

Diatopically marked phraseological units with colour terms in Albanian

This article examines phraseological units (Palm 1995, Burger 2015) marked diatopically (Földes 1996, Burger 2000) in Albanian, presenting the theoretical and analytical approach – from a socio-cognitive (Kristiansen, Dirven 2008) and pluricentric perspective – used in my doctoral thesis entitled “Farbphraseologismen Albanisch-Deutsch kontrastiv¹”. The diatopic differentiation has only recently become an object of study in phraseology (Albaladejo-Martínez 2018). In addition, these “research deficits“ or gaps (Albaladejo-Martínez 2018:207) are even more evident in the Albanian language (Muco 2020).

Through the administration of a questionnaire in Albania (Shkodra, Tirana, Vlora) and Kosovo (Gjakova, Pristina) „territorial duplicates²“ emerged, that is „synonymous lexemes that differ from one another only in their regional (territorial) distribution³“ (Palm 1995:29): for example, in Kos. *duar dukat* = in Alb. *duar flori/të arta* (literally transl. ‘golden hands’); in Kos. *e ka zemrën dukat* = in Alb. *e ka zemrën flori* (literally transl. ‘she/he has a golden heart’). So, according to Burger (2015:208), these diatopic variants are “semantically fully equivalent⁴”.

The different chromonyms for “golden” (Katelhön, Muco 2022) found as constituents of the before mentioned fixed multi-word expressions contribute to the formation of phraseological synonyms used in two different centres of the Albanian language (Muco 2018, 2020). In fact,

context is a dynamic construct that appears in different formats in language use both as a repository and/or trigger of knowledge. Consequently, it has both a selective and a constitutive role (Kecskes 2015:116).

Depending on the context, namely on the linguistic centre – although this study is a synchronic analysis – the colour terms in question are loanwords from Latin and Italian and the interviews provided evidence for diachronic processes of linguistic contact and change (cf. Barbour, Stevenson 1998: 81):

Language change is not just a peripheral phenomenon that can be tracked on to a synchronic theory; synchrony and diachrony have to be viewed as an integrated whole. Change is both a window into cognitive representations and a creator of linguistic pattern. Moreover, if we view

¹ *Phraseological units with colour naming: A contrastive analysis of Albanian and German*, Università degli Studi di Milano (Milan, Italy), supervisor Prof. Dr. Peggy Katelhön.

² In the original language: “territoriale Dubletten”.

³ In the original language: “synonyme Lexeme, die sich nur in ihrer regionalen (territorialen) Verbreitung voneinander unterscheiden”.

⁴ In the original language: “semantisch völlig äquivalent”.

language in the manner described in this book, as both variable and having gradient categories, then change becomes an integral part of the complete picture (Bybee 2010:105).

To conclude, focusing on usage-based variation, the present contribution aims to 1) illustrate empirical data collection and findings ('mixed methods research', cf. Paltridge, Phakiti 2015) related to colour-phraseological units in Albanian, 2) conduct a cognitively oriented analysis of diatopic marked colour-phraseologisms, and 3) explain chromatic figurative meaning and phraseological conceptualization.

Keywords: Albanian, colour phraseologisms, cognitive sociolinguistics, variation

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