

Albanian is the sole survivor of the Illyrian branch of the Indo-European family and is spoken by approximately 5 million people, 3 million of which live in Albania. There are two primary dialects, Tosk (south) and Geg (north) that are mutually intelligible and differ only on a few points: intervocalic /n/ in Geg is rhotacized in Tosk; the contrastiveness of vocalic length and nasality; there are some vowel quality differences; and the formation of the future tense. Tosk was declared as the basis for the official standard, but Geg continues to be used as a literary language, particularly in the former Yugoslavia. As well there is third dialect only spoken by a few thousand people in Southern Italy and Greece, called *Arbëresh* whose phonological system is quite different.

The speaker in this recording is a 33 year-old man from Shkodres, Albania. It is unclear which dialect (Tosk or Geg) the speaker's variant is closest to, as it exhibits characteristics of both.

Albanian Consonant Phonemes:

Stops:	p		t		c	k
	b		d		ç	g
Affricates:			ts	tʃ		
			dz	dʒ		
Fricatives:	f	θ	s	ʃ		h
	v	ð	z	ʒ		
Nasals:	m		n		ɲ	
Liquids:		l ɫ				
		r r				
Glides:					j	

It is characteristic of the Geg variant of Albania for /c/ and /ç/ to be realized as [tç] and [dʒ] respectively - such is the case with this speaker. In this speaker [ɫ] occurs in addition to [r] and [r], and not in entirely predictable environments. In other than word initial position, /ð/ becomes [ɫ]. [ɲ] occurs before velar stops.

Albanian Vowel Phonemes:

i y		u
e	ə	o
	a	

There is a great deal of allophonic variation among the vowels - there exist lax counterparts to all the tense vowels that occur in non-stressed and/or closed syllables. In Geg, word final schwas are deleted when the preceding syllable is stressed and that syllable is subsequently lengthened. In this speaker, the vowel is not normally lengthened, but instead remains tense

within the closed syllable. The Geg dialect, unlike the Tosk dialect, contrasts both length and nasality in the vowels. In this speaker, however, neither seem to be phonemic although both do occur. The tense / lax distinction seems to have replaced long / short, and nasality appears to occur in free variation.

The status of the diphthongs is somewhat ambiguous - except for a few schwa diphthongs, they seem best analysed as two segments.

I. Spontaneous Speech

II. Word Lists

Consonants:

1.	[p]	[pɔpɔt]	popull	'people'
2.		[hapa]	hapa	'steps'
3.		[hap]	hap	'step'
4.		[piɔk]	pjek	'bake'
5.	[b]	[bi]	bir	'son'
6.		[tsubi]	cubi	'the robber'
7.		[tsub]	cub	'robber'
8.		[biɔr]	bjerr	'lose'
9.	[t]	[tona]	tona	'our'
10.		[tɔytet]	qytet	'city'
11.		[sət]	sot	'today'
12.		[tiɔtri]	tjetri	'another'
13.	[d]	[det]	det	'sea'
14.		[dʒadɛ]	xhade	'street'
15.		[lind]	lind	'born'
16.		[dɛ]	dje	'yesterday'
17.	[c]	[tɔytet]	qytet	'city'
18.		[grɛtɔi]	Greqi	'Greece'
19.		[lakurɪtɔ]	lakuriq	'bat'
20.		[fɔtɔ'a]	faqja	'face, cheek'
21.	[ʃ]	[dʒum]	gjumë	'sleep'
22.		[madʒɪk]	magjik	'magic'
23.		[lidʒ]	ligj	'law'
24.	[k]	[kufi:]	kufi	'border'
25.		[sɛkund]	sekond	'second'
26.		[mʊstɔk]	mustak	'moustache'
27.	[g]	[gu]	gur	'rock'
28.		[zɔg]	zog	'bird'
29.		[ruga]	rruga	'the street'
30.	[ts]	[tsuts]	cucë	'girl'
31.		[mitsa]	mica	'the cat'
32.		[dats]	dac	'tomcat'
33.	[dz]	[dʒɛhɛ]	xehë	'nervous'
34.		[dʒidʒɔtɔn]	xixëllon	'sparkles'

