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UDK: 811.163.6'282(497.472)(049.32)
81'373.611

BOOK REVIEW: ISTRIAN-VENETIAN LINGUISTIC ATLAS OF NORTHWEST ISTRIA 1, 2019, Suzana Todorović

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Suzana Todorović is one of the most prolific dialectologists of younger generation and most profound researcher of Istrian-Venetian and Istrian-Slovenian dialects in Slovenia. In addition, she is a professor of Italian language and literature, and a university graduate in Sociology of Culture. In 2011, she received her doctorate from the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. During her studies, she became fascinated with fieldwork and has to date done research in more than 20 locations (so-called research points or data-points).

The results of her research have already been published in several scientific monographs, e. g. *Šavrinsko in istrskobeneško besedje na Piranskem (Vocabulary of the Šavrini subdialect and Istrian-Venetian dialect in the area of Piran, 2015)*, *Narečje v Kopru, Izoli in Piranu (Dialect spoken in Koper, Izola, and Piran, 2016)*, *Narečna raznolikost v okolici Kopa (Dialect diversity in the Koper/Capodistria area, 2017)*, *Raznovrstnost narečnih govorov na Koprskem (Dialectal variety in the Koper/Capodistria area, 2018)* and *Istrobeneščina v krogu drugih jezikov in govorov v slovenskih obmorskih krajih (Istrian-Venetian dialect within the circle of other languages and vernaculars in the Slovenian coastal settlements, 2019)*. The latter illustrates the development of Istrian-Venetian language in Istria since its beginnings in the 10th century and its use in the light of coexistence with other languages brought to the Istrian towns by many immigrants (especially after World War II), as well as the current state of this dialect.

In the autumn of 2019, the monograph *Istrian-Venetian Linguistic Atlas of Northwest Istria 1 (Istrskobeneški jezikovni atlas severozahodne Istre // Atlante linguistico istroveneto dell'istria nordoccidentale 1)* written by Suzana Todorović was published. In this bilingual (Slovenian and Italian) monographic publication the author continues with a topic that she has already presented in previous monographs, with a new addition including the field of linguistic geography (hence a title: *linguistic atlas*). The material in *Atlas 1* (2019) is a result of the lexical research based on most recent dialectological findings. These findings draw attention to the misleading cartographic representations of the Istrian dialect speeches, and redefine the area of Istrian dialect so that Istrian coastal speeches could be appropriately marked on the map of Slovenian dialects, as these belong to the Italian Venetian dialect.

Atlas 1 shows the modern dialectal reality of coastal towns at the border of three languages (Slovenian, Croatian and Italian), which is why the publication has invaluable international value for Slavic and Romance dialectology, as well as for lexicology and comparative linguistics. It represents the landscape of the coastal towns (such as *Piran*, *Strunjan*, *Izola*, *Koper*, etc.), where the author distinguishes between the use of dialectal Italian and dialectal Slovenian, and therefore proposes a more appropriate delimitation of Istrian-Venetian and Istrian-Slovenian speeches in Istria.

The introductory part brings a historical overview of the linguistic situation in the Slovenian Littoral, where the Istrians speak the autochthonous Istrian-Venetian dialect (before the Venetian domination, Istrians of Romance roots spoke Istriot language), while in the rural and hinterland Istrian villages natives of Slavic origin were developing Slavic dialect from about the 8th century onwards. The following is a chronological overview of research into Istrian-Slovenian speeches from the Polish dialectologist Mieczysław Małecki (1930) to the Slovenian linguists Fran Ramovš (1931) and Tine Logar (in 1950s). Based on dialectological research of her study field, Todorović (2015) re-delineates the area of the Istrian-Slovenian dialect.

The central part of the monograph contains numerous linguistic maps. The collection of words presented in this linguistic atlas belongs to the semantic fields of weather conditions, geomorphology, customs and institutions, as well as human body and diseases. 753 lexical maps show over 7000 dialect expressions. The basis of research was a questionnaire containing 1525 questions for lexemes or meanings further divided into fourteen semantic fields with the corresponding subfields. Due to the excessive number of the words collected, linguistic maps will be published in three separate publications; the next two volumes will be released in 2020 and 2021.

The linguistic material displayed on the maps reflects the past and the present linguistic state of dialects in Slovenian Istria, which has been shaped for centuries by two dialects of different genesis. Out of twelve research points in Slovenian Istria nine are Istrian-Venetian and only three Istrian-Slavic data-points. The author distinguishes phonemes that are only present in the Istrian-Venetian dialect, that is, *š*, *ž*, *č* and *ž* (e.g., *pjo'vaša* 'heavy rain', *žorno* 'day', *reča* 'ear', or *zer'man* 'male cousin'). One can see huge variety of words and forms of this bilingual micro-region, for example of verb 'to drink': *'bivi/'bevi* (Piran/Pirano), *'bevi* (Strunjan/Strugnano), *'beve* (Izola/Isola), *'bever* (Koper/Capodistri) etc. but *'pit* (Slovenian *piti*) in three Istrian-Slavic data-points; of noun 'mud': *'velma/'fanjo* (Piran/Pirano), *'fango* (Strunjan/Strugnano), *'fango* (Izola/Isola), *'fango* (Koper/Capodistri) etc. but *b'lato* (Slovenian *blato*) in three Istrian-Slavic data-points.

