

Lexical features of Serbian Torlak dialect

The Torlak dialect has taken a special place in the dialect system of the Serbian language since the 14th century. It separated from other Serbian dialects and began to develop in its own way and acquired a number of features of the Balkan language area. It has always attracted a lot of attention from linguists (cf. Ćirković 2018). There are also a lot of papers about Torlak vocabulary (e.g. R. Žugić, A. Savić-Grujić). The novelty of our study is in our geolinguistic approach to Torlak vocabulary.

Our paper is based on the analysis of data from three different Torlak dialects. These are: 1) Shtpce, located in South Kosovo; the dialect belongs to the Prizren-South Moravian dialect; 2) Doni Prisyān, located 20 km East of Leskovac; the dialect belongs to the Svrljig-Zaplanje dialect; 3) Gornji Strizhevac, located 15 km West of Pirot; the dialect belongs to the Timok-Luzhnica dialect. The material for the study was collected by interviewing dialect native speakers in accordance with the lexical questionnaire of the Serbian dialect Atlas (371 question).

In this corpus we can see a lot of lexemes which are common to different Serbian dialects and which are found in literary Serbian. Each of the questionnaires was compared with the dictionary of the Serbian literary language. The comparison showed that the vocabulary of the Kosovo dialect contains only 10% of words, which are not found in literary language, the vocabulary of the Zaplanje dialect - 12%, and that of Luzhnica dialect - 17% (for 100 % we have taken 371, the number of points in the questionnaire). This indicates that Luzhnica is a more peripheral and isolated area than the two others. This is confirmed by both phonetic and grammatical data.

Some lexemes, which are not found in the dictionary of literary Serbian, are characteristic of all three dialects. These are archaic words, which have been lost in most Serbian dialects: *ložica* 'spoon', *slube* 'ladder', *raboti* 'to work', *baz* 'elderberry', *celiva* 'to kiss' etc.

We can also see the isoglosses which unite Luzhnica and Zaplanje dialects: *vrevim* 'to speak' (*zborim* in Kosovo), *bāčva* 'barrel' (*bure* in Kosovo), *smetana* 'cream' (*kajmak* in Kosovo) etc., Zaplanje and Kosovo dialects: *šav* 'seam' (*rub* in Luzhnica), *kecelja* 'apron' (*opegljača* in Luzhnica), *kornjača* 'turtle' (*željća* in Luzhnica), *ručak* 'dinner' (*obed* in Luzhnica) etc. Luzhnica and Kosovo have the fewest number of common local words: *domali prs* 'ring finfer' (*naprsnjak* in Zaplanje).

The study presents the archaic nature of Torlac vocabulary and shows the lexical borders in this area, which is important for the field of Serbian historical dialectology.

REFERENCES

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