35.		[ndziər]	nxjerr	'extract'
36.	[tʃ]	[tʃerɪ]	çerdhe	'daycare'
37.		[vetʃant]	veçantë	'special'
38.		[vetʃ]	veç	'except'
39.	[dʒ]	[dʒade]	xhade	'street'
40.		[kɔnɔp]	konop	'rope'
41.	[f]	[fe:]	fe	'faith'
42.		[kafɛ]	kafe	'coffee'
43.		[stuf]	stufë	'stove'
44.		[fial]	fjalë	'word'
45.	[v]	[vɔtər]	votër	'hearth'
46.		[revist]	revistë	'journal'
47.		[evrɔp]	Evropë	'Europe'
48.	[θ]	[θik]	thikë	'knife'
49.		[vθvɔt]	uthull	'vinegar'
50.		[dʰaθ]	djathë	'cheese'
51.	[ð]	[ðom]	dhomë	'room'
52.		[livatɛ]	livadhe	'the meadow'
53.		[livat]	livadh	'meadow'
54.		[liljɛ]	lidhje	'union'
55.	[s]	[sət]	sot	'today'
56.		[pasi]	pasi	'visit'
57.		[piəs]	pyes	'ask'
58.		[siətɔt]	sjetull	'ampit'
59.	[z]	[zoi]	zojë	'prominant woman'
60.		[syza]	syza	'eyeglasses'
61.		[pak]	pakë	'a little'
62.	[ʃ]	[ʃum]	shumë	'much'
63.		[teʃa]	tesha	'clothes'
64.		[ʃɛʃ]	shesh	'place' (in a city)
65.		[tɛəʃɛ]	qoshe	'the corner'
66.	[ʒ]	[ʒavɔɪ]	zhavor	'gravel'
67.	[h]	[zehe]	xehe	'nervous'
68.		[hɔt]	hollë	'thin'
69.		[ʃə]	shoh	'see'
70.		[pə.krahɛ]	përkrahje	'support'
71.	[m]	[mik]	mik	'friend'
72.		[emən]	emën	'name'
73.		[dam]	dam	'harm'
74.		[miəgɔt]	mjegull	'fog'
75.	[n]	[nɔt]	natë	'night'
76.		[dzuni]	gjuni	'the knee'
77.		[jan]	janë	'they are'
78.	[ŋ]	[nɛ.ɪzi]	njerëzi	'people, mankind'
79.		[brɪnjɔk]	binjakë	'twins'
80.	[ŋ]	[haŋgər]	hanger	'hunger'
81.	[l]	[lulɛ]	lule	'flower'
82.		[tuli]	tuli	'the flesh'
83.		[kɔl]	kalë	'horse'

84.		[lulja]	lulja	'the flower'
85.	[t]	[tɔj]	lloj	'any kind'
86.		[yti]	ylli	'the star'
87.		[mɔt]	mollë	'apple'
88.		[vaɫja]	vallja	'the dance'
89.	[r]	[radʰo]	radio	'radio'
90.		[deri]	deri	'up to, until'
91.		[biɹ]	bir	'son'
92.		[r'ɛp]	rjep	'flay'
93.	[r]	[rug]	rrugë	'street'
94.		[buri]	burri	'man, husband'
95.		[ɔbɔr]	oborr	'courtyard'
96.		[riɔt]	rrjedh	'flow'
97.	[j]	[je:t]	jetë	'life'
98.		[kri:jim]	krijim	'creation'
99.		[fʃaj]	fshâj	'sigh'

Vowels:

