

# Linguistic Features of Front-Page Headlines in Albanian Print Media

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## Abstract

Previous research has explored different aspects of Albanian print media. This article focuses on headline discourse and presents preliminary findings based on an analysis of Albanian print media. Headlines are the most striking features of the newspapers and play crucial roles in summarizing the contents of newspaper articles. The structure of the headline, the use of punctuation and the vocabulary are very important elements to grab the reader's attention so that they read not just the headline but the entire article. Some of these features are common to different languages and some linguistic characteristics are distinctive in different languages. Therefore, the aim of this study is to determine the linguistic patterns of front page headlines in Albanian language print media through a comparative approach to those patterns in English language headlines. This paper presents results regarding the peculiarities of linguistic features used in Albanian language newspapers. Headlines The linguistic features we discovered in newspaper headlines in Albanian are similar to those Swan (2005) lists for English. The results of this study indicate that nominal structures, present tense verbs, voice (active and passive), *use of non-finite forms (infinitives, gerund and negative)* *use of the 5 wh-question words* are linguistic features characteristic of front page headlines in Albanian newspapers.

**Keywords:** Front page headlines, newspapers, linguistic features, verb system

## 1. Introduction

Previous research has taken various approaches to analyzing newspaper headlines because as Kniffka (Kniffka 1980, as cited in Piechurska-Kuciel & Piasecka 2011, p.134) states, "The headline is a newspaper's opportunity to stamp its individuality on what is otherwise a mass-produced product." Most of this research examined headlines in traditional media, taking both a journalistic and linguistic approach to the importance of headlines in drawing readers' attention to a specific story and establishing news credibility.

According to Ungerer (2000, p.48), "a headline describes the essence of a complicated news story in a few words. It informs quickly and accurately and arouses the reader's curiosity." Van Dijk (2008, p.194) states:

*Everyday stories are more or less*

*chronological, whereas news reports are organized by other principles such as relevance, importance and recency. What comes first is the headline and lead, the most important information of the discourse, a summary, as in many conversational stories, but then the story in a news report is delivered in installments—the most important information of each category comes first, followed by the less important information of each category.*

Adriano and Montejo (2018, p.70) point out the fact that headlines are often, "the most important element on pages as they give readers an overall picture of the news and through them, readers may determine whether to read the entire article." Mardh (1980, p.15) asserts that:

*a primary function of the headline is to split up the body of text on a page and to make it easy for the reader to find the news he is interested in. ... Another important function of the headline is to evoke interest. One device to attract the reader's attention is to set the headline in large type. Once the headline has caught the reader's attention, the message has to be expressed in such a way as to make people read the article, or, if the paper is on a newsstand, to make them buy it.*

Similarly, Van Dijk (1988) considers the position of the headline, the vocabulary, the use of punctuation marks and boldness as important elements affecting the discourse and influence of the headlines. According to Van Dijk (1988, p.141), headlines “are first and on top and for that reason are markers that monitor attention, perception, and the reading process: Readers first read headlines and only then the rest of news items.” The importance of headlines is noted by Bell (1991, p.189), who considers headlines “a part of news rhetoric whose function is to attract the reader.”

According to him, these are usually written by different people from those who write the news.

Dor (2003, p.720) considers headlines to be relevance optimizers and relevance-based selection devices that function as negotiators between stories and readers. He states that:

*producing the appropriate headline for a story is a complex task exactly because the headline is neither a semantic summary of the story nor a pragmatic attracting-device for the reader, but a communicative device whose function is to produce the optimal level of affinity between the content of the story and the reader's context of interpretation, in order to render the story optimally relevant for the reader.*

Research has been done to reveal the linguistic features of headlines in different languages. In his pioneering work on the headlines of English, Straumman (1935) classified the headlines in terms of neutrals, nominals, verbals, and particles and, as cited in Renouf and Kehoe (2016, p.252), states:

*there is practically no visible chain of development at all in the grammatical formation of the caption, at least not before the twentieth century, and the very acute growth of headlines during the past thirty years cannot be explained in this way. The Headline, it is true, has changed its character considerably in the course of the ages, but it has been a change that went by fits and starts, and evades any logical or purely historical analysis.*

According to Swan (2016, p.292) news headlines are short titles above news reports and have their own special grammar and vocabulary. They state that, “English news headlines can be very difficult to understand. One reason for this is that headlines are often written in a special style, which is very different from ordinary English. In this style there are some special rules of grammar, and words are often used in unusual ways.”

