

Current Developments in Linguistic Science at the Youngest Linguistic Institute in Croatia

On the Occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the Founding of the Institute
of Linguistics, Faculty of Philosophy, Zagreb University)

1. *Founding.* "For university teacher-linguists to advance the science which constitutes their special field, jointly-organized work and close cooperation is necessary between representatives of similar and related fields at an institution which will advance and actively represent Yugoslav science in the world..." With these words in 1959 the founders of the Institute (Professors M. Deanović, R. Filipović, V. Gortan, J. Hamm, and V. Vinja) applied to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb to found the Institute of Linguistics, since up to that time there was no body which could organize the kind of comprehensive scientific work that involves the investigation of Slavic, Romance, Germanic, Classical, and, in general, Indo-European and many other languages.

Among the objectives set for the new institute, the following were stressed above all by the organizers: (a) active participation in work to develop linguistic science and linguistic methods of investigating Yugoslav languages and foreign languages; (b) work on problems in various fields of general and comparative linguistics of Indo-European and non-Indo-European languages; (c) the study of mutual relations between Yugoslav languages and foreign languages; (d) the training of scientific personnel and the modernization of linguistic methods and of linguistics teaching in general. These objectives were soon worked out in greater detail in the *Statutes* of the Institute of Linguistics, according to which the Institute began its activity at the end of 1960 after the Faculty Council, on Dec. 16, 1960, ratified the decision of the Faculty Board adopted on Nov. 26, 1960, on the founding of the Institute. The following year the Institute was entered under number 36 in the register of scientific institutions of the Council for Scientific Work of the People's Republic of Croatia, by which act the Institute gained the right to financial help in its work on scientific projects.

Prof. Ljudevit Jonke was chosen as the first director of the Institute; R. Filipović, V. Vinja, and R. Katičić as members of the governing board; and Danijel Alerić as the first permanent assistant. At the same time the Faculty of Philosophy approved the initial financial means necessary for personnel and material expenses, and the Institute was immediately able to begin its work.

2. *Organization of Scientific Research.* Although scientific work in the Institute began immediately after its formation, more significant activity by the members of the Institute was initiated with funds which the Council for Scientific Work granted for the first scientific projects. The topics of these projects show the direction in which the scientific activity of the Institute and its collaborators was directed:

(a) *Work on Syntax of Serbo-Croatian.* For the purpose of studying syntactic problems the leader of the Project, Prof. Ljudevit Jonke, and seven collaborators excerpted the works of a large number of Croatian and Serbian writers and several issues of various newspapers and journals. All this material — about 40,000 cards — was given to the *Institute for Language* of the Yugoslav Academy in Zagreb to be used when work commenced on a "Scientific Grammar of the Croatian Literary Language", which that Institute subsequently began and on which it is still working.

(b) *The English Element in Serbo-Croatian and other European Languages (Phase I).* The director of the project, Prof. Rudolf Filipović, formulated in his studies the principles of language borrowing on the phonological, morphological, and semantic levels so that, on the basis of this theoretical work, an analysis of anglicisms in the main European languages could be undertaken, showing their adaptation on the three levels. A large amount of material has been collected, and the analysis on the three levels has been completed; thus all necessary preliminary work has been done for a synthetic review of the English element in the main European languages.

(c) *Personal Onomastics of Roman Illyria.* By his research in the area of personal names, Prof. Katičić arrived at very interesting and mostly unexpected conclusions, which have basically changed our ideas about the languages and peoples of the Illyrian provinces. It was shown in his work that the personal onomastics of Roman Illyria is not uniform but is divided into districts. The mutual relations between these districts and their relatedness change the picture of ethnic groups in the Illyrian provinces.

(d) *Description of an Istro-Rumanian Dialect.* Professor August Kovačec described the dialect of the village of Žejane in Čičarija (Istria), which was the only one among the Rumanian dialects in Istria that had not yet been studied, and which is important for Rumanian dialectology and the history of the language because of the large number of archaic elements.

