

THE WORDS OF THE ARBERESH OF CALABRIA AND THE ARVANITES OF GREECE IN THE ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY OF GUSTAV MEYER



Morphology

Keywords: etymological dictionary, explanatory dictionary, lema words, lexical layer, lexical and semantic field.

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Abstract

The dictionary of the “Etymological Dictionary of the Albanian language” (1891) by Gustav Meyer, a work that has left indelible traces in the entire Albanological heritage created from the last quarter of the XIX century until today, contains a number of words of the Albanians of Italy and Greece that we will call the words of the Albanian colonies in Italy and Greece, which, G. Meyer collected directly from their mouths and inserted them in his Dictionary. Our article, with the object of the lexicon of the Albanian colonies in the etymological Dictionary of G. Meyer, aims to point out first, the presence of the words of the Arberesh of Calabria and of the Arvanites of Greece in the Etymological Dictionary of Gustav Meyer giving, perhaps for the first time first, a complete inventory of the *lema* words and nursery words present in this work; secondly, the status that the words of the Albanian colonies in Italy and Greece occupy in the “Dictionary of the Albanian language” (2006). Through the comparison of Gustav Meyer’s *Etymological Dictionary* with the 2006 dictionary we will see how many of the words of the Arberesh of Calabria and the Arvanites of Greece have taken place in this dictionary; third, the main lexical and semantic fields to which the lexicon of the Albanian colonies in Italy and Greece belongs.

Introduction

The etymological dictionary of the Albanian language by G. Myer remains a work of great importance in the history of the Albanian language that still preserves genuine scientific and historical values, which can help in the further development of studies in the field of history of the Albanian language.

A number of scholars have written about the Etymological Dictionary of the Albanian language by Gustav Meyer, we are mentioning among them Albert Thumb (Thumb, 1901), Norbert Jkli (Jokli, 1917), Seit Mansaku (Mansaku, 2006), Jani Thomai (Thomai, 2006., with all the themes that derive today, mainly from the passage of time, as well as from the incomplete material, is and remains a first-hand monument in the field of Albanian studies”.

The main remark that has been repeatedly made by scientific critics to G. Meyer’s Dictionary has to do with the conclusions he has drawn, through the statistics he has given, regarding the relationship between the personal layer of the Albanian lexicon and its borrowed layer. Critics have claimed that he overestimated the borrowed Albanian lexicon to the detriment of the local lexicon.

The object of this article, as we have said somewhere above, is the lexicon of the Albanian colonies in Italy and Greece, present in the Etymological Dictionary of Gustav Meyer, one of the greatest names of German Albanology with a fundamental contribution to the history of Albanian.

We have set ourselves the task that, after carefully examining the complete list of words belonging to the Albanian colonies in Italy and Greece, we will confront this corpus of words with the dictionary of the Albanian language (2006) to produce again a Another list of words that come from the etymological Dictionary of G. Meyer and that have taken place in the explanatory dictionaries of Albanian being active in today's Albanian.

Research Problems

The study of the Albanian lexicon has its own history, for which, although there is still today a wide and general work to illuminate, not only the path through which this study has passed, but also the one through which it will, in the future, there are, however, some indirect articles of an evaluative character for the directions and the general line of development of Albanian lexicology and lexicography, in which the main results of the Albanian linguistic science in the study of the lexicon of Albanian and its historical development. To the long string of these articles is added our article which takes into analysis specifically the lexicon of the Arberesh settlements of Greece and Italy present in G. Meyer's Etymological Dictionary by looking at it in terms of territorial origin.

As far as we know so far, this lexicon, collected by G. Meyer in the field and directly from the mouths of the speakers of the Albanian colonies in Greece and Italy, has not become the object of a special study. The present article undertakes to analyze it to give an almost complete overview of the words of the Arberesh of Calabria and of the Arvanites of Greece, looking at them according to the lexical and semantic fields. The study of lexicon according to the theory of lexical and semantic fields (Ipsen, 1924; Trieri, 1934; Porzig, 1959) presents it organized in the system, in ideographic, semantic, derivative groups, etc. and enables in-depth penetration of lexical semantics through a perimeter of its basic and minimal elements.

