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Serbo-Croatian Accent Retraction : Its Course and Character in the Dialect of Dubrovnik

door

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1. Serbo-Croatian accent retraction is a phenomenon typical of the dialect of Dubrovnik and yet it was only recently that the accent in Dubrovnik was retracted in all positions.
2. Accent retraction is gradual. (See chap. iii, sec. 1.1.) Stages of accent retraction can be traced in records written between the 15th and the 19th century and, in particular, in Ardelio Della Bella's *Dizionario* (1728) which is, perhaps, the most elaborate attempt at describing Serbo-Croatian accentuation in the 18th century. In the *Dizionario*, the accent appears retracted in positions |1|, |7|, |1a|, |4a|, |7a|, |8a| unretracted in positions |6|, |8|, and in the process of retraction in positions |2|, |3|, |4|, |5|, |2a|, |3a|, |5a|, |6a|.
3. Accent retraction in Dubrovnik is characterised (if inconsistently) by the '*kano*'-accent and metataxis, two separate and uncanonical phenomena of the process. (See chap. iii, sec. 1.2 and 1.3. The former can be traced in the records, the latter cannot.) The '*kano*'-accent and metataxis, the so-called allotones of ` , are in fact the remnants of its oldest strata.
4. Accent retraction in Dubrovnik has been most active in the latter half of the 17th century and the first half of the 19th century and was closely tied with events which took place at these times, namely the earthquake of 1667 and the fall of the Republic of 1808, but, more importantly, with the bursts of immigration from Herzegovina, where the retraction is known to be the most progressive, which followed both events.
5. In Dalmatian Romance, Latin -ERR-, -ERC- develops into *-ēRR-, *-ēRC- where C is consonant, R resonant, and ē phonetically long e. Dalmatian Romance *ē is borrowed in Slavic as *ē and develops regularly into Slavic ě, i.e. into Serbo-Croatian *ije* in Ijekavian, *ī* in Ikavian, and *ē* in Ekavian. Cf. Ijekavian *tòvijerna*, Ikavian *tovîrna*, Ekavian *tovêrna* from Latin TABERNA. The ě of Serbo-Croatian *tòvijerna* et sim. is not a 'pseudo-yat'!
6. In Dalmatian Romance, Latin CT develops into *kt. Dalmato-Romance *kt is borrowed in Slavic as *kt and develops into Serbo-Croatian *kt* (*tk*, *ht*) in Štokavian, and *jt* (*jit*, *it*) in Čakavian, (as e.g. in Čakavian *lajta* from older Serbo-Croatian *lakta/lakŭta*). Cf. Štokavian *trakta*, Čakavian *trajta* from Latin TRACTA. Latin CT does not yield *jt in Dalmatian-Romance!
7. Serbo-Croatian *Tivat*, *-vta*, place name, comes from Latin TECTU 'roof', via *Tihat*, *-hta*, as per Proposition 6 (with -VhV- > -VvV-), and is comparable to Čakavian *Tijat*, *-jta*, place name. (Both *Tivat* in Boka and *Tijat* vis-à-vis Šibenik are located beneath distinctly triangular mountains, the TECTA.)
8. Old Phrygian *totin* comes from Proto-Indo-European accsg *dh₃tim 'gift, as in Gr. δόσιμ. The inscription M-oiſ, ...as tuaveniy ae esuryoyoy totin edae[s], can therefore be interpreted as '...as tuaveniy ae esuryoyoy has placed (sc. this niche) as a gift'.