

THE ROLE OF LINGUISTIC CONTEXT IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF NEUTER NOUNS IN “FIALUER I RII I SHCYPES”

Olger BRAME¹, Albina PAJO²

¹*Department of Language and Literature, Faculty of Education and Philology. "Fan S. Noli" University of Korça, Albania*

²*Department of Education, Faculty of Education and Philology. "Fan S. Noli" University of Korça, Albania*

**Corresponding Author: e-mail:olgerbrame@yahoo.com ; obrame@unkorce.edu.al*

Abstract

"Fialuer i Rii i Shcype" or as it is known "The Dictionary of Bashkimi", is an important work of the patriotic and cultural society "Bashkimi", which was founded in Shkodër in January 1899, at the initiative of the abbot of Mirdita, Monsignor Preng Doçi. "The Dictionary of Bashkimi", comes with an innovation because it was a completely explanatory dictionary for the Albanian language, coming out of the tradition of bilingual explanatory dictionaries such as that of Frang Bardhi and Kostandin Kristoforidhi published up to this time. The dictionary, on the other hand, includes a variety of lexical fields such as: scientific, technical, administrative lexicon, neologisms, borrowings, etc. Our paper focuses on the role that context plays in the identification of neuter nouns derived from adjectives in this Dictionary. It should be noted that in "The Dictionary of Bashkimi", pronominal neuter nouns are not recorded with relevant notes separately as such, but are included within the general definition of adjectives, despite the fact that within this classification adjectives are distinguished that can be used in the plural number with the article "të"; neuter nouns derived from adjectives and verbal nouns derived from participle adjectives.

Since the Dictionary does not provide examples or illustrations with sentences, we have tried to make the distinction between neuter nouns derived from adjectives and neuter nouns based on participle adjectives, referring to the explanatory context in Italian, on the basis of which is analyzed the role of the "adjective" in the dictionary, whether it is a simple adjective, a neuter noun derived from an adjective, or a verbal neuter noun based on an adjective. This is made even more difficult because the neuters derived from adjectives, apart from being indistinguishable from adjectives or nouns derived from other adjectives, in most cases in the Dictionary are placed in the unprominent form. In this way, the reference to the explanation given to the word in Italian has been decisive for their definition.

Key words: *neuter noun from adjective, linguistic context, role, explanation, Dictionary, Italian*

1. Introduction

Context is the element of discourse which allows the reader or language user to determine the meaning of the word, which is necessary to establish the form-meaning connection. There are many studies that show that the lexical aspect is independent of the context, but many other studies refer to the opposite, emphasizing the role of the context in the lexical meaning of the word, and especially of the term. Thus, meanings are not fixed entries or lists of features of a word. They are analyzed whenever they are encountered in use because determining the meaning

of the word requires the use of various sources of information (prior knowledge, context) to arrive at an interpretation (Tabossi, 1988, p. 153–162).

The role of context and its importance emerges firstly in translation, because it creates the interpretative space of the word as a semantic and grammatical linguistic sign. Regarding this fact, it is emphasized that when in a concrete language from which we start, certain categories, first of all grammatical, and also inappropriate information are encountered, then in the target language this information is binding according to the rule that should be included in the translation, rules which with the help of research or through the inclusion of sufficient context sound very simple, but in practice encounter obstacles that should not be overlooked (Prunc, 2005).

Rodd, Gaskell & Marslen-Wilson also emphasize the importance of context when they point out that although nouns or noun uses refer to objects and verbs or verb uses refer primarily to actions with or on objects. Meanwhile, with some exceptions, there are many words in which there is ambiguity about the meanings in their noun and verb uses. Even, in another part, unrelated or sometimes related and unrelated meanings can be observed (Rodd, J. M.; Gaskell, M. G. & Marslen-Wilson, W. D., 2002, p. 245–266).

