

VALENT AND MONOVALENT VERBS IN THE ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT: This paper examines avalent and monovalent verbs in the Albanian language and the clause patterns generated with such verbs. Avalent verbs do not select any complement¹, whereas monovalent verbs require a complement to form the minimal structure of a clause and convey their intended meaning. In Albanian, the classification of verbs by valence is often explained on the basis of their transitivity and their ability to take a subject. However, while transitivity may sometimes suggest a verb's valence, these two classifications should not be equated due to distinct criteria. In Albanian, for example, the number of intransitive verbs significantly exceeds the number of monovalent verbs: all monovalent verbs are intransitive, but not all intransitive verbs are monovalent. This paper aims to clarify the classification criteria and to describe avalent and monovalent verbs; that is, the clause patterns they generate. A comprehensive corpus has been built for this purpose, in which all such verbs and the types of complements they take have been identified and analyzed according to functional, syntactic, and semantic criteria.

KEYWORDS: valence, transitivity, clause patterns, complement types, avalent verbs, monovalent verbs, Albanian language

1. Introduction

In the theory of valence, the verb is the central element of a clause, determining the minimal structure of the clause, namely its obligatory complements (actants/complements). According to Tesnière (1959, p. 106), “*valence is the number of potential actants that complement a verb.*” He distinguishes four types of verbs depending on the number of actants they take to form the minimal structure of the clause: a. avalent verbs, b. monovalent verbs, c. bivalent verbs, and d. trivalent verbs, complemented by zero, one, two, and three complements, respectively. The valence of the verb is linked to a verb's capacity to be accompanied by various syntactic categories serving as its complements (all types of complements, including the subject). In contrast, transitivity pertains to the verb's relationship with only one type of complement, the object. Since objects are one of the verb complements, there are many cases where the classification of the verb according to valence is based on the syntactic features of the verb, particularly transitivity. For example, the verb *takoj* “to meet” is bivalent: *Djali takoi nënën* “The boy met the mother” - one of its valences is realized because the verb is transitive, and as such takes an internal complement in the function of object. Conversely, an intransitive verb like *banoj* “to live” is also bivalent: *Djali banon në Prishtinë* “The boy lives in Prishtina”. In the latter case, however, the second valence has nothing to do with whether the verb is transitive or not, but with the semantic features of the verb or the lexical information of the verb: the verb *banoj* “to live” belongs to the group of verbs of existence (Levin, 1993, p. 250), and as such, “*it describes or denotes the existence of an entity in a certain location.*” It follows that in such cases, the semantic type of verb determines the type of complements: the entity that exists, which performs the function of subject, and the location of the existence of this entity, which performs the function of adjunct of place, i.e. carries the semantic role of location (LOCATION). Scholars like Graffi (2003, p. 66) and Dhima (2002, pp. 7-10) have observed that the classes of avalent, monovalent, and bivalent verbs seem to correspond to the verbs defined by traditional grammar as impersonal, intransitive, and transitive. This overlap, however, is not absolute, attributed to differing classification criteria and the potential misalignment between traditional and valence-based categorizations. As can be seen from the examples analyzed, the classification of verbs according to valence, transitivity, and semantic properties, reveals a complex interplay of criteria that, while occasionally overlapping, cannot be wholly equated. The classification based on these three

¹ In this paper the term *complement* is used to denote syntactic complements, whereas the term *argument* is used to denote semantic argument. Although complements usually correspond to arguments, there are some that do not, e.g. *dummies* (semantically empty NPs consisting of a pronoun and having a purely syntactic function): *It upset me that she didn't write.*, where the pronoun *it* is a syntactic complement filling subject position, but it is not an argument of the verb, because it doesn't bear any semantic role – it is not a participant in proposition.

criteria enriches the subcategorization of verbs with certain corresponding types, offering a comprehensive insight into the complements that a verb can take, encompassing their number, types, syntactic function, syntactic category, and semantic role. It is crucial to recognize that verbs sharing the same number of valences or complements do not necessarily assign complements of the same type.

