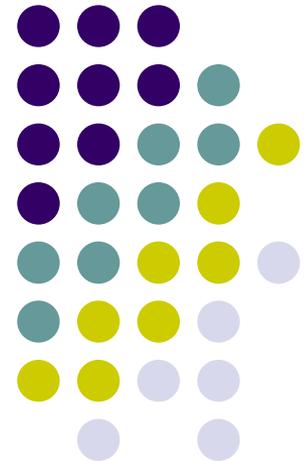


Croatian and Slovenian: a review of studies on the relationship between the two languages

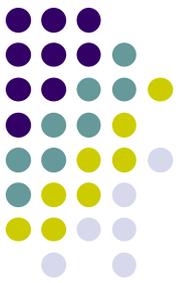
Prof. Vesna Požgaj Hadži, Ph. D.
Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana





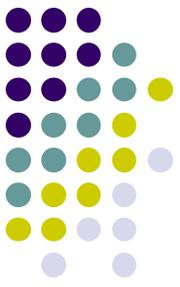
Presentation overview

- 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)

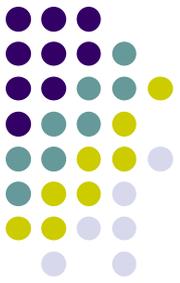
- contrastive studies (CS)
 - 1950s: Weinreich: contrastive analysis (CA)
 - 1960s and '70s: CA peaks as error analysis
 - aim:
 - predicting and diagnosing errors or interference
 - what is an error?
 - any deviation from standard language
 - cause of errors: interference + other sources



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)



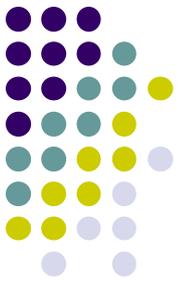
- Slovenia: gains popularity in 1980s
- Croatia:
 - 1960s, Filipović and Institute of Linguistics at University of Zagreb
 - theoretical, professional and pedagogical literature
 - collected papers offer synthesis (1985, 1990, 1991)
 - contrastive synchronic and diachronic studies at all levels
 - *Zagreb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

Croatian and Slovenian in contact with foreign languages (2)



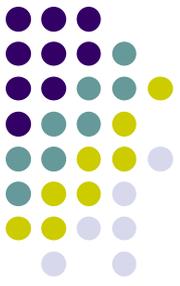
- Croatia:
 - 1990s:
 - contrastive descriptions of Croatian and foreign lang.
 - handbooks (a series of *Concise Phraseological Dictionaries*)
- conclusion: CS of Croatian and foreign lang.
 - from 1960s to '90s: contrastive analyses, languages in contact and concise phraseological dictionaries
 - from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

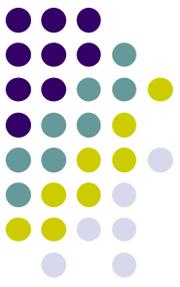


- Slovenia

- mid-1990s:

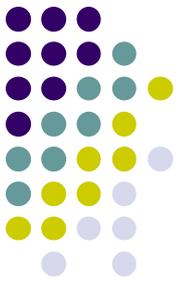
- unresolved issues of Croatian as a foreign language
 - Croatian and Slovenian contrastive issues
 - presenting Croatian and Slovenian culture at Slavic Studies abroad
 - methodological issues of learning Croatian as a FL
 - scientific work of V. Kalenić ⇒ initiator of contrastive studies of Croatian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

Sociolinguistic approach to CS of Croatian and Slovenian (1)



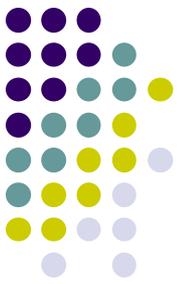
- foreign accent
 - the inability to be completely proficient in a foreign language, starting from the phonetic level and moving to other levels
- sociolinguistic themes included into
 - the project at the Institute of Science
 - *Slovenian language – basic, contrastive and applied research*
 - bilateral 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)



