



# Kaikavian language

## Kaikavian language and its main characteristics



## Kaikavian language **Past**

- pronoun **KAJ** (**kej**, **kuoj**) – meaning *what*
- first written words in Rado-bible at the end of 11th century
- Literary language from 16th to mid of 19th century in Croatia
- was used on all levels in public communication



## Kaikavian language **Past**

- from 16th to end of 19th rich development of Kaikavian literature with its centre Zagreb.
- literature comparable with literature in the same cultural Middle-European circle (Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia)
- Translations from English, Latin and German into Kaikavian (e.g. John Milton's Paradise Lost)



## Kaikavian language **Past**

- after the ban of Kaikavian from public institutions (mid of 19th. century), it continues to be spoken; writers and poets continue to write, but production much smaller
- however some of the best literary works in Croatia were created in 20th century in Kaikavian, like “Balade Petrice Kerempuha” by Miroslav Krleža



# Kaikavian language Present

- today spoken and written in Croatia in Kaikavian region - North Croatia, from Gorski Kotar in the West to the Podravina in the East.
- and in some neighbouring areas in Hungary



# Kajkavian language Present





# Kaikavian language Present

- written mostly by writers and poets
- Kaikavian plays present in theatres
- Kaikavian folk songs are performed in public (e.g. pentatonic Međimorje songs)
- Portal [www.trnac.net](http://www.trnac.net) also in Kaikavian



# Kaikavian language **Present**

- A scientific symposium is held every year in Krapina called "**Kaikavian language, literature and culture through centuries**" where historic and contemporary Kaikavian literature is discussed.
- In Sv. Ivan Zelina there is a festival of contemporary Kaikavian literature every year called "**KAJ v Zelini**", with contributions from all parts of Kaikavian region.





# Kaikavian language Present

- But: Kaikavian is not equally present in public education and communication systems like Stokavian Croatian
- very little of Kaikavian literature is presented in public education system
- children are not learning it at elementary nor in high-school



# Kaikavian language Present

- current goal in public education for native speakers is to have basic understanding only of e.g. few songs written in their native tongue, not to learn to write or speak Kaikavian
- mentioned incorrectly in public education as dialect of Croatian language, which contradicts linguistic reality. (old dogma from the past)
- underrepresented on the Internet



# Kaikavian language Future

- A major campaign by Kaikavian Renaissance started in 2012 to revitalize and reintroduce Kaikavian language as an important asset for Cultural Diversity and as a vehicle of Kaikavian culture and tradition which is dated back into the 6th century.
  - several ongoing projects initiated, more on the way



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- self-name **Kajkavski**. It went through few transitions from Slovenski over Horvatski to today's Kajkavski (spelled like “*kaykavskey*”)
- specific 3-accent system ( ` , ˆ , ~ )
  - short, circumflex, acute
- accent often on penultima, possible also on ultima (*bregóv, nogáj*)



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- Ivšić first proved unity of Kaikavian language in his work "*Language of Croatian Kaikavians*" (1936)
- 4 main inter-Kaikavian dialects according to him
  - + Kaikavian of Gorski Kotar



# Kaikavian language characteristics

- diphthongs (*uo, oa, ie, ..*)
- alternation of phonemes *k, g, h* in the nominative plural, dative and locative cases does not occur:  
Kai: *ruoka* → *ruoki*, *noga* → *nogi*, *svrha* → *svrhi*  
(Croat. *ruka* → *ruci*, *noga* → *nozi*, *svrha* → *svrsi*).  
In other words, phonemes *k, g, h* do not change into *c, z, s*.