Mardh (1980), as cited in Roohani and Esmaili (2010, p.72), has identified the following features as typical of English language newspaper headlines: the omission of articles; the omission of verbs and of auxiliaries; nominalizations; the frequent use of complex noun phrases in subject position; adverbial headlines, with the omission of both verb and subject; the use of short words; the widespread use of puns, word play, and alliteration; the importance of word order, with the most important items placed first; and independent “wh” constructions not linked to a main clause (e.g., Why the French don't give a damn).

According to Van Dijk (1988, p.11), “Grammatical analysis of language use in the press may reveal the perspective of the journalist or newspaper. Sentence syntax expresses the semantic roles of participants in an event by word order, relational functions, or the use of active or passive forms. [...]

In his research study of over 400 headlines in the Dutch press reporting of both the 1985 Tamil situation and tensions between the Dutch and immigrant groups, Van Dijk's (1988, p.175) analysis of the syntactic and surface expression of actor roles in the headlines confirmed these findings:

*Tamils often occupy sentential topic positions in the headlines but usually only as passive actors, not as active agents, unless they appear as negative*

*agents, for instance, in acts of illegal entry, protest, resistance or crime (for instance, when they set fire to their lodgings).*

Fowler et al. (1979) and Fowler (1991) studied the roles of nominalization, passivization, and transitivity in newspaper reports, demonstrating the way the linguistic structure can represent the position of the newspaper.

In analysing *Le Monde*, Mouillaud and Tétu (1989), as cited in Develotte & Rechniewski (2001, p.7), suggest the following features as typical of headlines: the suppression of spatial and particularly temporal markers, the use of the present tense of verbs (where they are used) as opposed to - or in place of - any other tenses, the replacement of verbs by nominalizations, the suppression of declarative verbs, and the disappearance of signs of speech (quotation marks, personal pronouns).

Referring to previous studies on English headlines, Swan (2016, p.292) mentions these general features:

- Headlines are not always complete sentences.
- Many headlines consist of noun phrases with no verb.
- Headlines often contain strings of three, four or more nouns and nouns earlier in the string modify those that follow.  
Headlines often leave out articles and the verb *be*.
- In headlines, simple tenses are often used instead of progressive or perfect forms.  
The simple present is used for both present and past events. The present progressive is used to talk about changes.
- Many headline words are used as both nouns and verbs, and nouns are often used to modify other nouns.
- Headlines often use infinitives to refer to the future.
- Auxiliary verbs are usually dropped from passive structures.
- “As” and “in” are often used instead of longer connecting expressions.
- A colon (:) is often used to separate the subject of a headline from what is said about it.
- Quotation marks (‘. . .’) are used to show that words were said by somebody else and that the report does not necessarily claim that they are true.

- A question mark (?) is often used when something is not certain.

Swan (2016, p.293) mentions the fact that short words are very common in headlines as they save space, and some of these short words are unusual in ordinary language and some are often used in special senses. Also, words are chosen to sound dramatic. As mentioned above, the structure of the headline, the use of punctuation and the vocabulary are very important elements to grab the reader’s attention so that they read not just the headline but the entire article. Some of these features are common to different languages.

## 1. Linguistic features of front-page headlines of Albanian print media

Headlines are a striking element of newspapers. Therefore, it is important to have a good understanding of the characteristics of an effective headline. Previous research demonstrates a focus on the linguistic characterization of the headlines in English and in other languages.

### 2.1. Data

This study aims to characterize the linguistic features of front-page headlines in Albanian. For this study, headlines were excerpted from the front-page headlines of four leading Albanian newspapers: *Panorama*, *Gazeta Shqiptare*, *Koha Jonë*, and *Shekulli*. The headlines analyzed come from the years papers 2019-2021 and cover various social, political, economic, and religious topics. This research explores the syntactic and lexical features of the front page headlines in these five main newspapers in Albania.

### 2.2. Analysis

Based on our research, the first striking linguistic feature of the front-page headlines in Albanian newspapers is the simplified grammar. Many headlines consist of noun phrases with no verb or a string of three, four or more nouns together.

1. *Rama në Shkodër, Tension, gurë dhe gaz lotsjellës* (Gazeta shqiptare, 21.6.2019)

*Rama in Shkodra, Tension, stones, and tear gas*

2. *Mashtrimi i Rilindjes me “Listat e Hapura”* (Koha jonë, 21.9.2020)

*Rilindja<sup>1</sup> Fraud with ‘Open Lists’*

<sup>1</sup> *Rilindja* here refers to the Socialist Party.

