

ABOUT THE AUTHORS, MOTIVATIONS, AND PERSPECTIVE IN CROATIAN DIALECTAL LEXICOGRAPHY¹

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In more than one hundred years of Croatian dialectal lexicography, significant achievements have been made. While dictionaries were published sporadically until the last decade of the twentieth century, mostly as additions to other publications or in specialised journals, and less frequently as standalone works, the number of dictionaries has multiplied since the independence of the Republic of Croatia. A positive development in the dictionary-making process has been the rapid advancement of personal computers and software programs that allow the relatively easy technical production of dictionaries. Among dialectal lexicographers, most are amateurs who are motivated by various internal factors to create dictionaries of Croatian local dialects, smaller and larger areas, or entire dialects. By studying the prefaces and afterwords of more than 130 Croatian dialect dictionaries published between 1957 and the present, one can identify and group the motivations of their authors, and based on the most basic biographical data of the authors, one can also partially predict the development of Croatian dialectal lexicography.

KEYWORDS:
authors, Croatian language, dialectal lexicography, motivation, perspective

¹ The presentation titled “Croatian Dialectal Lexicography—Motives and Perspective” was delivered by the author of this paper at the international lexicographical conference EURALEX XXI in October 2024 in Cavtat. The abstract of the presentation was published in the conference book of abstracts (see the list of references). This paper elaborates on the data mentioned in that abstract.

1. BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT CROATIAN DIALECTAL LEXICOGRAPHY

The great dialectal diversity of the Croatian region is certainly a good incentive for dictionary creation, but it must be recognised that without the motivation of the authors (usually internal), regardless of the linguistic richness, there would be no dictionaries. Croatian dialect dictionaries differ greatly in scope and quality, but this does not change the fact that they are numerous. Counting only the Croatian dialect dictionaries that have been published as independent works, from 1957 and Maštrović's *Rječničko blago ninskog govora* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Nin Dialect*)² to the present (2025), and within the borders of the Republic of Croatia (excluding the dialects of Croatian groups abroad), there are approximately 150 dialect dictionaries. This number can be increased by including annexed dictionaries in monographs, word lists in doctoral dissertations, dictionaries published in specialised journals (e.g., *Hrvatski dijalektološki zbornik*), dialectal phraseological dictionaries, smaller dictionaries created as school projects, notable amateur internet word lists, and others, reaching at least 200 units.³ This paper, primarily based on data found in the prefaces and afterwords of Croatian dialect dictionaries published as standalone works, will discuss the motivations for creating Croatian dialect dictionaries and attempt to predict the developmental trends of Croatian dialectal lexicography.

2. WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM THE AUTHOR OF A DIALECT DICTIONARY?

The requirements placed before the author of a dialect dictionary can be read in several articles published in Croatian periodicals and elsewhere. Notable among them are those published at the beginnings of accelerated technological development, such as two works from 1985: "Nacrt za rječnik čakavskoga narječja" (i.e., "Draft for a Dictionary of the Čakavian Supradialect") by Milan Moguš and "Zasade rječnika hrvatskih kajkavskih govora" (i.e., "Principles of the Dictionary of Croatian Kajkavian Dialects") by Antun Šojat, and two works published in 1989: "Dijalekatski rječnici u

² English titles of the Croatian books and articles mentioned in this article were taken from official online sources (Portal of Croatian Scientific and Professional Journals, i.e., Hrčak: <https://hrcak.srce.hr/>, and Croatian Research Information System, i.e., CroRIS: <https://www.croris.hr/>). If such titles were not available or were somehow inappropriate, they were (re)translated from Croatian into English and listed with the abbreviation *i.e.*

³ Language atlases and etymological dictionaries based primarily on dialectal material, as well as toponymic literature, could be included in dialectal lexicography. In recent decades, several outstanding works have been created in these disciplines in Croatia.

