Kaikavian language and its main characteristics
•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
• 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)
• 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
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
Kaikavian language Present

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• 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 also in Kaikavian
• 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.
• 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
• 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
• 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
• self-name **Kajkavski**. It went through few transitions from Slovenski over Horvatski to todays Kajkavski (spelled like “kaykavsky”)

• specific 3-accent system ( ˘ , ˇ , ˘̃ )
  • short, circumflex, acute

• accent often on penultima, possible also on ultima (**bregóv**, **nogáj**)
• 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
• diphthongs (uo, oa, ie, ..)

• alternation of phonemes $k, g, h$ in the nominative plural, dative and locative cases does not occur:
Kai: $ruoka \rightarrow ruoki, noga \rightarrow nogi, svrha \rightarrow svrhi$ (Croat. $ruka \rightarrow ruci, noga \rightarrow nozi, svrha \rightarrow svrsi$). In other words, phonemes $k, g, h$ do not change into $c, z, s$. 
• v- before -u i -o (vusnica, vugurek, vuho, vulica, vu, vogel)

• j- before vowel (jogenj, joko, jana, jembrelo, Jambrovič)

• No soft č nor hard č but only middle hard č

• Plural masculine in nominative case has correct suffix -i (obloki, brodi, kabli); not -ovi
• 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*
• Diminutive suffix for masculine singular is -ek or -ec, (plural -eki, -eci) unlike Stokavian -ić.

• Supine with verb of motion (idi spoat = supine vs. liepo mi je spoati = infinitive)

• No vocative case (same as nominative) → no palatalisation in declension (vuok idi v kraj!)
• 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)
• Plural 2nd person imperative has often sufix –ete (budete)

• Same sufix in acusative 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.
• Examples for German loanwords: flaša (Flasche), cukor (Zucker), hamer (Hammer), tancati (tanzen), feringe (Vorhänge), štienza (Stiege), cug (Zug), špancirati (spazieren), vanjkuš (Wangenkissen), štampelien (Stamperl), kukarlin (Guckerle), kušnuti (Küssen), nor (narr), farof (Pfarrhof), cirkva (Kirche), meša (Messe), ..

• Hungarian loanwords: harmica, pelda, jezero (=1000), kinč/iti, tovariş, ..

• Latin (cinkuš, plebanuš, ..)
• -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)
• 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)

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• 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), secundary zdəj is -zdj (grozdje)

• Palatal rj (škarje/škoar(i)je, odgovarjati, zorja, morje)
• Kaikavian is not “ekavian language” because Kaikavian has 4 forms of Slavic jat (ě) phoneme: ie, e, ei, i (brieg, breg, breig, brig)

• Kaikavian does not belong to (Neo-)Stokavian group of languages (like Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian). More similar to Slovenian & West-Slavic languages.
• 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 živlenja, ..)

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• For more information please visit

  www.zvirek.net/Kajkavskijezik
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