

## TRACES OF INTERLINGUAL CONTACTS IN PREKMURJE AGRICULTURAL TERMINOLOGY

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### Abstract

This paper presents Prekmurje dialect vocabulary in the field of agriculture. The Slovene language has for centuries been developing at the crossroads of the three largest European language areas; consequently, the variety of Romance, Germanic and general Slavic elements based on the native Proto-Slavic vocabulary is clearly reflected in the Pannonian dialectal vocabulary. We can notice that Prekmurje dialect expressions in the field of agriculture and other areas related to rural life still constitute a rich native Slavic substratum, as loanwords entail merely 20 % of the vocabulary. Owing to the constantly changing situation (technical innovation, exchange of tools, new farming methods), however, the ancient and even general Slavic terminology related to farming is gradually disappearing from use in the middle generation of speakers and is practically unknown to the younger generation. Recent vocabulary established in accordance with the Slovene word-formation rules often adopts the already existing loanwords (e.g., *freza*, *kombajn*).

### Keywords

Dialectology, Prekmurje dialect, agricultural terminology, loanwords.

### 1. Introduction

Over the centuries, the Slovene language has been developing on the territory where the three largest European language areas come in contact: Slavic, Germanic, and Romance. After the decline of the feudal system, Slovene gradually evolved into a modern European cultural language with a stratum of Romance, Germanic, Hungarian, and General Slavic elements based on native Proto-Slavic vocabulary. As in any other language, the complexity of societal and language development is reflected in the vocabulary of Slovene. Some loanwords already appear in the Proto-Slavic language. These are either of Germanic origin or are words that entered Germanic through Latin and Greek and are relatively common to all Slavic languages, e.g., house *hiša*, to buy

*kupiti*, milk *mleko*. After the first colonization period, the majority of words entered the language on account of the Romans; after the 9<sup>th</sup> century, however, the majority was of Germanic origin. Germanic influence is evident in the Christian terminology that extended across the wider Slavic territory: e.g., church *cerkev*. Such terminology has been partially confined to the westernmost Slavic languages that were in the past strongly influenced by German missionary centres: e.g., Whitsuntide *binkošti*, nun *nuna*, and bishop *škof*, as well as various names for crops and occupations, and in legal and economic vocabulary. Particularly in the last couple of centuries, loanwords denoting tools, kitchenware and new economic concepts were introduced into Slovene.

After the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Prekmurje and Porabje region of Pannonia became part of the Kingdom of Hungary and in this way separate from other Slovene provinces; this historical development resulted in the fact that many archaisms were preserved in the language, which is evident from the Freising Manuscripts (around the year 1000), the oldest preserved manuscripts in Slovene and at the same time the oldest Slavic texts, as well as in Old Church Slavonic.

## 2. Dialectal Profile of Prekmurje

The lowland and agricultural region of Prekmurje lies in the easternmost part of Slovenia and borders Austria and Hungary on the left bank of the River Mura, after which it takes its name.

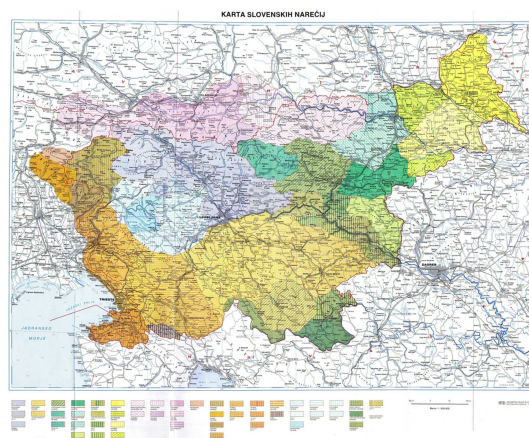


Map 1. Prekmurje region

After the 11<sup>th</sup> century, it was part of the Kingdom of Hungary. The Prekmurje Slovenes have a history of almost 1000 years of development separate from their nation of origin.<sup>1</sup> In contrast, their language, from the 11<sup>th</sup> century on strongly dominated by Hungarian, remained under the influence of the Croatian Kajkavian dialect, since the territory between the Rivers Mura and Raba was assigned after the year 1094 to the administration of the Zagreb diocese. The Prekmurje Slovenes never actually adopted the Kajkavian dialect and considered it “an unpopular yet necessary tool for transferring texts of Greek, Latin and Hungarian origin into their nearest language” (Jesenšek, 1991/92: 178); as a result of this national awareness and for certain language-based reasons, the Prekmurje dialect, despite complex historical circumstances, has been preserved to this day and continues its written tradition in modern Prekmurje dialect literature.