Linguistic maps in the monograph prove that the border of the Istrian dialect on the Slovenian dialect maps has been so far automatically determined to the sea area, even though the Slovenian *šavrinsko* sub-dialect was never the mother tongue of the indigenous population of coastal towns such as *Koper*, *Izola* or *Piran*. The author again (as already in the monograph *Šavrinsko in istrskobeneško besedje na Piranskem – Vocabulary of the Šavrini subdialect and Istrian-Venetian dialect in the area of Piran*, 2015) suggests that it is necessary to take into account historical data

on the settlement of Istria and (the most recent) findings of dialectological research. In determining the western border of the Istrian dialects one should take into account the fact that in the coastal towns Istrian people have never spoken the Slovenian Istrian dialect.

The cartographic material presented in *Atlas 1* (2019) reflects the past and current state of dialects in Slovenian Istria. The previous linguistic research treated these two genetically distinct dialects (Slovenian and Italian) separately and their linguistic contact was explained only at the lexical level, in the light of Italianism in the Slovenian dialect and without the clear definition of the corresponding linguistic areal. Todorović treats them together: thoroughly and comprehensively.

Collecting dialectal material, its scientific treatment and publication in this particular linguistically mixed area is of extreme importance since here the dialects and languages change more quickly and/or even become extinct. The author herself said at one of her book presentations (October 15, 2019): “Istrian-Venetian speakers say that 30 or 40 years ago they would immediately know where another indigenous speaker came from: *Koper*, *Izola* or *Piran*. Today, however, this is much more difficult to ascertain as dialects are increasingly merging.”

The work represents a systematic exploration of dialect in coastal area, which has not yet been researched, studied or recorded by Slovenian dialectologists: the area of Slovenian national territory, that does not belong to the Slovenian dialect or language but belongs to the Italian Venetian language or dialect group. The author said (October 15, 2019): “You could say that I drew a boundary between these two areas (of Slavic and Romance origin), but I hope that at the same time I have built bridges between the two communities.”

Due to the researching field of this area of Slovenian Istria, *Istrian-Venetian Linguistic Atlas of Northwest Istria* is interesting for Slovenian, Croatian and Italian linguistics, especially for dialectology and lexicology. Potential readers of the monograph are linguists, dialectologists and other experts of human studies, as well as anyone interested in indigenous language of these coastal towns and Istrian dialects in general. We are looking forward to Suzana Todorović’s next two volumes of *Atlas*.

Suzana Todorović: *Istrskobeneški jezikovni atlas severozahodne Istre 1: vremenske razmere, geomorfologija, običaji in institucije, telo in bolezni = Atlante linguistico istroveneto dell’istria nordoccidentale 1: fenomeni atmosferici, configurazione del terreno, tradizioni ed istituzioni, corpo e malattie* (‘Istrian-Venetian Linguistic Atlas of Northwest Istria 1: atmospheric phenomena, terrain configuration, traditions and institutions, body and diseases’), Koper = Capodistria: Libris: Italijanska unija: = Unione Italiana: Osrednja knjižnica Srečka Vilharja: = Biblioteca centrale Srečko Vilhar, 2019, p. 759. ISBN 978-961-6618-65-6.

*Primljeno 14. februara 2020,
nakon revizije,
prihvaćeno za publikovanje 17. marta 2020.
Elektronska verzija objavljena 1. aprila 2020.*

Tjaša Jakop – filolog, slavista i dijalektolog. Na Filozofskom fakultetu u Ljubljani studirala je slovenački jezik i književnost i opštu lingvistiku, ali i dve godine uporedno španski jezik i književnost. Iz dijalektologije i istorije slovenačkog jezika 2004. godine doktorirala je s disertacijom *Dvojina v slovenskih narečjih*, koju je objavila 2008. godine kao dve odvojene monografije (na slovenačkom i engleskom jeziku). Od 1998. godine zaposlena je u *Institutu za slovenski jezik Frana Ramovša* (ZRC SAZU) u Ljubljani – odeljenje za Dijalektologiju, izučavajući slovenačke dijalekte, a posebno štajerske i panonske govore. Posvećena je dijahronim i sinhronim izučavanjima slovenačkih dijalekata, posebno iz oblasti morfologije i geolingvistike. Na terenu sakuplja dijalekatski materijal i zapisuje lokalne govore u zemlji i u inostranstvu (Italija, Austrija, Hrvatska), priprema fonološke opise govora i lingvističke analize narodne leksike. Učestvuje u projektu *Slovenski lingvistični atlas* (2011) i autor je dijalekatskih karata i komentara.