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FROM ENGLISH POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES TO THEIR MACEDONIAN EQUIVALENTS (WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE DEFINITE ARTICLE)

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to compare English possessive adjectives with their Macedonian translation equivalents and to emphasize the role of the definite article in Macedonian within the translation equivalent. The research is conducted on a corpus of sentences excerpted from English literature and their Macedonian equivalents, and, vice versa, from a corpus of sentences excerpted from Macedonian literature translated into English. The translation equivalents in Macedonian and the concept of definiteness have been analyzed. Comparison of the use of possessive adjectives in English and Macedonian is an interesting language issue owing to the fact that English and Macedonian are not genetically related languages but they have certain typological similarities. The analysis indicates that the differences between English and Macedonian regarding the use of possessives and determiners are due to the fact that within the possessive adjectives in English as possessive determiners the definite article is omitted, while possessive adjectives in Macedonian can be determined with the definite article.

Keywords: Noun phrase (NP), English possessive adjective, Macedonian equivalent, translation, definite article

Introduction

The aim of this research is to demonstrate the differences and similarities in the use of possessive adjectives in English and their Macedonian translation equivalents, with an emphasis on the use of the definite article in the Macedonian counterparts. The use of possessive adjectives in English and Macedonian is an interesting language issue because English and Macedonian are not genetically related languages, though they share similarities regarding the concept of possessives owing to their typological similarity. Both languages belong to the group of analytic languages. Despite the analytic structure of English and Macedonian, there are similarities and differences regarding the use of possessive adjectives and their distinctive features related to both languages individually.

This paper provides a systematic presentation of English noun phrases (NPs) composed of possessive adjectives and nouns and their translation equivalents in Macedonian, testing the following hypotheses:

1. English NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns can be translated into Macedonian with NPs comprised of pronominal possessive adjectives and nouns where the Macedonian pronominal possessive adjectives are marked with the definite article.
2. English NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns can be translated into Macedonian with NPs composed of reflexive possessive adjectives and nouns, where the reflexive possessive pronominal adjectives are marked with the definite article.

3. English NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns denoting body parts can be translated into Macedonian with NPs composed of nouns only marked with the definite article.
4. English NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns can be translated into Macedonian with NPs composed of nouns that are marked with the definite article and are preceded by the reflexive dative clitic *cu*.
5. English NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns can be translated into Macedonian with NPs composed of nouns and possessive dative clitics.
6. English NPs composed of a possessive adjective, noun, possessive 's and a noun can be translated into Macedonian with a prepositional phrase marked with the definite article.
7. English NPs comprised of a possessive adjective and a noun can be translated into Macedonian with NPs with possessive adjectives and nouns that are not marked with the definite article.

Methodology

The questions addressed in this study's research concern the ways in which NPs comprised of possessive adjectives and nouns are translated into Macedonian. The NPs analyzed for this paper are taken from sample sentences excerpted from children's English literature translated into Macedonian and sentences from a Macedonian book of fairy tales translated into English. The excerpts are taken from the following works of literature:

1. Rowling, J. K. (2000). *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. New York, NY: Scholastic Paperbacks.
2. Раулинг, Џ. К. (2002). *Хари Потер и одајата на тајните* [превод од англиски јазик Благородна Богеска-Анчевска]- Скопје: Култура
3. Михајловски, Д. (2001). *Сиромавиот и чучулигата*: десет македонски волшебни приказни: според мотиви од Марко Цепенков / приказните ги напиша на македонски и ги преведе на англиски јазик Драги Михајловски: јазична редакција на англискиот текст Пол Фостер – Скопје: Каприкорнус

Theoretical framework

Possessive adjectives in English and their relation to the concept of possession and definiteness

According to Langacker (2000), the relationship between 'ownership', 'body-part' and 'kinship' comprise the central categories of the possessive domain as they invoke a clearly defined reference-point relationship. The possessor (Pr) is a human being, and the possessed (Pd) represents entities of his / her immediate surroundings.

