

WHAT'S IN A LANGUAGE NAME?

THE CASE OF BOSNIAN, CROATIAN, MONTENEGRIN, AND SERBIAN

WINTER QUARTER 2007



CONSTITUTION OF CROATIA

Original Foundations

The Republic of Croatia is founded as a nation-state of the Croatian nation and a state of autochthonous national minorities: Serbs, Czechs, Slovaks, Italians, Hungarians, Jews, Germans, Austrians, Ukrainians, Ruthenians, and others who are its citizens

4 437 460
(2001):

89,63 %
Croats

4,54 %
Serbs

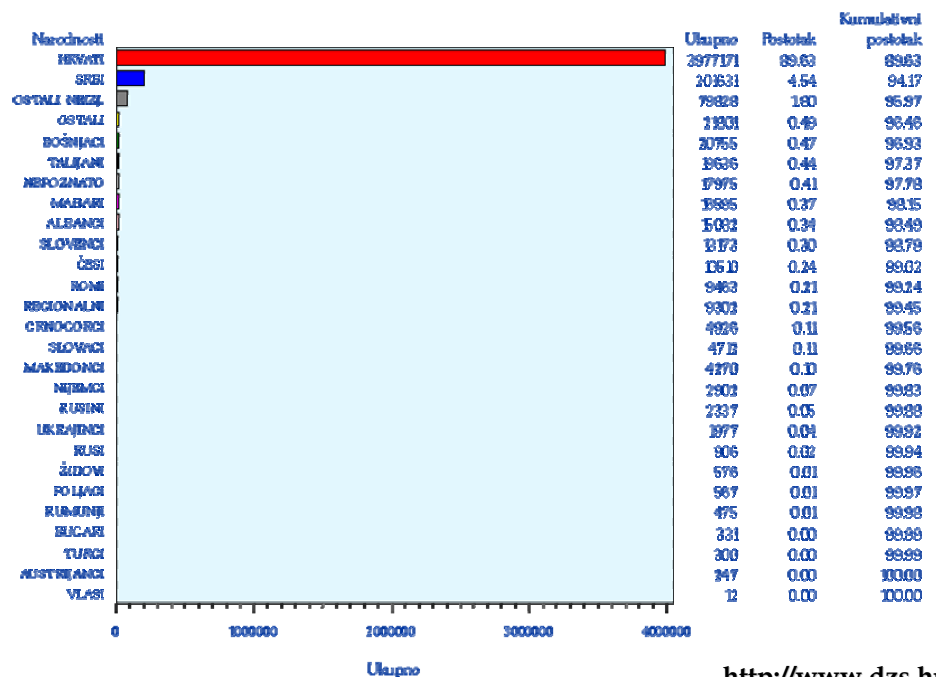
1,8 %
Others
Undeclared

0,49 %
Others

Article 12

In the Republic of Croatia in official use are the Croatian language and the Latin alphabet.

In certain local communities, besides the Croatian language and the Latin alphabet, another language and Cyrillic or any other alphabet can be introduced into official use under conditions regulated by law.



Spelling

1. *pisat ću*
I-will-write
2. *zadatci* vs. *zadaci*
tasks
3. *grješka* vs. *greška*
error
4. *ne ću* vs. *neću*
not I-want

Phonology

1. 30 phonemes in the standard language
2. phoneme /h/
uho 'ear' vs. *uvo*, Serbian

Morphology

1. suffixes
pošiljatelj vs. *pošiljalac* 'sender'
prevoditelj vs. *prevodilac* 'translator'
2. Definite vs. indefinite adjective forms
majčinoga vs. *majčina* 'mother's'
3. Dative vs. Locative adjectival endings
velikomu vs. *velikome* 'large'
4. Transitive vs. intransitive verbs based on i/je alternation
oslabiti 'to weaken somebody' vs. *oslabjeti* 'to weaken'

Syntax

1. infinitive (and not: 'da' + present)
Volim telefonirati. (and not: Volim da telefoniram)
I-like to-telephone
'I like to talk over the phone.'
2. particular structures
On je ovisnik o alkoholu. (and not: On je zavisnik od alkohola.)
he is addict about-alcohol
'He is an alcohol addict.'

Lexis (after Kalogjera 2004)

1. New developments

<i>putovnica</i>	'passport'	<i>rukovodilac</i> → <i>čelnik</i>	'leader'
<i>domovnica</i>	'citizenship'	<i>funkcionar</i> → <i>dužnosnik</i>	'functionary'
<i>županija</i>	'county'	<i>efikasan</i> → <i>učinkovit</i>	'efficient'
<i>proračun</i>	'budget'	<i>faktor</i> → <i>čimbenik</i>	'factor'
<i>ravnatelj</i>	'headmaster'	<i>komisija</i> → <i>povjerenstvo</i>	'committee'
<i>ročnik</i>	'national serviceman'	<i>borac</i> → <i>branitelj</i>	'fighter'
<i>satnik, časnik</i>	'captain, officer'	<i>kazneno pravo</i>	'criminal law'

2. Changes

školski/domaći rad vs. *uradak* 'assignment' *izvještaj* vs. *izvješće* '(term) report'
uputa vs. *naputak* 'direction, guidance'

3. (Unnecessary) changes

radnik vs. *djelatnik* 'worker' *radno vrijeme* vs. *djelatno vrijeme* 'work hours'
Sretan Božić vs. *Čestit Božić* 'Happy Christmas'