THE USE OF PO [AFTER] AND POSLE [AFTERWARDS]
IN THE NEWSPAPER SUB-STYLE OF THE
MACEDONIAN STANDARD LANGUAGE

Assistant professor Violeta Januševa
Faculty of Education, Bitola
violetajanuseva@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

In the Macedonian standard language, po [after] and posle [afterwards] are
two different lexical units which have their own meaning and specific uses.
They also differ in regard of the word class in which they belong, that is, po
[after] is a preposition and posle [afterwards] is an adverb. In the newspaper
sub-style these two different lexical units are often incorrectly interchanged,
because they are considered synonyms and, therefore, they are incorrectly used.
Taking into consideration the basic meaning of the adverb posle [afterwards]:
potoa, po nekoe vreme [then, after some time], the paper is based on the premise
that the interchange of these two different lexical units is done on the basis of
the meanings of the preposition po [after] that are connected with time. The
analysis of the written material, i.e. the electronic editions of several daily
newspapers is expected to prove that the previously stated premise is correct.
The analyzed material demonstrates that, in this case, the incorrect use, i.e. the
incorrect interchange, appears as a result of the unfamiliarity with the meanings
of the two lexical units. At the same time, it emphasizes the role of the
proofreaders in the correction and also in the final formation of the written text.

Key words: po [after], posle [afterwards], usage

INTRODUCTION

The deviation from the norm of the Macedonian standard language is evident
in all aspects of human life and activity, and in all functional styles of the

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language. In the newspaper sub-style of the Macedonian language, especially in the daily newspapers which must reflect the standard norm of the language by rule, there are a great number of inconsistencies on every linguistic level. Regarding the vocabulary, the most common inconsistencies appear as a result of the unfamiliarity with the lexical meaning of certain native words, and also as a result of the unfamiliarity with the rules for their incorporation in a syntagm, which has an influence on the character of the noun phrase on syntactic level. The incorrect interchange of po [after] and posle [afterwards] in the newspaper sub-style is reflected on the daily spoken practice, in which the same incorrect interchange is present, as well.

Prepositions are function words that belong to the group of closed-class words. They depict various relationships between two or more nouns in a sentence, and also relationships of the action expressed by the verb in regard of its additions. Their basic meaning is connected with spaciousness, which is evident in almost all of the prepositions of the Macedonian language. Prepositions are not deprived of the idea about spaciousness which is stimulated by their separate meaning. However, prepositions gain their complete meaning when they unify with nouns. In regard of the structure, the preposition po [after] is a simple preposition (Koneski, 1987: 507–532).

On the other hand, adverbs are content words that belong to the group of open class words. They most often modify the action expressed by the verb, providing information about time, place, manner, and so on (sometimes they can also modify adjectives, nouns, and even other adverbs) (Koneski, 1987: 343–353). Even though it is emphasized that adverbs are words that mostly do not change their form, and that the only adverbs that have comparative and superlative form are the adverbs which provide information about quantity and manner, it should also be mentioned that the adverb of time posle [afterwards] is slightly different than the other adverbs of time, because it has comparative and superlative forms: poposle [more afterwards] and najposle [the most afterwards].

In the Macedonian standard language, po [after] and posle [afterwards] are two different lexical units which have their own meaning and specific uses. They also differ in regard of the word class in which they belong, that is, po [after] is a preposition and posle [afterwards] is an adverb. In the newspaper sub-style these two different lexical units are often incorrectly interchanged, because they are considered synonyms and, therefore, they are incorrectly used. Taking into consideration the basic meaning of the adverb posle [afterwards]:

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potoa, po nekoe vreme [then, after some time], the paper is based on the premise that the interchange of these two different lexical units is done on the basis of the meanings of the preposition po [after] that are connected with time. The analysis of the written material, i.e. the electronic editions of several daily newspapers is expected to prove that the previously stated premise is correct. The analyzed material demonstrates that, in this case, the incorrect use, i.e. the incorrect interchange, appears as a result of the unfamiliarity with the meanings of the two lexical units. At the same time, it emphasizes the role of the proofreaders in the correction and also in the final formation of the written text.

METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

In light of the paper’s objective, the meanings of the preposition po [after] and the adverb posle [afterwards], that are excerpted from the Tolkoven rečnik na makedonskiot jazik – Monolingual dictionary of the Macedonian language (TRMJ, 2008: 122–123; TRMJ, 2008: 359) are taken into consideration. The examples used as an illustration of the incorrect use, i.e. of the interchange of the two lexical units are excerpted from the electronic editions of the following daily newspapers (only for 2015): „Nova Makedonija“ – NM [New Macedonia] (18.1.2015, 27.3.2015, 19.4.2015, 15.5.2015, 16.6.2015, 18.6.2015, 26.6.2015, 14.7.2015, 6.8.2015, 7.8.2015, 31.7.2015); „Utrinski vesnik“ – Uv [Morning newspaper] (20.7.2015, 22.7.2015, 25.7.2015, 26.7.2015, 27.7.2015, 31.7.2015, 3.8.2015, 6.8.2015, 7.8.2015, 9.8.2015, 10.8.2015, 12.8.2015, 13.8.2015); „Vest“ – Vs [News] (16.8.2015, 14.8.2015, 5.8.2015, 4.8.2015, 27.7.2015, 23.7.2015, 15.7.2015, 14.7.2015, 3.7.2015, 23.6.2015, 10.6.2015, 20.5.2015, 3.5.2015, 24.4.2015, 20.4.2015); „Večer“ – V [Evening] (19.8.2015, 20.8.2015, 18.8.2015, 17.8.2015, 16.8.2015, 16.5.2015). The analysis consists of reference to certain meaning of the two mentioned lexical units, and examples about their incorrect use. In some cases, the translation of the examples has the same order of the elements as the original because that is relevant for the subject being discussed. Thus, in these cases, the provided translation may seem unusual to a native speaker of the English language.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following part contains the results of the research, the analysis of the examples and the discussion.
A) The meaning of the preposition po [after] that is connected with time. In the Tolkoven rečnik na makedonskiot jazik [Monolingual dictionary of the modern Macedonian language] (TRMJ, 2008: 122–123) there are ten different meanings for the preposition po [after] that are connected with: spaciousness (which is the basic meaning), time, manner, goal, reason, characteristic, means of realization of something, kind of activity, closeness, and multiply in mathematics. In regard of the meaning that is connected with time, the preposition po [after] has the following additional specification: a) podocna od nešto (nastan, praznik, vremenski period i sl.) [later than something (an event, holiday, period of time and so on)] and b) podolgo vremetraenje, prodolžitelnost na dejstvoto [longer duration of time, continuance of the action.]. In the analyzed material from the newspaper sub-style, there are numerous examples in which the adverb posle [afterwards] is incorrectly used instead of the preposition po [after], on the basis of the first listed meaning of the preposition po [after] that is connected with time (a): ... okolu 3 časot posle polnokj ... [... around 3 o’clock afterwards midnight ...] (NM, 18.1.2015); ... posle povtorenoto sudenje ... [... afterwards the repeated trial ...], ... posle otfrlanjeto na presudata ... [... afterwards the rejection of the verdict ...] (NM, 19.4.2015); utre posle ova intervju ... [... tomorrow afterwards this interview...] (NM, 18.6.2015); ... posle denešnata pres konferencija ... [... afterwards today’s press conference...], ... posle povekje od tri meseci ... [... afterwards more than three months ...] (NM, 15.5.2015); ... posle 120 minuti ... [... afterwards 120 minutes ...] (NM, Uv, 6.8.2015); ... posle 16 godini ... [... afterwards 16 years ...] (NM, 7.8.2015); ... posle tolku godini ... [... afterwards so many years ... ] (NM, 31.7.2015); ... posle oficijalnoto potpišuvanje ... [... afterwards the official signing ...] (NM, 16.6.2015); ... posle šesti meseci ... [... afterwards six months ...] (Uv, 13.8.2015, 10.8.2015); ... posle dva meseci ... [... afterwards two months ...] (Uv, 13.8.2015, V, 19.8.2015); ... posle reformite vo obrazovanieto ... [... afterwards the reforms in education ...], ... posle bankarskite krizi ... [... afterwards the bank crises ...] (Uv, 9.8.2015); ... posle konsultaciite ... [... afterwards the consultations ...] (Uv, 7.8.2015); No, posle ovie merki ... [However, afterwards these measures ...] (Uv, 31.7.2015); ... posle lanskite izmeni ... [... afterwards the last year’s changes ...] (Uv, 3.8.2015); Posle nastapot ... [Afterwards the performance ... ] (Uv, 26.7.2015); ... posle 20 meseci ... [... afterwards 20 months ...] (Uv, 25.7.2015); ... posle samoubistveniot napad ... [... afterwards the suicidal attack ...] (Uv, 22.7.2015); ... posle dogovorot ... [... afterwards the agreement ...] (Uv, 20.7.2015); ... posle
9 časot [... afterwards 9 o’clock] (V, 19.8.2015); ... posle čistjenje ... posle doagjanje vo dopir ... [<... afterwards cleaning ... afterwards coming in contact with...>] (V, 20.8.2015); ... posle Kopá Amerika ... [<... afterwards Copa America ...>] (V, 20.8.2015); ... posle nekolku meseci ... [<... afterwards few months ...>] (V, 20.8.2015); ... posle 15 godini ... [<... afterwards 15 years ...>] (V, 20.8.2015); ... posle faulot ... [<... afterwards the foul ...>] (V, 18.8.2015); ... posle venčavkata ... [<... afterwards the wedding ...>] (V, 17.8.2015); ... posle triumfot ... [<... afterwards the triumph ...>] (V, 17.8.2015); ... posle ruskoto veto ... [<... afterwards the Russian veto ...>] (V, 16.8.2015); ... posle rabota [<... afterwards work>] (Vs, 16.8.2015); ... posle naporno vežbanje ... [<... afterwards the hard training ...>] (Vs, 14.8.2015); ... dva dena posle katastrofálnata poplava ... [<... two days afterwards the catastrophic flood ...>] (Vs, 5.8.2015); Posle podolgo težok period ... [<... afterwards longer difficult period ...>] (Vs, 4.8.2015); ... posle vakvata negova reakcija ... [<... afterwards this kind of reaction by him ...>] (Vs, 15.7.2015); ... posle Nova godina ... [<... afterwards New year ...>] (Vs, 15.7.2015); ... posle rušenjeto ... [<... afterwards the demolition ...>] (Vs, 14.7.2015); ... posle vikendov [<... afterwards this weekend ...>] (Vs, 3.7.2015); ... posle sekoj meč ... [<... afterwards every match ...>] (Vs, 24.4.2015); ... posle samoproglasuvanja na ... [<... afterwards the self-declaration of ...>] (Vs, 20.4.2015); ... posle smrtta na Muhamed ... [<... afterwards Mohamed’s death ...>] (Vs, 23.7.2015). The examples from the daily newspapers prove that, in all of the cases, the adverb posle [<... afterwards>] is incorrectly used instead of the preposition po [<after>] on the basis of one of the two listed meanings that are connected with time. Thus, the incorrect substitution of the preposition po [<after>] with the adverb posle [<... afterwards>] is done on the basis of the first meaning of the preposition po [<after>] that is connected with time: a) podocna od nešto (nastan, praznik, vremenski period i sl.) [later than something (an event, holiday, period of time and so on)].

