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A Grammatical Sketch of Albanian for
students of Indo-European

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1. Spelling

The modern orthography of Albanian, which will be used here, was adopted in 1908, at the congress of Monastir. It should be noted, however, that older linguistic books, such as Pokorny's etymological dictionary, still use the antiquated transcription adapted by Gustav Meyer in the nineteenth century. Before that, Albanian used to be written in the so-called *Elbasan* or *Todhri* alphabet, which had developed from the cursive Greek alphabet.

1.1. Vowels

<a, e, i, o, u> have more or less the Latin values (<e> is slightly more open than its Latin equivalent). <y> denotes a high front rounded vowel (German <ü>), and <ë> is a schwa-like reduced vowel similar to French "e muet". Final ë is not pronounced in Gheg dialects, which also have long and nasal vowels not reflected in writing.

1.2. Consonants

There is little to be said about <p, t, k, b, d, g, s, m, n, v, z>. Stops are pronounced without aspiration, like in Romance. <q> and <gj> are palatal stops, like Sanskrit *c* and *j*. <th> and <dh> are voiceless and voiced interdental fricatives, respectively. <c> stands for the affricate /ts/, and <x> for /dz>, while <ç> is the voiceless affricate /tʃ/, and <xh> is its voiced counterpart /dʒ/. <sh> is /š/, and <zh> is /ž/, while <h> is a laryngeal fricative like English *h*. <nj> is palatalized n (/nʲ/), and <j> is a glide like English *y*. There are two different r-sounds, a flap <r>, and a trill <rr>. Similarly, there are two l-sounds, a velarized sound represented as <ll> and a regular <l>.

2. Chronology

Nothing is known about Albanians until the 11th century, when they are mentioned by Byzantine historians. The Albanian language is mentioned for the first time outside Albania, in the Croatian city of Dubrovnik, in the vicinity of which there appears to have been an Albanian community. In 1285, a man named Matthew recorded this sentence in the context of investigation of a robbery: *Audivi unam vocem clamantem in monte in lingua Albanesca*. Not long after that, *Anonymi descriptio Europae Orientalis* (1308) states that the Albanian language is not related to any of the neighboring languages, and thus confirms that *lingua Albanesca* is indeed the predecessor of modern Albanian: *Habent enim Albani prefati linguam distinctam a Latinis, Grecis et Sclavis ita quod in nullo se intelligunt cum aliis nationibus*.

Much has been written about the origin of the Albanian language. The most probable predecessor of Albanian was Illyrian, since much of the present-day Albania was inhabited by the Illyrians during the Antiquity, but the comparison of the two languages is impossible because almost nothing is known about Illyrian, despite the fact that two handbooks of that language have been published (by Hans Krahe and Anton Mayer). A lot of enthusiasm for Illyrian was lost after it had been discovered that the only purportedly Illyrian inscription, the Ring from Kelaja Delmaçës, was actually in Byzantine Greek. The inscription was read, from top to bottom, ANA OHΘH ICER, and there were a lot of speculations about its meaning and grammar. However, a careful paleographic and philological examination showed that the actual reading is, from bottom to top, KE BOHΘH ANA, where KE is the usual Byzantine abbreviation of the word *Kýrie* 'Lord' (voc.). The meaning is thus 'O Lord, help Anna!' in straightforward Byzantine Greek. Since that discovery, which almost destroyed "Illyrology" as a linguistic discipline, reasonable doubts have been expressed whether the Illyrians spoke a single language, or a group of more or less related languages roughly corresponding to the Italic complex. It is *a priori* less probable to assume that a single language was spoken in the whole Illyricum, from the river Arsia in Istria, to Epirus in Greece, when such a linguistic uniformity is found nowhere else in Europe before the Roman conquest. Moreover, the examination of personal names and toponyms from Illyricum shows that several onomastic areas can be distinguished, and these onomastic areas just might correspond to different languages spoken in ancient Illyricum. If Illyrians actually spoke several different languages, the question arises - from which 'Illyrian' language did Albanian develop, and that question cannot be answered until new data are discovered.

The earliest documents of the Albanian language stem from the 15th century. Besides a few almost unintelligible lines from the so-called *Bellifortis Manuscript* from 1405, the first sentence of Albanian we have is the baptism formula from 1462: *Unte paghesont premenit Atit e birit et sperit senit* "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost".¹ It is preserved in a work by Paulus Angelus, the Archbishop of Dyrrachium (Alb. *Durrës*). From 1483 we have one Albanian sentence in the Renaissance comedy "Epirota" by Tommaso de Mezzo (*draburi to clofto gogleie = tramburë të kloftë golja* "may your mouth tremble (from sickness)!"), and from 1497 the earliest document of Albanian of some length, the glossary by a German traveler Von Harff. Von Harff was an adventurer who wrote a kind of tourist guide in which he collected valuable information about various European languages including Basque, Modern Greek and Albanian. He provided his reader with the native equivalents of such useful phrases as "How much does this cost?", "What is that", and "Woman, I want to sleep with you". There are also a number of Venetian documents from 13th-15th centuries in which several Albanian names are mentioned, as well as a few nouns.

The earliest documents of Albanian literature *sensu stricto* are from the 16th and 17th century. These are religious works associated with the Counter-Reformation movement, and most of them are in the Gheg dialect. The first Albanian book is *Meshari* by Gjon Buzuku (1555, preserved in a single copy), and this was soon followed by works of Lekë Matrënga (*Catechismo di F. Ledesma tradotto da Luca Matranga*, 1592, in Tosk), Pjetër Budi (*Catechismo*, 1618 and *Spiegazioni della messa romana*, 1621, *Speculum confessionis tradotto dallo Specchio di confessione*, 1612), Frang Bardhi (the author of the first Albanian dictionary – *Dizionario latino-epirotico*, 1635), Pjetër Bogdani (*Cuneus*

¹ In the modern language, this would be *Unë të pagezohet për emrit të atit e të birit e të shpirtit shenjtë*.

prophetarum de Christo salvatore mundi, 1685), and Nilo Catalano (*Dizionario albanese-italiano e italiano-albanese*, 1694). Taken all together, very few books were published in Albanian in the 17th and the early 18th centuries. The first grammar of the language is *Osservazioni grammaticali nella lingua albanese*, published by Francesco Maria da Lecce in 1716, who also wrote a dictionary (in 1702) of some 13 000 entries.

What we lack in early documents of Albanian, we gain by a close examination of the contemporary dialects. Albanian dialects are divided into Tosk (spoken chiefly in Albania south of the river Shkumbi) and Gheg (spoken in Northern Albania and in Kosovo, which is still part of Yugoslavia). The most salient difference between Gheg and Tosk is the so-called Tosk rhotacism: in Tosk, PALb. *n > r word-internally and finally, whereas in Gheg n is preserved. Thus the ethnonym ‘Albanian’ is *Arbër* in Tosk, and *Arbën* in Gheg. The modern literary language is based on the Tosk dialect of Southern Albania whose native speaker was Enver Hoxha, the former dictator of Albania. Outside Albania and Kosovo, there are very archaic Albanian dialects spoken in Greece (Sofiko, Salamis), Italy (Vaccarizzo), and Croatia (Arbanasi).

The comparative and historical research of Albanian is also fortunate in that the Albanian vocabulary is loaded with loan-words from Latin, Greek, and various forms of South Slavic, some of which are very old². Since we can discover the sound changes that affected these loan-words, we are often able to reconstruct in great detail the shape of Proto-Albanian native words.

With what has been said in mind, we adopt the following chronology:

1. Pre-Proto-Albanian (? -1st century B.C.). This is the period before the earliest contacts of Latin and Albanian.
1. Early Proto-Albanian (1st century B.C. -6th century). This is the period of intensive borrowing from Latin into Albanian, before the earliest contacts with the Slavs.
2. (Late) Proto-Albanian (6th century - 15th century). This is the period of intensive contacts of Albanians and Slavs.
3. Early Albanian (15th century - 1800). Roughly, this is the period of the earliest Albanian writings, as well as the period during which most of the Turkish loan-words entered the language.
4. (Modern) Albanian (1800 - present).

3. Historical Phonology

The phonological system of the standard language can be represented as follows:

Vowels:

i	y		u
e	ë	o	
	a		

² In Meyer’s Etymological dictionary of Albanian, of 5140 “keywords” 1420 are Romance, 540 Slavonic, 1180 Turkish, 840 Modern Greek, and only 400 have a more or less reliable IE etymology. 730 words have no etymology whatsoever. During the past century, I would say that the number of words with IE etymology has risen, while some of Meyer’s Romance etymologies have been rejected, but the number of loan-words in Albanian is still disproportionately high.

The Gheg dialects also have nasalized vowels, e.g. Tosk *hënë* ‘moon’ vs. Gheg *hân* /hã/

Consonants:

stops		fricatives			affricates	
p	b	f	v			
t	d	th	dh	s	c	x
q	gj	sh	zh		ç	xh
k	g	h				

Resonants and glides:

nasals	laterals		glide
m			
n	ll	rr	
nj	l	r	j
ng			

3.1. Stress

Early Proto-Albanian probably had a dynamic stress on the first syllable. Early Latin loan-words stressed on the penultimate lost the unstressed initial syllable(s), cf. L *amicus* >> Alb. *mik* ‘friend’, L *imperātor* >> Alb. *mbret* ‘king’, L *vicīnus* >> Alb. *fqinj* ‘neighbour’. In contemporary language the stress is regularly on the last syllable, but there are exceptions, cf. *lúle* ‘flower’ (but *muzé* ‘museum’, *jétë* ‘life’ (but *këtë* ‘this’), etc.

3.2. Vowels

PIE *(H₁)e > Alb. *je* in open syllables, cf. PIE *h₁es(s)i > Alb. *je* ‘you are’, PIE *h₁ep- ‘take’ (Hitt. *e-ep-zi* ‘takes’) > Alb. *jep* ‘give’. In closed syllables (before -CC-) the outcome is *ja*, cf. PIE *g^whermo- ‘hot’ (G *thermós*) > Alb. *zjarm* ‘fire’. Both of these changes must be dated after the Early PA, because they also affect Latin loan-words, cf. *qiell* ‘sky’ << L *caelu*, *fjalë* ‘word’ << L *fabella*.

Before a nasal followed by a fricative, Alb. *e* > *i*, cf. Alb. *mish* ‘meat’ < PIE *mēmso- (cf. OInd. *māmsa-*, with a long vowel, and OCS *męso*, L *membrum* < *memsrom, with short e).

Before two consonants and followed by *i*, PALb. *e (of whatever source) becomes *i*, cf. Alb. *del* ‘he exits’, but *dilni* ‘you (pl.) exit’, likewise *heq* ‘draw’ but *hiqni*.

PIE *o > Alb. *a*, cf. PIE *nok^wt- > Alb. *natë* ‘night’, Alb. *darkë* ‘dinner, evening meal’ < PIE *dork^wo- (G *dórpon* ‘id.’). Latin *o* is preserved, cf. L *socius* ‘companion’ >> Alb. *shok*. Word-initial Latin *o-* receives a prosthetic *v-*, cf. Alb. *vepër* ‘work’ << L *opera*, Alb. *i varfër* ‘poor’ << L *orphanus* ‘orphan’ (<< G *orphanós*).

PIE *a, to the extent that there was such a vowel in the proto-language, is represented as Alb. *a*, cf. PIE *kap-mi ‘I hold’ (L *capiō*, OHG *haban* ‘have’) > Alb. *kam* ‘I have’ (note

the similar semantic development 'hold' > 'have' as in Germanic). Cf. also Alb. *bathë* (pl.) 'broad beans', which seems identical to G *phakós* 'lentil', but the reconstructed form *bhako- contradicts the rules of PIE root structure, so it was probably borrowed from some substratum language.

After velars, PALb. *a > e (and the velars get palatalized), cf. L *canem* 'dog' >> Alb. *qen*, *calice* 'chalice' >> Alb. *qelq*, *gallum* 'cock' >> *gjel*. One should also bear in mind that Alb. a (from PIE *o, *H₂e) can be umlauted to e, especially in the plural, cf. Alb. n. sg. *plak* 'old man', pl. *pleq*. Sometimes forms with umlauted e are synchronically singulars, but originally plurals, so that Proto-Albanian *a vocalism should be reconstructed in the root, e. g., Alb. *rreth* 'circle' < PALb. pl. *rrathi (OInd. *rathá-* 'chariot', L *rota* 'wheel'). This process of substituting the plural form for the singular is quite frequent in Albanian, and is called *singularization*.

PIE *ē and *eH₁ > Alb. o, cf. PIE *meh₁(k^we) > Alb. *mos* 'prohibitive particle', PIE *g'h₂esr̥ 'hand' (Hitt. *kissar*, G *kheír*) > Alb. *dorë* (via a secondary ā-stem *g'hesrā), PIE *d₁eh₁keh₂ > Alb. *dokë* 'custom, habit', G *thēkē*, PIE *leh₁d- 'be tired' (G *lēdeîn*, L *lassus* < *lh₁d-to-) > Alb. *lodhem* 'am tired'.

PIE *o, *eh₃, and *oh₁ > Alb. e, cf. PIE *yeh₃s- (G ζώνη, Lith. *júostas* 'girt') > Alb. *ngjesh* 'I gird' (*n-* is from a prefix *en-), PIE *nōs 'we' > Alb. *ne*. This change appears to be Late PALb. since it affects Latin loan-words, cf. Alb. *tmer* 'fear' << L *timōre*, Alb. *arsye* 'reason' << L *ratione*, *pemë* 'fruit' << L *pōmum*, perhaps also *herë* 'time' << L *hōra* (the word-initial *h-* in this word is dubious, since it was no longer pronounced in Latin by the time contacts with PALb. were possible).

Latin unaccented *ō* and *o* are reflected as Alb. *u-*, cf. *uroj* 'wish, congratulate' << L *orare* 'pray', *urdhër* 'order' << L *ordine*, *kuptoj* 'understand' << L *computo* 'compute'.

PIE *eh₂ (*ā) > Alb. o, cf. PIE *meh₂tēr 'mother' > Alb. *motër* 'sister'. The semantic shift is unusual, as Albanian is the only IE language in which the reflex of PIE *meh₂tēr means anything but 'mother'. Alb. *mollë* 'apple(-tree)' can be from PIE *meh₂lo-, parallel to G *mēlon* but it is more probable that both the Albanian and the Greek words for 'apple' were borrowed from some unknown substratum.

PIE *u is reflected as *u*, cf. Alb. *nusë* 'daughter-in-law', originally 'bride' < *nubhtyeh₂ (cf. L *nubō* : *nupta*). It has been claimed that this is a loan-word from Latin (*nuptiae* 'wedding'), but the meanings do not match very well. Word-initial *u-* is preserved in *uri* 'hunger' < *un- (Gheg *un*) < *unh₁- (zero-grade of *wenh₁- > OHG *wunscen* 'wish', Skr. *vánate* 'desire').

PIE *i remains, cf. Alb. *ditë* 'day' < *di-ti- (cf. OCS *дѣнь* < *di-ni), *i lig* 'bad' < *h₃ligo- (G *olígos* 'small').

*uH seems to give Alb. *i*, cf. Alb. *mi* < *muHs 'mouse', *ti* < *tuH 'you', *tani* 'now', if it is from *to-nū < *to-nuH (OCS *nyně* 'now'), *thi* 'pig', if it is dissimilated from *sūs < *suHs (Skr. *sū-*). Perhaps *uH > Alb. *u* after *y, cf. *yuH- 'you (pl.)' > Alb. *ju* (cf. Lith. *jūs*, OInd. *yūyam*). However, the resemblance of Alb *ju* and PIE *yuH- could also be misleading,

since *y- is usually reflected as *gj-* in Albanian, so some scholars (Pedersen, Huld) prefer to connect Alb. *ju* to PIE *we- seen in L *vās*, OCS *vy*.

It is difficult to find original instances of *iH in Albanian. The most often quoted example, Alb. *pi* 'drink', probably involves laryngeal metathesis (PIE *peh₃i- ~ zero-grade *ph₃i- > *pih₃-, cf. OCS *piti* 'drink'), and is not altogether reliable.

