

THE SPEECH OF YUGOSLAV IMMIGRANTS

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THE SPEECH
OF YUGOSLAV IMMIGRANTS
IN
SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA

by

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PREFACE

This study represents but the initial phase of a multidisciplinary endeavor sponsored by the Russian and East European Studies Center of the University of California, Los Angeles, the ultimate goal of which is to provide a comprehensive description and analysis of the cultural, linguistic, economic and social integration of the Slavs living in California into American society. As the first step of this planned cross-disciplinary investigation, the Center recommended the implementation of a preliminary study of a limited scope, the present linguistic investigation of the Yugoslav community of San Pedro, California.

As there is a dearth of information of a sociological as well as a linguistic nature pertaining to the local Slavs, the investigators decided to treat briefly the sociological situation of Yugoslav immigrants and then proceed with a more detailed discussion of the linguistic problems of immigrant bilingualism. Consequently, we have divided the present study into the following major chapters : *Chapter I, the Yugoslav Immigration to America*, not only examines the several phases of Yugoslav immigration to the United States, but also discusses the various motives which prompted people to immigrate to this country and especially to the small maritime community of San Pedro; against this background the investigators describe the Yugoslav ethnic minority and its contributions to the San Pedro community. *Chapter II, Survey of Bilingualism, Linguistic Problems and Previous Studies*, considers the various problems one is faced with in analyzing the speech of an immigrant bilingual community and surveys the pertinent literature. *Chapter III, Analysis of Interference*, after a brief contrastive analysis of English and Serbocroatian, describes in detail the various kinds of phonological, morphological and syntactic interference encountered in the speech of the informants interviewed. *Chapter IV, Informant Sketches*, consists of short linguistic portraits of the seventeen informants. Each portrait comprises a short personal biography,

a summary of salient speech characteristics and an accented text with interlinear translation. An informant chart and a brief summary conclude our study.

We would like to thank the Russian and East European Studies Center of the University of California, Los Angeles, as well as the James B. Duke Endowment Funds, for the support and the funding of our linguistic project. In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to Professor Kiril Taranovsky of Harvard University and especially to Professor Pavle Ivić of the University of Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, for their helpful advice in the analysis of the recorded material and their many suggestions in the preparation of the manuscript.

Of course, such a project would not be possible without the help of the many Yugoslavs living in San Pedro who so generously devoted their time for our tape recording sessions. To them we are extremely grateful.

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