Possessive adjectives in English have been discussed by many grammarians. Jespersen viewed it as inexcusable for pronouns to be called adjectives in adjectival function, stating (1975:84) that there is not the slightest reason for tearing asunder *my* and *mine*, or, even worse, *his* in 'his cap was new' and 'his was a new cap' and assigning the same form to two different 'parts of speech', especially as it then becomes necessary to establish the same sub-classes of adjectives as are found in pronouns.

Currently, linguists who subscribe to the structural linguistics approach employ the new concept of “determiner”, in addition to adjectives, encompassing all word-forms that modify nouns, and which, in contrast to adjectives, do not require the use of the article. In English, modifier pronouns such as *my*, *this*, *whose*, *which*, *some*, and *any* belong to this class of grammatical forms. Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:60-61) include *this*, *that*, *my*, and *which* within the class of grammatical forms “Determiners”, while in the other part of their grammar book (1973:100-101) they state that these words are pronouns. However, regarding pronouns, all word-forms called “determiners” are included, referring to the fact that many of the items dealt with have an alternative (*this*, *which*) or exclusive (*my*, *her*) determiner function. Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:102) do not draw a distinction between possessive adjectives and possessive pronouns in English, although they are inserted in the same table of pronouns where there is a clear distinction between “determiner function” and “nominal function”.

On the other hand, Roberts (1954:56) noted that most grammarians consider forms such as *his* and *this*, as used in *his hat* or *this hat*, as pronouns. According to Roberts, it is unacceptable to include words that do not have a nominal function (*their*, *my*) under the label “pronouns”, nor for exceptional modifiers like *the every* to be separated from forms with almost the same meaning and that can also have a nominal function (*this*, *each*).

According to Huddleston and Pullum (2005:109), the term possessive is often used instead of the genitive, especially for pronouns; but it is important to see that the semantic relation between the genitive NP and the following head of the nominal phrase is by no means limited to that of possession. If we consider the following cases, *her father*, *her friends*, *her birth*, *her infancy*, *her anger*, *her lack of money*, *her acceptance of your offer*, *her refusal to compromise*, *her rapid action*, we can see that not one of them permits a natural paraphrase with *possess* in the way that *her car* can be paraphrased as *the car she possesses*.

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:105) claim that English, unlike many languages, also uses possessives regarding parts of the body and personal belongings, as well as in several expressions:

- (1) *He stood at the door with **his** hat in **his** hand.*
- (2) *Mary has broken **her** leg.*
- (3) *Don't lose **your** balance!*
- (4) *They have changed **their** minds again!*

Sweet (1898/1958, II: 73) states that possessive pronouns are used not only subjectively but also objectively, as in *they told me her story* = ‘what was told of her’, not ‘what was told by her’. One of the most important functions of possessive pronouns is to demonstrate possession. This eminent linguist also asserts that possessives can be preceded by the same general adjectives of quantity that can also precede articles, such as *all*, *both*, *half*, *all my time*, *both his eyes*, *half his time*.

Possessive pronominal adjectives in Macedonian

In Macedonian, possessive relations in the domain of NP are expressed by a) modifiers derived from nouns; b) possessive pronominal adjectives; or c) possessive clitics that are morphophonologically identical with dative sentence clitics and, according to Mišeska Tomić

(2006), can be named possessive dative clitics. In Macedonian, possessive pronominal adjectives are as follows: *мој, моја, мое*, can be defined with the definite article: *мојот, мојата, моето, твојот, твојата, твоето*, etc. *негов, неговa, негово, негови – неговиот, неговата, неговото, неговите; нејзин* etc. *наш, наша, наше – нашиот, нашата, нашето, нашите* ; *ваш* etc; *нивен, нивна, нивно, нивни – нивните* according to their relation with the first, second and third person.

Topolinjska (2008:76) states that possessive determiners like *мој, наш, негов*, (my, our, his) determine the referent of the NP regarding another entity, in general, a human, who is related to it by the relation: *possessum* → *possessor*.