(e) *Examination of Greek and Dalmatian Language Residue on Adriatic Islands.* The director of this project, Prof. Vojmir Vinja, examined the Greek and Middle Greek elements in the dialects of our coastal belt, showing in a special way their entrance into the Croatian language. In contradistinction to Serbian and Macedonian Grecisms, which are generally attributed to a literary medium and to religious practice, these borrowings reached Croatian language through the Old Dalmatian language (an extinct pre-Venetian Romance language) since in that area there were never any direct Greco-Slavic ties. Contacts were established exclusively through the Dalmatian-Roman urban population. Especially well investigated were direct borrowings from the so-called Magna Graecia which have the most obvious phonetic characteristics of the South-Italian Greek element.

These first scientific projects marked from the very founding of the Institute the direction of development and the scope of its activity. From the beginning, the administration of the Institute tried to distinguish the work of the Institute from that of other institutes in Croatia (the Institute for Language of the Yugoslav Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Old Church Slavonic Institute), so it was decided not to develop parallel activity in areas which the other institutes cover. Since the study of the contemporary Croatian literary language belongs to the sphere of the Institute for Language of the Yugoslav Academy, the Institute of Linguistics ceased its activity in that field and gave all material (collected sources and cards) to the Institute for Language. In other areas where the activity of the two Institutes coincided (for

example, in lexicology, onomastics, and others), joint projects were formed, and some of these projects are being worked on by groups of collaborators from both Institutes. Thanks to such scientific policy, thus far activity has not been unnecessarily duplicated in any field.

The successful work on the first projects and the publication of their results established the basic physiognomy of the Institute and the direction of its scientific activity, and presented the Institute to the scientific community in Yugoslavia and abroad as a solid research establishment and its members as serious linguistic workers who deserve every trust and help. This situation made it possible for the Institute to obtain the necessary means from republic and federal sources, as well as from international sources, and in this way to achieve an international reputation.

3. *Expansion of Activities.* In 1967, when American financial aid and cooperation from American linguists in studying the Croatian or Serbian and English languages was offered through the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D. C., as part of Yugoslav-American scientific cooperation, the Commission for Cultural Relations in Belgrade suggested to the director of the Institute, Prof. Rudolf Filipović, that he assemble the Anglicists of the Serbo-Croatian speaking area and organize work on a Serbo-Croatian—English Contrastive Project.

Locating that project at the Institute and obtaining ample financial help from the Federal Fund for Scientific Work and the Fund for Scientific Work in Croatia assured adequate finances for collaborators on that project. The financial help obtained from American sources through the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D. C., made it possible for the Project to obtain modern equipment for the Institute and assured the work of the American linguist Wayles Browne (now Asst. Prof. at Cornell University, U.S.A.) at the Institute for two years.

The beginning of work on the Contrastive Project marked a new phase in the development of the Institute and initiated its ties with many other linguistics institutes throughout the world. A strong working nucleus was formed at the Institute. This nucleus has since 1968 been developing successfully and strengthening the activity of the Institute. The financial resources of the Project made possible the founding of a special reference library which not only serves Project members in their work but also helps to build young cadres of future workers.

Modern technical equipment obtained for the Contrastive Project made possible the modernization of work-methods for processing language material. In addition to indispensable equipment such as a microfiche reader and a 3M copier, the Institute also obtained a flexowriter, which helps to prepare language material for computer processing. The abundant financial help which the Institute obtained for the Contrastive Project made it possible for Prof. Željko Bujas to initiate, for the first time in Yugoslavia, a computer-aided study of language material. The knowledge and experience gained during work on this project served well in other projects which have made use of a computer.

The cooperation between the Institute and the Electronic Computer Center (ECC) of Zagreb, and the understanding of the managerial and professional staff of ECC (in particular its Director, Mr. Marić, and the Chief Programmer, engineer Cihlar) made possible a computer processing of a language corpus, the Zagreb version of the American Brown University Corpus, on which the Contrastive Project has relied. The computer reworking of the contrastive concordances (the English material and its translation) gives Project workers access to syntacti-

cally systematized material which they can use in writing studies for the Project. This successful beginning in the application of a computer to linguistic research, and the experience and knowledge gained through the project, convinced Institute researchers of the usefulness and even necessity of using a computer in their work. Two projects which employ the computer are now in progress and several other projects are being planned.

After the University Computer Center (UCC) was founded and began operations, the Institute sought professional help and computer service from it as well. To this end the Institute is financing a working group made up of representatives from ECC, UCC, and associates of the Institute. This working group is charged with finding a method by which not only linguistic material but also material from other humanistic sciences could be reworked at UCC. The Institute expects that this cooperation will promote better and wider use of computers in the future and that considerable expense will be saved in this way.

