
An empirical study on the lexical Interlingua interferences among the bilingual Albanian emigrants

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The focus of this article is German-Albanian interference at the lexical-semantic and morph-syntactic level among Albanians who immigrated to Germany after the 90s. Its aim is to document the situation of the use of the Albanian mother tongue among heritage speakers of Albanian in Germany.

The issues presented in the article are:

- What language's competences do heritage speakers master?
- In which linguistic plan are obstacles and uncertainties, and interferences?
- Is language interference an obstacle to the use of the mother tongue?
- What linguistic structure of the mother tongue has been preserved as a routine and what has been assimilated or creatively transformed?

The paper will support the hypothesis:

- a. The most numerous interferences affect the morphological aspect, where the differences between the two languages are most numerous (e.g. gender's category).
- b. The differences that exist in the verbal system between the German and Albanian languages are an inevitable source of linguistic interference which leads to the construction of sentences in Albanian language. This is illustrated in example (1), which shows an adaptation of the construction of the past tense in Albanian to the perfect tense in German.

- (1) Albanian: Unë kam **geblejt** një libër të vogël.
English [I have bought a small book]
German [Ich habe ein Buch **gekauft**.]

- c. There is linguistic interference in the lexical-semantic aspect where certain words acquire a new meaning.

The differences and similarities between these languages are reflected in the consciousness of Albanian speakers, where dominance belongs to the elements of the German language, while the mother tongue (Albanian) stays in a fragile position. We conducted group and individual interviews, questionnaires and video recordings in communities of Albanian immigrants in Germany.

References: • Kielhöfer, B. & Jonekeit, S. (1998). *Zweitsprachige Kindererziehung*, 10. Auflage, Stauffenburg Verlag: Tübingen • Klein, W. (1992). *Zweitspracherwerb: Eine Einführung*, Athenäum Studienbuch: Königstein