3. *Shtesa e pensioneve, 8 mijë përfitues në skemë* (Panorama, 3.8.2020)

*Pension increases, 8 thousand beneficiaries in the program*

4. *Negociatat, Maqedonia "PO", 9 kushte të forta për Shqipërinë* (Shekulli, 27.9.2019)

*Negotiations, Macedonia "YES", 9 strong conditions for Albania*

In these headlines are used mostly simple tenses for both present and past events.

5. *Rama paralajmëron: Mos luani me zjarrin* (Gazeta shqiptare, 2.6.2019)

*Rama warns: Don't play with fire*

6. *Majko paralajmëron humbjen e pushtetit* (Koha jonë, 22.5.2021)

*Majko warns of losing power*

7. *Ndryshon qeveria. Prapaskenat, Lleshaj ikën pas 48 orësh protesta* (Panorama, 11.12.2020)

*The government changes. Behind the scenes, Lleshaj leaves after 48 hours of protests*

8. *Rama-Basha paralajmërojnë bisedime, tregojnë kushtet.* (Shekulli, 15.5.2019)

*Rama-Basha notify of discussions, state their conditions*

A wide use of prepositions *nga/from*, *në/in*, *me/with*, *për/for*, *drejt/toward*, *nën/under*, *pa/without*, *para/in front* and *për/for* seems to be the direct result of the preference for noun phrases.

9. *Protesta, 42 të arrestuar. Rama: Keni frikë nga vota* (Gazeta Shqiptare, 4.6.2019)

*Protests, 42 arrested. Rama: You're afraid of the vote*

10. *Shkodra në kolaps, qeveria i bllokon fondet bashkisë* (Shekulli, 21.8.2019)

*Shkodra in collapse, the government blocks municipal funds*

11. *Anulohet tenderi me 27 kompani i koncensionit të TEC-it në Vlorë.* (Shekulli, 16.3.2019)

*27 company tender for the Vlorë TEC (Thermoelectric Power Center) concession cancelled*

12. *Zbardhet vendimi. Pensionet, ndryshon skema për sigurimet* (Panorama, 21.9.2020)

*Decision revealed. Pensions, social security scheme to change*

13. *Berlini, jo negociata pa zgjidhjen e krizës* (Gazeta Shqiptare, 5.6.2019)

*Berlin, no negotiations without resolving the crisis*

14. *Përgjimet, Rama: Dako i lirë, para*

*drejtësisë* (Gazeta Shqiptare, 7.6.2019)

*Secret recordings, Rama: Dako freed, after facing justice*

Headlines often leave out the verb *jam* (to be).

15. *Dosja 339, Prokuroria: 74 persona nën hetim* (Gazeta shqiptare, 8.6.2019)

*File 339, Prosecutor's office: 74 people under investigation*

16. *Meta: Koha për të dëgjuar shkencëtarët, jo servilët* (Koha jonë, 10.12.2019)

*Meta: Time to listen to scientists, not yes men*

17. *Meta: LSI më e rëndësishme në qeveri ose kryesore në opozitë* (Panorama, 25.10.2019)

*Meta: LSI more important in the government or critical in the opposition*

18. *Skandal me listat zgjedhore, 350 mijë emra me adresa fiktive.* (Shekulli, 8.6.2019)

*Scandal with voter registration lists, 350 thousand names with fake addresses*

Another feature of front page headlines is the use of the future tense *do të* with the omission of *të*. The Albanian future tense is formed as a result of the grammaticalisation of the verb *dua* (want) in the form *do* with the subjunctive present tense (*do të punoj/I will work*). The omission of the particle *të* has become a spoken Albanian norm and our data show that it has become a feature of front page headlines.

19. *Ilir Meta anulon Datën e votimeve. Rama: Do bëhen* (Gazeta shqiptare, 9.6.2019)

*Ilir Meta cancels the election date. Rama: They (elections) will still go forward*

20. *Policët do marrin lekët e krimit, shefat në "ethe"*

(Koha jonë, 15.10.2021)

*Police to take crime money, bosses in a fever*

21. *Flet Artan Lame. Mbivendosjet e pronave, si do zgjidhen konfliktet* (Panorama, 18.1.2019)

*Artan Lame speaks. Overlapping property, how conflicts to be resolved*

22. *Zgjidhja: do konkurrojmë në 20 bashki, në 4 maj kongresi me 800 delegatë.* (Shekulli, 20.3.2019)

*Resolution: we'll compete in 20 municipalities, on May 4<sup>th</sup> congress with 800 delegates*

Use of passive verbs that is considered to be a regular feature of headlines in other languages. Albanian language front page headlines demonstrate this pattern.

