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A cross-linguistic study of the discourse functions of antonymy in Albanian and English

Antonimija albanų ir anglų kalbose:
gretinamasis diskurso funkcijų tyrimas

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Abstract

Antonymy is considered a binary lexical-semantic opposition of words, a lexical-semantic relation among other relations such as synonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy. Several authors have categorized the binary opposition of antonyms when considering the typology of antonyms. Issues such as the use of antonyms in discourse, how different languages use antonyms, patterns of distribution, etc., are dealt with in this paper. This study aims to provide a comparative perspective of the Albanian and English patterns of co-occurrence of antonymous pairs in sentences. The co-occurrence of antonyms in sentences and the roles of antonymous pairs have been the object of cross-linguistic study in different languages, including French, Swedish, Chinese, Serbian, Rumanian, etc. In terms of novelty, this article adds Albanian to the list of cross-linguistic studies, providing a broader database for further comparative studies and opening the way to other comparative studies between similar and different languages other than English. In the given paper, there are examples of antonym pairs co-occurring in the same syntactic frame using an empirical, quantitative method. The Albanian National Corpus is used as a “clinical setting” for the investigation. There is also a detailed analysis of the distribution of such pairs in the English and Albanian corpora, with examples illustrating similarities and differences. Both languages show a predominance of ancillary and coordinated antonymy. Also, coordinated antonyms are more significant in number in both languages and are followed by the second major group of ancillary antonyms. Regarding differences, far more examples were classified as residual in Albanian compared to the English language.

KEYWORDS: antonymy, co-occurrence, pairs, corpus-based research, discourse functions.

Introduction

Antonymy is considered a binary lexical-semantic opposition of words, a lexical-semantic relation among other relations such as synonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy. According to Cruse, antonymy in English is believed to be “the most readily apprehended relation” (Cruse, 1986, p. 197). In addition, Jones has made a similar statement, adding that “the scope of antonymy is much greater than that of its fellow relations which it is usually grouped with, such as synonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy” (Jones, 2002). Paradis states that “antonymy is a binary construal of comparison in which the contentful dimension is divided by a bounded configuration” (Paradis et al., 2011). In the medical context, i.e., a study on the use of opposites and its impact on doctor-patient communication, antonyms are referred to as “common to all-natural languages and are intuitively and naturally understood and learned” (Burro et al., 2018).

Several authors have categorized the binary opposition of antonyms when considering the typology of antonyms. The most significant group of antonyms is that of gradable antonyms or contraries. Regarding adjectives, they compose the most crucial class of antonyms; certain adjectives are known as canonical antonyms. Antonym canonicity is the degree to which antonymic word meanings are entrenched in memory and conventionalized as pairs in language (Paradis et al., 2015). Firmly canonical antonymic pairs are included in the list of 56 pairs of adjectives that Jones (2002) identified, which is an essential tool in this study.

What about the use of antonyms in discourse? Do all languages use antonyms the same way? Are there any distribution patterns, and how do they apply to different languages? Discourse functions of antonymy were investigated based on corpora first by Jones in 2002 and then later expanded by Jones and Murphy in 2005. This study aims to provide a comparative perspective of the Albanian and English patterns of distribution and co-occurrence of antonymous pairs in sentences. The co-occurrence of antonyms in penalties and the roles of antonym pairs in various syntactic frames has been the object of cross-linguistic study in different languages such as French, Swedish, Chinese, Serbian, Rumanian, etc. This article aims to add to the list of cross-linguistic studies on the co-occurrence of “opposites” to provide a richer database for further comparative studies, opening the way to cross-studies between similar and different languages other than English. This way, using corpora that generate considerable statistics on the co-occurrence of “opposites”, we might better understand if all languages use antonyms the same way and share the same distribution patterns.

Theoretical Background and Literature Review

First, antonyms were mainly investigated paradigmatically, with Kagan (1984) providing insight into acquiring antonymous pairs. In addition, Cruse (1986) and Lyons (1977) also considered antonymy as a paradigmatic relation and mainly focused on providing a theoretical approach to antonyms. They were primarily concerned with opposites, contraries, and antonyms. Cruse (1986) and Lyons (1977) provided different perspectives in categorizing antonyms, yet they decontextualized antonym pairs in their research. Thus, syntax did not play a role in studying antonyms then.

Later, a paradigmatic approach was considered by Justeson and Katz (1991) and Fellbaum (1995). They provided a vague structural analysis of antonyms in sentences. However, it was Mettinger (1994), Jones (2002), and Davies (2013) who provided three different typologies of discourse functions, employing a context-bound perspective to determine the typology of antonym co-occurrence patterns. Jones (2002) standardized the essential functions of antonyms in discourse by focusing on the co-occurrence of antonym pairs in different “*lexico-syntactic frames*” or sentences. Being the best-organized analysis of the textual functions of English antonyms, the list provided by Jones (2002) resulted from a total of 56 antonym pairs observed in terms of their co-occurrence in sentences (syntactically). The antonym pairs were extracted from a 280-million-word corpus and 3000 sentences. This is the one that is used as a standard of comparison in cross-linguistic studies of antonym co-occurrence.

