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Historical linguistic topics in Croatian language teaching

A new elective course for graduate students of the Croatian language and literature at Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka, Topics from the history of the Croatian literary language in the teaching of the Croatian language, was launched in the academic year 2019/2020. The starting point in the course content is an overview of historical language units in the teaching of the Croatian language in primary and secondary school (according to the current curriculum for primary and secondary school). Students acquire new outcomes that prepare them more comprehensively for the teaching profession and especially for teaching units related to the history of the Croatian language and the history of the Croatian literary language. From the group of outcomes in the presentation, two stand out: (1) competently select and apply different types of data and important details from the history of the Croatian language to motivate students to read texts from older written heritage; (2) acquire interest in and a positive attitude towards the written heritage of the didactic situation and beyond. The results of the work of the first generation of students are commented on, especially their team work (reviews of historical language topics in current textbooks, questions at competitions and graduation exams as well as suggested tasks for testing students' knowledge of historical language topics). The concept of the manual, which is being prepared as digital content for teachers in primary, secondary and vocational schools, is also presented. The emphasis is on nonliterary texts published between the 17th and 19th centuries, which will help teachers motivate students (from assignments in Kajkavian and Štokavian mathematics textbooks to table manners in Old Kaikavian etiquette, to prescriptions in medical treatment books). The findings after the first implementation of the course are introduced into the preparation of the course for the next generation of students.

Key words: Croatian language, language history, teaching, textbook

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