

Formation of the Plural of Names to “Missal” of Gjon Buzuku, Compared with Today’s Albanian

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Abstract. *This study has as a purpose to show the ways for the formation of the plural of names in albanian language, tools used and how they have changed, from Buzuku 1555 until nowadays. To show this thing, it is used the scientific research method and use of tabs, issued by the first albanian book “Missal”. It is seen that, the names in albanian, have a particular theme for the plural. There are many names who form the plural as in today’s Albanian, but there are some names to Buzuku that don’t have the same changes in today’s Albanian.*

1. Introduction

“Missal” of Buzuku is the first monument written in albanian language. This book has a great linguistic significance, that most of the linguists see it, as the foundation for solving a lot of linguistic problems. The formation of the plural of names, occupies the leading place in bay of this problematic. In documented period the names of albanian language are used in two numbers: singular – plural. With time have been made efforts for creation of a particular theme for plural number, that opposes that of the singular. This process has started after the collapse of the accusative ending, while the form of nominative ending, extended to accusative. There are four ways for the formation of the plural of names.

2. Formation of the plural with suffixes

The names in albanian language have a particular theme for the plural. This theme of the plural is formed by the singular theme with different ways and tools. The formation of the plural with suffixes is the most productive way for the formation of the plural. The plural suffixes that create the theme of the plural in albanian language are: -ī, -e, -ë, -a, -na / -ra, -ën(ë) / -ër(ë), -nj, -inj, -enj, -anj, -në / -rë. All the suffixes have a widely use and an important role in forming of the plural, except the suffix -ī, which although has fallen, has affected in changing of the vowel of the theme and the ending consonants, causing morphological phenomena as: metaphony *a ~ e* (*dash - desh*) or palatalization *-k ~ g* (*plak – pleq*).

About of this plural suffix, it is expressed the opinion, that this ending is from latin source, however this opinion is rejected with the argument that this plural suffix, hadn’t had only Latin but also other languages, and the names of latin source have entered in albanian language, in the accusative form. Viability of this suffix, accepted opinion that, is inherited from Indo-European language and it is following of plural suffix -oi, which is in some languages of this family.

About of the plural suffix –e, the opinions of linguists are not the same. Some researchers note that –e, have been a plural suffix of female genus. “As a plural suffix of female genus, that have taken the female names with the theme in consonant, such as: *end, qytet, pushtet, shëndet*”. (K.Topalli). Besim Bokshi note that this formant has its source in –ai, that partially replace the plural suffix –ās. From the plural of female names, this suffix came and was extended to the plural of neutral names, thence in the plural of some male names. Someother researchers, have claimed that the plural suffix –e, is reflex of the male plural old suffix –oi, by –ai’. To Buzuku we have:

- ❖ the names in female genus: *të bametë e vollundetë tonë* (XI b). In today’s albanian, in the plural name, comes in the form *vullnet –e*, with the similar suffix as Buzuku, but to Buzuku is female, whereas today, this name has passed in masculine.
- ❖ the names in male genus: *atë t i apënë ato kushtime* (XXXI b), *përse muretë e Jeruzalemit* (XVII b), *e malet e nalta qi përëndë qiellt ishjinë* (LX b). As we see from examples, most of the names, except the fonetic changes, comes with the same suffix, as in today’s Albanian. While *mal*, sometimes comes with the suffix –e, sometimes comes in the form *maltë*, without suffixes.
- ❖ the names in neutral genus: *hinje se u vdes tue mos klenë qdë qdonjë këso fajesh* (LIV a), *tue gjukuom gjyqë të pādëreja* (XIV a). This names form the plural as in today’s albanian.

Some neutral names formed by the verbs called in albanian (prejfoljorë), when they are used in the plural get the suffix –e, that is accepted from the most linguists, as a plural suffix of the female genus. Examples from Buzuku : *Për të shkruometë kle vum (LXXVII a), na qi meritojmë me klenë munduom për kanë me u bdjerë gjithë të kujtuometë e tyne (XX a)*. This names today have changed and are done *shkrimet, kujtimet*, while the other names of the neutral genus, they form the plural with the same suffix –e.

