Topic: A Linguistic Study of the English Allomorphs il, ir, im, in and their Albanian equivalence

Tema: Un estudio lingüístico de los alomorfos ingleses il, ir, im, in y su equivalencia albanesa

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ABSTRACT

Although the Albanian and English languages both belong to the Indo-European family of languages, they are obviously different in terms of their morphological structure, word-formation system, especially in the type of prefixation, which is the focus of our study. Allomorphs, which can be found in both languages, are widely known as specific types of morphemes which are either morphologically or phonologically conditioned. Thus, the English prefix in- has allomorphs such as im-, ir-, il depending on the first sound of the base to which the prefix is added. If the first sound is p, b, m, the realization is im as in words like improper, imperfect, imbalance etc., but ir- with the sound /r/ as in irregular, and il- with the sound /l/ as in illegible. This paper aims at comparing the paradigmatic group of formations with prefixes il, ir, im, in in both English and Albanian. The study analyses the linguistic, morphological and semantic features they share and those that make them different by comparing and illustrating. The study is based on a practical lexical glossary.

Keywords: word-formation, allomorphs, prefixation, semantic features, comparison.

RESUMEN

Aunque las lenguas albanesa e inglesa pertenecen a la familia de lenguas indoeuropeas, son obviamente diferentes en cuanto a su estructura morfológica, sistema de formación de palabras, especialmente en el tipo de prefijación, que es el foco de nuestro estudio. Los alomorfos, que se encuentran en ambas lenguas, son ampliamente conocidos como tipos específicos de morfemas que están condicionados morfológica o fonológicamente. Así, el prefijo inglés in- tiene alomorfos como im-, ir-, il dependiendo del primer sonido de la base a la que se añade el prefijo. Si el primer sonido es p, b, m, la realización es im como en palabras como impropio, imperfecto, desequilibrio, etc., pero ir- con el sonido /r/ como en irregular, e il- con el sonido /l/ como en ilegible. El objetivo de este trabajo es comparar el grupo paradigmático de formaciones con prefijos il, ir, im, tanto en inglés como en albanés. El estudio analiza los rasgos lingüísticos, morfológicos y semánticos que comparten y los que los diferencian comparándolos e ilustrándolos. El estudio se basa en un glosario léxico práctico.

Palabras clave: formación de palabras, alomorfos, prefijación, rasgos semánticos, comparación.

1 INTRODUCTION

Interest in wordformation processes is probably as old as interest in language itself. Many of the questions that scholars are asking nowadays were also being asked in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. (Bauer,1983). Thus, the study of affixation and especially prefixation is of great interest to the linguists as it affects the vocabulary enhancement in all methods it is presented.

This paper aims to study the processes of prefixation, as a very important derivation sub type used in the English language system by providing an overview of the English prefixes, their most important features and classifications. Basically, the study treats English Allomorphs *il*, *ir*, *im*, *in* and their Albanian equivalence as part of crucial prefixation issues in the Albanian and English language by comparing and contrasting in both languages.

In order to understand the meaning of the term ‘allomorph’, we should take into consideration the internal structure of the word, that is the ‘morpheme’, that is the smallest meaningful unit in a language. The morphemes are divided into free morphemes, which are independent and can stand alone and/or within a word and bound ones, which can not stand alone and consequently always occur in combination with basic forms. The adding of these bound morphemes to the basic forms is called affixation. As a rule, prefixes are bound morphemes which precede the base or the free morphemes. Prefixation is a special affixation formation sub-type among suffixation and prefixo-suffixation. In Albanian language it is an important derivation sub-type, but not as suffixation. The prefixes of the English language are classifying; In most cases there is no change of the word class involved. (Kortmann 1999). As for their meaning and function, linguists notice that there are living prefixes, productive prefixes and fossilised ones in certain words.

It is difficult to define the exact number of prefixes in English language, though there are more prefixes than suffixes. OED registers 167 prefixes, but according to Marchand (1969) there are 65 such.

