THE ZLARIN DIALECT

Summary

1. The dialect spoken on Zlarin is čakavian in origin and in terms of its presentday characteristics. As the čakavian dialect extends in the southeasterly-northwesterly direction, Zlarin is situated in a transition zone which includes all the čakavian-based dialects of the Zadar—Sibenik region. Being close to the mainland, the Zlarin dialect is exposed to the influence of (neo)štokavian dialects from the hinterland of Sibenik.

2. As for the inventory of vowel sounds, the long-vowel series is realized as e, a, o and also as closed sounds (long Ž, Š, Ž and subsequently shortened Ž, Š, Ž). The characteristic features of the Zlarin vocalism include /e/ in examples like reste, /a/ in examples like prijatii, the vocalic r which is always short, /i/ < /er/ in front of -n/-m, /u/ < /er/ in front of -n/-m, nasalized vowel (V) < -VN, systematic ikavism.

3. The consonantal inventory has a missing /dz/, while d is included and h ( ~ x) is restituted; c (~ ~) and c (~ t) are distinguished; the consonantal group šč is present; the change of tl + i(e) into tj + i(e) and čč ( > šč), sc into je (u Bojcu, prijičo) is found; certain consonants are dropped (tica, jena) as are also, quite frequently, the paradigmatic -v and -j when preceded by long vowels (Vila o Boku, na Josić).

4. The accentual inventory includes the classical čakavian accents* with the restriction that never appears on the last syllable, and the penultimate syllable, as a rule, gets either the sakut / ~ (if the syllable is long) or the semi-sakut / (if the syllable is short); long unstressed vowels are regularly found in syllables either immediately preceding or immediately following the (old) accented syllable.

5. As for the morphological inventory, the dual appears with numerals from two to four (dva, tri, četiri brata); masculine nouns normally have only short plurals (zidi); the genitive plural of feminine nouns has the ending -i in feminine nouns the genitive plural drops the final -a (ovác); the masculine accusative plural has the ending -e (zube), like the feminine genitive singular (lice sandule), typical čakavian conditional forms of the verb biti are preserved in the plural (bimo, bite, bi), as well as the imperfect forms of the same verb in the modal meaning (biseš ti dojti ...); the third person plural of the present tense has as a rule the common paradigmatic ending -u (zubi me bolti); in the I-participle, -i is either dropped (reka) or is replaced by the sequence -ja (vidija).

6. Other features include the following: possessivity is expressed either by means of the preposition od + genitive or the genitive alone; adverbial phrases are made up of the preposition po + accusative singular of feminine nouns (po zlarinsku) or the preposition na + accusative singular (igrati na karte); numerous Romance features are present (Dalmato-Romance relics and Venetianisms), but original Croatian words are well preserved in zoological, botanical and kinship terminologies; in toponymy two main linguistic strata can be observed — Romance and Croatian.

All these data confirm the view that the Zlarin dialect is čakavian in character.

(Translated by V. Ivir)