Data Analysis and Discussion of Findings

According to the use of possessive adjectives in English and their translation equivalents in Macedonian and the use of the definite article, the analyzed NPs instances are divided into seven groups. Macedonian sentences with NPs whose English translation equivalents are NP constructions composed of possessive adjectives and nouns were analyzed as control groups. The selected examples from the analysis have been discussed in the following groups.

In the first group, NPs in English composed of possessive adjectives and nouns and their Macedonian translation equivalents NPs with possessive adjectives and nouns, as illustrated in examples (5) and (6), were analyzed. The structural difference between the two languages is highlighted by the fact that the possessive adjectives in English are not marked with the definite article, while in Macedonian the possessive pronominal adjectives are marked with the definite article.

- (5) *Dobby has heard of **your greatness**, sir, but of **your goodness**, Dobby never knew...* (HP: 15)

*Доби има слушнато за **ваашата величина**, господине, ама Доби не знаеше ништо за **ваашата добрина**.* (ХП: 16)

- (6) “...everyone thinks he is so smart, wonderful Potter with **his scar** and **his broomstick**...” (HP:50)

„...сите мислат дека е толку паметен, прекрасниот Потер со **неговиот белег** и со **неговата метла**...” (ХП: 47)

In the first control group, Macedonian NPs with possessive pronominal adjectives and nouns and their translation equivalents NPs with possessive adjectives and nouns, are analyzed in (7) and (8):

- (7) *Токму во **нејзината бавча** слетало коњчето.* (СЧ: 72)

*The horse landed right in **her garden**.* (PS: 72)

- (8) *Јас сум **неговата мајка** и таман сега му спремам вечера!* (СЧ: 139)

*I am **his mother**, and right at this moment, I am preparing his dinner!* (PS: 139)

Koneski (1996:305) stated that in Macedonian the possessive pronominal adjectives have an attributive position, and depending on the noun they can use or omit the definite article. According to Topolinjska (2008:75), in Macedonian standard language the determiners are

placed in a preposed position regarding the head of the NP. The referent of an NP is determined by the relation with another entity, usually a person, with which it is connected. Mirkulovska (2008:55) states that the possessive pronominal adjective as an additional preposed member of the NP is a constituent member of the NP, and is marked with the definite article. On the other hand, Toplinjska (2008:87) claims that there are languages where possessive determiners do not occur in one line with markers of definiteness, as in English, for instance, where possessive determiners can be interpreted as markers of definiteness. Minova-Gjurkova (2000:59) states that the definiteness of determiners does not necessarily influence the definiteness of possessive pronominal adjectives, since their definiteness depends on the definiteness of the object of possession. This is the main reason why possessive pronominal adjectives in Macedonian are marked with the definite article.

In the second group, English NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns with Macedonian translation equivalents NPs with reflexive possessive pronominal adjectives and nouns, such as in examples (9) and (10), were examined. Macedonian possessive pronominal adjectives are marked with the definite article.

- (9) *“Dobby almost spoke ill of **his** family, sir...”* (HP: 14)
*„Доби за малку ќе кажеше лоши работи за **својата** фамилија, г-дине.“* (ХП: 15)
- (10) *Otherwise, he was locked in **his** room around the clock.* (HP: 22)
*Другото време го минуваше заклучен во **својата** соба.* (ХП: 22)

The second control group is composed of Macedonian NPs with reflexive possessive pronominal adjectives and nouns and English translation equivalents NPs with possessive adjectives and nouns, as in (11) and (12):

- (11) *Многу се зачудил човекот и одвај можел да поверува на **своите** очи.* (СЧ:47)
*The man was very much in awe and could hardly believe **his** eyes.* (PS: 47)
- (12) *Испратил повик по сите сверови и, за кусо време, сите се насобрале околу **својот** крал.* (СЧ: 104)
*The old man called all the beasts from his kingdom and they soon gathered around **their** king.* (PS: 104)

According to Minova-Gjurkova (2000:59), the reflexive possessive pronominal adjective indicates affiliation towards any person having reference to the subject. Using the reflexive possessive pronominal adjective, only affiliation towards the subject can be expressed. Topolinjska (1997:144) states that the functional distribution of the forms *свој* and *ку* is that they must suggest the referent of the so-called subject syntagma (i.e. the syntagma that is in a relation of grammatical interdependency with the predicate).

