Vinko Grubišić

‘Declaration Concerning the Name and the Position of the Croatian Literary Language’ and Its Importance for the Croatian National Identity

(On the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Croatian Language Declaration).

Even though immediately after World War II all official documents in Communist Yugoslavia were published in four national languages, Croatian, Serbian, Slovenian and Macedonian, the Yugoslav government did not hide its ambition to create one official state language, lingua communis, which was the language of the most numerous nation, i.e. that of the Serbs. The Novi Sad Agreement (1954) stressed that Serbs and Croats had one and the same language called Serbocroatian/Croatoserbian. Nevertheless, Serbs continued to call their language Serbian and Croats Croatian. In a short period of time the Serbian language became dominant and Croatian started to be reduced to a status of a local dialect. Provoked by this linguistic situation, in March 1967 Croatian cultural and educational institution and well-known linguists and writers, signed the Declaration Concerning the Name and the Position of the Croatian Literary Language.

Today when each nation of the disintegrated former Yugoslavia is free to cultivate and cherish its own language, it is clear that the renowned Croatian Declaration… was “the beginning of the end” of all ambitions of creating one Yugoslav nation with a single “state language”.

The Croatian language has been an integral part of the Croatian national identity for many centuries. To keep the national name of their language was nothing less than an effort to preserve the Croatian national identity.
Joseph Schalert

Mirko Deanovič’s Lingvistički atlas Mediterana

The project Mirko Deanovič’s Lingvistički atlas Mediterana led to the publication of a series of articles (1958–1967) devoted to the lexicon of a range of BCS dialects extending along the Dalmatian coast and offshore islands from Čakavian Krk in the north to Old Štokavian Boka Kotorska in the south. Since the data were gathered with due attention to prosodic details, Deanovič’s material can be utilized for the purposes of the present paper, which provides a comparative historical analysis of the accentuation of monosyllabic masculine stems attested in Deanovič’s corpus. The results of this analysis shed new light on the lexical and geographical domain of “accent type D” in BCS, a topic which has been the focus of scholarly discussion devoted to the evidence for and against Common Slavic “accent paradigm (d)”, e.g., brijeg, brijega, with a stress pattern similar to standard jekavian brījest, brijesta (i.e., the reflex of AP [b], following the merger of the neo-acute with the circumflex and the effects of the Neo-Štokavian retraction).

Igor Štagljar

Where Are We in the War on Cancer?

Of all the diseases affecting humankind, cancer is one of the most difficult to treat and cure. This is due to the fact that cancer is not a single disease but consists of hundreds of different types. In addition, cancers exhibit considerable genetic complexity with more than 500 different genes currently known to be implicated in their development. They also display major inter- and intra-tumor heterogeneity. Despite these complexities, several successes have been achieved in recent years, most of which relate to the specific targeting of driver genes involved in cancer development. During my talk, I will report on major crossroads in my research career and will also summarize our current knowledge on the development of new “precision” drugs to treat various types of cancers. I’ll also send the message that although the war on cancer has not yet been won, neither has it been lost. With continued basic and clinical research, cancer will be transformed into a disease in which patients will have increased survival rates and better quality of life.
Dubravka Zima
Croatian Tales of Long Ago: Longevity, Modernity and Croatian Identity

Presentation deals with some key-points of Croatian cultural self-image, exploring concepts of longevity, ancient times and modernity on the basis of one of the most popular and most important Croatian books of all times, a collection of fairy-tales named Croatian Tales of Long Ago (1916) by Ivana Brlić Mažuranić.

Aleksandra Srša Benko
Identity in the Epistle to Croatian Emigrants by Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac in Light of Linguistic Infidelity

In 1940, the St. Raphael Society for the protection of Croatian emigrants published the Epistle to Croatian Emigrants, by the Archbishop of Zagreb and Metropolitan of Croatia, Aloysius Victor Stepinac, in its first issue of the journal Hrvat u Tudini. Linguistic infidelity is a challenging matter of different visions whose outcomes may endanger the nature of identity by exhibiting a disregard for its most fundamental elements and lead to damaged relationships or estrangement. Stepinology has thus far rarely based its focus on a linguistic approach. According to Searle’s theory of speech act and intentionality, understanding the speaker’s (un)expressed intention is essential to capture the utterance of a meaning through perlocutionary acts used to elicit some behavioral response; a key for unveiling contemporaneous reception to linguistic exposure of an identity message. The Epistle remains a great example of warning to the blurring lines between a cross-functional integration of languages. Our analysis will explore the inherent logic to the expanded role of different spheres of identity perseverance, which incorporates moral and virtuous authority in the (im)pious believer as a member of a society.

Edward J. Mavrinac
From Tamburica To Opera

In my childhood home English was the only language spoken. Participating in the tamburica orchestra at the Croatian Hall in Schumacher, I was exposed to the music and songs of Croatia. Soon I developed (through an inquisitive nature and desire to understand what I was singing) a unique correlation between Music and language skills in the Croatian language. After those first introductions with Croatian music and
language, I studied classical music at U of T and subsequent to my first degree, studied ethnomusicology in Zagreb with Croatia’s National Folklore Ensemble LADO. It was then that I fell in love with the Croatian language, its various dialects, culture and people. Years later, I produced the Opera Zrinjski at the Living Arts Centre. The opera chorus was composed of non-speaking Croats, namely Canadians. In 2013, as Artistic Director, I formed the Canadian Croatian Choral Society where Croats and non Croats have enjoyed singing in the Croatian Language as well as six other languages. In a concluding, I cannot stress the importance of learning to speak your mother tongue and taking advantage of the opportunities offered to you. Be proud of your cultural heritage and ensure that it exists for generations to come.