The suffix of the plural –ë, comes to names of all three genders. Most linguists have the opinion that this plural suffix in female and neutral names is result of fonetic evolution of the old ending –ās, unstressed position. To Buzuku:

- the female names: *E pā dÿ barkë afërë ujit (LXXIV b), Mbëlidhni copëtë qi mbetnë (LV a)*. In today's albanian the name *copë* comes in the same way as Buzuku, while the name *barkë* in today's albanian, it forms the plural with suffix –a, emerging in the form *bark–a*. So, expect the female names who comes with a similar suffix as today's albanian, there are many names that today come up with a different suffix.

At the mascuile, the source of the suffix –ë, is the inherited accusative ending, which in Indo-European have been –om and in albanian language was completed in –ë. (K.Topalli). To Buzuku:

- the male names: *ma porsì shërbëtorë të Tinëzot (LXVII a), e punëtorë janë pak (LXXXII b), e gjithë ndimëtarëtë e mī (LXXXII a)*. The names: *shërbëtorë, punëtorë*, expect the fonetic changes, today they have the same suffixes as Buzuku, with –e, emerging in forms *shërbëtorë, punëtorë*. At the name *ndimëtarëtë* we have the fall of *h*, that is a feature of the Dialect of Buzuku, meantime today it has another form, *ndihmës* forming the plural with –a, *ndihmës -a*.

It is expressed the opinion that the suffix –ë, is direct reflex of the Indo-European neutral plural ending –ā (by –ǎ). (Sh.Demiraj).

- the neutral names: *Përse si zani i t falët saj prej veshëshit së mīsh erdh (LXXXVII b), këqyrni e ngrini krenëtë tuoj (XXX a)*. Even in today's albanian, this names forms the plural with suffix –ë, emerging in the form *vesh-ë, krer-ë*.

While the suffix –a, is a plural suffix of female genus. For the source of this suffix, it is accepted from the most linguists, the opinion of Pedersen, to which this suffix has come from merging of ending –ë, with the plural suffix –e. (-ë + -e > -a; fushë + e > fusha). To Buzuku:

- the female names: *Shumë të mira vepëra u juve dëftova (LIX b), E bani Zotynë balena të mëdhā (LIX b), e ñ gritinë shtatë shporta (LXXV a), Ndë buza të tū anshtë përdam hiri (XIV a), Fushatë e pjacatë e gjithë qytetë (LXXIX b)*. In albanian today's this words form the plural with the suffix –a, while *buza* that is used to Buzuku, today come with the suffix –ë in plural, emerging in the form *buzë*.

Some linguists emphasize that the passage of the plural female suffix –a, at masculine will be done toward male names that in the singular ends with –ë, *burrë, djalë*, then the male names of grammatical gender but there are female in their form (*babe : baba*). (I. Ajeti)

Xhuvani and Majer emphasizes: “ *There is no doubt, that –a is the characteristic ending of the female names, and from their plural was influenced the plural of male names*”. To Buzuku we have:

- the male names: *Tue thanë psalma e himna (LXXXI a), ñdë psalma e ñdë hymna (IXL b), E sillidota të zgjidhnjë një ñkësish zakona (LXXXVII b), ju tue ñ vram me grushta (XLII a), kullot qengjatë e mī (LXXXVI a), e qesnë ñdë një ñ kësish pusash (XLIX a), e zhdo tjerëve me klenë vangjelista (LXXXI b), E tash prifti kã me marë me dy gishta (XXV a), E u thom këta: testimenta ñ pari i vërtetë (LXXVII a)*. In today's Albanian this words don't appear with the suffix –a, but with –e, in the form: *psalme, hymne, zakone, grushte, puse* while *pusa* in the northern dialect. *qengj-a* forms the plural in the same way as in today's Albanian. The male names that go to endings –ist and –ent, they form the plural with the suffix –e (*testament-e*), different from Buzuku that use –a (*vangjelist-a, testament-a*). The name in plural (*gishta*), today doesn't take the suffix –a, but it forms dhe plural with suffix –inj, emerging in the form *gishtër -inj*.

