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THE ZLARIN DIALECT

Summary

1. The dialect spoken on Zlarin is **čakavian** in origin and in terms of its present-day characteristics. As the **čakavian** dialect extends in the southeasterly-north-westerly direction, Zlarin is situated in a transition zone which includes all the **čakavian**-based dialects of the Zadar—Šibenik region. Being close to the mainland, the Zlarin dialect is exposed to the influence of (neo)štokavian dialects from the hinterland of Šibenik.

2. As for the inventory of vowel sounds, the long-vowel series is realized as **e, a, o** and also as closed sounds (long **ē, ā, ō** and subsequently shortened **e, a, o**). The characteristic features of the Zlarin vocalism include »e« in examples like **rēšte**. »a« in examples like **prijāti**, the vocalic **r** which is always short, »i« < »e« in front of **-n/-m**, »u« < »o« in front of **-n/-m**, nasalized vowel (V) < **-Vn**, systematic **ikavism**.

3. The consonantal inventory has a missing **ž** (= dž), while **đ** is included and **h** (= x) is restituted; **š** (= š') and **ć** (= t') are distinguished; the consonantal group **šč** is present; the change of **tl** + **i(e)** into **tʃ** + **i(e)** and **čc** (> **šč**), **sc** into **je** (**u Bōjcu, prājco**) is found; certain consonants are dropped (**tica, jēna**) as are also, quite frequently, the paradigmatic **-v** and **-j** when preceded by long vowels (**Vāla o Bokō, na Jōsinō**).

4. The accentual inventory includes the classical **čakavian** accents¹ / ~, with the restriction that¹ never appears on the last syllable, and the penultimate syllable, as a rule, gets either the »akut« ~ (if the syllable is long) or the »semi-akut« ˘ (if the syllable is short); long unstressed vowels are regularly found in syllables either immediately preceding or immediately following the (old) accented syllable.

5. As for the morphological inventory, the dual appears with numerals from two to four (**dva, tri, četiri brata**); masculine nouns normally have only short plurals (**zidi**); the genitive plural of masculine nouns ends in **-o(v)**, but in nouns of the type **dinar** the ending is **-i**; in feminine nouns the genitive plural drops the final **-a** (**ovāc**); the masculine accusative plural has the ending **-e** (**zūbe**), like the feminine genitive singular (**bez jaglē**); the definite and indefinite forms of adjectives can be distinguished accentually (**lipe šāndule** ≠ **lipe šāndute**); typical **čakavian** conditional forms of the verb **biti** are preserved in the plural (**bimo, bite, bi**), as well as the imperfect forms of the same verb in the modal meaning (**bīšeš ti dojtī...**); the third person plural of the present tense has as a rule the common paradigmatic ending **-u** (**zūbi me bolū**); in the 1-participle, **-l** is either dropped (**rēka**) or is replaced by the sequence **-ja** (**vidija**).

6. Other features include the following; possessivity is expressed either by means of the preposition **od** + genitive or the genitive alone; adverbial phrases are made up of the preposition **po** + accusative singular of feminine nouns (**po zlarinsku**) or the preposition **na** + accusative singular (**igrāti na kārte**); numerous Romance features are present (Dalmato-Romance relics and Venetianisms), but original Croatian words are well preserved in zoological, botanical and kinship terminologies; in toponymy two main linguistic strata can be observed — Romance and Croatian.

All these data confirm the view that the Zlarin dialect is **čakavian** in character.

(Translated by V. Ivir)