

RECENSIONI

Iva Lukežić, *Zajednička povijest hrvatskih narječja*, 1. *Fonologija*. Hrvatska sveučilišna naklada - Filozofski fakultet u Rijeci - Katedra Čakavskog sabora Grobnišćine, Zagreb - Rijeka - Čavle 2012, 367 pp.

Radoslav Katičić, *Hrvatski jezik*. Školska knjiga, Zagreb 2013, 283 pp.

Two books describing the history of the Croatian language have recently been published: *Zajednička povijest hrvatskih narječja*, 1. *Fonologija* (*The Shared History of the Croatian Dialects*, 1. *Phonology*) by Iva Lukežić and *Hrvatski jezik* (*The Croatian Language*) by Radoslav Katičić. Iva Lukežić, professor emeritus at the University of Rijeka, is an eminent Croatian dialectologist and Croatian language historian whose work can be concisely described as follows: six books, more than sixty scientific articles and seventy various professional writings. Radoslav Katičić is a renowned Croatian linguist and philologist with an international career; he is author of around twenty books, professor emeritus at the University of Vienna and member of five European academies, including the Accademia dei Lincei in Rome.

Iva Lukežić's book is written as a textbook and reference book intended for professors and students of Croatian and other Slavic languages. It is an innovative and complex overview of the history of the Croatian language whose 367 pages concisely portray the history of all Croatian dialectal groups from their prehistory to the present day. It represents a true synthesis of historical dialectology in Croatian philology. The author uses data from current dialectological literature, but she also includes data collected during her own field research. Such a "shared history" of the three Croatian dialectal groups should have been written long ago, especially since all of the Croatian dialectal groups (Čakavian, Štokavian, Kajkavian) played a vital role in the development of the Croatian standard language. The book analyses only phonology, so a broadly based continuation may be expected. The book consists of the author's foreword, an introduction, four chapters covering in detail four historical periods and two bibliographies (the first lists sources and literature on linguistic history and general issues, while the second lists sources and literature with dialectal material). In the *Introduction* the author describes the historical, geographical and civilizational context of the development of the Croatian dialects and provides a new periodization of the history of the Croatian language, divided into four basic periods: 1) *The Slavic seeds of*

Croatian (6th-7th and 7th-8th century); 2) *Old Croatian* (9th-11th and 12th-late 15th century); 3) *Middle Croatian* (from late 15th to early 18th century); 4) *New Croatian* (from the 18th century until modern day). The first three periods are subdivided into older and more recent periods.

The first chapter, *The Slavic Seeds of Croatian*, presents the *Proto-Slavic period* (6th-7th century) and the *Common Slavic period* (7th-8th century). Relying on Holzer's (2007) and Matasović's (2008) Croatian historical grammars, this chapter provides all relevant information on the changes common to all Slavic regions, including those which split the Proto-Slavic language dialectally.

The second chapter describes the Old Croatian period: it follows the fate of four proto-units (čakavian, štokavian, kajkavian, slovenian), which have been identified within the western south Slavic proto-language, and painstakingly illuminates the establishment and development of the three Croatian dialectal groups after the appearance of the first isoglosses. The disappearance of semivowels in weak position is singled out as their significant, common change, after which the dialectal groups embarked on separate developmental paths, leading to an increase in various morpho-phonological and other linguistic changes. Overviews of vowel and consonant changes and of the appearance of the consonants *f*, *h* and *dž* are provided. The author devotes significant space in this chapter to the subject of the accentual system and to a reconstruction of accentual relationships. Finally, this chapter summarizes the findings on this period, differentiating the subsystems of the three Croatian dialectal groups, in which the author's new portrayal of the Štokavian dialectal complex and her new classification of western Štokavian and eastern Štokavian deserve special mention.

The third chapter is dedicated to the Middle Croatian period and describes the consequences of migrations in the 15th and 16th centuries, despite the fact that no large intralinguistic changes occurred during this period. New (migrational) dialects are identified, such as southwest Istrian (within Čakavian), lower Sutla (within Kajkavian), (I)jekavian Eastern Herzegovinian (*krajiški*) and the (I)jekavian dialect of the village of Peroj (within Western Štokavian). Significant attention is paid to reflections of dialects in literary texts.

The fourth chapter portrays the New Croatian period through the interrelationship of the Croatian dialectal groups with the standard language (the Štokavianization of non-Štokavian dialects and the neo-Štokavianization of [I]jekavian non-neo-Štokavian dialects). It also explains why certain terms are unacceptable in dialectology (e.g. the "central south Slavic diasystem"). The chapter ends with a discussion on the tridialectal nature of the Croatian language. The Croatian professional public has recognized the significance

of this book, which was awarded the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts' 2012 Yearly Award in the field of humanities.