odnosu na druga leksikografska djela” (i.e., “Dialect Dictionaries in Relation to Other Lexicographic Works”) by Drago Ćupić and “O našoj dijalekatskoj geografiji i dijalektološkoj leksikografiji” (i.e., “On Our Dialectal Geography and Dialectological Lexicography”) by Božidar Finka.⁴ Ćupić’s article is more focused on shaping dictionary entries, while Finka’s contribution is more about reviewing past results and general goals in dialectal lexicography. However, particularly interesting is the first sentence of Ćupić’s article: “Srpskohrvatska leksikografija, kako je poznato, među najslabijim rezultatima bilježi one koji se odnose na dijalekatsku leksiku” (i.e., “Serbo-Croatian lexicography, as is known, records among its weakest results those related to dialectal lexicon”) (1989: 33)⁵. In the following decade, the situation on the Croatian scene improved, and the first two decades of the twenty-first century were marked by a significant number of dialect dictionaries,⁶ some of which became models for Croatian lexicographic methodology in general.⁷

In the twenty-first century, with the great increase in the number of published dialect dictionaries in Croatia, there has also been an increase in works that consider the structure of dictionary entries in such works, as well as drafts for shaping the work as a whole.⁸ Examples of such works include “Ustrojstvo rječničkoga članka u dijalektnim rječnicima s obzirom na naglasak” (“Accentuation of Entries in Dialectal Dictionaries”) (2008) by Mate Kapović, “Struktura rječničkoga članka u dijalektnim čakavskim rječnicima s posebnim osvrtom na problem homonimije i polisemije pri sastavljanju natuknica” (i.e., “The Structure of a Dictionary Entry in Dialectal Čakavian Dictionaries with a Special Focus on the Problem of Homonymy and Polysemy

⁴ Both works relate to the “Croatian-Serbian” or “Serbo-Croatian” linguistic area but are also applicable to the constituents of the then-politically relevant linguistic diasystem (Croatian, Serbian, and others).

⁵ In addition to these two contributions, I also mention “Tematski princip obrade građe u dijalekatskim rječnicima” (i.e., “Thematic Principle of Material Processing in Dialect Dictionaries”) (1989) by Svetlana Zajceva. All three contributions were published in the eighth issue of the *Hrvatski dijalektološki zbornik*.

⁶ About 97% of standalone Croatian dialect dictionaries were published from 1990 to the present. Naturally, not all of them are equally philologically serious and reliable.

⁷ For example, the chapter “Napisali su (i rekli) o Rječniku (izbor)” (i.e., “What They Wrote (and Said) About the Dictionary (Selection)”) at the end of the second edition of Šimunović’s *Rječnik bračkih čakavskih govora* (2009), where the evaluations of the work are provided by top experts.

⁸ For instance, see Šimunović 2009: 61–63, Lukežić and Zubčić 2007: 139–145, Vranić and Oštarić 2016: 103–110. Among the well-thought-out principles for selecting material for a dialect dictionary, we can include Milković 2009: 7–11, despite the fact that the author is not a professional philologist and that the philological profession (for various reasons) would benefit from other lexemes from the treated dialect. Some dialect dictionaries are of exceptional quality but lack detailed explanations of the principles for selecting lexical material and compiling dictionary entries (e.g., Večenaj and Lončarić 1997).