1.1 DEFINITION OF ALLOMORPHS

Thus, the combining form *allo-* from Greek *allos* ‘other’ is used in linguistic terminology to denote elements of a group whose members together constitute a structural unit of the language (allophones, allomorphs). An allomorph is defined as a variant phonetic form of a morpheme, or, a unit of meaning that varies in sound and spelling without changing the meaning. Different phonetic representations of the same morpheme are known as **allomorphs** of that morpheme. If a certain morph is a member of another morpheme, then it becomes allomorph of that morpheme. Thus, the term **allomorph** explains the comprehension of phonological variations for specific morphemes. Allomorphs as such do not occur at random, but they are variant forms of a certain morpheme either are phonetically or grammatically conditioned and thus predictable.

In order to investigate the linguistic features of the negative allomorphs *im-* *in-* *il-* – *ir-* we need to rely on the viewpoints of phonology, as what lies in the center of language study is phonetics and phonology. (Tazaki, 1993). Phonological analysis of the negative prefixes in question is inevitable for us to recognize the distinctive features. According to Selkirk, English affixes have long been analyzed with respect to their phonological properties. (1982). Certain phonological features of the above mentioned allomorphs are explained from a viewpoint of assimilation process and stress shift.

In phonology the assimilation process is a phonological change caused by a following consonant. As far as prefixation is concerned, the rule is that the final sound of a prefix becomes more like the first sound of a root, if the articulation of the two sounds is quite close. (Chomsky and Halle, 1968).

Prefix **in-** has its three allomorphs as this prefix assimilates to /im/ before bilabials /p/, /b/ and /m/, to /il/ before alveolar /l/, and to /ir/ before alveolar /r/, and these are reflected in the spellings *im-*, *il-* and *ir-* respectively. Thus, it is obvious that the choice between *in-*, *im-*, *il-*, *ir-* is phonologically conditioned to the features of the word these morphemes attach to. There are some examples below to illustrate:

- (1) Bilabial Stop /p/, /b/
 /p/ **in-** + perfect /possible → imperfect / impossible, **in-** + polite → impolite
 /b/ **in-** + balance → imbalance, **in-** + becile → imbecile
- (2) Bilabial Nasal /m/
in- + mature → **immature**, **in-** + mortal → **immortal**
- (3) Alveolar Lateral Liquid /l/ **in-** + legal → **illegal**, **in-** + legible → **illegible**, **in-** + licit → **illicit**
- (4) Alveolar Retroflex Liquid /r/ **in-** + rational → **irrational**, **in-** + relevant → **irrelevant**

1.2 THE PHONOLOGICAL ASSIMILATION PROCESS OF PREFIX IN-

Concerning assimilation processes and allomorphs, prefix *in-* shows quite a conspicuous tendency for assimilation according to Lieber. (Lieber, 2010) Phonologists assume that native speakers of a language have a single basic mental representation for each morpheme. Regular allomorphs are derived from the underlying representation using phonological rules. (Lieber, 2010: 159)

According to the online etymology dictionary, the negative prefix *In-* is the word-forming element meaning "not, opposite of, without" (also *im-*, *il-*, *ir-* by assimilation of *-n-* with following consonant, a tendency which began in later Latin), and originally it comes from Latin *in-* "not," cognate with Greek *an-*, Old English *un-*.¹

The negative prefix *in-* is pronounced /in/ both before alveolar-initial bases such as *decent* and before vowel-initial bases *alienable*, whereas the other allomorphs are only pronounced before certain consonant-initial bases as explained above.

¹ <https://www.etymonline.com/word/in->

According to Lieber a nasal consonant assimilates to the point of articulation of a following consonant, and to the point and manner of articulation of the consonant if it is a liquid. (Lieber, 2010: 160)

In addition, the prepositional prefix *in-* meaning 'in' or 'into' also gives rise to assimilation as in *illumine* (*ndricoj*) or *immerse* (*perfshihem*) because of the same phonological environment as the negative **in-**. In other words, all cases of *in-* prefixes assimilate to the first consonant of roots under the phonological environment for assimilation. As a result, the following assimilation rule will apply, if the assimilation process applies with every *in-* words, as:

in- (meaning both 'not' and 'in' or 'into') + **word** → **derived word**

However, the phonological rule of assimilation mentioned above does not always apply. So, the prefixes do not always assimilate to the following first sound of roots if the roots are of **native origin**. For example, in the following words the rule of assimilation does not apply:

inroad
inlet
inmate
inboard
inborn
inbound
inbreed
inlay
inland
input.

