

PREDICATIVE POSITION OF ADJECTIVES IN ENGLISH AND THEIR EQUIVALENTS WHEN TRANSLATING INTO ALBANIAN

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Abstract

Predicative adjectives play a crucial role in language by providing additional information about the subject of a sentence. This paper explores the significance and characteristics of predicative adjectives in linguistic analysis. The paper examines the syntactic structures and patterns governing the translation of predicative adjectives from English into Albanian language. Through a comparative analysis, this paper investigates how syntactic differences between the two languages influence the placement and construction of predicative adjectives in Albanian language sentences. Furthermore, the paper explores the impact of word order, agreement, and syntactic hierarchy on the translation process.

Drawing on linguistic theories and principles, this research clarifies the syntactic adjustments required to maintain grammatical coherence and preserve the intended meaning when rendering predicative adjectives into Albanian. Predicative adjectives in English typically exhibit a relatively minor difference from Albanian translation, with exceptions found among adjectives whose *predicative only usage* is specific to the English language. Adjectives falling into this category necessitate substantial adjustments during translation, often resulting in their representation not solely as adjectives but also as nouns, verbs, or adverbs within the translated context. By shedding light on the syntactic complexities of translation, this paper contributes to a deeper understanding of the challenges and strategies involved in conveying predicative adjectives across linguistic boundaries.

Keywords: Predicative Adjectives, English language, Albanian language, Syntax, Analysis.

1. Introduction

Communication encompasses a spectrum of modalities, including oral discourse, written text comprehension, auditory reception, and textual composition. These modalities adhere to linguistic norms and conventions dictating grammatical structures within the respective language. These rules, known as grammar, play a key role in ensuring accurate and clear communication. Morphology and syntax, as the two main areas of grammar, provide a detailed overview of the way words are used and structured into sentences and phrases. This paper focuses on the field of syntax, which offers a deep understanding of the way words are organized to form different communicative expressions.

According to (Chomsky, 1956) syntax is a set of rules, principles, and processes that govern the structure of a sentence in a given language, specifically the order of words. The term syntax is also used to refer to the study of such principles and processes. The goal of many syntacticians is to find the common syntactic rules of languages. The word syntax comes from the ancient Greek word *syntaxis* (σύνταξις) meaning *coordination*, which is composed of *syn* (σύν), meaning *together*, and (*taxis*) (τάξις) *taxis*, meaning *ordering* (Syntax, 2024). The Oxford Dictionary defines English syntax as the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language. The syntax of the English language, or the analysis of the syntax of the English language, according to (Wekker & Haegeman, 1985) is defined as:

- a) finding relevant component parts of the sentence, and
- b) describing these grammatical parts.

The constituent parts of the sentence are called constituents. In other words, syntax has two closely related tasks:

- a) division of sentences according to their clauses and
- b) determining some grammatical marks of each clause, stating what type of clause it is (or grammatical category), and what grammatical function it has.

This definition of syntax analysis means that we start from what is considered the largest unit of syntactic description - the sentence - and continue until we get to the smallest meaningful units, referred to as phrases and words. (Wekker & Haegeman, 1985) introduce a (traditional) sentence hierarchy into constituent parts, as shown in the following diagram. The same can be read both from the larger unit, which is the sentence, and from the small unit, which is the morpheme:

SENTENCE ↔ CLAUSE ↔ PHRASE ↔ WORD ↔ MORPHEME

1.1. Adjectives in the predicative position: Predicative use is possible when adjectives are not part of noun phrases, but are connected to noun phrases with copulative verbs. Predicative adjectives are those that indicate the subject and object in a sentence with the help of copulative verbs *be, seem, look, find, make*, etc. The position of these adjectives is after the copulative verbs. Within the text under examination for this paper, there is an abundance of predicative adjectives. But before we talk about the functions that predicative adjectives have, we should first familiarize ourselves with the term complement.

In English, a complement is a word, phrase, or clause that completes the meaning of a subject, object, or verb in a sentence. Complements provide additional information about the subject or object and are essential for the sentence to convey its intended meaning. (Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, & Svartvik, 1985, p. 417), says that adjectives are predicative when they function as a subject complement or an object complement. There is a copulative relationship between the subject and the subject complement on the one hand, and on the other hand we have a relationship between the direct object and the object complement.