23. *Meta anulon zgjedhjet: Nuk garantohej pluralizmi* (Gazeta shqiptare, 11.6.2019)

*Meta analyzes the elections: Pluralism isn't guaranteed*

24. **Miratohet** paketa për të mbështetur Shqipërinë për pandeminë, BE akordon 103.3 mln euro për rikuperimin ekonomik (Koha jonë, 12.11.2020)

*Economic relief package for Albanian approved, EU earmarks 103.3 million euros for economic recuperation*

25. Masat ekstreme. Shqipëria në karantinë, **shtyhet** pagesa e kredive (Panorama, 13.3.2020)  
*Extreme measures. Albania in quarantine, credit payments deferred*

26. Korporata e investimeve, **miratohet** "Streha e re e oligarkëve" (Shekulli, 18.10.2019)

*Investment corporations, 'A new oligarch shelter' approved*

Headlines often use non-finite forms – infinitives (*për të* + verb participle), gerund (*duke* + verb participle), and negative (*pa* + verb participle) – instead of subordinated clauses.

27. Procedura, hapat **për të përfutur** kërkuar pensioni (Gazeta shqiptare, 5.2.2019)

*Procedures, steps to receive pension benefits*

28. Meta: Koha **për të dëgjuar** shkencëtarët, jo servilët (Koha jonë, 10.12.2019)

*Meta: Time to listen to scientists, not yes men*

29. Për çdo vendbanim. Kushtet **për të përfutur** vitet e punës (Panorama, 13.8.2021)

*For each household. Conditions to count years of employment*

30. PPP-të, 6.5 mln euro për firmën e Check-up, **pa kryer** shërbimet (Shekulli, 17.10.2019)

*Public Private Partnership, 6.5 milion euro for company Check-up, without completing services*

The use of the five wh-question words (who-*kush*; when-*kur*, how-*sa/si*, where-*ku*) seems to be another characteristic of front page headlines in Albanian print media, the object of this study.

31. Pensionet e ushtarakëve, **kush** merr më shumë para (Gazeta Shqiptare, 24.6.2019)

*Military pensions, who receives more money*

32. Shtesa 3 mijë lekë. Bonus i pensionistëve, **kur** nis rishpërndarja (Panorama, 24.1.2020)

*Additional 3 thousand lekë, Pensioner bonus, when will redistribution begin*

33. Për 74 profesione. Pagat para vitit '94, **Sa** rriten pensionet (Panorama, 24.4.2020)

*For 74 professions. Pre-'94 payments, how much will pensions increase*

34. Pronat pa kontratë shitblerjeje, **si** llogaritet tatimi (Shekulli, 12.8.2019)

*Property without purchase agreement, how will taxes be accounted*

Our data show a preference for imperative verbs in front page headlines.

35. Meta: Dekretoj datë tjetër zgjedhësh. Rama: **Reflekto** (Gazeta shqiptare, 14.6.2019)

*Meta: Declare another election date. Rama: Reflect*

36. Mesazhi gjerman për Edi Ramën: **Mos luaj** me Gjykatën Kushtetuese ((Koha jonë, 26.2.2020)

*Germans' message for Edi Rama: Don't play with the constitutional court*

Another feature of front page headlines is the non-declination of organization and institution acronyms. Based on Albanian orthography, the acronyms should be declined when used in sentences.

37. "T'i japim **PS** Fitore 10 me 0" (Gazeta Shqiptare, 6.6.2019)

*"We give PS (Socialist Party) the win 10 to 0"*

38. Rama: **BE** mashtron me shifrat për virusin! (Koha jonë, 20.8.2020)

*Rama: EU manipulates with virus numbers!*

39. Flet kreu i **ISSH**. Pensionet, emrat e rinj që përfitojnë nga shtesa (Nov 23, 2019)

*Head of ISSH (Institute of Social Security) speaks.*

*Pensions, new names that benefit from increases*

40. **KQZ** cel regjistrimet, reagon **PD**: Rama po blen kartat e votuesve (Shekulli, 5.1.2019)

*KQZ (Central Elections Committee) closes registration, PD (Democratic Party) reacts: Rama is buying voter cards*

As is typical in other languages, punctuation marks are not often used in front page headlines in Albanian language newspapers.