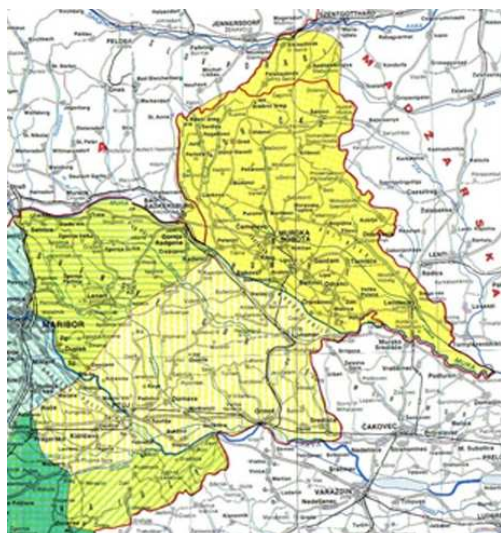
According to the original division of the Slovene language area that indicates two waves of colonization, the Prekmurje dialect belongs to the South-East group, representing the area colonized by the Slavs of the South Slavic language group up the Rivers Sava and Drava. As the easternmost Slovene dialect, the Prekmurje dialect preserves elements that have long ago disappeared from other Slovene dialects; yet, here they were preserved, owing to a thousand years of isolation from the nation of origin.

The Prekmurje dialect is part of the Pannonian dialect group, one of the seven main dialect groups in Slovene.



Map 2. Slovenian dialects

<sup>1</sup> After the Treaty of Trianon in 1920, a large part of the Slovene ethnic territory between the Rivers Mura and Raba (i.e., ‘*Slovenska krajina*’) joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia, today Slovenia); however, nine Slovene villages along the Raba River (i.e., ‘*Slovensko Porabje*’) remained part of Hungary.



Map 3. Pannonian dialect group



Map 4. Prekmurje dialect

The Prekmurje dialect is divided into three sub-dialects: the northern (Goričko), central (Ravensko) and southern (Dolinsko) sub-dialect. These differ according to elements in recent Prekmurje dialect development: (a) various acoustic realizations for the long and short *a*; (b) development of the final *-l* into *-o* or *-u*; and (c) pronunciation of the sonorant *j* in the southern and partially in the east-central part of the sub-dialect as *j*, while older phonetic and morphological developments remain rather uniform. There are no intonational oppositions in the Prekmurje dialect; the accent is dynamic, and quantitative oppositions are preserved. Long and short unstressed syllables can appear in all syllables of multisyllable words. The long open proto-Slavic vowel *ja* gradually narrowed into the diphthong *eĵ*, whereas its phonological pair, the proto-Slavic long *o*, narrowed into the diphthong *ou*. Further particularities of the Prekmurje dialect are front rounded vowels *ü* for *u* and *ö* for *e*, *u* in the position next to the voiced consonants *v* and *r* and the pronunciation of the voiced consonant *j* as *dj*, *tj*, *kj*, *dž* or *g* in accordance with specific phonological proximity.

### 3. Prekmurje Agricultural Terminology

Analogous to other fields, agricultural terminology is dual in nature: on the one hand, it entails specific monosemantic words referring exclusively to objects or

activities in the fields of pottery and agriculture; on the other hand, it is part of general vocabulary, manifesting characteristics of general use and can be semantically or morphologically modified.