in Compiling Headwords”) (2008) by Sandra Tamaro, “Konceptija rječnika međimurskog dijalekta” (“Concept for a Dictionary of the Međimurje Dialect”) (2008), and “O nekim leksikografskim postupcima u izradi dijalektalnih rječnika na primjeru *Rječnika Murskog Središća*” (“On Some Lexicographic Procedures in the Creation of Dialectal Dictionaries: Example of the Dictionary of Mursko Središće”) (2019) by Đuro Blažeka, as well as “Prijedlog koncepcije *Rječnika govora potkalničkoga Prigorja*” (“A Conceptual Suggestion for *The Dictionary of Local Idioms of Kalnik Prigorje*”) (2015) by Krunoslav Puškar. In a larger number of dialect dictionaries, especially those by professional philologists, the structure of dictionary entries and the overall design of the dialect dictionary are also considered. Among the works reviewing previous results of Croatian dialectal lexicography and its possible goals, “Hrvatska dijalektalna leksikografija u 20. stoljeću” (“Croatian Dialectal Lexicography in the 20th century”) (2006), “Koji bi nam dijalekatni rječnici bili najpotrebniji?” (“Which Dialectal Dictionaries Do We Need the Most?”) (2008), and “Nad kartama hrvatskih dijalektalnih rječnika od 1990. do 2015.” (“Looking at the Maps of Croatian Dialect Dictionaries from 1990 to 2015”) (2018) by Josip Lisac stand out.⁹ However, no matter how high-quality and useful these contributions may be for professionals, they are not crucial for the amateur who, motivated by internal factors, begins to compile a dialect dictionary. Naturally, the advice found in these articles is not applicable to all dialect dictionaries, but it would be difficult to find an amateur who would consult all relevant meta-literature and shape their work based on it before compiling a dialect dictionary.¹⁰ Every author of a dialect dictionary has their own idea about its appearance and content, and the lexicon included in the dictionary primarily depends on the author’s wishes and ideas. However, there is a visible trend in a large number of dialect dictionaries to record words that differ from those found in standard Croatian, especially if they are of foreign origin.¹¹

⁹ A complete list of bibliographic units in Croatian dialectal lexicography has not been publicly published. In addition to the works of Josip Lisac, two lists of important dialectal lexicographic achievements should be mentioned: Samardžija 2018: 163–167 and the “Additional Literature” for the course Croatian Dialect Lexicography at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb (lecturer: Joža Horvat, PhD, Assistant Professor), available at <https://theta.ffzg.hr/ECTS/Predmet/Index/1719>.

¹⁰ It is sufficient to review the literature lists in dictionaries that contain them and notice that relatively few authors of dialect dictionaries consult expert advice. However, it is worth mentioning that, recently, several amateur authors have sought professional assistance from experts at Croatian scientific institutions. This is an example of good ongoing practice in creating Croatian dialectal dictionaries.

¹¹ Mate Kapović also discussed the shortcomings and dialectological inadequacy of such material selection in his lecture “O akcentuaciji u dijalektološkim istraživanjima” (i.e., “On Accentuation in Dialectological Research”), which was delivered as a plenary presentation at the “Cetinjski filološki dani

The selection of idioms to be processed is also determined by the author. Most dialect dictionaries cover the lexicon of a local dialect (most often rural, less often urban¹²), while a smaller number of dictionaries cover areas and dialects, often in combination, thus covering the local dialects of a smaller or larger area of the same dialect. The first Croatian dictionary of this type is *Rječnik čakavskih izraza (područje Bakarca i Škrljeva)* (i.e., *The Dictionary of Čakavian Expressions: Bakarac and Škrljevo Area*) (1977) by Zvonimir Turina and Anton Šepić, and among the best works are those of top dialectologists: *Rječnik preloške skupine govora međimursko-ga dijalekta (Dictionary of Prelog Speech Groups of Dialect of Međimurje)* (2018) by Đuro Blažeka and *Rječnik bračkih čakavskih govora* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Brač Čakavian Dialects*)¹³ (2006, 2009) by Petar Šimunović; although less precise compared to the two just mentioned, the extensive *Rječnik govora slavonskih, baranjskih i srijemskih* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Slavonia, Baranya, and Sylvania Dialects*) (2015) by Martin Jakšić should also be mentioned. Among dictionaries that cover the lexicon of the entire dialect, *Rječnik kajkavske donjosutlanske ikavice* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Donja Sutla Kajkavian Ikavian Dialect*) (2015) by a larger group of authors, created as part of a project by the Institute for the Croatian Language and Linguistics¹⁴ and the Ivan Perkovac Association, stands out.¹⁵ To this day, despite attempts, no complete dictionary has been published for any of the three Croatian supradialects (Štokavian, Čakavian, Kajkavian).¹⁶

III” (“Cetinje Philology Days III”) conference in September 2021 (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kevoIQAlqPg>; see the part from 22:45 to 25:40).