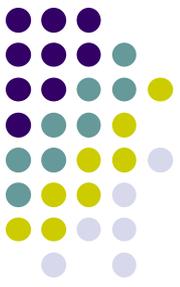
- researched themes
 - native speaker tolerance toward speakers of Slovenian and Croatian as foreign languages
 - stereotypes in Slovenian society
 - about foreign language speakers
 - about speakers of languages from former Yugoslavia

Corpus studies of Croatian and Slovenian (1)

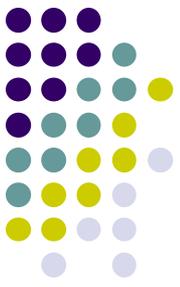


- what is new in contemporary contrastive analysis of language acquisition
 - methodology:
 - THEN: two linguistic systems in contact were contrasted
 - NOW: native speaker language contrasted with foreign speaker language in a particular context
 - corpus
 - THEN: language in its application (comprehension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

Corpus studies of Croatian and Slovenian (2)

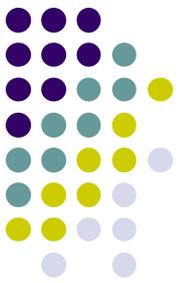


- linguistic description created
 - on the basis of comprehensive electronic corpora ⇒ linguistic element frequency of occurrence
- corpus analysis provides
 - information on overuse, underuse and misuse ⇒ notes linguistic transfer and avoidance strategy ⇒ does not lead to errors but to information on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



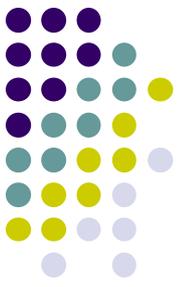
Corpus of language acquisition (1)

- 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)

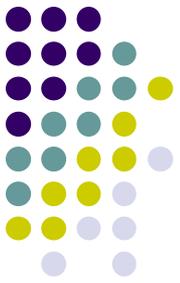
- results of contrasting corpuses of Croatian as a first language and Croatian as a foreign language by non-professional authors
 - differences in use of conjunctions in terms of underuse, overuse and misuse
 - influence of avoidance strategy
 - disjunction *međutim* (however) in CFL compensated by disjunction *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

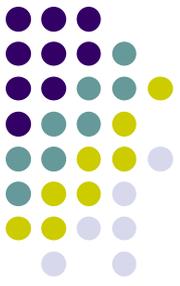
Studies of Croatian and Slovenian in application (1)



- 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 ⇒

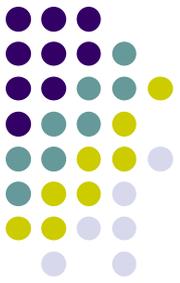
Studies of Croatian and Slovenian in application (2)



- university level

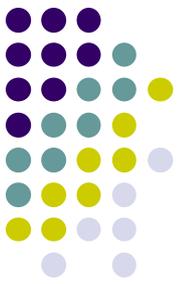
- first contrastive textbook (1990)
 - morphological, syntactic and lexical level
 - linguistic issues for Slovenian speakers stemming from first language interference
- monograph *Croatian and Slovenian in Contact* (2002)
 - phonetic and phonological level
 - how do native speakers of Slovenian speak 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)

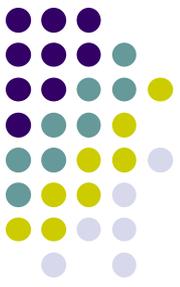


- primary school level
 - Croatian, Serbian and Macedonian as elective subjects in Slovenian primary schools
 - the results of CS used in
 - writing curricula for the electives
 - contrastive textbooks, workbooks, handbooks...
 - designing programmes for professional teacher education

Studies of Croatian and Slovenian in application (4)

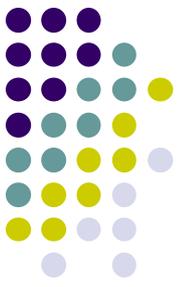


- Croatian in Slovenian society
 - Croatian, Serbian (and Bosnian and Montenegrin) – becoming foreign language in Slovenia
 - in focus: proficiency exams in Croatian – C1 level
 - the results of CS used
 - in designing exams
 - in designing programmes and teaching material for different workshops
 -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