Cross-linguistically, antonyms were studied by various authors including Swedish (Willners, 2001; Murphy et al., 2009), Japanese (Muehleisen & Isono, 2009), Dutch (Lobanova et al., 2012), Serbian (Kostić, 2011), Romanian (Gheltofan, 2013), Arabic (Alhedayani 2016), and Chinese (Hsu, 2017) and French texts (Steffens, 2018). All the above studies are considered to be experimental rather than theoretical. The first and most highly cited cross-linguistic research in this area is that of Murphy et al. “Discourse functions of antonymy: A cross-linguistic

investigation of Swedish and English” (2009). In their cross-cultural study of antonym co-occurrence, they made the following hypothesis: “other languages differ from English in how antonyms are used in discourse due to the cultural differences” (Murphy et al., 2009). The syntagmatic association of antonyms in texts is also apparent considering the results of the previous studies on antonym co-occurrence, with Jones (2012) stating that “antonyms not only co-occur significantly more often in the same sentence than chance predicts but also significantly more often than other semantically related word pairs such as synonyms or hyponyms”. As mentioned in the study of French language by Steffens and Marie, “the objective of Jones’ research (2002) is to describe the functions of co-occurrent antonyms and to quantify their distribution in the corpus” (Steffens, 2018). This is also the main objective of our study, providing a comparative overview of the functions in the English and Albanian corpus and illustrating the distribution in terms of percentages, following the Swedish and English cross-linguistic study model.

Research Methodology

This written corpus-based research study aims to identify examples of antonym pairs co-occurring in the same syntactic frame using an empirical, quantitative methodology. The investigation of the distribution of antonyms in the Albanian language, in a syntagmatic order, aims to identify their function in the Albanian National Corpus (ANC) with more than 30 million words from 1970 to the present. It is considered to be an adult-produced language.

This study was based on the following corpora: the contemporary literary language (main corpora) and the corpora of old Albanian texts. The process of extracting was a two-step process: first, a list of antonymic pairs was determined based on the 56 items identified by Jones (2002); second, the corpora were selected. Consequently, a detailed analysis and comparison were made regarding the distribution of such pairs in the English and Albanian corpora and the examples illustrating similarities and differences. Data extraction was slightly different since English does not have a rich inflectional system of language, while the Albanian language, synthetic-analytic, has a more complicated system of inflections. Albanian is a synthetic-analytic language, whereas English is an analytic-synthetic language. The structure of each language has its determinations, even in the word-formation process (Alimemaj, 2015). Thus, when extracted as pairs of antonyms in Albanian, certain adjectives retained their suffixes, reflecting number, gender, etc.

Results and Discussion

The analysis was made based on the first eight textual functions of antonyms identified by Jones (2002): ancillary (*love/hate; short/long*); coordinated (*large/small; succeed/fail*); comparative (*dead/alive*); distinguished (*right/wrong; love/hate; female/male*); transitional (*sophisticated/unsophisticated*); negated (*well / not badly*); extreme (*either very cold or very hot; too soft or too hard*); and idiomatic (*teach an old dog new tricks*). Later, in 2005, Jones and Murphy added a ninth category – interrogative (*Is this the new Bill or the old Bill?*).

The primary category in English is ancillary antonymy, occupying 38.7%, and coordinated antonymy, with 38.4%. Jones noted that only six out of eight functions resulted in fixed lexico-syntactic patterns. The first one, ancillary antonymy, is identified in such patterns like *both X and Y, X or Y, X as well as Y*. Coordinated antonymy “signals inclusiveness or exhaustiveness of scale” (Jones, 2002), while ancillary antonymy is often based on constructional parallels with or without explicit connectors (cf. Steffens, 2018).

It is also important to note that the pairs of antonyms used in the study pertain to different parts of speech (e.g., nouns like *strength/weakness*, verbs like *attack/defend*, adjectives like *bad/good*, adverbs like *quickly/slowly*). Some are morphologically related (e.g., *officially/unofficially*), while others are not (e.g., *alive/dead*).

Albanian language equivalents of the 56 pairs of antonyms identified by Jones in 2002 are listed in Table 1.

In total, 2658 Albanian antonym pairs were identified in co-occurrence, and then later, they were analyzed according to the discourse function employed within the syntactic frame.

Table 1 English and Albanian search words

	English pairs of antonyms		Albanian pairs of antonyms		Word class
	Item 1	Item 2	Item 1	Item 2	
1	Active	passive	aktiv	pasiv	ADJ
2	Agree	disagree	pranoj	kundërshtoj	V
3	alive	dead	i gjallë	i vdekur	ADJ
4	attack	defend	sulmoj	mbroj	V
5	bad	good	i keq	i mirë	ADJ
6	badly	well	keq	mirë	ADV
7	begin	end	filloj	mbaroj	V
8	boom	recession	zhvillim	rënie	N
9	cold	hot	ftohtë	ngrohtë	ADJ
10	confirm	deny	konfirmoj	refuzoj	V
11	correct	incorrect	korrekt	jokorrekt	ADJ
12	difficult	easy	i vështirë	i thjeshtë	ADJ
13	directly	indirectly	direkt	indirekt	ADV
14	discourage	encourage	dekurajoj	inkurajoj	V
15	dishonest	honest	i pandershëm	i ndershëm	ADJ
16	disprove	prove	përgënjeshtroj	vërtetoj	V
17	drunk	sober	i pirë	esëll	ADJ
18	explicitly	implicitly	shprehimisht	e nenkuptuar	ADJ
19	fact	fiction	fakt	trillim	N
20	fail	succeed	dështoj	ia dal mbanë	V
21	failure	success	dështim	sukses	N
22	false	true	i rremë	i vërtetë	ADJ
23	fast	slow	i shpejtë	i ngadalhtë	ADJ
24	female	male	femëror	mashkullor	ADJ
25	feminine	masculine	femëror	mashkullor	ADJ
26	gay	straight	homoseksual	heteroseksual	ADJ
27	guilt	innocence	faj	pafajsi	N
28	happy	sad	i lumtur	i trishtuar	ADJ
29	hard	soft	i fortë	i butë	ADJ
30	hate	love	urrej	dashuroj	V
31	heavy	light	i rëndë	i lehtë	ADJ
32	high	low	i lartë	i ulët	ADJ
33	illegal	legal	i paligjshëm	i ligjshëm	ADJ
34	large	small	i bëshëm	shtatimët	ADJ
35	big	small	i madh	vogël,	ADJ
36	long	short	gjatë	i shkurtër	ADJ
37	lose	win	humbas	fitoj	V