¹² Several urban dialect dictionaries of varying scope and quality come from Split (Matoković 2004, Magner and Jutronic 2006, Jutronic 2013) and Dubrovnik (Mladošić and Milošević 2011, Bojanić and Trivunac 2020). Ivo Jakovljević collected words from Šibenik, and among his dictionaries stands out *Veliki rječnik šibenskih riči* (i.e., *The Great Dictionary of Šibenik Words* (with the subtitle: *Kompletna ultima verzija sa dabi 3000 riči i fraza*, i.e., *Complete Ultima Version with 3000 Words and Phrases*) (2018). Island towns also have their own dictionaries—Korčula (Kalogjera, Fattorini Svoboda, and Josipović Smojver 2008), Pag (Kustić 2002), and others.

¹³ Thus, excluding the Brač Štokavian dialect of Sumartin. The Sumartin dictionary was written by Pavica Novaković in 1929, and was published in 1994 in *Čakavska Rič* (22, 2: 105–145).

¹⁴ Today (2025), Institute for the Croatian Language.

¹⁵ The dictionary is available at <http://ikavci.ihj.hr/>.

¹⁶ *Rječnik hrvatskoga kajkavskoga književnog jezika* (i.e., *The Dictionary of the Croatian Kajkavian Literary Language*) (available at <https://kajkavski.hr/>), a valuable project by the Institute for the Croatian Language, is, as its name suggests, a dictionary of the literary language, not the dialectal (“organic”) Kajkavian. Dictionaries with the title “čakavski” without a regional specification do not cover the entirety of the Čakavian dialect but rather a smaller part; examples include *Čakavski harvaški sloovniik (mali razlikovni i poredbeni rječnik)* (i.e., *Čakavian Croatian Dictionary (A Small Distinguishing and Comparative Dictionary)*) (2017) by Nikica Uglešić, based on linguistic material from Veli Rat on Dugi Otok (which is mentioned as a subtitle—*Z vel'aarškoga govora prikupljen*, i.e., *From the Veli*

3. WHO WRITES DIALECT DICTIONARIES AND WHAT MOTIVATES AUTHORS TO ENGAGE IN (LONG-TERM) WORK?

Among the authors of dialect dictionaries, there are those without formal philological education and professional philologists. Viewed as a whole, the most frequent motivation for creating a dialect dictionary is the *preservation* of the lexicon (from oblivion, extinction, etc.),¹⁷ which is particularly pronounced in the authors of Čakavian dictionaries.¹⁸ Of the 131 dictionaries consulted for this work, as many as 72 contain Čakavian material. Thus, although today Čakavian is geographically the smallest, it is the most represented in Croatian dialectal lexicography (54.96%),¹⁹ followed by Štokavian with 32 dictionaries (24.43%), and Kajkavian with the least number of dictionaries—26 (19.85%).²⁰

Professional philologists, in addition to internal motivations, may also be prompted to create dialect dictionaries by external factors, such as working on cultural and scientific projects. The motivations of dialectal lexicographers can change, and a good example is the monumental *Rječnik varaždinskoga kajkavskog govora* (*Dictionary of the Varaždin Kajkavian Dialect*) by Tomislav Lipljin (2002, ²2013).²¹ Some interesting motivations for creating a dialect dictionary include marking the 600th anniversary of the written mention of Ivanec (Hrg 1996), enriching the Croatian linguistic sys-

Rat Local Dialect Gathered, but not on the book's cover), and the dictionary part (1979) of *Čakavisch-deutsches Lexikon* by Mate Hraste, Petar Šimunović, and Reinhold Olesch, with primary linguistic material from Brusje on Hvar (Hraste's birthplace) and Dračevica on Brač (Šimunović's birthplace).

¹⁷ The authors shape their motives using different expressions—*preservation* is the common word that most easily describes all the motives. The motive of preserving from oblivion is also found in the title of the dictionary by Melita Bego-Urban: *Da se ne zaboravi (riječi, pojmovi i uzrečice)* (i.e., *Not to Be Forgotten: Words, Terms, and Phrases*) (2003, ²2004).

¹⁸ *Rječnik i gramatika trogirskoga čakavskoga govora* (i.e., *The Dictionary and Grammar of the Trogir Čakavian Dialect*) by Duško Geić (²2015) describe the nearly extinct Čakavian realisation of local dialect.

