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Croatian Academies (from 16th to 18th century) in European Context

During the 16th century, language theory became a linguistic research subject in many European countries. Numerous vernaculars were introduced on the public scene and slowly began taking over the role of Latin so the “hollines” of three languages – Hebrew, Latin and Greek, was being questioned. Due to construction of national languages the language norm, orthography, grammar and dictionary publishing etc. became an important task. Thanks to enhanced interest in language and other related matters, societies gathering people with the same scientific interests that stimulate scientific work and linguistic studies among others were founded. Throughout Europe all kinds of academies were established, and so was the case with Croatia, too. This paper deals with such Croatian societies, i.e. academies, which worked on linguistic issues of the Early Modern Era in European context. The paper highlights their ideas, goals and accomplishments, as well as their importance in resolving the language issues of the period, particularly language standardization as the main issue.

Key words: language academies, Early Modern Era, Croatia, Europe, language issues