

The Category of Determiner in Albanian

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The Determiners are D-Category words which have a D position into the Determinative Phrases. In Albanian D-Category includes: the definite/indefinite article, pre-nominal demonstrative pronouns and pre-nominal possessive pronouns. Compositional Aspect, an universal language category, explains the boundedness/non-boundedness of the sentence referring also to the D-Category and their role in denoting Noun Phrase's specificity. From this point of view, Determiners are also grammatical markers of boundedness or perfectivity of the sentence: a NP preceded by a Determiner is bounded or quantified, a bare NP is non-bounded/unquantified. In Albanian the specified NPs make the sentences (SVO order) more grammatical and acceptable, providing this way bounded sentences. The unspecified NPs, singular and plural are not grammatically correct in the subject position in Albanian, they are grammatically correct only in object position. Hence, compared to English sentences, the Albanian imperfective or non-bounded counterparts are more limited.

Keywords: *D-Category, Noun Phrase, Compositional Aspect, Bounded NP, Non-bounded NP*

Introduction

D-Category is a functional category of the Noun Phrase, which originates in S. P. Abney's work (1987) who claims that there are some similarities between the inflectional head Infl. of the sentence and the functional head D of the Noun Phrase. D and Infl. belong to the class of non-lexical categories which Abney named functional category. According to DP-Analysis, determiners are the lexical illustration of D-category, the way modals are lexical illustration of Infl. Category (1987:265). D-Category elements are: articles (definite and indefinite), demonstratives, possessive pronouns and quantifiers. This class of elements have been studied not only in the Generative framework, but also in the light of the recent studies about the Compositional Aspect. This paper will be focused on the Albanian class of Determiners, aiming to show their potential relation with the Aspect, which is regarded as a grammatical and as a conceptual category universally represented in all languages.

Albanian is not a VA language like Modern Slavic or Greek, which have perfective verbs as lexical entries. It may be part of the languages without perfective verbs, as defined by Kabakčiev (2023, 251), feature CA, like today's Germanic and Romance languages which depend on CA to effectuate perfectivity. Having no studies on Compositional Aspect in Albanian (to my knowledge) we must know what is the CA or what is a CA language. Kabakčiev (2000: 60) explains that within

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the framework of a simple sentence containing a subject, a verb, and an object, aspect meaning is dependent on all the components of a sentence, on their grammatical form and on the lexical meanings of the words that take part in the composition of the sentence as a whole. Meanwhile the semantico-syntactic expression of aspect is called Compositional, after Verkuyl's (1972) work.

Traditionally the concept of aspect has been related to the verbal system (aspect in Slavic languages), recently the whole sentence and its components effectuate aspect, especially the subject / object NPs. Verkuyl's (1972: 59) well known schemes help explicating perfectivity and imperfectivity at the level of simple sentences containing a subject, a verb and an object:

SCHEMA FOR PERFECTIVITY

- (37) S[NPI[SPECIFIED QUANTITY OF X]NPI + VP[V[VERB]V + NP2[SPECIFIED QUANTITY OF X]NP2]S

SCHEMA FOR IMPERFECTIVITY

- (38) S[NPI[(UN)SPECIFIED QUANTITY OF X]NPI + VP[V[VERB]V + NP2[(UN)SPECIFIED QUANTITY OF X]N

The meaning of these schemes is explained in Bulatović (2013: 74) who claims that for a clause/sentence to have a terminative aspectual reading, both arguments must represent a 'specified quantity of x'. If one of the arguments is not 'specified', terminativity is lost. Hence, a NP, as an argument, can denote a specified quantity of a referent or an unspecified quantity of a referent, the difference between them is assigned by the Determiners of the noun as articles, demonstrative and possessive pronouns, also quantifiers and the proper names, which make a NP definite.