	English pairs of antonyms		Albanian pairs of antonyms		Word class
	Item 1	Item 2	Item 1	Item 2	
38	major	minor	madhor	mitur	ADJ
39	married	unmarried	martuar	i pamartuar	ADJ
40	new	old	i ri	i vjetëruar,	ADJ
41	young	old,mature	i ri	vjetër,	ADJ
42	officially	unofficially	zyrtarisht	jo zyrtarisht	ADV
43	old	young	i moshuar	i ri	ADJ
44	optimism	pessimism	optimizëm	pesimizëm	N
45	optimistic	pessimistic	optimist	pesimist	ADJ
46	peace	war	paqe	luftë	N
47	permanent	temporary	e qendrueshme	e përkohëshme	ADJ
48	poor	rich	i varfër	i pasur	ADJ
49	private	public	privat	publik	ADJ
50	privately	publicly	privatisht	publikisht	ADV
51	punishment	reward	ndëshkim	shpërblim	N
52	quickly	slowly	me shpejtësi	me ngadalë	ADV
53	right	wrong	saktë	gabuar	ADJ
54	rightly	wrongly	saktësisht	gabimisht	ADV
55	rural	urban	rurale	urbane	ADJ
56	strength	weakness	forcë	dobësi	N

Table 2 Frequency and proportional distribution of the discourse functions, both major and minor classes¹, in the Albanian corpora

Category of Discourse Function	Number of Sentences Containing Antonym Pairs	Percentage in Albanian	Percentage in English (Murphy et al., 2008)
Coordinated	1071	40.3	38.4
Ancillary	836	31.4	38.7
Extreme	167	6.3	1.3
Comparative	164	6.2	6.8
Transitional	141	5.3	3
Negated	135	5.1	2.1
Idiomatic	85	3.2	0.8
Distinguished	59	2.2	5.4
Total	2658	100	100

¹ Minor categories: limited to the six first ones identified by Jones in 2002, not including interrogative and simultaneous ones.

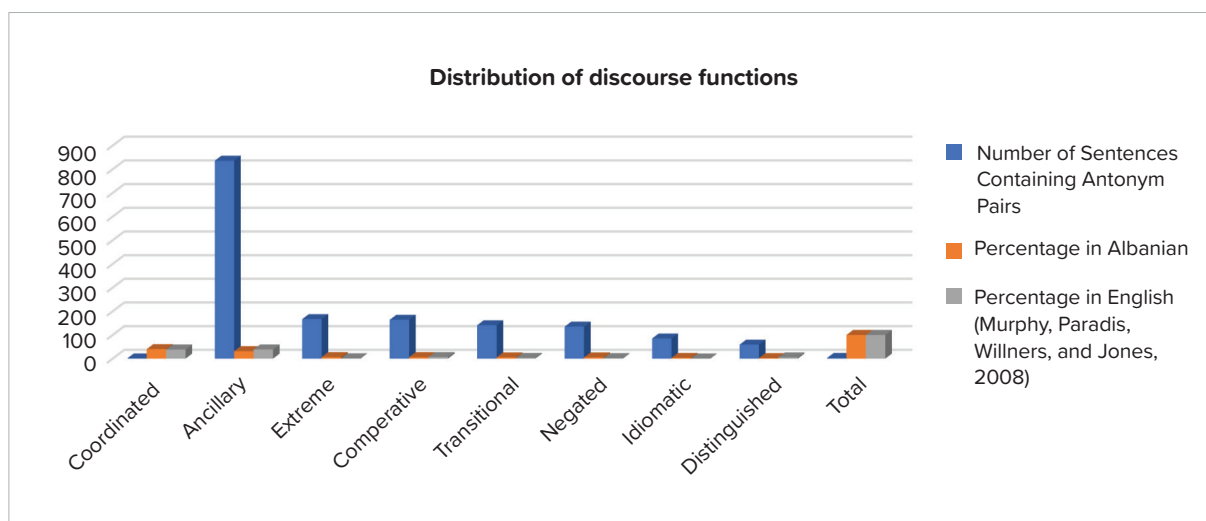


Fig. 1 Comparative results of the distribution of discourse functions in Albanian and English

Jones (2002) estimated that as many as one in fifty (1:50) sentences includes a pair of antonyms. In the Albanian corpus we selected, there are 1 528 300 sentences in total, with 2658 examples of sentences containing antonym pairs, with a ratio of 1:500. This shows that the general frequency in English is relatively higher compared with Albanian. English might have a relatively high frequency of antonyms for a few reasons. First, the vocabulary richness of English is due to its history of borrowing words from various languages. This diverse vocabulary also includes antonyms.

Furthermore, English has an analytic language structure, isolating grammatical structure, which means it often relies on word order and individual words to express meaning. This way, antonyms and contrasting words help to clarify distinctions in a sense. In addition, cultural factors are to be considered as the English language and its literature have a long history of emphasizing contrast, conflict, and dichotomy in various forms. This cultural influence may contribute to the prevalence of antonyms in English texts and discourse.

