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A Corpus-driven Study of Albanian Phraseological Calques: Origin, Adoption, and Pragmatic Function in Contemporary Usage

Alda Jashari

University of Korca, Albania

Abstract

This study investigates the interlingual idioms (calques) layer within Albanian written discourse, drawing on a phraseographic corpus exceeding 46,000 entries. The corpus reveals substantial content and structural diversity, reflecting prolonged language contact, regional variation, and evolving usage. While majority of units constitute authentic Albanian coinages, the analysis foregrounds multilingual influence through independently formed interlanguage idioms sharing cross-linguistic schematic structures, phraseological calques derived from disparate source languages, and untranslated phraseological borrowings that have assumed distinct meanings and stylistic nuances in Albanian. The study proposes a typology of calques examines semantic–lexical and stylistic phenomena (contamination, actualization, lexical variability, paired usage, single-word expressions), and outlines implications for theory and practice in lexicography and discourse analysis.

Keywords: Phraseological Calques, Phraseological Borrowings, Contamination, Actualization, Lexical Variability, Single-Word Expressions