In the Aspectual framework studies, the Determiners display another role except for being functional heads of the Determinative Phrases (Abney, 1987). We can claim that in Abney's work the Determiners have been analyzed in their syntactic function into DP, they are functional elements of D-category, meanwhile in Verkuyl's work they have been analyzed in a semantico-conceptual framework, as grammatical markers of NP which interplay with the verb effectuating the aspectual value of the sentence. In this paper, we will try to analyze the Category of Determiners in Albanian as markers of boundedness/non-boundedness (perfectivity/imperfectivity in Verkuyl's term). There are two kinds of terminology used in the literature referring to Verkuyl and Kabakčiev (the main works quoted here), perfectivity/boundedness and imperfectivity/non-boundedness. We will use the binary terms 'bounded/non-bounded' referring to Kabakčiev (2000: 61) who claims that boundedness (or 'specified quantity', to use Verkuyl's term) is explicated through an article, quantifiers, certain types of pronouns, etc., whereas non-boundedness (or 'unspecified quantity', Verkuyl's term) is explicated through the lack of these elements.

This paper is organized in six sections: Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Results and Discussion, Conclusions and References. The section Results and Discussion has two sub-sections: The Category of Determiners in Albanian and The Compositional Aspect and the D-Category in Albanian.

Literature Review

This paper has in focus the D-Category in Albanian and its relation to the boundedness/non-boundedness phenomenon. Studies on Determiners have been developed into a Generative framework beginning with S. P. Abney's work (1987) who has analyzed them as functional heads of Determinative Phrases. The Generative studies as Chomsky's works (1965), Adger (2002), Graffi (1994), Alexiadou, A., Haegeman, L., Stavrou (2007) etc., have been a reference for defining the category of Determiners in Albanian and analyzing their properties comparing to the English D-Category.

Studies on Aspect or Compositional Aspect have not been very present and known in Albanian linguistics. Insights on the Aspect as a semantic feature of the Albanian verbal system have been presented in the work of Friedman (2004) and Abrashi (2016). The literature on CA theory has been developed since last century with the seminal work of Verkuyl (1972) which represents an extended theory on Aspect in English and Dutch. Aspect's theory has been discussed further in Vendler's work (1957), in Kabakčiev's work (1984, 2000, 2023), also in Bulatovic's work (2013) etc. These studies have been a reference for my paper, whose aim is to find a relation between the category of Determiners in Albanian and the category of Aspect.

Methodology/Materials and Methods

Due to its object of study *D-Category in Albanian and its relation to Aspect* this paper is focused in both Generative and Aspectual literature. The theoretical framework is based on a wide generative works, studies and article reviews on Aspect. Two main methods applied here are: the comparative method and the analytic method.

The comparative method is first applied to compare Albanian Determiners with the English Determiners, referring Abney's criteria of the class of Determiners. Then, this method is applied in comparing English sentences (some of them borrowed from Verkuyl and Kabakčiev) to the translated counterparts in Albanian to find out the similarities and the differences on the aspectual nature of them. The analytic method is used on analyzing Albanian NPs and their potential to effectuate aspect through the role of their Determiners and Quantifiers.

Being an introduction approach this paper is limited on sentences, which mainly are translation equivalents of the English sentences, as a Compositional Aspect language.

Results and Discussion

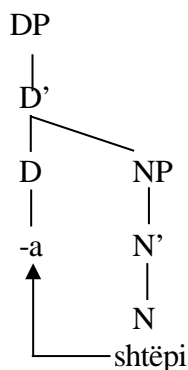
The Category of Determiners in Albanian

The category of Determiners is defined by Abney (1987: 74) as a class of functional elements due to the syntactic role they have heading the Determinative Phrases. Some of their main properties are: Determiners constitute a closed lexical class, they are often phonologically weak, they are inseparable from their ‘complement’ and lack the descriptive content, also they have a complementary distribution in DP. In Albanian the D-category includes: the definite and indefinite articles, the prepositional demonstrative and possessive pronouns, also the group of quantifiers.