In this aspect, the researcher Ajdini emphasizes that the assimilation of the basic translation techniques is the main factor that significantly affects the creation of suitable conditions for the proper functioning of cohesion and textual coherence. Therefore, the more present the technique of translation according to meaning, or contextual translation accompanied by adaptation, the higher the quality of the translations made. He points out that there are many tactics which are commonly put into use and which are closely related to the understanding of terms and words from the perspective of the functioning of the linguistic context. In the practice of translation, it meant the moment when the reader uses the meaning and logic of a certain sentence to arrive at the meaning of the unknown word. Such an approach makes possible the logical decoding of the structures embedded in the original text at the level of the overall context (Ajdini, 2019).

There are, however, other ways in which the discourse analyst's approach to linguistic data differs from that of the formal linguist and leads to a specialised use of certain terms. Because the analyst is investigating the use of language in context by a speaker / writer, he is more concerned with the relationship between the speaker and the utterance, on the particular occasion of use, than with the potential relationship of one sentence to another, regardless of their use (Brown, G., & Yule, G., 1983, p. 27-67).

2. Methods and materials

Descriptive, comparative and analytical methods were used for the realization of this work. "The Dictionary of Bashkimi" served as a source material, the examples of which were seen in a comparative approach with the explanations given in Italian.

3. Discussions and results

Our paper focuses on the role that the explanatory context plays in the identification of neuter nouns derived from adjectives in "Fialuer i Rii i Shcypes" or "The Dictionary of Bashkimi" (Grup autorësh, 2018). It aims to provide a preliminary approach to what extent linguistic and situational contexts are conducive to the successful recognition of those nouns in vocabulary.

It should be noted that in the Dictionary, neuter nouns derived from adjectives are not recorded with relevant notes separately as such, but are included within the general designation of adjectives, within which adjectives that can be used in the plural with prepositive article "të" are distinguished; neuter nouns derived from adjectives and verb nouns derived from the nominalization of preverbal adjectives. Since "The Dictionary of Bashkimi" does not provide examples or illustrations with sentences, a flaw that was also highlighted by Xhuvani, because the lack of statements does not show the living life of the word (Xhuvani, 1990, p. 22-25), we have tried to analyze the difference: neuter noun formed from the adjective / verbal noun based on verbal adjectives, referring to the explanations given in Italian, based on which the role of the "adjective" given in the Dictionary is examined, if it is a simple adjective, a neuter derived from an adjective or a neuter verbal noun on the basis of an adjective derived from a verb. This is made even more difficult because the neuters derived from adjectives, apart from being indistinguishable from adjectives or nouns derived from other adjectives, in most cases in the Dictionary are placed in the unprominent form. In this way, the reference to the explanation given to the word in Italian has been decisive for their definition. Such a fact has been reiterated by Ali Dhrimo, who, not referring to "The Dictionary of Bashkimi" in particular, but bilingual dictionaries in general, emphasizes that the lack of life of the word, i.e. of its use, remains the flaw of the drafting of bilingual dictionaries, because a list of words can never be learned and never used again (Dhrimo, 2005, p. 223-228).

However, it should be kept in mind that the basic aim of the compiler was to present the lexicon of the Albanian language, giving the meanings of the words as accurately as possible, and not to compile a literal bilingual dictionary, which is also the case for the Kristoforidhi's Dictionary (Lafe, 2011, p. 20-29), constituting another important context in examining the phenomenon in question. The explanations given in Italian can also be analyzed within another socio-cultural context, because at this time Italian was quite well known at intellectual levels, especially by the Catholic clergy, a fact that shows that it was easier to give a comparative explanation in this language.

Regarding the role of the context, the researcher Hajri Shehu has shown that the syntagmatic links that can be investigated in different explanatory or bilingual dictionaries are found in the lexical level of the sentences, outside the context, in the statements related to the active type dictionary, where it appears what is possible or impossible, as the phrases in the dictionary illustrate the grammatical behavior of the word, etc. He emphasizes that a special discipline can be taken with word connections - contextology, which studies the content-structure interdependence at the level of the language system (but also at the level of social, historical-cultural factors, etc. (Shehu, 2005, p. 168).