The results for English and Albanian are significantly similar regarding the frequency of co-occurrence according to different discourse functions and lexico-syntactic frames for major categories. This means that both ancillary and coordinated ones account for about 70% in both languages (for the English language cf. Murphy et al., 2008). Consequently, it is noted that the two primary functions of antonyms in context are “signaling another contrast” (*ancillary*) and “neutralizing the contrast inherent in word meanings” (*coordinated*). However, there is an opposite ranking as ancillary comes second to coordinated in Albanian, while in English, it precedes coordinated discourse function.

Regarding minor categories, it is interesting to note some similarities and differences. The opposites that display the comparative discourse function are similar in distribution frequency in both languages. However, the rest of the minor classes are different in terms of percentage of distribution in the written corpora. The extreme one accounts for Albanian first most frequent minor class, while it is a lot lower in English (1.3%). Similarly, the transitional, negated, and idiomatic ones are far higher in Albanian compared with English. This differs for distinguished ones, which display a reversed ratio, higher in English than Albanian.

Major vs. Minor Categories

Jones distinguished eight textual functions of canonical antonyms, of which six were indicated by lexico-syntactic patterns. Coordinated antonymy is the most considerable textual function with reliable patterns, making up 38.4% of all 3000 examples. This function was found with patterns like both X and Y, X or Y, X as well as Y, and as a group is said to “indicate inclusiveness or exhaustiveness of scale” (Jones, 2002). On the other hand,

ancillary antonyms signal the differences between two people, two concepts, two things, etc., and are used to dichotomize. The most frequent is *ancillary*, with 38.7%, followed by coordinated (second most frequent) with 38.4%. No fixed lexico-semantic patterns were determined for these two categories.

Major categories

According to Jones (2002), there are two major categories of antonyms: *ancillary* and *coordinated*, as shown in Examples 1 and 2 below for English and Examples 3 and 4, respectively, for Albanian:

- Ex 1** *I love to cook, but I hate doing the dishes - so I'd have a dishwasher or a family of gypsies to do the washing up.* (Jones, 2002)
- Ex 2** *The government will encourage everyone, rich and poor, to rely for their retirement mainly on money ...* (Jones, 2002)
- Ex 3** *Nuk ka nevojë të shkruhet mirë, as të vizatohet keq.* [Njeriu, po kush tjetër, Rexhep Ferri 1999–2001]
(It's not essential to write **well** or draw **badly**.)²
- Ex 4** *Mashkulli nuk duhet në asnjë mënyrë t'i bëjë direkt ose edhe indirekt vërejtje femrës.* [Polonia, unë dhe bjondet, Vladimir Marku, 2006]
(A man should, in no case, either **directly** or **indirectly**, call down a woman.)

Ancillary antonyms

Ancillary antonymy reflects the human tendency to categorize in dichotomies, to think in binary opposites as *good/bad*. (Jones et al., 2012) According to medical research (Burro et al., 2018), ancillary antonymy is the most common one used among young children, and it is possible that the human tendency to dichotomize, which Lyons (1977) speaks of, is being mobilized from the moment language acquisition begins (Jones & Murphy, 2005). Ancillary antonymy is frequently used to draw attention to differences between two people, two concepts, two things, etc. It is manifested in sentences such as: *Broadly speaking, the community charge was popular with Conservative voters and unpopular with Labour voters; Communism may be dead, but fascism is most assuredly alive* (Jones and Murphy, 2005).

Jones (2002) identified the A-pair (*popular/unpopular; dead/alive*) and the B-pair (*Conservative voters/Labour voters; Communism/Fascism*), and he considers that the A-pair is the main opposition with the function of generating opposition and contrast in the parallel B-pair, 'depending on the degree of opposition already present' (Steffens & Marie, 2018). It is important to note that the members of the B-pair are not antonyms out of context, and this is why we need to seek a semantic link between the units that depend on the antonyms, in this case, "voters of the Conservative and Labour party." The link is evident in this case; the reference can be easily made between the pairs.

However, the link, such as "need/greed" in Example 5, can be less noticeable. In such a case, it is the person who reconstructs a referential link between the two.

- Ex 5** *It is meeting public need, not private greed.*

In this case, it is essential to find a semantic link between the two lexical units that do not necessarily belong to the same referential fields to build a typical frame of reference (Steffens & Marie, 2018).

- Ex 6** *Ndërsa ministri Tahiri kur shihte kundërshtitë prej axhaminjesh, tunte kokën si bablok e qeshte hidhur si të gjithë ata që forcën e kanë tek e vërteta dhe dobësinë te mburrja.* [Panorama, 06/12/2016]
(... the **strength** lies in the **truth**, while the **weakness** is in the **arrogance**.)

² Albanian examples have been translated into English, so only relevant pairs of antonyms are included, not whole sentences.

In Example 8, the A-pair is “*strength/weakness*,” creating a semantic link of opposition for the B-pair, “*truth/arrogance*,” which would not be considered a pair of antonyms out of this context. Below are some more examples of sentences in the corpora of the Albanian language, which account for the A-pair and B-pair principles identified by Jones.

