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## Violation of orthographic norms in the daily newspaper "Bota Sot"

Petrit Duraj<sup>1</sup>, Fridrik Dulaj<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University "Fehmi Agani" Gjakovë – Faculty of Education

<sup>2</sup>University "Fehmi Agani" Gjakovë – Faculty of Philology

[petrit.duraj@uni-gjk.org](mailto:petrit.duraj@uni-gjk.org); [fridrik.dulaj@uni-gjk.org](mailto:fridrik.dulaj@uni-gjk.org)

**Abstract.** This study aims at expressing the difficulties that the media have in the spelling of the Albanian language. More precisely, the written media, that is, the newspapers that are published in physical form and those that are only found in the online version. The unified orthography of a language, in our case of the Albanian language, is a term of the crystallization of the national literary norm in all the main chains of the phonetic, word formation, grammatical, and lexical structure. It reflects the current state and general trends of the development of our literary language. Today's orthography aims for further unification of the national literary language norm on the basis of the common forms that have been adopted and are being adopted by it. Given that the basic principle of Albanian orthography is the phonetic principle followed by the grammatical one, and seeing the constant spelling errors of the speakers and those who write in the Albanian language, we examined a daily newspaper, which has many readers and has a huge impact on Albanian speakers. In order to see the most frequent spelling errors, we will outline and analyse the wrong cases and give the correct forms based on the Albanian standard. Thus, from the results that will be brought, we will see the greatest difficulties faced by journalists of this daily newspaper, as well as their challenges on using the correct forms.

**Keywords.** Albanian language, difficulties, orthography, newspaper, impact.

### Introduction

The role and influence of the media has been and continues to be a source of powerful influence in raising language awareness and standard culture. Given that written journalism is an important and influential domain in language knowledge, we have taken a look at the daily newspaper "Bota sot" and we will see the spelling errors that are made almost constantly in its issues. Violations of the norm in this daily newspaper are of different types. However, the corpus of this paper will be the examination of spelling-grammatical errors, which are related to the field of word formation and form in sentences. In this paper, the open and closed parts of speech will be looked at from an orthographic point of view. In this daily newspaper, their usage in case, gender, number, form, mood, tense, person and other grammatical circumstances and categories is alarming. So, we will make a kind of chronology of the most frequent language errors (spelling and grammatical), so by identifying and correcting them, there will be a positive impact on those Albanian writers (journalists), who are committing errors in writing and are not

taking care of today's standard Albanian language. To know how important the correct use of Albanian in this newspaper is and in other newspapers, the researcher Qemal Murati says: "To express a certain idea or opinion, it is not enough to say it only in a logical order, so that it has meaning, but we must also express it with linguistic regularity: with correct spelling, correct grammar and a beautiful expression" (Murati, 2009: 159).

### Methodology

In order to carry out this research, we used comparative and theoretical analysis methods. We have collected a considerable number of this newspaper, where we have distinguished and analyzed the wrong examples. We have highlighted these examples and compared them with the correct forms of standard Albanian. In addition to the wrong forms presented in the newspapers, we have also given the correct forms, thus clarifying and explaining why these forms given in the newspapers are wrong and not in concordance with the forms of standard Albanian.

### Results

In the writing of the articles in this daily newspaper, we encounter violations in the field of word formation, starting from some noun phrases in which their dependent constituent, which is usually an adjective form, is written in different forms, sometimes separately and sometimes together, as e.g: ...*dhe kështu përfundon mandatin e plotë tre vjeçar*; *E kishte fëmijën njëzet muajsh*. (and thus he ends the full three-year term; He had a twenty-month-old child). We have many cases when the dependent part of these phrases, formed mainly by means of affixes, is used separated from their prefixes and the other constituent elements, for example: ...*BBC e prezantoi si sulm të pa provokuar fizik dhe verbal...*; *Pas krimeve dalin jo fajtorë dhe shëtisin të lirë*; *Po të kishin moral këta të pa moral do të fshiheshin në ndonjë birucë...*; *Fati i tyre mbetet ende i pa zgjidhur...*(BBC presented it as an unprovoked physical and verbal attack ...; After the crimes, innocent people come out and walk free; If they had morals, these immoral people would hide in some dungeon...; Their fate remains unresolved). Furthermore, we see a large number of noun compounds, which unfortunately in most cases are written incorrectly (separately), such as: *Delawie ka punuar si zëvendës ambasador...*; *Delawie mbante postin e zëvendës ndihmës sekretarit të shtetit për sigurinë evropiane...*; ... *në lidhje me zjarr vënien e shtëpisë monumentale të Xhafer Devës* (Delawie worked as a deputy ambassador...; Delawie held the post of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Security...; ...regarding the setting fire to the monumental house of Xhafer Deva).

