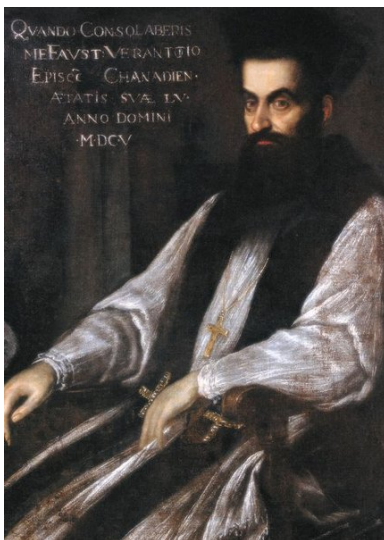


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## Latest Dialectological Observations of the Language of Faust Vrančić: Lexis in the Focus



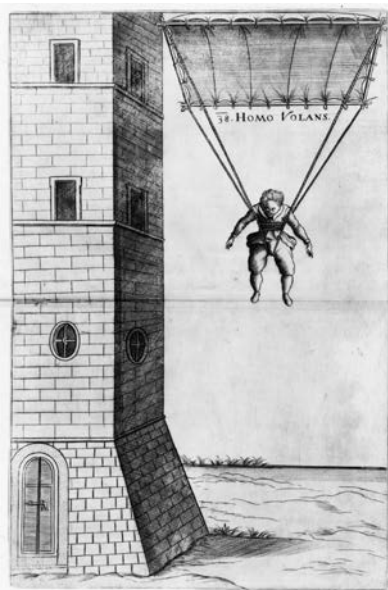
Faust Vrančić, 1605  
The Town Museum of Šibenik

Faust Vrančić, inventor, polyhistor, writer and lexicographer, is a typical example of a renaissance *homo universalis*.

His *Dictionarium quinque nobilissimarum Europae linguarum, Latinae, Italicae, Germanicae, Dalmatiae et Vngaricae* (Dictionary of the five most noble European languages: Latin, Italian, German, Dalmatian, and Hungarian) from 1595 by is considered to be the first real Croatian dictionary.

Born in 1551, Faust Vrančić was a native of Šibenik.

Due to the fact that he belonged to the 16<sup>th</sup> century intellectual élite, Vrančić's lexis usually comes to be considered within the context of written monuments of his day, as well as that of previous centuries, but not sufficiently with respect to the dialect status of Šibenik in Vrančić's time.



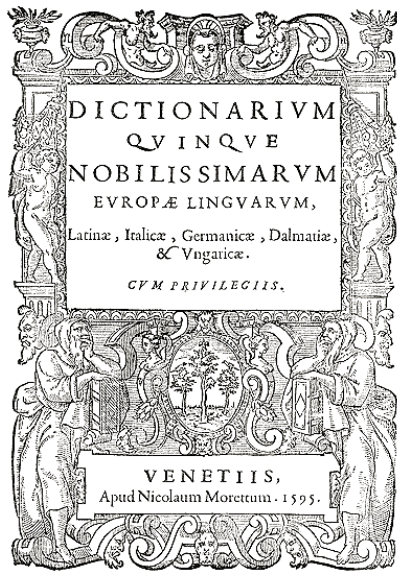
*Homo Volans*, circa 1595  
Vrančić's illustration for a parachute

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the speeches of Šibenik, the surrounding coastal parts, and the islands, invariably pertained to the South Čakavian Ikavian dialect, i.e. a Čakavian dialect in which the Proto-Slavic phoneme *yat* is dominantly reflected as the phoneme */i/*. It could be presumed that a part of the lexis Vrančić incorporated in his dictionary made an integral part of the speech of the area of Šibenik of his day.

This primarily concerns the fundamental lexis of a particular language, i.e. the speech up to the present day employed in the Čakavian and basically Čakavian dialects of the area surrounding Šibenik.

Choice of month names in Vrančić's dictionary is very interesting.

Question is - why are there no Latin names for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> month.



Vrančić's *Dictionarium quinque nobilissimarum Europae linguarum, Latinae, Italicae, Germanicae, Dalmaticae et Ungaricae*, 1595

Another opened issue is why the dictionary does not contain Croatian equivalents for the names of some months, namely the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> (since it uses the Latin names of *September* and *October*).

Sometimes Vrančić would deliberately take one word from his local speech and an approximate synonym pertaining to the Croatian dialects that he could have heard in West Hungary.

Here again, Vrančić made use of the dialect differences and variants in the Croatian speeches.

A part of the words in Vrančić's dictionary simultaneously regularly appears in the literature Vrančić could have had access to, as well as in the South Čakavian Ikavian dialect.

A part of the lexical corpus could be supposed not to have been used in speech, but was rather usual in the standard Croatian language of the time.

A large part of the words were typical of the language standard of the time; however, since today they are not used in the area of the South Čakavian Ikavian dialect, it is not possible to establish whether they merely pertained to the standard language or were actually used in the speeches of the area of Šibenik.

Some of the realisations have relatively recently become obsolete.

Some realisations were subsequently superseded by loanwords.

A part of the lexis pertaining to the intellectual register, most probably not used in local speeches, were taken over by Vrančić from Marulić's *Suzana* and *Judita*.