Albanian *y* comes regularly from the sequence *wi* (and is spelled as *ui* in Early Albanian, e. g. in Buzuku's works), cf. *qytet* 'city' < L *civitātem* (Acc.). Alb. *y* can also be the result of umlaut, cf. *fryt* 'product' < **fruti* << L (pl.) *fructūs*, as well as the regular outcome of L *ū* in loan-words, cf. *pyll* 'forest' < **padule* < L *paludem* 'swamp (acc.)', *brymë* 'icicles' < *brūma*.

Alb. *ë* is a reduced vowel, which usually occurs in non-syncopated pretonic, and non-apocopated post-tonic syllables, cf. Alb. *këndoj* 'sing' << L *cantāre*, *tërboj* 'enrage' << *turbāre*. It also occurs in the first syllable of some native words, regularly before a nasal followed by a consonant, cf. *dhëmb* 'tooth' < **g'ombhos* (G *gómphos* 'comb'), *ëndërr* 'dream' < **h₃ŋro-* (cf. G *ónar*).

3.3. Diphthongs

The outcome of PIE diphthongs is another source of dispute in the historical phonology of Albanian. The following seem to be the most reliable etymologies:

PIE *ey > Alb. *i*, cf. *dimër* (Gh. *dimën*) 'winter' < PIE **g'heymon* (G *χείμων*).

PIE *oy > Alb. *e*, cf. *shteg* 'path' < **stoygho-* (OCS *stbza* 'id.' < **stigheh₂*), *be* 'faith' < **bhoydeh₂* (L *fidēs* < **bhid-*), *verë* (Gheg *venë*) 'wine' < **woyno-* (G *oīnos*, L *vinum*).

The outcome of **h₂ey* (**ay*) is uncertain. If *keq* 'bad' can be connected to L *caecus* 'blind', Goth. *haihs*, OIr. *cáech*, it would appear that **ay* > *e*; similarly, *edh* 'goat', when compared to G *aíx*, *aigós* points to **h₂eyg-* (but this word is likely to be a borrowing from a non-IE source).

PIE *ew > Alb. *e*, cf. *hedh* 'throw' < **skewd-* (OE *scēotan*).

At least word-initially, **h₂ew* and **h₂ow* seem to yield Alb. *ve-*, cf. Alb. *vesh* 'ear', which is from PIE **h₂ews-* 'ear' (L *auris*) Alb. *ve* 'egg', which must be somehow related to L *ōvum*, OCS *j-aję* (PIE **h₂ōwyom*, a *vṛddhi* to **h₂owis* 'bird'), and Alb. *vetë* 'self', if it is related to G *autós* 'id.' (from ?**h₂ewto-*). This rule seems to be contradicted by Alb. *ag*, *agim* 'dawn', but its relation to G *augé*, OCS *jugъ* 'south' is far from clear. The outcome of **h₂ew*, **h₂ow*, and **ow* word-internally is uncertain. If *ter* 'bull' is not a loan-word from Latin, as Haarmann (1972) thinks, but a native word corresponding to L *taurus*, G *taurós*, OIr. *tarb*, then it would appear that *-aw- > -e-.

In Latin loan-words L *au* > Alb. *a*, cf. Alb. *pak* 'few' << L *paucu*, Alb. *gaz* 'joy' << L *gaudiu*, *ar* 'gold' << L *aurum*.

There are a few diphthongs in Albanian, whose origin is very dark, e. g., *ye*, which occurs mostly in plurals, and appears to be due to some kind of compensatory lengthening, e. g., *dyer*, pl. of *derë* 'door' < *dhwōr-, or *krye* 'head'. There is also the so-called 'broken vowel', *ua*, which is represented as *uo* in the early writers (Buzuku, Budi). In Gheg dialects this diphthong is either monophthongized to *ū*, or pronounced as *ue* (NE Gheg). It occurs in some irregular plurals (*duar*, pl. to *dorë* 'hand') and in some difficult forms (e. g. *grua* 'woman', *buall* 'waterbuffalo bull').

3.4. Auslautgesetze

The development of vowels in final syllables in Albanian is difficult to ascertain. Here are some rules that seem to apply quite regularly:

PIE *o and *e are lost, cf. n. sg. of o-stems, e. g. *ulk^wos 'wolf' > Alb. *ujk* (this is a dialectal variant of PIE *w^lk^wos 'wolf', OInd. *vrkas*, that Albanian seems to share with Celtic, cf. OIr. *olc* 'bad' and names in *Ulc-*, *Olc-*). The development of *e can be seen in the n. pl. of the consonant stems, e. g. PIE *nok^wtes 'nights' > Alb. *net*.

PIE *eh₂ > *a is retained as -*ë* in open syllables, but as -*e* in closed syllables, cf. n. sg. and pl. of *ā*-stems, e. g., *dritë* 'light' (n. sg.) < *d^rk'tā, *drite* 'lights' < *d^rk'tās.

PIE *i seems to be lost in open syllables, but preserved as -*ë* in closed syllables, cf. (in open syllable) *esmi > Alb. *jam* 'I am', *h₂elbhi 'barley' > Alb. *elb* (G *álfhī*), (in closed syllable) *nok^wtis > Alb. *natë* 'night', perhaps also *penk^wtis 'five' > Alb. *pesë*.

PIE *ō (and *-oH) was probably narrowed to *ū, like in Proto-Celtic, and then shared the outcome of PIE *-uH > -*i*, cf. PIE *dwoH 'two' > PAlb. *dwū > *dwi > Alb. *dy*. By positing this change it is easy to account for the 1st sg. present ending in -*i* of verbs such as *dī* 'I know'. After vowels, this *i* was reduced to -*j*, cf. *kuptoj* 'I understand' < *kuptāō << L *computāre*.

Final *ē seems to be reduced to *ë*, at least in closed syllables, cf. *motër* 'sister' < PIE *meh₂tēr.

Final *oy first developed to *e, just like any other *oy, and then it fell off, often causing umlaut in the preceding syllable, cf. n. pl. of the o-stems in *-oy (an old pronominal ending also seen in L *lupī*, Lith. *vilgai* 'volwes'), e. g. *miq* 'friends', n. pl. of *mik* << L *amicus*.

3.5. Laryngeals in Albanian?

The idea that at least one of the laryngeals was preserved in Albanian is due largely to Eric Hamp (1965). Hamp thought that PIE *h₄, which in his view colors *e to *a, but disappears in Hittite, survives in Albanian as *h*. Indeed, there are some words in Albanian that contain an unexplained *h*-, but the etymologies offered by Hamp are rather poor (for a thorough criticism, see Ölberg 1972). The only universally acknowledged source for Albanian *h*-, however, is from PIE *sk'-, cf. *hije* 'shadow' < *sk'eh₂i- (G σκιά,

OInd. *chāyá-*), *hënë* ‘moon’ < *sk’andnā (L *candor*), *hudhër* ‘garlic’, either related to or borrowed from G *skórodon*. Reconstructing the fourth PIE laryngeal to account for obscure Albanian words like *heq* ‘draw, push’, *hirrë* ‘whey’, *hundë* ‘nose’, and *hekur* ‘iron’, seems to me out of the question. The only case where Alb. *h-* occurs in a word with clear IE correspondences with initial laryngeal is Alb. *herdhë* ‘testicles’, which is certainly cognate with G *órkhis*, OIr. *uirge*, and Lith. *eržilas*, *aržilas* ‘stallion’, and in this case the reconstructed laryngeal is PIE *h₃ or *h₁. The PIE word for ‘testicle’ should be reconstructed as *h₃org’his or *h₁org’his, and Alb. -e- is probably due to singularization of an original plural, so we should posit an original PALb. n. sg. *hardh(ë). Although there do not seem to be any obvious counter-examples³ to a sound law *h_{1/3}V- > Alb. hV-, one word is certainly not a solid basis for far-fetched conclusions. One should also mention that Alb. *rreth* ‘circle’, which is certainly related to L *rota* ‘wheel’, OInd. *ratha-* ‘chariot’ (PIE *(H)roth₂-) has an unexplained *th* rather than *t, which might point to a development *tH > *th* in Albanian, but in view of the lack of further examples this remains a speculation.

Before resonants laryngeals disappear word-initially, cf. *ëndër* ‘dream’ < *h₃nr- (cf. G *ónar*, Arm. *anurj*), *njeri* ‘man’ < *h₂ner- (G *anēr*), perhaps *emër* (Gh *emën*) ‘name’ if from *h₃nomn̄ (Gr. *ónoma*, Skr. *nāma*, etc.). The reflexes of laryngeals after syllabic resonants are discussed below.

3.6. Resonants

Resonants are generally preserved, unless one takes into account the Tosk rhotacism, by which *-n- > -r-.

PIE *m > *m*, cf. Alb. *mal* ‘hill’ < PIE *m|h₃dh- (OE *molda* ‘forehead’, G *blōthrós* ‘high reaching’), Alb. *mjel* ‘I milk’ < PIE *h₂melg’- (G *amélgō*, L *mulgeō*, Eng. *milk*), *mjaltë* ‘honey’ < PIE *melit- (G *méli*, *mélitos*; cf. also Alb. *bletë* ‘bee’ < *mlVt-).

PIE *n > *n*, cf. Alb. *nëntë* ‘9’ < *newn-ti-, PIE *newn̄ (L *novem*, etc.), Alb. *nye* ‘knot’, if related to L *nōdus*. In Tosk, -n- > -r-, cf. Alb. *verë* ‘wine’ (Gheg *venë*) < *woyno- (L *vīnum*). In Latin loanwords, *n-* remains, cf. Alb. *numër* ‘number’ << L *numerus*.

PIE *l > *l*, cf. Alb. *ligë* ‘bad’ < PIE *h₃ligo- (G *olígos* ‘few’). Word-initial *l-* in Latin loanwords is represented as *ll-* before back vowels (including *a*), but as *l-* before front vowels, cf. *lepur* ‘rabbit’ << L *lepore*, *ligje* ‘law’ << L *lēge*, *lirë* ‘free’ << L *liber*, but *llaft* << *laude*, *llar* ‘laurel’ << L *lauru*.

PIE *r > *r*, cf. Alb. *rjep* ‘catch’ < *h₁rep- (L *rapiō*, G *eréptoma*), Alb. *dru* ‘tree’ < *drun-, PIE *doru-/dru- (OInd. *dāru-*). Initial *wr- yields Alb. *rr-*, cf. Alb. *rrënjë* ‘root’ < *wrVd-n- (OIr. *frén*, G *ríza* < *wridyā).

Word-initial *r* is usually represented as *rr-*, cf. Alb. *rreth* ‘circle’ < PIE *(H)rōth₂- (German *Rad* ‘wheel’, Skr. *ratha-* ‘chariot’). This is also the case with Latin loanwords, cf. *rret* ‘net’

³ Alb. *asht* ‘bone’ is more likely than not from PIE *Hh₂osth₁-, like G *ostéon*, L *os*, *ossis*, and Hitt. *hastai-*.

<< L *rēte*, *rrotē* 'wheel' << L *rota*, *rrobull* 'oak' << L *robur*. If Latin *r* was preceded by a vowel, it is represented as Alb. *r-*, cf. *ranë* 'sand' << L *arēna*.

PIE *w > v, cf. Alb. *vej* 'weave' < *webhnyō (PIE *webh- > Germ. *weben*, etc.), PIE *widheweh₂ 'widow' > Alb. *e ve* (OInd. *vidhavā*, L *vidua*, OIr. *fedb*, etc.). In Latin loanwords, *v-* is preserved, cf. Alb. *va* 'ford' << L *vadum*.

PIE *y > Alb. *gj*, cf. Alb. *n-gjesh* 'gird' (OInd. *yās-* 'girt', OCS *po-jasъ*), Alb. *gjuaj* 'hunt', if related to Germ. *jagen*. Alb. *gj-* is the only assured reflex of PIE *y, and the change is confirmed by Latin loan-words, cf. Alb. *gjykoj* 'judge' << L *iudicare*. Some think that there is another possibility, namely PIE *y > Alb. *z*, cf. Alb. *zej* 'bake' and G *zēō* 'boil', or Alb. *i zi*, fem. *e zezë* 'black' (fem.), as if from *yeh₃dye_h₂-, cf. Lith. *júodas* 'black'. The usual source of Alb. *z-* is *dy-, both in native words and Latin loan-words, cf. *zanë* 'fairy' << L *Diana*.

3.7. Syllabic resonants

The traditional view is that PIE *r, *l > Alb. *ri*, *li*, whereas PIE *ṛ, *ḷ > Alb. *an*, *am*. These reflexes would be similar to the reflexes in Celtic. However, if a laryngeal follows, *rH > Alb. *ar*, *lH > Alb. *al*. Here are some examples:

PIE *R:

Alb. *drithë* 'grains' < PIE *g'hṛd- (L *hordeum* 'barley', NHG *Gerste*), Alb. *krimb* (Gheg *krymb*, with regular change of *i* > *y* before labials) 'worm' < PIE *kṛmi- (OInd. *kṛmi-*, Lith. *kirmis*); the relation of this word to L *vermis* and Eng. *worm* is unexplained.

PIE *RH

Alb. *i bardhë* 'white' < PIE *bhṛHg'o-, Alb. *i parë* 'first' < *pṛh₃wo- (OInd. *pūrva-*, OCS *prъvъ*), Alb. *mal* 'hill' < PIE *mḷHdho- (OInd. *mūrdhan-* 'head'), Alb. *valë* 'wave' < PIE *wḷHnis (Lith. *vilnis* 'id.'). The presence of laryngeal in this root is shown by the intonation of Latv. *veļt* 'walken').

There are, however, problems with the traditional view. Namely, in several cases PIE *r appears to yield Alb. *ar* where a following laryngeal cannot be reconstructed, cf. Alb. *arí* 'bear' < PALb. *ar (-í is a productive suffix) < PIE *h₂ṛtk'o- (Hitt. *hartagga-*, G *árktos*, L *ursus*, OIr. *art*), Alb. *ardhur*, pple. of *vij* 'come' < *h₁ṛg'h- (G *érkhomai*, OIr. *regaid* 'will go'). Unless one wants to blame this irregularity on the initial laryngeal, we can claim that word-initially PIE *r > Alb. *ar*. The only problem with this view is Alb. *rit* 'I rear' *ritem* 'I am growing', which Meyer relates to OInd. *ṛdhnāti*, *ṛdhāti* 'prosper, succeeds'. The *t* instead of *d* in the Albanian word cannot destroy this etymology, since stops are devoiced word-finally in several dialects, but perhaps the rather vague correspondence of meanings makes it not so attractive. Mayrhofer relates OInd. *ṛdhāti* to G *álthomai* 'grow, succeed', which seems plausible, and in which case Alb. *rit* has no etymology.

We would also expect word-initial *l̥ to give Alb. *al-*, but there are no examples. If Alb. *liqe*, Tosk *liqër* 'lake' is the same word as L *lacus*, G *lákkos*, OCS *loky* 'pond' (PIE n. sg. *lokus, gen. sg. *l̥kwes), it would appear that *l̥- > Alb. *li-*. A special problem is Alb. *grunë* 'wheat', which should be somehow related to L *grānum*, Goth. *kaurn* < PIE *gʷr̥hno-. We could posit a change *ar > *ru* after velars, but then Alb. *gardh* 'fence, hedge' must be considered a (?Germanic) loan-word (cf. Goth. *gards* 'house, yard', Lith. *gardas* 'enclosure, fortified town'). Similarly, if *shurrë* 'urine' is from *sk̥r̥neh₂ (see below), its vocalism would be irregular, but a similar development of *r > *ur* after a velar is attested in *gur* 'stone' < PIE *gʷr̥h- (OCS *gora* 'mountain', Skr. *girí-* 'mountain').

3.8. Consonants

3.8.1. Stops

PIE voiceless stops are preserved, cf. Alb. *pjek* 'bake' < PIE *pekʷoh₂ (OInd. *pacati*, L *coquō*), Alb. *pi* 'drink' < PIE *peh₃i- (G *pínō*, OInd. *píbatī*), Alb. *ti* 'you' < PIE *tu(H) (OInd. *tuvam*, L *tū*, OCS *ty*), Alb. *katër* '4' < PIE *kʷetwores (OInd. *catvāras*, G *téttares*; it has also been claimed that Alb. *katër* is a loan-word from L *quattuor*, but this is improbable), Alb. *nduk* 'pull' < *dewk- (L *dūcō*).

