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## TURKISH LOANWORDS AND THEIR IMPACT IN THE ALBANIAN HOMONYMOUS LEXICAL ITEMS CORPUS<sup>1</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

*In principle, the line separating polysemy from homonymy is clear, but in practice the criteria for identifying distinct senses can be problematic. It is not always easy to decide at which point two meanings of one polysemic word merit separate entries in the dictionary. The central problem lexicologists need to tackle is precisely how to identify homonymy in particular cases and how to distinguish meanings that are close together from those that are far apart. Homonymy as a process represents one of the most controversial issues in modern lexicological and semantic studies because of the complexity of single lexical forms being associated with multiple distant senses. Among the most productive sources of homonymy such as disintegration (split of polysemy) and the convergent sound development we intentionally selected a very interesting way of obtaining perfectly new lexical items accidentally having the same outer form, as a result of a pure coincidence between a native word and a borrowed one. Exploiting the abundant number of borrowings from Turkish we found out that the adoption and the assimilation of these loanwords has contributed in the process of enlarging the Albanian language lexicon and at the same has influenced in the enrichment of the homonymous lexical items corpus due to early contacts and as a consequence of historical, social and cultural relations between two language communities. Analyzing Albanian and Turkish homonymous lexical items we found out many reliable means of backing up the claims we made and sustain our arguments that constant and frequent interactions between the given languages have contributed in sense relation and meaning development processes as well.*

**Key words:** homonymy, lexical items, loanwords, sense relation, native words, convergent sound development, adoption, assimilation

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In principle, the line separating polysemy from homonymy is clear, but in practice the criteria for identifying distinct senses can be problematic. It is not always easy to decide at which point two meanings of one polysemic word merit separate entries in the dictionary. Homonymy is often spoken of side by side with polysemy especially in traditional accounts of how meanings originate and multiply. Over and over again, words which possibly started out with one coherent meaning develop new senses; then these senses get differentiated and loose connection with one another. The central problem we need to tackle is how homonymy is outlined in Albanian and more specifically how to analyze the entire process throughout which the homonyms appeared as a result of the historical evolution of the language system and the continuous interrelation of the Albanian and the other Indo-European languages.

Homonymy as a process represents one of the most controversial issues in modern lexicological and semantic studies because of the complexity of single lexical forms being associated with multiple distant senses. Focusing on the most crucially debated issues related to homonymy we would like to point out some basic problems such as the concept of homonymy, types of homonyms and the sources, types of homonyms and the degree of consistency, their importance and use in everyday communicative interaction. Among the most productive sources of homonymy such as disintegration (split of polysemy) and the convergent sound development we intentionally selected a very interesting way of obtaining perfectly new lexical items accidentally having the same outer form, as a result of a pure coincidence between a native word and a borrowed one. Dealing more concretely with the Albanian language homonymous corpus in term of statistic data we notice that there are about 500 homonymous pairs and lines (1050 words in total) which have been listed so far and the classification of the most important types of homonyms requires nothing but purely etymological analysis and interpretations. Based on the number of homonyms we have exploited there do namely exist three main types of direct or indirect relations, all of them lacking any possible historical and etymological trace and relation (native, native borrowed, mixed)

Exploiting the abundant number of borrowings from Turkish we found out that the adoption and the assimilation of these loanwords has contributed in the process of enlarging the Albanian language lexicon and at the same has influenced in the enrichment of the homonymous lexical items corpus due to early contacts and as a consequence of historical, social and cultural relations between two language communities. Analyzing Albanian and Turkish homonymous lexical items we found out many reliable means of backing up the claims we made and sustain our arguments that constant and frequent interactions between the given languages have contributed in sense relation and meaning development processes as well.

Due to the extensive number of Turkish and other Oriental loan words and their great impact in constituting Albanian lexicon, there has always been shown a great interest from the part of the Albanian scholars especially in terms of studying their time stratification and the stylistic use. The aim of this paper is to make a detailed analysis on the lexical borrowings which have already entered in homonymic non etymological constructions and have so far established homonymic pairs or lines.

Homonymy is a permanent linguistic phenomenon of many modern Indo-European languages Albanian included thus our specific objective is to exploit two of the most productive sources of homonymy firstly that of a concordance between a native word and a borrowed one in their outer aspects(Turkish or via Turkish) and secondly the convergent sound development.

