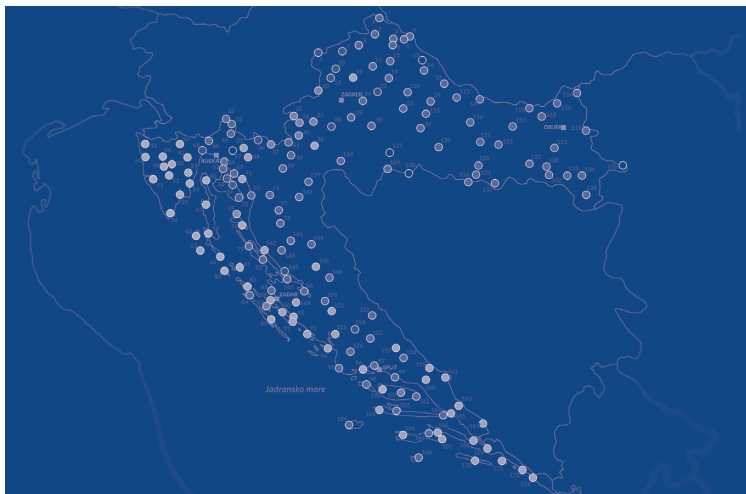


LINGUISTIC GEOGRAPHY IN CROATIA AND BEYOND:

experiences,
challenges,
models

International Geolinguistic Conference
Zadar, April 25–27, 2024





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Marco Angster (University of Zadar, Croatia)

Walser German in the Italian Alps. A geolinguistic perspective

The German historical minorities in northern Italy display a variety of linguistic varieties scattered across the Alps from West to East. These minorities do not occupy a continuous geographical territory neither with each other, nor with the German dialect continuum on the northern side of the Alps. This discontinuity is due to the peculiarities of the distribution of these communities which occupy some of the spots at highest altitude in the relevant valleys. On the other hand, these communities originate from waves of colonization which took place between the end of the 12th and the 15th century directed by the then rulers which invited German-speaking settlers to improve the exploitation of the highlands, until that moment subject only to seasonal especially summer pasturage.

Given this context, in this paper I will provide an overview of recent projects (e.g. PALWaM – Small Linguistic Atlas of Southern Walsers) and studies devoted especially to Walser (Highest Alemannic) German varieties highlighting the aspects most relevant from a geolinguistic perspective.

From this overview two aspects will emerge. On the one hand, the peculiarity of the geolinguistic mapping of Walser data in the PALWaM will be detailed showcasing both the issues linked to such enterprise and the richness of the collected data. On the other hand, the lexical types attested in the atlas will show the importance of the inherited German(ic) lexicon in Walser communities notwithstanding the crucial contribution of the Romance domain surrounding them and steadily gaining ground at the expenses of the ancestral Walser varieties.

Martina Bašić (Linguistic Research Institute, Zagreb, Croatia)
Dunja Brozović Rončević (University of Zadar, Croatia)
Marija Malnar Jurišić (University of Zagreb, Croatia)

Contribution to geolinguistic research of the Croatian language - Semantic field of 'clothing'

In this presentation, Croatian lexemes from the semantic field of 'clothing' will be presented, with the content of 'trousers', 'shorts/briefs (underwear)', and marginally 'socks'. The corpus includes examples recorded during field research, examples excerpted from dialectal dictionaries and materials for language atlases (Linguistic geography of Croatia in the European context, Croatian language atlas, General Slavic linguistic atlas). The content of 'trousers' includes lexemes such as *brageša*, *lača*, *gaća*, *pantalone*... A brief etymology of the presented lexemes and dialectal data will be presented. The distribution of individual lexemes will be shown on language maps with short geolinguistic comments.

Dunja Brozović Rončević (University of Zadar, Croatia)

LinGeH: Linguistic Geography of Croatia in the European Context

The LinGeH project is a very broadly designed project whose primary goal was to unify in one place geolinguistic research currently being conducted in Croatia. Therefore, the project consists of several sub-projects that complement each other and intertwine to maximize the results of language research. At the same time, comparing language data collected for different projects of linguistic geography often yields more precise data, which we then check with targeted field research.

