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“WRITTEN” EQUAL TO “SPOKEN”?!

In the present days, if we focus on Albanian language and its usage in media or in the everyday speech, from time to time we meet words that surpass standard limits of Albanian language itself (by using foreign words).

But, except such uses, lately we meet, even in the written language, some abbreviated words, which find space just in what we could call “computer speech” and related to the language used by people (mainly by the young) who communicate in “chat” through internet.

We preferred to use the syntagm “computer speech”, since communication among people is carried out through computer, not as a form of official correspondence (for the latter we must take into consideration the usage of “chat”).

By a short survey made by us through interviews among the “users” of chat, the result was that the majority of them defined chat as a quick way of communication, as a communication “that solves problems”, as a spontaneous communication among people or as a way of communication “free from killing brains”.

These definitions were not brought by chance, since we can jump to the conclusion that in chat “without doubt” we can meet abbreviated words or phrases, because the giver of information wants to convey his message to the receiver in the shortest time possible.

Words and phrases in this way of speaking are quite various. There are such abbreviated words or phrases, as: flm (instead of “faleminderit”), klm (instead of “kalofsh mirë”), tpf (instead of “të puth fort”), spk (instead of “si po kalon”), tl (instead of “të lutem), sh (instead of “shumë”) etc.

Except the usage of such abbreviations in Albanian language, we frequently meet also the usage of borrowed

abbreviations, mainly from Italian and English: for example, thnx (instead of “thanks”), pls (instead of “please”), ok (instead of “dakord”), tvb (ti voglio bene), tvtb (ti voglio tanto bene), tvumdb (ti voglio un mondo di bene), bc (baci), gg (oggi), cmq (comunque) etc. In some cases, we also see the usage of “x” instead of “ks” in different words, such as: Alexandër (for Aleksandër), anex (for aneks), text (for tekst), fix (for fiks) etc. For parallelism, we may bring the fact that in Itali, in such situations, Italians frequently use “k” instead of “ch” or “c”, (e.g. “perke” for “perche” etc.).

As it is known, each “user” of chat uses the words to serve the transmission of information in such a way that the receiver understands everything it wants to explain in the shortest time possible. But, there are cases when for the same letter there are different interpretations. For example, if we meet such a form: “1 x”, in Albanian it is understood as “once”, while in Italian “one for” (uno per).

The above abbreviations are already made a code easily “translated” by thousands of chat users in Albania. Language, as a mechanism in motion, enriches day by day, and, as if unexpectedly, it undergoes changes in different contexts. Other contexts in such forms of language are met in the messages (sms) that are sent by mobile phones. Except the usage of the above abbreviations, we also meet texts such as: “M prit n mens. Do vij pr 5 min. Ka sh trafik ktu. M co 1 zile kur t lex. sms.”

What we notice in these simple sentences of the text of the messages is the fact that we easily understand what it is read, but the difference from the “normal” is just that in the written word it is missing the vowel “ë” (which in pronunciation is represented by the preceding consonants); instead of the full word “shumë” is used the letter “sh”, instead of verb “lexosh” (the person is understood by the context) it is written “lex.”, and instead of the letter “ç” is used “c”. In connection with the last difference, where instead of the letter “ç” is used “c”, we may say the same also about the letter “e” which is used instead of the letter “ë” used even in media today (especially in TV media).

In conclusion, we think that usage of the words and

expressions in such contexts cannot and must not have its influence on the standard Albanian language, since these abbreviations are in assistance of “electronic speaker” (in the concrete case, of the writer) only and simply because of the reason for the transmission speed of the written information or for “sparing” the space in the messages written among friends (mainly among youngsters).

Through this paper we wanted to stress that this way of writing is spread and is finding a greater and more frequent use especially in the communication among the Albanian youngsters.