Voiceless stops are voiced after nasals, cf. *prind* 'parent' << L *parente*, *mbrënda* 'inside' << *per intu*, *nëndë* 'nine' < *new̥n̥-ti-. This change is late, since Early Albanian texts still have *-nt-*, *-mp-*, e. g. Von Harff's dictionary has *nente* for '9'.

The development of PIE voiced and aspirated stops is unclear. It is certain that *bh > *b*, cf. Alb. *bjer* 'bring' (imperative) < PIE *bhere (OInd. *bhāra*, G *phére*, L *fer*). One cannot find any convincing examples of reflexes of PIE *b in Albanian. Huld's derivation of Alb. *det* 'sea' from PIE *dhewboto- (cf. OE *dēop* 'deep', OCS *dubokъ*, Lith. *dubùs*) is possible, but tells us little. Proto-Albanian *b and *d, from whatever source, are sometimes lost word-internally, even in loan-words, cf. Alb. *e ve* 'widow' < *widheweh₂ (L *vidua*), Alb. *fe* 'religion' << L *fidēs*, *fjalë* 'word' << L *fabella*, *luaj* 'play' << L *ludere*, *mjek* 'physician' << L *medicus*.

It appears certain that reflexes of *gʷ and *gʷh are different in Albanian, in which case aspirated and voiced stops were still distinct in PAIb. The regular reflex of *gʷ is *dh*, whereas *gʷh is reflected as *d*:

PIE *gʷ

Alb. *dhëmb* 'tooth' < PIE *gombhos 'comb' (G *gómphos*, Lith. *žambas*). Note the same change in meaning as in OCS *ząbъ* 'tooth'.

Alb. *dhëndhërr* 'son in law' < *gʷenh₁- (Lith. *žentas*, OInd. *jñātí* 'relative').

Alb. *i bardhë* 'white' < PIE *bhṛHgʷo- (OInd. *bhūrjā-* 'shining').

Alb. *mbledh* 'gather' < *en-legʷoh₂ (G *légō* 'speak', L *legō* 'read').

Alb. *madh* 'great' < PIE *meg'h₂ (OInd. *mahi*, G *méga*, L *mag-nus*).

PIE *g'h

Alb. *dorë* 'hand' < PIE *g'hēsṛ (Hitt. *kiššar*, G *kheír*, Toch. A *tsar*)

Alb. *dimër* 'winter' < PIE *g'heymōn (G *kheímōn*, L *hiems*, OCS *zima*).

Alb. *drithë* 'grains' < PIE *g'hṛd- (L *hordeum*, OHG *gersta*, perhaps also Arm. *gar*).

Alb. *ardhur*, pple. of *vij* 'come' < PIE *h₁rg'h- (G *érkhomai* 'I shall go' = OIr. *regaid*). This is not a counter-example to *g'h > d, since the change *d > dh /r_ is regular and also affects Latin loan-words, cf. *urdhër* 'order' << L *ordine*.

Since the changes *g' > dh and *g'h > d seem assured, one would expect PIE *d to give Alb. *dh*, and *dh to give Alb. *d*. However, both *d and *dh give Alb. *d* almost without exception:

PIE *d

Alb. *dy* 'two' < PIE *duwoH (OInd. *duvā*, G *dúo*, etc.).

Alb. *dru* 'tree' < *drun- (PIE *doru / *dru- > G *dóru*, g. *doúratos* < *dorwṛtos).

Alb. *ditë* 'day' < *ditV- (OCS *дѣнь*).

Alb. *dem* 'small bull' < *dōmo- (OInd. *dāmya*- 'bull' OIr. *dam* < PIE *dom(H)-).

Alb. *dritë* 'light' < *dṛk'tā (OInd. *dṛś-* 'see', G *dérkomaí*). This etymology is a bit weak on semantic grounds.

Alb. *djerr* 'wasteland' < *derno- (if related to G *deírō* 'peel', OCS *derą*).

Alb. *degë* 'twig, branch' < *dwogho- (cf. E *twig*, NHG *Zweig*).

PIE *dh

Alb. *djeg* 'burn' < PIE *dheg^wh- (OInd. *dahati*, Lith. *degti*). Alb. *ndez* 'kindle' < *endhog^wheyo- is a causative built to the same root, PIE *dhog^wheyoh₂ > L *foveō*).

Alb. *derë* 'door' < *dhwōru- (G *thúra*, L *forēs*, Lith. *dvāras* < PIE *dhwōr / *dhurós).

Alb. *dje* 'yesterday' < PIE *dhg'hes (G *khthés*, L *here* < *hesi, OEng. *geostra*).

Alb. *dele* 'sheep', if related to G *thēlus* 'feminine', L *fēlō* 'suck' (PIE *dheh₁i-l-).

A very small number of words seem to have Alb. *dh* for PIE *d. Since this is the expected outcome on structural grounds, the question arises whether these forms are relics, or do they show the results of a late development of *d* > *dh*. Here are the

problematic forms: Alb. *dhjetë* ‘10’ < PIE *dek’m (G *déka*, L *decem*, etc.), Alb. *dhi* ‘he-goat’, if it is related to NHG *Ziege*, Alb. *lodhem* ‘am tired’ < PIE *leh₁d- (G *lēdeîn*), and Alb. *dhashë* ‘I gave’, aorist to *jep* ‘give’ (PIE *deh₃- ‘give’ > G *dídōmi*, L *dō*, *dare*, etc.). It is easiest to explain these forms if one assumes that *-d- > -dh- (before the merger of voiced and aspirated stops). In *dhjetë* ‘ten’ *dh-* is generalized from compound numbers, and in *dhashë* ‘I gave’ from forms with preverbs. Alb. *dhi* can have *dh* rather than *d by analogy with *edh* ‘goat’, which is probably the same word as OInd. *ajā-*, OPr. *wosee* ‘goat’ (PIE *h₂og’o-; the Albanian form implies a lengthened grade, PIE *h₂ōg’o-). There are no instances of Alb. *dh* for PIE *dh. Alb. *dhe* ‘earth’ should be derived not from PIE *dheghōm (Hitt. *tekan*, G *khthōn*, etc.) but rather related to G (Hom.) *gaīa* ‘earth’, which is also of uncertain origin.

3.9. PIE Plain velars in Albanian?

It has been claimed that the difference between the three PIE series of gutturals is preserved in Albanian before front vowels. This thesis, sometimes referred to as Pedersen’s law, is often contested, but still supported by the majority of Albanologists (e. g. Hamp, Huld, and Ölberg). In examining this view, one should bear in mind that it seems certain that there were at least two palatalizations in Albanian: the first palatalization, whereby labiovelars were palatalized to *s* and *z* before front vowels and *y, and the second palatalization, whereby all the remaining velars (*k and *g) were palatalized to *q* and *gj*, in the same environment. PIE palatalized velars are affected by neither palatalization (they yield Alb. *th*, *d*, *dh*, cf. Alb. *thom* ‘I say’ < *k’ēnsmi, cf. OInd. *śams-* ‘praise’, L *cēnseō* ‘reckon’). It may be that *th* yielded *f* before a consonant, if Alb. *ēnfle* ‘sleep’ is from *nthle < *n-k’loye- (cf. G *klínō* ‘recline’).

3.10. The first palatalization

PIE *k^weloh₂ ‘I turn’ > Alb. *sjell* ‘bring, fetch, turn’, G (Hom.) *pélō* ‘turn, move, become’, PIE *meh₁-k^we > Alb. *mos* (prohibitive particle), cf. G *mē-te*, PIE *k^wih₁ ‘how’ > Alb. *si*, PIE *g^whermos ‘heat’ > Alb. *zjarr*, *zjerm* ‘fire’, G *thermós* ‘hot’ Arm. *jermn* ‘fever’, PIE *g^whwen- ‘sound’ (OCS *zvонъ*) > Alb. *zë* ‘voice’. Perhaps this process can account for Alb. *sy* ‘eye’, if it should be derived from an old dual *h₃k^wih₁ (G Hom. *ósse*, OCS *oči* ‘eyes’). Its -y- rather than *i must somehow be analogical.

3.11. The second palatalization

This process affects many Latin loan-words, e. g., *qershi* ‘cherry’ << *cerasiu*, *qind* ‘100’ < *centu*, *gjind* ‘people’ << *gente*, *shëgjetë* ‘arrow’ << *sagitta*. Since Alb. *gj* has several other sources (PIE *y, *s), its occurrence in native words is not alarming, but the occurrence of *q* in native words is, since this sound can be neither from PIE *k’ (it would have changed to *th*) nor from *k^w (it would have been palatalized to *s*). Yet there are quite a few instances of *q* in Albanian that cannot be considered Latin loan-words, e. g. *qoj* ‘wake, rouse’, which seems to correspond to, but cannot be derived from, L *cieō* ‘set in motion’ (cf. also G Hom. *kíō* ‘go’, and *kinéō* set in motion, perhaps also OInd. *cyavate*). All these forms can be explained by positing a PIE root *keh₁i-, with zero-

grade (and laryngeal metathesis) *kih₁-. Alb. *qeth* ‘cut’ has been compared to Lith. *kertù* ‘id.’, but this equation has with some justification been put into doubt, since one would not expect *r to be lost before *th* (see Çabej 1972: 144). On the other hand, the etymological connection of Alb. *gjej* (*gjenj* in dialects) ‘find’ and G *khandánō*, L *prae-hendō* (*praeda* ‘spoils’ < *prai-heda), E *get* still seems fine to me⁴.

Moreover, PIE *k seems to be preserved before PIE *ē, which later changed to o in Albanian, cf. *kohë* ‘time’ which can be superimposed on OCS *časъ* ‘moment’. Note, however, that the Albanian form actually implies a feminine noun *kēsā, or *kēs̄k’ā, the Slavic form is from a masculine *kēsos, or *kēs̄k’os, and still in OPr. we have neuter *kisman* ‘time’.

However few they are, instances of PIE plain velars in Albanian should be taken seriously, since there does not seem to be an easy way to get rid of them. Although many aspects of Albanian historical phonology remain unclear, this is by itself not an argument against Pedersen’s law. In order to refute it, one would have to devise a scenario in which 1. All of the Albanian native words with *k*, *g*, *q*, *gj* are from PIE words with labiovelars, or “desatemized” palatals (on which see below). 2. In all such words the reflexes of PIE labiovelars preceded back vowels during the period of the first palatalization, and 3., those back vowels were subsequently - analogically or otherwise - changed to front vowels. Since no such scenario seems to be forthcoming, the problem of the validity of Pedersen’s law must remain open.

3.12. Desatemization in Albanian

The development of PIE gutturals is further complicated by the fact that PIE palatals seem to be regularly depalatalized before resonants in Albanian⁵. Again, there are few examples of this change, but no counter-examples, which makes the rule convincing, e. g., PIE *smek’ru ‘chin’ (OInd. *śmaśru-*, Lith. *smākras*, OIr. *smech*, perhaps also Hitt. *zamankur*) > Alb. *mjekër* ‘id.’, PIE *k’lu- ‘hear’ (OInd. *śru-*, G *klúō*) > Alb. *quhem* ‘am called’, PIE *g’reh₂u- ‘old woman’ (G *grauś*) > Alb. *grua* ‘woman, wife’ (but note that there is a different etymology of this word, relating it to G *gynē* ‘woman’), PIE *g’onu- / *g’new- ‘knee’ (OInd. *jānu*, G *gónu*, L *genu*, Goth. *kniu*) > Alb. *gju*, def. *gjuni*, *gjuri*.

3.13. PIE *s

PIE *s gives *gj-* word-initially, cf. PIE *supnos ‘sleep’ (G *hupnós*, OCS *сънь*) > Alb. *gjumë*, PIE *sok^wos ‘sap, juice’ (G *opós*, OCS *sokъ*) > Alb. *gjak* ‘blood’. The change, which can be represented as *s > *ś > *ž > *gj*, must have been very early, since Latin borrowings regularly have Alb. *sh-* for L *s-*, cf. Alb. *shok* ‘friend, comrade’ << L *socius*, Alb. *shumë* ‘much’ << L *summum*. The development of *s word-medially is unclear. It

⁴ However, another explanation is possible, though difficult, if one starts from *ghednyō, which would regularly give *gjanj, *gjaj in Albanian. The problem is whether *-d- was lost before or after *e > ja in the closed syllable, and whether this in turn preceded or followed the second palatalization. The e-vocalism of the attested form should then somehow be analogical.

⁵ A similar rule applies in Balto-Slavic, but there back vowels must follow the resonant. See R. Matasović, *Poredbenopovijesna gramatika hrvatskoga jezika*, Zagreb 2008.

has been claimed that the outcome is *h*, as in *kohë* ‘time’, if from **kēso-*, but both Alb. *kohë* and OCS *časъ* ‘moment’ can also be derived from PIE **kēsk'o-*, and the change **sk*’ > Alb. *h* is regular anyway. A case can be made for the development **s* > *sh*, cf. Alb. gen.-dat.-abl. pl. (indefinite) *-ësh*, if it is from PIE **-oysu* (OInd. *-eśu*), and *mish* ‘meat’ < **mēso-* < **memso-* (OCS *męso*). In any case, Latin loan-words have *-sh-* word-internally for Latin *-s-*, cf. Alb. *rrëshinë* << L *resina*, Alb. *dëshiroj* ‘want’ << L *desiderare*, Alb. *kafshë* ‘thing’ << L *causa*.

In sequences **s...s*, the first sibilant is dissimilated to *th*, cf. Alb. *thi* ‘pig’ < PIE **suHs* (L *sūs*, G *huīs*, Alb. *thaj* ‘to dry’ < **sh₂ewso-* (OCS *suxъ* ‘dry’). It has been claimed that PIE **s-* > *sh-* before unstressed vowels, cf. *shtatë* ‘7’ < **septm*, (G *heptá*), *shi* ‘rain’ < **suH-* (G *húei* ‘it rains’), but this is uncertain. A particular problem is presented by Alb. *shurrë* ‘urine’, which has been related to Hitt. *šehur* ‘id.’, but which is more likely to be from something like **sk₂neh₂*, and thus related to G *skōr*, *skatós* ‘excrement’ (a *r/n* stem).

Word-initial **sw-* seems to yield Alb. *d-*, at least when stressed, cf. Alb. *diell* ‘sun’ < **swel-* (Skr. *svar-*), *dirtsë* ‘sweat’ < **swid-r-* (Skr. *svedate* ‘sweats’).

3.14. Consonant clusters

In clusters involving two stops, the first stop is lost very early, cf. *natë* ‘night’ < **nok^wt-*, *shtatë* ‘7’ < **septm*, *tetë* ‘8’ < *(H)*ok'to*. In Latin loanwords, **pt* and **kt* yield *ft*, cf. L *luctor*, *luctāri* ‘fight’ >> Alb. *luftoj*, L *presbiter* (<< G *presbýteros*) ‘priest’ > **prepter* >> Alb. *prift*.

Clusters involving resonants are also simplified:

**g'n* > *nj*, cf. *njoh* ‘know (a person)’ < **g'neh₃V-* (L *co-gnōscō*, G *gignōskō*).

**kl* > *q* (*kl* is preserved in some dialects and in Buzuku), cf. *quhem* ‘I am called’ < **k'lu-sk'*- (OInd. *śru-* ‘hear’), L *ecclesia* ‘church’ > Alb. *qishë*. Alb. *q* is also the result of Latin *c* before front vowels, e.g. in *qytet* ‘town’ < *civitātem*, *faqe* ‘face’ < L *faciēs*.

**gl* > *gj*, cf. *gju* ‘knee’ < **g'nu-* (OInd. *jānu*, G *gónu*), Lat. *glandula* ‘gland’ > Alb. *gjëndër*, also *gjuhë* if it is a loanword from G *glōssa*. Early documents (Buzuku) and some dialects still have *gl*.

**dl* > *gj*, perhaps in *gjatë* ‘long’, if it is from something like **d|Hgho-* (*-të* is a late suffix), cf. OInd. *dirghá-*.