As we can see, *the prepositional prefix in-*, does not assimilate to the roots of *native origin*. The following derivational process is therefore responsible for tracing the words above:

Prefix **in-** (meaning 'in' or 'into') + word (of native origin) → derived word;

Eg: Prefix **In-** (meaning **into** + **board** (word of native origin, Old English) = **inboard**

Prefix **In-** (meaning **into** + **land** (word of native origin, OE) = **inland**²

Prefix **In-** (meaning **into** + **born** (word of native origin, OE) = **inborn**³ etc..

Thus, it is obvious that in most cases, the occurrence of assimilation with prepositional **in-** is restricted to the type of prefixation to roots of Latin or French origin. As far as the negative **in-** is concerned, it assimilates even to roots of English origin. As a result, linguists believe that the negative *in-* is not productive any more, and that it is rare for a prefix to be attached to English words in order to create new words. (Quirk, et al. 1972)

² <https://www.etymonline.com/>

³ <https://www.etymonline.com/>

1.3 THE EQUIVALENCE OF IN-, IM-, IL-, IR- IN ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

Although the Albanian and English languages both belong to the Indo-European family of languages, they are obviously different in terms of their morphological structure, word-formation system, especially in the type of prefixation, which is the focus of our study.

The Albanian language as an open language has accepted in its lexicon many foreign words from different languages. In the context of borrowings/loanwords, the fact of penetration of a large number of foreign prefixes should also be emphasized. The Albanian linguist Podgorica collected and analyzed about 77 borrowed prefixes, although some of them are very difficult to distinguish without first knowing how these words were initially formed in the foreign language.⁴

In addition, another Albanian well-known linguist Çeliku in his grammar book "Practical grammar of Albanian language" lists a group of borrowed prefixes, which are sometimes replaced by other Albanian prefixes; such as: *a-, an-, i-, anti-, de-, dez-, dis-, pro-, in-, pan-, inter-, auto-, super-, poli-nti-, de-, dez-, dis-, pro-, in-, pan-, inter-, auto-, super-, poli-*.⁵

In terms of linguistic system of borrowings/loanwords, the Albanian language has many cases when it preserves its formative element which acts as a synonym with the borrowed affix. The word is borrowed as a whole and it is used as such replacing a pre-existing word. This occurrence in the English language does not usually prevail.

Thus, from the English language it is not borrowed just the prefix **in-** as we can see below but the whole word along with it. Besides, there is another Albanian word respectively as a synonym:

illegal - *illegal*; *joligjor*
illegitimate – *ilegjitim*, *i parregullt*
irrational – *iracional*, *jo racional*, *i pa arsyeshem*
informal – *informal*, *jo zyrtar*
inorganic- *inorganik*, *jo organik*
intolerant – *intolerant*; *jotolerant*

Another characteristic of Albanian prefixes is their influence on each-other, sometimes by substituting each-other when occurs that a borrowed prefix substitutes a native one with the same meaning. In English this occurrence is not evident.

For instance, the adjective irrational in Albanian is translated *iracional* (preserving the borrowed negative prefix *in-* from English along with whole word). Besides, the adjective irrational is also translated by using the Albanian prefix *jo* and *pa pa*. When translated by means of Albanian prefix **jo**, the word *rational* is also preserved from English. In the other case, when translated by means of the Albanian prefix **pa**, it is translated in Albanian as a whole, prefix along with the word.

⁴ F. Podgorica, Parashitesat e huazuara, në: *Kongresi i Manastirit*, Shkкодër, 1969, f. 65 - 79.

⁵ M.Çeliku, M.Karapinjalli, R.Stringa "Gramatika praktike e gjuhës shqipe", Tiranë, 2007, f.321.

