Predicative Clauses in Albanian Language

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Abstract

In this paper, it is aim to treat predicative clauses in the Albanian language. The structuring of subordinate clauses remains a debatable issue with incomplete solution in the Albanian syntax. The lack of a proper criterion for classification, structuring of clauses makes predicative clauses not treated properly, a few attentions is paid to them moreover they are explained superficially. This type of subordinate clause leaves room for treatments and discussions. They are among the most specific types of dependent clauses in Albanian. In the treatment of the subject, it is intended to explain the syntactic structures of these clauses, to describe as fully as possible the syntactic functions. It will address some conceptions and perspectives on Albanian syntaxes starting from the earliest to the present day. It has been selected the following grammars: the grammar of J. Rrota, M. Domi, S. Prifti, Th. Dhimës, M. Toton, M. Čeliku and the grammar of the Academy 2 (2002) etc.

Keywords: predicative clauses, subordinate clauses, classification, Albanian grammar

1. Introduction

In Albanian grammars and studies, the subordinate clauses are defined as a syntactic whole organically interconnected in terms of meaning and grammar, consisting of at least two or more predicative units in the form of sentences that are related to syntactic relations of dependence or subordination. The unit that serves as the organizing basis of the period is called the main sentence, while the one that completes it, explains what is grammatically dependent on it is called the dependent clause. Despite the different points of view, subordinate clauses based on the function of relations with the main sentence and parallelism with the limbs of the sentence, are divided into five groups in Albanian grammar: subject clauses, predicative clauses, object clauses, relative clauses and adverbial clauses.

Exceptions to this rule are the classifications made by S. Floqi, M. Totoni, Th. Dhima, M. Čeliku etc., who as a result of the combination of the semantic criterion along with the structural and functional one, make a somewhat different division with more subtypes of subordination. In some
grammars groups of subordinate clauses are included and treated together as linking verbs or complement (Th.Dhima). The classification of subordination clauses in Albanian continues to be one of the most problematic issues of syntax. It is made in different variants, related to different directions and criteria of syntactic theories, to the traditions of the respective languages or even to the particular views of different grammarians. Our linguists though at different time periods make a classification of clauses with subordination by relying on functional criterion and seems to agree on this point.

We distinguish these classifications: 1) the criterion of parallelism with the limbs of the clauses (functional), 2) the formal-grammatical criterion, 3) the structural-semantic criterion and the semantic-structural criterion.

The classification of the subordinate clauses based on the functional criterion consists in the analogy of subordinate clause with simple sentences: the subject clauses express a kind of analogy with the subject, the predicate determiner with the predicative clausal, the adverb with the adverbial clausal and so on. The first two classifications are the most popular and the earliest, applied in Albanian. They have helped to deepen the further study of the subordinate clauses, but they present shortcomings.

The structural-semantic criterion fully reveals the structure of clauses and because of the elements of the structure makes their categorization, allows discovering all the structural and semantic features of the clauses and consequently is more stable than other criteria.

The semantic-structural criterion for the first time in the syntactic studies of Albanian is used by M. Totoni in his book Fraza me nënrenditje, which appears in the results different from those in the grammar of the Academy. M.Totoni predicative clauses sput in the same group (rubric) with subject clauses and object clauses.

The first criterion has the highest density of use in the Albanian syntactic tradition. The most used and at the same time most representative variant of the classification of subordination clauses in the Albanian tradition is based on the parallelism of the clauses with the sentences, of the functions of the dependent clauses with those of the sentence limbs. Albanian grammarians nevertheless prefer the first classification, the functional criterion, for the categorization of subordination clauses in Albanian. The classification based on the functional criterion is mainly based on the semantic relations between a main part and the part completed by it. So, the parallelism of the subordinate clause with the limbs of the sentence can not be complete, it must be conceived as a formal similarity that has nothing to do with the content of the limb and the dependent part, which are completely different from each other.

1.1 Literature Review

The predicative clause is not treated in all Albanian grammars. This is because in most grammars the structuring of subordinate clauses is accomplished through explanations only for subject clauses, object clauses, relative clauses and adverbial clauses. The lack of a proper criterion of their structuring makes predicative clauses not dealt with in many of them and surprisingly explained through other types. It should not be forgotten that in some school syntaxes and other syntactic texts of the second half of the twentieth century, predicative clauses are not mentioned at all.