The project is focused on two fundamental goals: 1) the creation of a small linguistic atlas of Istria based on widely published material collected by Prof. Goran Filipi, sadly passed away unexpectedly; 2) the primary goal of the project was to create a representative language map of Croatia based on 150 representative local dialects which faithfully reflect the dialectal diversity of Croatian linguistic area. After carefully reviewing previous research, a map with 173 points was created, which serves as a basis for mapping selected lexical variations and phonological and morphological phenomena relevant to research and elucidating Croatian dialect diversity.

The paper will briefly present some of the results of our project, which will end at the end of June after almost five very challenging years.

Guylaine Brun-Trigaud (CNRS - Université Côte d'Azur, France)

The cartography of the Romance Linguistic Atlas

Since the Poligrafico stopped producing cartography, the management of the Roman Linguistic Atlas entrusted me with this work. Two essential steps were necessary: on the one hand, the geolocation of the 1037 points for implementation under a freely accessible GIS and, on the other hand, the creation of a catalogue of symbols close to those made available by the Poligrafico, in order to remain familiar to users, but meeting Unicode standards, to obtain a chain independent of proprietary systems and able to easily follow technological developments. Another important new feature is the use of colour (5 shades), which allows authors of summaries to highlight or group together the most important facts.

Volume II.c concerning animals was produced with these new techniques, which made it possible to test the relevance of the chosen solutions: the maps were, therefore, generated with the QGIS application in PDF form, and then transmitted to the publisher, where Matteo Rivoira took care of the design and layout.

Elisabetta Carpitelli &
Michel Contini (Université Grenoble Alpes, France)

Romance linguistic atlas, current state

The Romance linguistic atlas (ALiR) is a subsidiary of the Atlas Linguarum Europae but from the beginning the novel atlas opted for some differences in approach. The main one consists in the thematic organization of the materials, a choice undoubtedly facilitated by the genetic homogeneity of the languages represented and therefore also by the use of atlantographic sources conceived in a very similar way.

In addition to the volume of essays, published in 1996, which covered examples of different possible themes in the context of a work of this type, including for example a work on phonetics dedicated to the development of the geminate lateral in the case of the followers of PALEA, there are three volumes dedicated to the names of some wild animals have been released (mammals, insects, annelids, terrestrial crustaceans, myriapods, arachnids, birds) and a volume of plants is being prepared. Despite the doubts expressed by Mario Alinei on the real interest of a motivational atlas restricted to a homogeneous linguistic space, comparing it of course with the wealth of materials analyzed in the ALE, the results of the ALiR from a motivational perspective have revealed elements of great importance and originality for the cultural representation of nature and in particular of the animal world. Some of these results can complement and enrich those that ALE has provided to date. In particular, the inventory of religious and secular anthropomorphisms, on the one hand, and, on the other, that of unexpected zoomorphisms (in the case of transfers of designations between even very different animals, especially with regard to insects and "worms") are have turned out to be complex. In this communication we will try to make a general assessment of what has emerged in this regard from our work.

Anita Celinić (Institute for the Croatian Language, Zagreb, Croatia)
Mira Menac-Mihalić (University of Zagreb, Croatia)

From Croatian linguistic geography: Five years of stacking geolinguistic stones

The presentation offers an overview of the nine maps that we created during the five years of the LinGeH project.

There are two lexical maps (*freckles* and *hunchback*) that cover the entire Slavic area with 850 points, maps that were created as part of the international project of the Slavic Linguistic Atlas.

Two maps on the final *-l* of the verbal adjective will be shown, one of them covering the Kajkavian region, and the other the Chakavian region. The other maps that we will show cover the area of all three Croatian macrodialects: the ending *-me* in the first person plural present; participial and adverbial verb forms; prostheses on the examples of *eye* and *ear*.

The map on the ending *-me* in the first person plural present shows that in addition to the majority ending of the type *-mO*, in some Croatian local dialects (in the central part of the Kajkavian dialect) there is also an ending of the type *-mE*, the type of ending that exists in different Slavic languages.

The map of participial and adverbial verb forms shows where these forms are attested in Croatia and how the suffixes *-ĆI*, *-Ć* or *-ĆKI/-ĆKE* are distributed.

Special attention is paid to the interactive map published as part of the e-book *Audio e-reader in Croatian dialectology*.

