

REVIEWS

Mitja Skubic. *Romanske jezikovne prvine na zahodni slovenski jezikovni meji.* Ljubljana: Znanstveni inštitut Filozofske fakultete, 1997. 227 pp., 1,000 SIT [\$5.50] (paper).

Mitja Skubic's monograph on the Romance linguistic elements in Slovene dialects spoken in the western Slovene speech areas is aimed at a description and interpretation of Romance linguistic interference in Slovene dialects along the Italian-Slovene linguistic boundary. These areas are in today's Italian Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, in the extreme northeastern part of the Republic of Italy, on the eastern edge of the autonomous province Friuli-Venezia Giulia—administratively the Italian Trst-Trieste, Gorica-Gorizia, and Videm-Udine regions. Generally speaking, except for his introductory remarks, Mitja Skubic's treatise is restricted to discussion of linguistic confluence in the Gorica and Udine provinces, with little attention to the linguistic situation in the city of Trieste and the Trieste region.

Skubic's discussion of the Romance elements in Western Slovene dialects is organized into two main divisions, the "Sociolingvistični del" (9–50) and the "Jezikoslovni del" (51–209). His sociolinguistic chapter deals with a geographic, historical and statistical, linguistic, and social information on the dialects' public use as regional variants of Slovene, tolerated by the authorities in the past and today. Skubic pays particular attention to the fate of Slovene education within the Italian tradition, given the Italian reform of elementary and middle education; the disappearance of Slovene from public schools; the use of Slovene in public life; the tendency towards its

regional place names (*Gorica* to *Gorizia*, *Sveta gora* to *Monte Santo*) and of personal and family names, the decreased use of Slovene in public communication, the use of Slovene in the Roman Catholic Church tradition, and, finally, leading Slovene and non-Slovene internationally-oriented individuals and their work representing the Western Slovene speech areas—for example, Ivan Trinko Zamejski (1863–1954) and Anton Cuffolo (Kufol) (1889–1959) in Slovenska Benečija, Lavo Čermelj (1889–1980), a Trieste-born Slovene educator who worked in Ljubljana and the internationally known Polish linguist Jan Ignacy Baudouin de Courtenay (1845–1907), a recognized authority of the *Accademia scientifico-letteraria di Milano*, who during the last three decades of the nineteenth century worked on western Slovene dialects in Gorica.

The chapter on linguistics (57–203) is devoted to a presentation of the dialectal-linguistic sources of Romance languages (Latin, Friulian, Italian) and their influence on the western Slovene dialects. An introductory note in this chapter defines the Friulian phonetic features used in the analysis and syntactical forms and structures of Romance origin used in Western Slovene dialects (58–60). An example is the use of the demonstrative pronoun *ta* with the value of definite article, as in *naši ta stari* (60–61), of the semantically weakened numeral *en* with the value of indefinite article (e.g., *en oča* [61]), of the weakening and even loss of declension (cf. 62), records of the loss of dual forms of pronouns (65–68), the unnecessary use of prepositions (70–78), irregularities in the usage of pronominal forms (72–74), digression in the use of personal pronouns in verbal forms (87–102), calquing (113–26), and, finally, Romance elements in the vocabulary of western Slovene dialects (126–203).

The volume concludes with a bibliography (204–8), index of personal names (*imensko kazalo*, 209–10), subject index—a register of the syntactical and lexical units discussed (*stvarno kazalo-seznam obdelanih skladijskih in leksikalnih enot*, 211–23), and summary (*povzetek/riassunto*: “Elementi linguistici romanzi nello Sloveno occidentale,” 224–27).

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