Albanian grammarians generally prefer the classification based on the functional criterion of the predicative units of subordinate clauses, supplementing it with structural and semantic elements. Even in the newest grammars of Albanian, such as that of M. Çeliku, predicative clauses are treated as a separate group; M. Totoni, relying on the structural-semantic criterion, groups the predicative clause into the content clauses without supporting words. In the grammar of the Academy predicative clauses are defined as the kind of clauses where the dependent part performs the function of the nominal predicate or the function of the complement.

A problem is as well the limbs of the sentence, as the semantic predicate and predicative complement as named in our grammars as the predicative determiner of the subject and the object. It is debatable to know or not to know these two syntactic components.
1.2 Research questions

- Is the predicative clauses the bearer of the utterance, the predicative unit that comes to the fore and as if it overshadows the leading sentence?
- Is the copular verb be an indispensable element in the structure of predicative clause in the Albanian language?
- Why do these clauses constitute a special group of subordination with special features in structural and semantic terms?

2. Treatment of Predicative Clauses in Albanian Grammars

2.1 Traditional Grammars

According to a chronological overview, we will list below the issues related to the treatment of these clauses based on Albanian grammars, from the earliest to the most recent.

K. Cipo (1952) and I. D. Sheperi do not treat at all predicative clauses in their syntaxes in the context of subordination clauses.

M. Domi (1971) has distinguished the predicative clauses as a separate group between the subject clauses, predicative clauses, relative adverbial clauses, but later he no longer distinguishes them as a separate group. He pays little attention to this type of clauses. Domi claims that this type of clause is rarely used and we find it used more often with indefinite conjunctive pronouns and this sentence does the job of the noun predicate of the clause on which it depends. In the illustrated example "Ç'është ushqimi për trupin është leximi për mendjen (What is food for the body, is reading for the mind), M. Domi takes it as a predicative clauses, but in fact we think that it should not be treated as such, but this clause in Albanian language should be classified in the group of relative clause.

Therefore S. Prifti in his book Sintaksa e gjuhës shqipe is clearer in terms of types of subordination by dividing them into two groups: nominal clauses and adverbial clauses, where in the first group includes the predicative clause. He defines it as a clause that does the same function of nominal predicate or the predicative complement and illustrates it with the example: Shqiptarët janë të gjitha kohëve të ndryshme së Skënderbeut (1971:266) (Albanians are what they were here a thousand years ago; are the Pelasgians of the times of old tales, the Epirotes of the time of Skanderbeg).

According to the Prifti, the underlined clause ç'ishinë (what they were) is instead of the nominal predicate, it is related to the subject by the verb janë (are) and serves to affirm to it a feature, which in this case is definite.

The authors of the Albanian syntax, A. Kelmendi and Mazllum H., the predicative clause depends on a function similar of the nominal predicate or predicative complement and illustrates it with two examples (1988: 96-97):

Punëtorët duken të lodhur.    Punëtorët duket se janë të lodhur.
Workers look tired.    Workers seem that are tired.
Qepallat i ndiente të rënduarë.   Qepallat i ndiente se i kishte të rënduarë.
His eyelids felt heavy.   He felt that his eyelids are heavy.

In these examples, according to the authors, tired and heavy prepositional adjectives perform the function of the predicative complement, while in examples (b') the function of the predicative complement is performed by the subordinate predicative clause that they are tired and that his eyelids are heavy.

M. Totoni in his study Fraza me nënrendtije (2000: 47-63) treats predicative clauses as clauses without supporting words.

In grammar of Academy 2, the predicative clause is called the period with a dependent clause that performs the function of the nominal predicate or the predicative complement (2002:511). There are several semantic-structural types of predicative clauses according to the conjunction and the
correlative means: a) the conjunction type without uncorrelated related words, b) the pronoun type without linking words (non-correlative), c) the adverb type without linking words (uncorrelated) ç) adverb type without attached words (correlative). We give an example from the Grammar of the Academy which we think should not be grouped, classified in the context of these clauses, but taken as relative clauses:

Kësaj radhe ishte Agron Tafa që shikoi drejtorin.
This time it was Agron Tafa who looked at the director.

However another example: Plaku u shtir sikur nuk dëgjoi (The old man pretended not to hear) which is taken in Albanian grammars as a predicative clause. Relying on R. Huddleston’s approach (2002:949), that the subordinator in some cases can be optional, removed and the meaning not spoiled in the clause, in this clause when the subordinator is removed like the rest, it can be semantically replaced with a component, complementary another dull and as a result we would have a sentence of this kind:

Plaku u shtir i shurdhër.
The old man pretended to be deaf.

The above clause in contemporary grammars, based on the theory of government and binding forms a small clause.

