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Projects

TYOLOGICAL RESEARCH OF SERBIAN DIALECTS IN THE SOUTHEAST PARTS OF SERBIA

Ever since the Research Center of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the University of Niš was established, the Section of Language and Literature has been working on the Project "Typological Research of Serbian Dialects in the Southeast Parts of Serbia".

Those peripheral dialects of the Serbian language, referred to in the science as the vernaculars of the Prizren-Timok dialectal region, have their place in the science. It might even be said that the Serbian dialectology was in fact founded by the famous study *Dialects of East and South Serbia* (Aleksandar Belić, Belgrade, 1905).

So far, several specific monographs have been edited (*Dialects of Bučum and Beli Potok*, - N. Bogdanović; *Lužnica Vernacular*, - Lj. Čirić; *Dialect of Leskovac*, - J. Mihajlović; *Dialect of the Aleksinac Region of Morava Basin* - N. Bogdanović; *Serbian Dialect of Prizren*, - S. Remetić; *The Vernacular of Crna Trava and Vlasina*, - V. Vukadinović; *Dialect of the Upper Nišava-Basin Region*, - Lj. Čirić; *The Zaplanje-Region Vernacular*, J. Marković; *Vernaculars of Niš and Neighboring Villages*, - Paul-Louis Thomas, and others), and numerous problems have been studied concerning the grammatical system of the dialects of this zone, which differ from the average štokavian state by significant archaisms and interesting innovations (mainly in a Balkan spirit).

The above-mentioned Project, alongside with its typological orientation, appears on one side as a more precise systematization of dialectal phenomena already described in various studies and monographs. On the other side, it represents a step forward in studying the dialects that, being situated in the vicinity of the Bulgarian and Macedonian languages (as Slavic languages from the Balkan linguistic league) and next to Albanian to the southeast or Romanian to the northeast, still develop their own system, which is quite astray from the Serbian linguistic standard.

The studies that have been established after the foundation of the Project (headed by Professor Dr. Slobodan Remetić), although not being absolutely dedicated to the problems of linguistic typology, do respect both the efforts and the wish to investigate as many phenomena as possible from the aspect of typology, as well.

Following the publication of *The Inventory of Syntactic Problems in Kosovo-Resava and Prizren-Timok Vernaculars* (S. Rakić, SDZo, XLI, Belgrade, 1995), *The Inventory of Morphologic Problems in Prizren-Timok Vernaculars* (N. Bogdanović, manuscript) has been prepared. In dependence of personnel and material possibilities, particular points are being studied according to it.

The members of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš, the same faculty in Priština, and from other Serbian centers are collaborating in the Project.

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