

In memoriam Dunja Jutronic (1943–2025)

Dunja Jutronic (1943–2025) was a Croatian philosopher and linguist born in Split in 1943. She completed her secondary education at the Classical Gymnasium in Split in 1962, after which she enrolled in English studies at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. She graduated in 1967 and pursued postgraduate studies at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania, where she earned her doctorate in 1971 with the dissertation titled *American English and Serbo-Croatian in Contact*.

In 1972, Jutronic began her academic career as an assistant at the Institute of Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. A year later, she was appointed assistant professor at the Department of English Language and Literature at the Faculty of Humanities in Zadar. She was promoted to associate professor in 1981 and to full professor in 1984.

From 1993 until her retirement, she served as a professor at the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Maribor, Slovenia.

As a Fulbright Scholar, she spent the 1986–1987 academic year at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Her most notable works include:

- *Hrvatski jezik u SAD (The Croatian Language in the USA, 1985)*
- *Lingvistika i filozofija: ogledi o filozofskoj utemeljenosti lingvistike (Linguistics and Philosophy: Essays on the Philosophical Foundations of Linguistics, 1991)*
- *Rječnik splitskog govora / A Dictionary of Split Dialect* (co-authored with Thomas F. Magner, 2006)
- *Rječnik splitskog govora / A Dictionary of Split Dialect*, new and expanded edition (2013)
- *Libar o jeziku Marka Uvodića Splićanina (Book on the Language of Marko Uvodić Splićanin*, co-authored with Marijana Tomelić Čurlin and Anita Runjić-Stoilov, 2016)
- *Spliske riči. Rječnik: hrvatski standardni jezik – splitski govor (Spliske riči. Dictionary: Croatian Standard Language–Split Dialect, 2018)*

Jutronic served as a member of the editorial boards of several Croatian and international journals and for many years. For us it is especially important that she served as advisory editor of the *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* from 2007 till her death.

Jutronić's most important philosophical study, *Lingvistika i filozofija: ogledi o filozofskoj utemeljenosti lingvistike (Linguistics and Philosophy: Essays on the Philosophical Foundations of Linguistics, 1991)*, represents the first book on the philosophy of linguistics in the Croatian language. In this book, Jutronić systematically addresses fundamental philosophical problems of language, including the ontological status of language, realism, objectivism, psychologism, and autonomism in linguistic theories. She examines psychological and sociological aspects in sociolinguistics and offers analyses of possible explanations of language change. She takes a particularly critical approach to Noam Chomsky's nativist theory, examining the nature of knowledge of language and linguistic conventions.

Jutronić was a member of the Zadar Analytic Circle – a group of philosophers gathered around analytic philosophy in the 1970s and 1980s, which played a key role in shaping the Croatian analytic tradition. For years, she conducted summer courses on philosophy of linguistics at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik.

Jutronić published over one hundred scholarly papers in the fields of philosophy of language, sociolinguistics, semantics, and theoretical linguistics. Her philosophical interests encompassed a broad spectrum of topics: nativism, the philosophical foundations of linguistics, the nature of linguistic conventions, the problem of variability and stability in language, the role of intentions in the explanation of language change, and the relation between linguistic competence and linguistic intuitions.

In 2019, colleagues and friends dedicated a Festschrift to her entitled *Od jezika k filozofiji in nazaj (From Language to Philosophy and Back)*, published in Maribor, Slovenia, on the occasion of her 75th birthday, which testifies to the respect and influence she had in the wider region.

Dunja Jutronić passed away on 13 August 2025, in Rijeka.

Luka Boršić