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“The Varieties of the Slovene Language”

The *Varieties of the Slovene Language* is article about the history of Slovene and about the language policy and planning, two topics closely related to it.

The article presents the literary language varieties of Slovene (the Carniolan, the Prekmurje and the Eastern Styrian regional varieties), their role in the development of the language and the causes that had led to the unification of the Slovene literary language. It is concerned with the dual development of the Slovene literary language in the Central and in Eastern Slovene linguistic territory, i.e. with the Carniolan and the Prekmurje literary varieties of Slovene, and with the attempt to establish the Eastern Styrian literary language. The article discusses the regional dimensions and the development of the literary Carniolan and Prekmurje varieties as well as the (regional) Eastern Styrian language. It then presents the unification of the Slovene literary norm in the mid-19th century and the endeavours for the autonomy of the Slovene language in the second half of the 19th century.

The article offers an explanation of the role and the significance of the Prekmurje literary language, which emerged as a by-product of the 18th century Protestantism (similar to the Carniolan variety in the 16th century). It dates back to the time of pre-literary norm (e.g. *Martijanska pesmarica I* - the Martijanci Hymnal I). It was most likely first printed by Janž Mandelc in the 16th century (*Agenda Vandolica*), but was lost, while the literary language came into being only in the beginning of the 18th century as a supradialectal form of the Goričko and Ravensko dialects, the aim being that the Prekmurje Protestants could read the Bible in their mother tongue. Similarly admirable is the story of the development of the Slovene Prekmurje literary language. It begins with Catechism (Temlin, 1715) and Alphabet Manual (Kotsmar/Kerčmar, 1725). It continues with Küzmič's textbooks, which had been unfortunately lost, and gains in importance with the first Slovene translation of the *New Testament* from the original Greek version (Števan Küzmič, *Nouvi Zákon* 1771). It is believed that Küzmič also translated the *Old Testament*. Unfortunately, this manuscript was destroyed in the fire that had burned down his home. In analysis of the Prekmurje language and dialects, the article defines the Prekmurje language as a Slovene literary variety in use up until the mid-19th century. It describes its

origin, its spread and its decline as well as the shaping of the uniform Slovene literary language in the mid-19th century. The article places the transition of the Prekmurje literary language into dialectal varieties in the period between 1848 and 1919, i.e. from the so called "Spring of Nations" until the reunification of Prekmurje with the homeland Slovene territory after the end of World War I. It emphasizes (a) the significance of translation in the Slovene Pannonian linguistic space, (b) the influence of the Prekmurje hymnal manuscripts on the development of the Prekmurje language and (c) the reunification of Prekmurje with the Slovene territory and the unification of the Slovene literary language.