**dy* > *z*, cf. Lat. *Diana* > Alb. *Zanë* (a fairy), Lat. *gaudium* > Alb. *gaz* ‘joy’.

**b(h)n* and **pn* > **mn* > *m*, cf. *gjumë* ‘sleep’ < **supno-* (G *húpnos*), *amë* ‘river-bed’ < **abno-* (L *amnis* ‘river’, OIr. *aub* < PIE **h₂eph₃ōn* / gen. **h₂eph₃nes*).

**rd* > *rdh*, cf. *pjerdh* ‘break wind’ < **perdoh₂* (OInd. *pardate*, G *pérdomai*). Also in loanwords from Latin, cf. *verdh* ‘yellow’ < L *viride*.

*lk > *jk*, cf. Alb. *ujk* 'wolf' < *ulko- < *wlk^wo- (Lith. *vilkas*, G *lúkos*); also in Latin loanwords, e.g. *fajkua* 'falcon' << L *falconem*.

*lw > *ll*, cf. Alb. *gjallë* 'living' < *solwo- 'whole, safe' (OInd. *sarva-*, G *hólos* 'whole').

*rn > *rr*, cf. Alb. *verr* 'alder' < *werno- (Gaul. *verna* 'alder', OIr. *fern*), also in loan-words, Alb. *furrë* 'oven' << L *furnax*.

The developments of clusters involving *s are very complex. Here are some examples:

PIE *k's > Alb. *sh*, cf. *sek'sti- '6' > Alb. *gjashtë*, *ek'stos, *eg'hstos 'outside' (G Locr. *ekhthós*, OIr. *acht* 'but') > Alb. *jashtë*.

PIE *sp- > Alb. *f*, cf. *spora 'seed, that which is sown' > Alb. *farë* (G *spóros*), perhaps *fruth* 'measles', if from something like *sprk'to- (OInd. *spṛśni-* 'speckled', L *spurcus* 'dirty'). It has also been claimed that *sp- > *shp-*, cf. *shpend* 'bird', which can be derived from *spetno-, with *s-mobile* (cf. *petno- > OIr. *én* 'bird').

PIE *sl > Alb. *ll*, cf. PIE *h₂us-li- 'spark' (OEng. *ysle*) > Alb. *yll* 'star'.

3. 15. Other consonants

Albanian consonants *ç*, *xh*, *zh* can mostly be derived from earlier clusters, but they are also very frequent in loan-words, especially from Turkish, but also from Slavic, cf. Alb. *xhep* 'pocket' << Tur. *cep* 'id.', *xhezve* 'small coffee pot' << Tur. *cezve* 'id.', *çoban* 'shepherd' << Tur. *çoban* 'id.' *çizme* 'boot' << Tur. *çizme* 'id.', *çudi* 'wonder' << Serb. *čudo* 'id.'. In some cases, Alb. *ç* is from earlier *š (written *sh* in Modern Albanian, e.g. *çmoj* 'estimate' < *shmoj << Lat. *aestimō*). In *çoj* (aor. *çua*) 'lift, take to, wake up', which is abstracted from earlier *n çonj* (Buzuku, with the prefix *n-*), we may have the root found in *cy* 'drive' and *qoj* 'wake, rouse' if one assumes the development from *nq- to *nç-*.

The consonants *c* and *x* are rather rare and occur in expressive words and those with obscure etymology, e.g. *xixë* 'spark', *caporre* 'cow with long horns'. In some cases *c* appears to be from *ds-, e.g. *ca* 'some' besides *disa* 'some' (by syncope), or *cep* 'edge' besides dialectal *step* 'edge' (metathesis). Likewise, Alb. *cy* (2-3sg. pres. *cyt*) 'drive, impel' may be related to L *cio* 'move' and G aor. *ékie* 'started to move' if we assume that the Proto-Alb. form contained the prefix *dë- (as in *dëborë* 'snow' besides *borë* 'id.') and the dental suffix *-t- (from the past participle stem in *-to-?), i.e. that the development was from PIE *kyu-to- to Proto-Alb. *d-syu-t- and to Alb. *cy*. The consonant *x* sometimes comes from Romance palatalized velars, e.g. in *lexoj* 'read' (cf. Italian *leggere*).

The consonant *f* is common in Latin loan-words, in which it develops from *v*, *k*, *p* before dentals (*kafshë* 'animal' << L *causa*, *kofshë* 'hip' << L *coxa*, *aftë* 'capable' << L *aptus*).

4. Morphology

4.1. Nouns and adjectives

4.1.1. Noun

Noun has five cases (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, and ablative) and two numbers (singular and plural). It also has a very complicated system of suffixed definite articles, so that for each noun has definite and indefinite declensional paradigms. Albanian nouns are either masculine or feminine, with a residual class of neuters denoting mostly mass nouns (e.g. *ujë* 'water', *mish* 'meat'). The PIE declensional types were merged as o-stems (masculine and neuter), ā-stems (feminine), and i-stems (masculine and feminine) in Proto-Albanian.

Here are examples of indefinite paradigms:

o-stems; *mik* 'friend'

sg.	pl.
NAcc. <i>shok</i> GDabl. <i>shoku</i>	NAcc. <i>shokë</i> GDabl. <i>shokëve,</i> <i>shokësh</i>

ā-stems; *vajzë* 'girl'

sg.	pl.
NAcc. <i>vajzë</i> GDabl. <i>vajzaje</i>	<i>vajza</i> <i>vajzave,</i> <i>vajzash</i>

Since final syllables were lost in PAIb., the PIE case-endings disappeared, with the possible exception of Loc. pl. *-su, which is preserved as (G-D-Abl. pl.) *-sh*. The ending GDabl. sg. o-stems is *-u* after velars and *-i* elsewhere (e.g. *dem-i*, GDabl. of *dem* 'young bull'); this ending has been derived from the locative sg. of the o-stems *-ey, although the more common PIE ending was *-oy (OCS *vlъcě*, L sg. of *vlъkъ* 'wolf').

Nominative plural is formed very differently for different classes of nouns, cf. *mik* 'friend' ~ *miq*, *zog* 'bird' ~ *zogj*, *fshatar* 'villager' ~ *fshatarë*, *vajzë* 'girl' ~ *vajza*, *kujtim* 'memory' ~ *kujtime*, *bri* 'horn' ~ *brirë*, *lumë* 'river' ~ *lumenj*, *bir* 'son' ~ *bij*. Many nouns have completely irregular plurals, cf. *djalë* 'boy' ~ *djem*, *derë* 'door' ~ *dyer*, *ka* 'ox' ~ *qe*, *thes* 'sack' ~ *thasë*, *grua* 'woman' ~ *gra*, *natë* 'night' ~ *net*, *bir* 'son' ~ *bij*. As can be seen from the examples, there are three types of plural formation, and in some nouns they are combined: a) addition of the suffix (*bri* 'horn' ~ *brirë*); b) change of the stem final consonant (*mik* 'friend' ~ *miq*), c) Ablaut (*grua* 'woman' ~ *gra*). Some nouns have the borrowed Turkish pl. ending *-llerë*, *-lläre* (< Turk. *-ler/-lar*, depending on vowel harmony), e.g. *baba* 'father' pl. *baballarë*.

The ablaut in the formation of plural in many nouns was caused by the adding of the suffix *-oy > *ī*, which was subsequently lost, after causing palatalization of the preceding velar (e.g. *plak* ‘old man’ < *plako-, pl. *plëq* < *plakī). In some cases, this plural formation was influenced by other factors, e.g. in *gjarpër* ‘snake’, pl. *gjarpinj* we have an original n-stem, in which *r changed to *n* in the sg. (Tosk rhotacism).

Some nouns (both *ā* and *o*-stems) have a special vocative form, e.g. *nenë* ‘mother’, *burro* ‘husband’; these were probably influenced by the Slavic vocatives of the *ā*-stems (OCS *ženo*, voc. sg. of *žena* ‘woman’).

4.1.2. Adjectives

The adjectives have masculine and feminine forms; the masculine and the feminine forms are often distinguished only by different forms of the article, e.g. *i mirë* ‘good’ (m.) vs. *e mirë* ‘good’ (f.); some adjectives have different forms for the m. and f. in the singular and in the plural, e.g. *i ndryshëm* ‘different’ (m.) vs. *e ndryshme* (f.), pl. *të ndryshëm* (m.) *të ndryshme* (f.).

The gradation of adjectives is analytic, as in other Balkan languages, e.g. *i madh* ‘big’, *më i madh se* ‘bigger than’, *i mirë* ‘good’, *shumë i mirë* ‘best’.

4.2. Verbs

The history of the Albanian verbal system is largely unexplored. There are very few things about it that can be stated with certainty. Albanian verb has two numbers (sg. and pl.) and distinguishes three persons. It forms several tenses synthetically (present, past (aorist), and imperfect), and has many periphrastic tenses (future, future perfect, perfect, and pluperfect). It also has a rather developed system of moods (indicative, imperative, subjunctive, optative, and admirative).

4.2.1. The present tense

In principle, there are two major conjugations, thematic (*punoj* ‘work’, *vendos* ‘decide’) and athematic (*jam* ‘am’, *kam* ‘have’).

Examples of the present tense of athematic verbs:

<i>jam</i> ‘am’		<i>di</i> ‘know’		<i>jap</i> ‘give’		<i>ha</i> ‘eat’		<i>ka</i> ‘have’	
sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
<i>jam</i>	<i>jemi</i>	<i>di</i>	<i>dimë</i>	<i>jap</i>	<i>jepim</i>	<i>ha</i>	<i>hamë</i>	<i>kam</i>	<i>kemi</i>
<i>je</i>	<i>jeni</i>	<i>di</i>	<i>dini</i>	<i>jep</i>	<i>jepni</i>	<i>ha</i>	<i>hani</i>	<i>ke</i>	<i>keni</i>
<i>është</i>	<i>janë</i>	<i>di</i>	<i>dinë</i>	<i>jep</i>	<i>japin</i>	<i>ha</i>	<i>hanë</i>	<i>ka</i>	<i>kanë</i>

The athematic endings more or less straightforwardly go back to the PIE athematic present: PIE *h₁esmi (Skr. *ásmi*) > Alb. *jam*, *h₁(e)smes > *jemi*), but the 3rd sg. *është* (dial. *âsht*) contains an epenthetic *n (*ensti), presumably under the influence of 3pl.

janë < *(e)senti. The origin of the 2pl. ending is disputed. Some linguists see it as agglutinated from the original *-te- (Gr. *-te*) and the particle *nuH 'now' (Gr. *nyŕŕ*).

Here are three thematic verbs in the present tense:

<i>punoj</i> 'work'		<i>laj</i> 'wash'		<i>vendos</i> 'decide, place'	
sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
<i>punoj</i>	<i>punojmë</i>	<i>laj</i>	<i>lajmë</i>	<i>vendos</i>	<i>vendosim</i>
<i>punon</i>	<i>punoni</i>	<i>lan</i>	<i>lani</i>	<i>vendos</i>	<i>vensosni</i>
<i>punon</i>	<i>punojnë</i>	<i>lan</i>	<i>lanë</i>	<i>vendos</i>	<i>vendosin</i>

The origin of several endings is quite unclear. In the 1sg., the athematic ending is from PIE *-mi (Gr. *dí-dō-mi* 'I give', etc.), while the thematic ending presumably comes from *-o-m. In Buzuku's works, the 1. sg. ending (-onj) still retains the nasal.

Several verbs form nasalized present stems, e.g. *bind* 'to convince' < *b^heyd^h- (Gr. *peíthomai*), *tund* 'to move, stir' < *tud- (Lat. *tundo* 'strike'). In some cases these presents are preserved as Alb. present stems in -j- < *nj, e.g. *gjej* 'find' < g^hed-n- (Gr. *khandánō*, Lat. *prae-hendo*, etc.). Present stems formed with the suffix *-sk'- > Alb. -h- include *fsheh* 'hide' < *skep-sk'- (Gr. *sképō* 'cover') and *shoh* 'see' < PIE *sōk^w-sk'- (Skr. *sacate* 'follows').

The progressive present form is formed by putting the particle *po* before the present tense form of the verb: *po punoj* 'I am working'.

There are many irregular verbs. Here are the paradigms of *eci* 'walk' and *dua* 'want':

sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
1. <i>eci</i>	<i>ecim</i>	<i>dua</i>	<i>duam</i>
2. <i>ecën</i>	<i>ecni</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>doni</i>
3. <i>ecën</i>	<i>ecin</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>duan</i>

4.2.2. The past tense (aorist)

Examples of the past tense (aorist):

<i>kam</i> 'have'		<i>punoj</i> 'work'		<i>jap</i> 'give'	
sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
1. <i>pata</i>	<i>patëm</i>	<i>punova</i>	<i>punuam</i>	<i>dhashë</i>	<i>dhamë</i>
2. <i>pate</i>	<i>patët</i>	<i>punove</i>	<i>punuat</i>	<i>dhe</i>	<i>dhatë</i>
3. <i>pati</i>	<i>patën</i>	<i>punoi</i>	<i>punuan</i>	<i>dha</i>	<i>dhanë</i>

The past tense of *kam* is formed from a suppletive stem *pat-* which can perhaps be related to PIE *poti- 'master, lord' (cf. L *possum* 'can' < *potis sum). The past tense of *jap* is also suppletive: it goes back to PIE *deh₃- 'give', which acquired the sigmatic aorist (*dhashë* < *dh₃-s-m, *dha* < *dh₃-s-t, etc.), cf. also *rri* 'sits' aor. *ndenji*, *sheh* 'sees' aor. *pa*, *vjen* 'comes' aor. *erdhi* and *ha* 'eats' aor. *hëngri*.

The endings partially correspond to those of the present (e.g. in the 1. and 3pl.). The 1sg. ending *-a* might go back to PIE athematic (syllabic) **-m*. In the 2pl., the aorist preserves the PIE ending **-te*, which was lost in the present.

Several verbs have the reflexes of the lengthened *ē*-grade in the past, e.g. *djeg* 'burn' aor. *dogja* < **d^hēg^{wh}-* (cf. Skr. *dāhati* 'burns'), *bredh* 'jump' aor. *brodha* < **b^hrēd^h-* (cf. OCS *breda* 'wade'), *hedh* 'throw' aor. *hodha*. The lengthened *ē*-grade was generalized from the PIE sigmatic aorists. In a number of cases analogical lengthened *ē*-aorists were formed to roots in **a*, e.g. *marr* 'take' aor. *morra*, *dal* 'go out' aor. *dola*.

There are probable reflexes of the PIE sigmatic aorist in Albanian. These include, e.g., the aorist of the verb *jap* 'give', which is suppletive:

1 *dhashë* < **dh₃-s-m* *dhame* < **dh₃-(s)-me*
 2 *dhe* < **deh₃-s-s* *dhate* < **dh₃-(s)-te*
 3 *dha* < **dh₃-s-t* *dhanë* < **dh₃-(s)-nt*

Other Alb. formations that can be derived from PIE sigmatic aorist include *thashë* 'said' (aor. of *thom*) < **k'ns-s-* (Lat. *censeo* 'think') and *rashë* 'fell' (aor. of *bie*) < **(H)rew-s-* (Lat. *ruo* 'rush'). Note that this aorist formation is rarer in Old Albanian authors such as Buzuku, so in many cases it represents an analogical extension. Some authors think that the ending *-shë* is not actually from the sigmatic aorist, but rather from the agglutinated imperfect of the verb 'to be' (3 sg. *ishte*).

The asigmatic aorists are mostly from Late PIE thematic aorist formations, e.g. *erdha* 'came' (suppletive aor. to *vij* 'come') < **h₁erg^h-* (Gr. *érkhomai* 'go', OIr. *regaid* 'will go', also *vesh* 'put on clothes' aor. *vesha* < PIE **wes-* 'dress oneself' (Hitt. *wešta*, Skr. *váste*), *puth* 'kiss' aor. *putha*, *laps* 'weary' aor. *lapsa*, *rras* 'squeeze' aor. *rrasa*). Many Albanian verbs form the aorist with the suffix *-v-*, which has been compared with the suffix found in Lat. *v*-perfects (*amāvī* 'loved', *docuī* 'taught', etc.), but it is uncertain if these formations are really related. In many cases, **-w-* was actually part of the root, so we are dealing with original root aorists. These Albanian aorists include *lava* (aor. of *laj* 'wash') < **leh₃w-* (Gr. *louō*), *dava* (aor. of *daj* 'divide') < **deh₂y-* (Gr. *daíomai*), *theva* (aor. of *thyej* 'break'), etc.

