



University in Zagreb
Faculty of Humanities
and Social Sciences



University Ss Cyril and Methodius, Skopje
Faculty of Philology *Blazhe Koneski*



The Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb and the Faculty of Philology in Skopje under the patronage of the *National Foundation for Science, Higher Education and Technology* of the Republic of Croatia is organizing:

International Meeting/Conference for Collaboration

First, Second, Other Language: Croatian-Macedonian Comparisons

May 14th and 15th, 2010

Skopje, Macedonia

The following topics for the Conference are proposed:

1. Terminology

It is necessary to determine the concept and the meaning of the terms: mother tongue, first, second, heritage, native and nonnative language for the Croatian and Macedonian communities. These concepts should be illustrated by examples from individual multilingual environments, the overlapping, the synonymy and the uniform terminology should be proposed to be used in both languages.

2. Linguistic, national and cultural identity of the speech communities

For the purpose of having the whole picture of multilingualism in Croatia and Macedonia it is necessary to describe all the characteristics of the minority languages and the communities in both countries. For example, the same language should have a different status in different areas and can be preserved to a different degree. The same language could be spoken by two ethnic communities or one ethnic community could speak a different language. All this is important both when particular speakers are educated in their mother tongue and when they don't have that opportunity. Therefore, the correlation between national, linguistic and cultural identity is especially important for the multilingual research.

3. Macedonian /Croatian in the educational system

Speakers whose education is in their mother tongue and non-mother tongue should be proficient in some degree in Croatian / Macedonian. There are issues in Croatian and Macedonian second language acquisition, for achieving appropriate degree in proficiency. Until now there has been no systematic research of that required degree. Likewise, there hasn't been enough research about the language in the other subjects' textbooks (if the language is appropriate for the age, linguistic and conceptual degree of the child's development).

4. Croatian / Macedonian as a minority and a heritage language

Croatian and Macedonian are languages with a large number of speakers outside of their mother country: speakers form autochthonous communities and older and newer immigrants. Since in Macedonia and there is a Croatian community and in Croatia a Macedonian community, both languages are studied on different educational levels in both countries. There are experts in both countries who deal with topics such as the preservation of the heritage languages, the usefulness of the present textbooks, materials development, and teaching of heritage languages.

5. Croatian / Macedonian as a foreign language

Croatian and Macedonian are studied at the university level throughout the world, and in their mother countries as a foreign language. Both languages are studied by small groups of heterogenous students. Teachers of both languages similar problems therefore, new curricula and textbooks should be made and more attention should be given to teachers' professional development.

6. Language testing

In both countries there is language proficiency testing for Croatian / Macedonian for different purposes. Both countries have language tests for residency and citizenship. Consequently, the topic of distinct language testing in both languages, linguistic and nonlinguistic factors that influence the testing and what results there are in both countries is important.

The working languages for the Conference are Croatian, English, and Macedonian.

We invite you to complete the application and to send the abstract by **March 25, 2010** by email: fiisol@ffzg.hr or to apply directly on the **Conference's webpage** (www.ffzg.hr/fisol/prijava). You will be informed on the status of your proposed paper by April 1, 2010.

It is our honor to invite you to participate in the Conference:

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