The lexical material exploited is mainly taken from the lexicographical treatments of explanatory and etymological dictionaries and more specifically from the Albanian dictionary of homonyms. The main issues treated are concretely related to the way loan words contribute

in enlarging and enriching the corpus of homonyms and leading a complete classification of homonyms based on the above mentioned criterion

### 1. HOMONYMIC PAIRS BORROWED FROM TURKISH OR VIA TURKISH

**ASHÍK,-U<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **asik** “a small part of a bone part of the cattle’s knee. **ASHÍK,-U<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk. **âşik** “lover, dilly” < arab. lover, liver:

**BÁXH/Ě,-A<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk.  **Baca-** chimney, <pers. **bāġe**-large window “window or small door on the ceiling on the roof”; **BÁXH/Ě,-A<sub>II</sub> f.** Turk. **bac** <pers. **bāġ**- ransom, cress; ; *hist.* “municipal tax paid during the Ottoman Empire as a ransom for selling cattle or other goods in the market;

**BEHÁR<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **bahar**,<pers. hot season”.; **BEHÁR<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk. **bahár**,< arab. plural, curry, spices;

**BÓJ/Ě,-A<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk. **boya-** color “specific material used to dye clothes and other goods, used as writing material; color, a person’s skin color”; **BÓJ/Ě,-A<sub>II</sub> f.** Turk. **boy** “stature; height”: **BOJALLÍ,-E<sub>I</sub> mb.** Turk. **boyali** “painted with different colors; prismatic”: **BOJALLÍ,-E<sub>II</sub>** and **BOJALLESĤ mb.** Turk. **boy** “tall and thrown, willowy”;

**BÉL,-II<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **bel-** aitchbone, haunch; the narrow part of the clothing at the hips”: **BÉL,-II<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk. **bel-**, spade, a specific tool used to make the soil friable “agricultural tool, similar to the shovel”;

**BUXHÁK,-U<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **bucak**“the corner near the fireplace; the fireplace”: **BUXHÁK,-U<sub>II</sub> m. bot.** Turk. **Burçak** “herbaceous plant, with black seeds in the pod”;

**DEF<sub>I</sub> m.** tabor, tambourine: Turk. **def** < arab. “dajre”; **DEF<sub>II</sub> fol.** Turk. **def** *def etmek, def olmak* “go away, get off”;

**DENG<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **denk** < pers. “big sack stuffed full; clothes tied and folded to be transported from one place to another; **DENG<sub>II</sub> adv.** Turk. **denk** < pers. “chock a block, completely full”;

**DÚD/Ě,-A<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk. **dudak-** lips *anat.* “gums,”; **DÚD/Ě,-A<sub>II</sub> f.** Turk. **dut** < arab. *bot.* “black mulberry, a ripe fruit”;

**KABÁ<sub>I</sub> f.** turk. **kabā muz.** a musical part played with clarinet. **KABÁ<sub>II</sub> adj.** Turk. **kabā** “which has e big volume, unattainable, hollow;

**KAFÁZ,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **kavés-** “a cabinet made of birch”.); **KAFÁZ,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk. **kavas-** “a servant in an embassy” < Arab. archer, canceller’s personal guard;

**KÊRR,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **kir-** pain with rough soil **KÊRR,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk. **kir-** a horse with a perennial color”

**PÉRÇ/E,-JA<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk. **perçém** < pers. “crest, frill”: **PÉRÇ/E,-JA<sub>II</sub> f.** Turk. **peçé** “black and spindly fabric muslim women use to cover their face”;

There are principle ways fundamentally used to enlarge and enrich Albanian language lexical corpus by using homonymous pairs borrowed from Turkish or other Balkan languages as a lexical and grammatical phenomenon. Firstly we assume that these homonyms have been previously established as linguistic by products retaining the same shape even in Turkish, though is not at all easy to be determined. Secondly the lexical meanings of a given polysemantic word in Turkish, have been departed extremely one from another constructing homonymic relations such as; Turk. **akrep**<arab. **aqreb**, “1.pitchfork; 2.the arrow of the clock”, have produced two homonymous pairs: **AKRÉP,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** a small poisonous animal; scorpion **AKRÉP,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** each of the clockwise; pointer, needle. Based on the same procedure **dai, dajé**

from Turkish **dayi** “uncle, generous, more specifically a honorable title given to elderly people, to the warriors or members of men’s divan”, has linguistically produced the respective equivalents in Albanian: **DAÍ,-U<sub>I</sub> m.** uncle, the brother of the mother **DAÍ,-U<sub>II</sub> m.** generous, brave, courageous.