2. Research Methodology

In order to describe and analyze a valent and monovalent verbs and the clause patterns they generate in the Albanian language, a corpus was built in which all canonical clause patterns in Albanian were analyzed. The focus of the study was only on canonical clause patterns, excluding their derivatives, as typical patterns of a language derive from canonical patterns. According to Huddleston and Pullum (2002, p. 218), “...canonical clauses are: declarative, positive, non-coordinate, and with unmarked word order.” Given that, in inflected languages like Albanian, the order of the constituents does not determine their function, i.e. it is a free order; this study also examined clause patterns with a marked word order, finding that it did not affect clause structure. Additionally, the analysis included complex sentences wherein a subordinate clause functioned as a verb complement in the main clause, thereby constituting an obligatory element of the clause and part of the verb’s valence.

The analyzed corpus consisted of 807 pages of written text and ten interviews (spoken language):

1. A literary text: Fehmiu, Bekim (2011). *E shkëlqyeshme dhe e tmerrshme*. Prishtinë: KOHA (335 pp.)
2. A scientific text: Ismajli, Rexhep (2003). *Standarde dhe identitete*. Pejë: Dukagjini (354 pp.)
3. An issue of the newspaper “Koha ditore”, 22 February 2016 (54 pp.);
4. Ten columns: Rugova, Bardh (2011). *Me se bep*. Prishtinë: KOHA (64 pp.)
5. Ten interviews from the spoken corpus of the Albanian language, part of a project by the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo.

The selection of texts was conducted randomly, but the categorization into text groups – literary and non-literary – and, to some extent, the selection of text types, was intentional. This strategy aimed to provide a comprehensive textual representation, facilitating the identification of the most typical patterns of canonical clauses in both written and spoken Albanian.

3. Avalent verbs

Avalent verbs are capable of forming grammatical clauses without any complement. This category of verbs has a valence of zero, as their lexical properties do not select or determine any complements. The group of avalent verbs includes those that describe certain atmospheric phenomena without an overt or implied subject, such as *vetëtin/shkreptin* “to sparkle”, *bubullin/gjëmon* “to thunder”, and *veson* “to dew”, alongside verbs marking diurnal transitions, such as *agon*, *gdhin/gdhihet* “to dawn”, *erret/errësohet*, and *ngryset* “to get dark”. Typically, these verbs appear without a subject, reflecting their usage as avalent. However, in certain cases, they may be followed by a subject, either a noun derived from the same root or semantically related to the corresponding verb, for example, *Gjëmon qielli* “The sky thunders”, *Agon dita*. “The day dawns”, in which cases the verbs are used as monovalent. Despite this, the present analysis will not examine the cases of monovalent usage, focusing instead exclusively on their usage as avalent.

In *Gramatika e gjuhës shqipe I* (2002, p. 268), avalent verbs are discussed within the category of impersonal verbs. While avalent verbs are related to impersonal verbs, they are distinguished by different classification criteria: avalent verbs do not take any complement, regardless of the type: subject, object, or predicative complement, whereas impersonal verbs do not take a subject but may take other complements. This distinction is illustrated by examples of impersonal verbs, such as *bën ngrohtë* “It is warm”, *bën freskët* “It is chilly”, *atje ka ujë* “there is water there”, *s’më rrihet* “I’m bored”, and *këndej s’mund të kalojë askush* “no-one can pass here”. Thoma Dhima, in his article *Mbi klasifikimin e foljeve sipas valencës* (2002, p. 70), categorizes the verb phrase *bën ftohtë* (does + cold) “It is cold” as an avalent verb. In our analysis, this verb is considered impersonal because it lacks a subject; however, it is not classified as avalent because forming a grammatical clause requires the verb *bëj* “do” to take a predicative complement, in this case, an adverbial phrase. *Bën ftohtë* is semantically equivalent to *është ftohtë*, and both expressions, when describing atmospheric phenomena, require an adverbial phrase to convey their meaning.

Some scholars have criticized the traditional term “impersonal verb” as inaccurate and unsatisfactory. According to Graffi (2003, p. 67), “*such verbs are not impersonal, as they are invariably conjugated in the third person singular.*” He argues that the traditional terminology is grounded in a concept of “person” not aligned with grammatical person but rather with that of the agent. Consequently, he asserts “... *it seems necessary to replace the general semantic term of the impersonal verb, whatever its meaning, with the formal term of avalent verb.*” (Graffi, 2003, p. 67).