"Fialuer i Rii i Shcypes" or "The Dictionary of Bashkimi", is an important work, result of the activity of the patriotic and cultural society "Bashkimi". "The Dictionary of Bashkimi" came with an innovation because it was a completely explanatory dictionary for the Albanian language, coming out of the tradition of bilingual explanatory dictionaries, such as that of Frang Bardhi and Kostandin Kristoforidhi, published until this time. The dictionary, on the other hand, includes a variety of lexical fields such as: scientific, technical, administrative lexicon, neologisms, borrowings, etc. As neuter nouns derived from adjectives, a considerable number, about 60 nouns, appear in "The Dictionary of Bashkimi". The dictionary is not only explanatory, as there are explanations of words, their possible synonyms, but also a bilingual dictionary (Albanian-Italian), taking on great value and importance for the time in the field of translation.

They are generally given in the unprominent form, so their prominence is given in brackets. As neuter nouns derived from adjectives in the Dictionary we mention: *t'ghâne(të) / të gjerët* p.138;

t'giat (të) / të gjatët p.127; *t'holle(të) / të hollët* p.161; *t'idhet(it) / të hidhurit* p.167; *t'kote(t) / të kotit* p.204; *t'kthiellet(it) / të kthjelltit* p.212; *t'kuç(të) / të kuçtë* p.213; *t'large(t) / të largët* p.225; *t'madhte / të madhtë* p.246; *t'màime(t) / të majmit* p.248; *t'mire(t) / të mirët* p.268; *t'muget(it) / të mugët* p.279; *t'nalte(t) / të lartët* p.286; *t'ngathet(it) / të ngathëtit* p.293; *t'ngrohet(it) / të ngrohtët* p.296; *t'nzeet(it) / të nxehtët* p.309; *t'pastaim(it) / të pastajmit* p.322; *t'plote(t) / të plotët* p.356; *t'rânne(t) / të rëndët* p.372; *t'riit(ë) / të ritë* p.375; *t'vérdhe(t) / të verdhët* p.488; *t'vrânet(it) / të vrenjturit* p.499; *t'xii(të) / të zitë* p.519 etc.

The explanation of the word in Italian is given by an adjective and a noun, separated from each other, where the meanings are separated by a semicolon (;), and the synonyms by a comma (,). It should be noted that not in all cases the meaning as a noun, in the current state of Albanian, is given by means of a neuter noun with a prepositive article, derived from an adjective. Today, these meanings are mainly given by abstract nouns derived from adjectives that show quality and belong to two other genders, mainly the feminine one. In the dictionary, in a good part of the cases, the same meaning of the word, in addition to named forms, derived from adjectives, is also given by means of an abstract noun formed from it. However, there are also cases when the semantics of the word is given only through the nouns with a prepositive article and there is no explanation through another abstract noun. Considering these characteristics, we have listed both cases as uses of neuter nouns with a prepositive article derived from adjectives, regardless of how the explanation is given. This may have served as an element that indicates that this oscillation may be related to a transitory phase of the transition of neuters to other genders.

Keeping this rule in mind, we will illustrate some examples with both uses:

- **giate (i, e, t')**. *lungo a ; lunghezza.* p.127.

- **t'giate.** *lungo (i, e, gjatë / tall), as an adjective.*

- **t'giate.** *lunghezza, (të gjatët, gjatësia / length), as a noun derived from the adjective* in this case, because the meaning is given by the noun, specifically *the neuter noun* with a prepositive article.

-**ghiatesii-a**, (emër femëror / feminine noun); plural: *ghiatesii-t, longitudine (gjatësia/ longitude), as an abstract noun* derived from the adjective in the feminine gender. p.127.

-**holle (i, e, t')**. *sottile; sottiglienza.* f. 161.