1.	[i]	[it]	idhët	'bitter'
2.		[mik]	mik	'friend'
3.		[nĩ]	nji	'one'
4.		[miɹ]	mirë	'good'
5.		[hi]	hî	'ashes'
6.	[y]	[yt]	yt	'your' (sg.)
7.		[dyt]	dyll	'wax'
8.		[dy]	dy	'two'
9.		[ynə]	ynë	'our'
10.		[dry]	dry	'lock-bolt'
11.	[e]	[ɛɛ]	edhe	'and, also, even'
12.		[get]	get	'puts out, produces'
13.		[tre]	tre	'three'
14.		[pɛ:s]	pesë	'five'
15.		[ðɛn]	vên	'put, place'
16.	[ə]	[nɛn]	nën	'under'
17.		[nɛ:]	në	'in, at'
18.	[u]	[ul]	ul	'lower, bend'
19.		[kʊf]	kush	'who?'
20.		[ku]	ku	'where'
21.		[unə]	unë	'I'
22.		[dzũ]	gjû	'knee'
23.	[o]	[ɔsɛ]	ose	'either, or'
24.		[pɔɹ]	por	'but'
25.		[pʊ]	po	'yes'
26.		[jɔn]	jonë	'our'
27.	[a]	[asɟjɛ]	asgjë	'nothing'
28.		[dal]	dal	'go out, come out'
29.		[pa]	pa	'see'
30.		[pɔɹ]	parë	'first'

31.	[zəg]	zog	'bird'
32.	[biɛ]	bie	'bring'
33.	[vi]	vij	'come'
34.	[krytaɪ]	kryetar	'chairman'
35.	[vaw]	vau	'ford'
36.	[aj]	ai	'he, that, it' (m)
37.	[bɔj]	bâj	'make, do'
38.	[muzew]	muzeu	'the museum'
39.	[blej]	blej	'buy'
40.	[frɔ̃j]	fryj	'blow'
41.	[batɔj]	botoj	'publish'
42.	[dua]	dua	'I want'

Length Contrasts:

1.	[rit]	ritë	'grown'
2.	[rit]	rit	'grow!' (imp)
3.	[ðe]	dhe	'earth'
4.	[ɛðɛ]	edhe	'and'
5.	[le]	le	'born'
6.	[le]	le	'let'
7.	[guɪ]	gur	'rock'
8.	[guɪɛt]	guret	'rocks'
9.	[drɔ̃nə]	dronë	'they fear'
10.	[drɔ̃n]	dron	'he fears'
11.	[ʃum]	shum	'sum'
12.	[ʃum]	shumë	'much'

Lateral Velarization Contrasts:

1.	[baɦi]	balli	'the forehead'
2.	[dʰali]	djali	'the boy'
3.	[baɦə]	ballë	'forehead'
4.	[dʰal]	djalë	'boy'
5.	[vala]	vala	'the wave'
6.	[vaɦə]	valle	'dance'

Nasalization Constrasts:

1.	[ãft]	âsht	'he, she, it is'
2.	[ãft]	asht	'bone'
3.	[bɔj]	bâj	'make, do'
4.	[bajrak]	bajrak	'flag'
5.	[frɛj]	frëj	'bridles'
6.	[brɛj]	brej	'gnaw'
7.	[hu]	hû	'pole'
8.	[ju]	ju	'you' (pl.)

Consonant Clusters:

1.	[tʃɔɪ]	çfarë	'what'
2.	[tʃmɔj]	çmoj	'value'
3.	[pɕɛ]	pɕe	'why, because'
4.	[mɔra]	mora	'carry'
5.	[nda]	nda	'either, or'
6.	[zbut]	zbut	'soften'
7.	[z:jɔt]	zgjat	'lengthen'
8.	[fʃij]	fshij	'sweep'
9.	[ʃipni]	Shqipni	'Albania'
10.	[ʃig]	shlligë	'viper'
11.	[tkɔr]	tkurr	'draw together, contract'
12.	[ndziɔr]	nxjerr	'extract'
13.	[ndzariɛ]	ngjarje	'happens'

References:

- Camaj, Martin. 1984. Albanian Grammar. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz.
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