
PARTICIPIAL ADJECTIVES ENDING IN *-ING* AND THEIR ALBANIAN EQUIVALENTS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Remzije Nuhiu

University of Tetovo, North Macedonia, remzije.nuhiu@unite.edu.mk

Abstract: Adjectives play a crucial role in language by providing descriptive details that enhance meaning and clarity. In English, participial adjectives ending in *-ing* are particularly significant as they convey an active or ongoing quality. However, translating these adjectives into Albanian presents challenges due to structural and morphological differences between the two languages. Albanian, with its distinct grammatical and word-formation processes, often lacks direct equivalents for English *-ing* adjectives, requiring alternative translation strategies. This study examines participial adjectives ending in *-ing* in English and their Albanian equivalents, focusing on their translation from English to Albanian. Through a comparative analysis, the research explores their grammatical functions, semantic roles, and adaptation strategies in both languages. The study is based on examples from F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* and its Albanian translation by Stavri Pone. A total of 12 participial adjectives ending in *-ing* were identified and analyzed to determine their Albanian counterparts. The results indicate that 50% of these adjectives are derived from verbs in Albanian, 20% originate from nouns, 20% are translated directly as adjectives, and 10% are formed using adverbs. These findings highlight the various translation strategies employed and illustrate how Albanian compensates for the absence of a direct equivalent to English *-ing* participial adjectives. By shedding light on structural and morphological differences between the two languages, this study contributes to contrastive grammar research and offers valuable insights for linguists, translators, and language learners seeking a deeper understanding of English-Albanian translation strategies.

Keywords: English, Albanian, adjectives, *-ing* suffix, derivation, contrastive analysis, translation strategies

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a fundamental tool for communication, enabling people to understand one another, exchange ideas, and express emotions. Language goes beyond mere communication. It conveys a country's identity, customs, history and more. People use language to tell stories, preserve traditions, and share information WITH. It structures the ways a person thinks, expresses themselves, and engages with the world around them. Languages differ from one another not only in terms of vocabulary and grammatical rules but also in their structure and function within society. Around the world, there are thousands of distinct languages, each governed by its own grammatical rules that define its structure and usage. These rules are not only the foundation of communication but also a reflection of the cultural diversity and characteristics of each community. Such linguistic rules and phenomena are the subject of study for linguists, who often conduct contrastive analyses of various aspects, including grammar, language, culture, ethnological, and literary factors. Contrastive grammatical analysis can be applied to different areas of grammar, such as morphology, phonology, syntax, and lexicology. Within the framework of this research, the focus will be placed on morphology, specifically on adjectives as a word category. Before delving into a detailed analysis of adjectives, it is necessary to understand the concept of morphology. It is focused on the process of word formation and their components, such as roots, suffixes, prefixes, and affixes. Although words are something we use daily, defining them can be challenging. For many, words seem "self-evident," yet providing a precise explanation of their definition can be difficult. Despite the complexity of defining words in absolute terms, language users—whether educated or uneducated—intuitively recognize words in their communication. This ability develops from an early age, as children begin to distinguish and use words to communicate and express ideas.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The division of grammar focused on word formation and relationships lies within morphology, including the morphemes that compose them, is technically referred to as morphology. This term originates from the Greek word *morphe*, meaning "form" or "shape," and morphemes are considered the smallest units of morphology. According to Carstairs-McCarthy (2018), morphology refers to the study of morphemes. On the other hand, Lieber, R. (2012) defines morphology as the science that studies parts of speech like adjectives, verbs, nouns, pronouns, and adverbs are grammatical classes that help divide words into relations and meaning, as words differ based on their placement in a sentence.. In this research, we will focus exclusively on adjectives, which have not been extensively analyzed in the context of interlingual grammar in our country. According to Carnie, A. (2011), the morphological criterion for word categorization includes derivational and inflectional features, meaning that words can change or new forms can be created through the addition of different morphemes. In the Albanian language, according to Demiraj, Sh.,

Agalliu, F., Angoni, E., Dhrimo, A., Hysa, E., Lafe, E., and Likaj, E. (2002), adjectives are classified based on two main criteria: their lexical meaning and their morphological characteristics. These classifications define the structure and usage of adjectives in both languages. Within this research, contrastive analysis will focus on suffixes, with particular emphasis on the suffix *-ing*. Suffixes are affixes that attach to the base of a word to create new forms, such as *-less* in *careless*, *-y* in *rainy*, and *-al* in *natural*. However, the primary goal of this study is to analyze only the *-ing* suffix and its usage in English and Albanian, examining how this suffix influences the meaning and function of adjectives in both languages.