The definite article in Albanian is postnominal and enclitic to the noun ‘djali’ (boy-the), ‘vajza’ ‘girl-the), like the definite article in Romanian and Bulgarian. The definite article in Albanian depends on the morphological and phonological properties of the noun root, gender, number and case, ϕ features. This suggests that the definite article in Albanian is part of the morphological inflection of the head noun and not an independent lexical element (Giusti, 1997: 102) like the English definite article.

Determiners are heads D of the Determinative Phrases, they display on the left of the Noun, which is a complement to the head D. This formulation is right for languages which display a free morpheme definite article, but it is not appropriate for those languages which have a bound definite article, like some Balkan or Scandinavian languages, including Albanian. In the late '80 was formulated the hypothesis of N-to-D Movement¹ (P. C. Hofherr, C. Dobrovie-Sorin, 2005:132), displaying the idea that the noun moves from its basic position in the lexical domain to a higher functional position inside the extended projection N (noun). Knowing that articles display on the left position in the DP, it was accepted that the noun moves in a higher position D triggered by the definite article. This Movement was triggered by the enclitic nature of the definite article as a bound morpheme. The noun N moves towards a position identified as D-head, based on the Principle that a head can move only in a head position (Alexiadou, Haegeman, Stavrou, 2007: 87)

The N-to -D Movement in Albanian:



¹The analysis is known as N-to-D Movement and is related to the Government and Binding Theory, which requires that Ns and Ds must be generated in different positions, even though the determiner might be an adjunct.

In Albanian the indefinite article ‘një’ is used also as a numeral and as an indefinite pronoun. It functions as an indefinite article (like *a/an* in English) when it denotes an unknown person or object to the speaker and the hearer ‘Në klasë hyri një vajzë’ (A girl entered into the classroom). In these contexts the indefinite article ‘një’ does not denote quantity (contrary to the other numerals) and is stressless and almost a clitic. The noun, preceded by the indefinite article ‘një’ is the counterpart of the definite form, follow the examples from *The Albanian Grammar*, I, (2002: 130): Nga kasollja doli *një grua* (= a certain woman, unknown for the hearer at the moment). *Gruaja* iu afrua grupit të burrave që kishin ardhur të shihnin shtëpinë e prishur. (From the cottage it came out an woman. The woman approached to the group of men who arrived there to watch the destroyed house).

The Albanian indefinite article ‘një’ has not the same frequency like the English indefinite articles ‘*a/an*’. While in English the indefinite determiner obligatory accompanies singular countable nouns even when these occur as predicate nominals (Kallulli, 1999: 85), Albanian uses a bare singular noun in this function. See the sentences 1, 1’ below (the English sentence is quoted from Kallulli: 1999):

1. John is a student
- 1’. Xhoni është student
‘Xhon_{the} is student’

In the sentence 1’ the nominal predicate ‘student’ needs not to be determined by the indefinite article ‘një’ (like ‘a student’ in English), it is not grammatically correct in Albanian, it denotes only the general concept of being student (the whole class of students), meanwhile the subject must be definite, showing that the referent ‘Xhoni’ is known for the speaker and the hearer. Although restricted in this context, the indefinite article ‘një’ is necessary in realizing the subject NPs in 2 and object NPs in 3 and 4 sentences below:

2. Na ishte një plak e një plakë.
There was an old man and an old lady
3. Bleva një libër
I bought a book
4. Librat ia fala një studenti
I gave the books to a student

The sentence 2 is an introductory model of starting tales in Albanian, it has an indefinite subject NP denoting an unknown person to the speaker and to the hearer. The third and the fourth sentences have respectively a direct/indirect object denoting the NP ‘book’ or ‘student’ as one thing in general, one from the whole class of books or students. Further, the plural NPs in Albanian are accompanied by quantifiers ‘*ca/disa libra*’, like English ‘some books’. The indefinite NPs, singular and plural will play a crucial role in analyzing the aspect in Albanian in the next subsection.

