

NEWMARK, LEONARD, PHILIP HUBBARD & PETER PRIFTI. *Standard Albanian: A Reference Grammar for Students*. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 1982. Pp. xvii, 347. \$45.00, cloth.

Students of Albanian have long been hindered by two factors: the paucity or unavailability of materials and the existence of conflicting standards based on different dialects. The second hindrance has been effectively removed by the creation of a unified literary language since the adoption of the literary language of Albania by the Albanians of Yugoslavia in 1968 and by the steady progress in codification and practice made in the past decade. The former hindrance is significantly alleviated by *Standard Albanian (SA)*, which is the first grammar of Albanian to be published in English since the codification of the unified literary language.

In the preface (p. v), the authors explain that their work is intended for use by students of the modern standard as a reference work in conjunction with a textbook and a dictionary. *SA* does not attempt to present new linguistic analyses nor to compile alternative forms from the periods preceding the unified standardization. The authors also state that their work is to a large extent an adaptation and translation of the second volume of the normative grammar being published by the Albanian Academy of Sciences. (This volume, subtitled *Morfologjia*, "morphology," is the only one published in its final form. The volume on syntax has only appeared in a preliminary form while that on phonology has not appeared.)

*SA* consists of twelve chapters. The first contains a reprinted "Sketch of the Country and People" (pp. 1-6) and a brief outline of phonology and orthography (pp. 7-20). The remaining eleven chapters follow the traditional division into parts of speech used in *Morfologjia* with certain differences which reflect the modern structuralist approach of *SA* that constitutes its major adaptive modification of the very traditional *Morfologjia*. Among the most striking organizational differences are the treatment of enclitic pronouns in the chapter entitled "Verbs and Verbal Phrases," which is second and occupies almost a third of the book (pp. 21-119) and the treatment of gradation, comparison, and qualification in one separate chapter (pp. 233-47). In *Morfologjia*, enclitics are treated in the

sixth chapter, "Pronouns," which is followed by "Verbs," which occupies somewhat less than a quarter of the book. Gradation, etc., is distributed between "Adjectives" and "Adverbs."

The translation and presentation of the copious example sentences are very well done. The grammatical points being illustrated are clearly indicated by the use of boldface type in both Albanian and English and the translations combine a very high level of idiomatic accuracy with indications of literal meaning by the use of parentheses. Unfortunately, the work is not entirely free of errors and shortcomings. Thus, for example, *at-llarë* means "horses," not "fathers," *xhaxha-llarë* should read *xhaxha-llarë*, "uncles" (both p. 143), and the relationship of Albanian to Illyrian, Thracian, and other ancient languages of the Balkans is still a matter for debate among "serious scholars" and not the settled issue it is presented as being on page 6. Also, while I. Duro and R. Hysa's *Fjalor shqip-anglisht*, "Albanian-English dictionary" (Tirana: 8 Nëntori, 1981. Pp. 510. 20,000 headwords) appeared after *SA* was completed, the excellent *Grammaire de l'albanais moderne* by Henri Boissin (Paris: published by the author, 1975) should have been mentioned in the list of selected works of interest to the serious student (pp. vi-vii). In view of the fact that the authors give the necessary address for obtaining Kiçi's dictionaries (they are only available from the author), they might also have mentioned that recent Albanian books can be obtained from Albania Report (P.O. Box 912, New York, NY 10008), which is one of the very few sources in this country for these books, and the only one I know of that does not charge an exorbitant mark-up. In this context, it could be noted that \$45.00 is a rather steep price for a student to pay, especially for a supplementary work, but this was surely beyond the authors' control.

Given the audience for whom *SA* is explicitly intended, it succeeds admirably. The student can learn not only about Albanian but also about linguistics in general from this clear and thorough work. Also, given the state of Albanian studies, this audience is precisely the one that should be addressed.