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The Golden formula of the Croatian language in Croatian Sound Atlas

“The Golden formula of the Croatian language ča-kaj-što” represents the diversity of the Croatian dialect reality, that is, the structure of the Croatian language, which is divided into dialects and local speeches. The belief about the diversity of local speeches is widely encouraged, about idioms that are significantly distant and some examples and differences are repeatedly mentioned in literature and in general communication. There are many justifications for this view, those claims being valid, and they encourage Croatian language to be seen as a set of all of its idioms, however different they may be, if their common feature is that they belong to the Croatian linguistic structure. However, it is precisely because of this emphasis of the differences that similarities remain in part unrecorded. Those similarities justify the belonging of local speeches to the same higher idiom or Croatian language. This paper deals with lexical similarities in local speeches of different dialects. The paper studies the structure of the Croatian Sound Atlas in which language heritage was collected at the reference points across the country. The material is recorded and presented at several language-based levels important for the study of the diachronic and synchronic state of the Croatian language. Audio recordings are divided according to certain dialectological characteristics; the reflection of certain pre-slavic voices, the fate of certain voices depending on the position in the word, the accent inventory, morphological characteristics, and words different from their equivalents in the Croatian standard language. The latter is the basis for the analysis of this paper. The purpose of this research is to prove the lexical similarity of Croatian speeches. It will be examined how common similarity is, in which speeches it appears, whether these are the speeches of contact areas or spatially distant idioms. Based on results, it will be possible to investigate possible historical changes that led to the lexical similarity of certain speeches, that is, the influence of migrations, the dominance of a certain dialect, the existence of written literature that contributed to the spread of certain lexeme. The analysis will be based on the occurrence of a particular lexeme in a particular speech, i.e. for each lexeme it will be measured in how many different local speeches it is recorded in the Croatian Sound Atlas.

Keywords: the Golden formula of Croatian language, Croatian Sound Atlas, local speech, vocabulary

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