41. Pensionet e ushtarakëve, **kush** merr më shumë para (Gazeta Shqiptare, 24.6.2019)

*Military pensions, who receives more money*

42. Mesazhi gjerman për Edi Ramën: **Mos luaj** me Gjykatën Kushtetuese ((Koha jonë, 26.2.2020)

*Germans' message for Edi Rama: Don't play with the constitutional court*

43. Pensionet, 1880 emrat që marrin shtesën e re (Panorama, 10.12. 2019)

*Pensions, 1880 names of those who receive a new benefit*

44. *Shtesa 3 mijë lekë. Bonus i pensionistëve, kur nis rishpërndarja* (Panorama, 24.1.2020)

*Additional 3 thousand lekë, Pensioner bonus, when will redistribution begin*

45. *Zëri i Amerikës: përgjimet tregojnë blerjen e votave nga krimi* (Shekulli, 31.1.2019)

*Voice of America: secret recordings tell of organized crime buying votes*

A colon (:) is often used to separate the subject of a headline from what is said about it.

46. *Basha: Hetim krimeve. Rama: Votë në datë 30* (Gazeta Shqiptare, 23.6.2019)

*Basha: Crime investigation. Rama: Voting on the 30<sup>th</sup>*

47. *Mesazhi gjerman për Edi Ramën: Mos luaj me Gjykatën Kushtetuese* (Koha jonë, 26.2.2020)

*Germans' message for Edi Rama: Don't play with the constitutional court*

48. *Pensionet, Hado: Kush përfiton nga shtesa e re* (Panorama, 17.1.2019)

*Pensions, Hado: Who benefits from new increases*

49. *Koço Kokëdhima: propozoj Pakt Kombëtar për zgjidhjen e krizës* (Shekulli, 3.4.2019)

*Koço Kokëdhima: I propose a national pact for crisis resolution*

Question mark (?) is usually avoided, but it is sometimes used when something is not certain.

50. *700 milionë euro dëmi nga tërmeti i 26 nëntorit?* (Koha jonë, 17.12.2019)

*700 million euros in damage from the November 26<sup>th</sup> earthquake?*

The exclamation mark is usually not used, but as David Crystal (2003, p.219) points out, "the abbreviated exclamation with its punchy style, is highly favored in dramatic newspaper headline", as shown in the following examples:

51. *Përgjimet e blerjes së votave. Telefonata e Edi Ramës: U arrit objektivi!?* (Gazeta Shqiptare, 18.6.2019)

*Secret recordings of vote buying. Edi Rama's telephone calls: Was the objective achieved?*

52. *Rama: BE mashtron me shifrat për virusin!* (Koha jonë, 20.8.2020)

*Rama: EU manipulates with virus numbers!*

53. *Prokuroria të hetojë krimet zgjedhore të PS!* (Koha jonë, 18.3.2021)

*The prosecutor's office to investigate PS (Socialist Party) election crimes!*

54. *Thirrja e Lubonjës: Mblidhuni të gjithë*

*kundër Edi Ramës!* (Koha jonë, 5.12.2019)

*Lubonja's call: Everyone organize against Edi Rama!*

The comma is used in headlines to save space. In addition to its normal use, it can take on the function of the conjunction *dhe*/and.

55. *Ndërtimet pa leje, 1 mijë familjarë marrin tapitë* (Gazeta shqiptare, 25.6.2019)

*Unlicensed buildings, 1 thousand families receive their housing deeds*

56. *25 prilli, beteja për 25 vitet e ardhshme* (Koha jonë, 23.1.2021)

*April 25, the battle for the next 25 years*

57. *Tokat me 7501, kushtet e reja për të marrë tapinë.* (Panorama, 20.7.2020)

*Property with (law) 7501, new conditions for receiving housing deeds*

58. *Dosjet me mangësi, gabimet që "dogjën" pronarët nga kompensimi* (Shekulli, 24.7.2019)

*Incomplete files, mistakes that invalidated property owners' compensation*

Referring to Schulz (2007), headline news language is a notice of what to expect before reading a news story. Headlines are characterized by a variety of topics and carefully selected vocabulary. As we can see from the examples provided in this article, front page headlines in Albanian newspapers have a variety of topics, depending on the most important news of the day.