4. *Contrastive Projects.* The large English contrastive project (from Croatian to English) laid the foundations for a contrastive study of foreign languages, proceeding from Croatian. Within this project personnel have been trained, the methodology of work has been established, the translation method of redoing a two-language corpus has been adopted, the application of the results has been decided upon, and a contrastive analysis of a large number of grammatical topics has been done. The results of this analysis have been published and some have even been applied practically. All this has pointed to an application which is much wider than that of a contrastive study of just two languages (Croatian and English) with the aim of an in-depth analysis of one (English). Therefore it was soon decided that work on contrastive analysis would be widened, and the Institute began work on a five-language contrastive project, on an English project in the opposite direction (English-Croatian) and on the study of Hindi starting from Croatian. Although begun and organized on somewhat modest means (especially financial), the activity created by these contrastive projects promises valuable results.

The five-language project is studying the contrastive relations of Croatian with five languages: Croatian-French (director: Željko Klaić), Croatian-German (director: Dr. Stanko Žepić), Croatian-Italian (director: Prof. Josip Jernej), Croatian-Russian (director: Prof. Antica Menac) and Croatian-Spanish (director: Karlo Budor). Using the experience and results of the English contrastive project, these projects have organized work so that there is collaboration with other centers both in Yugoslavia and abroad. In this way the Institute has widened its activity and influence.

The second English contrastive project, with an English-Croatian direction, developed as a branch of the large English project (Croatian-English direction) on the assumption that the same method could be applied also in a contrastive analysis in the opposite direction (English-Croatian) in which the target language, i. e. the object of investigation, would be the Croatian literary language. Since the first analyses were carried out and their results obtained in fact from the juxtaposing of two linguistic systems (which must be studied before they are contrasted), the results of the Croatian-English project could be used as well for the English-Croatian project. This was done and proven in the first phase of that project, and the findings will be published in the first volume of that project's publications. This volume is now in press.

The contrastive project entitled "Contributions to the Description of Hindi" has special meaning for Yugoslavia. A group of experts from

the Institute, with the aid of an Indian member of the team, is working on this project; it is being directed by Milka Jauk Pinhak. Since Hindi is assuming more importance in Yugoslavia because of very close Yugoslav-Indian relations, this scientific project, which has as a goal the completion of several studies on some problems of Hindi on a contrastive base, has been given added meaning.

5. *Other projects.* Although the Institute began the projects described above in a completely pioneering manner, by its formulation of new methods and the introduction of computer technology to preparing linguistic material — the corpus and so on — it has laid the foundations for new activity which has good prospects for further successful development in the future. Nevertheless, work on some projects has been carried out in a more classical, linguistically traditional manner, making use of historical, descriptive and other conventional methods of linguistics. Among these projects, already completed, one should mention: (a) lexicological work on Russian and Ukrainian (under the direction of Prof. Antica Menac); (b) suffixal derivation of nouns (directed by Prof. Stjepan Babić); (c) the language of Marko Marulić (directed by Prof. Milan Moguš). All these projects resulted in valuable scientific works, some of which have already been published.

An especially successful period in the work of the Institute began in 1971, when the Institute significantly widened its activity thanks to exceptional linguistic personnel assembled from the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. No less important a factor in widening the Institute's activity was the very generous financial help for the five-year period 1971—75. The Institute receives this help from the Fund for Scientific Work as a result of that body's deep understanding of its objectives in Yugoslav society. Also important is the strong moral support of the President of the Council for Scientific Work, Academician Ivan Jurković, and the expert services of the Council, especially from Mrs. Helena Valpotić.

Projects under way in this five-year period (1971—75) have attained the highest scientific level and offer every guarantee of giving results of the highest international standards. Besides the contrastive projects mentioned above, the following projects are still in progress:

(a) *The History of the Croatian Literary Language of the 19th Century* (directed by Dr. Zlatko Vince). The focus of this project is on studying the Zadar-Dalmatian language circle in the history of the Croatian literary language of the 19th century. The result of this project is a study by Dr. Zlatko Vince, which is now being prepared for publication.