In Albanian, Demonstrative pronouns are D-Category as well, they are head of a DP in Abney’s terms. As D-Category, demonstratives in Albanian are pre-positional

to the noun 'ky/ai libër' (this/that book); they belong to a closed lexical class; they are in complementary distribution to other determiners *ky ai libër, *ai çdo libër, ?ky im libër. Demonstrative determiners are sites of nominal grammatical features: they share the same gender, number and case category with their Complement N: ky djalë (this boy – sing. masc.Nom.); kjo vajzë (this girl – sing. fem. Nom.); këta djem (these boys – plur. masc. Nom.); këto vajza (these girls – plur, fem, Nom).

Demonstratives are pre-nominal to indefinite nouns, but in Albanian they may also be pre-nominal to definite nouns² in some anaphorical examples in tales (Sandfeld, 1930: 122). Nowadays this construction is used mainly in spoken Albanian:

5. *Ish një mbret, ai mbreti kish një pelë*
 'There was a king, that king_{-the} had a mare'

The functional role of the demonstrative into the DP has been a topic of discussion in the recent generative literature. According to Longobardi (2001: 581) demonstratives are in D. Meanwhile, Giusti (2015: 134) claims that demonstratives are Specifiers in all languages. She notes that demonstratives may co-occur with other determiners, as possessive pronouns, which may be considered as Specifiers of another kind. Agreeing with Giusti (2015) we can claim that demonstratives can co-occur with a definite article like 'ky djali' (this boy_{the}), where the demonstrative 'ky' has a Specifier position and the definite article in in D position.

The D-Category enriches with the class of possessive pronouns, which in Albanian are pre-nominal and post-nominal 'im atë / ati im' (my father), *ati i tij* (his father) etc. The former belongs to the class of Determiners, whereas the latter belongs to the class of modifiers. Pre-nominal possessive pronouns are followed only by kinship nouns in Albanian, restricted only to the first and second singular person: 'im vëlla, yt vëlla' (my/your brother). Contrary to the demonstratives, they are followed by an indefinite noun, hence they are in complementary distribution with the definite article 'im atë' (my father), like many other Indo-European languages *my / your / his brother* in English, *mes / tes / ses frères* in French (Demiraj, 1985: 317). This phenomenon is explained by the argument that possessives except the referentiality feature [+Ref], bear also the definiteness feature [+Def]. Following Turano, Koleci (2011: 84) possessives have the attribute to specify a referent to kinship noun, it means that the relation between the possessive and the kinship noun denotes an individual not an open argument which needs to be saturated from a D-Category.

²Demiraj (1985: 336) notes that in Albanian language the construction demonstrative pronoun + definite noun is not a principal usage of the demonstrative pronoun, it is found mainly in spoken language, in fairy tales or epic folk songs etc. The standard order in Albanian is demonstrative + indefinite noun, where the demonstrative has the role of determining and individualizing the noun. In the other example, anaphoric demonstrative + definite noun, it is the noun which has the main semantic and syntactic role.

The Compositional Aspect and the D-Category in Albanian

The Compositional Aspect as a conceptual and semantico-syntactic category is attested in English by the work of Verkuyl (1972) and other scholars like Vendler (1957), Kabakčiev (1984, 2000, 2023), etc. These linguists maintain that CA is a universal phenomenon, all languages may be effectuated by the category of Aspect. Albanian is not a Verbal Aspect language, but we can make an effort to see if it has a Compositional Aspect like English, agreeing with Kabakčiev's (2000; 156) formulation that when a certain language lacks markers of boundedness in the verbs, they are present in nouns.