In the third group, English NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns denoting body parts translated into Macedonian with NPs composed of nouns only, marked with the definite article, are examined, as in (13) and (14):

- (13) *He wore round glasses, and on **his** forehead was a thin, lightning-shaped scar.* (HP: 4)

- Носеше очила, а на **челото** имаше тенок белег во форма на молња. (ХП:7)*
 (14) *Dobby shook **his head, his eyes** wider than ever. (HP: 17)*
*Доби затресе со **главата**, а **очите** уште повеќе му светнаа. (ХП: 18)*

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:105) claim that English, unlike many languages, also uses possessives with reference to parts of the body. Eckersley and Eckersley (1990:85) claim that the possessive adjectives in English are often used where the definite article would be used in other languages.

The third control group is comprised of Macedonian NPs composed of nouns marked with the definite article and English translation equivalents NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns, as demonstrated in examples (15) and (16):

- (15) *...завршила девојката и го испратила со солзи во **очите**. (СЧ: 138)*
*...the girl ended and parted from him with tears in **her eyes**. (PS: 138)*
 (16) *....крева облаци прашина и ми го замаглува **лицот**. (СЧ: 143)*
*...clouds of dust rise and obscure **my face**. (PS: 143)*

According to Lyons (1999:26), the “possessed” body part, though not unique and identifiable, is referred to by a definite noun phrase.

The fourth group is comprised of NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns and Macedonian translation equivalents NPs composed of nouns marked with the definite article and preceded by the reflexive dative clitic *си*, as analyzed in (17) and (18):

- (17) *Mrs. Dursley gave a small scream and clapped her hands to **her mouth**. (HP: 2)*
*Тетка Петунија писна и **си** ја покри **устата** со дланката. (ХП: 6)*
 (18) *“Tuck **your shirt** in, scruffy!” (HP: 42)*
*Пикни **си** ја **кошулата** во панталоните, бушавко! (ХП: 40)*

The control group of the fourth group is composed of Macedonian NPs composed of an NP marked with a definite article preceded by a reflexive pronoun clitic *си*, and their English translation equivalents are NPs composed of a possessive adjective and noun, as shown in examples (19) and (20):

- (19) *Бидејќи многу јунак и многу сиромавче, еден ден решило да **си** ја побара **среќата**. (СЧ: 57)*
*Being brave and very poor, one day he decided to seek **his fortune**. (PS: 57)*
 (20) *По неколку дена тргнал овчарот да **си** ја бара **невестата**. (СЧ: 57)*
*A few days later, the shepherd set out to look for **his bride**. (PS: 101)*

Mitkovska (2000) states that, in Macedonian, if the given object is closer to the possessor there is a greater possibility for the dative clitic to have a possessive interpretation and to present the affected object. This especially refers to cases relating to body parts, clothes, and close family relations.

In the fifth group, English NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns and Macedonian translation equivalents NPs composed of nouns and possessive dative clitics, as illustrated in (21) and (22), were examined. In Macedonian, possessive dative clitics occur only in nominal phrases with nouns denoting a family of kinship relationships and, as a rule, immediately follow these nouns and apply to them.

