Time adjuncts realized by a noun with a preposition in the Albanian language, as in the example [4] – *në fillim*, in English language are treated as prepositional phrases, such as at the beginning. Such different nomenclature comes as a result of emphasizing the noun *fillim* in relation to the preposition *në*, while in English language the structure at the beginning is accepted as prepositional phrase (in Albanian language the expression prepositional phrase is not used at all), where the preposition at functions as the main word, while the beginning plays the function of complement of the preposition, also named as object of preposition.

Considering the time adjunct which indicates the starting point, in the English language, it is named backward span, where in the Albanian language the particles *që/qysh* are adopted to indicate the starting point of the action, while in the English language for the same purpose since is used. Here, the difference is that after since a structure which starts with a preposition cannot be used, like \*since from, while in the Albanian language there are structures that are introduced by a preposition, like an example [9] – *qysh prej disa ditësh*.

Time duration adjuncts in the English language realized by a noun phrase, such as [30] – so many years, in the Albanian language are not treated as time adjuncts but as adjuncts of quantity – *shumë vite*, structures that are elicited by: how much/many?.

Time-frequency adjuncts in the English language don't differ from their syntactic equivalents in the Albanian language as far as their internal structure is concerned; it's just that their nomenclature is different as it is mentioned above. Yet, it is worth mentioning that the essential difference is that in Albanian language there isn't any such semantic group, while these structures in most of the cases are part of quantity adjuncts, or some of them fall within the group of time adjuncts which characterize the action or state with temporal goal, depending on their meaning.

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