The main thesis of the CA's studies is that CA is effectuated by all the sentence components, not only by the verb or the Verb Phrase. This means that Noun Phrases interplay with the verb in effectuating the aspectual nature of the sentence. Kabakčiev (2000: 57) emphasizes the role of Verkuyl in incorporating the subject into the analysis of aspect meanings, which turned out to be an important step in the process of acquiring a better understanding of the interdependency between the type of NPs in the sentence and the explication of aspect. Since Verkuyl (1972) 'the specified quantity of X' has been related to bounded NPs and 'the unspecified quantity of X' to non-bounded NPs. A bounded NP is accompanied by Determiners which make it a definite NP (in a broad sense) or a quantified NP in Verkuyl's terms. The English class of Determiners (following Kabakčiev, 2000: 65) are concrete grammatical markers of NPs in assigning the 'specified/bounded quantity'. On the other hand, the absence of these markers denotes 'unspecified/non-bounded quantity'. The aim of this subsection is to prove that Determiners in Albanian NPs function as grammatical markers of boundedness/perfectivity of the sentence. Verkuyl (1972: 59) explains further the Determiner's role through the Dutch NP 'het concert' (the concerto). It is analyzed as having an underlying structure:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{NP} &= \text{Det.} + \text{N} \\ \text{Det.} &= \text{Def.} + \text{Spec.} \end{aligned}$$

where Determiner consists of two nodes DEFINITE and SPECIFIED and if the NP would be indefinite then the nodes would be INDEFINITE and SPECIFIED (a concerto). The noun N consists of the category Quantity which manifests itself in surface structure and is related to the lexical meaning of N. About the category SPECIFIED Verkuyl explains that nodes like FINITE or BOUNDED would come close to the meaning of SPECIFIED; however, UNSPECIFIED cannot be identified with INFINITE. The category SPECIFIED could be characterized as 'giving the bounds of the temporal interval in question'; the category UNSPECIFIED as 'not giving the bounds of the temporal interval in question'. Since the expression 'giving the bounds of an interval' involves referential information, SPECIFIED is provisionally located in the Determiner. Hence, from Verkuyl's point of view we understand that both definite NPs and indefinite NPs are related to the concept of Specificity.

The distinction between definiteness and indefiniteness in Albanian NPs is assigned respectively through the definite/ indefinite article. The definite NP "djali"

(the boy) represents one boy, definite, known to the speaker and the hearer - or at least identifiable by the latter within the context of utterance. A NP like 'një djalë' (a boy), although indefinite, unknown to both speaker and hearer, also normally represents one boy. According to Verkuyl's theory, both NPs denote specified or bounded quantity for they have markers of boundedness like the determiners -i, një 'djal-i' and 'një djalë'. In the plural NP 'djemtë' it is the same marker, the definite article -t, which denote a bounded number of boys, in contrast to the plural indefinite NP like 'djem' (boys) which typically represents boys that are not only unspecified with respect to their exact number, but are also non-bounded (in broad spatial terms). It is important to underline that if in the DP-Analysis, a bare DP has a null D position to denote the Determiner's missing, in CA theory it denotes non-boundedness/imperfectivity of the sentence.

If we translate the English sentences (ex. from Kabakčiev, 2000) into Albanian we will see how these sentences are effectuated by the aspect:

- 6. The kid fed the cat – Perfective
- 6'. Fëmija ushqeu macen – Perfective

- 7. The kid fed cats – Imperfective
- 7'. Fëmija ushqeu mace – Imperfective

- 8. Kids fed the cat – Imperfective
- 8'. *Fëmijë ushqyen macen

- 9. Kids fed cats – Imperfective
- 9'. *Fëmijë ushqyen mace

In the sentence 6' in Albanian, both subject and object are definite 'fëmija, macen', following Verkuyl (1972) it contains two NPs denoting "Specified quantity of X". The sentences 6, 6' are perfective in both languages: the subject *fëmija* /the kid and the object *macen*/the cat transfer their boundedness onto the referent of the verb *fed* and the situation is perfective. Following Kabakčiev, (2000: 99) *fëmija* /the kid and *macen*/the cat in the sentences 6, 6' above are entities which are bounded in time, since the beginning and the end of their "existence" are exactly determined.

