



## THE CONTRAST OF COMMON AND GENITIVE CASES: THE CASE OF ALBANIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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### **Abstract:**

Case is a grammatical category which shows the noun's relationship to other parts of speech or its function in the sentence. Albanian standard language has five cases, and they are: Common case, genitive, dative, accusative and ablative case English nouns today have only a two-case system: the unmarked common case (book, teacher, boy) and the marked genitive case (book's, teacher's, boy's). In Albanian, the possessive cases can be with the definite article *i*, *e*, *të* and *së*, so between the English language and Albanian, it is the contrast because English has two forms of possessive and usually used after the noun, e.g. Mary's book, Time's house, students', worker's children's women's; This is Arta's jacket; This is my mother's jacket. This is the dog's food. If a plural noun does not end in /s/, add /s/, women's, men's, children's, etc. The common case doesn't have any contrast between Albanian and English, but the genitive in Albanian has some definite articles that are usually used before the noun as *i emrit* (name's), *i leximit* (read's), *e vajzës* (girl's). In this paper, we will study the contrast between the Albanian and English cases.

**Keywords:** contrastive, common and genitive case, Albanian and English

### **1. Introduction**

English language today has common and possessive cases. On the contrary, the Albanian language has five cases (nominal, genitive, dative, ablative and accusative), so there is a clear contrast between the two languages. In English, the genitive suffix is marked off in writing by an apostrophe. The genitive of regular plural nouns is shown

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in writing by the addition of an apostrophe: **boys** – boys'. The form with '-s, and it usually be seen after the noun, e.g. Mary's book, Tim's house, my father's office, the boy's toys, Tim and Jane's house, etc. The next model of possessive is when the noun is in the plural, usually getting just the apostrophe, e.g. workers', students', dogs', etc.

### 1.1 The Category of Case

The noun performs a variety of syntactic functions in relation to the other parts of the sentence, and its form varies accordingly. The forms of the noun which reflect its function in the sentence are called its case, *rasa* in Albanian. When we speak of cases as grammatical categories, we have in mind both the particular forms of nouns and the grammatical functions reflected by them. The totality of case forms forms of the noun is called its declension (*lakim*). All nouns in Albanian are declined, regardless of their source. In contemporary Albanian, it is necessary to distinguish five cases: *emërore* 'nominative', *gjinore* 'genitive', *dhanore* 'dative', *kallëzore* 'accusative', and *rrjedhore* 'ablative' (L. Newmark).

A nominative case form not preceded by a preposition may serve as the subject of a sentence, predicate nominative, e.g.

Table 1

Erdhi në shkollë.	He (she) came school.
Shkoi te fëmija.	He (she) went to his children.
Erdhi në zyre.	He came office.
I sëmur prej gripi.	He became ill with (from) the grippe.

The nominative case form is used as the citation form, for example, has no contrastive form between Albanian and English, so after the preposition *nga* (from), *te*, *tek* (to) nominative case form are used in Albanian, but in English is without it.

### 1.2 Genitive or Possessive Case

The possessive, when it refers to names, places, things, or concepts, usually can be seen after the noun, e.g. **half of the chapter, the door of the room, the box of matches**, etc. However, the construction+ noun can also be used for the noun of the people, e.g. "the daughter of John and Jane, the wife of Mr. Brown, the works of Shakespeare," etc. In Albanian, the possessive cases can be with the article **i**, **e të**, and **së**, so between two languages, it is the contrast because has two forms of possessive and usually used after the noun, e.g. Mary's book, Time's house, students', worker's, children's women's, this is Arta's jacket, this is my mother's jacket. This is the dog's food. If a plural noun does not end in /s/, add /s/. women's, men's, children's etc.

These case forms are mainly used for a variety of determining functions expressed in English by prepositional phrases introduced by *of*, by the so-called possessives, or by nouns used as adjectives. They often follow a referent noun or pronoun, explicit or implicit, in the sentence (L. Newmark).

**Table 2**

English (singular)	Albanian (njëjës)
Alma's book.	Libri e Almës.
My sister's car.	Vetura e motrës.
Beni's library.	Libraria e Benit.
Agim's son.	Djali i Agimit.
The arrive of friends'	Ardhja e miqve
The month of July'.	Muaji i korrikut.
He's Gad's.	Është i Zotit.
The oldest of the family.	Më i vjetri i familjes.
A pupil of the school.	Një nxënës i shkollës.

If the noun in the plural ends with the consonant and in the common cases, it in the possessive gets just apostrophe ('s), (') boys', students', books'. The noun in singular can end with the consonant, and in common cases, it in the possessive gets an apostrophe or apostrophe and -s e.g. *today's, last week's, a mother's, tow mothers, 's boss', son-in-law's, sister-n-law's, man's, Richard's, cat's, dog's. The boy's book is one the table. The wife's house is near here. If the singular nouns in -s, there are two possible forms, the first apostrophe and -s how my wife's or only an apostrophe Thomas' teacher, etc. If the compound words or phrasal has this function: mother-in-law, get add's mother-in-law's, son-in-law's, sister-n-law's. Both languages have their contrast for this phenomenon of grammar, Albanian has the article /i, e, të, së/, and English has /s/. The Albanian language has the dative that isn't in exist English e.g. *Tregoi babait. Iu afrua Teuta.* In this case, in the Albanian description, the indirect object it doesn't exist in English. It is the same with another case that has Albanian but doesn't have English (*genitive, dative and accusative*). The genitive case forms are mainly used for a variety of determining expressed in English by prepositional phrases introduced by /of/, by the so-called possessive -s, or by nouns used as adjectives. They often follow a referent noun or pronoun, explicit or implicit in the sentence and indicate:*