This paper offers an analysis of terminology for agricultural tools, crops, field, and stable work, extracted from the transcribed texts and complemented by informant interviews. It entails obsolescent words that are disappearing and are nowadays used only by the oldest generation of speakers, as well as modern vocabulary that emerged alongside modern technology and is used by the younger generation.

The compiled vocabulary is classified according to the origin<sup>2</sup> of the word into native words, words of Germanic, Romance or Hungarian origin, and other loanwords. The structure is as follows: headword in bold font, followed by the vertical separator lines || and the phonetic transcription<sup>3</sup> of the dialect expression with corresponding grammatical markers, specifically the ending for genitive singular and the abbreviation for the grammatical gender of the noun (*m, f, n*), the verb in the infinitive followed by the first-person singular present form and the grammatical aspect (*perf., imperf.*). Semantic and etymological data conclude the entry. If a lexeme is polysemantic, different meanings are categorized by numbers.

Native vocabulary (a selection):<sup>4</sup>

**betvo** || 'betvo -a n also 'betef -tvj̥ f stalk (of pumpkin, wheat) ← PS.  
\*bьtь 'vegetable, herb, plant, stalk' is derived from an IE. root meaning  
\*'what grows, thrives'; **brana** || b'ra:na -e f a tool with iron teeth for  
loosening the soil, harrow ← this general Slavic word is derived from an IE.  
root meaning 'to cultivate with a sharp tool'; **cepe** || ci'pɛ:ĩ 'ce:ĩpi̯ f pl. a  
simple tool for manual threshing, a flail ← pl. form of the noun *cep* (← PS.  
\*cěpъ); the word is derived from the base *cepiti* 'to chop, to cleave' and

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<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this article, 105 terms of collected 393 are presented, all of them loanwords; if a term is borrowed from a foreign language, the direction of borrowing is traced according to the dictionaries (Bezljaj I–V /1976–2007/, Skok I–III /1971–1973/, Snoj /2003/, Striedter-Temps /1963/) and other reference books.

<sup>3</sup> Phonetic transcription is based on the OLA (Obščeslavjanskij lingvističeskij atlas) phonetic transcription. The stressed vowel is marked with a thin vertical line; in case the syllable begins with a vowel, this line is set at its beginning; otherwise, it is set before the last consonant preceding the final stressed vowel. The colon after the vowel (*a:*) indicates its length, a full stop under *e* and *o* (*ɛ*, *ɔ*) the narrowness of the vowel, a circle above *a* (*ä*) indicates the labialized rounded pronunciation of *a* that is similar to the wide *o* in vowel color, and the colon above *u* (*ü*) the rounded pronunciation of *u*. The *i* and *u* in the diphthongs *eĩ* and *ou* are consonantized.

<sup>4</sup> Etymological explanations are based on Bezljaj (1976–2007) and Snoj (2003).



originally meant \*'an agricultural tool for cutting or threshing grain to separate it from the husk' (Snoj, 2003: 71);



Figure 1. Brana



Figure 2. Cepe

**črtalo** || 'črtalo -a n *a part of the plough that draws the furrows vertically* ← Bezljaj (1976: 89) traces the word to the PS. \*čersti, čbrtq 'to cut' which is derived from an IE. root with identical meaning; **glava** || g'la:va gla've:ĩ f *part of the sheaf with ears* ← the etymology of this word is

