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ON FOLK MEDICINE OF BRODSKO POSAVLJE

The final contribution to (folk) medicine (i.e. its history), ethnology, cultural anthropology, and dialectology is presented in the *Lexicon of Slavonian Folk Medicine of Brodsko Posavlje* published in Osijek, 2017, by the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek and the Faculty of Education. The *Lexicon* was co-authored by a group of researchers: Emina Berbić Kolar, Tanja Đurić, Monika Grozdanović, Josip Jagodar, Antun Javor, Ivana Mihić and Katarina Sudarević. Co-authors went to 14 places in Brodsko Posavlje (Bebrina, Brodski Stupnik, Davor, Donji Lipovac, Dubočac, Gornji Lipovac, Kaniža, Lužani, Magić Mala, Siče, Slavonski Kobaš, Srednji Lipovac and Velika Kapanica) to find speakers, around 60 of them, and used their utterances as the database for the lexicon.

Lexicon is principally separated into two parts: the medicinal (tentatively) one and the dialectological one. The first part shows, in order, illnesses, acute and chronic states, as well as ways in which people dealt with health problems. The speakers advised what to do in case of an allergy, asthma, rheumatism, ulcers, epilepsy, stroke, cold, tuberculosis, mumps, jaundice etc. Apart from illnesses, the *Lexicon* also notes folk medicinal advice concerning pregnancy and giving birth, pulling teeth or obsessions and fears. This is evidence of the entanglement of the mythic, religious, and the exact scientific in a more specific sense. In that regard, one must also observe the appendix that comes after a list of illnesses. It is about (among other things) curses and patron saints. Having that in mind, the *Lexicon* mirrors the folk notion of illnesses and treatments with its structure as well, which connects bodily and spiritual health. This is also an important contribution of this work in the context of ethnology and cultural anthropology. With regards to the medicinal part, one must highlight that some entries have one or more sub-entries. For instance, *bone pain – rheumatics* is divided into *lumbar pain* and *leg pain*; *stings and bites* differentiates between *a tick sting*, *serpent bite*, *a bee or wasp sting*.

The second part, the dialectological one, makes up a dictionary in which the authors bring forth a list of words by local Slavonian speakers used in the first part. It must be said here that words are highlighted with regards to the implicit norm of each local speech i.e. a group of local speeches. Sometimes even grammatical information is stated. Obviously, each word belonging to an organic idiom is accompanied by its equivalent from standard language or by its definition.

Apart from the dictionary, which was roughly presented here, the contribution of the *Lexicon* to dialectology is also in the incorporation of the utterances by speakers into the processing of each lexicon entry. Each medicinal state presented in the *Lexicon* is described in a systematic, methodologically sound way. After stating the conventional name of a condition, for instance *fever*, there is a list of local names with a noted stress pattern for that condition with a locality where the name was noted. After that (most frequently), the illness is defined according to recent medicinal literature, followed by ways of treatment in individual villages of Brodsko Posavlje. Medicinal, ethnological, and dialectological elements are intertwined here as well because the processing of each illness is followed by speech segments which were edited and processed according to the rules of dialectology. The final part of this interdisciplinary edition contains a list of speakers according to places where they live. Those places are also shown on a geographical map. The *Lexicon* ends with notes on authors and a list of works cited.

The Lexicon of Slavonian Folk Medicine speaks of medicinal states, their treatments, and beliefs among the population of a part of Brodsko Posavlje in an interesting way acceptable to the average reader. This interdisciplinary work by seven authors is not intended for a narrow circle of interested experts. Precisely due to its interdisciplinary nature, the work speaks also to doctors, ethnologists, anthropologists, linguists, but also to each individual who can reach for this book for the most varying of reasons.