- (21) “What does **your dad** do at the Ministry of Magic anyway?” (HP: 30)
 „А, што работи **татко ти** во Министерството?“ (ХП: 30)
- (22) But, dear if he got lost, how could we ever explain to **his aunt and uncle**? (HP: 48)
 Ама, мили, ако се загуби, како ќе им објасниме на **тетка му** и на **тетин му**?
 (ХП: 45)

The sixth control group is composed of Macedonian NPs composed of nouns and possessive dative clitics and English translation equivalents NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns, as displayed in examples (23) and (24):

- (23) Подобро однеси ме кај **татко ми**... (СЧ: 12)
 You better take me to **my father**... (PS: 12)
- (24) **Жена му** силно го одвраќала, ама тој не сакал ни да ја чуе. (СЧ: 21)
His wife tried to dissuade him, but he did not want even to hear about it. (PS: 21)

Minova-Gjurkova (2000:60) states that, in Macedonian, in contrast to all possessive pronominal adjectives, possessive dative clitics can be used. These are used postpositively with family and kinship terms and block the use of the definite article. Mišeska Tomić (2008:25) also confirms that possessive dative clitics, in most cases, denote family and kinship relations.

The sixth group is composed of English NP constructions consisting of a possessive adjective, noun, “genitive” form and noun and their Macedonian translation equivalents are NP constructions consisting of a noun, preposition, and possessive adjective and noun or NP constructions with a noun, preposition, and noun, such as those in (25) and (26). Macedonian NP constructions are marked with the definite article.

- (25) Mr. Vernon had been woken in the early hours of the morning by a loud, hooting noise from **his nephew Harry’s room**. (HP: 1)
 Г-дин Вернон Ситникоски повторно беше разбуден во раните утрински часови од гласното уткање што допираше од **собата на неговиот внук Хари**. (ХП: 5)
- (26) “Give me **my friend’s letters**!” (HP: 19)
 „Врати ми ги **писмата од пријателите**!“ (ХП: 20)

In Macedonian translation equivalents, possessive relationships are expressed with *на*-construction and *од*-construction. Both *на*-construction and *од*-constructions impose the use of the definite article in Macedonian. This is confirmed by the NP constructions in the instances from the control group, as in examples (27) and (28).

- (27) ...само ако ми ги вратите **очите од татко ми**! (СЧ: 64)

- ...only if you give me **my father's eyes** back! (PS: 64)
- (28) *Кога дошло време да се женат, не сакале да се женат пред да го прошиетаат **царството на неговиот татко**.* (СЧ: 167)
*When it came time for them to marry, they first wanted to see **their father's empire**.*
 (PS: 167)

According to Mitkovska (2001), in standard Macedonian the preposition *на* is the accepted norm, but the preposition *од* is an alternative often employed in possessive use because of its conceptual affinity as well as the status of West-Macedonian dialects as a basis for the standard.

The seventh group is comprised of NPs composed of possessive adjectives and nouns, and Macedonian translation equivalents NPs with possessive adjectives and nouns, as in examples (29) and (30). NPs in Macedonian are not marked with the definite article.

- (29) *To **his horror**, the elf burst into tears –very noisy tears.* (HP: 13)
*На **негов ужас**, џуџето прсна на цел глас да плаче.* (ХП: 35)
- (30) *“It’s **your fault** you’ve been up all night.* (HP: 35)
*„**Твој проблем** е што си бил буден цела ноќ.* (ХП: 34)

The seventh control group comprises Macedonian NPs consisting of possessive adjectives and nouns and English translation equivalents NPs with possessive adjectives and nouns, as demonstrated in (31) and (32).

- (31) *Слушај синко, еве јас умирам и тебе те оставам на **мое место** да бидеш чесен и почитуван како што бев јас...* (СЧ: 31)
*Listen to me, son, I am dying and leave you behind in **my place** to be as honest and respected as I was...* (PS: 31)
- (32) *‘Тоа не е **твоја работа**, докторе,’ рекол синот на богатиот.* (СЧ: 36)
*‘That’s none of **your business**, doctor,’ said the rich man’s son.* (PS: 36)

In Macedonian there are cases where possessive pronominal adjectives are not marked with definite articles and, according to Koneski (1996:312), these are the cases when the article is omitted in order for the possessive adjective to be emphasized. For example: *со твоја помош, со негово учество, од твоја рака*, etc.

