Language Group Specific Informational Reports

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In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

Language Group: Albanian
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Language Group Informational Report: Albanian

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http://www.aboutworldlanguages.com/Albanian
Albanian

Albanian is spoken by approximately 6 million people worldwide.

It is the official language of Albania.
It is also one of the official languages of Kosovo and the Republic of Macedonia.

There are two main dialects of Albanian: Tosk and Gheg

Tosk is spoken by 3 million people South of the Shkumbin River. It is also spoken in Italy, Greece and in small communities of Albanian immigrants in Ukraine, Turkey and the U.S.

Gheg is spoken by 2.8 million people North of the Shkumbin River. It is also spoken in Serbia, Montenegro and The Republic of Macedonia.
Dialect map of the Albanian language:

http://www.liveandlearnlanguages.com/albanian.html
History of the Albanian Language

Albanian is an Indo-European language

- However, it does not resemble or descend from any other Indo-European language.
- Albanian was influenced by the Slavic and Germanic tribes who settled in the Balkans, and has absorbed some words from Greek and Latin.
Albanian has 7 vowels and 29 consonants.
The main difference between Tosk and Gheg is the pronunciation of vowels:

Gheg Dialect Vowel Pronunciations:

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Pronunciation of consonant sounds in Tosk and Gheg:

- ç = ch in chat
- dh = th in these
- gj = g in geese
- j = y in yam
- ll = ll in bull
- nj = first n in canyon
- r = Spanish r in pero 'but'
- rr = Spanish rr in perro 'dog'
- th = th in thin
- x = ds in cads
- xh = j in joy
- zh = s in vision
Click icon below to hear Albanian:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Albanian</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Po</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirë se vjen</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gëzohem që po takohemi</td>
<td>Pleased to meet you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tungjatjeta</td>
<td>Hello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirupafshim</td>
<td>Goodbye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faleminderit</td>
<td>Thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unë quhem...</td>
<td>My name is...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A flisni anglisht?</td>
<td>Do you speak English?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Më vjen keq, nuk flas shqip</td>
<td>I’m sorry, I don’t speak Albanian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Më duhet ndihmë</td>
<td>I need help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ku është tualeti, ju lutem?</td>
<td>Where is the toilet, please?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Structure and Grammar

Features of Albanian:

- Gender (masculine and feminine)
- Definite articles (are attached to the end of nouns)
  - Example: zog = bird  zogu = the bird
- Adjectives (follow the noun they modify)
- Verbs (have only two forms)
  - Example: lajll = I wash  lahem = I am washed or I wash myself
- Word Order (sentence – verb – object)

Speaking:

- Stress (usually falls on the last syllable of the stem.)
Common errors in learning English

**Usage of articles** (*a, an, the*) - they are often used incorrectly, or used when not necessary.

Examples:
- Used in front of proper nouns: He lived in a Rhode Island.
- Used in front of adjectives: My city is a beautiful.
- Used in front of the negative form “no”: There is a no zoo.
  - In Albanian articles are attached to the end of nouns.

**Pronouns**

Examples:
- Pronoun confusion: I don’t see she very often, but I speak to she every Sunday.
  - In Albanian words are gender specific.

**Verbs**

Examples:
- Verb tenses: She have a boyfriend. The dog lick my hand. The monkey eat a banana.
- The verb “to be” (misuse or omission): She be a doctor.
  - In Albanian there are only two verb tenses
Common errors continued:

Inflectional Morphemes: ( -s and –es)
Example:
  ➢ He protect my house.

Prepositions: (using incorrectly or omission when needed)
Example:
  ➢ There are trees on the garden.
  ➢ The post man goes ____ house to house.

Genitive Case: (use of an apostrophe or the word “of” to show possession)
Example:
  ➢ The car front seat. (The car’s front seat or The front seat of the car)
Communicating with a someone from Albania:

- Stand 2-3 feet apart
- Avoid touching someone when speaking to him/her
- Maintain eye contact, without staring
- Your voice should be clear, normal in tone and directed at the listener
- Hand gestures and facial expressions are common
- Try to understand and remember the purpose of your conversation

Interpreting Body Language:
- A nod of the head means “no”
- A shake of the head means “yes”

Communicating with someone from the Republic of Macedonia:

- Stand the distance of an outstretched arm (can be closer if it is a friend)
- Regular eye contact is necessary (otherwise may signal disrespect)
- Gestures depend on the individual
Bibliography


Images

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