Special attention should be given to the following example: Posle šolja čaj ... [<... afterwards a cup of tea ...>] (Vs, 10.6.2015). Namely, this example is not correct, because the adverb posle [<... afterwards>] is incorrectly used instead of the preposition po [<after]]. If the preposition po [<after>] is put on the place of the adverb posle [<... afterwards>], we would have the following dependent clause: Po šolja čaj ... [<After a cup of tea ...>]. Without a wider context, it could be understood that this example refers to the meaning of the preposition po [<after>]

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that is connected with spaciousness g: na vtoro mesto, zad nekogo ili nešto [in the second place, behind someone or something]. On the other hand, in a wider context, it is clear that, we actually have the first meaning of the preposition po [after] that is connected with time: a) podocna od nekoj nastan [later that an event]. Thus, after the preposition po [after], there should be gerund of the following type: pjenjeto or konsumiranjeto [the drinking or the consuming], and then the following part should be added: na šolja čaj [of a cup of tea]. Because of the limited space, this type of sentences (without a wider context, i.e. without gerund) are often found in the newspaper sub-style: ...

Further, in the analysed material from the newspaper sub-style, there are not examples in which the adverb posle [afterwards] is incorrectly used instead of the preposition po [after], on the basis of the second listed meaning of the preposition po [after] that is connected with spaciousness (in this case with order): na vtoro mesto, zad nekogo ili nešto [in the second place, behind someone or something]. In the analysed material, there are numerous examples in which the adverb posle [afterwards] is incorrectly used instead of the preposition po [after] on the basis of the mentioned meaning that is connected with spaciousness: Kako pozitiven
primer posle komunalnoto pretprijatie Tetovo ... [As a positive example afterwards the communal company Tetovo ...] (NM, 14.7.2015); ... LDP beše, za manku, posle VMRO ... [... LDP was, almost, afterwards VMRO ...] (Uv, 3.8.2015); ... e vitora najgolema svetска organizacija posle OON [... is the second largest worldwide organization afterwards OON ] (V, 16.5.2015); Posle niv sledat advokati ... [afterwards them, come the lawyers ...] (Vs, 27.7.2015).

C) Posle [afterwards]. In the Tolkoven rečnik na makedonskiot jazik [Monolingual dictionary of the Macedonian language] (2008: 359), there are seven meanings for the adverb posle [afterwards]. Its basic meaning is the following: potoa, po nekoe vreme [then, after some time]. In the analysed material there are examples in which the adverb posle [afterwards] is correctly used: A posle? E posle kje plačeme ... [And afterwards? Well, afterwards we will cry ...] (NM, 27.3.2015); I posle nekoj ... [And afterwards someone ...], Pa, ti posle ... [Well, afterwards you ...] (NM, 26.6.2015); ... ostanuva da se vidi dali posle kje se reši da zamine ... [... it only remains to be seen if afterwards he will decide to leave ... ] (Uv, 12.8.2015); ... pa posle da dobijam drva ... [... and afterwards I will get firewood ...] (Uv, 9.8.2015); ... A posle ... [... And afterwards ...] (Uv, 31.7.2015); ... kako igrač, a posle kako trener ... [... as a player, and afterwards as a coach ...] (Uv, 27.7.2015); ... pa, posle da se gleda ... [... thus, afterwards to be seen ...] (Uv, 20.7.2015); Pa posle tie pari ... [and afterwards that money ...] (Vs, 14.8.2015).

CONCLUSION

The analyzed material proves the previously stated premise. Namely, in the written material from the sphere of the newspaper sub-style, the incorrect substitution of the preposition po [after] with the adverb posle [afterwards], is mostly done on the basis of the first meaning of the preposition po [after] that is connected with time: a) podocna od nešto (nastan, praznik, vremenski period i sl.) [later than something (an event, holiday, period of time and so on)], and not very often on the basis of the meaning of the preposition po [after] that is connected with spaciousness. Further, in the analyzed material there are also examples in which the adverb posle [afterwards] is correctly used.

In this sense, it is emphasized the need for dedicating more attention to the correct use of these two lexical units, and, at the same time, the role of the proofreaders in the correction and the final formation of the written text, because these incorrect models are gradually and massively becoming part of the
everyday spoken practice. Moreover, the analyzed material, demonstrates the
fact that, the deviation from the standard norm of the language, that is, the
incorrect substitution of the preposition po [after] with the adverb posle
[afterwards] appears as a result of the unfamiliarity with the meanings of the
two lexical units. Therefore, this kind of deviation from the standard norm of the
language has a very different character that the deviation that appears on the
other linguistic levels.

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EXCERPTS

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