not clear, although it is generally used in all Slavic languages. Allegedly, its original meaning was \*'the naked, undressed part of the body'; however, its metaphorical meanings include 'the upper part, top'; **gumno** || 'gümla -e f *threshing floor* ← PS. \**gumьnō* \*'threshing floor' is derived from an IE. root meaning \*'floor where cattle thresh wheat'; in the past, wheat was spread onto firm ground and threshed by cattle until the grains were separated from their husks (Snoj, 2003: 196); **klas** || k'la:s -a m *short, sharp part of chaff at the top of an ear* ← PS. \**kōlsъ* is derived from an IE. root meaning \*'a spiky object'; **klepati** || kle'pătj k'leplen imperf. *to thin with a hammer, to sharpen the blade* ← PS. \**klepǎti* 'to beat, to strike' is based on the onomatopoeic \**klep-*, imitating the sound of two (metal) objects colliding; **klica** || k'lüca -e f. 1. *a young plant growing from the seed; a sprout*; 2. *a sprout of a potato tuber in winter* ← originally \**kālīca* from PS. \**kǎlb* '(a young) sprout'; **kola** || ko:ula 'ko:ul n pl. *a wooden (farm) cart* ← pl. form of the noun *kolo*, wheel, a general Slavic word derived from an IE. root meaning 'to spin'; **kopač** || ko'pa:č -a m *a worker that digs, a digger* ← derivative of the verb *kopati*, to dig, derived from an IE. root 'to work with a sharp tool'; **kositi** || ko'sitj ko'si:in imperf. *to cut grass or reap grain with a scythe or a mowing machine* ← derivative of the noun *kosa*, scythe (← PS. \**kosǎ*) derived from an IE. root 'to cut'; **krčevka** || 'krčefka -e f *a tool with a flat blade set at right angle to the handle and used for digging* ← derivative of the verb *krčiti*, to clear land for cultivation 'to clear land of trees and bushes, to prune'; probably derived from an IE. root; **krma** || 'krma -e f *(mown) grass, hay* ← this general Slavic word is derived from an IE. root originally meaning 'a cut-off, divided portion of food'; **kvasiti** || k'vāsitj k'va:sin imperf. *to cause something to be sour (as a result of fermentation); to make sour* ← derivative of the general Slavic word *kvas*, leaven, yeast that can be traced to an IE. root meaning 'leaven, an agent that causes dough to rise by fermentation'; **locne** || loc'nɛ:ī 'lo:ucnī f pl. *a utensil consisting of an oval ring and a rope used for transporting provender and leaves* ← pl. form of the noun *locen* (← PS. \**lōcъnъ*); this word is derived from an IE. root meaning 'a curve, something curved, bended';



Figure 3. Krčevka



Figure 4. Locne

**lopata** || lo'pâta -e f a long-handled tool with a broad scoop for ladling or scooping loose material, a shovel ← general Slavic word originally meaning \*'equipped with a scoop, with a flat part (for ladling)'; **luščiti** || 'lu:ĩščiti<sub>0</sub> -in imperf. to remove grains from the cone, to husk ← PS. \*luščiti is



derived from the PS. *\*luskǎ*, derived from an IE. root ‘to separate, to remove’; **mlatiti** || m’la:titǐ -in imperf. *to separate grains from their husks or panicles with a flail, a threshing machine, or a combine* ← PS. *\*moltǐti* derived from an IE. root meaning ‘to crush, to beat, to grind’; **nat** || ‘na:t na’ti:ǐ f *the above-ground part of a turnip, fodder beet, potato* ← probably derived from the PS. *\*nati* that is probably derived from an IE. root ‘to tie, to pin’; **njiva** || n’jiva -e f *part of the arable land for growing cultivated plants and fodder crops, field* ← this general Slavic word is derived from an IE. root originally meaning ‘lowland, low country’; **ostrec** || ‘o:strec -a m *sharpness of the scythe (blade)* ← derivative of the adjective *oster*, sharp; the PS. *\*ostrǐ* is derived from an IE. root ‘sharp’; **otava** || ‘o:ʊtava -e f *(dry) second mowing grass, aftermath* ← the PS. *\*otǎva* ‘grass that grows after the first mowing’ is a derivative of the PS. *\*otǎviti* ‘to reappear’; this word originally meant *\*(grass) that reappears*; **plug** || p’lūk -ga m *a tool or device for tilling the soil, a plough* ← if the PS. *\*plūgǐ* is an originally Slavic word, it is derived from the PS. verb *\*plūžiti* ‘to pull, to crawl’, derived from an IE. root; this word can also be traced to the Proto-Germanic; however, the G. word *Pflug* is explained as a probable loanword from the Proto-Slavic; **potáč** || po’ta:č -a m *wheel (of a cart)* ← probably an old weaver’s term originally meaning ‘a large amount of threads that can be wrapped onto a spindle’; **povreselj** || pov’re:ǐslǐ -na m *a furled wisp of straw for making sheaves* ← PS. *\*poverslǐ* ‘something used for binding’ is a derivative of *\*poverstǐ*, *povǐrzǐ* ‘to bind’; **prilič** || p’ri:ǐlič -a also p’ri:ǐloč -a m *a handle, a hilt* ← derived from the Slavic root *\*rǐčǐ* originally meaning *\*(something similar to a hand) or \*(pertaining to a hand)*; **razsohe** || ‘ra:seʊ f pl. *a long-handled, wooden, three-tine hay fork for lifting or moving hay* ← Bezljaj (1995: 160) follows the word to S. *\*ǐrz-socha* ‘a split branch’ and PS. *\*orǐ-* ‘apart’ as well as *\*sochǎ* ‘branch’; **red** || ‘re:ǐt re’di:ǐ f l. *grass raked into rows as after mowing; 2. a row/line in general* ← this word is known in several Slavic languages and is derived from an IE. root ‘arrangement, order’; H. *rend* ‘line, order’ is borrowed from Slavic languages; **rešeto** || ‘rešeto -a n *a utensil with a round wooden frame and a*