Federica Cugno & Laura Mantovani (University of Turin, Italy)

The Names of the Milky Way in the Italian Dialects

This article presents an onomasiological and motivational analysis of the dialectal terms for the Milky Way in Italy, one of the astronomical phenomena that has most affected the mythical and popular imagination since antiquity. The analysis focuses especially on the materials collected from several national and regional atlases of Italy: *Atlante Italo-Svizzero* (AIS), *Atlante Linguistico Italiano* (ALI), *Atlante storico-linguistico-etnografico del Friuli* (ASLEF), *Atlante Linguistico ed Etnografico del Piemonte Occidentale* (ALEPO). The data collected show considerable lexical and onomasiological heterogeneity, within which, however, it is possible to find the recurring formula ‘road’, ‘way’, ‘path’ + determinant. On the motivational level, the most productive areas are the travel motif, earthy and heavenly, and robbery motif, to which is added that of the colour white.

Motivation and transparency: How the transparency of motivation can become obscure once (Alineian) 'pubblicità' has achieved its goal – Some theoretical reflections

The presentation explores the interplay between motivation and transparency in language evolution, using names of plants and animals in different European dialects. Concrete examples are used to illustrate how transparency can become obscured over time, resulting in semantic shifts and divergent interpretations across languages and cultures. The paper examines the evolution of terms like for example Ital. 'grano', 'frumento' alongside its counterparts in other Indo-European languages such as Engl 'corn', 'wheat', lat. 'secale', germ. 'Weizen' showcasing vertical and horizontal semantic shifts influenced by historical and cultural contexts.

A taxonomy of five transparency levels in motivational analysis is proposed to illustrate universal patterns of motivation and metaphorical/metonymic usage across languages:

- a) 'completely transparent denomination to current speakers'
- b) 'partially transparent denomination to present speakers (transparency may be clear as a result of explicit reflection)'
- c) 'transparent denomination to the historical linguist or philologist based on attested sources or forms'
- d) 'denomination solely transparent through comparison with unattested protolanguages'
- e) 'denomination with non-reconstructable transparency'

These five levels of transparency can also be related to a taxonomy of five different levels of polyrhematic transparency

in compound formation of animal and plant names such as ital. 'orso bianco', germ. 'Eisbär', and engl. 'Polar bear' or germ. 'Löwenzahn', engl. 'dandelion' vs. engl. 'eggplant' and ital. 'melanzana'. Despite methodological challenges in applying modern linguistic frameworks to ancient contexts, our theoretical reflections alongside concrete examples shed light on how linguistic transparency can evolve.

Surname spaces in Germany: Using a phonological ontology for reconstruction historical language areas

This paper presents a data-centric analysis of the spatial distribution of German surnames. It utilizes the surname data set of the *Atlas of German Family Names* (DFA) which consist of more than 28 million entries and over 850.000 distinct tokens. One objective of the analysis is to gain insight into the historical development of regional language forms. As the surnames in Germany were established in the late Middle Ages their distribution reflects the historical scope of dialectal variants. These spatial distributions can then be compared with other datasets (e.g. the Wenker survey from the 19th Century) to provide a better understanding of tempo-spatial language change.

The dataset is enriched by linguistic classifications as well as by applying a phonological ontology, which has previously been developed for an analysis of dialect data from *The Linguistic Atlas of the Middle Rhine* (MrhSA). Following several preprocessing steps, various Cluster algorithms are applied and evaluated according to its intrinsic features. The Algorithms encompass diverse clustering approaches, including K-Means, Hierarchical Clustering and Gaussian Mixture Models. A primary evaluation metric is the Silhouette coefficient, but other metrics are also taken into consideration. The main results of the clusterings are projected onto a map and contrasted with dialect maps. That allows the linguistic interpretation of the stability and dynamics of linguistic features and their spatial distribution in the regional languages of German.

Taking the schwa apocope as an example, the paper discusses the used methods and sketches additional statistical approaches for analyzing the spatial structures of the German surnames.

Marina Frank (Research Center Deutscher Sprachatlas,
Marburg, Germany)

Investigating a phoneme merger using GAMMs

The merger of the phonemes /e:/ (as in *Beeren* ‘berries’) and /ɛ:/ (as in *Bären* ‘bears’) in spoken Standard German and especially in Northern Standard German is frequently discussed in the literature (Mangold, 1966; Stiel, 2020). The hypothesis of a phoneme merger is largely based on impressionistic data or transcriptions of speech samples. However, the acoustic analyses that have been conducted up until now show differences in the pronunciation of the two vowels (for a summary cf. Frank, 2020). In my dissertation, I am investigating the production and perception of /e:/ and /ɛ:/ in the German-speaking area.