-**t'holle.** *sottile (i, e, hollë / thin), as an adjective.*

-**t'holle.** *sottiglienza (të hollët, hollësia si cilësi / thin as quality), as a noun derived from the adjective* in this case, because the meaning is given by the noun, specifically *the neuter noun* with a prepositive article.

-**hollsii-a** (emër femëror / feminine noun); without plural, *sottiglienza, finezza, (hollësia, finesa / subtlety, finesse), as an abstract noun* in the feminine gender derived from the adjective. (The word continues with other figurative meanings) p. 138.

-**idhet (i, e, t')**. *amaro; amarezza* p.167.

-**t'idhet.** *amaro (i, e, hidhur / bitter), as an adjective.*

-**t'idhet.** *amarezza (të hidhëruarit e diçkaje, hidhërim/ the bitterness of something) as a noun derived from the adjective* in this case, because the meaning is given by the noun, specifically *the neuter noun* with a prepositive article;

-**idhnii-a**, (emër femëror/ feminine noun); plural: *idhnii-t, amarezza (hidhërimi/ the bitterness), as an abstract noun* in the feminine gender derived from the adjective. (The word continues with other figurative meanings) p.167 etj.

However, there are a good number of cases, where the meaning as a noun derived from an adjective comes out more clearly, because the adjective is marked as neuter in the Dictionary and the explanation is given only by a noun, in cases such as:

-t'pakte-et. mbiemër asnjës/ neuter adjective, *svenimento* (të fikët / fainting). “*Me raa t'pakte*” p.316.

-t'pershtiirt. mbiemër asnjës / neuter adjective, *divozione, pietá* (përkushtim, dhembshuri/ devotion, compassion) p.342 etj.

In the category of neuter nouns derived from verbs, we have distinguished two groups: the first group are *the neuter noun* derived from the participles of verbs. Such nouns are more easily distinguished in the Dictionary, because they are given with the corresponding note as neuter nouns and formally they are also marked in the prominent form. The second group are verbal nouns derived from preverbal adjectives, which in some cases are marked as such in the Dictionary, while in some cases the meaning is derived from the explanation of the word in Italian, as was done with the nouns derived from adjectives.

For illustration we can mention the given examples:

-t'adhruemit, emër asnjës/ neuter noun, *adorazione* (adhurim/ worship); the verb: adore: *adhroj, me u adhrue.* p.18.

-t'aguemit, emër asnjës / neuter noun, *l'albeggiare* (agimi/ the dawn); the verb: dawn: *agon, me ague.* p.19.

-t'casunit, emër asnjës / neuter noun, *l'avvicinarsi, l'accostarsi* (të qasurit, të afruarit / qasje ose afrim/ approach); the verb: approach: *casi, m'u case.* p.61.

-t'dalunit, emër asnjës/ neuter noun, *l'ushire,* (të dalët / get out); the verb: get out: *dal. del. dola. me dale.* p.79.

-t'dâmtuemit, emër asnjës / neuter noun, *il danneggiare,* (dëmtimi / damage); the verb: damage: *dâmtoj, m'u dâmtue.* p.79.

- t'dértuem(it), neuter adjective, *il lamento,* (të vajtuarit, vajtimi/ lament, lamentation); the verb: lament: *dértoi, m'u dértue.* p.84.

-t'dhimitun(it), neuter adjective, *dolore, compassione, tristezza* (dhimbje, trishtim, dhembshuri/ pain, sadness, compassion); the verb: feel sorry: *m'u dhimte.* p.100.

-t'héshitun(it), neuter adjective, *il tacere* (heshtje; të heshturit / silence); the verb: shut up: *hésht, me hésht* p.159.

-t'ietuem(it), neuter adjective, *il vivere* (të jetuarit, jetesë/ living, livelihood); the verb: live: *iétoi, me iétue.* p. 169.

