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CURRENT ISSUES OF THE ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

Actually, some of the most concerning issues related to the culture of Albanian are:

Albanian continues to be under the pressure of careless writers and speakers. State and the public institutions depending from it or under its permission should have more love and care for the language they use. It is high time that rule breakers answer for the damage they are causing to the Albanian. “*Longing*” for unnecessary foreign words has become an epidemic disease and it is assuming the dimensions of a language killing disease. Critiques of linguists and sympathizers of Albanian seem to fall in deaf ears. Even in the textbooks of University level, stupid mistakes have sneaked out. This should be brought to an end, other wise the language will suffer irreparable damages.

A greater care should be made in the written Albanian especially in the publication of official and public character. The old Latin saying “*Verba volant, scripta manent*”, that legitimated that greater care and attention paid before to the written language compared to the spoken one. This wise saying still has values, but it should be completed also by the observation that in modern time, especially since the ascending to the power of visual and audio media (radio and television, tape-recorder, videocassettes, recordable discs, etc), we should admit that the spoken word “does not fly”, but it remains and impresses equally, even faster that the written word. In environments such as the theater stage, movie, and radio and television, the spoken words should be qualitatively different from the usual and careless speaking of simple people

English and other foreign languages should be learned, but is

incumbent upon us to protect and preserve Albanian. There have been many years that the written and spoken Albanian has been neglected so far. All are fervently dedicated to the learning of foreign languages, especially English, and this is not wrong, but almost no one is concerned about Albanian, its declining culture of writing and the outrage and irresponsible stand of the written and spoken media towards it. For instance, in TV annunciations for new programs, there have been noticed heavy breaks of the most elementary and simple rules of the Albanian spelling.

The actual causes and effects of the increased flow of foreign words into Albanian, without leaving unmentioned the flow of ways of saying or syntax constructions that are unacceptable for the Albanian has entered as sheer influences of foreign languages. Politicians and statesmen are the ones who mostly give the bad example in using unnecessary foreign words. They are followed by journalist and analysts who, sometimes, as a result of the unconsidered and thoughtless repetition of what they hear or record by the conversations or writings of politicians or statesmen. However, mostly do this on their own or because of their irresponsible stand, haste or bad command of Albanian and entering of foreign terms overflow and cannot be stopped.

Look how words, such as: *involvoj, involvim, implementoj, implementim, zona rurale, staf, bord, draft, prioritet, prioritar-e, konfrontoj and konfrontim, total-e, ekzil, moment, fluks, focus, frustracion etc.* are spread and used.

Today, all over the civilized world dominates the opinion that media holds the main weight in the linguistically patterning of masses; therefore, the author reemphasizes that the *journalists are also teachers of Albanian for the wide masses of readers.*

The protection of language belongs in the first instance to the state and state's and social institutions depending from or permitted by it. In every civilized country, there exist laws for the protection of the language and the state takes the necessary means for its study and teaching in schools and well as for the implementation of unified spelling in the whole official writing and publishing practice. The synonym of the unified literary language itself is its qualification as *standard* or *official*.

It should not be denied that for many years in a row, a lot has

been done for the Albanian literary language be it for its study and elaboration, or for the wide implementation of the literary language by state and cultural institutions. Many studies and contributions for the purification and enrichment of the language have been published. Periodicals such as *“Gjuha jonë”* (Our Language) in Tirana, *“Gjuha shqipe”* (The Albanian Language) in Prishtina, as well as numerous collections and critical reviews for the language used by the media and press, *“Fjalori për pastërtinë e gjuhës shqipe”* (Dictionary for the purity of Albanian) (Tirana, 1998), but those who should read and keep them always on their writing-desk, do not care about them. The main cause is that during the recent years the Albanian state and institutions’ care for the language has tremendously declined.