

Croats in Burgenland today: a view of ethnolinguist

The report is based on the results of field survey of Croats in Burgenland conducted in 2007. and in 2013-2014. in Austria (villages in the Northern, Middle and Southern Burgenland). Field research was carried out by means of the questionnaire that exposes cultural vocabulary and folk traditions of the South Slavs (Plotnikova A.A. *Materialy dlja etnolingvisticheskogo izuchenija balkanoslavjanskogo areala*. Moskva, 1997, 2009); the whole investigation was realized in accordance with the achievements of ethno-linguistic mapping South Slavic traditions (see: Plotnikova A.A. *Etnolingvisticheskaja geografija Juzhnoj Slavii*. Moskva, 2004).

Ethnolinguistic approach involves the study of the tradition from the perspective of the interrelation of language and folk culture. The focus is on the current state of tradition that includes revealed remains of folk customs, rituals and beliefs of the people in Burgenland. The entire spectrum of these archaisms is reflected in the vocabulary, phraseology, proverbs and other verbal clichés that have become the main object of the field research. The author also observes dynamics in functioning of this lexical material at the level of «own» – «strange», original – borrowed, old – new etc.

During the field investigation the so-called «demonic narratives» were recorded: texts that represent people's stories about meeting a person with supernatural beings typical for the folk tradition of Burgenland Croats.