



Science Fund
of the Republic of Serbia

Project

"Vulnerable Languages and Linguistic Varieties in Serbia"

– linguacultural aspects of the questionnaires*

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Vulnerable Languages and Linguistic Varieties in Serbia – V LingS





Vulnerable Languages and Linguistic Varieties in Serbia

<https://vlings.rs/>

- Project funded by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia
 - (budget RSD 31,197,092.52/€ 264,382.14)
- Participating organizations are:
 - Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade
 - Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade
 - Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad
 - Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš





Vulnerable Languages and Linguistic Varieties in Serbia

- Project's goal
 - to create a precise tool for assessing the degree of language endangerment and vulnerability
 - to apply it to a statistically significant sample of speakers in Serbia.
- Databases of endangered languages in Serbia
 - differ widely in terms of assessing language endangerment
 - often give insufficient or inaccurate data on the varieties spoken here
 - lacking to provide empirical support for their assessment.





Vulnerable Languages and Linguistic Varieties in Serbia

- The tool will be applied to the following linguistic varieties:
 - Aromanian,
 - Banat Bulgarian,
 - Vojvodina Rusyn (Ruthenian),
 - Judezmo (Ladino),
 - Romani (Gurbet and Arli varieties),
 - Megleno-Romanian and Romanian (Bayash and Vlach varieties).
- The result: an accurate assessment of the degree of vulnerability of the chosen languages and linguistic varieties spoken on the territory of Serbia, which could be used as a solid reference in the future for any sociolinguistic research.





The novelty of the research proposal

- document and archive speech samples of vulnerable linguistic varieties, over three generations of speakers,
- a graded scale of vitality and an interactive map will be created,
- provide insight into the vulnerability of specific varieties in the studied communities,
- it will help build support for language communities, NGOs and the government in their efforts to maintain and revitalize these languages,
- the tool may serve as a reliable instrument in other language communities worldwide.





Specific objectives of the Project:

- 1)** to design a precise tool for determining the degree of language vulnerability, starting from the existing language vitality scales;
 - careful assessment of factors influencing language vitality;
 - a sociolinguistic questionnaire (created by the linguists of the team in collaboration with the sociologist and psychologist);
 - formula for processing and interpreting the resulting data based on sociolinguistic factors.





Specific objectives of the Project:

2) to apply sociolinguistic questionnaire to a statistically significant sample of population, in several communities of Serbia whose linguistic varieties are considered endangered or vulnerable by the existing international databases, or by the research team, based on their prior, relevant field experience.

- collect sociolinguistic data on the vitality of these varieties, preferably within three generations of speakers – children, parent, and grandparent generation
- a graded scale of vitality and an interactive map will be created that would provide insight into the vulnerability of specific varieties in the studied communities.





Specific objectives of the Project:

3) to document and archive speech samples of vulnerable linguistic varieties in Serbia, also over three generations of speakers, in parallel with the application of the sociolinguistic questionnaire.

- by applying the method of semi-structured interview, the longest possible narratives on various topics are obtained
- language documentation will further serve as a means of maintenance and revitalization of vulnerable varieties in Serbia.





Crucial methodological concepts:

- Linguistic (or language) variety
- Language endangerment and vitality
- Language documentation
- Language vitality scales
- Databases for language vitality assessment
- Sociolinguistic questionnaire
- Intergenerational language transmission
- Language vulnerability





Types of data:

- 1) data gathered through the sociolinguistic questionnaire,
- 2) speech samples obtained from different generations of native speakers of the linguistic varieties under scrutiny.





Linguacultural aspect

- 1) verbalization of culturally specific concepts,
- 2) culturally conditioned linguistic behavior.





Verbalization of culturally specific concepts

- the list of topics for the semi-structured interview
- creating electronic corpora of language varieties
- material for researching the grammatical and lexical structure of given linguistic varieties
- groups of topics:
 - 1) autobiographical stories,
 - 2) oral history and community history,
 - 3) traditional culture.





Culturally conditioned linguistic behavior

- Preliminary version of the sociolinguistic V LingS questionnaire:

I General data on names and use of languages

II Ethnic and cultural identity

III Data on language acquisition and transmission to younger generations

IV Domains of language use

V Literacy

VI Education

VII Institutional support and language landscape

VIII Publications in a given language

IX Media

X Religious service

XI Cultural events

XII Self-assessment of the language level

XIII Speakers' attitudes toward their own language

XIV Demographic data about the interlocutor

XV Concluding remarks





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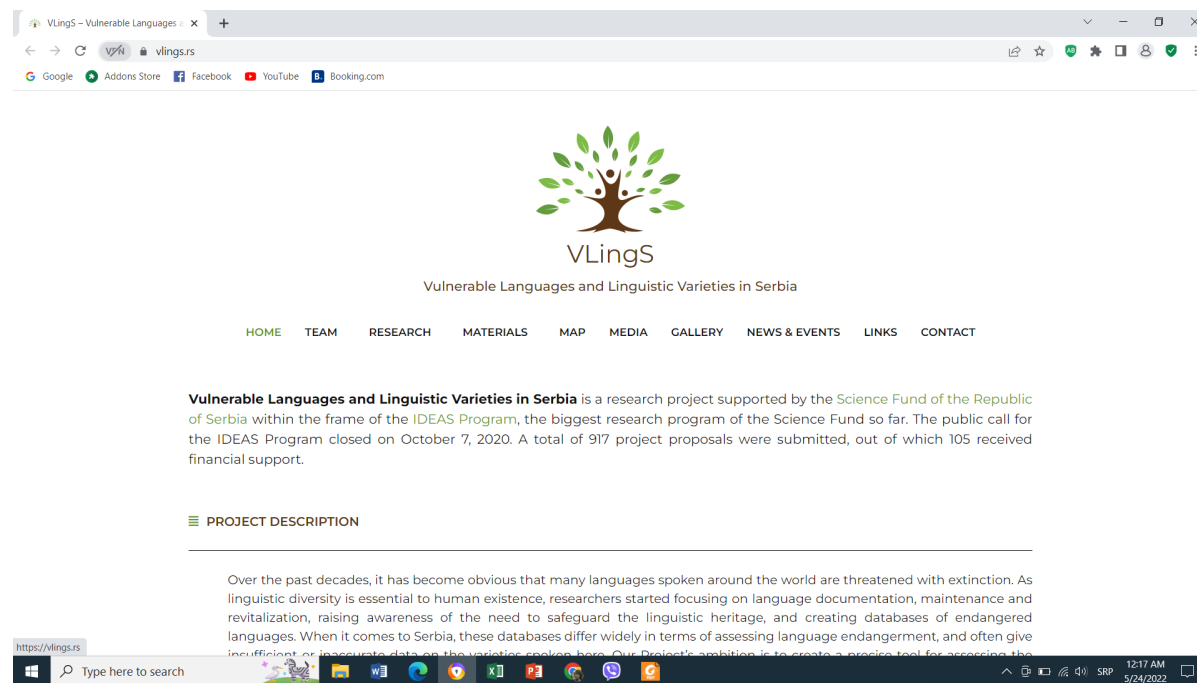
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Thank you for your attention

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