Conclusion

To sum up, the preceding comparative analysis of English and Macedonian possessive NP constructions highlights the fact that possessive adjectives are used in both languages while a significant difference between the two languages is that possessive pronominal adjectives in Macedonian can be marked with the definite article.

According to Lyons (1999:130), the distinction between “DG (determiner-genitive) languages” and “AG (adjectival-genitive) languages” is that in the first type a possessive has the effect of eliciting a definite interpretation of the noun phrase it modifies and therefore a definite article cannot appear. In the second type, a possessive does not have this effect, and

the article must occur with the possessive in order to attain a definite interpretation (in languages that have an article).

In DG languages, possessives do not co-occur with articles because it is traditionally assumed that they are themselves definite determiners. As we have previously mentioned, a major distinction between Macedonian and English is that possessive pronominal adjectives can be marked with definite articles in Macedonian, while in English possessive adjectives exclude the use of definite articles. In English, the possessive adjective denotes the possessor, serving to indicate its reference to the head of the NP. The use of the definite article is blocked and the possessive adjective has the role of a determiner. In Macedonian the possessive pronominal adjective is marked with the definite article whenever necessary.

According to Mitkovska (2005:208), the English possessive adjective functions as a determiner whereas the Macedonian possessive pronominal adjective functions as a modifier.

Lyons (1999:26) states that in English there are cases of usage with definite noun phrases where the conditions for definiteness do not strictly hold. This use is limited to noun phrases where the head of the noun phrase is one of a small lexical class denoting mainly body parts, clothing, and family and other relationships. This use was illustrated here by the NP constructions in the instances from the fourth group.

In Macedonian the clitic renders the NP definite and therefore does not usually occur with the definite article. In standard Macedonian it does not allow other adjuncts to the same noun. This was demonstrated in the fifth control group with NPs composed of a noun and possessive dative clitic expressing close family relations. These terms have a special prototype meaning in the kinship sub-category that explains their special marking.

The distinction highlighted here between English and Macedonian is also confirmed by the use of the possessive genitive “s” ending with NPs, which determines the NPs and blocks the use of the definite article in English. Conversely, in Macedonian the possessive relation in the excerpted translational equivalents is expressed by using the prepositions *на* and *од*, which impose the use of the definite article in Macedonian.

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OD PRISVOJNIH PRIDEVA U ENGLESKOM DO NJIHOVIH PREVODNIH EKVIVALENTA U MAKEDONSKOM (SA AKCENTOM NA UPOTREBI ODREĐENOG ČLANA)

Sažetak

Cilj ovog rada e da uporedi razlike i sličnosti između engleskih prisvojnih prideva i makedonskih prevodnih ekvivalenta i da naglasi upotrebu određenog člana u makedonskom u prevodnim ekvivalentima. Istraživanje je sprovedeno na uzorke rečenice iz engleskiog literaturnog dela prevedenog na makedonskom i obrnuto uzorke rečenice ekscerpiranih iz makedonskog literaturnog dela

prevedenog na engleskiom. Prevodni ekvivalenti u makedonskom jeziku su analizirani u okviru koncepta određenosti i njenog značenja. Upotreba prisvojnih prideva u engleskom i makedonskom predstavlja interesantno jezičko pitanje zahvaljujući činjenici da engleski i makedonski nisu genetski povezani jezici, a s druge strane imaju tipoloških sličnosti. Ova analiza pokazuje i razlike između engleskog i makedonskog jezika u pogledu upotreba sredstava za izražavanje kategorije prisvojnost i određenost zahvaljući činjeci da kod prisvojnih prideva u engleskom kao prisvojni determinatori određeni član se ne upotrebljuje, za razliku od makedonskog gde prisvojni pridevi mogu biti određeni sa upotrebom određenog člana.

Ključne reči: imenska fraza, engleski prisvojni pridev, makedonski ekvivalent, prevod, određeni član