In phrases with copulative verbs *be, seem, become*, the complement that follows the verb and which gives more information about the subject is called the subject complement, for example:

Ana is *smart*. (adding information about Ana),

All of them seemed *surprised*. (adding information about ‘all of them’)

On the other hand, a complement that gives more information about the object is called an object complement, for example:

He makes **me** very *angry*. (adding information about **me**)

2. Methodology

This section undertakes a syntactic analysis of adjectives, focusing on their translation from English to Albanian within Francis Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*. The paper delves into the syntactic properties of adjectives, specifically examining predicative adjectives that serve as subject complements, those that serve as object complements, and adjectives exclusively in predicative positions. These adjectives are scrutinized based on their syntactic features in English, and their equivalents in Albanian are identified. The analysis is grounded in examples extracted from *The Great Gatsby*, facilitating the translation process from English to Albanian.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Predicative adjectives that function as a subject complement: In the work of F. Scott Fitzgerald, such examples, among many others, abound. Consequently, predicative adjectives are prevalent. Syntactically, these adjectives are notably simpler than attributive adjectives. An adjective functions as a complement of the subject in instances where there is a copulative relationship between the subject and the subject complement. Subject complements can consist of one word or multiple words and typically follow copulative verbs such as: *is, are, was, become, seem, grow, taste, smell and feel*.

Below are ten examples of predicative adjectives functioning as subject complements, drawn from F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. An analysis will be conducted on these examples to derive their Albanian equivalents from the translation.

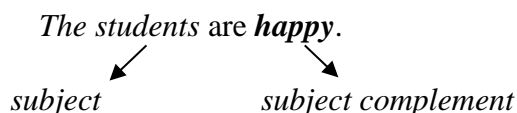
	is <i>unimportant</i>	s'ka
<i>rëndësi</i>		
(1) Eng.: "Old sport, the dance is		Alb.: Vallëzimi <i>s'ka</i>
<i>rëndësi,</i>		
<i>unimportant.</i> " (p. 84)		miku im. (p.
139)		
	are <i>blue</i>	janë <i>të</i>
		<i>kaltër</i>
(2) Eng.: The eyes of Doctor		Alb.: Sytë e doktor
T.Xh.		
T. J. Eckleburg are <i>blue</i> and		Ekëllburgut janë <i>të</i>
<i>kaltër</i> dhe		
gigantic — their irises are		me përmasa
one yard high. (p. 20)	gjigante — iridat	e tyre janë gati një
		metër të larta. (p. 34)
	seemed <i>intriguing</i>	dukej
		<i>interesante</i>
(3) Eng.: To a certain temperament		Alb.: Një tipi tjetër, me
temperament		
the situation might have seemed		të ndryshëm nga imi,
gjendja mund		
<i>intriguing</i> — (p. 15)		t'i dukej <i>interesante</i> ,
(p. 25)		
	was <i>sure</i>	Isha <i>i sigurt</i>