wire mesh used for sifting grain, a sieve ← the PS. *\*rešetò* originally meant \*'something knitted' and is derived from an IE. root;



Figure 5. Razsohe



Figure 6. Rešeto

**rogelj** || ro'gɛɫ roɡ'la: m *each of the parts of wooden hay fork, used for thrusting, a tine* ← derived from the root *rog*, originally meaning 'the jutting out part'; **saditi** || sa'ditɨ sa'di:ɨn imperf. *to set plants in the ground for growth, to plant* ← PS. *\*sadĩti* is a causal verb is derived from the PS. *\*sěsti*, originally meaning \*'to cause something to sit'; **sečka** || 'sɛčka -e f

*straw, cut into pieces a few centimetres long and mixed with corn straw, in autumn also with grass and clover* ← derivative of the verb *seči*, *sečem*, I cut, to cut, is derived from an IE. root ‘to chop, to cut or work with a sharp tool’; **sejati** || ‘sejatiḡ -an imperf. *to scatter seed over the ground for growing, to sow* ← this word is derived from an IE. root meaning \*‘to shake, to scatter’; **seno** || se’no:ṽ se’na: n (dry) *first mowing grass* ← PS. \*sēno ‘hay’ is derived from an IE. root ‘grass’; **slama** || s’lāma -e also sla’mē:ḡ f *dry stalks and leaves of threshed grain* ← PS. \*sōlma from an IE. root ‘a straw, a blade of grass’; **snop** || s’nop -a m *a larger wisp of reaped grain or straw, a sheaf* ← the PS. \*snop is derived from an IE. root originally meaning ‘a bundle, something bound together’; **srp** || ‘sr̥p -a also sr̥pa: m *a tool with a wooden handle and curved blade for cutting crops, a sickle* ← used in several Slavic languages, this word is derived from an IE. root meaning ‘to cut, being sharp’; **stelja** || s’tela -e f *material used as bedding for animals, litter* ← the PS. \*stēl’a \*‘something used as bedding’ is derived from an IE. root meaning ‘to set, prepare, spread, or level’; **stolček** || š’tu:ṽček -čka m *a husked corncob* ← derivative of the verb *stolči*; *tolči*, to beat, is derived from an IE. root meaning ‘to beat, press, tread’, traced back to the W. *talch* meaning ‘a chipped-off fragment, grist’; **svora** || s’fo:ṽura -e f *a strong pole connecting the front and back part of the cart* ← this word is traced back to the PS. \*sṽvora meaning ‘what ties together, binds’; **travnik** || t’ra:vnik -a m *an area of grassland used for mowing several times a year, a meadow* ← derivative of the noun *trava*, grass; the PS. \*travā is derived from \*travīti ‘to eat’ and originally means ‘hay’; **vlat** || v’la:t vla’ti:ḡ f *the upper part of a plant with grain, for example in oats or millet* ← the PS. \*vōltb is derived from an IE. root meaning ‘grass, ears, forest’; **žeti** || ‘žeti ‘ženjam imperf. *to gather in a crop, to harvest* ← the PS. \*žēti is derived from an IE. root meaning ‘to beat’ or ‘to live, to support a family, to provide food’; **žito** || ‘žito -a n *a cultivated plant yielding starchy grain suitable for food (cereal), or its grains; rye*; the PS. \*žīto is derived from an IE. root meaning ‘provisions, food’.