So, from all these examples and many others that we encounter in the newspaper, according to a grammar and orthographic regulation, their forms should be written together: *mandatin e plotë trevjeçar, fëmijën njëzetmuajsh, sulm të paprovokuar, dalin jofajtorë, këta të pamoralshëm, ende i pazgjidhur, zëvendësambasador, zëvendësndihmëssekretarit, me zjarrvënien* (the three-year term, the twenty-month-old child, unprovoked attack, they come out innocent, these immorals, still unresolved, deputy ambassador, deputy assistant secretary, with arson)...

We also see a large number of errors in the use of nouns, even general nouns, such as: ... *së shpejti fushat e para të Tenisit...*; ...*duhet të kërkojë të ndërrohet Flamuri dhe Himni*, emrave të institucioneve, si: ...*kjo shkollë ka pasur mbështetjen e ministrisë së arsimit*. ... soon the first Tennis courts...; ...*should ask to change the Flag and the Anthem*, the names of the institutions, such as: ...*this school had the support of the ministry of education*). The most frequent errors are in the gender of nouns, such as: 21 *bashkëpunëtoreshqiptarë të UDB-së...*

21 Albanian associates of the UDB... the number of nouns, in most cases the singular number is not distinguished from the plural number, e.g.: *ose edhe përdorimin e drejtë të emrave nëpër rrasa, si: ...institucionet e drejtësisë, të cilat duhet ta kërkojnë përgjegjësisë tek faktori politik; ...sipas Burjanit, deputetë nuk janë të përqendruar fare...; (or even the correct usage of names in various cases, such as: ...justice institutions, which must seek responsibility from the political factor; ...according to Burjani, MPs are not focused at all...;*

So, here we have numerous spelling violations of the norm, we find general names written in capital letters, the names of institutions in small letters, as well as incorrect uses of names in number and case.

We have plenty of examples when the adjective does not match the noun, mainly in number, but also in gender. So, the most frequent cases are when the adjective is used in the plural number, while the noun is used in the singular number and vice versa. For example: *...kur kryetari Mustafa të kthehet nga udhëtimi zyrtarë...; Mendoj që do të ishte një guxim politikë dhe qytetarë...; ...janë treguar njerëz të besës me aleatët strategjik... (...when the mayor Mustafa returns from the official trip...; I think it would be a political and citizen courage...; ...have shown themselves to be loyal to strategic allies...).*

In these cases we have a mismatch of forms, because in the first two phrases *udhëtimi zyrtarë, guxim politikë dhe qytetarë* (official travel, political courage and citizens), their adjectival constituent should be in the singular number and vice versa in the phrase *aleatët strategjik* (strategic allies). This is evidenced by their nominative representative constituent. So, the error is purely of an orthographic nature, because the journalists have no knowledge that noun forms take an adjectival determiner according to the number in which they are used. They should be written correctly according to grammatical rules, in the singular without the masculine plural suffix -ë: *udhëtimi zyrtar, guximi politik dhe qytetar* (official travel, political and civic courage;) and in the plural form with the suffix -ë of the masculine plural: *aleatët strategjikë* (strategic allies).

We encounter many incorrect uses, especially within the verbal system. Here we will summarize only some of the most frequent cases:

a. When consonant verbs, i.e. those ending with a consonant, in all three cases of the singular indicative, we find them written with the personal ending -ë, which contradicts the grammatical rules of our language, e.g.: *... postin e kryeministrit e bartë partia e parë...; ...në rast se AAK-ja heqë dorë nga posti i kryeministrit; Kjo çfarë po bënë Lista Serbe është pasojë...; (the position of the prime minister was carried by the first party...; ...in the case that AAK gives up the post of prime minister; What Lista Serbe is doing is a consequence...;)* therefore, according to the grammatical rule, they should not take any ending in the third person singular.