Although the term “impersonal” may not seem satisfactory because it refers to the agent rather than the grammatical person, as noted by Graffi, we argue that replacing “impersonal” with “avalent” is not appropriate, given their lack of equivalence, as previously discussed. Avalent verbs represent only a subset of impersonal verbs, characterized by their lack of an object. In contrast, impersonal verbs are defined by their absence of a subject, whether as an agent or as a grammatical subject, and not all impersonal verbs are avalent.

Additionally, L. Buxheli (2011, p. 119) considers the term “impersonal verb” to be inappropriate, noting that these verbs have the grammatical category of person, specifically manifesting in the third person. Consequently, she labels all verbs within this category as “monopersonal verbs”, further classifying them according to their argument structure into two types: monopersonal verbs with no argument (*bubullin* “to thunder”) and those with one argument (*më teket* “I feel like it”, *ka njerëz* “there are people”, *më flihet* “I feel sleepy”). Therefore, it could be proposed that avalent verbs be referred to as monopersonal verbs with no argument, considering they have third person markers.

Avalent verbs in various languages can be realized with or without a semantically empty subject. In languages such as Albanian, Spanish, and Italian, which belong to the group of null-subject languages or pro-drop languages, avalent verbs can form grammatical clauses without the need for an expletive or pleonastic subject (also known as a dummy subject), such as: *Bubullinte mbrëmë* “It thundered last night”. Conversely, in non-null-subject languages or non-pro-drop languages, avalent verbs must have a subject, even if it is non-referential, to form grammatical clauses, as illustrated by examples in English *It rains*, French *Il pleut*, and German *Es regnet*. Although the elements *it/il/es* are non-referential subjects (not referring to any entity in reality) and thus are not verb arguments since they do not carry any semantic role (they are not participants in the process expressed by the predicate), they are structurally necessary in non-pro-drop languages because they mark the category of person. Therefore, in a language like English, omitting the subject *it* in *it rains* results in ungrammaticality. This requirement is explained in generative linguistics by the Extended Projection Principle (EPP), which posits that “*all clauses must have subjects*” (Chomsky, 1982, p. 10). Without *it*, the sentence *rains* would violate the EPP. However, with the inclusion of *it*, the subject position is filled, adhering to the EPP, and rendering the clause grammatical: *It rains*. Unlike English, in languages such as Albanian, Italian, etc., where avalent verbs form grammatical clauses without the presence of an expletive subject, it seems that the principle of extended projection is not respected, and yet the clauses are grammatical. These null-subject languages have a rich inflectional system where personal endings mark the category of person, eliminating the need for an explicit subject to mark this category. Nevertheless, as Svenonius (2002) and Buxheli (2011) observe, clauses with such verbs structurally include a specifier position – a position where the subject is realized – but do not require the phonetic realization of an expletive pronoun for the subject.

Avalent verbs are few in number and infrequently used. Within the selected corpus, clause patterns with avalent verbs were almost absent. Only two instances were found in the literary text, with the following structure:

I. **Verb (predicate)**

- (1) a. *Tashmë është errësuar.* “It is already dark.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 77).
- b. *Agon.* “It is dawning.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 94).

This evidence indicates that clause patterns with avalent verbs are very uncommon in Albanian. Throughout the entire corpus, which was randomly selected, there were only two instances of avalent verbs, hence of such clauses. Both examples were found in the novel, suggesting that such clauses, although rare, are more likely to appear in literary texts.