Similarly, the Turkish word **divan** < pers. **dīēān** “conversation, convention, office, council, meeting, high court; have successfully resulted in deriving the Albanian word: **DIVÁN,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** “sofa, daybed, chesterfield. **DIVÁN,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** “antechamber, lobby, hallway”: **DIVÁN,-I<sub>III</sub> m.** *hist.* the council of the high officials in the Sultan’s dooryard, performing the functions of the government. **DIVÁN,-I<sub>IV</sub> m.** a collection of poetries in the oriental literature.

## 2. HOMONYMIC PAIRS HISTORICALLY STRUCTURED BASED ON TWO LOAN WORDS

**BABAXHÁN<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **babacan-** sensitive, courteous, human <pers. **papa,baba-atē;dad+gān-**) man-spirit) gentle, honey, tender, delicate; **BABAXHÁN<sub>II</sub> m.** it. **barbagianni** “a predatory night bird with yellow feathers and grey blotches”;

**BÁSH,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk- head, leader “prime, the best and selective part; forefront, the corner or the front part of the room near the fireplace”:. **BASH<sub>II</sub> Skr.** **bāş** “exactly, precisely, just the same”;

**BÉB/E,-JA<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk. **gözbebeğ-** the pupil of the eye “circular opening in the centre of the iris of the eye, regulating the passage of the light; **BÉB/E,-JA<sub>II</sub> f.** Srk. **beba, bebe;** fre. **bebe,** Eng. **baby** “a very young child”:

**BÚT,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **but, bud-**thigh; part of the hind legs of the animals: **BÚT,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** lat. **buttis** “barrel, cask tun”:

**FORÚM,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **firin-** oven, stove fireplace; cooker,”. **FORÚM,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** lat. **forum-** square, place, court, market) *hist.* public place for meetings in ancient Rome, any place for public discussion;

**FÚST/Ě,-A<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk. **fistan** “skirt, a woman’s garment that hangs from the waist”, underwear:; **FÚST/Ě,-A<sub>II</sub> f.** Ital.- **fusta** *v.* a kind of boat used for combat ;

**DÁM/Ě,-A<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk. **dam-** mews, cow-house, terrace “level area of ground with a vertical or sloping front or side”; **DÁM/Ě,-A<sub>II</sub> f.** Ital. **dama** <French woman, especially a married woman,; checkers, a game for two players with sixteen pieces each;

**ÉSH,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **eş-** similar, resembling, mate “of the same sort, companion, peer, equal in rank, merit or equality”: **ÉSH,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Slavic **ež-** hedgehog;

**JÁJ/Ě,-A<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk. **yay-** spring “device of twisted, bend or coiled metal which tends to return to its shape or position”; **JÁJ/Ě,-A<sub>II</sub> f.** Greek **γιαγιά-** mother, grandmother “aunt, granny, a title of respect”;

**JÁZ,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **yas-** mourning, sorrow, grief “the wearing of black clothes as a sign of grief”: **JÁZ,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Slavic (Skr) **jaz** – watercourse, penstock “artificial water channel, flow of the water above, through or below a floodgate”:

**KANÁR,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **kanara-** butchery “butcher”; **KANÁR,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Ital. **canar zool** .canary;

**KÓÇ,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **koç-** inseminated sheep *zool.* “sheep or goat with a broken prong”; **KÓÇ,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Slavic **kōt-**offspring “baby buffalo, a kind of ox”;

**KÓLL,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **kol** “heap, pile, batch, bundle”; **KÓLL,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Greek **κόλλα** < Ital. **cola** “starch, substance prepared in powdered form and used for stiffening cotton clothes

**KÚM,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. thin sand; **KÚM,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Modern Greek **κύμα-** wave, billow,;

**KÚNDËR<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk. **kondura-** a kind of footwear usually without shoelaces **KÚNDËR<sub>II</sub>**  
*adv.* Latin **contra** “opposite, against, versus, otherwise, on the contrary.”

