Adjectival articles in Albanian

Based on

HECTOR CAMPOS'S
System (2009)

Complex system of adjectival articles (AdjArt)

❖ **adjectives (class-2) follow the noun they modify**

❖ **the Adj Art always precedes class-2 articles**

❖ **agrees in gender, number, case and definiteness with the noun it modifies**

Agreement in gender and number

NOMINATIVE CASE	MASCULINE	FEMININE
singular	libr-i *(i) ri	shtepi-a *(e) re
	book-the "i" new	house-the "e" new
plural	libr-a-t *(e) rinj	shtëpi-të *(e) reja
	book-s-the "e" new	houses-the "e" new

Agreement in case

CASE	MASCULINE, SINGULAR ADJECTIVAL ARTICLES			
nominative	**Libr-i** book-the (m,sg,nom)	**i ri** "i" new (m,sg)	është is	këtu. here
	'The new book is here.'			
accusative	Unë shikoj **libri-n** i see book-the (m,sg,acc)		e "e"	**ri.** new (ms,sg)
	'I see the new book.'			
genetive	Un lexoj një faqe të i read a page of		**libri-t** book-the (m,sg,gen)	**të ri.** "të" new (m,sg)
	'I read a page of the new book.'			

Agreement in definiteness

Unë shikoj **libr-a-t**	e	rinj.
i see book-s-the (m,pl,acc,+def)	"e"	new (m,pl)
'I see the new books.'		
Unë shikoj disa **libr-a**	të	rinj.
i see some book-s (m,pl,acc,-def)	"të"	new (m,pl)
'I see some new books.'		

Adjectival articles

	Singular				Plural	
	MASC		FEM		MASC/FEM	
	[-def]	[+def]	[-def]	[+def]	[-def]	[+def]
Nom	i	i	e_1	e_1	të	e_2
Gen	të	të	të	së	të	të
Dat	të	të	të	së	të	të
Abl	të	të	të	së	të	të
Acc	të	e_2	të	e_2	të	e_2

Hector Campos's System (2009)

❖ **four basic types: "i", "e1", "e2", "së"**

❖ **when none of the above forms is licensed → last resort strategy: "të" (adopted from Trommer 2001, 2002)**

❖ **"e2" and "së" are subject to the**

"immediate c-command requirement" →

have to be c-commanded by and adjacent to the noun inflected with the definite article (definite noun)

❖ **if it fails: last resort "të" is used**

Specification of "i" and "e$_1$"
"i" [-fem, +sg, nom]
"e$_1$" [+fem, +sg, nom]
unspecified for definiteness

Vajz-a	e bukur	është	në oborr.
girl-the	"e" beautiful	is	in garden
'The beautiful girl is in the garden.'			
Në oborr	është	një vajzë	e bukur.
in garden	is	a girl	"e" beautiful
'There is a beautiful girl in the garden.'			

Other instances of "e" are of type "e$_2$"
1.) plural, nominative, definite nouns both masculine and feminine
[-sing, nom, *def] → unmarked for gender, specified for number, case and has to be <u>adjacent and c-commanded</u> by the noun inflected with definite article

2.) accusative, definite nouns
[acc,*def] specified for case and definiteness, unmarked for number and gender if no adjacency → "të"

Djem-të	**e** bukur	janë	në oborr.
boys-the	"e" beautiful	are	in the garden
'The beautiful boys are in the garden.'			
Vajz-a-t	**e** bukura	janë	në oborr.
Girl-s-the	"e" beautiful	janë	në oborr.
'The beautiful girls are in the garden.'			
Lexoj	libri-n	**e**/*të ri.	
I-read	book-the	"ë" new	
'I read the new book.'			

Possessives, adjectives with specifiers, demonstratives, conjunction of adjectives, predicative adjectives
→ NO ADJACENCY →resort to "të"

Lexoj	libri-n	tim *e/të ri.	
I-read	book-the	my "të" new	
'I read my new book.'			
Ata janë	student-ë-t	e urtë.	
those are	student-s-the-nom	"e" quiet	
Those are the quiet students.			
Ata janë	student-ë-t	më *e/ të urtë	(të class-ës).
those are	student-s-the-nom	most "të" quiet	"të" class-the-gen)
Those are the most quiet students of the(ir) class.			