4. Conclusions

The concept of context has undergone some fundamental rethinking. Context is analyzed as a product of language use and thus as an interactional achievement, which is negotiated and co-constructed, imported and invoked. Context and contexts are analyzed from the perspectives of interlocutors, considering contextualization, recontextualization and decontextualization, and entextualization. However, we can say that Xhuvani's remark regarding the lack of examples in the Dictionary is quite appropriate, because this would properly highlight the function and place of the word in use in the Albanian language, given that the reference of the explanation in the foreign language, in some cases it can also lead to ambiguity and possible confusion, if the comparison is made with another language.

The context given in the explanation of words from the Albanian language to the Italian language is an important element to highlight grammatical and semantic elements of the word such as neuter nouns derived from prepositional adjectives or verbs, the meaning of which is in some cases derived from the context and explanation of the word in Italian, explanation of the word in Italian by an adjective or a noun etc.

The dictionary can serve as practical material to evaluate within the word-forming context the variety it presents. Of interest is the presence of abstract nouns of quality, as well as the presence of abstract verbal nouns that show action, which is formed with the suffixes **-IM**; **-JE (-IE)**; **-ESË**, and any other suffixes, which in most cases, are used as duals, next to the prepositional neuter, to express the same meaning. Another aspect that is noticed concerning the prepositional neuter is the formation of these nouns with a prefix, which is much rarer and occurs in the verbal neuter nouns that have a prepositional adjective as their base, mainly to give the antonym of the word.

In conclusion, it can be said that the Dictionary of Bashkimi can become the focus of study in many aspects. In addition to being the object of lexicographic studies, this dictionary remains an important reference for comparative studies of the language, but also in the translation field, noting the relationship between Albanian and Italian.

References:

- [1]. Ajdini, F. V. (2019). *Strategjitë kyçe në procesin e përkthimit "ad sensum", koherenca & kohezioni:përcaktues të cilësisë*. Tetovë: Luma Grafik.
- [2]. Brown, G., & Yule, G. (1983). The role of context in interpretation. In G. & Brown, *Discourse Analysis (Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics)* (p. 27-67). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [3]. Dhrimo, A. (2005). Probleme teorike dhe praktike për hartimin e fjalorëve dygjuhësh. In I. & AShSH, *Leksikografia shqipe-trashëgimi dhe perspektivë* (p. 223-228). Tiranë: Mësonjëtorja.
- [4]. Grup autorësh. (2018). *Fjalori i Bashkimit": botim anastatik i "Fjaluer i Rii i Shcypes" (1908) të Shoqërisë "Bashkimi"*. Lezhë: Botimet Fishta.
- [5]. Lafe, E. (2011). Fjalori i Shoqërisë "Bashkimi" i vështruar në krahasim me fjalorin e K. Kristoforidhit . *Fjalori i Shoqërisë "Bashkimi" në 100-vjetorin e tij. Studime shqiptare 19*, p. 20-29. Shkodër: Universiteti i Shkodrës "Luigj Gurakuqi.
- [6]. Prunc, E. (2005). *Hyrje në shkencën e translacionit - korniza orientuese* (Vol. Vëllimi I: 43). Prishtinë: Botime Papyrus.
- [7]. Rodd, J. M.; Gaskell, M. G. & Marslen-Wilson, W. D. (2002). . Making sense of semantic ambiguity: semantic competition in lexical access. ; 46:. *Journal of Memory and Language*, p. 245–266.
- [8]. Shehu, H. (2005). Çështje të sintagmatikës në fjalorë të shqipes. In IGjL, *Leksikografia shqipe-trashëgimi dhe perspektivë* (p. 168). Tiranë: Mësonjëtorja.
- [9]. Tabossi, P. (1988). Effects of context on the immediate interpretation of unambiguous nouns. *Journal of Experimental Psychology., 1*, p. 153–162.
- [10]. Xhuvani, A. (1990). *Vepra 2*. Tiranë: Akademia e Shkencave.