b. Often there is no difference between the present future tense of the indicative mood and the third person of the present tense of the subjunctive, also the first person of the subjunctive with the third person: *...në kuptimin që s'arrin ta njoh veten; Gjimnazi "Hasan Nahi, Kosovën do ta bëj të buzëqesh...; Besoj se do të pajtohet sepse nuk ka se si të veprojnë ndryshe; (... in the sense that I cannot recognize myself; Gymnasium "Hasan Nahi, will make Kosovo smile...; I believe he will agree because there is no other way for him to act;)*

c. We find the participle of verbs used incorrectly in analytical tenses, where many times it appears without the formant -ur, or used incorrectly in the use of apophonic verbs, as in the cases: *Kështu që nuk ka pas nevojë që të priste...; ...kjo që është duke ndodh në Kosovë, është turp dhe tmerr.; Ne jemi marrur vesh për këtë gjë...(So there is no need for him to wait...; ... what is happening in Kosovo is a shame and horror.; We have agreed on this...)*

So, the correct forms are: *ka pasur, duke ndodhur, jemi marrë* etc.

In our opinion, these violations in the field of the verbal system occur as a result of the lack of proper recognition of verbal forms, as a result of the continuous influence of dialectal usages that are present in our daily speech.

In the field of pronouns, the most frequent errors are the failure to make a distinction between the possessive pronoun *i/e vet* (*its own*) and the personal one *vetë* (*itself*). Both forms are written with the final -ë, or without it at all, for example: *...dhe ky shtet nuk mund të çlirohet vet nga njerëzit të cilët nuk kanë vullnet...; ...një polici që nuk respektohet nga vet qeveria e shtetit. (...and this state cannot be freed on its own by people who do not have the will...; ...a policeman who is not respected by the state government itself).* In both cases, the final -ë is missing. Also, we have cases of not adapting the number of the pronoun when it precedes a noun, for example: *...këto vërejtje ky politikanë t'i paraqesin derisa janë pjesë e strukturave udhëheqëse (...these remarks should be presented by this politicians while they are part of the leadership structures).* According to the rules of standard Albanian, the number of the pronoun should be adjusted to the noun and we would have *këta politikanë* (*these politicians*).

In the pages of this daily newspaper, we find the apostrophe used incorrectly in many cases. It is either missing or redundant. E.g.: *...paratë në vlerë 5 mijë euro t'i ndanin së bashku...; ...për t'i gjetur më të afërmit dhe për t'i ndihmuar...; por t'i mbrojnë të drejtat e ushtarëve që dhanë jetën për liri...; (...the money worth 5 thousand euros was shared together...; ...to find the closest ones and help them...; but you protect the rights of the soldiers who gave their lives for freedom...);* In the above-mentioned examples, in all cases the apostrophe is missing, so in fact here we are talking about the union of two forms: the participle *të* (*of*) and the short form of the personal pronoun in the dative case. The form *ti* as written has the form of the second person singular personal pronoun. We also find it used incorrectly with the indefinite pronoun *çdo* (*every*), as in the case: *...ushtarëve që dhanë ç'do gjë për lirinë dhe shtetin e tyre.. (...to the soldiers who gave everything for their freedom and country...)*

As for the closed parts of speech, we do not find a very large number of words written incorrectly, in most cases we come across an unnecessary final -ë in some adverbs, or even without the final -ë, for example: *Erdhën plotë...; Përball një opozite goxha mirë të organizuar... (They came full...; Opposite a pretty well-organized opposition...)* In the first case, we find the final -ë wrongly used in the adverb of quantity, and vice versa in the adverb of place *përballë*.

In some cases we find the adverb beautifully misspelled in the superlative form, e.g. *E kishin punuar shumë bukurë.. (They had done it very nicely...)* (with unnecessary final -ë).

In some cases, we find the relative conjunction written separately, for example: *Ai vend i ka pëlqyer shumë sa që (saqë) çdo ditë e kujton. (He liked that place so much that he remembers it every day).*

## Conclusion

From the analyzed corpus of the daily newspaper Bota sot, we see that the spelling errors are various. The lack of mastery of the profession or not a good command of the mother tongue (from the "competent" people for the transmission of information) are degrading our beautiful language. An article without linguistic errors would have a slight effect on the readers' awareness of writing in the standard Albanian language, or as prof. Ragip Mulaku says: *"writing and speaking in accordance with language rules facilitate not only communication between us, on a nationwide scale, but it also makes communication and the spread of our values among other people and in their languages more useful"*. (Mulaku, 2015: 375).

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