

FIUMAN IDIOM: WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF ?

Ana Alebić-Juretić

(University Adam Mickiewicz Poznan, Poland and University of Rijeka, Croatia)

Key - words: Fiume (Rijeka), Fiuman idiom, Dalmatian language, Lingua franca, Venecian dialect

Fiuman idiom is a Romanic variety spoken among Italian minority in nowadays Rijeka, Croatia (ex-Fiume). Founded as roman military settlement at the eastern border, the future city was erected at the borderline between Romanic, Germanic and Slavic populations. Since 12th century the city belonged to the Austrian noble families Duino and Walsee, and finally since 1465 to imperial family Habsburg, who confirmed its autonomy. As an autonomous entity, the City of Fiume was a part of Inner Austria, later (mostly) directly bounded to Hungarian part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy until the end of WWI. Subsequent to the short-lived Independent State of Fiume, the city was first annexed in 1924 to Italy, and after WWII in 1947 to Yugoslavia (Stelli, 2017). Due to maritime traffic and commerce, Fiuman dialect was the most widely spoken in the city since the middle age, though Croatian, Slovenian and German were also used. The source of Fiuman is not known: was it developed from vulgar Latine, or was it a kind of Venetian variety (Gigante, 1913), in spite being in war with Venice during several centuries, or Lingua franca spoken in Mediterranean ports? According to Walvasor (1689), Fiumans “spoke Dalmatian with some foreign words”. One of Dalmatian variety-Veglioto (Bertoli, 2018) was in fact spoken on the nearby island of Krk (ex- Veglia). The aim of this work is to compare with [60tools Text Comparison Tool](#) a Fiuman text with translation in vulgar Latin, Lingua franca, Vegliote and Venetian varieties. The Tool is made to detect plagiarism, but can give some indication of different and/or same languages. The short text analysed was the prayer *Padre nostro* (Our father) in Fiuman (Fi), compared with Lingua franca (LF), Vegliote-Veg (Dalmatian variety), vulgar Latine (vLa), and two Venetian dialects from the 1940', one from Trieste (Ve-Ts) and other from emigrants in Brasil (Ve-Br). The obtained results show the biggest difference between Fiuman and Vulgar Latin (Result R=25,28%, with Text Statistics T= 55,43%, this value is >90% for the same language), following by Vegliote (Dalmatian): R= 21,6%, with T = 74,12%, and Lingua franca with R = 21,49% and T=87,38% (value close for the same languages). The most similar idioms are Venetian dialect from neighbour Trieste: R= 36,6% with T=67,75%, and that of Venetian emigrants in Brazil: R=33,65 % with T=74,63%. The computer method used for the analyses is not perfect, but gives some indication about the similarity of the languages.

Acknowledgments: Financial support of University of Rijeka and Italian Community in Rijeka for taking part in this conference is gratefully acknowledged.

References:

- Bertoli, Matteo Giulio (2018) *Das Dalmatische*, Inktank publishing (reprint of original from 1906)
- Gigante, Sivino (1913) *Fiume nel quattrocento, III Il dominio e l'amministrazione del comune*, Stabilimento tipo-litografico di Emidio Mohovich, Fiume, p.48-50
- Stelli, Giovanni (2017) *Storia di Fiume, Dalle origini ai giorni nostri*, Edizioni Biblioteca del immagine, Pordenone
- Weikhard Freiherr von Valvasor, Johann (1689) *Die Ehre deß Herzogthums Crain*, Nurenberg , p. 320