The compiled vocabulary contains the following **Germanisms**:

**ajdina** || e'di:ina also i'di:ina -e f a cultivated plant with reddish or white blossoms in thick inflorescence or its seed ← OG. Heiden; **bala** || 'bāla -e f a large bundle of hay (a hay bale) bound for storage or transport, hay ← G. Strohball; **bintelj** || 'binteɹ -tla m a machine or device for eliminating chaff or foreign matter from cereals; a winnowing machine ← G. Wind-; **burgula** || 'burgola -e f a cultivated plant with large leaves growing from the rhizome or its yellowish or pale red fleshy underground part; fodder beet ← G. Burgunderrübe; **cvek** || c'vek -a m a nail in the axle preventing the wheel from slipping or falling off the axle ← MHG. zwęc; **gepelj** || 'gɛ:pɿ -na m a device for rotating the drive shaft propelled by draught animals; a windlass ← G. Göpel; **graba** || g'rāba -e also gra'bɛ:ɿ f a hole for storing turnips in winter ← OHG. grabo, MHG. grabe;



Figure 7. Bala



Figure 8. Burgola



**grinta** || g'rinta -e f a white plant with no leaves or roots that grows in grass or clover ← G. *Grind*; **grunt** || g'rünt -a m a plot of ground ← MHG. *grunt*; **hakelj** || 'xa:keɹ -kla m a tool for hauling (wood) ← G. *Haken*; **kramp** || k'rāmp -a m a tool for digging with a flat blade set at right angle to the handle on one end and a pointed part on the other ← MHG. *krampe*; **krumpič** || k'rumpič -a m, pl. k'rumpičke, k'rum(pi)čĭ, k'rum(pi)šĭ, k'rumpļ potato ← Car. G. *gruntpirn*, *grumper*, *krumpir*, Styr. G. *grundbir*; **lada** || 'lāda -e f a wooden chest for storing grain ← MHG. *lade*; **lanec** || 'lānc -a m a chain for binding the cart wheels ← MHG. *lanne*; **leder** || 'lēder -dra m a leather bond between two parts of a flail ← MHG. *lēder*; **lunek** || 'lū:nek -a m the end part of the cart axle (cap) with two inserted nails preventing the wheel from slipping or falling off the axle ← MHG. *lun*, *lune*; **muntelj** || 'mūnteɹ -tla m a grip attached to a wooden shaft (snaith) of a scythe ← OHG. *muntil*, south Bav. *Mü(n)tel*; **paklin** || 'pa:kln -a m a wooden part pressing on the wheels in the process of braking ← G. (Brems)packen; **praha** || p'rāja -e f a field ploughed in autumn and fallow until the following spring ← MHG. *brāche*; **prigelj** || p'rigl -gla m a chipped-off part of a branch or narrow trunk ← Bav. G. *prügel*; **pucati** || 'pucatĭ -an imperf. to clean pumpkins by removing the seeds ← G. *putzen*; **puška** || 'pükša -e f a metal piece resembling a short pipe that is inserted into the borehole of a wheel ← OHG. *puhsa*, MHG. *bühse*; **rigelj** || 'rigl -gla m a bolt on the trapdoor of a grain chest ← MHG. *rigel*; **rigolati** || ra'gu:latĭ -an imperf. to loosen earth by (very) deep digging or ploughing ← G. *rigolen*; **rinek** || 'ri:nek -a m a bond between the blade of a scythe and snaith, a tang ← partly MHG. *rinke*, partly MHG. *rinc*; **šajba** || 'ša:jba -e f mown grass lined-up naturally by mowing ← G. *Scheibe*; **šavfla** || 'šāfla -e f a tool for ladling whole or roughly ground grain ← G. *Schaufel*;