To investigate this vowel merger in detail, we conducted an acoustic analysis of the corpus *German Today* (Kleiner, 2011ff.). The corpus consists of data from 827 speakers from the German language area. Data were statistically analyzed using R (R Core Team, 2022), and Generalized Additive Mixed Models (GAMMs) were used for the geolinguistic analysis. The subjects’ pronunciation was operationalized using the pillai score, which is a common measure for calculating vowel mergers (Nycz & Hall-Lew, 2013).

We find larger differences between the two vowels for speakers from southern Germany and Switzerland and smaller differences for speakers from northern and eastern Germany as well as from Austria. When the vowels are elicited in minimal pair context the distance between the two vowels is greater than in other elicitation contexts. The results from this study offer a comprehensive account of the phonetic variation of the two vowels in the German language area.

Rainbow in Catalan Dialects

The Catalan equivalent of „rainbow“ is usually a composite in which the element *arc* (derived from Latin *ARCU*) is followed by the modifying phrase „de Sant Martí“, as in the title of map 678 (*L'arc de Sant Martí*) in the *Atles Lingüístic del domini català* (ALDC). The *Petit atlas lingüístic del domini català* (PALDC) is the corresponding explanatory atlas, from which I have drawn, including map 432, for my own synthesis. The lexicalized variant *arquet de Sant Martí* (with the diminutive *arquet*) comes from Occitan. And this same type of construction, already found in the *Libre dels Feits* of Jaume I (13th century) reaches as far south as the Murcian variety of Castilian (*arco de San Martín*: *DLE*). Furthermore, the reference to St Martin (of Tours) survives in names with other nouns as head of the phrase, like *ratlla de Sant Martí* (in the Ebro valley and the southern part of Valencia) and *pont de Sant Martí* (in isolated places in the north of the linguistic area). Mention of other saints is found in north-western varieties as a continuation of the (Upper) Aragonese type *arco de San Juan* (*Chuan*). And we also find forms like *arc* (or even *arco*) *iris* to the west and south, this being a Castilianism which is foreign to the language. The fact that the polychromatic rainbow has inspired proverbs about the weather, such as *L'arc de Sant Martí al matí, la pluja ja és aquí; de vesprada, la pluja està acabada* is also worthy of mention.

Matthias Hahn (Research Center Deutscher Sprachatlas,
Marburg, Germany)

***Where you taste with your nose –
On the semantic potential of *schmecken* ‘to taste’
in the German Dialects***

This study focuses on semantic variation between German dialects, specifically analyzing the semantic potential of the verb *schmecken* ‘to taste’. Dialect dictionaries are used to identify possible differences in meaning or levels of ambiguity across geographical areas. Annotations of meaning information in the lemma article indicating these variations are systematically organized, mapped and interpreted in a spatial context. The study also analyzes the semantic transfer pathways from the core gustatory meaning to metaphorical meanings and intra-field changes in other sensory perceptions, thus making an overall contribution to understanding the semantic productivity of perceptual verbs (cf. Viberg 1983, Harm 2000, Huber 2018). Quantitative analysis of these connections provides insights into the regional dynamics of meaning negotiation. By comparing regional dialects, the study highlights differences in meaning between words that are assumed to have the same meaning in the standard language. The results reveal spatially differentiated semantic patterns, demonstrating variations in scope of meaning, metaphorical use, and typological embedding across regions. Overall, this study deepens our understanding of regional lexical.

