

A Contrastive Analysis of English and Albanian Open Interrogative Clauses in Richard Dawkins's "God Delusion"

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study is to come up with reliable data concerning open interrogative clauses in English and Albanian. The research provides a basis for contrast between these languages taking into account main and subordinate open interrogative clauses structure, function, usage frequency, types of interrogative words and other differences regarding translation from one language to another.

For the purpose of analyzing and finalizing a conclusion correspondent to the conducted research, three hundred and fifty clauses are extracted from Richard Dawkins's "The God Delusion" which is translated in Albanian by Bardh Rugova and are analysed regarding differences and similarities between these languages in clause level. As far as data analysis is concerned, for each and every analyzed clause a comparison is drawn regarding their structure in both languages, the question word used, the function of the question word or phrase, the frequency of each question word or question phrase. All identified differences and similarities are presented using charts and in tabular form.

As far as research findings are concerned, 71 percent of open interrogative clauses in English are main clauses and 29 percent subordinate, whereas 81 percent of Albanian open interrogative are main and 19 percent subordinate ones. When it comes to their structure, the vast majority of main open interrogative clauses in English (85 percent) start with a question word which is followed by a verb, whereas, 89 percent of main Albanian open interrogative clauses start with a *wh*-word and the subject comes after the Predicator. The *wh*-element in main open interrogative clauses in English functions as an Adjunct in 58 percent of the clauses and 52 percent of *wh*-clauses in subordinate open interrogative clauses in English function as Internal complement of verb. The *wh*-element functions as an Adjunct in 56 percent of main open interrogative clauses in Albanian and as an Internal complement of verb in 50 percent of subordinate clauses in Albanian. The interrogative word (*wh*-word) that prevails in English main and subordinate clauses is *what* (39%/62%), on the other hand, the one that prevails in Albanian main clauses is *përse*- *why* (23%) and *çfarë*- *what* (33%) in subordinate clauses.

In addition, a number of open interrogative clauses in English changed their type into declarative clauses when translated to Albanian, other open interrogative clause of English were translated as closed interrogative clauses in Albanian, and there is a number of English open interrogative clauses which were not translated in Albanian.

Keywords: *open interrogative clauses, main clauses, subordinate clauses, structure, function, frequency, English, Albanian.*

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