- Ex 7** *Arend besonte në forcën e individualiteteve dhe në dobësinë e masave.*
[Panorama, 01/12/2016]
(... *the strength of individuals and the weakness of the masses.*)
- Ex 8** *E gjithë kjo situatë degraduese, e cila është duke prodhuar në vazhdimësi politikanë të pasur dhe qytetarë të varfër, krijon ambient perfekt për shtrimin e ndikimit të cilitdo grup interesi që për të arritur një synim, cak ka qytetarin e dëshpëruar e pa perspektivë.* [Zëri, 23/06/2013]
(...*rich politicians and poor people*...)
- Ex 9** *Pyetja është e lehtë, por përgjigja vazhdon të mbetet shumë e rëndë.*
[Koha.mk, 07/03/2011]
(*The question is easy, but the answer is still difficult.*)
- Ex 10** *Kudo, një shtet i vogël e një individ ...i madh.* [Gazeta Shqiptare, 28/12/2006]
(... *a little state and a big ... individual*)

Based on the examples above, the Albanian language is quite similar to the English language in the patterns of use for ancillary antonyms.

Coordinated antonyms

Coordinated antonymy together with ancillary antonymy makes for two-thirds of antonym occurrences. Coordinated antonymy indicates the exclusiveness of a scale. It is expressed through antonyms on both sides, entailing that what is true for one side is also true for the other (Jones et al., 2005). There are certain patterns like *both X and Y*, *X or Y*, *X as well as Y* (Jones, 2002) applicable to this category of antonyms. In comparing ancillary and coordinated antonyms, it is important to note that ancillary antonyms create dichotomies, while coordinated ones do not.

Let's go back to Example 2 and look at the pattern of distribution:

- Ex 11** *The government will encourage everyone, rich and poor, to rely on their retirement ...* (Jones, 2002)

In this example of coordinated antonymy, the conjunction “and” is used; thus, there is a neutral contrast between the items of a pair, and consequently, the pair “*rich/poor*” includes everyone in the scale of wealth. Therefore, such antonyms are coordinated by specific syntactic structures: (either) X or Y; X and Y; neither X nor Y (Jones et al., 2012).

- Ex 12** *Të pasur e të varfër, me një shqipe të bukur, cdonjëri prej tyre tregonte jetën, sfidat dhe përditshmërinë në tokën kroate.* [Zëri, 30/06/2013]
(*The rich and the poor, using a lovely Albanian accent, ...*)
- Ex 13** *Kjo duhej të bëhej për arsye se brezi i sotëm, i vjetër e i ri, nuk e ka zotëruar toskënishten, dhe sidomos në letërsi “nuk do të mundet kurrë t'i shfaqë mendimet, ndjenjat e gjithë jetën e tij të mbrendëshme çiltrërisht, bukur e me art në toskënishten; prodhimi i tij do të jetë një gja e trazueme, laramane, pa shije e pa art.* [“Në gjuhë” dhe “Për gjuhë”, Rexhep Ismajli, 1990–1998]
(*It was necessary as the new generation, the old and the young, ...*)

In coordinated antonymy, the inherent semantic opposition between the two antonyms is not emphasized, and their coordination signals inclusiveness (and) or exhaustiveness (or) (Jones & Murphy, 2005).

- Ex 14 *I want to play with my **big and little cars**.*
- Ex 15 *Whitehall was yesterday unable to **confirm or deny** other devolutions.*
- Ex 16 *And you can either **take it out or put it in**.*

In English, coordinated antonyms can be joined by punctuation alone, such as the comma in Example 16 or the word “also” in Example 17, facilitating a coordinated antonymy interpretation (Jones, 2002).

- Ex 17 *It doesn't matter at all if one installs, **short, old, young**, or if one doesn't wear the latest fashions.*
- Ex 18 *I hate to meet **new people**, also **old** when I feel this useless.*

It is of note that in Albanian, there are cases of several antonymous pairs separated by commas, such as:

- Ex 19 *Betejat ishin të **armatosura e të paarmatosura**, në **paqe e në luftë**, **legale e ilegale**, në **liri e në burg** – çdo kohë e çdo situatë, çdo vend e çdo etapë, i kishte vep-
rimtarët e vet: ju kishte juve. [Zëri, 26/06/2013]*
- Ex 20 *(The battles were **armed and unarmed**, in **peace and war**, **legal and illegal**, in **freedom and prison** -at any time and under any circumstances ...)*
- Ex 21 *E thënë më pak fjalë, sot shteti Republikës së Maqedonisë përfaqëson një shtet ku çudira e paradoksi, **urrejtja e dashuria**, **paqja e lufta dhe e drejta e padrejtësia** bashkëjetojnë në një mënyrë të çuditshme duke u bërë shkas për vënien në rrezik të të ardhmes së popujve që përbëjnë Republikën e Maqedonisë [Koha.mk, 02/10/2012] (... **hate and love**, **peace and war**, **and the right and the unfair**, ...)*

The patterns of distribution illustrated above by Jones also apply to Albanian language examples extracted from the corpora subject to this study. They are also associated with the same lexico-syntactic frames such as: ‘X and Y,’ ‘both X and Y,’ ‘X or Y,’ ‘either X or Y,’ ‘neither X nor Y,’ etc.