Treatises about small clauses in the Albanian language have been done by the researcher Anila Kananaj in the book Rrethanori në gjuhën shqipe (2015). Kananaj (2015: 91) groups most of the predicates in the Albanian language into two types of small clauses: small clauses as complement to the verb (this includes those components that are traditionally called object predicative complement) and small clauses with raising verbs. She points out that some of the nominl predicate that have the structure of a complete clause, can not be grouped in this classification. Also the structures that as their predicates in the main clause have a verb in the subjunctive mood, the author does not consider as small clauses (SC) because they do not meet the criterion of the absence of a verbal predicate with the category of inflection. Therefore, we support such an approach for the treatment of predicative clauses in the Albanian language.

Even Th. Dhima (2005), does not make any substantial difference from that of the Academy Grammar, it only includes in one rubric, in that of the content clauses, the subject clause, object clauses and predicative clause with the reasoning that these clauses have some features of common structural features and semantic. He then divides the contet clauses according to the modality into three subtypes: the demonstrative clauses, exclamatory and interrogative clauses (2005:157). In the context of demonstrative clauses it includes the clauses that it defines as predicative clauses, constructed from the verb to be and a nominal predicate: puna (fakti), e vërteta ose është e qartë/e drejtë, e vërteta/e ditur etc.

M. Çeliku in his syntax Përbërësit sintaksorë period with predicative clause, as the author calls the subordinate clause, is called the period in which the subordinate clause functions as the predicate of the copular verb be of the main clause (2012: 363).

The classification of Çeliku is based on the theory of valence and classifies subordinate clauses into complements, which modify the verbal component of the main clause or a noun component of it, into determinative-conjunctions, which modify a noun component of the main and modifier clause, which completely modifies the main clause. He points out that the predicative clause is related to the main clause with the subordinator: se,që, sikur në or without subordinator.

2.2 Classification of subordinate clauses to complement clauses and adjunct clauses

One of the criteria for distinguishing sentences, whether it is complement or adjunct in the classification made here, is the question of the criterion of the necessity of a certain component, in the sense that arguments are obligatory, necessary components, while those additional ones are not. Note that necessity is not an internal feature of the component itself, but here other factors influence and a
component is necessary in the sentence or not should be seen in relation to the concept of semantic valence.

It should be noted that there are cases when the complement clauses can be removed from the clause, without changing the meaning of the clauses and the clause as such remains grammatical. But, such a change in the clause does not mean that the complement clause that is omitted is not necessary for the clause structure. Thus, in clauses:

(a) Ana shprehu mendimin [se shoqet e klasës nuk do të vinin për datëlindje]. (Ana shprehu mendimin).

Ana expressed the opinion [that classmates would not come for the birthday]. (Ana expressed the opinion).

(b) Lajmi se [nuk do shkonin në eksursion] i dëshpëroi të gjithë nxënësit e shkollës. (Ky lajm i dëshpëroi të gjithë nxënësit e shkollës).

The news that [they would not go on an excursion] disappointed all the students of the school. (This news disappointed all the students of the school).

From this, it is understand that the question of necessity should not be seen only as a genuine lack of meaning, but still these two types of clauses above we think should be classified in complement clauses, because they provide information, which in a certain context is necessary and as arguments for the leading clause do not carry a thematic role. However, not all clauses of this type and other types of complement clauses can be paraphrased and analyzed in this form.

Therefore, complement clauses can be defined as subordination clauses that serve as an argument for the predicate of the matrix clauses, perform a certain function in the clause in relation to the matrix clause and carry mainly the thematic role of the topic.

According to G. Graffi (2003: 151), complement clause represent a fulfillment of the valences of different verbs.

The connection with the matrix clause and the complement one is a close connection because the matrix clause alone does not make sense. Among the types of complement clauses are the following clauses: subject clauses, object clauses, predicative clauses, relative clauses.

Predicative clauses have been traditionally classified within the content clauses, but in today in contemporary grammars their place is not entirely clear. In classifying clauses into complement and adjunct clauses, we can say that predicative clauses occupy a special place.

Complement clauses are those subordinate clauses, which serve as an argument for the predicate of the matrix clause. One of these clauses is also what we are referring to according to the parallelism with the limbs of the clause: with the nominal predicate or the predicative complement- they are called predicative clauses. Unlike other types of clauses, for example object clauses, which are generated in the complementary position of the verb phrase, for the generation of predicative clauses there are some controversial issues.

Our aim in this paper is not to repeat the treatments made so far in Albanian grammars for predicative clause, but to try to treat some controversial issues in another plane according to the approach of today’s syntactic theories, so that to give the necessary explanations about the mechanism of generating predicative clauses in the Albanian language. The existence of these clauses is even often questioned as to whether or not they actually exist because of the copular verb be in the matrix clause, which cannot assign a thematic role.