4. **Monovalent verbs**

Monovalent verbs form grammatical clauses by taking only one complement. Clauses with such verbs can typically include additional constituents, but they are not part of the verb’s valence; instead, they are adjuncts. A verb like *vdes* “to die” may not have a phonetically realized complement, yet the

complement is inferred from the lexical information of the verb, namely the semantic role it implies. The subject drop or its non-realization in such cases is characteristic of pro-drop or null-subject languages, as previously discussed. In these languages, the subject can remain unexpressed because the rich inflectional system allows its marking through the verb's personal ending. Conversely, a verb like *vdes* "to die" cannot take two complements, as this would exceed its valence, resulting in an ungrammatical clause: *Ai vdiq shokun** ("He died his friend*"). However, this verb can take several adjuncts, provided they are semantically compatible, as in: *Në orën pesë të pasdites vdiq në mënyrë të mistershme mjeku i lagjes sime, edhe pse ishte shumë i ri në moshë* "At five o'clock in the afternoon the doctor in my neighborhood died mysteriously, although he was very young". In this clause, the type and number of the underlined adjuncts of time, manner and concession (dependent clause) are not determined by the verb's valence, as their inclusion is possible with any verb, regardless of the valence number. The verb *vdes* requires only one complement in the role of the subject (overt or implied) to form a grammatical clause – all other constituents that can appear in a clause with this verb are adjuncts, i.e. optional elements that do not assume a case or thematic role and are not form-determined by the valence-carrying verb. As such, adjuncts can be part of any type of clause, regardless of the type of verb that serves as the central element of that given clause.

Monovalent verbs are inherently intransitive, yet not all intransitive verbs qualify as monovalent. The group of intransitive verbs is larger than the group of monovalent verbs. In Albanian, verbs such as *fle* "to sleep", *dremit* "to nap", *ngjan* "to seem", *ndodh* "to happen", *vdes* "to die", *dal* "to go out", *eci* "to walk", *hyj* "to enter", *shkoj* "to go", *vrapoj* "to run" etc., are classified as intransitive, but only a subset, including *fle* "to sleep", *dremit* "to nap", *ngjan*² "to happen", *vdes* "to die", etc. also qualify as monovalent. Conversely, the verb *hyj* "to enter" while intransitive, is not monovalent. The verb *hyj* "to enter" requires two complements to convey its meaning. In *Fjalor i gjuhës shqipe* (2006, p. 397) the definition of the verb *hyj* is given as: *to go somewhere inside, into an enclosed or surrounded place...* This requirement for an initiator/doer and a destination implies that the verb *hyj* describes the action of entering a specific location, necessitating both an agent and a location to fulfill the semantic roles defined by the verb, thus making it bivalent rather than monovalent. According to the functional criterion, the complements of the verb *hyj* perform the roles of subject (agent) and adjunct of place (location), typically³ realized by an NP and a PP, respectively. Given the lexical information, it is clear that the verb *hyj* is a bivalent verb, challenging its classification by some researchers⁴ as monovalent based solely on its intransitivity, despite instances where not all valences are phonetically realized.

Monovalent verbs, which are also intransitive as we have observed, form two clause patterns according to the functional criterion. Based on the data extracted from the analyzed corpus, the complements of monovalent verbs typically have the function of either the subject or the predicative complement in clauses with non-finite verbs. Thus, the structure of clauses with monovalent verbs is realized by the following functional patterns:

- 4.1. **Types of complements of monovalent verbs according to syntactic function**
- II. **S – Verb**
- III. **Verb – Internal complement (predicative complement or direct object)**

Pattern II. **S – Verb** represents the most common pattern in clauses formed with monovalent verbs. Since monovalent verbs are intransitive, they typically require a subject to express their meaning. Conversely, Pattern III. **Verb – Internal complement**, is more specific, involving impersonal verbs that are monovalent. Being impersonal, these verbs cannot take a subject as their complement. Instead,

² In some uses, such as: *Vajza ndodh/ngjan të jetë e lumtur.*, "The girl happens/seems to be happy.", it seems as if verbs of this type are used as bivalents. However, in such cases, the NP *vajza* is the subject of the dependent clause, and it moves to the main clause for emphasis; therefore, verbs of this type are in fact monovalent.

³ Complements of the verb *hyj* "to enter" can also be realized with other syntactic categories, including NPs and dependent clauses, among others.