**MÁLL,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **mal-** goods, real estate “immovable property, manufactured goods,  
articles offered for sale”: **MÁLL,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Latin **mālum-**“misery, grief, woe, sorrow, nostalgia,  
longing”;

**PÁJ/Ë,-A<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk. **pay-** part, share, piece, side, bias; **PÁJ/Ë,-A<sub>II</sub> f.** Latin. **pallia-** plural  
form **pallium-** robe, dower “property brought by a woman to her husband, dowry”;

**TÁJ/Ë,-A<sub>I</sub> f.** Turk. **tayá-** wet nurse < pers. “woman employed to suckle another’s  
child”; **TÁJ/Ë,-A<sub>II</sub> f.** Ital. **taglia-** screw, metal peg with slotted head and a spiral groove, driven  
into wood, metal by twisting under pressure:

**XHINS<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **cins** < Arab. “kinsfolk, kindred, relative, blood”; **XHINS<sub>II</sub> m.** Eng.  
**jeans-** “tough trousers(usually denim) similar to overalls worn informally by men, women and  
children,

**ZAVÁLL,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** Turk. **zävāl-** sin < Arab. trouble, nuisance, worry; **ZAVÁLL,-I<sub>II</sub> m.**  
Slavic (Serb) **zavala-** grass cluster gathered to dry.

### 3. HOMONYMIC PAIRS ENTAILING AN ALBANIAN NATIVE WORD AND TURKISH BORROWING

**ARSHÍN,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** (Alb.) resin. **ARSHÍN,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk. **arshin-** measuring unit”; **ÁHT,-I<sub>I</sub>**  
*m.*(Alb). “sigh wail, curse, blight, whiff”. **ÁHT,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk. **ahd, ahid-** “condition, decision,  
pledge, oath”. **ÇAM<sub>I</sub> m.** (Alb). “local resident and with the Cam origin” **ÇAM<sub>II</sub> m. bot.** Turk.  
**çam** “fir-tree, pine,”; **ÇÚLL,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** (Alb.) the winning of a player during a game **ÇÚLL,-I<sub>I</sub> m.**  
Turk. **çul** < Arab. **gull** “carpet, rug, mat; **DÁRË<sub>I</sub> f.** (Alb) pincers, a gripping tool consisting of  
two pivoted limbs forming a pair of jaws.; **DÁRË<sub>II</sub> f.** Turk. **dara, tara** < Arab. the weight of a  
container or a vessel where a commodity is held; **EM/ËR,-R<sub>I</sub> m.** (Alb) any member of a class  
of words often thought of as referring to persons, places, things, states or qualities: **EM/ËR,-**  
**R<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk. **emr** < Arab. order, command; **FERK<sub>I</sub>** (Alb) quickly, slap-bang;; **FERK<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk.  
**fark** < arab. “alteration, difference”;; **HÁPS,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** (Alb. from the Albanian verb “to open”) key  
**HÁPS,-I<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk. **hapis-** jail, prison; **JÁKË<sub>I</sub> f.** (Alb.) chicken that does not lay eggs ; **JÁKË<sub>II</sub>**  
come, come on; **JÁKË<sub>III</sub> f.** Turk. **yaká** “collar, strap, shirtband”; **LÍNG,-U<sub>I</sub> m.** (Alb.) hustle,  
hastiness, rush **LÍNG,-U<sub>III</sub> m.** Turk. **Link-** “horse trock”: **RÍSHTE,-T<sub>I</sub> f. sh.** (Alb.) the toes of  
the feet”; **RÍSHTE,-T<sub>II</sub> f. pl.** Turk. **rişte-** Albanian traditional food, pasta, macaroni **SHERR<sub>I</sub>**  
(Alb.) castrate; **SHERR<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk. **şer** < arab. quarrel, fight, fray; **ZUZÁR,-I<sub>I</sub> m.** (Alb.  
onomatopoeic) big bumblebee which builds its mortise digging deeply in the ground; **ZUZÁR,-**  
**I<sub>II</sub> m.** Turk **zuzar** “bastard, miscreant”.

### 4. HOMONYMIC LINES AND OTHER PHENOMENON RELATED TO THIS ISSUE

If we inquire into the lexical corpus of the Albanian language we come across a very  
distinguishable fact; Turkish borrowings have generated an extended number of homonymic  
pairs which have given rise to a variety of lexical and grammatical units, constituting  
homonymic lines. Approaching the given examples directly we might simply deduce that these  
linguistic by-products have already laid the foundations for the elaboration of the families of  
words, a tendency which might be fully exploited through the given example; the word **bojë**  
“color” : bojatar, bojan “with red and yellow hair/fur”; bojak “coloured material”, bojnali  
“multicolored”, bojatis, bojatisje, i bojatisur, bojëbizele, bojëkafë, bojëshitës (and many other

compound words) **bojë** “**body, stature**”: (from Turk. *bojalli, bojalleshë*), *bojan, bojli* “tall”, *bojak* “tall and handsome”.