A new book by R. Katičić, simply entitled *The Croatian Language*, concisely portrays the millennial journey of the Croatian language in 283 pages. The author has divided this book into twelve chapters: 1. *Approach*; 2. *Local Dialects of the Croats*; 3. *The Language of Literacy*; 4. *The Beginnings of the Croatian Language*; 5. *The Croatian Literary Language in the Advanced Middle Ages*; 6. *A Period of Great Changes*; 7. *A New Beginning*; 8. *The Enlightenment*; 9. *The National Revival*; 10. *Squaring with the New Serbian Linguistic Standard*; 11. *Full Standardization on Rough Seas*; 12. *The Croatian Language*.

Katičić did not intend to write a new university textbook or handbook, as he explains in his introduction in the following words: "This book is not scientific literature, in the sense that it does not quote and it does not document. It only occasionally illustrates. The explanations in it are more like a discussion over a glass of wine, not a lecture. It leads the reader into thought, and not into the field" (Katičić 2013, p. 7). The author intends to present every Croat with a wide spectrum of the historical interaction of the Old Church Slavonic and Croatian languages, as well as the three Croatian dialectal groups, so as to clearly present the centuries-long aspiration towards supra-dialectal expression and the trails that have been blazed towards the establishment of a national standard language. What appears scattered and disconnected to some, Katičić sees as a complex whole. He wishes to clearly state that the Croatian standard language is not only the offshoot of one (Štokavian) dialect, but that it has been interwoven through history with the achievements of multi-dialectal and super-dialectal communication. The author's pen draws out a formula for an understanding of the overall history of Croatian linguistic culture and communication: *trilinguality* (Latin – Old Church Slavonic – Croatian), *tridialectality* (Čakavian – Štokavian – Kajkavian) and *the use of three scripts* (Glagolitic – Cyrillic – Latin). Katičić does not simply move from one to the other in his descriptions of these components, but he intertwines them and locates their points of contact. At the margins of his text, or between the lines, every once in a while an interesting question manifests itself – for example, this is what the author writes in an attempt to inform his readers about the situation during the Slavic "dark" centuries: "If we imagine the high commander, an Avar, summoning the elders of the Slavic forces and the dukes of the Germanic Gepids under his command to issue them orders for their next military undertaking, we must ask ourselves — in what language did he speak to them? Most likely he spoke Proto-Slavic, since both the Avars and the Germanic tribes knew this language, although

they spoke different languages amongst themselves, and the Slavic elders, the most numerous in the group, certainly knew it, as it was their own language” (*ibid.*, p. 24).

The sharp eye of this experienced philologist has perceived key historical moments, circumstances and relationships: the importance of Latin and Old Church Slavonic to Croatian linguistic culture (especially in the first centuries of Croatian literacy), the relationship between the Old Church Slavonic literary language and the folk language to Slavic and Latin writings in the Middle Ages, the appearance of the vernacular in books beginning in the late Middle Ages, the Renaissance blossoming of literary words in all Croatian dialectal shades, the circumstances and first signs pointing towards the choice of neo-Štokavian as the main path towards the construction of a common national language of all Croats, the appearance of numerous Baroque and Enlightenment reference books (grammars, dictionaries) in which the Croatian language is well described, the peak of literary stylization by the time of the Croatian National Revival, the Revivalists’ importance to the norming process of the Croatian language and their connection to linguistic heritage, the first meeting of the neo-Štokavian Serbian and Croatian languages in the 19th century, the survival of the Croatian language under the pressures of fascism and Yugoslav unitarism. Finally, the author discusses current events, such as the dissolution (2012) of the Council for Standard Croatian Language Norm, of which he was president.

At first glance, in today’s age of fast living, it might seem that this is just another practical monograph about a Slavic language, but this is not such book: Katičić weaves a polemical web in which the reader can easily get caught if he does not make an effort to view the thoughts presented within the author’s dialectic framework. For example, Katičić’s claim that the Croatian standard language has no dialectal basis, viewed only with the eyes of a dialectologist, appears unacceptable. Katičić, of course, knows that the Croatian standard language is structurally determined by neo-Štokavian, and he points this out at many points in his book – for example, when he sees the appearance of case syncretism in plural nouns in Kašić’s grammar as “the first seed of neo-Štokavian standardization” (*ibid.*, p. 201). Katičić obviously considers it less vital to an understanding of the Croatian language to know that (if I may provide an example), in the 19th century, the word *kukec* (‘insect’) became *kukac*, thus permanently entering the Croatian standard language, than to know that this word of Kajkavian origin entered the Croatian standard language without force and is even today stylistically unmarked and entirely neutral. Similarly, the fact that literary (public) communication between Štokavian and Čakavian Renaissance writers (whose works were often

enriched with characteristics from other local dialects) transpired without hindrance cannot be explained only through the use of dialectological maps. With his insight into all of these themes, Katičić compares the history of Croatian linguistic culture to that of multidialectal Greece, not to that of other languages built upon only one dialect.

All in all, these two new expert contributions display the history of the Croatian language in different ways. Both books serve to fill a void that has existed for years in Croatian philology and will be useful for further research. Whether or not the interpretations of the authors of these books will engender debate and influence new interpretations of the history of the Croatian language remains to be seen.

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