In the sentence 7' the noun *mace*, as the English counterpart 'cat', is plural and indefinite, there are no determiners or quantifiers preceding it. It denotes the "Unspecified quantity of X", so its non-boundedness is transferred (mapped) onto the referent of the relevant verb (*ushqeu* /fed), which leads to imperfectivity. This kind of sentence is grammatical but not very acceptable in Albanian, it is used in a specific situation when a kid has to feed some cats as a duty or a part of an experiment he was doing.

The eighth and ninth sentences in English are imperfective due to the unquantified subject in 8 and the unquantified subject/object in 9. The Albanian counterparts (8',9') are ungrammatical due to the indefinite form of the subject 'fëmijë'. A bare plural (or singular) NP in Albanian cannot have a subject position, to be grammatically correct it must be preceded by determiners or quantifiers,

whereas is grammatical for a bare plural NP to have an object position. (see Albanian Grammar, 2002: 128). The correct sentences in Albanian would be then:

10. Fëmija ushqeu macen – Perfective
Kid_{-the, Nom.} fed cat_{-the acc.}
11. Fëmija ushqeu disa mace - Perfective
Kid_{-the} fed some cats
12. Një fëmijë ushqeu një mace – Perfective
A kid fed a cat
13. Fëmijët ushqyen macen/ macet – Perfective
Kids_{-the} fed cat_{-the} / cats_{-the}
14. Ca fëmijë ushqyen një/ disa mace – Perfective
Some kids fed one cat/ some cats

All the sentences above are perfective or bounded: the subjects ‘fëmija, një fëmijë, fëmijët, ca fëmijë’ and the objects ‘macen, disa mace, një mace, macet, disa mace’ are bounded NPs for they are accompanied by Determiners and quantifiers, in other words they are quantified NPs denoting bounded entities in time axis. Among the examples above, the sentences 12, 13, 14 are grammatically correct, but if we will refer to the situation or “our knowledge to the world” they are not very acceptable or used from a native speaker of Albanian, unless they are used in a specific situation, for example they would have been more meaningful if they were extended by a Prepositional Phrase:

15. Fëmija ushqeu disa mace në rrugë/oborr
The kid fed some cats in the street /garden
16. Ca fëmijë ushqyen një/ disa mace në rrugë/oborr
Some kids fed one cat/some cats in the street/ garden

These sentences show that the Albanian NPs specified by a definite article are more appropriate to effectuate boundedness, than NPs specified by quantifiers, especially the indefinite plural NPs. There are examples in English in which even though there is a plural quantified NP, the sentence is non-bounded/ imperfective. It seems that we have a discrepancy here which must be explained. If we refer to Verkuyl’s (1972:51) analysis the categories Indefinite and Plural constitute the specification “Unspecified Quantity”, hence we understand that an indefinite plural NP (subject or object) is non-bounded and transfer its boundedness onto the referent of the verb *fed* effectuating non-boundedness. The examples below, used first by Verkuyl (1972) and later by Kabakčiev (2000) show that in English, sentences with unspecified subjects and objects (therefore non-bounded) can be grammatical, but their translation counterparts in Albanian trigger ungrammaticality:

17. Women knitted Norwegian sweaters
17'. *Gra thurnin triko norvegjeze

18. Tourists climbed the mountain
18'. *Turistë ngjitën malin

In Albanian grammar, as we mentioned above, subjects cannot be instantiated by bare plural NPs. To continue further with this issue we will see below that the role of determiners in effectuating aspect is not always crucial. Quoting Kabakčiev (2022: 252) boundedness/non-boundedness are values that depend on other factors too. We will translate in Albanian only two sentences from his English examples:

19. The tourist visited the castle.
19'. Turisti vizitoi kështjellën
20. The tourist hated_{LEAK} the castle
20'. Turisti urrente kështjellën