A geolinguistic perspective on the phoneme /ń/ in Croatian dialects

This presentation, based on dialect material collected as part of the LinGeH project, deals with the reflexes of the initial phoneme /ń/ (e.g. in the words *ńegov*, *oźeńen*, *koń*) and the secondary /ń/ – that developed from /n/ (e.g. in the words *ńixati*, *kłanac*, *gnijezdo*, *kńiga*), and the secondary cluster *naj* (e.g. in the words *pisańe*, *kameńe*) in Croatian local dialects. By analyzing the conditioning of the reflexes (phonemic environment and/or position in the word), it is established that reflexes are not consistent in some dialects. Among the observed phenomena of the development of initial /ń/, the preservation of /ń/, depalatalization ($\acute{n} > n$), denasalization (complete – $\acute{n} > j$, or partial – $\acute{n} > \tilde{j}$) and fission of \acute{n} , followed by the anticipation of the palatal component ($\acute{n} > jn$), stand out. and examples of the separation of constituents by a vowel ($\acute{n} > jVn$) have also been recorded. The descriptions are illustrated by examples, and the distribution of phenomena is visualized on maps and commented. The results of the research will contribute to a better understanding of the development of Croatian local dialects and the diversity of phonological phenomena in them, questioning the relevance of borders in dialectology.

Mate Kapović (University of Zagreb, Croatia)

Lexical diffusion in Croatian dialects

Lexical diffusion has been a long-standing issue in historical linguistics. Although it has seemed for some time that the regularity of sound change has definitely won the day, newer research has shown (cf. e.g. Labov 1994) that some examples of lexical diffusion (i.e. seeming non-phonetically conditioned sound change) definitely exist. In fact, while a historical linguist working with dead languages can indeed have an impression of exceptionless sound laws being the absolute norm, any dialectologists can tell you that when you get into the field, all bets are off. In the lecture, some examples of possible cases of lexical diffusion (but also of some morphologically conditioned processes) from Croatian dialects will be presented – spanning the period from approximately 10th century until today.

Alfred Lameli (Research Centre Deutscher Sprachatlas,
Marburg, Germany)

Spatial patterns of contextual language variation – some models and data

The paper provides insight into the intensity of dialect speech of people of different ages in different areas of the Federal Republic of Germany. It is based on data from the REDE project (www.regionalsprache.de), in which people of three generations were observed in a total of five conversational situations: (1) a translation of standard language sentences into the local dialect, (2) a conversation among friends, (3) an interview with an explorer, (4) a reading situation and (5) a translation of dialectal sentences into standard German. A further observation was made at work for one group of speakers, which is also reported. In essence, the presentation will examine the question of the dialect intensity of the speakers in the individual situations. With the help of geostatistical models, it will be shown that both the variation in speech between situations and the variation in speech in the different parts of the study area sometimes differ significantly. This in turn allows conclusions to be drawn about regionally different configurations of the standard dialect axis. While diglossic configurations are more common in the north of Germany, diaglossic configurations are more common in the south. In addition, differences in the communicative use of different language varieties can be identified which, when comparing the generations, allow conclusions to be drawn about the stability and dynamics of dialects in Germany. The presentation introduces the data and the method, describes and discusses the results and concludes with a prognosis for the future dialect situation.

Ivan Magaš (University of Zadar, Croatia)

The local dialect of Mušaluk in the context of the Lika Štokavian Ikavian vernaculars

The area of Lika displays a significant but insufficiently researched dialectal diversity. Presenting a concise dialectal picture of Lika, Mirjana Crnić Novosel (2021) stated that the Eastern Bosnian dialect is completely unexplored, but she also pointed out that there are relatively few works on other dialects (both Čakavian and Štokavian). Regardless of the few existing valuable studies and dictionaries, the vernaculars that need to be researched in more detail are certainly the Neo-Štokavian Ikavian vernaculars. In the meantime, several publications on these vernaculars appeared: the children's picture dictionary *Naramak lički(h) riči* (2022), with a lexical selection from the Neo-Štokavian Ikavian vernaculars of the Gospić region; Mile Rukavina's BA thesis on the lexicon of the Pazarište region (2023); a preliminary report (as part of the LinGeH project) of the Neo-Štokavian Ikavian vernaculars of Lika. This presentation deals with phonological and morphological features of the local dialect of Mušaluk along with some lexical notes.

Ivan Miškulin (University of Rijeka, Croatia)

Peripheral features in the local dialects of Trviž and Tinjan

The local dialects of Trviž and Tinjan delimitate the area of the Central Istrian subdialect of the Čakavian Ekavian dialect from the Southwestern Istrian dialect. In this presentation, specific features such as an increased number of Ikavisms, accentual features and the triple reflex of the back nasal are examined to determine the peripheral features of the said subdialects. An attempt is made at defining their position within the Ekavian dialect itself and at ascertaining the extent to which certain changes have been influenced by neighboring local dialects of the Southwestern Istrian dialect.

