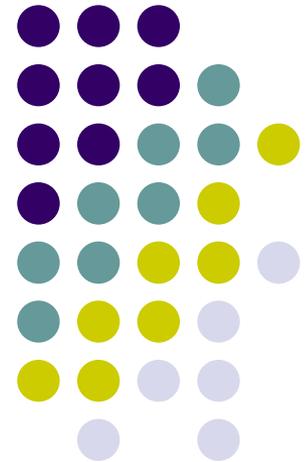
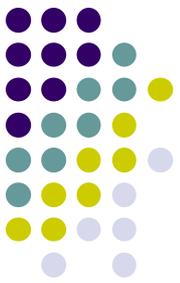


# Croatian and Slovenian: a review of studies on the relationship between the two languages

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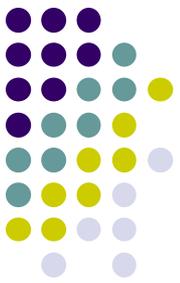
Prof. Vesna Požgaj Hadži, Ph. D.  
Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana





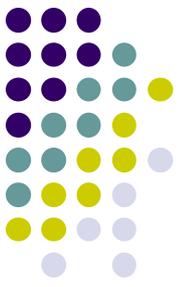
# Presentation overview

- aim
  - present studies of Croatian and Slovenian
    - from 1960s to the end of the 20th ct.: contrastive studies
    - 21st ct.: sociolinguistic and corpus themes
  - present the results of those studies
    - at university and primary school level
    - in Slovenian society
- presentation based on
  - theory and practice
  - 30 years of pedagogical and scientific work



# Theoretical framework (1)

- contrastive studies (CS)
  - 1950s: Weinreich: contrastive analysis (CA)
  - 1960s and '70s: CA peaks as error analysis
    - aim:
      - predicting and diagnosing errors or interference
    - what is an error?
      - any deviation from standard language
      - cause of errors: interference + other sources



# Theoretical framework (2)

- contrastive analysis criticism
  - too small or too homogenous corpuses
  - awkwardly defined and classified errors; out of context
  - basing conclusions on researchers' linguistic sense
- 1980s and early 1990s
  - development of corpus linguistics and language technologies revives interest in contrastive studies ⇒ corpuses give a fresh and wide view of language and language use

# Theoretical framework (3)



- results of contrastive studies
  - have an important role in applied linguistics, especially in teaching related languages:
    - easier at early stages – immediate communication
    - more difficult later because of interference which is deep, difficult to correct, and likely to remain permanent (fossilisation)
  - help predict and eliminate interference errors

# Croatian and Slovenian in contact with foreign languages (1)



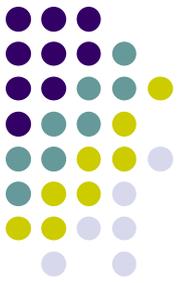
- Slovenia: gains popularity in 1980s
- Croatia:
  - 1960s, Filipović and Institute of Linguistics at University of Zagreb
    - theoretical, professional and pedagogical literature
    - collected papers offer synthesis (1985, 1990, 1991)
      - contrastive synchronic and diachronic studies at all levels
      - *Zagreb school of phonetics*
        - systems of phonetic errors in foreign languages in relation to Croatian

# Croatian and Slovenian in contact with foreign languages (2)



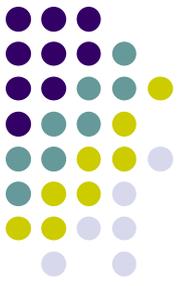
- Croatia:
  - 1990s:
    - contrastive descriptions of Croatian and foreign lang.
    - handbooks (a series of *Concise Phraseological Dictionaries*)
- conclusion: CS of Croatian and foreign lang.
  - from 1960s to '90s: contrastive analyses, languages in contact and concise phraseological dictionaries
  - from 1990s on: corpus of Croatian + contrastive grammars + other themes

# Croatian and Slovenian (1)



- Slovenia
  - 1970s:
    - contrastive studies: similarities and differences in systems + pointing to errors
  - mid-1980s:
    - linguistic and applied level: projects at the Institute
      - error analysis and material design
        - morphological, syntactical and lexical errors + elimination methods
        - phonetic and phonological errors + correction

# Croatian and Slovenian (2)

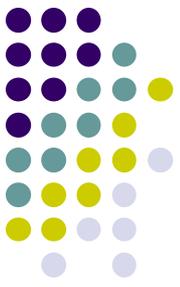


- Slovenia

- mid-1990s:

- unresolved issues of Croatian as a foreign language
  - Croatian and Slovenian contrastive issues
  - presenting Croatian and Slovenian culture at Slavic Studies abroad
  - methodological issues of learning Croatian as a FL
  - scientific work of V. Kalenić ⇒ initiator of contrastive studies of Croatian and Slovenian
  - +
  - errors by Croatian and Serbian native speakers learning Slovenian

# Sociolinguistic approach to CS of Croatian and Slovenian (1)



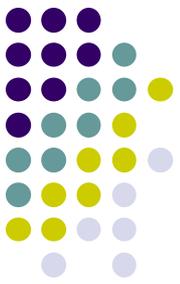
- foreign accent
  - the inability to be completely proficient in a foreign language, starting from the phonetic level and moving to other levels
- sociolinguistic themes included into
  - the project at the Institute of Science
    - *Slovenian language – basic, contrastive and applied research*
  - bilateral projects
    - among Slovenia and Croatia, BH, Serbia and Montenegro
    - results of monograph *Between politics and reality*
      - sociolinguistic situations + relation to native and foreign languages