The sentences 19/19' (with bounded subjects and objects in both languages) are explained by Kabakčiev (2023: 252) under a process labeled NP-V/V-NP mapping: boundedness of *the tourist/turisti* and *the castle/kështjellën* are mapped onto the verb to trigger perfectivity, complemented by the V-feature telic. In 20/20' there is V-NP interplay/mapping again: the two NPs' boundedness is blocked by the atelic verb *hated/urrente*. The author claims that the verb's stativity cancels the potential NP boundedness (2023: 257). Kabakčiev's interesting conclusion is that here the verb's stative nature overrides the tendency for NPs with articles, quantifiers, etc. to signal temporal boundedness, hence the V-referent's non-boundedness is mapped onto the two situation-participant NP-referents, suppressing and canceling their potential boundedness, despite the presence of an article or some other exponent of boundedness. This explanation makes it clear that not only and always the NP's Determiners can effectuate aspect on the sentence, along with them, the nature of the verbs is definitely important in effectuating aspect. Vendler (1957:149) in his classification of the English verbal system into: activities, accomplishments, achievements and states, explains further that states involve time instants in an indefinite and nonunique sense. In this context, the verb 'urrej' (hate) denotes a feeling which cannot have a start and an ending, no one knows exactly when the hate starts or ends.

Except for the definite/indefinite articles, also demonstrative and possessive pronouns can imply definiteness, turning out to be grammatical markers of NPs denoting boundedness on their referents, Kabakčiev (2000: 60) maintains that the implication of quantitative definiteness/boundedness is also associated with the use of other quantifiers (i.e., if the article is taken to be a quantifier) and indefinite pronouns. The Albanian sentences below contain NPs headed by demonstrative and possessive pronouns, as well as QP (Quantified Phrases) headed by quantifiers:

21. Ky fëmijë ushqeu macen / macen e vet /një mace / disa mace
This kid fed cat_{the, acc./}his cat/ one cat/ some cats
22. Im vëlla ushqeu macen/ macen e vet/ një mace/ disa mace
my brother fed cat_{the, acc./} his cat/ one cat / some cats
'My brother fed the cat / his cat/ one cat/ some cats'
23. Çdo fëmijë ushqeu macen /macen e vet/ një mace/ disa mace
Every child fed the cat / his cat/ one cat/ some cats

In all three sentences above, the subjects and the objects are quantified NPs, being accompanied by determiners like the demonstrative 'ky' (this), the possessive pronouns 'im, e vet' (my, her), the quantifiers 'një, disa, çdo' (one, some, every), these NPs denote bounded quantities making the sentences bounded/ perfective. If these sentences would have bare subjects they would be ungrammatical, follow the example below:

24. *Fëmijë ushqeu macen / macen e vet /një mace / disa mace
Kid fed the cat / his cat/ one cat/ some cats

Looking at the examples above, we can conclude that in Albanian the presence of the Determiners like demonstrative and possessive pronouns, along with indefinite pronouns is important in effectuating aspect. If they are missing into the subject NPs, we do not have non-bounded sentences as in English, but we have ungrammatical sentences like 20 above.

Conclusions

The category of Determiners is a class of functional elements heading the Determinative Phrases. In Albanian the D-category includes: the definite and indefinite articles, the pre-positional demonstrative and possessive pronouns, also the group of quantifiers. In Albanian the definite article is postnominal and enclitic to the noun 'djali' (boy_{-the}), 'vajza' 'girl_{-the}); the indefinite article 'një', used also as a numeral and as an indefinite pronoun, functions as an indefinite article (like a/an in English) when it does not denote quantity (contrary to the other numerals), in this context it is stressless and almost a clitic.

The definite/indefinite articles in Albanian have an important role in effectuating the Aspect: they denote bounded NP referents or entities that are bounded in time axis. Demonstrative pronouns, possessive pronouns and quantifiers are grammatical markers of boundedness of Albanian NP's referents too. These NPs interplay with the verb transferring their boundedness onto the referent of the verb triggering sentence's perfectivity. English's bare singular/plural NPs 'kid/kids' in subject position denote non-bounded NPs referents effectuating imperfectivity of the sentence, whereas Albanian's bare singular/plural NPs trigger ungrammatical sentences into subject position.

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