- (1) **irrational** – *iracional*,
 jo racional, i pa arsyeshëm
 (2) **irrational** – *jo racional*
 (3) **irrational** – *i pa arsyeshëm*

Morphologically, the placement of an affix in English has a lot to do with its etymology, while in Albanian an affix tends to be prefixed to local roots as often as possible, although there are cases when they are prefixed to words by which they enter the language.

1.3.1 List of negative prefixed words in English and Albanian language

Il- {il} before l –il; allomorph of Prefix In-

illegal {i'li:gəl} *adj.* illegal, I palígjshëm; i kundërlígjshëm;
illegality {i'li'gæliti} *n.* Palígjshmëri; ilegalitet.
illiterate {i'litərit} *adj, n.* Analfabët. ♦ I paditur; injorant; i pashkolluar.
illiterateness {i'litəritnis} *n.* Analfabetizëm.
illogical {i'lodzikəl} *adj.* I palogjikë; i palogjikshëm.
illogicality {i,lodzi'kæliti} *n.* Palogjishmëri; mungësë
illusionless{i'lju:ʒənlis} *adj.* I pailuzion.
illegibility {i,ledzi'biliti} *n.* Palexueshmëri; të qënë i palexueshëm.
illegible {i'ledzi-bl} *adj.* I palexueshëm; i padeshifrueshëm
illegitimacy {i,li'dzitiməsi} *n.* Palígjshmëri; jashëligjshmëri.
illegitimate¹ {i,li'dzitimiti} *adj.* parrégullt; i paautorizuar.
illegitimise {i,li'dzitiməiz} *v.* Nxjerr jashtë lígjit; shpall të jashtëligjshëm.
illiberal {i'libərəl} *adj.* Mendjengushtë; zemërngushtë; shpirtvógël. ♦ I pashkolluar; i paedukuar;
illiberality {i,libərəliti} *n.* Mendjengushtësi; zemërngushtësi. ♦ Mosmirësjëlje; mungësë edukate
illicit {i'lisit} *adj.* I palígjshëm; i jashtëligjshëm; i ndaluar.
illicitness {i'lisitnis} *n.* Palígjshmëri; jashëligjshmëri.
illimitable {i'limitəbl} *adj* I pakufishëm; i pakufizuar; i pakufi; i paanë
illiquidity {i,li'kwiditi} *n.* Pakonvertueshmëri në pará.
illiteracy {i'litərəsi} *n* ♦ Analfabetizëm. ♦ Padíje; injorancë.
illiterate {i'litərit} *mb, n* ♦ Analfabët. ♦ I paditur; injorant; i pashkolluar.
illiterateness {i'litəritnis} *n.* Analfabetizëm.
illogical {i'lodzikəl} *mb* I palogjikë; i palogjikshëm.
illogicality {i,lodzi'kæliti} *em* Palogjishmëri; mungësë logjike.
illusionless{i'lju:ʒənlis} *mb* I pailuzion.

Im- {im} before b, m, p –im; allomorph of prefix In-

imbalance {imbə'ləns} *n.* zhbalancim; çekuilibrim.
immaculacy {i'mækjuləsi} *n.* Papërlyeshmëri; panjollësi.
immaculate {i'mækjuliti} *adj.* ♦ I papërlyer; i panjollë.
immaterial {imə'tiəriəl} *adj.* ♦ I palëndët; jolëndór.
immaterialisation {imə'tiəriəlaizə'zeiʃən} *n.* Çmaterializim.
immaterialise {imə'tiəriəlaiz} *v.* Çmaterializoj.
immaterialism {imə'tiəriəlizm} *n.* Imaterializëm.
immaterialist {imə'tiəriəlist} *n.* Jomaterialist; imaterialist.
immateriality {imə'tiəriəli} *n.* ♦ Palëndësi. ♦ Mungësë lídhje
immature {imə'tjuəd} *adj* ♦ (*Fryt*) i papjekur; i paarrirë; i pabërë.
immaturity {imə'tjuri} *n.* Papjekuri.
immedicable {i'medikəbl} *adj.* I pamjekueshëm; i pashërueshëm.
immemorial {imi'mo:riəl} *adj.* I lāshtë; shumë i vjetër; që s'mbáhet mend.
Immense{i'mens} *adj.* i pamásë; i paanë; i pafund; i stërmádh; shumë i madh.