¹⁹ If we increased the number of Croatian dialect dictionaries to include later editions (most often expanded or corrected, sometimes even revised titles), with repeated dictionaries totalling about fifteen, Čakavian dictionaries in Croatian dialectal lexicography would be more than 54.96%.

²⁰ *Rječnik čakavsko-kajkavskih govora karlovačko-dugoreškog kraja* (i.e., *The Dictionary of the Čakavian-Kajkavian Dialects of the Karlovac-Dugo Selo Region*) (1993) by Marinko Perušić is a special category due to its title, so it cannot be classified either among Čakavian or Kajkavian dictionaries.

²¹ In the preface to the first edition, Lipljin wrote that he was initially encouraged to create the dictionary by linguists Antun Šojat and Mijo Lončarić. Namely, JAZU (the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts) planned to publish a dictionary of Kajkavian supradialect and was looking for native speakers to participate in the project as collectors and processors of dialectal material. Lipljin was engaged as a native speaker of the Varaždin Kajkavian dialect. Although the JAZU project (later HAZU) was not completed, the author continued compiling the dictionary “for his own pleasure” (Lipljin 2013: IV). The second, expanded edition of the dictionary (2013) was published posthumously (Tomislav Lipljin passed away in 2008).

tem (Milković 2009), and the needs of the amateur theatre in Buševac (Rožić 2022).

Sometimes, however, it is difficult and somewhat unfair to determine whether the author of a dialect dictionary is a professional or an amateur. For example, an author may have formal philological education but work for years in a position not directly related to their profession and later produce a quality dialect dictionary.²² In addition, very comprehensive and methodologically exemplary dictionaries can be created by authors without formal philological education.²³ A larger number of dictionaries have been created through the collaboration of amateurs and professionals.²⁴ Therefore, it is difficult to express the share of amateurs and professional philologists in dialect dictionary authorship in exact numbers. It can only be said that about half of the dictionaries are the result of the independent work of enthusiasts without formal philological education (not counting professional reviewers as assistants), while at least one author of each remaining dictionary is formally philologically educated.²⁵ When looking at individual authors, it can be concluded that amateurs are in the majority, while experts are in the minority. Looking at the structure and content of a larger number of dialect dictionaries by amateur authors, it can be concluded that some of them did not rely on any professional assistance, which somewhat compromised the quality of their dictionaries.

A measurable parameter is the age of the authors of dialect dictionaries.²⁶ There are certainly some interesting facts: 1) the most authors of Croatian dialect dictionaries were born in the 1930s and 1940s, with slightly fewer born in the 1920s. The 60s and 70s are the most productive creative age, with 59 consulted standalone dictionaries published by authors in their 60s and 70s, and many co-authors of dictionaries were in this age range;²⁷ 2) about fifteen dialectal lexicographers were over 80 years old when their dictionary was published; 3) only a few independent authors were in their late twenties or early thirties when their dictionary was published;²⁸ 4) in the 1980s and

²² Examples of such authors include Petar Milat Panža (two editions of the *Rječnik govora Blata na Korčuli*, i.e., *Dictionary of the Blato Dialect on Korčula*) and Zvonko Babić (*Rječnik mjesta Pridrage*, i.e., *Dictionary of the Pridraga Dialect*). Clearly, it should be noted that comments from professional reviewers can help authors refine the dictionary according to lexicographic rules.

²³ An example is *Ričnik Găcke Ćakavščine (Kōnpoljski Divân)*, i.e., *Dictionary of the Ćakavian Dialects of the Gacka Region (the Local Dialect of Kompolje)* by Milan Kranjčević (2003).

²⁴ Among the professional philologists who participated in the compilation of several dialect dictionaries with amateur linguists, the foremost are Đuro Blažeka (b. 1968) and Mijo Lončarić (1941–2023).

²⁵ Regardless of whether they are experts in Croatian studies or philologists of another orientation.

²⁶ Most data on the authors' birth years can be found in the dictionaries, though additional research is sometimes necessary.