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- *v-* before *-u* i *-o* (*vusnica, vugurek, vuho, vulica, vu, vogel*)
- *j-* before vowel (*jogenj, joko, jana, jembrelo, Jambrovič*)
- No soft *ć* nor hard *č* but only middle hard *č*
- Plural masculine in nominative case has correct suffix *-i* (*obloki, brodi, kabli*); not *-ovi*



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- Future tense like in Slovenian and West-Slavic languages (*ja bu(de)m delal Kajkavskega portala*)
- Active verbal adjective in singular masculine in the 1st and 3rd person ends with *-l* unlike standard Croatian *-o*. (*joa sem delal*)
- Suffix for forming comparative and superlative adjectives is *-š/i/a/e*: *liep, liepši, najliepši*





# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- Diminutive suffix for masculine singular is *-ek* or *-ec*, (plural *-eki*, *-eci*) unlike Stokavian *-ić*.
- Supine with verb of motion (*idi speat = supine* vs. *liepo mi je speati = infinitive*)
- No vocative case (same as nominative) → no palatalisation in declension (*vuok idi v kraj!*)



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- Plural in masculine genitive case has suffix -ov  
(*dečecov, čuonov*)
- Plural in genitive case loses suffix  
(*leta* → *let*, *krave* → *krav*; *sela* → *sel*).
- Preserved distinction between dative, locative and instrumental cases (DLI-distinction: D *k ženam*, L *pri ženah*, I *z ženami*)



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- Plural 2nd person imperative has often suffix *-ete (budete)*
- Same suffix in accusative case for living creatures and things (*imam rada kralja Ljudevita, imaš hamra*)
- High degree of word borrowing from German and to a lesser degree from Hungarian and Latin.



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- Examples for German loanwords:  
*flaša (Flasche), cukor (Zucker), hamer (Hammer), tancati (tanzen), feringe (Vorhänge), štienge (Stiege), cug (Zug), špancirati (spazieren), vanjkuš (Wangenkissen), štamperlin (Stamperl), kukarlin (Guckerle), kušnuti (Küssen), nor (narr), farof (Pfarrhof), cirkva (Kirche), meša (Messe), ..*
- Hungarian loanwords: *harmica, pelda, jezero (=1000), kinč/iti, tovariš, ..*
- Latin (*cinkuš, plebanuš, ..*)



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- -e- older than comparable Stokavian -a- (*denes, veter, pekel vs. danas, vjetar, pakao*)
- At least 2 vowels for -e: closed *e*: *otec, mesto*, open *e*: *ve, vezda, terpela*)
- Syllabic /r/ is written/still spoken as -er (*cvertje, černi, čerleni*)



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- Preserved Proto-Slavic consonant group \*čr- (*črešnja*)
- open -e in Proto-Slavic suffix -me (*ideme, očeme, živeme*) instead of -mo. Connection with West-Slavic languages
- Preserved Proto-Slavic form \*šč (*puščati*)



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- Proto-Slavic forms *\*stj i \*skj* manifest as *-šč* (*proščenje, klješča, piščalka, puščati, iščem, trešče* (from *treska*)) (like in oldest Church Slavonic manuscript Kiev Misal)
- Secondary group *stəj* is *-stj* (*listjé, kostjú, smetjé*), secondary *zdəj* is *-zdj* (*grozdje*)
- Palatal *rj* (*škarje/škoar(i)je, odgovarjati, zorja, morje*)



# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- Kaikavian is not “*ekavian language*” because Kaikavian has **4** forms of Slavic *jat* (ě) phoneme: *ie, e, ei, i* (*bieg, breg, breig, brig*)
- Kaikavian does not belong to (Neo-)Stokavian group of languages (like Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian). More similar to Slovenian & West-Slavic languages.





# Kaikavian language

## characteristics

- Dialects spoken in Slovenia in neighbouring regions Prekmurje, Prlekija, Porabje and Podčetrtek are similar to Kaikavian language, since they developed either in or in close contact with Kaikavian region till the end of 18th. century.
- Kaikavian has a huge word pool that we cannot present here: (*najže, pelnica, vre, vezda, komaj, tijam, stopram, za'ran, zorja, zutra, den, pondéljek, torek, srieda, četertek, petek, subóta, nedélja, ober čudaj cvetja večni okrepi življenja, ..*)



# Kaikavian language

- This document may be shared and used as it is for presentations.

- For more information please visit

[www.zvirek.net/Kajkavskijezik](http://www.zvirek.net/Kajkavskijezik)



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