immiscibility {i,misi'biliti} *n.* Papërziëshmerí.
immiscible {i'misibl} *adj* *kim* I papërziëshëm.
immitigable {i'mitigðbl} *adj* I pazbútshëm; i papajtuëshëm.
immobile {i'moubail} *adj* I ngúlët; i palëvizshëm.
immobility {,imou'biliti} *n* Ngultësi; palëvizshmëri.
immobilisation {i,moubilai'zeiðn} *n* ♦ Ngujím; bllokím;
immobilise {i'moubilaiz} *v.* ♦ Ngujój; paralizój
immoderate {i'modðrit} *adj* I pamásë; i teprúar; i papërmbájtur..
immodest {i'modist} *adj* ♦ I patúr; i patúrshëm; i pacípë. ♦ Mendjemádh. ♦ I pahíjshëm..
immodesty {i'modisti} *n* ♦ Paturpësi. ♦ Mendjemadhësi. ♦ Pahijeshí.
immoral {i'morðl} *adj* ♦ I pandërshëm; i pamorál; i shthúrur; imoral
immorality {,imo'rælití} *n.* Imoralitet; shthúrje morále.
immortal {i'mo:tðl} *I adj, n* I pavdekshëm; i pamórt; i pavdíre; i amshúar.
immortality {,imo:'tælití} *n* Pavdekësi; pavdekshmëri; përjetësi; amshím.
immovability {i,mu:vð'biliti} *n.* ♦ Palëvizshmëri. ♦ Patundshmëri; qëndrueshmëri.
immovable {i'mu:vðbl} *I adj* ♦ I ngúlët; i palëvizshëm. ♦ I patúndur; i préré.
impartible {im'pa:tibl} *adj* I pandáshëm.
impassable {im'pa:sðbl} *adj.* ♦ I pakalúeshëm;
impassibility {im,pæsi'biliti} *n.* Patundshmëri.
impassible {im'pæsiðl} *adj.* I patúndur; i mëvëshët; i pandjëshëm
impassive {im'pæsiðl} *adj.* ♦ I pandjëshëm
impatience {im'peiðns} *n.* ♦ Padurím; shqetësim.
impatient {im'peiðnt} *adj.* ♦ I padurúar
impenetrable {im'penitrðbl} *adj.* ♦ I padepërtúeshëm; i pakalúeshëm.
impenitent {im'penitðnt} *mb, n.* ♦ I papendúar. ♦ I pandrëqshëm.
imperceptible {,impð:'septibl} *adj.* ♦ I paperceptúeshëm; i pakápshtëm
imperfect {im'pð:fikt} *I adj.* I papërsosur; i papërkýer; i pakrýer; i mánqët.
imperfection {,impð'fekðn} *n.* ♦ Papërsosuri; e mëtë; mangësi (*në punë*). ♦ Paplotësi.
imperfectionness {,impð'fektnis} *n.* Papërsosuri.
imperformable {im'pð:fðrðbl} *adj* I pashpúeshëm.