- Ex 22 *Ligji, **qoftë i butë apo i fortë**, ka ekzistuar edhe në zgjedhjet e kaluara, por, përg-
jithësisht, përpjekjet kanë qenë minimale në zbatimin e tij në këtë plan, aq më pak të
parandalonte apo ndëshkonte fenomenet e ndërmarra për shtrembërimin e vullnetit
të votuesit. [Panorama, 19/01/2017]
(The law, **either weak or strong**, has existed in past elections as well, ...)*
- Ex 23 *Përderisa jam në këtë funksion asnjëherë **nuk kam qenë pesimist, dhe as optimist**,
çdo herë kam qenë realist. [Koha.mk, 01/11/2013]
(... I've never been **either pessimistic or optimistic**, ...)*
- Ex 24 *As **nuk e konfirmoj, e as nuk e mohoj**. [Zëri, 24/07/2013]
(He **neither confirmed nor denied** it.)*
- Ex 25 *Në mos **publikisht, privatisht** me lojtarët e prekur nga kjo gjë.
[Panorama, 31/03/2017]
(**If not publicly, privately** with the players affected by all this.)*

Minor categories

Some of the minor categories identified by Jones are comparative, distinguished, transitional, negated, extreme, and idiomatic, which were later expanded with two more: interrogative and simultaneous. Most of these functions fit into a specific syntactic frame. First, Jones (2002) identified a lexico-syntactic pattern only for some of these functions of antonyms in discourse: *more X than Y, from X to Y, the difference between X and Y, etc.*

- *comparative antonymy* (more X than Y, less X than Y);
- *distinguished antonymy* (the difference between X and Y);
- *transitional antonymy* (from X to Y);
- *negated antonymy* (X, not Y);
- *extreme antonymy* (the very X and the very Y);
- *idiomatic antonymy* (Easy come, easy go).

Later, Jones added two more functions:

- *interrogative antonymy* (*Is this the new Bill or the old Bill?*) (Jones & Murphy, 2005)
- *simultaneous* (*Mr. Amato's weakness is his strength*) (Jones et al., 2012)

Comparative antonymy. The primary function of a comparative antonym is to highlight a comparison between two words, to measure one antonym against another. The pattern is as follows: (*more X than Y, less X than Y*), e.g. *Sometimes, I feel more masculine than feminine* (Jones, 2002).

Ex 26 Vlerësimet *më shumë* janë *pesimiste se sa optimiste*. [Koha.mk, 17/06/2013]
(Evaluations are **more pessimistic than optimistic**.)

Ex 27 Unë *më mirë* rri i *pamartuar* dhe ta kem *këmishën pa komça, se sa i martuar* dhe pa *këmishë*. [Polonia, unë dhe bjondet, Vladimir Marku, 2006]
(I would **better be unmarried ... than married ...**)

Distinguished antonymy, in which there is an emphasis on the distinction between the two groups, is characterized by patterns like *the difference between X and Y* and *separating X and Y*. It is used when the contrast between antonyms is explicitly remarked upon. The percentages of co-occurrence of such opposites with this discourse function are different in English and Albanian: 5.4% in English and 2.2% in Albanian. An example in English is: *He still does not know the difference between right and wrong* (Jones, 2002). An example in Albanian from the corpora is:

Ex 28 Zhvillimi konceptual është mbështetur nga studimet e sigurisë dhe studimet ushtarake-strategjike, që kanë vënë në pah *dallueshmërinë midis sigurisë së fortë dhe sigurisë së butë*. [Zëri, 19/04/2013]
(... which highlighted the **difference between strong security and weak security...**)

Transitional antonymy. It is used to indicate the passage of a state or quality to an opposite state or quality and occupies 3.0% (Jones & Murphy, 2005) in English while in Albanian it is higher, with 5.3%. An example of transitional antonymy in English is provided by Jones and Murphy (2005): *Inflation redistributes wealth from the sophisticated to the unsophisticated*. Transitional antonymy describes a shift from having, being, or doing one thing to having, being, or doing its opposite. Such antonyms emphasize contrast and are about dichotomizing rather than uniting (Jones & Murphy, 2005). It reinforces a shift or change from doing/being/having one thing to doing/being/having the opposite. The pattern is as follows: *X turns to Y*, e.g. *Even hard currency has turned soft* (Murphy and Jones, 2008). Examples in Albanian from the corpora were the following:

- Ex 29** Sipas tatimeve, një subjekt **transferohet nga regjistri aktiv në regjistrin pasiv në rast se përmbushet, të paktën, një nga kushtet e mëposhtme.** [Gazeta Panorama, 09/11/2017]
(...an entity is **transferred from active registration to passive** if one of the conditions is met.)
- Ex 30** Cilido që përpiqet **ta kthejë një homoseksual në heteroseksual,** dënohet me gjoba 10 mijë euroshe. [Panorama, 19/05/2017]
(Whoever tries **to turn someone from homosexual to heterosexual** is fined with a penalty of 10 thousand euros.)
- Ex 31** Filluan **me ngadalë,** pastaj vallëzuan **më me të shpejtë.** [Zonja Bovari, Gustave Flaubert, translated by Viktor Kalemi, 2000–2009]
(They first started **slowly,** then they went on **faster.**)

Negated antonymy asserts one term by denying the other, “*work well, not badly.*” This way, one of the antonym pair members is emphasized by rejecting its opposite. This sort of antonym is part of the minor classes. Like transitional ones, negated antonyms emphasize contrast and are about dichotomizing rather than uniting (Jones and Murphy, 2005). Regarding distribution, it accounts for 2.1% in English and 5.1% in Albanian. The pattern is as follows: **X, not Y**, e.g. in English: *However, the citizen pays for services **to work well, not badly;** That’s **not little,** it’s **big;** The public has cause for **pessimism, not optimism** (Murphy and Jones, 2008). Examples in Albanian from the corpora were the following:*