⁴ Thoma Dhima (2002, p. 70) in his article *Mbi klasifikimin e foljeve sipas valencës*, classifies the verbs *hyj* "to enter", *shkoj* "to go" as monovalent verbs. Contrary to this view, based on their lexical information, we argue that such verbs are bivalent; they require both a subject and an adjunct of place to realize their meaning. In certain cases, it may occur that not both complements are realized phonetically, due to their potential implication by the context or the pro-drop phenomenon. However, this does not suggest that under these circumstances, the designated constituents are adjuncts.

they are complemented by an internal complement, which can be realized with certain syntactic categories and denotes atmospheric phenomena or the existence of an entity. Examples of such verbs include constructions such as *bën ftohtë* “it is cold”, *bën freskët* “it is chilly”, *bën ngrohtë* “it is hot”, *është verë* “it is summer”, *është nxehtë* “it is hot”, *ka shumë gjuhë* “there are many languages”, etc.

4.2. *Types of complements according to the syntactic categories by which they are realized*

The two patterns above represent the most basic clause structures with monovalent verbs. These structures were derived based on the functional criterion, that is, the syntactic function that verb complements perform in relation to other elements within the clause. However, each of these basic structures/ patterns can be realized by different syntactic categories. Below we will present all the syntactic categories by which the complements of the two basic structures presented above are realized.

Pattern II. S – Verb

Pattern II. S – Verb is realized by the following syntactic categories:

P2: NP – intransitive verb

(2) *Dyshemeja shkëlqen*. “The floor shines.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 7)

The *NP – intransitive verb* pattern was found across all analyzed texts, representing the most typical syntactic pattern of the corresponding functional pattern.

P3: pro – intransitive verb

(3) _____ *u skuq*. “_____ blushed.” (Rugova, 2011, p. 147)

Pro marks a phonetically null subject or a subject drop, which can be expressed by an NP in the nominative case. The *pro – intransitive verb* pattern is most often used in novels, attributed to the brevity of clauses and the flexibility of language. Conversely, this pattern is rare or entirely absent in other text types. For instance, in the scientific text *Standarde dhe identitete*, such a pattern was not observed, as scientific language, unlike literary texts, adheres to a more rigid structure: all necessary elements are explicitly stated, and ellipsis is avoided, to ensure clarity and maintain an objective point of view.

P4: CP – intransitive verb

(4) *Ndodh që të mos vijë Gazmendi*. “It is possible that Gazmend will not come.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 151)

In the above clause pattern, the subject has the form of a dependent clause, which functions as a complementizer phrase because it complements the verb in the main clause. In such monovalent patterns, as can be seen from the given examples, the CP follows the verb. While this order is common, we have introduced the structure according to the general neutral order S – verb in this paper, as it is characteristic of canonical clauses. This clause pattern is present in almost all texts of the corpus, with the exception of the spoken corpus. It is most often used in the scientific text *Standarde dhe identitete*, where clauses are longer and certain functions are frequently realized by clauses, as in this case when the main clause has the form of a dependent clause or a complementizer phrase.

The verb of the matrix clause above selects a CP as its complement, in instances where the verb is used in singular, and the subject is invariably in the form of a dependent clause (namely CP). Verbs that select a CP as their complement in the function of the subject are intransitive verbs, consistently in the third person singular, and with the lexical meaning of happening: *ngjan*, *ngjet*, “seems”, *godit*, *qëllon* “happens”, *rastis* “chances”, and so on.

P5: Infinitive Phrase – intransitive verb

(5) *Me e çu në çerdhe, (goxha) po kushton*. “To take her to the nursery costs (a lot).”

As observed in the above example in P4, the CP – intransitive verb pattern was absent in the spoken corpus. This absence can be attributed to the fact that the interviews analyzed were conducted in different cities across Kosovo, where the local vernaculars belong to the Gheg dialect. Consequently, whereas in pattern P4 the main verb is complemented by a complementizer phrase with the verb in the subjunctive mood, in the spoken corpus, the verb of the dependent clause is realized through the Gheg infinitive. This realization gives rise to another clause pattern, P5, found exclusively in the interviews of the spoken corpus, where the non-finite clause performs the role of the subject in the main clause. Since the Gheg infinitive is not incorporated into Standard Albanian, clauses following the P5 pattern in Standard Albanian contexts use the subjunctive forms instead. Therefore, verbs that select dependent clauses as their complements can license finite or non-finite clauses, with the selection dependent on

whether the text belongs to Standard Albanian or the Gheg dialect. This is exemplified by the following reconstructed examples based on the above discussion:

- a. *Kushton me e çu në çerdhe.* “It costs money to take her to the nursery.”
- b. *Kushton ta çosh në çerdhe.* “It costs money to take her to the nursery.”