²⁷ Naturally, many authors worked on the dictionaries in their younger years, but the completed works were published in the age typically associated with retirement.

²⁸ Siniša Vuković (b. 1973), author of *Ričnik Sělašķęga Gōvora* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Selce Dialect*) (2001); Alexander Selman (b. 1978), author of *Mali Funtanjanski Rječnik* (i.e., *Small Dictionary of*

1990s, only a few co-authors of dialect dictionaries were born, all of them formally educated philologists,²⁹ and there are almost no independent authors in this period;³⁰ 5) to date, we have no (co)authors born in the 21st century in Croatian dialectal lexicography; 6) several authors died before seeing their dictionary published; the most extreme example is Pavle Valerijev (born 1896), whose records were shaped into a dictionary by Filip Galović, publishing the completed work (2021) 125 years after his birth.³¹

We could also ask how long it takes to create dialect dictionaries. The answers would be very different since not all dictionaries are equally extensive, and therefore the time the authors invested in their creation is not the same. Among the data found in the prefaces and afterwords of dialect dictionaries, there is a lot of interesting information, but these data are not entirely suitable for quantitative analysis. First, many authors of dialect dictionaries do not specify how long the work took; second, all the provided data should be understood as approximations.³² For example, if an author notes that they worked on the dictionary for several years, this usually means that this much time passed from the start of the work to its publication, rather than that they were working on it every day. It is worth noting that several authors worked on their dictionaries (with interruptions) for more than half a century.³³

the Funtana Dialect (2006), and *Novi Funtanjanski Rječnik* (i.e., *New Dictionary of the Funtana Dialect*) (2010); as part of her master's thesis, the dictionary from the book *Suvremeni Donjomiholjački Govor* (i.e., *The Present-Day Dialect of Donji Miholjac*) (1993) by Latinka Golić (b. 1963).

²⁹ Nataša Šprljan (b. 1981), co-author of *Nerezinski beseduâr* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Nerezine Dialect*) (2023, ²2024); Filip Galović (b. 1982), co-author of *Rječnik govora mjesta Ložišća na otoku Braču* (*Dictionary of the Local Dialect of Ložišće on the Island of Brač*) (2021); Ivan Magaš (b. 1991), co-author of *Rječnik Sela Popovića* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Popovići Dialect*) (2018); Martina Fratrić (b. 1989) and Matija Mužek (b. 1993), co-authors of *Dobar glâs se dâlko čûje... Rječnik govora Draganića* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Draganić Dialect*) (2024).

³⁰ The only exception might be Ivan Brnčić (b. 1981), author of *Purgerski rječnik* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Zagreb Urban Dialect*) (2013), a work without serious philological pretensions.

³¹ The materials were preserved by Diana Gunjača, daughter of Pavle Valerijev (Božanić 2021: 209). Valerijev recorded 5,600 words, while Filip Galović spent years supplementing and professionally processing the material, and the final dictionary was published with 12,600 entries (Jutronić 2023: 142).

³² The most precise definition is that of Berezina Matoković, who, in the extensive (around 30,000 words, according to Maroević 2004: 327; 1038 pages of lexical material) *Ričnik Velovareškega Splita* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Veli Varoš Dialect in the City of Split*) (2004), invested more than 20,000 hours of work over eight years: “je / činila san nike konte / za vidit koliko me tribalo vrimena / ma san pristala notavat / poza 20 ijad uri / tokalo me puno vrimena frižavat škartoce / (1996 - 2004. GG)” (i.e., “I did some counts / to see how long it took me / but I stopped writing / after 20 thousand hours / it took me a lot of time to harm the papers / (1996 – 2004 AD)”). Matoković 2004: 39. Other authors are not so precise.

³³ We can highlight a few of the most important: Blaž Jurišić: *Rječnik govora otoka Vrgade* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Island of Vrgada Dialect*) (1973), Božidar Šimunić: *Rječnik bibinjskoga govora* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Bibinje Dialect*) (2013), August Kovačec: *Rječnik govora Jesenja (grada)* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Jesenje Dialect: Lexical Material*) (2020).

