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## Between Đakovo and Vinkovci Placed Šokadija – Hidden in the Word

This presentation aims to interpret the selected short stories and poems authored by Milica Lukić, a Croatian linguist, philologist, paleoslavist, and professor at the University of Osijek. The stories, written partly in the Slavonian dialect, were published in *The Đakovo Cuts Journal*, an ethnographic-popular magazine that has been following the international folklore manifestation placed in *the very heart of Strossmayer's Slavonia*.

The linguistic-stylistic analysis encompassed five stories, one written in standard Croatian and the others in the Slavonian dialect, or more precisely the Ikavian-Jekavian idiom spoken in Mrzović and the Ikavian-Ekavian idiom spoken in Stari Mikanovci. In modern Croatian dialectology, both are recognized as speeches of the Posavina subdialect of the Old Štokavian Slavonian dialect. The stories were accompanied by a dialect poem titled *Pannonian Quintessence (Kvintesenčija panonska)*.

The current analysis is focused on the phonological, morphological, syntactic, and lexical features of the Slavonian dialect noticeable in Milica Lukić's texts, which are viewed not only as guardians of tradition but also as a valuable contribution to contemporary dialectal literature and an engaged women's and ethnographic writing. In short, the stories can be labeled as a successful scientific-artistic experiment whose task, as the author repeatedly accentuates, is to intertwine the language of science, art, and spirituality, all civilizational values which oblige us, but to which we also claim our right.

**Keywords:** Slavonian dialect, contemporary Croatian dialectal literature, short stories and poems, linguistic-stylistic analysis