- Ex 32** Ni...zaa... – belbëzoi Juda, **jo me zërin e tij të lartë dhe të kthjellët rinor, por me zë të ulët qortues dhe nuk bëzajti më asnjë tingull.** [Mjeshtri the Margarita, Mikhail Bulgakov, translated by Aleksandër Koli, 2010–2015]
(... **not with his high-pitched youthful voice, but his low reproaching voice ...**)
- Ex 33** Unë **asnjëherë nuk humb, fitoj në secilën garë që marr pjesë,** ka thënë vajza. [Koha.mk, 16/04/2013]
(**I don’t ever lose, I always win.**)
- Ex 34** Të dashurit e mi, **nuk po ju shkruaj një urdhërim të ri, por një urdhërim të vjetër,** të cilin ju e keni pasur që prej fillimit dhe ky urdhërim i vjetër është fjala që ju keni dëgjuar. [1 John, New Testament, translated by Vladimir Dervishi, 2000]
(... **I am not writing a new order, but an old one, ...**)
- Ex 35** PD: Mitrovica duhet bashkuar me **paqe, jo me luftë.** [Zëri, 07/10/2013]
(Mitrovica shall be united **in peace, not in war.**)

Idiomatic antonymy. This category of discourse functions of antonyms is more widely spread in Albanian than in English: 0.8% in English vs. 3.2% in Albanian. Idiomatic antonymy is concerned with pairs of antonyms used in idioms or proverbs, as in the following examples in English: **Teach an old dog new tricks.** (Murphy and Jones, 2008); **Easy come, easy go.** Examples in Albanian from the corpora were the following:

- Ex 36** “Më mirë **i vdekur në lule, sesa i gjallë në pleh.**” [Panorama 13/10/2017]
(Albanian idiom meaning: **Dead people** receive more flowers than the living ones because regret is stronger than gratitude.)
- Ex 37** Ku fshihet lepuri në këtë rast, sepse, siç do të thoshte populli ynë i urtë, **lepuri i madh rri në ferrë të vogël?** [Panorama, 22/10/2017]
(Albanian idiom meaning: People who are scared and cowards usually try to hide from the world. Antonym pair: **big/small**)

Extreme antonymy. In extreme antonymy, the opposite extremes of an antonymic scale are brought together, regardless of any intermediate values. It is represented in such patterns as: *To the very young and the very old; Either very cold or very hot*, etc.

Below there are a few examples in Albanian from the corpora:

- Ex 38** «Dikush mund të thotë se treni [i zgjerimit të BE-së] po ecën **shumë shpejtë** e dikush mund të thotë se po ecën **shumë ngadalë**, por kryesorja është që ky tren të mos ndalojë», ka thënë ministri i jashtëm hungarez, Janos Martonyi, i cili edhe ishte nikoqir i kësaj ngjarjeje. [Zëri, 31/10/2013]
(One might argue that the train of EU enlargement is driving **either too fast or too slow...**)
- Ex 39** Veprat me përzierje zhanrore zakonisht janë **o dështim i plotë, o sukses madhështor**. [Koha.mk, 31/05/2012]
(Written works with a mix of genres are usually **either a complete failure or a great success.**)
- Ex 40** Në këtë grumbull njerëzish, pranë shokut Zylo, ishin edhe dy kritikët e famshëm të letërsisë dhe të artit, Zaim Avazi dhe Mitro Karapataqi, **njëri tepër i gjatë, tjetri tepër i shkurtër**. [Shkëlqimi dhe rënia e shokut Zylo, Dritëro Agolli, 1972]
(... one was **way too tall**, while the other was **too short.**)
- Ex 41** Teksti ka sjellë në dritë dy pamje, që mund t'i quajmë ndryshe: **shkallën më të ulët dhe shkallën më të lartë** të këtij konflikti. [Migjeni ose parathënia e dyzuar, Anastas Kapurani, 2000–2010]
(... **the lowest scale and the highest scale of a conflict...**)
- Ex 42** – Jam **tepër e moshuar... ju jeni tepër i ri... harromëni!** [Zonja Bovari, Gustave Flaubert (translated by Viktor Kalem), 2000–2009]
(- I am **way too old ... you are way too young ... forget about me!**)
- Ex 43** «Unë do ta interpretoja këtë më shumë nga perspektiva e përgatitjes së një marrëveshjeje; kjo është strategjia e Daçiqit që të japë deklaratat goxha kontradiktore - në njërin anë **shumë pesimiste**, kurse në tjetrën **shumë optimiste**, deri në atë masë, që në të njëjtën fjali ai të lëshojë sinjale pozitive dhe negative». [Zëri, 13/03/2013]
(... on one side **too pessimistic**, while in the Other ones **too optimistic**, ...)

New discourse functions

Interrogative antonymy. The general pattern is as follows: **X or Y**. Interrogative antonymy has something akin to coordinated antonymy regarding the patterns. Still, it has a different semantic function because it does not include or exclude in an antonymic scale, but it asks for an answer, which has to be one or the other antonym. It is sometimes regarded as in close affinity with negated antonymy (Jones and Murphy, 2005). The examples in English provided by Jones and Murphy (2005) are: *Is this the new Bill or the old Bill?*, *Shall I turn it on or turn it off?* Examples in Albanian from the corpora were the following:

- Ex 44** Varrin po e hapim, kurse unë s'po di të them nëse ky është **i vdekur apo i gjallë**. [Kupa e helmit, Dhimitër Xhuvani, 1990–1999]
(... I can't say if he is **dead or alive.**)
- Ex 45** Pasi një qytetar ka plotësuar formularin, a ka një filtër për të kuptuar nëse deklarimi i tij është **i saktë apo i gabuar?** [Panorama, 09/10/2017]
(... he can understand if his statement is **true or false?**)

- Ex 46 *Nuk e di a jam mërzitur apo jam gëzuar.* [Shkëlqimi i huaj, Beqë Cufaj, 1999–2003]
(*I can't say if I am **sad** or **happy**.*)
- Ex 47 *Borxh më i lartë, sukses apo dështim?* [Panorama, 27/01/2017]
(*The debt is high, **success** or **failure**?*)
- Ex 48 *Nëse politika nuk është lojë për të fituar, mos qenka vallë, lojë për të humbur? – kaloi Balena në sulm.* [Alb Prometeu, Adem Demaçi, 2008]
(*If politics is not a game **to win**, is it a game **to lose**?*)

Simultaneous antonymy. Two opposed terms (indicating a state or quality) are used simultaneously linked to the same referent as in the following example in English: Mr Amato's *weakness is* his *strength*.