3. METHODOLOGY

The analysis of the usage of the *-ing* suffix will be conducted by comparing the functions of adjectives in English and Albanian. This section will be supported by relevant examples illustrating the meaning and application of the *-ing* suffix in English, along with its Albanian equivalents. The analysis will entail the features of English adjectives and their correspondent counterparts in Albanian. As the basis for this analysis, examples will be taken from *The Great Gatsby*, translated from English into Albanian.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Participial Adjectives with *-ing*

There are many adjectives in the English language that share the same suffix as participles—both *-ing* (present participle) and *-ed* (past participle). According to Quirk, R., & Crystal, D. (2010), these types of adjectives are known as participial adjectives. Similarly, Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G. N. Finegan, E. (2021) explain that both *-ing* (present participle) and *-ed* (past participle) forms function as participial adjectives. Most of these words, such as *interesting*, *surprised*, and *tired*, are both main verbs as well as adjectives. Participial adjectives in most cases in English are understandable through their verb origin (e.g., *exiting*, *tiring*, *bored*, *exited*). However, when translating into Albanian, these adjectives can originate not only from verbs but also from other word categories. This analysis focuses specifically on the present participle because, when translating into Albanian, no significant differences arise that would justify grouping them into different types. On the other hand, various groupings have been identified for the past participle, which are categorized accordingly.

The examples provided below will clarify this form of the participle by further analyzing the translation of adjectives into Albanian. All these adjectives in English contain the *-ing* suffix, indicating their present participle form. The following section examines how these adjectives are translated into Albanian and whether they also originate from verbs in the Albanian language. Out of the 20 examples analyzed, we will determine how these adjectives are translated into Albanian. Given that in English, these types of adjectives are predominantly derived from verbs, their Albanian equivalents are adjectives formed from verbs, nouns, adverbs, or directly from adjectives. This analysis is conducted because, in the Albanian language, there are no clear suffixal patterns, meaning there are no suffixes that can be systematically grouped.

Type 1

English Root + *-ing* → Albanian Verb-Derived Adjective

This classification is based on the Albanian translation of these adjectives, where the adjective in English is derived from a verb and remains an adjective in Albanian, also originating from a verb. The following example (1) in English: *frightening* clarifies this explanation, as previously mentioned. The word *frightening* is derived from the verb *frighten*, making it both a verb and an adjective in English. However, in this case, *frightening* functions as an adjective modifying *leaves*. In Albanian, *frikë* is a noun, while *të frikshme* is an adjective. In this example, there is no interlingual shift in word class during translation, meaning that the English adjective remained an adjective in Albanian while maintaining its verb-derived origin. This explanation applies to the following examples as well.

frighteningtë frikshme

(1) Eng.: He must have looked up at an unfamiliar sky through *frightening* leaves and shivered as he found what a grotesque thing a rose is and
(p.124)

alb.: Duhej të kishte parë mbi kokë, përmes gjetheve *të frikshme*, një qiell të panjohur, dhe do t'i qe dredhur trupi teksa kishte zbuluar se çfarë gjëje groteske është një trëndafil (p. 203)

charming

(2) Eng.: She had caught a cold, and it made her voice huskier and more

më magjepsës

alb.: Ajo ishte me rrufë, çka ia bënte zërin më të ngjirur dhe

charming than ever,(p.116)

më magjepsës(p. 188)

surprising

- (3) ang.: She showed a *surprising* amount of character about it too — looked at the coroner with determined eyes under that corrected brow of hers, and swore that her sister had never seen Gatsby,(p.125)

connecting

- (4) ang.: I followed Daisy around a chain of *connecting* verandas to the porch in front.(p.:15)

insulting

- (5) Eng.: Then Tom's voice, incredulous and *insulting*: (p.10)

gathering

- (6) Eng.: it came out of the *gathering* darkness,(p.105)

increasing

të habitshme

- alb.: Madje tregoi një forcë *të habitshme* karakteri – e shikonte sherifin me një palë sy seriozë poshtë vetullave saj të korrigjuara dhe betohej se motra saj s'e kishte parë Getsbin kurrë, (p. 206)

të ndërlidhura

- alb.: shkoja pas Dejit nëpër një varg verandash *të ndërlidhura* derisa mbërritëm te tremja ballore e godinës. (p.: 25)

fyes

- alb.: Pastaj u dëgjua zëri i Tomit, mosbesues dhe *fyes*: (p.162)

që po dendësohej

- alb: ai doli nga errësira *që po dendësohej*, p.173)

që po shtohet

Type 2

English Root + -ing → Albanian Noun-Derived Adjective

The second type of classification is based on the translation of these adjectives into Albanian, where the word-formation model follows a noun-to-adjective derivation pattern. The following example (7), *overwhelming*, illustrates this explanation. In English, *overwhelming* originates from the verb *overwhelm*, and it functions both as a verb and an adjective. However, in this case, *overwhelming* is used as an adjective. On the other hand, in Albanian, *madh* is a noun, while *të madhe* is the corresponding adjective. Here, the derivational model follows a noun-to-adjective transformation. The word class remains unchanged in translation, meaning that the English adjective is translated as an adjective in Albanian. This explanation applies to other similar cases.