in- Negative prefix

inaccessibility {,inæk,sesi'biliti} *n.* ♦ Paarritshmëri.
inaccessible {,inæk'sesibl} *adj.* i paarritshëm;
inaccuracy {in'ækjurðsi} *n* Pasaktësi.
inaccurate {in'ækjurit} *adj.* I pasáktë; i gabúar.
inacquaintance {,inð'kweintðns} *n.* Mosnjóhje.
inaction {in'ækðn} *n.* ♦ Mosveprím; plogëshí; amullí.
inactivate {in'æktiveit} *v.* Çaktivizój.
inactive {in'æktiv} *adj* ♦ Mosveprúes..
inactivity {inæk'tivití} *n* ♦ Mosveprím; çaktivizím; plogëshí; amullí..
inadaptability {,inð,dæptð'biliti} *n* Papërshtatshmëri; mospërpúthje; mospërshtátje
inadaptable {,inð'dæptðbl} *adj* I papërshtátshëm; që nuk përshtátet (*në kushte të caktuara*).
inadequacy {in'ædikwðsi} *n.* ♦ Pamjaftueshmëri
inadequate {in'ædikwit} *adj.* ♦ I pamjaftúeshëm; i paplótë.
inadhesive {,inðd'hi:siv} *adj* I pangjítshëm;
inadmissibility {,inðd,misi'biliti} *n* Papranueshmëri
inadmissible {,inðd'misibl} *adj* I papranúeshëm; i palejúeshëm..
inanimation {in,æni'meiðn} *n* Të qénët pa jétë (pa shpirt, pa frýmë).
inanimation {,inð'niðn} *n* ♦ mjek Mungësi ushqími; këpútje për mungësi ushqími.
inanity {i'nænití} *n* ♦ Kotësi. ♦ Absurdítet;
inappeasable {,inð'pi:zðbl} *adj* ♦ I paqetësúeshëm; i pashúeshëm.
inappellable {,inð'pelðbl} *adj* drejt I paapelúeshëm.
inapplicability {in,æplikð'biliti} *n* Pazbatueshmëri.
inapplicable {in'æplikðbl} *adj* I pazbatúeshëm..
inapposite {in'æpðzit} *adj* (*Citat etj.*) i pavénd; i papërshtátshëm.
inappositeness {in'æpðzitis} *n* Të qénët pa vëndvënd; papërshtatshmëri.
inappreciable {inð'pri:iðbl} *adj* I paperceptúeshëm; i përfíllshëm;.

inappreciation {inɒ,pri:ʃi'eɪʃən} *n* Mosvlerësím; shpërfillje.
inappreciative {inɒ'pri:ʃi'ɒtɪv} *adj.* Mosvlerësúes; shpërfillës.
inappreciativeness {inɒ'pri:ʃi'ɒtɪvnɪs} *n.* Të qénët mosvlerësúes (shpërfillës).
inaprehensibility {inæpri,hensi'biliti} *n.* Pakuptueshmëri.
inattention {inɒ'tenʃən} *n.* Pavëmëndje; mungësë vëmëndjeje; hutím.
indefatigable {indi'fætɪgəbl} *adj.* I palódhshëm; i palódhur; i papërtúeshëm.
indefeasibility {indi,fi:zi'biliti} *n.* drejt Paparashkrueshmëri.
indefeasible {inid'fi:zibl} *adj.* drejt I paparashkrúeshëm. -ly ndajf Në mënyrë të paparashkrúeshme.
indefectible {,indi'fektɪbl} *adj.* I patëmëtë; pa defekte; i përsósur.
indefensibility {,indi,fensɒ'biliti} *n.* Pambrojtshmëri (e një teze, e një teorie).
indefensible {,indi'fensɪbl} *adj.* ♦ e pambrójtshme.
indefinable {,indi'fainəbl} *adj.* ♦ I papërcaktúeshëm; i papërkufizuar.
indefinite {in'defɪnɪt} *adj* ♦ I papërcaktuar; i paqartë.
indelible {in'delɪbl} *adj* ♦ I pashlyeshëm; i pashúeshëm.
indelicacy {in'delikəsi} *n* ♦ Pahijeshí; mungësë tákti.
indelicate {in'delɪkɪt} *adj* I patákt; i pahíjshëm; (fjalë) të rënda;
indigency {in'dɪdʒənsi} *n* Varfëri; skámje; mjerím.
indigent {in'dɪdʒənt} *adj.*, *n* I váfër; i këpútur; skámës.
indigested {indi'dʒestɪd} *adj.* (Ushqim) i patrétur; i pablúar; i rëndë.
indigestibility {,indi,dʒesti'biliti} *n.* Patretshmëri (e ushqimit).
indigestible {,indi'dʒestɪbl} *adj.* (Ushqim) i patrétshëm; i pablúeshëm
indigestion {,indi'dʒestʃən} *n* ♦ mjek Mostrétje; dispepsí.
indirect {,ɪnd (a)'ɪrekt} *adj* ♦ dhe gjuh I zhdrejtë; indirekt.
indubitability {in,dʒubɪtə'biliti} *n.* Padyshueshmëri; siguri.
ineducable {in'edʒukəbl} *adj* I paedukúeshëm.
inefficacious {,inefi'keɪʃəs} *adj* I paeféktshëm; i padobíshëm; i kótë.
inefficaciousness {,inefi'keɪʃəsnɪs} *n.* Paefektshmëri; padobishmëri; kotësi (e përpjekjes).
inefficacy {in'efɪkəsi} *n.* Paefektshmëri.
inefficiency {,ini'fiʃənsi} *n.* ♦ Padobishmëri; kotësi
inefficient {,ini'fiʃənt} *I adj.* I paeféktshëm; që s'jep (që s'ka) rendimént; I paáftë; i pazóti.