Research Methodology

With the scientific method of lexical stratification i.e. of the division of the lexicon of a language into layers, a series of studies have been done in the Albanian linguistics. In the first place come, of course, the etymological and historical-linguistic studies conducted by prof. Eqrem Çabej, who the main principle of this method: the separation of local elements from borrowed elements, which Leibniz laid down, followed with persistence in all his work and managed to layer the Albanian lexicon, first of all according to the source.

Using mainly the method of lexical stratification combined with the method of comparison and linguistic analysis, the present article aims to make an almost complete review of the words of Arberesh settlements in Greece and Italy, which G. Meyer entered in the Dictionary of his, after collecting them directly from the mouths of the Arberesh of Italy and the Arvanitas of Greece.

Research Results

If we look at the etymological Dictionary of the Albanian language by G. Meyer in the field of lexical stratification to see the lexical layers that it carries, we will notice that, according to the source, the dictionary of the Dictionary we are talking about carries at least two lexical layers: a) the personal layer of the lexicon, which consists of words of two dialects and different dialects of Albanian; b) the borrowed layer, which consists of words of Greek, Latin and Roman source, as well as words of Slavic and Turkish source in the Albanian lexicon.

According to the statistics given by G. Meyer himself in the introduction of the Dictionary from 5140 words that he considers, so in his historical-etymological view, about 4000 of them belong to the borrowed layer of the Albanian lexicon, of which 1420 with Latin-Roman source.

Only 400 words of Indo-European Albanian heritage have been distinguished, while 730 words are left without etymological explanation.

From the careful and thorough examination of the vocabulary of G. Meyer's Etymological Dictionary according to the territorial origin, i.e., according to the linguistic area where the word lives, we distinguish several lexical layers:

1. All Albanian words;
2. Words of special provinces, within which we notice two lexical substrata: a) words of the Northern provinces; b) words of the Southern provinces;
3. Words of the Arberesh settlements of Greece;
4. Words of the Arberesh settlements of Italy.

The total number of words of the Arberesh settlements of Greece and Italy or of the Albanian colonies in Italy and Greece that have taken place in G. Meyer's Etymological Dictionary is close to 600, of which over 350 are Greek words of Greece that in Dictionary G. Meyer distinguishes them by the abbreviation arv. (Arvanite-Albanian of Greece), and over 240 are words of Arberesh settlements of Italy, which are marked in the Dictionary by its author with the abbreviation kal. (Calabrian-Arberesh of Calabria)

If we put in front of each other: The etymological dictionary of the Albanian language by G. Meyer and the Dictionary of the Albanian language (2006) to see how many of the words of the first dictionary have taken place in the second we will notice that only 8.3% of the dictionary of G. Meyer's dictionary has been included in the Dictionary of the Albanian language of 2006 to be part of the active fund of Albanian.

Of course, in this comparison of dictionaries we have in mind at least two important factors: first, the type of dictionaries, G. Meyer's dictionary by nature is etymological and, as such, he has a duty to give only the words root being limited to giving derived or compound words, while the Dictionary of the Albanian language is an explanatory dictionary and has the main task to give the complete nursery of words; secondly, at the time in which the dictionaries were published, G. Meyer's dictionary saw the light of publication more than a century ago and, as such, it reflects another linguistic reality of Albanian compared to the linguistic reality reflected in Dictionary of the Albanian language (2006), which was published more than a century later.