This suffix, with the time came and was used to originally neutral names (*petëk-a, emër-a*), and through these neutral names passed to the male. ToBuzuku:

- the neutral names: *rinjinë ñdë petëka të bardha (LXV b), Kanë me klenë shenja ñdë diellët (XXX a)*. This plural suffix still characterizes the adjectives and defining feminine words. In most cases, this names today, have the same suffixes as Buzuku.

While the neutral names formed by adjectives and the neutral names formed by the verbs called in Albanian (emra prejbiemërorë, prejfoljorë), that to Buzuku form the plural with suffix –a, today are replace with words formed with suffixes–(ë)si, -(ë)ri.

- ❖ Example from Buzuku: e **të drejtatë** e tyne nuke janë haruom (LXXXV a), Shëgjetëtë e dmujtunit janë fort **të mprehuna** me thëngjij tue sosunë (X b). These names today come in the form: **të drejtatë** – drejt-ësi, **të mprehuna** - mpreht-ësi.

According Likaj, the suffix –na / -ra, is formed through the expansion of the plural formant –a with the definition –n / -r- of the theme of name. According him, in plural forms *gjâna / gjëra, zâna / zëra*, as a plural suffix doesn't imagine only the suffix –a, but together with, the ending –n / -r of the theme of relevant names: *gjâ +na / gjëra, zâ+na / zëra*, an acceptable separation semantically. (E.Likaj). To the old authors and especially to Buzuku, this plural suffix, in some cases extending out to an –ë, and it is seemed that the suffix takes the form (–ëna / -ëra). With suffix form the plural all of names of three genders:

- a) The neutral names: *Zotynë përçark me **ujëna** të diluvit (LX a) ,e kish shtatë brienë e shtatë **syna** (LXXX b), E aj të mos gjukonjë si të shohë me **sÿ** (XXXI a), e atë zgođh gjithë **mishënashit** (LXXXIII a), e të banjënë **kopështëna** e të hanë frujtinë e tyne (LXXVIII a), e vinjënë **ndë shtretëna** (LXXXI b).*

While to Buzuku *kopështëna* comes with suffix–(ë)na, in today's Albanian comes with suffix –e (*kopsht-e*) and is integrated in masculine. Note that the name *sy*, sometimes comes with suffix –na (*syna*),and sometimes with the same form as in today's Albanian. But today the name *sy*,has passed in masculine. Even today *shtretëna*, comes with metaphony of the vowel of theme and with ending –ën in Geg and –ër in Tosk: *shtretën / shtretër*. The ending –ë to this plural suffix has dropped.

- b) The male names: *Hinje se gjithë **shpirtëna** janë të mītë (LXV b), klofshinë me shenjë e **ndë motëna** (LIX b), Amë, **q** gjithë **hirënash** (VIII a), A p janë m̄a të mira **lymëna** Amana (LI b). In today's Albanian, these names comes with plural suffix–e, in the form *mot-e, hir-e*, while *shpirtna* as in today's Albanian *shpirt-ra. lymëna* after development of metafony *u~ y*, forms the plural with the formant –enj emerging in the form: *lumenj* and not with formant –na as Buzuku.*
- c) The female names: *olokaustatë e **lëmoshënatë** (XVII b),u pane **majënatë** e malet (LX b).* These names in today's Albanian, forms the plural with formant –a, emerging in the form *lëmosh-a, maj-a*, different to Buzuku.

The suffix **-ën(ë) / -ër(ë)**, it is used to form the plural of a lot of male names. Regarding the source of this formant, accepted opinion of Topalli, according to which we have to do with an inherited suffix, that is stored in some names with dactylic topic, as: *dimënë / dimërë, breshënë / breshërë* and has served as a plural suffix in some other names. To Buzuku we have: **Vëllazënë**, *tue pasunë dhunëtije të dana (XXXVIII a), gjithë shenjtitë e mëdhenj qi klenë **priftënë** (XXVI b)*. While nowadays the ending–ë of this suffix has dropped, but to Buzuku and the others old authors, this suffix comes with ending –ë. **Vëllazënë**, in today's albanian comes with the change *a~ e*, and with the suffix –ën / -ër, also takes the suffix –z, different to Buzuku, comes in the form *vëlle-z-ër*. **Priftënë**, in today's Albanian , it forms the plural with two suffixes –ër and –inj, emerging in the form *prift-ër-inj*.