Ir- (before -r)

irresolubility {,iri,zolju'biliti} *n.* Pazbërthyeshmëri.
irresolute {i'rezɒlu:t} *adj* I pavendósur; i ngúrrët.
irresolution {i,rezɒ'lu:ʃən} *n.* Pavendosmëri; ngurrím.
irresolvable {,iri'zolvəbl} *adj* ♦ I pazgjidhshëm.
irrespective {,iris'pektɪv} *I mb* I paváur; që nuk merr parasysh
irresponsibility {iris,pɒbsə'biliti} *n.* ♦ Papërgjegjshmëri; papërgjegjësi
irresponsible {iris'pɒnsəbl} *I adj* ♦ I papërgjegjshëm.
irresponsive {,iris'pɒnsɪv} *adj.* ♦ Moskokëçarës.
irrefragability {i,refrəgə'biliti} *n.* PakundrshtueshmëriPakundërshtueshmëri; pamohueshmëri.
irrefragable {i'refrəgəbl} *mb* (Deklaratë) e pakundërshtúeshme; e pamohúeshme.
irrefragible {,iri'frændzɪbl} *mb* ♦ (Ligj) i pashkëlshëm. ♦ fiz (Rreze) e papërthýeshme.
irrefutability {i,refjutə'biliti} *n.* Pakundërshtueshmëri (e së vërtetës).
irrefutable {,iri'fju:təbl} *adj.* I pakundërshtúeshëm; i padiskutúeshëm
irregular {i'regju:l} *I adj.* ♦ I parrégullt; e çrrégullt. shthurur.
irrepressible {iri'presəbl} *adj* I papërmbájtshëm; i pampóshtshëm.
irreproachable {iri'proutəbl} *adj* I paqortúeshëm; i patëmëtë..
irreproachableness {iri'proutəblnɪs} *n.* Paqortueshmëri.
irresistibility {irizistə'biliti} *adj.* Papërmbajtshmëri; papërballueshmëri.
irresistible {iri'zistəbl} *adj.* ♦ I papërballúeshëm. ♦ I pakundërshtúeshëm; bínðës.

2 METHODS AND DISCUSSIONS

This is a comparative study based on a well-chosen linguistic corpus aiming to compare the paradigmatic group of formations with the negative prefix in- and its allomorphs *il-*, *ir-*, *im-*, both in English and Albanian. The study analyses the linguistic, morphological and semantic features they share

and those that make them different by comparing and illustrating. The study is based on a practical lexical glossary in order to illustrate and observe prefixed words occurrences from English to Albanian. Results were observed and conclusions were drawn based on principles of correspondence in terms of prefixed words comparatively in both languages.

