

„Bećarac – ten-part with message“

Bećarac is a form of the area of Šokadija (the geographical cultural region where the Šokci live) which consists of two components: the text (ten-part) and the corresponding melodic pattern. Both components are variable and depend on multiple elements. The melody depends on the singer and the geographical area. These melodies are mostly similar, they have the same main section, but they have certain variations in individual elements. However, the emphasis of this presentation is on the text and the context. A text of the bećarac is a reflection of the time when it was created, and is considered a communication channel between different social groups and or individuals. Since bećarac has been included on the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage of mankind 2011, bećarac performers, ethnologists, folklorists, ethnomusicologists, etc., have been given the task of studying and monitoring ways of preserving bećarac in today's everyday life. Previous research of this musical / folklore form has been based on written texts and partial analysis of text and context. This paper places special emphasis on the analysis of the context of bećarac and brings examples from the past and recent times from which the principle of actualization can be read. The possibility of using bećarac as a historical source is considered in three ways: analysis of the time in which it was created, analysis of the text (archaisms, newcomers and strangers in this form), analysis of the author/performer (age, education). This presentation contributes to historical, linguistic and ethnological science.

Key words: bećarac, folklore, text, context, history

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