Several aorist forms are of obscure origin. These include the aorists in *-t-* (e.g. *ryj* 'enter' aor. *ryjta*, *gjaj* 'resemble' aor. *gjajta*, *luaj* 'move, shake' aor. *lojta*, *di* 'know' aor. *dīta*) and the aorists in *-r-* < **-n-* (by Tosk rhotacism), e.g. *hy* 'enter' aor. *hyra*, *běj* 'do' aor. *bëra*.

4.2.3. The imperfect

The imperfect was originally formed from the present stem, but in roots with the vowel *-e-* it was remodeled with the unlauded vowel *-i-*, cf. the imperfect of *është* 'is' and *punoj* 'work':

sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
1. <i>isha</i>	<i>ishim</i>	<i>punoja</i>	<i>punonim</i>
2. <i>ishe</i>	<i>ishit</i>	<i>punoje</i>	<i>punonit</i>

3. *ishte* *ishin* *punonte* *punonin*

Here are the paradigms of *pjek* ‘cook’ and *vras* ‘kill’, which have vowel alternations:

1. <i>piqja</i>	<i>piqnim</i>	<i>vritja</i>	<i>vritnim</i>
2. <i>piqje</i>	<i>piqnit</i>	<i>vritje</i>	<i>vritnit</i>
3. <i>piqte</i>	<i>piqnin</i>	<i>vriste</i>	<i>vritnin</i>

As can be seen, the endings are similar to those of the (asigmatic) aorist (1sg. *-ja*, 2sg. *-je*, 3. sg. *-te*, 1pl. *-nim*, 2pl. *-nit*, 3pl. *-nin*). In Buzuku’s works, the nasal is still retained in 1. and 2. sg. (*-një*, *-nje*).

In Gheg, the element *-sh-* from the verb ‘to be’ was re-interpreted as an imperfect suffix and it spread throughout the paradigm (except in the 3sg.), cf. Gheg *punojsha* ‘I was working’, *punojshe* ‘you were working’, etc.

4.2.4. The perfect and the pluperfect.

The perfect is formed analytically with the present of the verb *ka* ‘have’, as in the Romance languages; likewise, the pluperfect is formed with the imperfect of *ka*. These are the paradigms of *punoj* ‘work’:

Perfect:

1. <i>kam punuar kemi punuar</i>
2. <i>ke punuar keni punuar</i>
3. <i>ka punuar kanë punuar</i>

Pluperfect:

<i>kisha punuar</i>	<i>kisim punuar</i>
<i>kishe punuar</i>	<i>kishit punuar</i>
<i>kishte punuar</i>	<i>kishin punuar</i>

The pluperfect corresponds quite well to the English pluperfect. There is, in general, concordance of tenses:

Marku mendoj sa shumë kishte mësu-ar për dy javë
Mark.nom.sg. think.1sg.aor. how much has.3sg.ipf. learn-ppl in two week
“Mark thought how much he had learned in two weeks”

4.2.5. The future

The future is formed analytically, according to the same pattern as in the Balkan languages, i.e. with the 3rd sg. present of the verb *di* ‘want’ and the subjunctive of the inflected verb (cf. Serbian (Torlak) *će da radim* ‘I will work’, *će da radiš* ‘you will work’, etc.). Here is the future of *punoj* ‘work’:

1. <i>do të punoj</i>	<i>do të punojmë</i>
2. <i>do të punosh</i>	<i>do të punoni</i>
3. <i>do të punojë</i>	<i>do të punojnë</i>

In the Gheg dialect, there is also the Romance-type future tense formed with the present tense of *kam* 'to be' and the (Gheg) infinitive: *kam me shkrua* 'I will work', *ka me shkrua* 'he will work', etc.

4.2.6. The mediopassive

The present and the imperfect of the mediopassive are formed synthetically. The other tenses are formed analytically with the clitic *u* < *swom, e.g. aorist *u lava* 'I washed myself'. Here are the paradigms of *laj* 'wash':

Present		Imperfect	
sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
1. <i>lahem</i>	<i>lahemi</i>	<i>lahesha</i>	<i>laheshim</i>
2. <i>lahesh</i>	<i>laheni</i>	<i>laheshe</i>	<i>laheshi</i>
3. <i>lahet</i>	<i>lahen</i>	<i>lahej</i>	<i>laheshin</i>

The origin of the suffix *-e-* in the mediopassive is unknown. The endings may be partially derived from the PIE middle endings, e.g. the 2sg. present ending *-sh* may be from PIE *-so(y) (Skr. *bhara-se* 'you carry yourself'), and the 3sg. ending *-t* may be from *-to(y) (Skr. *bharate*). The other present mediopassive endings were obviously influenced by the active paradigm. The origin of the 2pl. imperfect ending *-i* is mysterious.

The present subjunctive mediopassive is formed with *të* and the present mediopassive, and the future with *do* 'want' and the subjunctive (e.g. *do të lahem* 'I will wash myself').

The perfect mediopassive is formed with the present indicative of the verb *jam* 'to be' and the participle, cf. the paradigm of the verb *hap* 'open':

sg.	pl.
1. <i>jam hapur</i>	<i>jemi hapur</i>
2. <i>je hapur</i>	<i>jeni hapur</i>
3. <i>është hapur</i>	<i>janë hapur</i>

The aorist mediopassive is formed with the particle *u* which precedes the active aorist of the inflected verb (except in the 3sg. where there is no ending in the mediopassive):

sg.	pl.
1. <i>u hapa</i>	<i>u hapëm</i>
2. <i>u hape</i>	<i>u hapët</i>
3. <i>u hap</i>	<i>u hapën</i>

The imperfect mediopassive has its own set of endings, which are essentially the imperfect active endings added to the suffix *-esh-*:

sg.	pl.
1. <i>hapesha</i>	<i>hapeshim</i>
2. <i>hapeshe</i>	<i>hapeshit</i>
3. <i>hapeshe, hapej</i>	<i>hapeshin</i>

The pluperfect mediopassive is formed with the imperfect of the verb *jam* 'to be' and the participle, e.g. *isha hapur* 'I had been opened', *ishe hapur* 'you had been opened', *ishte hapur* 'he/she had been opened', etc.

4.2.7. The moods

Most of the moods in Albanian have disputed origins. Some are clearly recent formations, like the admirative, which is derived with the present of the verb *ka* appended to the stem of the participle:

a) The admirative of *punoj* 'work':

1. *punuakam punuakemi*
2. *punuake punuakeni*
3. *punuaka punuakan*

The admirative expresses surprise, admiration, doubt, but also evidentiality:

U, sa e bukur qenka kjo vajzë
 Oh, how beautiful.fsg. be.admirative.3sg. this.f. girl.nom.sg.
 "Oh, how beautiful is this girl!"

Thuhet se Gjoni qenka fajtori
 one.says that Gj. be.admirative.3sg the.culprit.nom.sg.
 "They say that Gjoni is the culprit"

The admirative is rare in Old Albanian (16-17th centuries), and it is not attested in the dialects of Greece and Italy. It appears that in Buzuku it functions as a focus marker.

b) The optative appears to have recent origin; it is formed with the suffix *-fsh-* (*-sh-* after consonants, *-ç-* after *-n-*) and the (mostly) aorist/subjunctive endings:

<i>punoj</i> 'work'		<i>hap</i> 'open'		<i>jam</i> 'be'	
sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
1. <i>punofsha</i>	<i>punofshim</i>	<i>hapsha</i>	<i>hapshim</i>	<i>qofsha</i>	<i>qofshim</i>
2. <i>punofsh</i>	<i>punofshi(t)</i>	<i>hapsh</i>	<i>hapshi(t)</i>	<i>qofsh</i>	<i>qofshi(t)</i>
3. <i>punoftë</i>	<i>punofshin</i>	<i>haptë</i>	<i>hapshin</i>	<i>qoftë</i>	<i>qofshin</i>

The suffix *fsh-* has been explained as the analogical extension of the 2nd sg. ending *-sh-*, which was originally added to the aorist stem in *-v-* (e.g. *kerkov-a* 'sought'), with the regular change of *vsh* > *fsh*. In the 3rd person sg. *-fshhtë* > *-ftë*.

The used to express wish and desire, but it also occurs in some subordinate clauses including conditionals.

Q-ofsh i gëzuar
 be-2sg.opt. rejoice(participle)
 "May you be happy"

Edhe në fjet-sha, zemr-ën s'ma vë dot njer-i në gjumë
 even if sleep-1sg.opt heart-A.sg.def.neg.1sg.D.A. put particle man-Nsg.def. to sleep
 "Even if I sleep, no-one (lit. "no man") will put my heart to sleep"

Në shk-ofsha në Angli, do të të lajmër-oj
 if go-1sg.opt. to England will you.A.clitic part. inform-1sg.fut.
 "If I go to England, I will let you know"

c) The subjunctive has synthetic forms preceded by the particle *të*. Here is the present subjunctive of *punoj* (there are also analytically formed perfect, imperfect, and pluperfect paradigms):

1. *të punoj të punojmë*
2. *të punosh të punoni*
3. *të punojë të punojnë*

The endings of the subjunctive are mostly the same as in the present active, but in the 2sg. the mediopassive ending is used. In Buzuku's language, the 2. and 3. sg. endings still have the nasal (2. sg. *-onjsh*, 3. sg. *-onjë*), and the 1. sg. ending is *-o* rather than *-oj*.

The subjunctive is the chief mark of subordination, as it usually occurs in subordinate clauses, e.g. with verbs of intention:

Dëshir-on të pun-ojë në kopsht
 want-3sg.pres. to work-3sg.subj. in garden
 "He wants to work in the garden"

Shpres-oj se tash do të je-të i hareshëm
 hope-1sg. that now want.3sg to be-3sg.subj. m. cheerful.m
 "I hope he will be cheerful now"

It is also used with verbs such as *filloj* 'begin' and the modals such as *mund* 'can' and *duhet* 'must':

Ai filloi t'i krye-jë detyr-at
 he begin.3sg.aor. to.acc.pl.clitic. finish.3sg.subj. duty-acc.pl.
 "He began to finish his duties"

A mund të më lëshoni një vizë
 particle can to I.dat.sg. let.2pl.subj. a visa.Acc.sg.
 "Can you issue a visa to me?"

Çfarë mund të blesh atje?
 what can buy.2sg.subj. here
 "What can you buy here / what can one buy here?"

A duhet të paguaj doganë?
 particle must pay.1sg.subj. customs.duties

“Do I have to pay customs duties?”

In some cases the use of the subjunctive is optional (it can be replaced by the indicative, e.g. in temporal clauses introduced by *Çdo ditë, kur* “Every day, when...”).

The subjunctive may also be used as an adhortative, or to express a wish in the main clause (in this function it is parallel with the optative):

Të bëjë be Kalosh Cami!
do.3sg.subj. trust K. C.
“May Kalosh Cami swear (it)!”

Të shkojmë ‘Let’s go!’

d) The conditional is formed with the 3rd sg. of *di* ‘want’ and the particle *të* (as in the future) followed by the imperfect of the inflected verb:

1. *do të punoja do të punonim*
2. *do të punoje do të punonit*
3. *do të punonte do të punonin*

The perfect conditional may be formed with the imperfect of the auxiliary *ka* ‘have’ and the participle (*do të kisha punuar* ‘I would have worked’, *do të kishe punuar* ‘you would have worked’, etc.).

e) The imperative has just the forms of the 2 sg. (*ji* ‘be!’, *puno* ‘work!’, *shkruaj* ‘write!’, *fol* ‘say’, *ki* ‘have!’, *hap* ‘open!’) and the 2 pl. (*jini*, *punoni*, *shkruani*, *flisni*, *hapni*). In the other persons an analytical construction with the imperative of *la* ‘let’ is used (cf. the English construction with *let*), e.g. *le të jetë* ‘may he be’, *le të kenë* ‘may they have’, *le të thomi* ‘let us say’.

When the imperative has a pronominal object, it is cliticized to the imperative form and written together: *hap-e* ‘open it’, *shkruaj-e* ‘write it’, *merr-e* ‘take it’. In the plural, the object clitic precedes the 2pl. ending, thus we have *pij-e-ni* ‘drink (pl.) it’, *merr-e-ni* ‘take (pl.) it’, etc.

4.2.8. The infinite forms of the verb

Like most Balkan languages, Albanian is poor when it comes to infinite forms of the verb. It has an all-purpose participle formed from the aorist stem (*punuar* from *punoj* ‘work’, *larë* from *laj* ‘wash’, *fol-ur* from *flas* ‘speak’, *kthyer* from *kthey* ‘return’, *dalë* from *dal* ‘go out’, *qe-në* from *jam* ‘be’) and an infinitive formed from the participle (*për të punuar*). There are also the present and the past gerundive (present *duke punuar*, past *duke pasë punuar*). The most common form of the participle/infinitive shows the operation of Tosk rhotacism (cf. Old Gheg *lanë* washed corresponding to Tosk and standard *larë*). In consonant clusters rhotacism did not operate, so we have *thënë* ‘said’, *qenë* ‘been’, *dhënë* ‘given’ (the nature of the cluster is difficult to ascertain in each individual instance).

The Gheg dialect has the infinitive form formed with the preposition *me* 'with' and the participle (*me shkrua* 'to write'). It is used in many constructions in which Tosk (and the standard language) use the subjunctive in subordinated clauses.

The gerundive is formed analytically from the participle and the particle/adverb *duke* 'while', e.g. *duke larë* 'while washing'.

4.3. Pronouns

a) Here are the forms of personal pronouns in the Nominative:

sg.	pl.
1. <i>unë</i>	<i>na</i>
2. <i>ti</i>	<i>ju</i>

The origin of 1sg. *unë* is unknown; it has been derived from the reflexive *u* (< *swom) and a particle, perhaps related to G *naí*. The form of the 2sg. is from PIE *tuH (OCS *ty*), and the 1pl. pronoun *na* is from PIE *no- (Lat. *nōs*). The 2pl. pronoun is often thought to be cognate with Lith. *jus*, Skr. *yūyam* (PIE *yuH-), but PIE *y- usually gives Alb. *gj- (see above), so it is more likely that the Alb. pronoun goes back to PIE *wes-/*us- (L *vōs*, G *hymēſ*) with some kind of prothetic *j*-.

The personal pronouns are inflected; the forms of the 1sg. are: A/D *mua* (clitic *më*), Abl. *meje*; 2sg. A/D *neve* (clitic *na*), Abl. *nesh*; 1 pl. A/D *ty* (clitic *të*), 2 pl. A/D *juve* (clitic *ju*). The suppletion in the 1 sg. is inherited from PIE, cf. Gr. Acc. *emé*, *me*, Dat. *emoí*, *moi*.

b) In the third person, the demonstrative *ai* m. *ajo* f. is used as the personal pronoun. It is formed from the pronominal stem *ey- (Lat. *īs*, Skr. *ayam*, etc.). It is inflected according to the following table:

	m.	f.
sg.		
N	<i>ai</i>	<i>ajo</i>
A	<i>atë, të</i>	<i>atë</i>
D	<i>atij, tij</i>	<i>asaj, saj</i> (clitic <i>i</i>)
Abl.	<i>atij</i>	<i>asaj, asoje</i>
pl.		
N	<i>ata</i>	<i>ato</i>
A	<i>ata</i>	<i>ato</i>
D	<i>atyre</i>	<i>atyre</i>
Abl.	<i>asish, atyre, atyreve</i>	<i>asosh, atyre, atyreve</i>

The origin of most forms is unclear.

The personal pronouns also have clitic forms which distinguish case (Dative and Accusative) and number, but not gender:

	1sg.		2sg.		3sg. m.f.
A	<i>më</i>		<i>të</i>		<i>e</i>
D	<i>më</i>		<i>të</i>		<i>i</i>
	1pl.		2pl.		3pl. m.f.
A	<i>na</i>		<i>ju</i>		<i>i</i>
D	<i>na</i>		<i>ju</i>		<i>u</i>

Albanian, like most Balkan languages, has “clitic doubling”, which means that direct and indirect objects are coded twice: once with a full NP, and again with a clitic which agrees with it in case, person, and number:

Unë e ble-va një libër
 I Asg.clitic buy-aor.1sg. a book.Asg.indef.
 “I bought a book”

Unë i shkro-va nënë-s
 I Dsg.clitic write-aor.1sg. mother-Dsg.def
 “I wrote to my mother”

Note also the following construction:

Mua më pëlqen kjo vajz-a
 me.D me.D(clitic) like-3sg.pres. this.fem.sg. girl-nom.sg.def.
 “I like this girl” (cf. Italian *mi piace questa ragazza*).