According to Reah (1998, p.18), in order to make headlines attract the attention of the reader, "headline writers may select words that carry a particularly strong connotation, that is, carry an emotional loading beyond their literal meaning." We have noticed that some words in front page headlines in Albanian newspapers are chosen often because they sound dramatic:

59. *Basha: Hetim krimeve. Rama: Votë në datë 30* (Gazeta shqiptare, 23.6.2019)

*Basha: Crime investigation. Rama: Voting on the 30<sup>th</sup>*

60. *Sherr e flakë në Shkodër, PD: Nuk do të ketë zgjedhje* (Gazeta shqiptare, 19.6.2019)

*Firey discord in Shkodra, PD (Democratic Party): There will be no elections*

61. *Meta: Izolim të cmendurve. Rama: Po i fryn konfliktit* (Gazeta shqiptare, 15.6.2019)

*Meta: The crazies isolate themselves. Rama: He's fanning the flames of conflict*

62. *Pas drogës, nis trafiku i mbetjeve kancerogjene* (Koha jonë, 22.2.2020)

*After drug trafficking, carcinogenic waste trafficking begins*

63. *Qeveria: Në shtetrrrethim të plotë deri më 23 qershor* (Koha jonë, 21.4.2020)

*The government: Under full curfew until June 23<sup>rd</sup>*

64. *Dhoma e lordëve për studentët: Tronditën qeverinë "Rama"* (Panorama, 18.1.2019)

*House of Lords for students: (You) scared the Rama government*

65. *Korporata e investimeve, miratohet "Streha e re e oligarkëve"* (Shekulli, 18.10.2019)

*Investment corporation, "New oligarch shelter" approved*

66. *Përgjimet/Vjedhja e vitave, shtet në duart e banditëve me kollare* (Shekulli, 20.6.2020)

*Secret recordings/Theft of years, state in the hands of white-collar criminals*

As mentioned in the previous section, front-page headlines in Albanian newspapers are characterized by a dominance of nouns, common and proper names. Regarding the proper names, we have noticed that the surname of politicians are mostly preferred in the headlines especially during tense political periods, focusing in this way on their impact on the overall political situation.

67. *Basha: Hetim krimeve. Rama: Votë në datë 30* (Gazeta shqiptare, 23.6.2019)

*Basha: Crime investigation. Rama: Voting on the 30<sup>th</sup>*

68. *Meta: Koha për të dëgjuar shkencëtarët, jo servilët* (Koha jonë, 10.12.2019)

*Meta: It's time to listen to scientists, not yes men*

69. *Përplasja në PD. SHBA mbështet Bashën. Berisha i shpall "luftë"* (Panorama, 11.9.2021)

*Conflict in the PD (Democratic Party). USA supports Basha. Berisha declares war on him*

70. *Biznesmeni kosovar: Veliaj na bën shantazh me lejen e ndërtimit.* (Shekulli, 12.2.2019)

*Kosovar businessman: Veliaj is blackmailing us with construction licensing*

### 3. Conclusions

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In this paper, we provided a descriptive analysis of the linguistic features of front page headlines in Albanian newspapers. The linguistic features we discovered in newspaper headlines in Albanian are similar to those Swan (2005) lists for English:

- many headlines consist of noun phrases with no verb or a string of three, four or more nouns together
- mostly simple tenses are used for both present and past events;
- use of passive verbs
- omission of the verb *jam* (to be)
- a colon (:) is often used to separate the subject of a headline from what is said about it
- a question mark (?) is often used when something is not certain
- some words are chosen for dramatic effect

This analysis shows that front page headlines in Albanian print media also have their own unique features:

- a wide use of prepositions *nga/from*, *në/in*, *me/with*, *për/for*, *drejt/toward*, *nën/under*, *pa/without*, *para/in front*, and *për/for* that seems to be an direct result of the preference for noun phrases
- use of the future tense (*do të*) with the omission of *të*
- use of non-finite forms: infinitives (*për të* + verb participle), gerund (*duke* + verb participle), and negative (*pa* + verb participle) instead of subordinated clauses
- use of the 5 wh-question words (*who-kush*; *when-kur*, *how-sa/si*, *where-ku*)
- a preference for imperative verbs
- use of the comma in place of the conjunction *dhe/and*
- regarding the proper names, the surnames of politicians are mostly preferred in the headlines.

- The consumption of newspaper articles is changing, with more readers preferring online media. This change has affected the function of headlines and a comparison of the features of the front page headlines in Albanian print and online media will be the focus of our future research.

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