Among the questions we ask about these clauses is how these clauses are generated in the deep structure, in the mind of the native speaker of Albanian and which structures are acceptable and which are not.

Nevertheless, as for the classification of these clauses, where should the following clauses is classified, in complement clauses or in adjunct clauses?

(1) Mendimi ynë është [sl. se nga ky hetim ti del i sinqetë, ideлист] (I. Kadare, Darka e gabuar, p.172).

Our opinion is [cp that from this investigation you are sincere, idealistic].

(2) Një nga qëllimet e mia ka qenë [sl. që nga kjo qendër pune të dalin kuadro me
perspektivë] (D. Agolli, Shkëlqimi dhe rënïa e shokut Zylo, p.235).

One of my goals has been [CP that from this work center emerge cadres with perspective].

(3) Gabimi im është [SL se nuk e kam pyetur për këtë etapë të zhvillimit] (D. Agolli, Shkëlqimi dhe rënïa e shokut Zylo, p.139).

My mistake is [CP that I did not ask him about development’s stage].

(4) Sytë e tij dukej [SL se kërkonin diçka tjetër] (I. Kadare, Prilli i thyer, p.60).

His eyes seemed [CP that they were looking for something else].

If it is applied the criterion of necessity, the components in square brackets cannot be adjunct clauses, because they are necessary components of the clause. But, if we rely only on the criterion of necessity, we still cannot say that they are complement clauses for several reasons, among them we emphasize:

- are not complement clauses, because they do not serve as the argument of the predicate of the matrix clause;
- the verb be is a monovalent verb and has only the subject as an external argument;
- the verb be does not assign a thematic role.

However, such an attitude does not help us to classify predicative clauses and the place they occupy within the group of subordinate clauses. From the given examples we notice that the verb be in the four clauses is a monovalent verb and does not assign a thematic role to the subject of the matrix clauses, but they are the complementizer phrases (CP) that assign the thematic role to the subject of the matrix clause. And in this case the predicative clauses within the square brackets are structurally and semantically necessary in the clause, consequently we can say that this group of subordinate clauses is grouped within complement clauses and as such the predicative clauses constitute a special group among the complement clauses.

3. Methodology of Research

The methodological point of view is mainly descriptive and analytical. It will be also used the statistical method when we want to conclude accurately for a given issue. For different treatments about predicative clauses that are viewed according to new concepts of contemporary linguistics we will rely on various studies of Albanian scholars such as: M. Totoni, Th. Dhima, G. Turano. F. Koleci, Buholz-Fiedler, R. Memushaj as well as in foreign literature.

As a corpus we will have the Albanian grammars - the treatments of different authors about predicative clauses, issues of their structuring, etc. as well as another corpus collected (examples for analysis) mainly from our artistic literature (some literary works of the most representative authors of Albanian literature).

4. Results and Discussion of Findings

In our corpus for the analysis of predicative clauses we had a total of 11 literary works by the authors of Albanian literature; 3 works are by the author Dritëro Agolli (Arka e djallit, Shkëlqimi dhe rënïa e shokut Zylo, Trëndafili në gotë), 2 works of Martin Camajt (Djella, Dranja), 2 works of Zija Çela (Ora e Zoo parkut, Gjaku i dallëndryshës) and 4 works of Ismail Kadare (Kronikë në gur, Prilli i thyer, Pashallëqet e mëdhë, Darka e gabuar). From our findings in the corpus emerge a total of 22 predicative clauses. After completing the research, we came up with the following results from our corpus:

With the subordinator that as the head of the complementizer phrases emerges a total of 11 predicative clauses or 50%. Below are the clauses extracted from the corpus:

(1) Puna është [SL se edhe derrin e egër nuk e jep për rinoceront] (Z. Çela, Gjaku i dallëndryshës, p.21).

The thing is [CP that even the wild pig does not give for the rhino].

(2) Mendimi ynë është [SL se nga ky hetim ti del i sinqetë, idelist] (I. Kadare, Darka e gabuar,
Our opinion is that from this investigation you are sincere, idealistic.

The issue is that the conditions of reading have become more difficult for me.

Our evil is that we are confused before the contradiction.

My mistake is that I did not ask him about this development’s stage.

The reason was that I had a piece of ice in the pot that had to be slowly melted before the flame.

The word is that Anthulla is afraid of Bamka’s notebook.

The best part was that the departure of the sovereign meant the faster suppression of the rebellion.

Components in square brackets are predicative clauses.