Marjan Markovikj (Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
Skopje, North Macedonia)

Linguistic Atlas of Macedonian Dialects – Reinterpreting old data from the Common Slavic Linguistic Atlas

The Linguistic Atlas of Macedonian Dialects, published in 2020 by MANU, presents 50 dialect maps that explore the Macedonian dialectal territory, using data from the Common Slavic Linguistic Atlas (OLA). These maps show how new methodologies and approaches in linguistic geography can help mapping and reinterpreting the rich lexical material collected and published in the OLA volumes.

Reflexes of the Common Slavic yers, i.e. the Western South Slavic schwa, in the Plješivičko-ozaljski dialect

It is well known that in the Plješivičko-ozaljski dialect the Common Slavic yers, i.e. the Western South Slavic schwa, do not merge with *yat* as is usual in the rest of the Kajkavian dialect group. Here we offer an overview of what happens to these vowels in that dialect instead.

All of the Plješivičko-ozaljski local dialects partially preserve schwa, or used to preserve it until relatively recently. The loss of schwa, partial or full, was a long and gradual process which is still ongoing.

Long schwa was the first to be lost. It merged with *a* in the southwest (the Ozaljski and the southwestern Plješivički subdialects) and mostly with the open *e* in the northeast (northeastern Plješivički). Sporadically, the short schwa also developed the same way. This was probably a very early change. The regular partial loss of the short schwa was a much later change. In northwestern Ozaljski, the short schwa is very well preserved and only sporadically merges with *a*. In southeastern Ozaljski, the accented schwa merged with *a*, while the unaccented one was initially preserved. In Plješivički, it is the unaccented schwa which merged with *a*, while the accented one was initially preserved.

Manuela Nevaci (Romanian Academy's "Torgu Jordan – Al. Rosetti"
Institute of Linguistics, Bucharest, Romania)

***THE ATLAS LINGUARUM EUROPÆ PROJECT.
New perspective in European linguistic
geography***

The Atlas Linguarum Europae (ALE) language maps have highlighted a new dimension of linguistic geography: the significance of motivational maps. They help explain or correct certain etymologies from particular languages and offer an interpretative model for the maps from the national and even regional atlases. The motivational maps concern the dynamics of the language, underlining a less known or less studied aspect: the motivation of the linguistic sign is a permanent process, since the speakers re-motivate the linguistic sign when the relation between this and the extra-linguistic reality (the referent) becomes opaque. They are "cultural areas" or cultural influence beyond the boundaries of individual languages.

Diversity, geographical distribution and history of words for forests in Croatian

The lexical variation in Croatian words for 'forest' is greater than for most other concepts in the Croatian language. The diversity is particularly great in Burgenland (Neweklowsky 1978: 328) and Kvarner (Brozović and Pronk 2013). In the material for the Croatian Dialect Atlas and the Common Slavic Dialect Atlas (HDA/OLA), the following lexemes with the original meaning 'forest' can be found: *šuma*, *gora*, *drmun*, *bušak/bošak*, *lug*, *hostal/husta*, *loza*, *grm*, *umejak*, *kolinjak* and *gušć*. In other dialectal sources, the following appellatives are found: *dubrava*, *kiće*, *grmlje*, *krč*, and *gaj*. In addition, there are words that only denote a special type of forest and are nowhere recorded as the basic word for forest, incl. *rust*, *mladje*, *kolosjek*, *meka*, *zabrana*, *branjevina*, *kolinjak*, *omar*, *šlog*, *pasište*, *meka*, *kneja*, and *sjena*.

In addition, there is evidence from toponymy that sheds light on the original distribution of certain lexemes. For example, the word *dubrava* disappeared as an appellative in most Croatian dialects, but it is present in toponymy throughout Croatia.

In this lecture, we will give an overview of the diversity, geographical distribution (incl. a map) and history of lexemes denoting forests in Croatian.