overwhelming

- (7) eng.: To my *overwhelming* surprise the living-room was deserted. (p.66)

alarming

- (8) eng.: and peering toward the bleared windows from time to time as if a series of invisible but *alarming* happenings were taking place outside. (p.65)

të madhe

- alb.: Për habinë time *të madhe*, dhoma e ndenjes ishte bosh. (p. 108)

shqetësuse

- alb.: dhe nisi të hidhte vështrimin herë pas here te dritaret e veshura nga mjegulla, a thua se jashtë po ndodhin një sërë ngjarjesh të padukshme, por *shqetësuse*.(p. 107)

Type 3

English Root + -ing → Albanian Adjective

This type of classification is based on the translation of English adjectives into Albanian, where the word is directly translated as an adjective. The following example (9), *pleasing*, clarifies this explanation. In English, *pleasing* originates from the verb *please*, and it can function as a verb and as an adjective. However, in this case, *pleasing* is used as an adjective. In contrast, in Albanian, *këndshme* is a pure adjective without any direct derivation from a verb. During translation, there is no change in grammatical category between languages—the English adjective is translated as an adjective in Albanian. This explanation applies to other similar cases.

pleasing

- (9) eng.: I knew now why her face was familiar — its *pleasing* contemptuous expression(p.17)

e këndshme

- alb.: Tani e kuptova përse fytyra e saj më ishte dukur e njohur – shprehja e saj *e këndshme* dhe përçmuese (p.28)

intriguing
(10) eng.: To a certain temperament
the situation might have seemed
intriguing — (p.15)

interesante
alb.: Një tipi tjetër, me temperament
të ndryshëm nga imi, gjendja mund
t'i dukej **interesante**, (p.25)

Type 4

English Root + -ing → Albanian Adverb/Noun → Adjective

The final type of classification is also based on the Albanian translation of these adjectives, specifically when the word formation follows a pattern where an adverb or noun gives rise to an adjective. The following example (11), *changing*, illustrates this explanation. In English, *changing* comes from the verb *change*, and the function is verb and adjective in the same time. However, in this case, *changing* is used as an adjective. In Albanian, *ndryshe* is an adverb, while *në ndryshim* is a noun, meaning that the adjective in English corresponds to a noun-based formation in Albanian. This indicates a difference in grammatical category between the two languages—what is an adjective in English is translated as a noun in Albanian. Another example (12) is *developing*. In English, *developing* comes from the verb *develop* and again its functions as both adjective and verb. In Albanian, *ngadalë* is an adverb, while *të ngadaltë* is an adjective, meaning that the word formation follows an adverb-to-adjective pattern. In this case, there is no change in grammatical category during translation—the English adjective remains an adjective in Albanian. This explanation applies to other similar cases where English -ing adjectives are translated into Albanian with different derivational patterns.

changing
(11) Eng.: glide on through the
sea-change of faces and voices
and color under the constantly
changing light. (p.33)

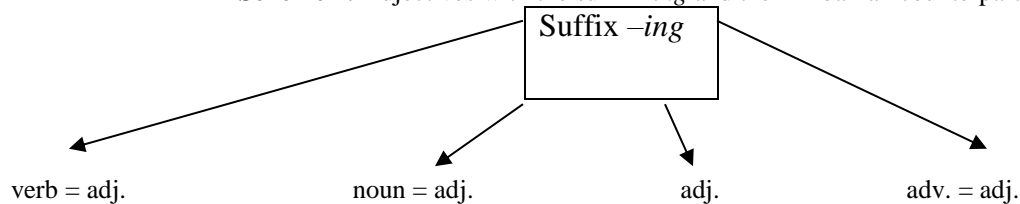
në ndryshim
alb.: rrëshqisnin më tej përmes
atij deti fytyrash dhe zërash dhe
ngjyrash përherë në ndryshim nën
një dritë përherë **në ndryshim**. (p.55)

developing
(12) Eng.: and one emotion after another
crept into her face like objects into
a slowly **developing** picture. (p.96)

të ngadaltë
alb.: dhe njëri emocion pas tjetrit
rrëshqiste në fytyrën e saj si sendet
në një film me xhirim **të ngadaltë**. (p.157)

5. CONCLUSION

Scheme 1: Adjectives with the suffix -ing and their Albanian counterparts



Suffix -ing			
Verb = Adjective	Noun = Adjective	Adjective	Adverb = Adjective
50%	20%	20%	10%

Author's source

From the analysis presented above, we can conclude that a significant number of adjectives in Albanian are derived from verbs, which serve as the word-formation basis. This is an important aspect, as verbs are frequently used to form adjectives in Albanian, resulting in the creation of new words with specific meanings. Additionally, a notable number of adjectives are formed with the help of nouns, and in these cases, adjectives are often directly translated into Albanian, making them easily understandable in both languages. Furthermore, around 10% of adjectives in Albanian are formed through adverbs, indicating that while adverbs are used in a different context, they also play a crucial role in forming adjectives. This shows that the word-formation process in Albanian is diverse and that various words and word categories can be utilized to create adjectives with different meanings and uses.

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