<p>(4) Eng.: I was <i>sure</i> that they were diçka: selling something: bonds or ose insurance or automobiles. (p. 34) seemed <i>disappointed</i></p>	<p>Alb.: Isha <i>i sigurt</i> se shishnin aksione, siguracione automobile. (p. 57)</p>
<p>(5) Eng .: Mr. Wolfsheim seemed një <i>disappointed</i>. (p.55) (p.91)</p>	<p>Alb.: Z. Ullfshajm mori pamje <i>të zhgënjyer</i>. pamje <i>të zhgënjyer</i>.</p>
<p>was <i>confused</i> (6) Eng .: — nevertheless, I was ngisja makinën <i>confused</i> and a little disgusted dhe i kapluar nga as I drove away. (p. 18) (p. 30)</p>	<p>ndihesha <i>i hutuar</i> Alb.: -megjithatë, tek ndihesha <i>i hutuar</i> një ndjesi e pakëndshme.</p>
<p>were <i>unnecessary</i> <i>domosdoshme</i> (7) Eng .: The flowers were <i>unnecessary</i>, <i>domosdoshme</i> for at two o'clock a greenhouse orën dy, nga shtëpia arrived from Gatsby's, with sërrë të tërë innumerable receptacles panumërta t'i vënë. (p. 106)</p>	<p>s'ishin <i>të</i> Alb.: Lulet s'ishin <i>të</i> sepse, në e Getsbit sollën një me lule dhe vazo të për</p>
<p>seemed <i>superfluous</i> <i>romantike</i> (8) Eng .: The request seemed <i>superfluous</i> m'u duk <i>e tepërt</i> when I wrote it. (p. 59) (p. 96)</p>	<p>m'u duk Alb.: Kjo kërkesë kur e shkrova</p>
<p><u>are</u> <i>rude</i> (9) Eng .: "Not only that, but you're <i>rude</i>. i vogël. Jo vetëm kjo, por edhe <i>pa edukatë</i>. alone." (p. 68) (p. 111)</p>	<p>silleni... <i>pa edukatë</i> Alb.: Po silleni si çun Daisy's sitting in there all E latë Dejzin vetë.</p>
<p>are <i>embarrassed</i> (10) Eng .: "You're just <i>embarrassed</i>, kjo është e that's all," and luckily dhe, për fat të mirë,</p>	<p>jeni i <i>i turbulluar</i> Alb.: -Jeni <i>i turbulluar</i>, gjitha, thashë unë</p>

The above adjectives in English appear in the predicative position and function as a complement to the subject. In the Albanian language we have the same structure, but in a different function. This cross-linguistic difference in the function of adjectives arises due to the fact that the syntax of the adjective is different in the two languages. For a clearer explanation of the function of the adjective in predicative position in both languages, schemes for a more detailed form will be given below.

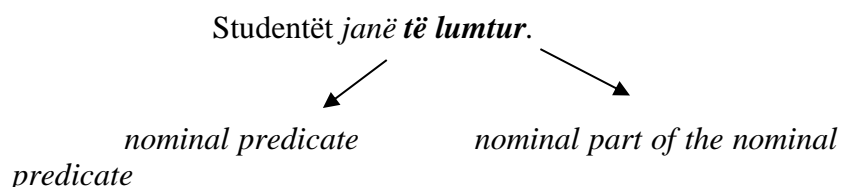
Scheme 1 *The adjective functions as a complement to the subject*

Eng ..:



Scheme 2 *The adjective in function as nominal part of the nominal predicate*

Alb.:

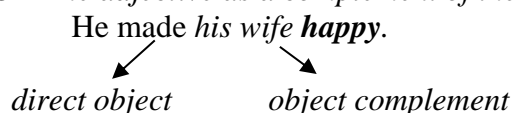


Adjectives in Albanian do not have a corresponding term like predicative adjectives in English, although they have the same structure. The position of predicative adjectives is the same in English as in Albanian. We have already pointed out that in the Albanian language there is no division of adjectives from a functional point of view. However, in the Albanian language, the adjective in the function of a nominal part (Alb.: *pjesë emërore*) of the nominal predicate (Alb.: *e kallëzuesit emëror*) shows a qualitative characteristic of the subject.

3.2. *Predicative adjectives that function as an object complement*: In the previous section, we explained and analyzed predicative adjectives that function as subject complements. Now, we will focus on adjectives that serve as object complements. Similar to their use in the postnominal position, adjectives function as object complements when there is a copulative relationship between the direct object and the object complement. An object complement can consist of one or more words, following and modifying the direct object. It describes or renames the object and can take the form of a noun, an adjective, or a phrase acting as a noun or an adjective.

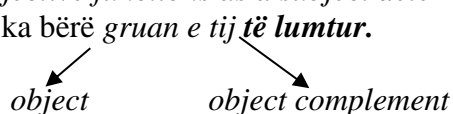
Scheme 3 *The adjective as a complement of the object*

Eng .:



Scheme 4 *The adjective functions as a subject determiner*

Alb.:

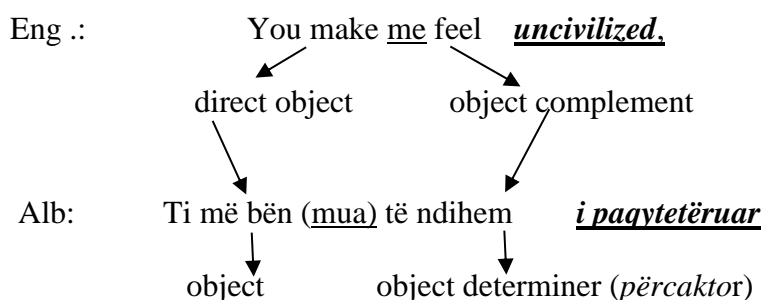


The following are five examples in which adjectives function as object complements, sourced from the novel *The Great Gatsby*. We will analyze these instances to understand their function in English and then identify their equivalents in the Albanian language.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | me feel <i>uncivilized</i> | ndihem <i>i</i> |
| paqytetëruar | | |
| (11) Eng .: “You make me feel <i>uncivilized</i> , | | Alb.: Ti më bën të |
| ndihem <i>i</i> | Daisy,” (p. 13) | paqytetëruar , Dejzi. |
| (p. 21) | | |
| | made me <i>light-headed</i> and <i>happy</i> | më kishte bërë <i>të</i> |
| shkujdesur dhe të lumtur | | |
| (12) Eng .: The evening had made me | | Alb.: Mbrëmja më |
| kishte bërë të | | light- |
| headed and happy; I think | | shkujdesur dhe të lumtur |
| dhe më | | |
| I walked into a deep sleep as I | | duket se me të |
| kaptuar derën kryesore | | të shtëpisë, gati më |
| entered my front door. (p. 64) | | në këmbë. (p. |
| zuri gjumi | | 105) |
| | made them less remotely <i>rich</i> | m’u dukën si më |
| pak të pasur | | |
| (13) Eng .: Their interest rather touched | | Alb.: Interesimi i tyre |
| gjithsesi më | | preku dhe sepse |
| and made them less remotely rich — | | të pasur – |
| m’u dukën si më pak | | |
| nevertheless, I was confused and a little | | mekinën, ndihesha |
| megjithatë, teksa ngisja | | kapluar nga një |
| disgusted as I drove away. (p. 18) | | ndjesi e pakëndshme. (p. 30) |
| i hutuar dhe i | | |
| | made you a little <i>angry</i> | duket se ju <i>mërzita</i> |
| (14) Eng .: “Look here, old sport,” said | | Alb.: -Dëgjoni, miku im, - |
| tha Getsbi | | duke u përkulur drejt |
| Gatsby, leaning toward me, “I’m | | se ju mërzita pak sot |
| meje. – Më duket | | në makinë. (p. 92) |
| afraid I made you a little angry this | | |
| në mëngjes | | |
| morning in the car.” (p. 56) | | |
| | made me <i>uneasy</i> | ma humbi <i>qetësinë</i> |
| (15) Eng .: It made me uneasy, as though | | Alb.: Kjo ma humbi qetësinë |
| dhe pata | | |

mbrëmja kishte	the whole evening had been a trick	përshtypjen se e gjithë
për të shtrydhur	of some sort to exact a contributory	qenë një lloj marifeti
simpatie. (p. 27)	emotion from me. (p. 16)	nga unë një ndjenjë

We will illustrate the first example below, and the same will apply to the other examples in this feature. In the Albanian language, the same structure appears where *mua* is the object and the adjective *i paqytetëruar* is the complement of the object. The relationship between the object and the complement can be seen in both languages, only in the English language we have terms that are predicative adjectives, but in the Albanian language we have that function, but in a different syntactic analysis. See the example below:



3.3. *Adjectives only in predicative position:* Apart from the adjectives that we meet only in the attributive form, we also have some adjectives that we can meet only in the predicative position. These types of adjectives are listed below:

1. Some words with a prefix *a*: *asleep, awake, alive, afraid, ashamed, alone, alike*
2. Some words that express feelings: *pleased, glad, content, upset*
3. Some words used for health: *well, fine, ill, unwell,*

and others that make up this group. According to (Eastwood, 1994, p. 254), the adjectives below have a more detailed explanation:

- a) Many of these adjectives can be attributive if modified by an adverb:
the wide awake children an extremely pleased customer
- b) Sometimes we have a word that we can use as an attribute instead of those with a prefix *a*:
a sleeping child NOT an asleep child
a living person NOT an alive person
the frightened animal NOT the afraid animal

We also have some other words that express feelings that we can use in an attributive position:

- a) *a satisfied/contented customer NOT a pleased customer*
- c) *Pleased, glad* and *upset* can only be in an attribute if they don't refer directly to people:
a pleased expression the glad news an upset stomach

The following examples are taken from the book and will be explained in more detail below.