(b) *Investigation of Romance Languages and Their Elements in Croatia and Yugoslavia.* This project encompasses four topics: (1) *Etymological Dictionary of Adriatic Fauna* (directed by Prof. Vojmir Vinja), a combined linguistic-geographical and etymological undertaking, the corpus of which is based on material gathered from more than 100 locations along the coast. Included are all forms of sea fauna for which there are popular native names. The etymological approach rejects the traditional practice of considering only the forms themselves; it seeks to place each name in a formal and semantic system of relations and is based on a semic analysis of the item and on comparisons of identical or similar treatments of other Mediterranean nomenclature.

(2) *Establishment and Adaptation of Italian Terminology Found in Yugoslav Public Life* (directed by Prof. Josip Jernej). The goal of this research is to collect from various locations and from published

material administrative and political terminology in Italian which might be standardized later on the Yugoslav two-language territory.

(3) *The Sephardic Dialects of Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia* (directed by Prof. August Kovačec). Very little has been done on the Sephardic dialects since the period between the wars. The Sephardim are by their culture and economic presence a people which we must not neglect. In neighboring lands of Yugoslavia these dialects have been studied and saved from extinction. For this reason an investigation was begun of these dialects, and the work will have to be continued into the next five-year period since for technical reasons it could not be finished. So far the dialect of Sephardic families in Dubrovnik has been investigated and this material prepared for publication. The investigations have been expanded into Bosnia, where the dialect survey has been completed.

(4) *Arumanian Dialects of Yugoslavia* (directed by Prof. August Kovačec). What was said above about the Sefard dialects holds as well for the Arumanian dialects. Since thus far only experimental questionnaires have been completed in the field, mainly in Macedonia, this project will continue into the next five-year period.

(c) *Investigation of Phraseology in the Russian and Croatian Literary Languages* (directed by Prof. Antica Menac). The main objective of this project is to gather and to classify on the basis of certain criteria the phraseology of Russian and Croatian. This includes first of all phrases of an idiomatic and terminological character, then other set phrases as well as word groups which show a tendency toward becoming phrases. Studied in particular are the origin of fixed phrases and the question of whether both languages have similar tendencies of acceptance, development and use of phrases.

(d) *Computer Analysis of Old Croatian Literary Texts* (directors: Prof. Željko Bujas and Prof. Milan Moguš). This study of the language of Old Croatian literature is an attempt to treat language concordances in such a way that several special analyses may be carried out on the basis of the treatment. Prof. Bujas developed, at the University of Texas, the first concordances for several Croatian literary texts (*Suzana* by Marko Marulić, *Osman* by Ivan Gundulić, and *Povratak Filipa Latinić* by Miroslav Krleža), and with that experience the project is developing concordances of the first Croatian written monuments and of the major works or a selection of works of old Croatian literature. When all of these handbooks are published, they will serve researchers of Croatian literature in their investigation of these works.

(e) *English-Croatian Lexicographic Corpus* (director: Prof. Željko Bujas). This corpus, compiled with the aid of computer technology, the first such application in Yugoslavia, will present an easily usable source for lexicographic problems of various types. The success of this project will make possible work on two-language corpora for other languages as well.

(f) *Croatian Toponyms in English Travel Literature* (director: Prof. Rudolf Filipović). By excerpting from a large number of works of English travel literature a file of Croatian toponyms appearing in those works has been compiled. Now in progress is their classification and a study of their origins, development, and the changes they have undergone.

(g) *Monograph: The English Element in European Languages and an Etymological Dictionary of English Borrowings in European Languages* (director: Prof. Rudolf Filipović). Through the international cooperation of universities in Bucharest, Groningen, Poznań, Lund and Bratislava, this project is studying the English element in 20 European

languages. It is relying on the theoretical base established during the first phase of the study, completed several years earlier. The number of European languages being studied was fixed at 20 through theoretical considerations. The majority of analyses have been completed and the results obtained are being organized for inclusion in a monograph; the lexical elements themselves will make up an etymological dictionary.

"As the first work of its kind in the world, this is a pioneering effort and will present a work of outstanding theoretical and practical interest." (D. Brozović). In the monograph will be included the results of the study of the borrowings, with the aim of establishing the universals and general principles by which the process of language borrowing in a geographically limited area develops. The etymological dictionary will be a source of information on the adaptation of English borrowings in European languages on the phonological, morphological and semantic levels.