Looking at the words of the Arberisht of Calabria and the Arvanites of Greece, present in the etymological Dictionary of G. Meyer, according to the lexis-semantics fields, we will notice some lexical layers, which name:

a) beings, parts of their body and their functions:

abdhelë "leech", askuvazë "toad", bibë "turkey", bimë "pig", bretek "frog", ethëzë "lightbugs", fang "spider", gërthinjë "grabs", gamëlis "lbark", grëmshe "species of bird", grunis "groans", guç "pig", gudhër "mosquito", karavoll "big snail", karak "crow", krakarit "crawl", milak "rabbit", murtir "animal"(negativ connotation), myll "mule", qallkonë "wader", vërgar "goat", vojvilë "bug" etc.

b) plants and parts of plants and their surroundings:

angjinidhe "Species of plant", anith "name of plant", askoth "fig", bleronj "green", blubunë "species of beans", bobotë "corn", boçkë "scilla maritima", egerle "wild olive", faskomile "sage" (salvia calucina), fendelë "passerina tartonraira", ferrlë "shoots", findraspor "leaf" (scandix pecten antrisk), frappë "frut i qitros" (citrus decumana), fter "fier", gligaçë "zhardhoku i bimës", gofallë "dru i zgavërt", gulatë "cabbage" etc.

c) man in general, his appearance, moral features and emotional experiences:

apomoni "patience", ashung "fat around kidneys", avani "disgust", bacë "slap", brengë "rough voice", brënjak "loser, thin", brul "elbow", buflë "foot", buxtis "become sad", bular "sir, noble man", burfuat "swollen face", çingar "hypocrite", flevë "vein", fñjeshë "killer", hajmana "homeless man", kaçul "sexual part of babies", kadër "agile, strong" etc.

d) the house, parts, equipment, furniture and services rendered to it:

ambarrëzë "small door latch", angjin "hook", arnar "file", brazim "yeast", ciskë "back knife", cule "bag of corn", faknë "food", fangi "tool with which the legs are tightened and their soles are beaten", gjalmë "rope", katapie "small stick", kërbë "barrel", kluar "stick to simmer milk", koldemir "support wall", maçakon "hammer" etc.

e) phenomena of social life, activities and relationships between people:

apodhurë “fashion”, abnësina “reasonable”, amarinj “love”, ambnis “relax”, angosinj “suffocate”, balastri “disorder”, bëzonjë “need”, burgam “arrogance”, canxis “tempt”, fidhil “loyal”, fore “power, strength”, fruguler “happiness”, grinjë “anger” etj.

f) nature and natural phenomena:

andarë “storm”, andilë “reflection of rays on a wall”, apoth “breeze of air”, grej “Northeast wind”, hollevrë “lightening”, levant “Eastern wind”, live “Southeast wind”, gufër “abyss”, noti “South wind”, kërlë “wet mud”, leq “hidden place”, lenzë “left water”, mat “shore, sand”, nusare “land”, onxhë “rain water pond”, poteg “cave” etj.

We can also mention other lexical and semantic fields with a smaller number of words, such as: cooking, family, gender relations, clothing and ornaments, etc.

Conclusions

Seeing in full the words of the Arberisht of Calabria and the words of the Arvanites of Greece present in the Etymological Dictionary of the Albanian language by Gustav Meyer, one of the greatest names of German Albanology with a fundamental contribution to the history of the Albanian language, we can draw some more general conclusions:

1. The lexicon of the Albanian colonies in Italy and Greece where Gustav Meyeri collected Albanian words directly from the mouths of Albanians and introduced them in his work occupies a little more than 1% of the 5140 words that has a total "Etymological dictionary of the Albanian language" (1891).

2. The number of lema words belonging to the lexicon of the Albanian colonies in Italy and Greece present in Gustav Meyer's Etymological Dictionary is 600, of which about 50 of them or 8.3% have taken place in the Dictionary of the Albanian Language (2006) by thus became part of the active fund of today's Albanian.

3. Observed according to lexical and semantic fields, the lexicon of the Albanian colonies in Italy and Greece belongs to some main fields that are mainly related to the animal and plant world, to man as a social being, to customs and habits, to nature and natural phenomena, to construction, cooking, clothing and ornaments, family etc.

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