

Original scientific paper
Received 2. XI. 2017.

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CROATIAN LANGUAGE IN OFFICIAL GAZETTES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FROM 1990 TO 2005

Abstract

The paper deals with status of Croatian language in official gazettes in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1990 to 2005. Croatian language is one of three official languages in Bosnia and Herzegovina, therefore it is necessary to explore its real position in the society, especially regarding its status.

Since those texts are a part of public communication – and usage of standard language in that area is obligatory – attention is focused on one of the most represented public communication style, and that is administrative functional style. For exploring the position of Croatian language in the mentioned period regarding that style, the texts of the following official gazettes were analyzed: Službeni list BiH, Narodni list HZ/RHB and Gradski službeni glasnik Grada Mostara (Službeni list grada Mostara). Collected data were firstly analyzed at the lexical level since the status of language in public communication can be best determined at that linguistic level.

Key words: administrative style; standard Croatian language; Bosnia and Herzegovina; language politics; public communication; sociolinguistics