4. IN SUMMARY, THE POSSIBLE FATE OF CROATIAN DIALECTAL LEXICOGRAPHY

Looking at the number of published independent Croatian dialect dictionaries over the years, we would see a steady increase of a few (3–8) dictionaries per year from the late 1990s to the present. However, we have no precise data on how many dictionaries will be published in the near future.³⁴ Based on everything stated in this series of interesting facts, it can be roughly concluded that the productivity of Croatian dialectal lexicography is still high, but it will likely decrease in the coming decades.³⁵ Beyond that, it is not possible to predict much.³⁶

The quality of future dictionaries cannot be assessed either, but it is certainly important for Croatian philology to ensure, as much as possible, professional assistance for amateurs in shaping dictionaries. Naturally, financial assistance for potential authors of dialect dictionaries is also welcome, especially for those who have gathered material especially valuable for Croatian philology (insufficiently processed dialects in dialectological literature, local dialects with a small number of speakers, dialects that are rapidly changing under the influence of urban environments, etc.). Given that decreased production of dictionaries is expected, it will be crucial that all published dictionaries, regardless of the motives of the authors and the number of words listed, be reliable and useful.

³⁴ According to the list of books in press in Croatia, or the Cooperative CIP Control (link: <https://iks.nsk.hr/cip/>), we can expect the publication of *Rječnik molvarškoga govora* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Molve Dialect*) by Sanja Kovačić in 2025. The dictionary of the Rab local dialects by Željko Peran is also nearing completion (data thanks to Nataša Šprljan; more about the development of the dictionary in: Grce 2021). It is also known that the Institute for the Croatian Language is preparing a second, digitised edition of Blaž Jurišić's *Rječnik govora otoka Vrgade*. Whether any other dictionaries will be published apart from these is hard to say.

³⁵ There are, however, examples of announced dialect dictionaries whose authors belong to the younger generation. Such would be the dictionary of the Zaglav dialect on Dugi Otok by Robert Špralja (b. 1992) (see Špralja 2010: 170–171), but there are currently no indications that this dictionary will be published soon. In the meantime, Robert Špralja has stood out as a successful collaborator in the compilation of the *Rječnik pazinskoga govora* (i.e., *Dictionary of the Pazin Dialect*) (2017) by Marija Gagić.

³⁶ Josip Lisac pointed out almost two decades ago that Croatian dialect lexicography is so prolific “that no one could have expected it” (2006b: 51). Clearly, the prediction made here about the decreasing number of new Croatian dialect dictionaries in the future could turn out to be incorrect if, for example, the development of large language models triggers a new wave in Croatian dialect lexicography, based on principles for creating dictionaries that differ significantly from the current ones.

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O AUTORIMA, MOTIVIMA I PERSPEKTIVI U HRVATSKOJ DIJALEKTOJ LEKSIKOGRAFIJI

IVAN MAGAŠ

SAŽETAK

U stotinjak godina hrvatske dijalektne leksikografije postignuti su značajni rezultati. Dok su sve do posljednjega desetljeća 20. stoljeća rječnici objavljivani sporadično, uglavnom kao dodatak drugim publikacijama ili u specijaliziranim časopisima, a rjeđe kao samostalna djela, od osamostaljenja Republike Hrvatske do danas broj je rječnika umnogostručen. Pozitivna je okolnost u procesu izrade rječnika bio ubrzan razvoj osobnih računala, odnosno programa u kojima se rječnik može tehnički relativno lako izrađivati. Među dijalektnim leksikografima većina su amateri koje na izradu rječnika hrvatskih mjesnih govora, manjih i većih areala ili cijelih dijalekata najčešće potiču različiti unutarnji motivi. Proučavanjem predgovora i pogovora više od 130 hrvatskih dijalektnih rječnika, objavljenih od 1957. godine do danas, mogu se otkriti i grupirati motivi njihovih autora, ali se na temelju najosnovnijih biografskih podataka o autorima može i djelomice predvidjeti razvoj hrvatske dijalektne leksikografije.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI:

autori, hrvatski jezik, dijalektna leksikografija, motivi, perspektiva