

## A corpus-based study of complementation in Albanian: Constructions with complementizer *që* and beyond\*

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It is well known from reference grammars (Newmark, Hubbard, and Prifti 1982; Buchholz and Fiedler 1987; Domi 2002) that Albanian has a wide range of finite and nonfinite complementation patterns, and different types of subordinating element may accompany the finite complements.

Indicative complements (1, 2), which are traditionally associated with veridical modality, are introduced by canonical complementizers *që* and *se* (conjunctions which also introduce relative and purpose clauses) and governed by verbs of assertion and the expression of a propositional attitude (Buchholz, Fiedler 1987: 513-515; Joseph 2016: 280). Subjunctive mood forms accompanied with the particle *të* (3) are supposed to express nonveridical modality and occur with lexical modal verbs, phasal verbs, and with predicates that express obligation, a speaker's will or the imposition of will, and a speaker's inner state (Joseph 2016: 281).

- (1) *Unë them se ju puno-ni mirë.*  
I say.PRS.1SG COMPL you work-PRS.2PL well  
'I say that you work well.'
- (2) *Beso-j që shko-het edhe me këmbë.*  
believe-PRS.1SG COMPL go-INACT.PRS.3SG also with foot.ACC.SG.INDF  
'I think it is possible to walk.'
- (3) *I thua j të vi-jë.*  
him say.IMP.2SG SBJV come-SBJV.PRS.3SG  
'Tell him to come.' (Buchholz, Fiedler 1987: 514)

The complementizer *që* co-occurs with the subjunctive marker in a number of environments (4).

- (4) *Mezi pres që të nis-em në Divjakë.*  
hardly wait.PRS.1SG COMPL SBJV leave-PRS.1SG in Divjaka  
'I am hardly waiting for going to Divjaka.' (D. Agolli. *Trëndafili në gotë*. 1970s)

This combination of two complementation markers in Albanian has structural parallels all around the Balkans: Alb. *që të* = Bulg. *çe да*, Southwest Bulg. *уе да* = Mac. dial. *ому да* = Gr. *ὄτι να* = Arom., Megl., Rom. dial. *că să* (Асенова 1989: 130). However, the distribution of subjunctives introduced by *që* with the other complementation strategies in Albanian is not described well, and the use of *që* with subjunctive is usually considered to be optional (Buchholz, Fiedler 1987: 513-515).

In my talk I will give an overview of the distribution and semantics of complementation with *që* *të* in Standard Albanian, and also try to verify some of the aforementioned considerations about the Albanian complementation. The data for the research is taken from the Albanian National Corpus containing ca. 20 mln. tokens, with morphological annotation and the selection of texts which includes fiction, non-fiction, and newspapers from Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia written in Standard Albanian.

Based on the examples from the Corpus, I provide quantitative and qualitative analysis of the use and distribution of complementations with *që* *të*, bare subjunctive with particle *të*, and various non-finite structures, such as constructions of the types *për të bërë* and *së bëri*. I examine how the distri-

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bution of different complementation strategies depends on the characteristics of complement taking predicates, for which purpose cross-linguistically salient types of such predicates were chosen based on Noonan's classification (2007) and the works of Kehayov (2016), Serdobolskaya et al. (2012), and Dobrushina (2012). I also consider the other characteristics that can be responsible for the selection in the complement clause, such as negation, factivity, transitivity, and modality, both with respect to the matrix predicate and the complement verb.

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Albanian National Corpus, URL: <http://web-corpora.net/AlbanianCorpus/> (accessed on 24.06.2018).