Valentina Retaro (Università degli Studi di Salerno, Naples, Italy)

The Atlante Linguistico Mediterraneo (ALM): towards the project completion

The Atlante Linguistico Mediterraneo (ALM) is an inter-university research project whose goal is to represent the fishing lexicon of the countries bordering the Mediterranean coasts. Being one of the most important and complex geolinguistic research projects of the 20th century, the Atlas aims to reconstruct, through a "methodical comparison of data", the "diffusion of individual items", their "historical stratification", and the "unifying function of the sea" (*Premessa*, BALM, 1, 1959 in AA. VV. 2017: 6-10). Initiated in 1956 and continued until the Congress held in Palermo in October 1975, the project was finally resumed forty years later, at the proposal of the Centro di studi filologici e linguistici siciliani (Ruffino/Telmon 2016). After a long process of recovery of the original documents, the first volume of the Atlas was published in 2023. In this paper, we will describe the volume and the processing steps that led to this significant milestone.

The published volume contains the answers provided for questions 7-113, i.e. the first three parts of the ALM questionnaire which pertain to sea-related concepts, coastal geomorphology and meteorology. The answers, presented in the form of word lists, are adapted the most recent ALM transcription system. A detailed analysis of the transcription system and the answer revision process will be the main subject of the presentation. Moreover, the process of digitalization and the subsequent updating of the data, along with grammatical and generic notes, will also be described. Detailed examples from the volume will be discussed in the presentation.

Nicolae Saramandu (Romanian Academy's "Iorgu Jordan – Al. Rosetti" Institute of Linguistics, Bucharest, Romania)

Recent research on the endangered Istro-Romanian dialect

Romanian dialects, Daco-Romanian, Aromanian, Megleno-Romanian and Istro-Romanian – are the successors of Latin spoken in the eastern parts of the former Roman Empire. The fact that Latin was spoken, within the Eastern Roman Empire, over a large area in the Balkan Peninsula explains the current geographical distribution of the Romanian dialects, in territories located both north and south of the Danube.

The Istro-Romanian dialect is spoken in a few villages from the Istria Peninsula (Croatia), at the Italian border.

Today, the total number of Istro-Romanian speakers is close to 150, with 58 active speakers, being an extinct dialect. Bilingualism is widespread; apart from the dialect, Istro-Romanians currently speak Croatian. In our presentation we intend to underline some phonetic, morphological, and lexical concordances between the Istro-Romanian dialect and the other dialects of the Romanian language. We believe that these linguistic concordances are the result of internal, independent developments, and their evolution and existence in synchrony demonstrates once again the unity of Romanian dialects that are innovating in the same direction.

Jožica Škofic (ZRC SAZU, Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Interactive Slovenian Linguistic Atlas – new geolinguistic and lexicographic approaches

Slovenian dialects have been the subject of geolinguistic research since the first half of the 20th century, and the Slovenian linguist Fran Ramovš prepared his plan for the *Slovenian Linguistic Atlas* (SLA) in 1934. The first record, based on the SLA questionnaire, was made in 1948, while the latest records are from the beginning of the 21st century. The first volume of Slovene Linguistic Atlas (SLA) was published in 2011, the second in 2016 and the third in 2023. The SLA is freely available in pdf format online (ie. on the ZRC Publishing house website (<https://omp.zrc-sazu.si/zalozba/catalog/view/1407/5916/1626>)). The dialect words collected and presented in SLA have also been included in the online dictionary portal www.fran.si, and in the school dictionary portal <https://www.franček.si>.

Since 2020, the Fran Ramovš Institute for the Slovenian Language has been running the *Interactive Atlas of Slovenian Dialects* project. Its main goal has been to create a model of an interactive dialect atlas that will be suitable not only for the preparation of a national linguistic atlas but also for other (smaller regional and larger international and multilingual) geolinguistic projects.

The newly designed GIS-related database (DIAtlas) enables the visualization of dialect material on an e-map, access to archive data (ie. visual and audio material), thus supplementing dialect material by means of crowd-sourcing and free access to various online accessible linguistic publications and relevant non-linguistic collections.

The emerging collection of morphologically analyzed dialect words (with georeferenced data) is at the same time a source for the ongoing e-dictionary of Slovenian dialects.