Examples in Albanian from the corpora were the following:

- Ex 49 *Mirëpo, për këtë kontribut morët vetëm një ndëshkim të madh si shpërblim.*
[Panorama, 17/10/2016]
(... for this contribution, you got **a significant punishment as a reward**.)
- Ex 50 *Por ai ka preferuar të mbrohet duke sulmuar denoncuesit dhe kështu ka mbrojtur narkotrafikun, çka të bën të mendosh se në një formë apo në një tjetër ka përfituar prej tij.* [Panorama, 19/10/2017]
(*But he preferred **to defend** himself **by attacking** the accusers ...*)
- Ex 51 *– E dija unë, Adil, se nuk do të më lije!... – dhe i tundi kokën me një fajësi e pafajësi të tillë, që e çarmatosi kosovarin.* [Lumi i vdekur, Jakov Xoxa, 1960–1964]
(... - he nodded with such **guilt and innocence** that ...)
- Ex 52 *Të dy këto aspekte të ekzistencës gjeografike të Shqipërisë i kemi dashuruar dhe urryer institucionalisht prej dekadash, por asnjëherë konsideruar si domosdoshmërisht të ndërlydhura.* [Panorama, 31/08/2017]
(*We have institutionally **loved and hated** both these aspects of the geographical existence of Albania ...*)
- Ex 53 *Shumë lehtë, e cila domethënë shumë rëndë.* [Rrëfimet e Mitrush Kutelit, Lasgush Poradeci, 1938]
(*Quite **light**, which means **heavy**.*)

This article focuses on the similarities and differences in discourse functions of antonyms in Albanian and English. To examine the distribution of antonym pairs in Albanian, near-equivalents of pairs used by Jones (2002) were translated and researched in the corpus of the written Albanian language, and 2658 pairs of co-occurring antonyms were found in sentences.

During this process, several issues related to translation were identified. More specifically, morphological antonyms in the English set are not necessarily morphological antonyms in the Albanian translation; for example, *correct/incorrect* were translated as *korrekt/gabuar* rather than *korrekt/jo correct* since the former is the more conventionalized pairing in Albanian. Another translation inconsistency encountered with the same pair is the use of prefixes in English “incorrect” (*correct/incorrect*), which in Albanian is used with a negative particle “jo” (*korrekt/jo korekt*).

Other translation issues related to vocabulary and deciding which is a better antonym pair to translate from English to Albanian are complicated due to synonymous items of pairs of antonyms. For example, the words “*big, large, great*” in Albanian do not have direct equivalents. In English, “big” is associated with physical size, while “large” refers to amounts or quantities. On the other hand, “great” is used in a broader range of senses, even though its primary purpose is to express amounts. Another issue is using the definite article “the” in English, which is equivalent to endings in Albanian. These endings vary in number and gender, making searching the corpora more complicated. Lastly, idioms are difficult to translate and identify in the corpus.

Conclusions

Discourse functions of antonymy identified by Jones (2002) are the main object of this study. As a result, this paper investigates the similar functions of antonymic pairs in several contrastive constructions in the Albanian language. First, the antonyms under investigation are the 56 pairs identified by Jones, and the result is canonical and most typical in English. Furthermore, the frequency of using antonym pairs in English is relatively higher than in Albanian. In addition, although both English and Albanian have a predominance of ancillary and coordinated antonyms when it comes to distribution, ancillary is slightly more widely spread in English than in Albanian. In considering minor classes of antonymy such as transitional, distinguished, negated, extreme, etc., there are a few differences in the frequency between Albanian and English, as described above. The two other minor classes of antonyms, simultaneous and interrogative, were separate from the main object of the study in terms of comparative statistics. However, they were still identified in the Albanian corpora, giving way to future research on the new minor classes of discourse functions. Last but not least, several translation inconsistencies were encountered when finding the correct term in the translation of antonymous pairs.

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Santrauka

Ekaterina Strati, Ergys Bezhani

Antonimija albanų ir anglų kalbose: gretinamasis diskurso funkcijų tyrimas

Antonimija nusako leksinę-semantinę žodžių opoziciją. Mokslininkai antonimijos opoziciją skirsto į įvairias kategorijas. Antonimų vartoseną ir antonimų porų vaidmenys tirti prancūzų, švedų, kinų, serbų, rumunų ir kitose kalbose. Šio straipsnio objektas – antonimai albanų kalboje. Tyrimo tikslas – palyginti albanų ir anglų kalbų antoniminių porų modelius. Tokia gretinamoji analizė, tikėtina, papildo šios temos tyrimus, atveria galimybes tolesniems gretinamiesiems tyrimams tarp panašių ir skirtingų kalbų. Taikant empirinį kokybinį metodą nustatytoms antonimų poroms, kurios kartu pasitaiko tame pačiame sakinyje. Tyrimui naudotas Albanijos nacionalinis tekstynas. Tyrimo rezultatai rodo, kad tiek albanų, tiek anglų kalbose vyrauja tos pačios antonimų porų rūšys.

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