I was *asleep*
 (16) Eng .: "I was *asleep*," cried
 Klipspringer

Po *flija-verb*
 Alb.: -Po *flija*, - bërtiti z.

<p>120) Mr. Klipspringer, in a, spasm of embarrassment.(p. 73)</p>	<p>shumë i turbulluar. (p.</p>
<p>you were <i>alive</i> (17) Eng .: “She didn’t know you were <i>alive</i>. (p. 102)</p>	<p>ti ishe <i>gjallë-noun</i> Alb.: – Ajo nuk e dinte që ti ishe <i>gjallë</i>. (p. 167)</p>
<p><i>s’besoj</i> (18) Eng .: Sorry. I’m <i>afraid</i> no one’s there. (p. 126) 207)</p>	<p>por <i>s’besoj-verb</i> Alb.: Më vjen keq, por të ketë njeri atje. (p.</p>
<p>(19) Eng .: I was <i>alone</i> and it orën, was almost two. (p. 41) 68)</p>	<p>Mbeta <i>vetëm-adverb</i> Alb.: Mbeta <i>vetëm</i> dhe pashë po shkonte 2 e natës. (p.</p>
<p>(20) Eng .: I was <i>glad</i> that the sight of pamja Gatsby’s splendid car was, të included in their sombre ceremoninë holiday. (p. 54)</p>	<p>unë <i>u gëzova-verb</i> Alb.: dhe unë <i>u gëzova</i> që e makinës së shkëlqyer Getsbit u përfshi në e tyre të zymtë. (p. 89)</p>
<p>(21) Eng .: They were out in the open at betejë të hapur last and Gatsby was <i>content</i>. (p. 99) (p. 163)</p>	<p><i>ishte i kënaqur-adjective</i> Alb.: Më në fund ishin në dhe Getsbi <i>ishte i kënaqur</i>.</p>
<p>(22) Eng .: “My house <i>looks well</i>, doesn’t it?” (p. 69)</p>	<p><i>ka pamje të bukur-adjective</i> Alb.: Shtëpia ime <i>ka pamje të bukur</i>, apo jo? (p. 114)</p>
<p>(23) Eng .: Well, it’s a <i>fine</i> book, and gjithë everybody ought to read it. (p. 13)</p>	<p>libër <i>i bukur-adjective</i> Alb.: Është libër <i>i bukur</i>, të duhet ta lexojnë. (p. 21)</p>

Adjectives that in the English language are found only in the predicative position have equivalents in the Albanian language that belong to various word groups, such as nouns (17) Alb.: *gjallë*, adjectives (22,23) Alb.: *të bukur, i bukur*, verbs, (16, 20) Alb.: *flija, u gëzova*, and adverbs (19) Alb.: *vetëm*.

4. Conclusion

In English, adjectives occupy the predicative position when they serve as both subject complements and object complements. However, Albanian adjectives, although sharing a similar structure, diverge in function. The adjective positioned predicatively, which acts as a complement to the subject, finds its equivalent in Albanian within the nominal part of the nominal predicate. For instance, in the given example (2)Alb: *të kaltër* serves as the nominal part, where the adjective *të kaltër* functions as a component of the nominal predicate.

Nonetheless, in Albanian, adjectives that act as complements to the subject share the same structure. However, their function within the Albanian language differs. For instance, in the phrase "mua i paqytetëruar", "mua" serves as the subject while the adjective "i paqytetëruar" acts as a determiner of the subject. While the relationship between the subject and the complement is evident in both languages, the syntactic analysis differs across languages due to the differing functions assigned to adjectives. To conclude, while translating predicative adjectives from English to Albanian generally presents few challenges, those unique to English demand a transformation into different word classes in Albanian. This adaptation is essential for preserving the intended meaning of the original text, a crucial task for translators, particularly when dealing with literary works such as *The Great Gatsby*.

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