

Grant H. Lundberg. *Dialect leveling in Haloze, Slovenia*. Maribor: Mednarodna založba Oddelka za slovanske jezike in književnosti, Filozofska fakulteta, 2013. 114 pp. [Zora, 91.]

Reviewed by Mijo Lončarić

In my description of Kajkavian dialects (the Northwestern group of Croatian dialects bordering on Slovenia; Lončarić 1996), I skipped over their relationship with Haloze, giving it less attention than other segments. This was because recent works on Haloze and on the neighboring Croatian Kajkavian dialects were lacking, as Zorko (1998) and Lundberg point out. There were basic reliable data for the Slovenian side but insufficient data on the Croatian side. After Zorko's good overview and Lundberg's good preliminary studies (1999, 2005a, 2005b), we now have this excellent monograph on the Haloze dialect or Haloze group. Unfortunately, we do not yet have a corresponding work for the Croatian area which would give us a full picture of this part of Slovenian-Croatian linguistic relations.<sup>1</sup>

Lundberg's monograph is dialectological and sociolinguistic. It considers the development of the system and its genesis from the reconstructed Slovenian and Croatian initial system in this area and explains the present state of the Haloze dialect group as a convergence of neighboring local dialects and the standard language. For particular periods of development he draws parallels with historical and political-territorial events on the border between the Austrian and Hungarian parts of the empire. I will look mainly at dialectological questions, particularly from the Croatian point of view.

The monograph has three large thematic chapters: chapter 2, Haloze Dialects, Meje and Belavšek; chapter 3, Historical Developments; chapter 4, Dialect Leveling in Haloze; along with the Introduction and Con-

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<sup>1</sup> Fortunately, there is now a study of part of the Croatian side (A. Celinić, in press). Differing classifications of local dialects across languages are a well-known phenomenon, found even in closely related languages such as Slovenian and Croatian (and the rest of Central South Slavic). This has been discussed by Brozović and I have written about it as well (Lončarić 2009).

clusion. In keeping with the considerations above, I will speak more about the dialectological, genetic side of the question.

Lundberg states that in this small area, as in all of Slovenia (and it is the same in the neighboring Croatian Zagorje), we have very extensive diversification of larger idioms, from macrodialects (dialect groups) down through bases, i.e., groups of local dialects to single local dialects, which are often quite different from each other.

Lundberg notes, as does Zorko, that Ramovš (1935) assigned Haloze to the Pannonian basis, while Rigler (1986) indicated a Styrian development. These opinions need not be contradictory and exclude one another since, as Lundberg shows, even in such a small space as Haloze there was an isogloss separating two developments, one Pannonian in the East and the other Styrian in the West, and perhaps in the center as well. The area was transitional, which is a normal situation even in the dialect continuum of a single language, and particularly so in border zones between closely related languages. Concentrating on Eastern Haloze, Lundberg did a detailed study of the locality Meje (in his first research Gorenjski Vrh), and for central Haloze he took Belavšek (as in his earlier work).

Ramovš overlooked certain vowel phenomena, important for the development of this group, at the meeting point of Styrian, Pannonian-Slovenian, and Kajkavian; Lundberg brings them out, and they clearly show the development of the vocalism. In prosody there is a quantity opposition (long—short) only in accented syllables; the place of accent is free. It is diachronically important that there is no lengthening of a short syllable (vowel) in a non-final syllable as there is in most Slovenian dialects, although not in Kajkavian. Lundberg uses the Slovenian term *brata*-lengthening, which is imprecise, since most Slovenian dialects lengthen every non-final short syllable, and not only the type that has come from an old, proto-Slavic long acute, a type that is lengthened in some Croatian (not only Kajkavian) dialects as well.