These examples demonstrate that the same verb can select two types of dependent clauses: finite or non-finite, depending on the domain of use.

Pattern III. Verb – internal complement

The pattern verb + internal complement is realized by verbs that are impersonal (cannot take a subject) but are complemented by an internal complement. This group includes constructions denoting atmospheric phenomena and those with the verb *ka* “has” (meaning “there is/are”), which denote the existence of a specific entity. In both cases, the verbs are impersonal and are complemented by the internal complement of the verb, which can be: **a) predicative complement** when it depends on a copular verb, or **b) direct object** when it depends on the verb *ka* “has” (meaning “there is/are”). The above pattern is realized by the following structural patterns:

P6: Intransitive verb – NP

- (6) *Është pranverë.* “It is spring.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 25)

Pattern P6 is realized by the verb *jam* “to be” in the third person singular. Since such verbs cannot take a subject, they are termed impersonal, notwithstanding their third-person marker. The verb *jam* “to be” is complemented by an NP, which serves as the internal complement of the predicate. Such constructions were prevalent in the novel but absent in other corpus texts.

P7: Intransitive verb – AdvP

- (7) *Është më nxehtë.* “It is hotter.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 64)

The P7 pattern is functionally similar to P6, but differs in the syntactic realization of the complement. The verb *jam* “to be” and *bëj* “to do” are used in the third person singular in their impersonal use – without a subject, but the internal complement is realized by an adverbial phrase, and the entire construction describes certain atmospheric phenomena.

P8: Transitive verb – NP

- (8) *Në shtëpi nuk ka rrymë.* “There is no electricity in the house.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 48)

The clause pattern P8 is constructed with the verb *kam* “to have” in the third person impersonal use: *ka* “has” (meaning “there is/are”). The verb *ka* is complemented by a noun phrase in the accusative case, serving as a complement to the verb. Since the NP is in the accusative case, this complement functions as a direct object. Meanwhile, the verb *ka*, despite its active form, is semantically synonymous with the verbs *ndodhet* “is located”, *ekziston* “exists”, etc. According to Buxheli (2007, p. 221), “...the third person form **KA** refers to the empty subject *pro*, desemantized, phonetically unrealized in the position [Spec, IP]. Thus, **KA** has only the internal argument realized, and although the subject position exists, the verb can take no external argument because this position is [+case, -semantic role].”

4.3. Types of arguments according to the semantic criterion

The internal structure of a clause can be described and analyzed from a semantic aspect, i.e. according to the semantic roles that the arguments carry. Complements in a clause can be described not only by the syntactic functions they perform and the syntactic categories by which they are realized, but also in terms of the semantic roles they carry, as assigned by the predicate. At the semantic level, the clause or proposition consists of the predicate and its arguments. As Huddleston and Pullum (2002, p. 226) state, “*what is represented by the clause in syntactic terms is represented by the proposition in semantic terms.*” The semantic predicate denotes a feature/characteristic, a relation, an action, a process, etc., while the arguments represent the entities involved, such as the bearer of a feature, relations/terms, etc.