In connection with the plural suffix–nj, the linguists have the opinion that it is developed within the Albanian. The ending –n of the theme of names *mullin, ullin, (mullin-i / mullir-i, ullini / ullir-i)* under the influence of early plural formant *ī, through an intermediate level, of return of *ī in semivowel –ī, together with this –ī, latter is felt as a plural suffix: *mullin-ī > mullin > mulli-nj*. (E.LIKAJ). So, the consonant –nj, converted in a plural suffix, extended later to names that did not have nasal consonants in their roots. To Buzuku: *qi na jemi për **dëshminj** (LXV a), përse ujëna të mos shkonjinë **konfinëtë** e tyne (LXXIX b).*

The name *dëshminj*, that comes with the suffix –nj, Buzuku use it with the meaning of *dëshmitarë*, but for this name in today's Albanian we have a word formed with suffix –tar and with the plural suffix –ë (*dëshmitarë*), while *konfinëtë* besides the phonetic changes that has undergone, today we have the plural form with suffix –inj, where the bottom sound of the theme –i, is felt as an integral part of the early suffix–nj: *kuf-inj*.

The suffixes **-inj / -enj**, are not used for forming of the plural of the names to Buzuku and this indicates, that these suffixes are created after Buzuku. Those suffixes are formed by moving of the accent within the word. The suffixes –inj / -enj, are extensions of the plural suffix –nj, with the bottom sound of the theme of names: *kufi,mulli*.

To Buzuku we have also the suffix **-anj**, for formation of the plural, that is formed by moving of the accent within the word. To Buzuku with this formant, we have the plural of the name *gjarpënë*: *ju me shkalë **gjerpanjë** (LXXXVI b)*. Today this suffix is not used and the plural of name *gjarpënë*, is formed by means of the suffix –inj: *gjarpër –gjarpër-inj*. Another suffix for formation of the plural in today's Albanian, is also **-në / -rë** in some male and neutral names. The fact that I have not found any name to Buzuku, to form the plural with this formant, shows the new time of its creation.

The suffixes **-z(ë)**, and **-m**, are mentioned as plural suffixes only by any researcher and are rarely used for forming of the plural to Buzuku. To Buzuku, with these suffixes we have only the plural of the name *njeri*, that comes with the form *njerëz*, and the name *djalë*, that comes with the form *djelm*. While in today's Albanian, besides this name does not appear nowhere. *Lëvdoni, ju **djelm**,Tenezonë (XII a), **Njerëz**, vëllazënë e përing (LXX b).*

3. Formation of the plural without suffixes and without changes into.

It is a less productive way than the first method. This way means, that the name appears equally, with the same form as in singular and in plural. To Buzuku there are these names that form the plural in this way: *Ata qi mbjellënë me lot* (XI a), *ndë shtëpi të regjënjet janë* (XXX a), *gjithë janë klanë grabitës e kusarë* (LXX b), *mos kualtë, mos bashtinënë* (XXI b), *do me thashunë se ti të nderish të tu përint* (XXI a), *baronjë e zotëni qi në Galilejet* (LXXIX a).

Those names that to Buzuku emerge as in singular and in plural, in today's Albanian undergo changes as in plural suffix, as well as phonetic changes. In today's Albanian, *kualtë* - comes with the change *l ~ j*, and with vowel changes, emerging in the form *kuaj*. *Përint* - today after the fall of *-ë*, this name comes with suffix *-ër*, in the form that has today *prindër*, *Zotëni* - today this word forms the plural not in the same way as in singular but with the formant *-inj*, in the form *zotërinj*, where the suffix *-inj* expanded out of *-ër*. Also in this way for the formation of the plural, we note that there are names to Buzuku, that forms the plural as in today's Albanian (*shtëpi, lot, grabitës*), in the same form as singular, but there are names (*kualtë, Zotëni, përint*), that in today's Albanian forms the plural with a different formant. This indicates that language is dynamic and not static.