In Central Haloze the suprasegmental system is the same as in Eastern Haloze, but there is a difference in vocalism: in Eastern Haloze it is monophthongal without regard to the quantity, whereas in Central Haloze the long vowels are diphthongal. Western Haloze is significantly different from Eastern and Central in prosody: the accented syllable/vowel is long. Unfortunately Lundberg does not present any Western Haloze local dialect and does not state explicitly whether the given rule for the accented syllable holds for the final or only syllable in a word, as might be concluded from his formulation “all stressed vowels are long,

and ... phonemic length distinctions have been lost" (19). This is a very important phenomenon for Slovenian, and it would be good to have it made explicit. However, in Zorko's description of the Western Haloze local dialect of Žetale we find short accented vowels attested: "*Akutirani a v zadnjem slogu se izgovara rahlo labializirano, ostaja pa kratek: br'ăt, f'ânt.*" (*Acute-accented a* in the final syllable is pronounced slightly labialized but remains short; 1998: 9). This is also not a complete description of either the prosodic system or the vocalic system; it is unlikely to hold only for the vowel *a*, as can be seen from examples cited in the morphology: *p'sã, p'sü* (od '*pie:s*), *f'sq, 'ün*, etc.

Along with the general development  $e > e$ , it is found that in Eastern Haloze (Gorenjski Vrh, Meje) long jat and the *poluglas* (schwa, reflex of the jers) have merged ( $\text{ə} > \text{ě}$ ) into a long closed  $\text{e}$  ( $\text{e}:$ ), which is considered one of the most important Kajkavian features. Lundberg correctly concludes that this could not have developed later, in a retrograde fashion, from the general development in the Pannonian group (Rigler 1986), since in Central Haloze (Belavšek) we see the reflex of *jat* maintaining its separate phonological value ( $*\text{ě} > e \sim i$ ), while the *poluglas* has joined with the already-merged  $e = \text{e}$  ( $> e$ ), a Pannonia-wide merger which we also find in Slovak; thus  $\text{ě} \neq \text{ə} = (e = \text{e})$ , or in today's terms  $e \sim i (< *\text{ě}) \neq e < [*\text{ə} = (*e = *\text{e})]$ . We find the same development in certain Croatian Zagorje (Kajkavian) dialects.

This is a familiar development in a language continuum, according to the Stammbaum theory and convergence, as is well treated by Stankiewicz (1957).

Because of the importance of the development of *jat* and the *poluglas* Lundberg has given them the greatest amount of attention, two subchapters, 3.4 "Raising of *Jat*" and 3.5 "Lowering of  $*\text{ə}$ ".

Such differing developments in Eastern and Central Haloze need not be the results of older political and administrative circumstances, e.g., belonging to different states, which Lundberg cites as a possibility, but this cannot be excluded. Later leveling of dialects in Haloze between local dialects on the one hand and the standard language on the other into a non-uniform interdialect is also not unexpected, particularly in earlier times. Leveling is not only found elsewhere in Slovenian and Slavic, as in the nearby Croatian language, but is a widespread phenomenon in languages in general. In communicating with inhabitants of nearby places one avoids the specific characteristics of one's local dialect and chooses forms more understandable and more similar to theirs, and this then influences the local dialects themselves. In such

leveling at present, with the spread of education and audio mass media, the standard language plays a more and more important part as compared with interdialectal leveled features.

Lundberg's monograph is a significant and valuable contribution not only to Slovenian dialect studies but to Slavic and particularly Croatian dialectology, with its detailed presentation of a hitherto little-known region, dialect, and local idiom. Since the region is on the border with Croatian, it is also of special worth as an advance in the study of Slovenian-Croatian linguistic relations. Besides giving a reliable description of the contemporary situation and historical development, the monograph is valuable methodologically.

We can only wish for similar treatments of other little-studied areas both of Slovenian and of Croatian. Unfortunately, Slovenian dialectology has not completed (and Croatian even less) fundamental studies using the method of linguistic geography for their national Slovenian and Croatian linguistic atlases, as was done for German and French in the 19th century. Yet this is the method that gives the best overview of the language landscape, the continuum of the entire linguistic region. For neither language have all the planned points been explored. For Slovenian all points have been covered for part of the lexicon (of a total of 413, including five Croatian points as controls), and thus it has been possible to publish the first volume of the atlas with part of the lexical material (Škofic 2011). For the Croatian Linguistic Atlas almost a quarter of the 400 total points are still awaiting even partial exploration.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> A number of articles concerning the *Hrvatski jezični atlas* can be found by searching the CROSB-I-Hrvatska znanstvena bibliografija website at [http://bib.irb.hr/pretrazivanje\\_rezultat?lang=EN](http://bib.irb.hr/pretrazivanje_rezultat?lang=EN).

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