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Local speeches as a heritage in language policy and educational process

In times marked by intense migration and globalisation, and the number of speakers of small languages is decreasing, the possibilities of preserving linguistic and cultural identity are considered within the framework of state policies. Schools as places of education of new generations play an important role, especially teaching languages as a part of language policy. Whether language policy is considered as a part of language planning or above it, it encompasses ideas, laws, practices influenced by certain authorities in order to change language in society. Teaching of the Croatian language is carried out on the basis of official documents (plans and programmes and curricula) of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia showing the place of standard and non-standard idioms, that is, the entire language heritage in the educational language policy. In the literature, heritage is not only associated with the past of a particular social community, but also its impact on the present and the future of the community is highlighted. Many local speeches in the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia have been established as intangible cultural property (a term found in Croatian documents), and the Golden formula *ča-kaj-što*, a cultural property that emphasizes the interconnectedness of Croatian dialects, seeks to protect other unregistered, endangered speeches. The protection measures pointed out in that legal framework do not bypass the educational process, so they refer to the “possibility of transmitting tradition to inheritors through formal and informal education” (Resolution 2019). This paper presents the main reasons for the need to protect local speeches, as well as who advocates their preservation. The discourse of prescribed protection measures is analysed with special emphasis on those related to the educational system and the position of language heritage in national educational documents is also investigated. The implementation of measures in schools is proposed modelled on the activities undertaken so far.

Key words: local speeches, heritage, language policy, education of Croatian language

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