6. *Professional Meetings and Conferences.* In order to maintain the necessary contacts among collaborators on the larger projects (such as the contrastive project and the project on the English element in European languages, whose collaborators work in several centers outside of Zagreb and even abroad), the Institute has organized several meetings on the national level for project members and one international conference (the Zagreb Conference of English Contrastive Projects). The value of such meetings for future work is very great. The Zagreb Conference, at which representatives of many English contrastive projects shared experiences and results from their work, was a special success. Both the Conference and the publication of its proceedings are frequently cited in professional linguistic literature as valuable contributions of the Institute.

The Institute maintains contacts with many Yugoslav and foreign institutes and linguistic centers and itself has become a drawing point for many linguists involved in pursuits which are the same as or similar to those of the Institute.

The rather cramped quarters constitute the only reason why the Institute cannot open its doors wider and give access to its material to all those interested, both Yugoslav and foreign. One bright spot is the Fulbright researchers who are permanent collaborators in the English contrastive projects; as linguistic advisors, they work at the Institute for extended periods.

The world's linguistic community is informed about the work of the Institute and its many projects at international congresses and in the publications of these conferences. The directors of some projects present their work at conferences devoted to various special topics and in this way the Institute acquires an international reputation and interest in its work spreads.

The Institute offers help to other projects, especially contrastive projects, in many countries. Besides personal contacts which members of the Institute have with other scientists both in Yugoslavia and abroad, the publications of the Institute themselves are a well-established source of help.

7. *Publications.* The publishing activity of the Institute began with the appearance of three series of publications for the Croatian-English contrastive project. Thus far 18 books in these series have been published: 9 volumes of *Reports*, 5 volumes of *Studies* and two volumes of *Pedagogical Materials*, as well as two special volumes. Now in preparation are several new publications which will come out in 1975; all

material for them has been gathered and is now partially ready for printing.

In addition to the publications of the first contrastive project (Croatian-English), the Institute is beginning a series for the second contrastive project (English-Croatian), the goal of which is a contrastive analysis of the Croatian literary language on the basis of English. These publications, we hope, will advance the study of the Croatian literary language in the United States and Great Britain and are meant for both teachers and students.

The need for publishing the results of the large project entitled "English Elements in European Languages" demanded a series of publications for that project as well. Material has already been gathered for the first volume of this series, which will contain Project studies whose results pertain to the synthetic monograph, whereas the lexical material will go into an etymological dictionary of English borrowings in European languages.

The Institute is co-publisher of the journal *Suvremena lingvistika* (*Contemporary Linguistics*) and is the recipient of financial help which that journal gets from the Fund for Scientific Work of Croatia. The Institute exchanges that journal for other journals and publications and thus builds its own library and maintains contacts with other institutions.

The possibility of publishing an Institute *Bilten* (*Bulletin*) is now being considered. Without such a publication, many activities of the Institute, its members and collaborators remain unknown and unpublished. Regular publication of this bulletin will enable the Institute to have even better contacts with the Yugoslav and foreign linguistic community.

8. *Remaining Activities.* As a working unit of the Faculty of Philosophy, the Institute has, whenever possible, introduced students of the Faculty into its work. In this way it has not only helped students financially but has directly bound them to itself and has pointed the way to the system of contemporary scientific investigation in the sphere of linguistic knowledge.

The Institute for several years has offered administrative services to the Union of Philological Institutes and Institutions, and through its members the Institute participates directly and indirectly in a large number of Society activities in the Croatian Republic. The Institute was involved in all discussions concerning the introduction of the self-management system and in the adoption of the Law on Scientific Work. The Institute was and has remained a source of ideas on the integration of philological institutes into an association of institutes, so that by uniting resources and personnel it might be possible to accomplish better and more successful work.

9. *Perspectives.* What are the perspectives for the Institute? In looking back over the last fifteen years, on the results attained in that period and on the conditions which Yugoslav society offers such institutes, it seems that work at the Institute will advance further, work conditions will improve, and better and more successful results must follow. The Institute is preparing, on the basis of its present work, experience and accomplishments, a wider and more developed program for the coming five-year period (1975-80) in the hope that, with Yugoslav society's fruitful and ample help which the Institute has enjoyed for the last 15 years, its plans will be realized.

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