In the paper we have extracted a list of prefixed words with the negative prefix *in-* and its allomorphs and their equivalence in Albanian basing on 'The English-Albanian dictionary of derived prefixed words', (based on the English-Albanian Dictionary with 120,000 words of the author Pavli Qesku, Albanian lexicographer).⁶

Based on a detailed analysis of a well-chosen linguistic corpus that is 'The English-Albanian dictionary of derived prefixed words' resulted that the Albanian equivalence of English negative allomorphs *in-*, *im-*, *il-*, *ir-* are grouped as following:

Prefix In- and its allomorphs are translated in the Albanian language:

- a. By means of Albanian prefixes with privative meaning: **a-**, **mos-**, **pa-**, **s-**, **x-**, as in:
irresponsive {iris'ponsiv} *adj.* ♦ **Moskokëçarës**. (Mos-)
irresponsible {iris'ponsɔbl} **I** *adj* ♦ **I papërgjegjshëm**. (pa-) etc.
- b. Prefixes with antonymic meaning: **ç-**, **sh-**, **z-**, **xh-**
imbalance {imbælɔns} *n.* **zhbalancim** (**Zh-**)
inactivate {in'æktiveit} *v.* **Çaktivizoj**. (Ç-)
insane {in'sein} **I** *adj.* ♦ **I çmendur**
- c. Words with antonymic meaning are formed even by means of prefix: **jo-** **z-**, **zh-**.
immaterialist {imɔ'tiðriðlist} *n.* **Jomaterialist** (Jo-)
- d. By means of the **borrowed prefix + root** from English.
immorality {imo'rælitɪ} *n.* **imoralitet**;
intolerant {in'tolɔrɔnt} *adj.* **intolerant**; **i padurueshëm**;
informal {in'fo:məl} *adj.* ♦ **informal** ; **Jozyrtar**.

The same prefix is preserved even in Albanian, the borrowed prefix along with the borrowed word is used and assimilated according to the Albanian morphological and spelling rules, as in:

Informal (informal)
Intolerant (intolerant)
Ilegjitim (illegitimate)
Inefiçent (inefficient)
Imoral (immoral)

However, it should be also emphasized the fact that apart from the borrowed prefix, the Albanian language provides its own authentic prefixes which can easily substitute the loanword in English as clearly

⁶ Qesku, P. Fjalor Anglisht – Shqip, Tiranë, 2002

shown in the list of words above. Thus, for the words above, borrowed along with the negative prefix *in-* from the English language, there are other Albanian prefix of native origin which can easily substitute the borrowed ones as in:

Informal (informal) ----- jo zyrtar
Intolerant (intolerant), ----- jo tolerant, i papajtueshem
Ilegjitim (illegitimate), ----- i paligjshem
Ineficient (inefficient), ----- i pa afte, i pa zoti
Imoral (immoral). ----- i pa ndershem

3 CONCLUSIONS

This paper aims to study the processes of prefixation, as a very important derivation sub-type used in the English language system by providing an overview of the English prefixes, their most important features and classifications. This study has in its focus the English Allomorphs *il*, *ir*, *im*, *in* and their Albanian equivalence as part of crucial prefixation issues in the Albanian and English language by comparing and contrasting in both languages.

The term ‘allomorph’ was defined as the combining form *allo-* from Greek *allos* ‘other’ is used in linguistic terminology and to denote elements of a group whose members together constitute a structural unit of the language (allophones, allomorphs). An allomorph is defined as a variant phonetic form of a morpheme, or, a unit of meaning that varies in sound and spelling without changing the meaning. Different phonetic representations of the same morpheme are known as allomorphs of that morpheme.

The study also treats the phonological assimilation process of negative prefix *In-* with its allomorphs *im-*, *il-*, *ir-* as well as their equivalence in Albanian. Characteristic features are treated by studying them comparatively in both languages.

In conclusion, both languages do have the potential to create new words by means of the prefixation process, by which a wide range of new words are formed in English and Albanian languages. We should also mention here the great contribution of English language as a global language in the enrichment of the Albanian language through borrowings, including prefixes. There are various foreign prefixes incorporated into the Albanian language, which has increased the number of Albanian words in different aspects of life. In terms of negative prefix *in-* and its allomorphs *im-*, *il-*, *ir-*, it should be also emphasized the fact that apart from the borrowed prefix, the Albanian language provides its own authentic prefixes which can easily substitute the loanword in English as clearly shown in the list of words above.

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