If a verb has both a direct and an indirect object, the dative and the accusative clitics merge into a single phonological word, e.g. *më + e = ma*, *të + e = ta*, *I + e = ia*, *na + e = na e*, *ju + e = jua*, *u + e = ua*, *më + i = m'i*, *të + i = t'i*, *i + i = ia*, *na + i = na i*, *ju + i = jua*, *u + i = ua*:

Ma jep librin “He gives me the book”, *jua jep librin* “He gives you the book”, *Ua jep librat* “He givest them the books”, etc.

c) The proximal demonstrative pronoun is *ky* m., *kjo* f., presumably from the PIE interrogative stem **k^wo-* (Lat. *quod*, Skr. *kas* ‘who’, OCS *къто*). It appears that the interrogative *kush* ‘who’ contains the PIE interrogative stem **k^wu-* (Skr. *kuhā* ‘where’) agglutinated with the demonstrative stem **so-* (Skr. *sa-* m. ‘this’). In the Acc. sg. we have *kë* < **k^wom*. Alb. *ç(ë)* ‘what’ may be from PIE **k^wi-* (Lat. *quid* ‘what’). This stem is also incorporated into *çka* ‘what’ The pronoun *tjetër* ‘another’ is from *të jetër*, where *jetër* < **H₁e-tero-* (OCS *jetěrъ*). The reflexive pronoun *vetë* ‘oneself’ has been connected with

G *autós* < PIE *h₂ewto-. It is inflected and freely combined with prepositions in reflexive constructions:

S'kam gjë me vete
 neg-I.have thing with self
 "I don't have anything on me (lit. 'with myself')"

Shiko vete-n
 look.imperative self-Acc.sg.def.
 "Look at yourself!"

d) The possessive pronouns (used also as the genitives of the personal pronouns) form a complex system; they are inflected for case and gender. For illustration, here is the paradigm of the 1st person sg. possessive pronoun:

	m.		f.	
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
N	<i>im</i>	<i>e mi</i>	<i>ime</i>	<i>e mia</i>
G-D	<i>tim</i>	<i>të mi</i>	<i>sime</i>	<i>të mia</i>
A	<i>tim</i>	<i>e mi</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>e mia</i>
Abl.	<i>tim</i>	<i>të mi</i>	<i>sime</i>	<i>të mia</i>

e) The relative pronoun *që* (from the PIE interrogative/relative stem *k^wo-) is indeclinable. It introduces the relative clause in which the grammatical relation of the relativized NP must be indicated by a resumptive dative or accusative clitic pronoun:

Njeri-u që e kam parë
 man-def.Nsg. that Acc.sg.clitic have seen
 "The man I saw"

Grua-ja që i jap një dhuratë
 woman-def.Nsg. that Dsg.clitic give.aor.1sg. a gift
 "The woman I gave a gift to"

There is also the inflected relative pronoun built from the stem *cil-* (of disputed origin):

	m sg.	f. sg.	m. pl.	f. pl.
Nom.	<i>i cili</i>	<i>e cila</i>	<i>të cilët</i>	<i>të cilat</i>
Gen.	<i>i të cilit</i>	<i>i të cilës</i>	<i>i të cilëve</i>	<i>i të cilave</i>
Dat.	<i>të cilit</i>	<i>të cilës</i>	<i>të cilëve</i>	<i>të cilave</i>
Acc.	<i>të cilin</i>	<i>të cilën</i>	<i>të cilët</i>	<i>të cilat</i>

It is more or less synonymous with the particle *që*, but its use does not require the resumptive pronoun in the relative clause. Moreover, it can be combined with the prepositions to express that the relativized noun functions as an oblique in the relative clause:

Miq-të e mi me të cil-ët kam ardhur këtu
 friend-Nom.pl.def. clitic my with who-Acc.pl. I.have come here

“My friends with who I have come here”

4.4. The article

Albanian has two sets of definite article forms, the preposed article *i* (m.), *e* (f.) and the postposed (clitic) article *-i/-u* (after velars) m. and *-a* f., cf. *zog* m. ‘bird’ def. *zogu*, *gur* ‘stone’ m. def. *gur-i*. Both the definite and the indefinite forms of the article are inflected for case and number. The origin of the forms is disputed, but it is likely that the ultimate source is the demonstrative (the stem **ey-* of Lat. *is*, *ea*, *id* may lie behind the masculine form in the nominative sg.).

The numeral *një* ‘one’ serves as the indefinite article, e.g. *një gur* ‘a stone’.

The postposed definite article is written together with the preceding noun, and the whole compound is inflected as the definite NP:

	<i>gur</i> m. ‘stone’	<i>fjalë</i> f. ‘word’
sg.		
Nom.	<i>guri</i>	<i>fjala</i>
Acc.	<i>gurin</i>	<i>fjalën</i>
G	<i>(i) gurit</i>	<i>(i) fjalës</i>
D	<i>gurit</i>	<i>fjalës</i>
Abl.	<i>gurit</i>	<i>fjalës</i>
pl.		
NVA	<i>gurët</i>	<i>fjalët</i>
G	<i>(i) gurëvet</i>	<i>(i) fjalëvet</i>
D	<i>gurëvet</i>	<i>fjalëvet</i>
Abl.	<i>gurëvet</i>	<i>fjalëvet</i>

When definite nouns are modified by (postposed) adjectives, the adjectives have to be preceded by the definite articles, creating, as it were, agreement in definiteness:

guri i bardhë ‘white stone’: **guri bardhë* (*gur* m. ‘stone’ is in the nom. sg.def.)
gurit të bardhë ‘of the white stone’: **gurit bardhë* (*gur* is in the gen. sg. def.)
lulja e bukur ‘beautiful flower’: **lulja bukur* (*lule* ‘flower’ f. is in the nom. sg. def.)

The connector used in these phrases is also inflected; the forms are: *i* (m. sg. Nom.) < **ey-*, *të* (Acc. sg. and pl. m. and f., GD Abl. m. and f.) < **tom*, *së* (Gen. sg. f.), and *e* (f. sg.).

The complex pattern of inflection of NPs can be illustrated with the following examples:

m. sg. ‘good boy’	
indefinite	definite
N <i>djalë i mirë</i>	<i>djali i mirë</i>
A <i>djalë të mirë</i>	<i>djalin e mirë</i>

G <i>i/e djali të mirë</i>	<i>i/e djalit të mirë</i>
D <i>djali të mirë</i>	<i>djalit të mirë</i>
Abl. <i>djali të mirë</i>	<i>djalit të mirë</i>
f. sg. 'good girl'	
indefinite	definite
N <i>vajzë e mirë</i>	<i>vajza e mirë</i>
A <i>vajzë të mirë</i>	<i>vajzën e mirë</i>
G <i>i/e vajze të mirë</i>	<i>vajzës së mirë</i>
D <i>vajze të mirë</i>	<i>vajzës së mirë</i>
Abl. <i>vajze të mirë</i>	<i>vajzës së mirë</i>
m. pl.	
indefinite	definite
N <i>djem të mirë</i>	<i>djemtë e mirë</i>
A <i>djem të mirë</i>	<i>djemtë e mirë</i>
G <i>i/e djemve të mirë</i>	<i>i/e djemve të mire</i>
D <i>djemve të mirë</i>	<i>djemve të mirë</i>
Abl. <i>djemësh të mirë</i>	<i>djemve të mirë</i>
f. pl.	
indefinite	definite
N <i>vajza të mira</i>	<i>vajzat e mira</i>
A <i>vajza të mira</i>	<i>vajzat e mira</i>
G <i>i/e vajzave të mira</i>	<i>i/e vajzave të mira</i>
D <i>vajzave të mira</i>	<i>vajzave të mira</i>
Abl. <i>vajzash të mira</i>	<i>vajzave të mira</i>

With some (rather formal) terms for blood relatives the article has possessive function, e.g. *i ati* 'his father', *i biri* 'his son', *i vëllai* 'his brother', *e ëma* 'his mother', *e motra* 'his sister', etc.

4.5. The numerals

The cardinal numerals from one to ten are derived directly from PIE:

një < *h₃oyno- (Lat. *ūnus*)
dy < *dwoh₁ (Lat. *duo*)
tre < *treyes (Lat. *trēs*)
katër < *k^wetwores (Lat. *quattuor*, Gr. *téttares*)
pesë < *penk^we (Lat. *quīnque*, Gr. *pénτε*)
gjashtë < *sek's(-ti-) (Lat. *sex*)
shtatë < *septm(-ti-) (Lat. *septem*)
tetë < *h₃ek'tōw(-ti-) (Lat. *octō*)
nantë < *newn(-ti-) (Lat. *novem*)
dhjatë < *dek'm(-ti-) (Lat. *decem*).

As in most Balkan languages, the numerals from 11 to 19 are construed with the preposition meaning 'on' (Alb. *mbë*), cf. OCS *jedinъ na desęte* '11': *njëmbëdhjetë* '11', *dymbëdhjetë* '12', etc. 'Twenty' is (*një-*)*zet*, which cannot formally be connected to PIE *(d)wiH-dk'mtih₂ (L *viginti*, etc.), so its etymology is a mystery. The numerals from 30 to 90 are simple compounds: *tridhjetë* '30', *pesëdhjetë* '50', etc., and '100' is *qind* << L *centum*.

The ordinals are derived from the cardinal numerals with the suffix *-të* < *-to, e.g. *dytë* 'second'; Alb. *parë* 'first' is from PIE *prh₃o- (Gr. *prōtos*, OCS *рѣвъ*). They follow the noun they modify.

4.6. The Prepositions

Only a few Albanian prepositions have reliable PIE etymologies:

mbi 'on' < *h₂mbhi (G *amphí*, OIr. *imb-*, L *ambi-*, Skr. *abhi-*).
për 'for, about' < *per(i) (L *per*, G *perí*)
në 'in, on' < *en(i) (L *in*, OCS *въ*, OIr. *í*)

Most prepositions take the ablative case (*afër* 'near', *bri* 'beside', *drejt* 'towards', *gjatë* 'during', *jashtë* 'out of', *mes* 'between', *përfund* 'underneath', *lart* 'up', *larg* 'far from', *anës* 'along', *buzë* 'by, close to', etc.). A few take the nominative (*nga* 'from, towards', *te(k)* 'at, to'), or the accusative (*deri*, *gjër* 'until, up to', *mbi* 'on', *me* 'with, by', *ndaj* 'near', *më* 'on', *në* 'in, on', *pa* 'without', *që*, *qysh* 'since', *për* 'for').

4.7. The Conjunctions and the subordinators

Here are the commonest coordinating conjunctions:

dhe, e, edhe 'and'
as... as 'neither... nor'
a, apo, ose 'or'
po, porse, ndërsa 'but'
nëse 'if'
ndonëse 'although'

The subordinating conjunctions (subordinators) introduce subordinate clauses:

I. Subordinators *se* and *që* introduce subordinate clauses with epistemic verbs:

Atij iu duk se ajo mতেj t'i thoshte diçka
to.him to.him appear.3sg.aor. that she wanted to.him say.3sg.ipf. something
'It appeared to him that she wanted to tell him something'

Nuk pretendohet që të ketë lexuar Makiavelin
not state.pass.pres.3sg. that have.3sg.subj. read Macchiavelli.Acc.sg.
'It is not stated (implied) that he had read Macchiavelli'

II. Temporal clauses are introduced, e.g., by *kur* 'when' and *pasi* 'after':

Kur ai pësëritet shumë herë, atëhere kjo është vijë
when it repeat.3sg.pass.pres. many time then it is line
"When it (scil. a silly thing) is repeated many times, then it is the (party) line"

III. Causal clauses are introduced, e.g., by *sepse*, *nga që* 'because'

Ato duan të arrijnë shpejt, sepse ato janë të lodhura
they want.3pl.aor. to arrive.3pl. quickly because they are art. tired.Nom.pl.
"They wanted to arrive quickly, because they were tired"

IV. Comparative clauses are introduced, e.g., by *sikur* 'as if':

Besniku e mori aparatën fotografikë në duar sikur t'ishte një relike
B. Acc.clitic take.aor.3sg. camera.Acc.sg. in hands as.if be.3sg.ipf. a relic
"Besnik took the camera in (his) hands as if it were a relic"

4. The lexicon

In the preceding pages we have quoted numerous Albanian words with PIE etymologies, as well as a lot of Latin loanwords. It should be noted, however, that many sAlbanian words have no generally accepted etymology. For all we know, they could be loanwords from some non-IE substratum, e.g. *zemër* 'heart', *vëlla* 'brother', *hekur* 'iron', *ri* 'new', *-zet* 'twenty', *mund* 'can', *zog* 'bird', *helm* 'poison', *urë* 'bridge', *vajzë* (dial. *varzë*) 'girl', *i vogël* 'small', *i rëndë* 'heavy', *rri* 'sit', etc.

Besides the Latin loanwords, the Albanian lexicon contains loanwords from several other languages.

Early (mostly Byzantine) Greek loanwords include *dhaskal* 'teacher' << G *dáskalos*, *krevet* 'bed' << G *krebbáti*, *sos* 'to end' << G aor. *ésōsa* 'I arrived', *trëndafil* 'rose' << G *triantáphyllon*, *drom* 'road' << G *drómos*, *nisi* 'island' << G *nēsí*, etc. An earlier stratum of loans include words borrowed from Ancient Greek, often from Doric, e.g. *mokër* 'millstone' << G *makhaná*, *drapër* 'sickle' << G *drápanon*, perhaps *llërrë* 'lower arm' << G *ōléna*.

There are a few Germanic loanwords which may have entered the language from Balkan Gothic, e.g. *gardh* 'garden' << Goth. *gards*, *fat* 'husband' << Goth. *faps*, *shkumë* 'foam' (cf. German *Schaum*).

Early Slavic loanwords are, e.g., *baltë* 'mud' (Cf. OCS *blato*, Croat. *blato*), *zakon* 'custom' (OCS *zakonъ* 'law'), *bisedë* 'a talk, discussion' (OCS *besěda*), *daltë* 'chisel' (Croat. *dlijeto*), *groshë* 'beans' (Croat. *grašak* 'green beans'), *nevojë* 'need' (OCS *nevolja* 'trouble'), *begati* 'richness' (OCS *bogatъ* 'rich'), *trup* 'body, corpse' (OCS *trupъ*), *porosit* 'request' (OCS *porāčiti*), *pusullë* 'note' (OCS *posълъ*), *grusht* 'fist' (OCS *гръсть*), *vidër* 'otter' (Croat. *vidra*), etc. Some of these loanwords entered the language before some early Slavic sound changes in the 8th century, e.g. the "liquid metathesis" (*baltë*, *daltë*), the change of *u to ъ (*pusullë*, *grusht*), etc.

Turkish loanwords are present in all languages of the Balkan area, and Albanian is no exception, cf., e.g. *çoban* 'cowherd' (Tur. *çoban*), *budalla* 'idiot' (Tur. *budalla*), *asqer* 'soldier' (Tur. *asker*), *bojë* 'colour' (Tur. *boja*), *hoxha* 'moslem priest' (Tur. *hoca*), *qejf* 'pleasure' (Tur. *keyif*), *haber* 'news' (Tur. *haber*), etc.

Of particular interest are words attested in Albanian and Romanian, where no Romance (or Latin) proto-form can be posited, e.g. Alb. *nepërkë* 'serpent' vs. Rom. *năpîrcă*, Alb. *shtrungë* 'a shed for sheep' vs. Rom. *strungă*, Alb. *bollë* 'a big serpent, a dragon' vs. Rom. *balaur* 'big snake' (cf. also Croa. *blavor* 'a lizard'), *brez* 'girdle' vs. Rom. *brîu*, Alb. *i bukur* 'pretty' vs. Rom. *a se bucura* 'to rejoice', Alb. *vatër* 'hearth' vs. Rom. *vatră* (cf. also Croa. *vatra* 'fire'), Alb. *vjedhull* 'badger' vs. Rom. *viezure*, Alb. *i bardhë* 'white' vs. Rom. *barz* 'swan', Alb. *avull* 'smoke, fog' vs. Rom. *abur(e)*, Alb. *sorrë* 'crow' vs. Rom. *coiară*, etc. The origin of these words is uncertain. They are most likely to be prehistoric loans from Albanian (or some closely related, but extinct ancient Balkan language) in Romanian.

