**On problems and possibilities of a comprehensive language analysis of Slavonic-Serbian writers’ textual corpus (On the example of Jovan Muškatirović)**

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The paper is supposed to present results of previous research and the current methodological framework of our doctoral dissertation, "The language of Jovan Muškatirović" („Jezik Jovana Muškatirovića“). The dissertation is dedicated to the person and work of one of the most prominent Serbian enlighteners, Jovan Muškatirović (1743–1809), concentrating on linguistic, as well as extralinguistic aspects.

The era in which he wrote is one of the most interesting, yet least researched periods in the Serbian language history. It is the so-called Slavonic-Serbian (SS) cultural and language era (ca. 2nd half of the 18th – 1st half of the 19th c.). Territorially, SS was limited to the Serbian population of the South Hungary, the majority of which settled during the Great Migration of 1690. Despite this geographical restriction, the SS heritage had a great influence on the entire Serbian written culture of this and later times.

The emergence of the SS is determined by the circumstances of Serbian life in the Monarchy – and by the specifics of the old, Church Slavonic (CS) literature among the Orthodox Slavs. For centuries, the language of non-utilitarian literature was CS, the language of the Orthodox Church. Serbs continued using their recension of this ancient written language in the new homeland. In addition, Russian recension of CS came increasingly into use among educated Serbs – as did the written Russian of the time, which both left a great mark in Serbian contemporary culture.

Research on SS can be conducted with consideration to different aspects and approaches – including its language-rolemodels (Russian, Serbian, Russian- and Serbian CS), as well as the ideas of the Enlightenment in a specific Serbian interpretation. The latter led to the increased commitment of Serbian intellectual elite of Southern Hungary to the service of education, i.e. enlightenment of the “common people”. Before this time, broad sections of Serbian society did not have access to educational content. The carriers of SS (which was the peak of Serbian Enlightenment) tried to create a modern written language, and it had, at least at the beginning, a pronounced mixed character. They created works that were not dedicated only to science itself, but to its popularization among the young reading public. It could therefore be stated that the spirit of this era influenced the worldview of these authors, and in result their creation, immensely.

Jovan Muškatirović (1743–1809), who stands in focus of the dissertation, is one of the SS writers and enlighteners of the late 18th and early 19th century. His most famous works include a collection of proverbs and sayings “Причте илити по простому пословице” (1787), and polemical works “Краткое размышленїе о праздници” (1786) and “Краткая размышленїя о средствахъ” (1805). Among archival materials there are also several letters from his private correspondence, as well as one unpublished work.

The concept of the dissertation is based primarily on the analysis of Jovan Muškatirović's texts, including various language levels – phonetics (as well as graphemics), morphology, lexicon and syntax. Such an approach to analysis of the entire known text corpus of individual writers is not unknown in SS research. There is already a certain amount of works that can serve as a model for analysis. These include monographies such as "O narodnom jeziku Jovana Rajića" [Mladenović 1964], "Jezik Jovana Hadžića" [Subotić 1989], “Jezik Jovana Subotića” [Milanović 2008] and others. Such works will serve as a basis for the analysis of Muškatirović's textual corpus.

The generally recognized and therefore universal methodological approach for analyzing SS material does not yet exist and the development of an adequate method is still in progress. Older researchers of SS literacy, despite great expertise, often used specific ideological frameworks for their analysis. It consequently aimed at identification of the „elements of the vernacular" in texts of a particular author. That is, elements of the Serbian folk idiom were deliberately extracted from the text and actively compared with modern language. It is also significant to point out, that many of the previous contributions lacked in depth by the chapters touching upon syntax and lexicon. These were often represented marginally and sometimes completely omitted.

However, the above-mentioned and similar works are also able to provide certain guidelines for future analysis. Aleksandar Mladenović, for example, designed the so-called "questionnaire method". It implied setting clear criteria regarding parameters relevant for language analysis – primarily on phonetic and morphological level. And although it cannot be considered complete, this systematization adds great value to Mladenović's analysis, from which contemporary researchers can benefit immensely.

In summary, the central concern of the dissertation project can be defined as the overall understanding of the language and work of one SS writer – from a broader background, i.e. cultural and historical context of his work. One of the main goals is to provide a synthetic picture of one of the most influential personalities of the Serbian cultural circle in the Habsburg Monarchy. This picture, together with other similar works, is intended to serve the following: first of all, to create a methodological basis for the analysis of pre-standard language texts but also to contribute to the future capital work that could describe the language situation of the Serbian 18th century in general.

Literature­­

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