

Title: The Accentual System of the Susak Dialect Spoken in New Jersey
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This paper describes and analyzes the Croatian Čakavian dialect of Susak Island spoken in New Jersey. The current study is based on a recording done in New Jersey as a pilot study. In Hamm, et al. (1956) there is the description of an unusual nominal accentual paradigm of the Susak dialect. Certain masculine nouns, which in other Slavic dialects have reflexes of AP-C, in Susak have reflexes of AP-C in the Nom case, but have reflexes of AP-B in the oblique cases (1956: 106). Later, this type of mixed accentual paradigm served as one of the main arguments for the new theory of AP-D for late CSI (Dybo, et al. 1990, 1993). One of the points of criticism of this theory is the reliability of the material provided by Hamm, et al. Indeed, the description by Hamm, et al. is hard to validate, since the island is currently inhabited by newcomers; most of the original Susak inhabitants emigrated to the USA in the 1950's. Last year we got in touch with the Susak community in New Jersey. Although these people have lived in the USA for about fifty years, they still preserve their Susak identity, and their distinctive dialect. Analysis of the recording of the New Jersey Susak dialect shows traits specific to the Susak dialect described by Hamm, et al. Upon examining these traits it becomes clear that the accentual system of these Susak speakers does indeed have the mixed-type masculine noun paradigm.

References:

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