Tanja Brešan Ančić, University of Split

Phonological norm in the grammars written by Dalmatian authors

of the second half of the 19th century

The period of the second half of the 19th century is of exceptional importance in the process of standardization of the Croatian language. It is the period in which the norm of the standard Croatian language was established. This happened after many years of discussions and conflicts that took place among members of different philological schools and directions. Due to such different views on the norm of the emerging Croatian standard language, the aim is to show how the issue of phonological norms was approached by grammarians from one part of Croatia – the Kingdom of Dalmatia, a region which was politically and culturally separated from the rest of the country at that time, but nationally and spiritually it was very close.

After the rather unsuccessful attempts of the Zadar philological circle (dominant Dalmatian philological school of the mid-19th century) to standardize a version of the language that had strong features of local idioms (Icavian manifestation of yat and Dalmatian script), in the Kingdom of Dalmatia a current strong enough was not created so that it could compete with the language conceptions of the rest of Croatia. Therefore, this research will show what language approaches, especially in matters of phonological norms, were taken by Dalmatian grammarians, among which the grammar of Pero Budmani, two grammars of Ivan Danilo, the grammars of Antun Parčić, Andrija Barić and Andrija Stazić will be highlighted, and will be connected with the normative manuals of northern Croatia that were relevant in that period, those of Vjekoslav Babukić, Tomo Maretić and others.

In that period, some phonological problems were studied more intensively because they represented the key positions of certain philological schools. It is about the manifestation of yat, assimilations as well as the recording of jotted voices. In addition, although the grammarians perceive this as a phonological topic, it will be shown how these phonological issues represented a major orthographic problem in the press of the time, and sometimes even a political commitment.

The research will show how the dichotomy of the normative system from the north of Croatia was also inherited in the system of Dalmatian grammars, to such an extent that sometimes the same grammarian was dramatically changing his attitudes regarding the language in a period of only 20 years. Also, it is expected that some issues, such as the implementation of the manifestation of yat will be influenced by the regional determination, and the Ikavian manifestation of yat will be recorded. Nevertheless, it is assumed that such solutions will be recorded in the period closer to the middle of the 19th century, rather than at the end of it, because the influence of the new shtokavian norm from the north of Croatia will become increasingly stronger at the end of the century, thus affecting the phonological and, consequently, the orthographic norm in the Kingdom of Dalmatia.