SAMPLE TEXTS

1. Ismail Kadare: *Generali i ushtrisë së vdekur* “The General of the Dead Army” (p. 1)

The following extract is from the best known novel of the greatest contemporary Albanian writer, Ismail Kadare (b. 1936). The novel is about an Italian general who comes to Albania after the 2nd World War to conduct the exhumation, and arrange for the repatriation of the remains of Italian soldiers. “The General of the Dead Army” is a literary monument of the Stalinist socialist realism with Albanian flavor. In the flashbacks from the war, Albanian partisans slaughter Germans and Italians by battalions (though Germans never had more than one division in Albania), and post-war Tirana is represented as a modern metropolis with car traffic, night clubs, and foreign embassies, although those things first appeared there only a couple decades ago. Nevertheless, the novel is quite readable, and some passages are very well written.

Mbi tokën e huaj binte shi dhe dëbore përzier bashkë. Sqota kishte qullur betonin e pistës së aeroportit, ndërtesat, rojat. Ajo lagte fushën dhe brigjet dhe shkëlqente mbi asfaltin e zi të xhadesë. Sikur të mos ishte fillimi i vjeshtës, çdo njeriu tjetër, përveç gjeneralit të porsaardhur, do t'i dukej ky shi monoton një koincidençë e trishtuar. Ai po vinte ne Shqipëri nga një shtet i huaj për tërheqjen e eshtrave të ushtarëve të vrarë këtu në luftën e fundit botërore. Bisedimet midis dy qeverive kishin filluar që në pranverë, por kontratat perfundimtare u nënshkruam vetëm në fund të gushtit, taman në kohën kur filluan vranësirat e para. Pra, ishte vjeshtë dhe shiu kishte kohën e tij. Gjenerali e dinte këtë.

Englished:

Rain and snow were falling simultaneously on the foreign land. The mixture of rain and snow had soaked the concrete runway of the airport, the buildings, and the guards. The snow-storm covered the plain and the hills, and it made the black asphalt of the road shine. As it still wasn't the beginning of autumn, to any other man, but to the general who had just arrived, it would appear that this monotonous rain was a sad coincidence. He had come to Albania from a foreign country to search for the remains of the soldiers killed here in the last world war. Negotiations between the two governments had begun already in spring, but the final contracts were signed only by the end of August, just at the time when the first grey days begin. Yes, it was autumn, and it was the rainy season. The general knew that.”

Etymological comments:

mbi ‘on, about’: preposition, related to OInd. *abhi*, G *ámphi*, OIr. (preverb) *imb-*, probably from PIE *H₂mbhi.

tokë ‘earth’ has no etymology.

i huaj ‘foreign’ is from something like *ksényo-, or *skényo-. The first possibility seems more probable in light of the Greek word for foreigner, *kseínos*.

binte is an aorist of *bie* ‘hit, fall’ < PIE *bheryoh₂ (L *ferio* ‘wound’, Lith. *barti*). It is homophonous with *bie* ‘carry’, which is from PIE *bheroh₂ ‘carry’.

shi has been compared to G *húei* ‘it rains’, Toch. B *swese* ‘rain’, but this cannot be true, since PIE *s- gives *gj-* in Albanian. One could always posit an *ad hoc* rule “PIE *s- > Alb. *sh-* in monosyllables, but this would be the only example of it.

dhe 'and', was originally (an emphatic?) particle. It cannot be related to L *hōc* (Hamp), or *huic* (Huld), since PIE *g'h- would have given Alb. *d-*. The proto-form must have been PIE *g'ō, so it can be related to G -ge, unless this latter particle is identical with OCS *že*, which is from *ge. In any case, PIE seems to have had a bulk of very similar syntactic particles, *g'e, *ge, and *g'he (cf. OInd. *ha*). In the contemporary language, *dhe* is usually combined with the prefix *e-*, so 'and' is *edhe*. Alb. *e* is probably from L *et* 'and' (conjunctions can be borrowed, cf., e. g., Latv. *un* 'and' from Germ. *und*).

dëbore 'snow' has no satisfactory etymology. The all-purpose PIE verb *bher- 'carry' was often invoked, but it is difficult to see both the semantic and the formal connection.

përzier 'mixed' contains the common prefix *për*, but is otherwise unclear to me.

bashkë 'together' Etym?

sqotë f. 'rain and snow, snowstorm' has no etymology. It is a rare word, not found in some dictionaries.

kishte is the 3sg. imperfect of *kam* 'have'. The present stem is from PIE (athematic) *kapmi 'hold' (cf. L *capio*, Goth. *haban* 'have'), but the imperfect stem is difficult to account for. Perhaps analogy with *ishte* 'was' (from *është*) played a role, but *ishte* also has unexplained *i-*.

qullur 'drenched, wet, soaking'. Used as a participle with the imperfect of *kam* it forms the plusquamperfect I, thus *kishte qullur* 'had soaked'

beton, **pistë**, **aeropot** are all modern borrowings, with obvious meanings. *E* and *së* are connecting particles that Albanian uses to bind head nouns to following dependent genitives.

ndertesë 'building' is a verbal noun from *ndertoj* 'buildt', which has no etymology.

rojë 'guardian'. Etymology?

ajo 'she', and **ai** 'he' are usually derived from a particle *a-* (perhaps from the PIE pronominal stem *e-/o-), and the PIE pronominal stem *so- (masc.), *seH₂- (fem.). This is supported by the plurals *ata* (masc.), *ato* (fem.), because the PIE demonstrative showed suppletism of *s- (nominative sg.) and *t- (other cases and numbers). PIE *s is claimed to have disappeared in the juncture, and *j* is a hiatus-filler, thus we should suppose PIE *o-seH₂ > PAlb. *a-so > a-o > ajo. I cannot say I am fully convinced of this, but there is no better explanation

lagte is the imperfect of *lag* 'to wet, moisten'. Perhaps can be compared to OIr. *lobaid* 'putrescit', *lobur* 'weak' < PCelt. *lob-ro- < PIE *log^w-.

fushë 'plain' has no etymology.

breg, pl. *brigje* 'hill, embankment' is a Slavic loan-word, cf. Russ. *béreg* 'bank (of the river)', Croat. *brijeg* 'hill'.

shkëlqente is the imperfect of *shkëlqej* 'to brighten', a verb with no etymology.

asfalt requires no explanation.

i zi, fem. *e zëzë* 'black' has been related to Lith. *júodas* 'black' by Çabej. This etymology depends, however, on his theory that PIE *y sometimes gives *z* in Albanian, but this is far from established.

të is an (inflected) particle used for connecting the noun with a dependent genitive.

xhade 'road' is a loan-word from Turkish (Tur. *cadde* 'id.').

sikur 'if, as if'.

mos is a negation, related to OInd. *mā*, G *mē*, Toch. AB *mā*, all from the PIE (prohibitive) negation *meh₁. The Albanian form should be derived from *meh₁k^we, where *-k^we is a conjunction (OInd. *-ca*, L *-que*, etc.).

fillim 'beginning' is a verbal noun derived from *filloj* 'begin'. Etymology?

vjesht 'fall, autumn' has no etymology.

çdo 'every, each'.

njeri, def. *njeriu* ‘man’ is identical to OInd. *nṛ-*, G *anēr* ‘man’, PIE *H₂nēr, acc. *H₂ner-m, gen. *H₂nros. The vocalism of the Albanian word shows that the shape of the acc. sg. was generalized. *-i* is a productive suffix (cf. *ari* ‘bear’ < *H₂rtk’os, Hitt. *hartagga*).

tjetër ‘other, another’. Dialects show that the original form had *j-*, e. g. *jetri* in the dialect of Falconara. Standard Albanian *tjetër* probably owes its *t-* to the particle *të* (crasis). PALb. *yetro- ‘other’ can be compared to Umb. *etro-*, OCS *jetērъ* ‘other’.

gjeneral does not require an etymological explanation; *gjenerali* is the definite form.

porsaardhur is compounded from *porsa-* ‘just now’ and *ardhur*. *Ardhur* is a (suppletive) participle of *vij* ‘come’, and it should be derived from PIE *h₁rg’h- (cf. G *érkhomai*, OIr. *regaid* ‘shall go’). As a noun, *porsaardhur* also means ‘newcomer’.

dukem ‘seem, appear’ is a middle verb, from the root *duk-*, which has no clear etymology. *Do t’i dukej* is 3sg. conditional, literally ‘it would appear to him (*t’i*)’.

ky, fem. *kjo* are demonstratives, probably from something like *k^wo-so, *k^wo-seh₂, if *s can be lost in juncture (Huld). *k^wo- is, of course, the interrogative-relative stem seen in L *quod*.

koincidence e trishtuar ‘a sad coincidence’. In Albanian, adjectives and nouns are connected by means of an inflected particle, *i* (m.) viz. *e* (f.). Of course, *trishtuar* is a loan-word from Latin (*tristis*).

ai ‘he’ is the masculine of *ajo* (cf. above).

po vinte is the 3sg. progressive imperfect of *vij* ‘come’, which is a Latin loan-word (*venio* >> Alb. *vij*).

në ‘in’ is the same proposition as G *en*, L *in*, and OIr. *í*, PIE *en.

Shqipëri as the name for ‘Albania’, and **Shqiptar** for ‘Albanian’, are attested only from 14th century onward. The earlier ethnonym, *Arbëresh*, is still preserved in the Albanian enclaves of Southern Italy and in Croatia (*Arbanasi*). Both ethnonyms are etymologically unclear, however.

nga ‘from’. Etym?

një ‘one’, also indefinite article (indefinite articles usually come from the numeral ‘one’). Though details are unclear to me, it is certain that *një* is the same word as L *unus*, OIr. *óin*, PIE *oynos (or *H₃eynos).

shtet ‘country’ must be from Italian *stato*, rather than from Latin, because L *status* does not mean ‘state’.

për to is a preposition, comparable to L *per*, G *perí*, etc.

tërheqjen is a verbal noun from the verb *tërheq* ‘to pull, take back’, containing the prefix *tër-*, and the root *heq* ‘pull, draw’. Alb. *heq* (Salamis *heλk*) is usually compared to G *hélkō* ‘draw, pull’, L *sulcus* ‘furrow’, but this etymology has serious flaws: PIE *s- cannot give Alb. *h-*, and positing a laryngeal by-form *Hwólkeyō (Hamp) creates more problems than it solves.

eshtër ‘bone’ is a pluralized form of *asht* ‘bone’, a word with impeccable PIE etymology, cf. Hitt. *haštai*, OInd. *asthi* ‘bone’, G *ostéon*, L *os*, *ossis*. The proto-form was probably, *H₂ostH₁, though some prefer *H₃estH₁.

ushtar ‘soldier’ is related to *ushtri* ‘army’, contained in the title of the novel. Both are ultimately from L *exercitus* ‘army’. *Eshtrave të ushtareve* are both in the genitive plural case. The ending *-ve* is not related, as some people claim, to the PIE D-Abl. pl. ending *-bhyos

vrarë ‘killed’ is related to the verb *vras* ‘kill’. These words have no etymology.

këtu ‘here’ contains the PIE interrogative-relative pronominal stem *k^wo-, and a particle, perhaps *tu (a similar particle, *tu*, is attested in OInd).

luftë 'war' is from Vulgar Latin *luctu*. The change *ct* > *pt* is also characteristic of Balkan Romance.

fund 'bottom, end', from L *fundus*.

botëror 'world's' is an adjective from *botë* 'world'. The etymology of this word suggested by Meyer (who relates it to L *betere* 'to go') is anything but persuasive.

Bisedim 'conversation, negotiation' is another loanword from Slavic, cf. Croat. (arch.) *besjeda* 'talk, speech'.

midis 'between' is the same word as *midis* 'middle, center'. Since PIE **medhyos* 'middle' (OInd. *madhya-*) gave Alb. *mjez* 'middle', the history of *midis* is unclear. There is also Alb. *mjet* 'middle', as if from PIE **medho-*, with dialectal final devoicing.

dy 'two' can be derived directly from PIE **duwoH* (OInd. *d(u)vā*, L *duo*, etc.). See the Phonology section.

qeveri 'government'. Etymology?

filluar is the participle of *filloj* 'begin', and *kishin filluar* is 3pl. plusquamperfect I.

pranverë 'spring' is from Romance (VLatin?) *primavera*

por means 'but', and has no clear etymology.

perfundimtar 'final', adjective containing *fund* 'end, bottom', from L *fundus*.

u nënshkruam 'was signed' is passive aorist of *nënshkruaj* 'to sign', which contains the Latin loan-word *shkruaj* < *scribo*.

Gusht 'August' is obviously from L *augustus* (*mensis*).

taman 'just' is a Turkish loan-word attested in most languages of the Balkans, cf. Serb. *taman* 'just', Tur. *tamam*.

kohë 'time, season' is certainly the same word as OCS *časъ* 'moment', but the proto-form is disputed: either **kēso-*, or, more probably, **kēsk'o-* (see above).

kur 'when' is either from L *quā hōrā* (it has to be an allegro-form, since the vocalism does not match), or from something like **k^wur-* (cf. Lith. *kur* 'where').

filluan is 3sg. pres. of *filloj* 'begin' (see above).

vranesirë is a rare word. It can be translated as 'gloomy day'.

i parë 'first' should be derived from PIE **p_ṛHwo-* 'first' (cf. OInd. *pūrva-*, Croat. *prvi*). Another form, **p_ṛHmo-*, is found in Baltic (Lith. *pirmas*) and Germanic (OEng. *forma*).

pra means 'therefore, in consequence'. As usual with such words, the etymology is obscure.

ishte is 3 sg. imperfect of *ështëë* < **H₁es-* 'to be', but its vocalism is unclear.

e tij 'his', agreeing in gender with the feminine noun *kohë*. The masculine form would be *i tij*.

dinte is 3 sg. imperfect of *di* 'to know'. This verb is usually compared to OInd. *dhi-* 'insight, knowledge'. This just might be true, but in such short forms there is always the possibility of chance correspondence.

2. A dialogue between Enver Hoxha and Khrushchev (abridged from E. Hoxha, *Vepra*, XIX, 372-381)

This delightful piece of conversation gives us insight into the mindset of communist dictators. It was published in Enver Hoxha's Collected Works and artistically adapted in a novel by Ismail Kadare. The political background of the meeting is the dispute between Albania and the Soviet Union about the Soviet submarine bases on Albanian territory in the early sixties.

Khrushchev (Kh): *Një shoku juaj u ka thënë ushtarakëve tanë se Hrushovi nuk është marksist.*

Enver Hoxha (E): *Lidhur me çështjen e ushtarakëve ne u kemi folur shokëve tuaj. Ç'interes kemi ne që ushtarakët tanë grinden në bazën e Vlorës! Kurse ju nxirrni "dokumente" se një shoku ynë paska thënë kështu e ashtu. Shikojni mirë ushtarakët tuaj.*

Kh: *Shoku enver, mos e ngrini zërin!*

E: *Nëse do të hiqni bazën, do të bëni një gabim të madh. Ne kemi luftuar edhe pa bukë e të zbatuar, por asnjëherë nuk i jemi përkulur askujt.*

Kh: *Nëndetëset janë tonat.*

E: *Tuajat dhe tonat, ne luftojmë për socializmin. Territori i bazës është yni. Për nëndetëset ne kemi marrëveshje të firmuara që i njohin të drejta shtetit shqiptar. Unë mbroj interesat e vendit tim.*

Kh: *Ju nxeheni, ju më keni pështyrë, me ju nuk mund të bisedosh.*

E: *Ju gjithnjë thoni se ne jemi gjaknxehtë.*

Kh: *Ju shtrembëroni fjalët e mia. Përkthyesi a ei di rusishten?*

E: *Mos u kapni pas përkthyesit, ai e di fort mirë rusishtën*

Englished:

Kh: One of your comrades told our soldiers that Khrushchev is no Marxist. E: We have discussed the question of the soldiers with your comrades. Why would it be in our interest that our soldiers should quarrel in the Vlorë naval base? While you draw "documents" that one of our comrades allegedly spoke thus or otherwise. You should watch your soldiers better. Kh: Comrade Enver, do not raise your voice! E: If you pull out with your naval base, you will make a big mistake. We fought without bread and we were barefoot, but we never bowed to anyone. Kh: The submarines are ours. E: Yours and ours, we are fighting for socialism. The territory of the base is ours. We have signed treaties about the submarines that recognize the rights of the Albanian state. I defend the interests of my country. Kh: You are getting excited, you spat on me, one cannot talk with you. E: You always say we have warm blood. Kh: You distort my words. Does the interpreter speak Russian? Do not take it on the interpreter, he speaks Russian very well.