4. The plural with phoneme changes into.

While the formations with suffixes, expresses the plural meaning by a certain suffix, the formations without suffixes, expresses the plural meaning with vowel and consonant changes of the theme of word. Precisely, morphological phenomena as: metatony *a ~ e* or palatalization *-k ~ g, -g ~ gj, -n ~ nj, -ll ~ j, -r ~ j*, are result of the influence of the plural suffix *-i*. Example: **dash-i > desh, *plak-i > plek-i* (through metatony) *> pleq* (through palatalization of *-k*) by *-i*. To Buzuku there are these names, that forms the plural in this way, undergoing the same changes as in today's Albanian.

a) with the change *a ~ e*: *E mbet mbë malt katërdhjetë net* (XLIV a), *ndëshshit e në buollicashit* (XXVI a).

b) with the change *a ~ e* and with palatalization of the consonant *-k* to *-q*: *e të dy ishnë pleq* (LXXXV b) and only with the palatalization of the ending consonant: *e zogjtë e qiellsë e angërë* (XL b).

c) with the change *ll ~ j, k ~ q, r ~ j*: *bani të mbëljedhunë ju popuj* (LXI b), *e për miq të mi* (XIX b), *mbeçinë pë bij e të veja* (LXII a) and with the change *o ~ uo, e ~ ye* the names: *Përse aj dij se për lakëmi ja kishnë dhanë ndër duor* (LV b), *e të nthenj dyertë në rembe* (XXXII b).

d) with a different phonetic composition: *U bleva pesë pë që* (LXXIII a).

5. The plural with changes into and suffixes.

This type of plural we find also to Buzuku, but just as in today's Albanian, it is not a productive way. These names form the plural changing the vowel or the consonant of the theme and with suffixes simultaneously. With the change *g ~ gj* and with the suffix *-e*: *edhe të glijdhunë me të fortaburgje* (LXXXV b). Generally, names to Buzuku form the plural in the same way as in today's Albanian, undergoing the same changes into.

6. Conclusions

- After a thorough analysis of ways of forming the plural of names to Buzuku, comparing with today's Albanian, we note that to Buzuku as in today's Albanian, there are the four ways for the formation of the plural of names of all three genders.
- Just as in today's Albanian, the productive way for forming the plural, is the plural with suffixes. The suffixes *-e, -ë, -a, -(ë)na / (ë)ra*, are used for the formation of the plural of names of all three genders, while the suffixes *-inj, -enj, -anj, -nj, -ën(ë) / -ër(ë), -në / -rë, -zë, -m*, are used for the formation of the plural of male names.
- By the suffixes for formation of the plural of names to Buzuku, the formants *-në / -rë* and *-inj / -enj* (that attracting the emphasis on self), who even in today's Albanian have a limited use, do not appear in any case to Buzuku, which indicates the new time of the creation of these suffixes. Lack of those suffixes to Buzuku, have done that enough of the words that come in the book, to form the plural with another formant. (*khs. gishta- gisht-ër-inj*).
- The suffix *-i*, there is neither today nor to Buzuku. As we have stated, his fall has caused the change of the vowels and consonants of the theme of word: (*plak – pleq*).

- To Buzuku we have the suffix –anj, that is not used in today's Albanian and instead of using –inj: *gjarpanj – gjarpërinj*, also we have –zw dhe –m, that are not used in today's Albanian.
- We note that the male names to Buzuku comes with the plural suffix –a, in today's Albanian comes with another suffix, usually with the formant –e: (*psalma – psalme*), while the neutral names densely used to Buzuku, in today's Albanian are reduced. This phenomene occurs due to the disintegration of gender neutral and the passing of these names in masculine.
- We can say that, there are the same ways and the same suffixes for forming of the plural, as in today's Albanian, but what has changed is the way to which suffix, forms the plural a name to Buzuku, that due to the facts mentioned, in today's albanian for the same name we can use another suffix. Example: *kopështëna, motëna* (to Buzuku) – *kopsht-e, mot-e* (in today's Albanian).
- Also in the other ways for formation of the plural displaying changes, which shows the dynamics of development of the Albanian language. There are names that appear to Buzuku, with the plural as singular, while in today's Albanian, they form the plural with suffixes: *përint - prindër* (in today's Albanian).

Considering that the forms in language, may change gradually and this it depends on the popular linguistic culture which form accepts as right. Seeing such developments, even in the future, it will have a tendency to change tools, and the way of the formation of the plural of names in today's standard Albanian.

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