# Sociolinguistic approach to CS of Croatian and Slovenian (2)



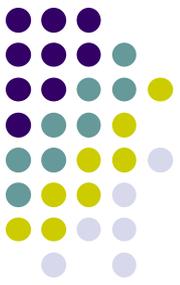
- researched themes
  - native speaker tolerance toward speakers of Slovenian and Croatian as foreign languages
  - stereotypes in Slovenian society
    - about foreign language speakers
    - about speakers of languages from former Yugoslavia

# Corpus studies of Croatian and Slovenian (1)

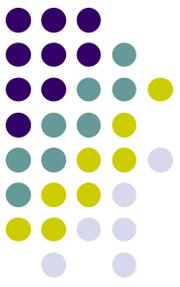


- what is new in contemporary contrastive analysis of language acquisition
  - methodology:
    - THEN: two linguistic systems in contact were contrasted
    - NOW: native speaker language contrasted with foreign speaker language in a particular context
  - corpus
    - THEN: language in its application (comprehension and production), metalinguistic attitudes, researchers' linguistic sense
    - NOW: corpus linguistics

# Corpus studies of Croatian and Slovenian (2)



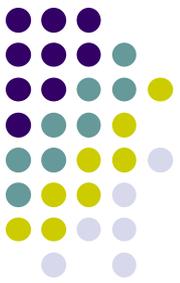
- linguistic description created
  - on the basis of comprehensive electronic corpora ⇒ linguistic element frequency of occurrence
- corpus analysis provides
  - information on overuse, underuse and misuse ⇒ notes linguistic transfer and avoidance strategy ⇒ does not lead to errors but to information on particular linguistic element use
  - **IMPORTANT!** we are not interested in what the learner did wrong, but in what the learner did right



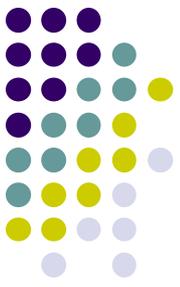
# Corpus of language acquisition (1)

- definition
  - computer collections of authentic texts collected according to specific criteria and for a specific purpose
- Balažic Bulc (2008) Corpus of Croatian LA
  - 2 control corpuses by students of Slovenian and Croatian as first languages – non-professional authors
  - 2 specialised corpuses of linguistic scientific articles (*Jezik in slovstvo* and *Govor*) – professional authors

## Corpus of language acquisition (2)



- results of contrasting corpuses of Croatian as a first language and Croatian as a foreign language by non-professional authors
  - differences in use of conjunctions in terms of underuse, overuse and misuse
  - influence of avoidance strategy
    - disjunction *međutim* (however) in CFL compensated by disjunction *ali* (but)
    - explanatory conjunction *tako* (in in this way) used frequently
    - misuse of disjunctive *pa* (instead of *a*)



## Corpus of language acquisition (3)

- the possibilities of the corpus of language acquisition and control corpora
  - insight into linguistic style of a certain discourse community and genre
  - longitudinal monitoring of acquisition of a certain genre
    - text author/learner monitors progress
    - access to performance feedback that is often lacking at university level

# Studies of Croatian and Slovenian in application (1)



- related languages require contrastive approach
  - the only way to consciously correct interference errors at all levels
- communicative-contrastive approach
  - linguistic activity
  - contrastive tables

the results of contrastive, sociolinguistic and corpus studies ⇒

# Studies of Croatian and Slovenian in application (2)



- university level

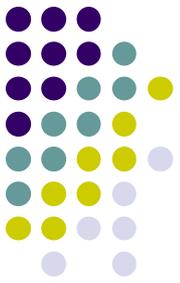
- first contrastive textbook (1990)
  - morphological, syntactic and lexical level
  - linguistic issues for Slovenian speakers stemming from first language interference
- monograph *Croatian and Slovenian in Contact* (2002)
  - phonetic and phonological level
  - how do native speakers of Slovenian speak Croatian as a foreign language
- contrastive textbook *Croatian language 1* (2008)
- monograph *Therefore, that is, because... on conjunctions* (2009)

# Studies of Croatian and Slovenian in application (3)

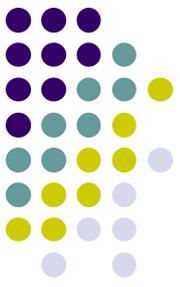


- primary school level
  - Croatian, Serbian and Macedonian as elective subjects in Slovenian primary schools
  - the results of CS used in
    - writing curricula for the electives
    - contrastive textbooks, workbooks, handbooks...
    - designing programmes for professional teacher education

# Studies of Croatian and Slovenian in application (4)

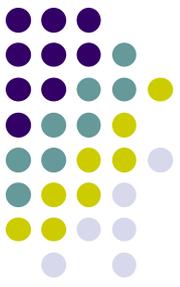


- Croatian in Slovenian society
  - Croatian, Serbian (and Bosnian and Montenegrin) – becoming foreign language in Slovenia
  - in focus: proficiency exams in Croatian – C1 level
  - the results of CS used
    - in designing exams
    - in designing programmes and teaching material for different workshops
      - for translators, court interpreters, etc.



# Conclusion (1)

- contrastive analyses will have their important role, especially in teaching related languages
- contrastive and sociolinguistics approach + corpuses of language acquisition
  - the only way to predict and eliminate errors at all levels (even text level)
  - provide insight into learners' discourse competence



# Conclusion (2)

- theoretical results
  - contrastive descriptions of particular linguistic issues  $\Rightarrow$  basis for Croatian and Slovenian contrastive grammar
- applied results
  - designing teaching material
  - teaching Slovenian as a foreign language to speakers of non-Slavic languages