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Projects

LEXICOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN SOUTHEAST SERBIA

The Faculty of Philosophy has undertaken the Project "Lexicological Research in Southeast Serbia". This is, in fact, a subproject of the Research Project "Serbian Dialectology and Edition of the Serbian Dialectology Collection", carried out under the auspices of the Institute for the Serbian Language of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Belgrade. The head of the project is Professor Dr. Nedeljko Bogdanović.

The Project has gathered mainly the teaching staff of the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš, but the collaborators from other institutions get also engaged in certain tasks.

The lexicological research includes two major topics - the cattle-breeding and the farming lexicons.

For the purpose of researching the cattle-breeding lexicon, a questionnaire had been composed (by N. Bogdanović), and used for the investigation of more than 50 points in the territory of the southeast Serbia (the territory of Serbian dialects of the Prizren-Timok region out of Kosovo and Metohija, that is, the eastern part of this single-accent dialectic region).

Based on the questionnaire and other researches, the Shepherd Dictionary and the Shepherd Lexicon Atlas of Southeast Serbia should also be prepared under this Project. Apart from this, the master's degree thesis *Foreign Elements in the Cattle-Breeding Lexicon of Southeast Serbia* was prepared and defended (N. Jović). Also, two monographs have been prepared on the relationship of the cattle-breeding lexicon and micro-toponymy. One of them, titled *Toponyms of Zoonymic Origin*, has been already published (V. Vukadinović).

Another monograph was also published under the title *Vegetable Lexicon of the South Morava Region* (J. Marković).

The *Geographical Dictionary of South Serbia* (N. Bogdanović) has been compiled, and it is about to be published soon.

Material is also being collected on traditional crafts, folk costumes, culinary art, fruit growing, etc.

The Project occasionally includes students of the Department of the Serbian Language and Literature. In the framework of their seminary or graduation theses, they are gathering lexical material for particular topics, mainly related to their own homeland dialects (The Cattle-Breeding Lexicon of the Village Svodje; The Lexicon of Pirot Carpet Industry; Geographic Terminology of the Village Donji Striževac; and so on).

One collection of contributions in the field of phyto-linguistics has been published, while another one is to be published soon. They contain mostly the papers presented at

traditional symposia dedicated to the flora of the southeast Serbia.

A master's degree thesis on the viticultural lexicon of the Niš vineyard area is in progress presently (D. Veljković).

However, the lexicological research of southeast Serbia has started much earlier. Independent of the mentioned Project, following dictionaries have been published so far: Dictionary of the Leskovac Dialect (B. Mitrović), Dictionary of the Pirot Dialect (N. Živković), Dictionary of the Timok Dialect (J. Dinić), Dictionary of the Vernacular of Crna Reka, and Dialect Dictionary of South Serbia (M. Zlatanović).

The work on the dictionaries of the village Kamenica in the vicinity of Niš (V. Jovanović) and the village Kalna near Crna Trava (collected by S. Gligorijević) is underway. This work has also gathered some of the collaborators in our Project, and they are engaged as authors or revisers in it.

In the course of the previous few years, detailed research of the southeast Serbian onomastics has been carried out, parallel to dialectological description of certain local vernaculars. Several collections of dialectic vocabulary have also been prepared and forwarded to the Institute for the Serbian Language in order to be included into the Dictionary of Serbo-Croatian Literary and Vernacular Language, being presently compiled in the Institute.

The realization of the master's degree thesis *Lexicographic Actions in the Dictionaries of Southeast Serbian Vernaculars* (M. Ilić) is in progress, as well.

In spite of being in the fundamentals of the Serbian dialectology for a whole century now (in the works of Broh and Belić from the beginning of the 20th century), the Serbian dialects of southeast Serbia are still provoking many-sided interest, both in the sense of their grammatical systems and history and concerning their vocabularies. For this reason, the results of the lexicological research project are expected with particular attention.

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