



WHAT'S IN A LANGUAGE NAME?

THE CASE OF BOSNIAN, CROATIAN, MONTENEGRIN, AND SERBIAN

WINTER QUARTER 2007



CONSTITUTION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Preamble

"Bosniacs, Croats, and Serbs, as constituent peoples (along with Others), and citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina hereby determine that the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina is as follows:"

Languages – ?

CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Article 1

- (1) Bosniacs/Bosniaks and Croats as constituent peoples, along with others, as citizens of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, fulfilling their sovereign rights, transform the internal structure of the territory with Bosniacs/Bosniaks and Croats as a majority in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is comprised of federal units with equal rights and responsibilities.

Article 6

- (1) Official languages of the Federation are Bosnian and Croatian. Official alphabet is Latin.
- (2) Other languages may be used as means of communication and education.
- (3) Additional languages may be designated as official by the majority of each house of the Parliament of the Federation, including the majority of the Bosniac/Bosniak representatives and the majority of the Croatian representatives in the House of Peoples.

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA

Article 1

Republic of Srpska shall be the State of Serb people and of all its citizens.

Article 7

The Serbian language of iekavian (sic!) and ekavian dialect and the Cyrillic alphabet shall be in official use in the Republic, while the Latin alphabet shall be used as specified by the law. In regions inhabited by groups speaking other languages, their languages and alphabet shall also be in official use, as specified by law.

Spelling

1. pisat ću (recommended)
I-will-write

Phonology and Morphology

1. 30 phonemes in the standard language

2. phoneme /h/

- *uho* 'ear' vs. *uvo*, Serbian; *snaha* 'daughter/sister in law' vs. *snaja*, Serbian
- /h/ where not in Croatian: *kahva* 'coffee', *hurma* 'date', *aždaha* 'dragon', *mahrma* 'scarf', *mehlem* 'balm'; also: *mehko* 'soft', *lahko* 'light, easy'

3. reflexes of *jat*:

- consonant + r + long *jat* > e/ije (*prelaz/prijelaz* 'crossing' vs. *prijelaz*, Croatian)
- long *jat* reflex > ije (*sljedeći/slijedeći* vs. *sljedeći*, Croatian 'following')
- long *jat* reflex > i (*uticaj/utjecaj* 'influence', *visiti* 'to hang', *zaliv/zaljev* 'bay' vs. *utjecaj*, *visjeti*, *zaljev*, Croatian)

Lexis

1. Oriental loanwords

- words known in Serbian and Croatian, though used less
- words common in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but unknown outside of it
- typical Islamic words, presumably not even generally known to non-Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina

2. Names of months

Croatian		Bosnian (recommended)		Serbian	
siječanj	srpanj	januar/siječanj	jul(i)/srpanj	januar	jul(i)
veljača	kolovoz	februar/veljača	august/kolovoz	februar	avgust
ožujak	rujan	mart/ožujak	septembar/rujan	mart	septembar
travanj	listopad	april/travanj	oktobar/listopad	april	oktobar
svibanj	studen	maj/svibanj	novembar/studen	maj	novembar
lipanj	prosinac	jun(i)/lipanj	decembar/prosinac	jun(i)	decembar

3. New view of the Bosnian variant:

	Serbian	Croatian	Bosnian
Common	-----A-----		
Specifically Serbian or Croatian also found in Bosnian	-----B-----		-----B-----
		-----C-----	-----C-----
Specifically Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian	-----D-----	-----E-----	-----F-----