Describing the clause structure by the argument structure acts as a kind of filter, ensuring that the clause is both grammatically and semantically correct. For example, if a verb like *bërtas* “to scream” is described only according to the syntactic relations it establishes, i.e. it is complemented by a subject, and based on the syntactic category, i.e. its complement is realized by an NP, there is potential for forming semantically incorrect clauses. We can form clauses such as: *Tavolina bërtet.* “The table screams.” – This clause has an SV structure, realized by NP – intransitive verb, but from a semantic standpoint, such a clause is incorrect, as it disregards the selection restrictions of a semantic nature. A verb like *bërtas* “to scream”, which serves as the predicate of the clause, not only determines the syntactic category and the function of the complement but also the semantic role that such a syntactic

complement, or semantic argument, possesses. The verb *bërtaş* assigns the role of the agent to its argument, because the act of screaming is consciously performed, and the participant in a proposition performing such an act is the agent, also known as the agent of the action. Since the verb *bërtaş* requires an agent in the role of the subject, it is understood that the clause *Tavolina bërtet* “The table screams” is incorrect because TABLE, having the feature (- human), cannot perform or initiate volitional actions, and therefore cannot be an AGENT.

The semantic roles assigned to certain arguments depend on the semantic type of the verb or other word functioning as the predicate of the clause. Consequently, verbs that take the same number of arguments, in this case, monovalent verbs, but belong to different semantic classes, assign distinct semantic roles, as illustrated in the examples below.

Monovalent verbs, as previously discussed, are realized in the given corpus by two functional patterns: II. S – intransitive verb and III. Impersonal verb – internal verb complement. These two functional patterns are realized by seven different structural patterns derived based on the syntactic categories by which the verb complements are realized. The above data, however, do not elucidate the semantic roles that the arguments of monovalent verbs might carry because a certain syntactic function does not presuppose a certain semantic role, although sometimes a particular role may closely associate with a particular function. Therefore, in the following examples:

(9)

a. *Hili ka vdekë*. “Hili is dead.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 148)

b. *Mbreti Zog ik*. “King Zog runs away.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 6)

- the predicates of the clauses are realized by monovalent-intransitive verbs. Such verbs must be complemented by a subject (expressed or implied) to realize their meaning. In the two clauses above, the subject is realized by the same syntactic category, namely an NP. However, despite having the same function and being realized by the same syntactic categories, the arguments of the above verbs carry different semantic roles because the verbs belong to different semantic types. In 9a, the subject carries the semantic role of a patient, whereas in 9b, it carries the semantic role of an agent. This distinction arises because the verb *ik* “to run away” denotes an action that is voluntarily performed, necessitating the argument of the predicate to be an entity that voluntarily initiates an action, i.e. an agent. Conversely, the participant in the proposition with the verb *vdes* “to die” as its predicate undergoes the action expressed by the predicate, thereby taking the role of the patient assigned by the verb.

Given this, clauses containing monovalent verbs will also be classified according to the semantic criterion, to identify which semantic patterns or argument structures they generate. Based on the semantic roles assigned to monovalent verbs, the following semantic patterns are derived from the analyzed corpus:

A. Agent – intransitive verb

(10) *Mbreti Zog iku*. “King Zog ran away.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 6)

In the above clause, the predicate assigns the role of agent to its argument, the subject. The subject can be realized phonetically or be implied by the verb’s endings. Given that the verb assigns a semantic role, the subject has the ability to be realized without violating the grammaticality of the clause. This is because, in expressions like *iki* “to run away”, there must be an entity that performs the action of running away, indicating that this action is undertaken voluntarily.

B. Patient/theme –intransitive verb

(11) a. *Gjermania ka kapitulluar*. “Germany has capitulated.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 56)

b. *Hili ka vdekë*. “Hili is dead.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 148)

The verbs above serving as predicates assign the role of the patient because it refers to the participant who undergoes the action or event expressed by the predicate. Some researchers conflate the role of the patient with that of the theme and thus, in a broader sense, the above arguments could fall within the concept of the theme, which Radford (2009: 245) describes as *the entity undergoing the effect of some action*.

C. Theme –intransitive verb

(12)

a. *Forma e protestës së opozitës do të ndryshojë*. “The form of the opposition protest will change.” (Koha ditore, 2016, p. 3)

b. *Asnjë pajisje mjekësore nuk ka ardhur deri tash nga Ministria e Shëndetësisë*. “No medical equipment has yet arrived from the Ministry of Health.” (Koha ditore, 2016, p. 15)

c. *Fillon grindja*. “The quarrel begins.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 66)

“An entity which undergoes some action, which is moved, experienced or acquired is known as *theme*.” (Carnie, 2012, p. 229). Based on this definition, the above participants are classified as themes because, in the first example, the entity changes as a result of the action; in the second example, it moves/does not move as a result of the action; and in the third example, it is acquired as a result of the action expressed by the verb.