Nataša Šprljan (University of Zadar, Croatia)

The local dialect of Kosinj in the context of Chakavian Lika

Gornji Kosinj is a Lika settlement near Udbina with an originally Chakavian (Central Chakavian) population. Given that a large part of Lika was inhabited by the Neo-Shtokavian population after the Turkish invasions, the Kosinj dialect is heavily influenced by the Shtokavian, more precisely, the Eastern Herzegovinian dialect. The material was collected during recent field research. The description is based on the analysis of phonological and prosodic features; the most prominent morphological features are mentioned, and the description of the syntax and lexicon is reduced to a few remarks. The emphasis is on the Chakavian elements that, despite the Neo-Shtokavian influence, have survived to this day, which is primarily visible on the prosodic level.

Status of the consonant *h* in Croatian local dialects in the territory of Croatia from a geolinguistic perspective

According to data in contemporary Croatian dialectological literature, the status of the consonant *h* in Croatian dialects belongs to phonological phenomena whose isoglosses separate Shtokavian from Chakavian and Kajkavian local dialects.

In many consonant systems of Chakavian local dialects, the consonant *h* is found in old positions. The exception to this are some continental local dialects of the southern or Ikavian Chakavian dialect, where *h*, due to contact with speakers of Ikavian Shtokavian, has either disappeared in certain positions or been replaced with *v*, *k*, *f*, *s*, as well as immigrant dialects of the south-western Istrian or Chakavian-Shtokavian dialect around Premantura, where, apart from disappearing, *h* has been replaced with *v* or *k*, and *s* in different forms of the verb ‘htjeti’ (to want).

In Kajkavian local dialects, *h* is a stable consonant that, alongside old positions, appears as a prothetic sound (e.g., in the local dialect of Lukovdol in Gorski Kotar, some local dialects of Karlovac, local dialects of Podravina, and local dialects north of Sutla). In peripheral Kajkavian local dialects (in Podravina, some local dialects of Gorski Kotar, the area of north Moslavina) the consonant *h* also seems to be disappearing from the system. On the other hand, in almost all Shtokavian local dialects the consonant *h* is unstable, either having disappeared or having been replaced with *v*, *j*, *k*, *f* or *g*. It is more stable in local dialects of Dubrovnik and Mljet, as well as some Ikavian local dialects of Gorski Kotar surrounded by Chakavian local dialects. In the local dialects of Neretva secondary *h* is also confirmed.

This presentation will analyse the status of consonant *h* in Chakavian and Kajkavian local dialects on the territory of the

Republic of Croatia. The results obtained will be compared with the distribution of this phoneme in Croatian Shtokavian local dialects established by our previous research. Data on the distribution of consonant *h* in selected local dialects will be analysed using geolinguistic methodology, based on the material collected in Croatian dialects in the territory of Croatia according to the questionnaire designed for the *Linguistic Geography of Croatia in the European Context* (LinGeH) project, as well as material from Croatian dialects (also in the territory of Croatia) collected to design the *General Slavic Linguistic Atlas* (OLA), which are currently being studied within the LinGeH project. Territorial distribution of cases where consonant *h* is preserved or replaced with other consonants, regardless of its position in a word, will be shown on dialectological maps.

Istrian Crosswords: Lexical Geography in a Multilingual Region

With a surface area of only 3.132 km², Croatian Istria is home to spectacular dialectal diversity, reflecting its dramatic demographic history. Branded by changing dominions and incessant migrations, the actual dialectal patchwork of the region includes pockets of the autochthonous Romance under heavy Venetian influence, colonial Venetian vernaculars with different Romance substrates, migrant Romanian dialects, and a startling variety of Croatian dialects, some of them going back to the earliest Slavic colonization of Istria, others transplanted from Dalmatia, without forgetting the Montenegrin enclave of Peroj. The *Atlas Linguarum Histriae et Liburniae – ALHeL* was devised to document the lexical exchange between these varieties. The results of the fieldwork, realized by Goran Filipi and his associates between 1994 and 2019 in 90 survey points of Croatian Istria and neighbouring regions, have initially been published in five volumes in form of word lists. A loosely defined selection from this material was to be included in publications of *LinGeH* project. Filipi's sudden demise in 2021 has left us with a rich material yet to be properly studied and very few instructions. Our first response to this challenge is *Small Istrian Lexical Atlas (MILA – Mali istarski leksički atlas)*, a selection of 130 interpretative lexical maps extracted from *ALHeL* material, accompanied by geolinguistic comments. The scope of the present communication is to present the methodological choices and the preliminary results we have reached in the study of the dynamics of the lexical exchange in Croatian Istria.

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