- a) The afflation with or ownership of the referent: *libri i bibliotekës – the library book', oborri i shkollës – the school yard'.*
- b) *Lulet e majit - The May flowers. Hapja e dritareve – the opening of the windows. Shumica e studentëve – the majority of students. A noun in the genitive case modifying another noun must either be definite or be indefinite and proceeded by a determiner: një nxënës i shkollës – a pupil of the school', but një nxënës i një shkollë – a pupil of a school (Sh. Millaku).*

The genitive case today is the only case form that exists in English. The use of the genitive case is mainly to animate nouns and some pronouns (Sue's sister, that child's, somebody's hat). However, this rule is not strict the genitive case is sometimes found with certain nouns, mainly nouns denoting inanimate objects: England's population, a ship's heating system, a motor-bike's engine, etc. (J. Kabashi).

### 1.3 The Contrastive Form of the Genitive Case

In the Albanian language, the genitive case is with a definite article and in English is formed by adding the inflections.

The genitive inflexion is added in English and with an article in Albanian:

**Table 3**

English (plural)	Albanian (shumës)
Children's book	Libri i fëmijëve.
The men's job.	Puna e burrave.
Sheep's wool.	Leshi i deleve.
The majority of students	Shumica e studentëve.
Workers'	E punëtorëve

**Table 4**

English	Albanian
Doctor's (singular genitive).	i (e) doktorit (singular genitive)
Doktors' (plural genitive)	të doctorët (plural genitive)
Doctors (plural number).	doktorë (plural number)

In the tables, we can see a contrastive report between English and Albanian genitive, and as we see two different forms:

- 1) The inflectional morpheme /'-s/, which is added to nouns referring to persons or animals, e.g. *Alma's book*; or my sister's car and Beni's library are the contrast with the Albanian language because in Albanian, the definite article is in the function to create the genitive like, e.g. *Libri e Almës; Vetura e motrës and Libraria e Benit*.
- 2) In cases when the noun is in the plural, then only the apostrophe is added as in Table 3, or, e.g. *students', workers', doctors', women's*, etc., but in Albanian, it is with the definite plural article (të).

### 1.4 Dative Case

Dative case forms are usually used with verbs to make the referent (indirect object) of the verb. Usually, then, they indicate (L. Newmark):

**Table 5**

Glory and honour <i>to labor</i> .	Lavdi e nder <i>punës</i> .
Arben did not receive <i>the</i> book	Arbenit nuk erdhi libri.
<i>The</i> language had helped	Gjuhës i kishte ndihmuar

### 1.5 Accusative Case

In contemporary Albanian, an accusative case form may indicate the direct object, the predicate complement of the object, as in the example in Table 6.

**Table 6**

We opened <i>the</i> school at 8:00.	Shkollën e kemi hapur në orën 8:00.
It rained all <i>day</i> long.	Gjithë <i>ditën</i> ra shi.
He drank <i>the water</i> .	Ai ka pirë <i>ujin</i> .
She thought of her <i>son</i> .	Mendonte për <i>djalin</i> e saj.
I went with my <i>father</i> .	Unë shkova me <i>banën</i> .

### 1.5 Ablative Case

These case forms may be used with verbs, nouns and after a preposition, so ablative forms are used after a number of temporal and locative prepositions such as prapa ‘behind’, pas ‘after’, prej ‘from etc, as in the table:

**Table 7**

A few <i>days</i> ago.	Para disa <i>ditësh</i> .
It gets very hot here <i>in the summer</i> .	<i>Verës</i> këtu bën shumë nxehtë.
It snows <i>in the mountains</i> .	<i>Maleve</i> bie dëborë.

## 2. Discussion and Method

The Albanian language has five cases: “emërore – nominative, gjinore – genitive, dhanore – dative, kallëzore – accusative, and rrjedhore – ablative” and for definite and indefinite have some endings than in English language has two cases: the unmarked COMMON case and the marked GENITIVE” (Pennebaker, 2011; Björk, 1955). Albanian and English languages are in contrast with cases because Albanian has five cases and English has two. The second contrast is that Albanian has different endings for all the cases and has definite and indefinite nouns (the masculine nouns for the Albanian language have some endings: -i, -it, -in, -it, -u, -un, -ut, for feminine -e, -a, -ja, -je, -s, -së, -në, or for neuter nouns with -i, -it and for indefinite nouns is: /një/ and in English has only definite article /the/and for indefinite /a, an/ than in Albanian have some endings, as you can see in TABLE 1 to 7. The latter is sometimes called the possessive.

## 3. Conclusion

The aim of this study is to point out the similarities, differences, and contrasts of the five cases in Albanian. And two cases in English. The first contrast of the case is in the first table. The full contrast between the two languages was seen in the possessive case, in the Albanian language, which can be realized with the article (for masculine, feminine and neuter) i (m), e (f), të (n) and së (f) or with definite endings -i, it, -in, -ve (m), or -u, -ut, -un (m), but in English this case used with the article /the/ for definite nouns (m, f, n), or a and an, so between two languages, it is the contrast, because it has two forms of possessive and usually used after the noun, e.g. *Mary’s book, Time’s house, students’, worker’s, children’s, women’s, This is Arta’s jacket, This is my mother’s jacket. This is the dog’s food.* If a plural noun does not end in /s/, add ‘s. *women’s, men’s, children’s, etc.*

This study is completed with contrastive examples, and all of them are from tables one to seven.

### Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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