Approaching this already stated process of homonymic lines progression belonging to and supplying the modern Albanian lexicon we must emphasize the fact that these concrete relevant linguistically materialized pairs obtained directly from Turkish or via Turkish have been stratified in the course of these two languages long historical interactions and now are embedded in the actual and real Albanian language potential. The extension and enlargement of these homonymic relations have brought into being the emanation of a large number of grammatical homonyms and at the same time of homographs and homonyms proper. In an attempt to make a quick scan of the examples we have taken stock there are some explanations the central thesis of this discourse could benefit from:

**BÁXH/Ě, -A<sub>I</sub> f.** small window or door on the roof or ceiling from Turkish  **Baca-tymtar, oxhak**<pers. **Bāge wide window** **BÁXH/Ě, -A<sub>II</sub> f.** *hist.* municipal tax paid during the period of the Ottoman Empire and later on paid for the sale of life stock and other goods in the market from Turkish **bac**, <pers. **bāğ, bāž**-custom, tax. **BÁXH/Ě, -A<sub>IV</sub> f.** a special or distinctive mark, token or device worn as sign. **BÁXH/Ě, -A<sub>V</sub> f.** a woman who does or directs the domestic work and planning necessary for a home **BÁXH/Ě, -A<sub>VI</sub> m.** brother-in-law (Kosovo).

Of a great interest and curiosity appears to be the word **kallkan** from Turkish **kalkan**-the lexical nucleus used a distinctive means for the elaboration of the semantic development in regard to the Albanian language inner linguistic principles and guidelines, denoting other referents such as, **kallkanv, kallkanvi**, used as an adjective or adverb or used extensively in many idiomatic constructions as phraseological units *bëhet kallkan*-hardens, *stifen, u bëra kallkan*- I am freezing; *u gdhi kallkan*-woke up dead; *i rri kallkan* dikujt- is not afraid. This word has displayed its function in all the other Balkan languages and furthermore is used in Polish and Russian. **KALLKÁN, -I<sub>I</sub> m.** shield, cuirass. **KALLKÁN, -I<sub>II</sub> m.** ice: **KALLKÁN, -I<sub>III</sub> m.** mediator: **KALLKÁN, -I<sub>V</sub> m.** iron lock. **KALLKÁN<sub>V</sub> adj.** icy, frozen.: **KALLKÁN<sub>VI</sub> adv.** very, extremely:

**LLÓNXH/Ě, -A<sub>I</sub> f.** flowerbed with flowers or vegetables: **LLÓNXH/Ě, -A<sub>II</sub> f.** puddle with rain water.: **LLÓNXH/Ě, -A<sub>III</sub> f.** burrow: **LLÓNXH/Ě, -A<sub>IV</sub> f.** mess, clutter: **LLÓNXH/Ě, f. hist.** assambley of village. **LLÓNXHĚ<sub>VI</sub> adj.** full of material goods.: **LLÓNXHĚ<sub>VII</sub> adv.** many things to eat and drink. **LLÓNXHĚ<sub>VIII</sub> adv.** messy, untidy ;

Throughout the traditional historical progress of lexicological and etymological theoretical and practical treatments there has been an everlasting debate about the presence of loanwords and the effect of the borrowings as a permanent process in all the ancient and modern human languages. The basic concerns are mostly collocated under some basic grounds mostly related to the level of adoption, incorporation and diffusion. Albanian language as all the other languages has continuously been under the pressure of interactions and consequent cultural, economical and social contact among two and even more language communities utilizing relevant words belonging to other languages thus crossing the boundaries of a single linguistic reality. At the same time it has also been regarded as a donor language among all the other Balkan languages. Analyzing and interpreting the bulk of homonymous pairs we can draw general conclusions about how this process of interaction and linguistic lap has influenced and forced the activity of semantic changes and semantic progression with a single directed objective, that of enlarging and enriching the total number of Albanian lexemes as well as strengthening and vitalizing the powerful means of expressions providing vivacity, expressiveness and variety.

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