After demonstratives the noun is not inflected for definiteness bare noun → last resort "të"

Ata student-ë	*e/ të mirë	studiojnë	shumë.
Those student-s	"të" good	study	much
'Those good students study a lot.'		→ **bare noun** → no inflection → no adjacency → last resort "të"	

However, when the noun is interpreted as topic or old information → the noun is inflected with the definite article→ Adj Art is "e"

Unë	i takova	ata student-ë-t	e rinj.
I	them met	those student-s-the	"e" new
'I met those new students.'			

**Conjunction of adjectives →
adjacency not fulfilled →
nominative case: e_1 → no change
accusative case: e_2 → last resort "të"**

e_1	Vajz-a	e mirë	(dhe) e sjellshme	studion shumë.
	girl-the	"e" good	(and) "e" well-behaved	studies much
	'The good and well-behaved girl studies a lot.'			
e_2	Shikoj vajzë-n	e mirë	(dhe) *e/të	sjellshme.
	I-see girl-the-acc	"e" good	(and) "të"	well-behaved.
	'I see the good and well-behaved girl.'			

Phi- features of adjectival articles
def*: requires an adjacent noun inflected with the definite article to c-command them (immediate c-command)

adjectival article	agreeing noun	missing phi-features
"i"	[-fem, sg, nom]	-
"e1"	[+fem, sg, nom]	-
"e2"	[-sg, nom, def*]	gender
"e2"	[acc, def*]	gender, number
"së"	[+fem, +sg, marg, def*]	case
"të"	elsewhere	

Why adjacency?

❖ **Adjectival articles are agreement morphemes on adjectives attached to the left**

❖ **Hector Campos assumes Trommer's Distributive Morphology (2001, 2002) → adjectival articles in Albanian are vocabulary items inserted into abstract syntactic heads**

❖ **Distributive Morphology → allows for late lexical insertion to be sensitive to syntactic context**

- ❖ **full set of phi-features → free of adjacency requirement**

- ❖ **missing phi-features → cliticizing**

- ❖ **acquires missing features by cliticizing to the adjacent noun inflected with the definite article**

- ❖ **"së" acquires genetive, ablative or dative case (defines marginal case)**

- ❖ **IF NO ADJACENCY AND**
- ❖ **NO FULL SET OF PHI-FEATURES** → **the last resort allomorph "të" is spelled out**

Secondary predication - apparent problem for Campos's system

E gjeta	vëlla-në	e semurë.
him I-found	brother-the	"e" sick
'I found my sick brother.'	the adjective's function is: **modification**	
E gjeta	vëlla-në	të semurë.
him I-found	brother-the	"të" sick
'I found my brother sick.'	the adjective's function is: **predicate**	

►"e2" and "të" should be in complementary distribution
►Adj Art adjacent to definite noun → why "të"?

CAMPOS' assumes that secondary predication involves VP-shells (following Larson (1988) and Redford (2004))
►Even <u>copies of moved elements block</u> cliticization
► Evidence that it is a <u>syntactic</u> rather than PF-process (phonetic, phonological)

[_{VP} **gjeta**	[_{DP} **vëlla-në**	[_{AP} **e semurë.]]]**
him I-found	**brother-the**	**"e" sick**
'I found my sick brother.'	**the adjective's function is: modification**	
[_{VP} **gjeta**	[_{VP} **vëlla-në** ~~**gjeta**~~	[_{AP} **të semurë.]]]**
him I-found	**brother-the**	**"të" sick**
'I found my brother sick.'	**the adjective's function is: predicate**	

CONCLUSION

ADJECTIVAL ARTICLES		
full set of phi-features	missing phi-features	no phi-features
"i", "e_1"	"e_2", "së"	"të"
free of adjacency condition	require adjacency	last resort, if adjacency requirement fails
	cliticalization → acquire missing phi-features	

FALEMINDERIT PËR VËMENDJEN TUAJ

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

References

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