With the subordinator that (in Albanian që) emerges 2 clauses or 9.09%. Thus in the clauses we find used this connecting tool: in the examples given we see that as the head of the complementizer phrase (CP) is the subordinator that or as it is otherwise called the complement. The verb be is mainly used as a verb in matrix clauses, and in one clause the ascending verb appeared. In the examples given, the structures in square brackets that follow the verb to be are complete sentences, they have a predicate expressed with elaborate verbs and phonetically expressed keywords. Consequently, they enter the group of predicate argumentative sentences.

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The subordinator that (in Albanian që) emerges 2 clauses or 9.09%. Thus in the clauses we find used this connecting tool:
(15) Kryesorja është [fjalë kallëzuesore të vëmë në lëvizje makinë] (D. Agolli, Arka e djallit, f.355). The most important is [Predicative clause to make the car work] (D. Agolli, Arka e Djallit, p.355).

In the above clauses, the head of CP is missing, but it retains its place within the clause and in this case we can easily place the conjunction so that the grammar of the clause is not lost.

With the subordinator as if (in Albanian sikur) there are a total of 7 clauses or 31.84%, of which 3 clauses or 13.63% have the complete structure of the predicative clause and the subordinate clause contains an elaborate verb and the other 4 clauses or 18.18% also have the conjunction as a complement, but we can easily remove this link and not spoil the meaning of the clause and the clause remains grammatical. These constructions in the matrix clause have the raising verb seem (in Albanian duket) and for these clauses we can say that they emerge as minimal predicative structures known as small clauses. We give clauses of this type as follows:

(16) ...kryqi i zi dukej [sikur lëvizte kërcëneshëm midis reve] (I. Kadare, Prilli i thyer, p.59).
   ... the black cross appeared [CP as if moving menacingly among the clouds].

(17) Ai dukej [sikur po i dorëzohej Vivi-Anës...] (Z. Çela, Ora e Zooparkut, p.200).
   He seemed [CP as if he was surrendering to Vivi-Ana...].

(18) Sherif Abecësi iu duk [sikur këto fjalë vinin nga ndonjë thellësirë e mjegullt] (D. Agolli, Arka e djallit, p.238).
   It seemed to Sherif Abece [CP as if these words came from some misty depth].

(19) Zemërimi ndaj doktorit iu duk [se nuk do të shterte kurrë] (I. Kadare, Darka e gabuar, p.32). (=Zemërim ndaj doktorit iu duk i pashtershëm).
   Anger at the doctor seemed [CP that he would never exhaustible]. (= Anger at the doctor seemed inexhaustible)

(19) Majat e pishave dukeshin [sikur ishin të mbuluara me një pluhur të purpurt] (D. Agolli, Trëndafili në gotë, p.258). (=Majat e pishave dukeshin me një pluhur të purpurt)
   The tops of the pines looked [CP as if covered with a purple dust] (D. Agolli, Trëndafili në gotë)
   (=The tops of the pines looked covered with a purple dust).

(20) Spiro Arhitrari u duk [sikur u zbeh më shumë] (D. Agolli, Arka e djallit, p.10). (=Spiro Arhitrari appeared [CP as if he was fading more] (D. Agolli, Arka e Djallit) (=Spiro Arhitrari seemed very pale).
   Spiro Arhitrari appeared [CP as if he was fading more] (D. Agolli, Arka e Djallit) (=Spiro Arhitrari seemed very pale).

(21) Djerrina dukej [sikur s’do të kishte fund] (I. Kadare, Prilli i thyer, p.179). (=Djerrina dukej e pafund.
   The wasteland seemed [CP as if it would have no ending]. (= The wasteland seemed no ending).
   The data presented by the corpus are also given in the form of a graph:

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**Figure 1.** Use of subordinators in predicative clauses in Albanian Language

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5. Conclusions

Based on the results it can be concluded that:

- the predicative clause is the bearer of the utterance, which is put in the foreground and as if it overshadows the matrix clause because the copular verb in the matrix clause cannot assign a thematic role to the subject of the matrix clause, but also to the subordination clause itself in general.
- predicative clauses in their constructions have mainly copular verbs, which are unavoidable in the structure of these clauses in the Albanian language
- these clauses constitute a special group of clauses composed of subordination with special features in structural and semantic terms. It should be noted that predicative clauses in the Albanian language constitute a special group of subordination with special features in structural and semantic terms and their grouping should be done within complement clauses, where other types of clauses do so as subject clause, object clauses. As a conclusion, it can be said that predicative clauses constitute a special group among complement clauses in Albanian language.

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