Etymological comments:

shoku 'comrade' (def. Nom. sg.) << L *socius*

ushtarak 'soldier', from the same root as *ushtri* 'army' << L *exercitus*

lidhur is a participle of *lidh* 'bind' < PIE **leyg-* (L *ligo*).

çështjen Acc. sg. def. of *çështje* 'question' << L *quaestio*

paska thënë 'allegedly said' (admirative, 3 sg. of *thom* 'say')

zërin Acc. sg. def. of *zë*, *zëri* ‘voice’, from *g’hwono- (OCS *zvонъ* ‘sound’).
kemi luftuar is 1pl. perfect of *luftoj* ‘fight’ << L *luctare*
bukë ‘bread’ is probably from L *bucca* ‘mouth, bite’, cf. Middle Greek *boukka* ‘biscuit’, Romanian *bucă* ‘food’.
nëndetëset ‘submarines’ (Npl. def.) is a compound containing *det* ‘sea’ (of disputed origin, perhaps from *dhewbeto-, cf. OE *deop* ‘deep’).
marrëveshje ‘understandings’ is compounded from *marr* ‘take’ and *vesh* ‘ear’ (< *h₂ows-, OCS *uxo* ‘ear’).
firmuara Npl. of the participle of *firmoj* ‘sign’, from Italian *firmare*
njohin 3pl. ipf. of *njoh* ‘recognize’ < *g’neh₃-sk’- (L *co-gnōsco*).
drejta ‘rights’ is Acc. pl. of *drejt* << L *directus*
shtetit Gsg. of *shtet* ‘state’ from Italian *stato*.
vendit Gsg. of *vend* ‘place, region, country’ is derived from the *ve* ‘to put’, of unknown origin (perhaps related to Goth. *winja* ‘pasture’).
të bisedosh (2sg. subj. pres. of *bisedoj* ‘talk’), from Slavic (OCS *besēda* ‘talk’).
gjithnjë ‘always’ is compounded of *gjithë* ‘all’ and *një* ‘one’; the etymology of *gjithë* is disputed: it is usually segmented into *gji-* and the suffix *-th-*, and the element *gji-* is derived from PIE *sem- ‘one’ (L *semel* ‘once’), but the phonetic development is doubtful.
gjaknxehtë ‘warm-blooded’ is a compound containing *gjak* ‘blood’ < *h₂esr ‘blood’ (L *sanguis*)
fjalët (Acc. pl. def.) from *fjalë* ‘word’ << L *fabella* ‘tale’.
fort ‘strongly, very’ << L *forte*

3. A passage from Buzuku (1555) in Old Gheg (Luke 16, 1-4) in transcription.

1. *Ënd 'ate mot: tha Jezu dishipujet vet: Ish një nierī fort i begatë, qi kish një spenxatuor; e kũ kle shtim ëndë të madhe desgracje përpara tī, ai tue i faruom gjithë gjanë e tī.*
2. *E grishi, e i tha: Qish anshhtë këta qi ù gjegjem ën teje ? A më arësye ën gjithësei kē përdām; përse ti mā nukë të mundnjësh këha paret mā me përdām.*
3. *E tha spenxatori ëndë vetëhenë: Qish të banj, se em zot më muor bukënë t'eme e ù mā spenxatuor nukë të jëm? ù me mihunë nukë mundinj, me votë për dyer kam dhunë.*
4. *Û dī qish të banj, qysh ai më martë këte bukë, ù përhapë t' i jes ëndë shtepī.*

Englished:

- 1 At that time Jesus said to his disciples, "There was a very rich man who had a steward, and he [the steward] was put into great dishonour before him, (they said that) he was wasting all his goods.
- 2 He called him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? You must hand me over the proof of all, for you can no longer be steward."
- 3 And the steward said to himself, "What shall I do, since my master took my bread and I am not to be a steward anymore? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to go begging.
- 4 I know what to do, since he took this bread from me, so that still I may stay in their houses."

Etymological notes:

mot 'time' < PIE *meh₁-to-, from the root *meh₁- 'to measure' (Skr. *māti* 'measures', OCS *měra* 'measure').

dishipujēt 'disciples' < L *discipuli*

vet 'own', reflexive particle < *h₂ewto- (G *autós*)

nierī 'man' (Std. *njeri*) < PIE *h₂ner- 'man' (G *anḗr*)

fort 'very' < L *forte*

begatë 'rich' < Slavic (OCS *bogatъ*)

kish 'had', ipf. 3sg. of *ka* 'have' (< *kap-mi, L *capio*, etc.)

spenxatuor < Italian *dispensatore* (lit. 'the dispenser')

kle shtīm 'was put'; *kle* is the Old Albanian form of Std. Alb. *qe* 'was' (aor. 3. sg. of *jem* 'be'), and *shtīm* is the Gheg participle of *shtie* 'throw'. Etym?

madhe fem. of *madh* 'big' < PIE *meg'h₂- 'big' (L *magnus* etc.)

desgracje < Italian *disgrazia*

gjithë 'all' < ? (perhaps related to PIE *sem- 'one', but this is disputed, see above).

gjanë pl. of *gjë* 'thing' (Tosk *gjë*, *gjëri*). Etymology unknown (the connection with L *iūs* 'soup', found in some handbooks, is too speculative).

grishi aor. 3 sg. of *grish* 'call upon'. Etymology unknown (sometimes speculatively connected with Lith. *gařsas* 'voice, sound').

tha aor. 3 sg. of *thom* 'say' < PIE *k'ens- (L *censeo*, etc.)

anshtë Gheg 3 sg. pres. of *jam* 'be' (Std. *është*)

gjegjem 'I hear' (Std. *dëgjoj*), Etym?

arësye 'proof, reason' (Std. *arsye*) << L *rationem*

ū 'I', Gheg form of Std. *unë* < *h₂ew-nu (?), where *h₂ew- is the reflexive particle (G *autós*)

të banj 'do' (1sg. pres. subj.), Std. *bëj*, probably from PIE *bheh₂- 'say' (L *farī*)

zot 'lord, master', without etymology. Some derive it from *dyew- '(sky-)god' (G *Zeús*), but this is too far-fetched.

muor aor. 3sg. of *marr* 'take'

me mihunë Gheg infinitive of *mih* 'dig'. Etym?

mundinj 1sg. pres. of *mund* 'can' (impersonal in Std.)

me votë Gheg infinitive of *votoj* 'vote, vow, implore'; in the phrase *votë per dyer* 'beg for mercy' (lit. 'ask by the doors'), where *dyer* is the pl. of *derë* 'door' < *dhwōr- (L *fores*, OCS *dvьрь*).

kam 1sg. pres. 'have'

dhunë 'damage', 'shame'. Etym?

martë opt. of *marr* 'take'. Etym?

bukë, def. Acc. sg. *bukën(ë)* 'bread' << L *bucca* (see above)

dī 1sg. pres. of *dī* 'know', perhaps from *dhiH- (Skr. *dhī-* 'insight')

t'...jes 1sg. subj. of *jes* 'stand, remain'; perhaps related to *jetoj* 'live' << L *aetas* 'life'

shtëpi 'house' << L *hospitium*

4. Cinderella (Fragment of a folk story in the Gheg dialect from Arbanasi in Croatia, from Tagliavini 1937).

Bír-i i král-it i ko puvét qish ko me ken shoto bútit, ma ató
son of king.gen.sg. them has asked what has to be under barrel.Asg., but they.fem.

i kan than da nu(k) ko kúrgj, ali gjél-i ko zan me kantát
him have.3pl. said.3pl. that not has nothing, but the.rooster has started to sing

e bír-i i kral-it prap ko puvét qish munje me kén shoto but-it
and the.son the.king-gen.sg. again has asked what could to be under the.barrel.gen.sg.

e ató prap i kan than da nu(k) ko kurgj. Ma të trétën er
and they.fem. again him have said that not has nothing. But the third time

kur gjél-i ko kantát thi párën er: Kikiríku
when the.rooster has sung as first time: Cock-a-doodle-doo

lipa cura pot koritu... [Croatian]
beautiful girl under the trough

ai i ko bo me iq but-in. Apéna
he them has made to raise the.barell-acc.sg. Ass soon as

bút-in e kan iq gji ka(n) mbét
the.barrel-acc.sg. it have.3pl. raised all have.3pl. remained

të qudítum e mo shum pe gji maqi-a e bí-at të 'thói kur e
the.pl astonished and more a.lot of all the.stepmother and the.girl.pl. of her when her

kan po Kucocénera të vishët gji n or inveqe ató kan
have.3pl. seen Cinderella the.fem. dressed all in gold on.the.contrary they.fem have.3pl. thought

mendúa m'e po gji ashtú të shtrancäte. Bir-i i kral-i(t) ko vót me
thought to.her see all so the.fem.shabby. The.son the.king-gen.sg. has gone to

ja mát kapúcën; apéna ja ko ští në kamb ko po
her measure the.shoe-acc.sg. as.soon.as her has put on foot has seen her

da bash ësht e thoj
that just was hers

ái búkër e ko mar e ko kunór; math pak mot këtó bí-at
he nicely her has taken and has married; after little time those.fem daughter-nom.pl.

pe të dyte grue kan art në jat me lyp e
of the second wife have.3pl. come to her to beg(mercy) and

athoi jo bo mílo math gji atá qish i kan bo e ju ko lan

to them it made merciful after all that what him have done and them has given

shum shola.
a.lot money

NOTE: This dialect has undergone strong influences from both Croatian and Italian (the Venetian dialect). Tagliavini's informants in 1937 were all trilingual. This can be seen in many loanwords from both languages, as well as in some syntactic constructions (e.g. the use of Croatian subordinator *da*, the existence of Romance-type analytic causative with **běj** 'do' + infinitive, etc.). It also shows some special phonological developments, e.g. the change of Alb. *q* to [tš], *gj* to [dž], the loss of Alb. *h* and the Gheg nasal vowels, the change of *a* to *o*, the sporadic change of *th* to *s* and of *dh* to *l*, the merger of Alb. *r* and *rr* (there is only ordinary *r* in Arbanasi), the loss of some final consonants, etc.

Etymological comments:

apena 'as soon as' is, of course, from Italian *appena*.

art 'come' (Standard Alb. **ardhur**) is a participle derived from the PIE root **h₁erg*'h- 'go' (Olr. *eirgg* 'go!', G *érkhomai*).

bash 'just' is from Croat. *baš*

bir '-i'son', as well as **bijë** 'daughter' have been derived from a PIE root **bhey-* 'shoot, spring' (Gr. *phîty* 'sprout', Arm. *bir* 'stick, club', but I doubt this etymology. The connection with L *filius* 'son' is impossible, as this is from PIE **dheh₁-i-* 'to suck'.

bo 'do, make' (Gheg. **bãj** Standard **běj**, participle **bërë**) is derived from Proto-Alb. **banyō* 'make appear', from PIE **bheh₂-* 'shine, appear' (G *phaínō*, Skr. *bhā-*).

but-i 'barrel' is from Venetian (cf. Italian *botte*).

da 'that' is the Croatian subordinator (*da*).

er 'time' (Standard Alb. **herë**) is usually derived from Lat. *hōra*, but the initial *h-* is unexplained (*h-* was lost in Latin pronunciation in the 1st century BC).

gjel-i 'rooster' is from L *gallus*. The vocalism is due to singularization.

gji 'all' (Standard Alb. *ghithë*) has been derived from PIE **sih₂-k'o-*, where **sih₂-* is the feminine form of the demonstrative **so-* 'this' (cf. Gr. *îa* 'one'). As speculative as any Albanian etymology.

grua 'wife, woman', pl. **gra** is usually derived from the PIE word for 'woman', **g^wenh₂* (G *gynë*, OCS *žena*, etc.), with irregular change of **gn-* > **gr-*.

inveqe 'on the contrary' is from Italian (*invece*).

iq 'raise' (Standard Alb. **heq**) is usually derived from PIE **selk-* (G *hélkō* 'draw').

kamb 'foot' (Standard Alb. **këmbë**) is from Vulgar Latin *camba* 'leg' (cf. It. *gamba*).

kantat 'sung' is from Italian (*cantare*), probably through Croatian (cf. Croat. dial. *kantat* 'sing').

kral 'king' is from Croatian (*kralj*).

kur 'when' has been compared to Lith. *kur* 'where' (PIE **k^wur*?).

mar (Standard Alb. **marr**) 'take' is usually connected with G *márë* 'hand' (which is a dubious word), L *mānus* 'hand', PIE **meh₂-* (cf. also OCS *manąti* 'give a sign, give a wink').

mat 'measure' is probably from PIE **meh₁-* 'measure' (OCS *měra*, L *mētior*).

me 'with', occurring in the Gheg infinitive (preceding the participle) is probably related to OE *mīþ* 'with' and Skr. *smat* 'with', but details are unclear.

mendua 'thought' (Standard Alb. *mendoj* 'measure') is a denominative verb built from *mend* 'thought', which is a loan from L *mente-*

milo 'merciful' is from Croat. *mio, mila* 'dear'

pak 'a little' is from L *paucus*

parë 'first' is from PIE *prh₃- 'first' (cf. G *prōtos* < *prh₃to-).

prap 'again' has been derived from the preposition *për* and some particle (? *apë, *para* 'before'), but this is not very helpful.

po 'seen' (Gheg. **pa**, Tosk. **pashë**) is the suppletive aorist stem to **shoh** 'see'. The often-quoted derivation from PIE *spek'- 'see' (G *sképtomai*, L *-spicio*) is difficult, if not impossible.

quditum 'astonished' is from Croatian (*čuditi* 'astonish').

shola 'money' is from Venetian (cf. Italian *soldi*).

shoto 'under' is from Venetian (cf. Italian *sotto*).

shtrancatë 'shabby' is from Venetian (cf. Italian *stracciato*)

shumë 'a lot' is from L *summum* 'the highest'

than (Standard Alb. **thanë**) is the participle of **thom** 'say', which is generally derived from PIE *k'ens- 'praise' (L *censeō*, etc.).

zan (Standard Alb. **zë**, Gheg. **zā**) 'catch, grasp, start' etymologically obscure. It has been derived from PIE *g^{wh}en- 'strike' (Skr. *hanti*, Hitt. *kuenzi*, assuming the operation of Pedersen's law).

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ABBREVIATIONS

A) Languages

Alb. = Albanian
Arm. = Armenian
Croat. = Croatian
G = Greek
Goth. = Gothic
Hitt. = Hittite
It. = Italian
L = Latin
Lith. = Lithuanian
OCS = Old Church Slavonic
OEng. = Old English
OHG = Old High German
OIr. = Old Irish
ON = Old Norse
PIE = Proto-Indo-European
Rom. = Romanian
Russ. = Russian
Serb. = Serbian
Skr. = Sanskrit
Std. = Standard (Albanian)
ToA = Tocharian A
ToB = Tocharian B
Tur. = Turkish
W = Welsh

B) Grammatical terms

A = Accusative
Abl. = Ablative
aor. = aorist
D = Dative
def. = definite
f., fem. = feminine
fut. = future
G = Genitive
indef. = indefinite
ipf. = imperfect
m. = masculine
N = Nominative
n., neut. = neuter
neg. = negation
opt. = optative
part. = particle
pl. = plural
pres. = present
sg. = singular

< = is derived from
<< = is borrowed from
* = unattested form