D. Force – intransitive verb

(13)

a. *Erdhi vera*. “Summer came.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 68)

b. *Dielli djeg*. “The sun burns.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 113)

Huddleston (1976) proposes a new role for cases where an entity refers to a force of nature, thus not presupposing an agent, termed as Force. In the above examples, the participants in the proposition are not voluntarily acting as agents but are forces of nature causing actions expressed by the predicate, thereby assuming the role of Force.

E. Copular verb – predicate

(14)

a. *Është më nxehtë*. “It is hotter.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 64)

b. *Këtu bën tepër ftohtë*. “It is very cold here.” (The Corpus of the Albanian Language)

Such verbs typically describe the weather. They are formed by copular verbs and are complemented by an NP or AdvP, functioning as an internal complement. Though monovalent, the syntactic predicate does not correspond to the semantic predicate. The verbs *jam* “to be” and *bën* “to do” in such cases function as transitive verbs, but as they lack full lexical meaning, they cannot act as semantic predicates nor assign semantic roles to their arguments. In the clauses above, the adverbial phrases *më nxehtë* “hotter” and *tepër ftohtë* “very cold” act as semantic predicates without assigning any semantic roles, as they are not complemented by further arguments.

F. KA “TO HAVE” (impersonal verb)- theme

(15)

a. *(Ndërkohë) ka pasur edhe zhvillime të tjera*. “(In the meanwhile) there have been other developments.” (Ismajli, 2003, p. 21)

b. *Ka mjaft femra ndër ta*. “There are many women among them.” (Fehmiu, 2011, p. 52)

The verb KA “to have” (in its impersonal use, having the meaning “there is/are”) takes an internal complement expressed by an NP in the accusative case, and carries the semantic role of the theme as assigned by the predicate.

5. Results

Based on the analysis of aivalent and monovalent verbs in the given corpus, the following results have been obtained:

- The classification of aivalent verbs in the Albanian language is different from the classification of impersonal verbs. Aivalent verbs do not take any complement, regardless of the type, whereas impersonal verbs do not take a subject but can take internal complements when used as monovalent.

- Monovalent verbs are not the same as intransitive verbs. They represent a subset of intransitive verbs, with the number of intransitive verbs in Albanian exceeding that of monovalent verbs.

- The number of aivalent verbs in Albanian is very small and their use is limited by text types. In the analyzed corpus, only two instances of aivalent verbs were found, both within a literary text.

- According to the functional description of the complements of monovalent verbs, two clause patterns were generated; according to the syntactic description of the complements, seven clause patterns were generated; whereas according to the semantic description of the complements or arguments of monovalent verbs, six clause patterns were generated.

- The clause patterns described in terms of the syntactic category of the complements of monovalent verbs were also determined by the domain of the texts selected for the corpus. In Standard Albanian texts, the subordinate clause functioning as a subject was realized by a complementizer phrase containing a finite verb in the subjunctive mood. Conversely, in the Gheg dialect texts from the spoken corpus, this subordinate clause was realized by an infinitive phrase (the Gheg infinitive).

6. Conclusions

The research results show that:

- The classification of verbs according to their valence cannot be aligned with the criteria used for classifying verbs based on transitivity or their ability to take or not take a subject.
- In pro-drop languages like Albanian, a valent verbs do not require a pleonastic subject to fill the specifier position, despite being realized in the third person singular as indicated by the personal ending.
- The frequency of certain clause patterns in Albanian is, in some instances, determined by the text type.
- The syntactic realization of certain functional patterns is, in some instances, determined by the Albanian variety used: Standard Albanian or its Gheg dialect.
- A certain syntactic function (performed by a complement) can be realized by different syntactic categories, indicating that verb complements are not exclusively realized by NPs.
- The attribution of a semantic role to a particular syntactic function is not fixed; while certain roles may commonly associate with certain functions, the relationship between them is not strictly one-to-one.

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