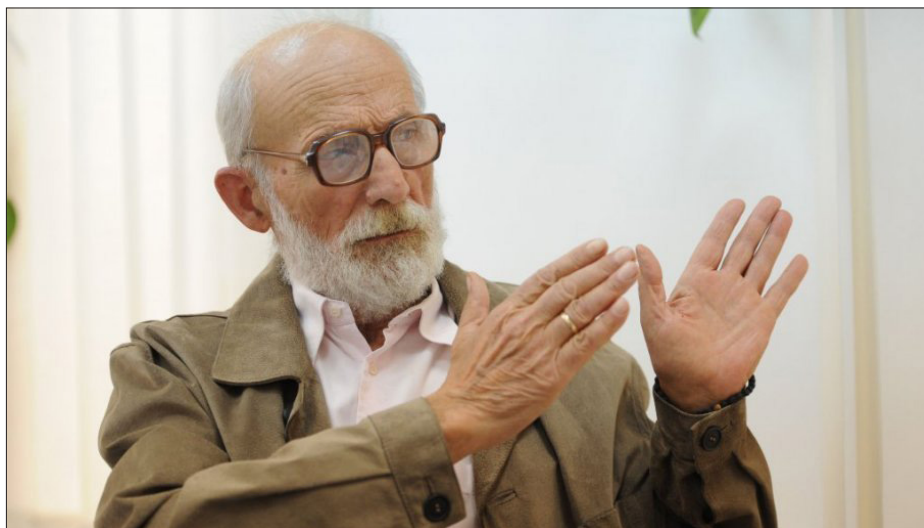




IN MEMORIAM

PROF. DRAGOLJUB PETROVIĆ

(Kosor near Podgorica, June 20, 1935 – Leušići, November 16, 2024)



In mid-November 2024, Professor Dragoljub Petrović passed away. He was a retired full professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, a long-time collaborator of the Institute for the Serbian Language of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), and one of the most distinguished dialectologists in Serbian and broader Slavic linguistics. He completed his entire academic education at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, obtaining his undergraduate degree in 1960, a master's degree in 1964, and a doctorate in philological sciences in 1971. Beyond his remarkable contributions to Serbian dialectology, his academic interests encompassed linguistic geography, phonology, and onomastics. Throughout his career, which spanned nearly half a century, he published numerous studies reflecting the richness of vernacular speech. Listing all the academic contributions of prof. Dragoljub Petrović would require a separate study. However, we highlight the following works as particularly significant, based on a personal selection, including both authored and co-authored research: *O govoru Zmijanja* (*On the Local Dialect of Zmijanje*, 1973); *Govor Banije i Korduna* (*The Local Dialect of Banija and Kordun*, 1978); *Fonološki opisi slovenačkih, srpskohrvatskih / hrvatskosrpskih i makedonskih govora obuhvaćenih Opšteslovenskim*

lingvističkim atlasom (Phonological Descriptions of Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian, and Macedonian Dialects Included in the General Slavic Linguistic Atlas, 1981); Toponimija Kuča (Toponymy of Kuči, 1988); Škola nemuštog jezika (The School of the Mute Language, 1996); Onomastika Kačera (Onomastics of Kačer, co-authored with Miodrag Jaćimović, 2003); O govoru Spiča: građa (On the Local Dialect of Spič: Materials, co-authored with Momčilo Popović, 2009); Fonologija srpskog jezika (Phonology of the Serbian Language, co-authored with Snežana Gudurić, 2010); Iz leksike Kačera (From the Lexicon of Kačer, co-authored with Jelena Kapustina, 2011); Rečnik Kuča (Dictionary of Kuči, co-authored with Ivan Čelić and Jelena Kapustina, 2013); Rečnik bačkih Bunjevaca (Dictionary of the Bačka Bunjevci, co-authored with Marko Peić, Grga Bačlija, Josip Bajić, and Suzana Kujundžić-Ostojić, 2018); Rečnik srpskih govora Vojvodine (Dictionary of Serbian Dialects of Vojvodina, co-authored with Svetlana Varenik, Dejan Miloradov, Katarina Sunajko, and Ivan Čelić, 2019); Iz srednjomoračke onomastike: građa (From the Onomastics of Central Morača: Materials, co-authored with Jelena Kapustina, 2019); Rečnik Dragačeva (Dictionary of Dragačevo, co-authored with Jelena Kapustina, 2019); Prarsbi (Proto-Serbs, 2021); Rečnik Kuča: dopune (Dictionary of Kuči: Additions, co-authored with Ivan Čelić and Jelena Kapustina, 2023); Sporovi jezikoslovni (Linguistic Disputes, 2023). Posthumously, his book Granice srpskog jezika (The Boundaries of the Serbian Language, 2025), published by Prometej, presents his reflections on the temporal and spatial boundaries of the Serbian language. He was also one of the editors of Rečnik srpskih govora Vojvodine (Dictionary of Serbian Dialects of Vojvodina, 2000–2010). The bibliography of prof. Dragoljub Petrović includes over 700 scholarly texts. His extensive academic contributions also encompass editorial and curatorial work, including preparing for publication several works by Jovan Kašić, Pavle Ivić, and Aleksandar Belić. He served as an editor for Rečnik bačkih Bunjevaca (Dictionary of the Bunjevci of Bačka, 1990), Imenoslov bačkih Bunjevaca (Onomastics of the Bunjevci of Bačka, 1994), and Rečnik srpskih govora Vojvodine (Dictionary of Serbian dialects of Vojvodina, 2004). For his contributions to linguistic science, he received multiple awards, including the “Pavle Ivić” award on two occasions (2003 and 2010). His significant contributions include the development of approximately seventy maps for Opšteslovenski lingvistički atlas (General Slavic Linguistic Atlas) and Opštekarpatski dijalektološki atlas (General Carpathian Dialectological Atlas). As an active participant in various linguistic commissions and a member of the editorial boards of some of the most prestigious dialectological serial publications, prof. Dragoljub Petrović rightfully belongs among the most eminent Serbian and Slavic dialectologists. His passing represents a profound loss to the academic community and an irreplaceable void in Serbian and Slavic dialectology and onomastics. In addition to his dedicated teaching and exemplary

scholarly career, prof. Petrović remained committed to mentoring and supporting his successors until his final moments. Generations of educators and researchers owe him immense gratitude for his dedication and genuine collegiality. His humility and respect for his peers exemplified his greatness as both a scholar and a person. Professor, we extend our deepest gratitude. May you rest in peace.

Dušan R. Stefanović