Figure 9. Lada



Figure 10. Šavfla

**šker** || š'kɛ:jɾ -i f a tool ← OHG. *giskirri*, MHG. *geschirre*; **šinja** || 'šinja -e f the iron outer part of a felloe ← G. *Schiene*; **špic** || š'pic -a m each of the tines of an iron pitchfork used for pitching ← MHG. *spitze*; **šprickati** || šp'rickatj -an imperf. to sprinkle ← G. *spritzen*; **štala** || š'tâla -e f a stall ← MHG. *stal*, -lles; **šteslin** || š'tɛ:jslin -a m the end part of the cart axle (cap) with two inserted nails preventing the wheel from slipping or falling off the axle ← G. *Stössel*; **štil** || š'tiɥ š'tüla m a handle (of a mattock, rake, or a shovel) ← G. *Stiel*; **štranga** || št'ra:nga -e f a rope for harnessing animals to a cart or a plough; a rein ← MHG. *strange*; **štroštok** || št'rɔš'tɔk -a m a strawcutter ← G. *Strohstock*; **šuber** || 'šuber -bra m trapdoor of a grain chest

← Aust. G. *Schuber*; **šubgare** || 'šup' gâre 'šup' gâr f pl. *a manually propelled two-wheel cart, wheelbarrow* ← G. *Schubkarre*; **uta** || 'üta -e f *storage place for leaves* ← OHG. *hutt(e)a*, MHG. *hütte*; **vaga** || 'va:ga -e f *longer pole of a cart or plough onto which the reins are attached* ← OHG. *wâga*, MHG. *wâge*; **važa** || 'vâjža -e f *the upper layer of earth where vegetation grows, mostly grass* ← MHG. *wase*, OHG. *waso*; **virt** || 'virt -a m *a landlord* ← Bav. Austr. *Wirt*; **žakelj** || 'žâkeŷ -kla m *a sack (for storing crops)* ← MHG. *sackel*, *seckel*; **žlajf** || ž'la:jf -a m *the brake of a cart* ← MHG. *sleife*, *sleipfe*; **žlajfati** || ž'la:jfatĩ -an imperf. 1. *the action of using a brake*; 2. *to brake by using a chain to block the wheels* ← MHG. *sleifen*, *sleipfen*.

The compiled material shows that the oldest German loanwords in the Prekmurje dialect can be traced back to Old High German (7<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> century), also known as the Alpine-Slavic period. From the viewpoint of modern Standard Slovene, they are marked as neutral (*puška*, *uta*), dialectal (*vaga* 'the pole of a cart'), and eastern dialectal (*graba*); two words can be found only in the dialect (*muntelj* and *šker*). Loanwords from Middle High German (to the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century) and later, borrowed predominantly from Bavarian German, are marked by Standard Slovene as neutral (*gepelj*, *grunt*, *kramp*, *praha*), colloquial (*cvek*, *špic(a)*, *žakelj*), low-colloquial (*rigelj*, *štala*, *štranga*), dialectal (*lunek*, *važa*) or eastern dialectal (*ajdina*); one word (*rigolati*) is marked as terminological and another one (*lanec*) as time-bound; however, the majority of words is used only in dialect. One very old Germanic loanword that can be traced back to the Proto-Slavic and that modern Standard Slovene marks as dialectal is *kebel* 'bushel (for grain, beans)' [PS. ← Gmc.].

Loanwords of **Romance origin** are as follows:

**cima** || 'cina -e f *the sprout of a potato tuber in winter* ← Ven. It. *cima* ← Lat. *cy̅ma* ← OGr. *ky̅ma*; **cisterna** || cis'terna -e f *a vehicle with a large in-built cylindrical vessel for storing liquids, a cistern* ← G. *Zisterne* ← Lat. *cisterna*; **freza** || f're:za -e f *a device with rotating teeth for digging through the soil, which has to be attached to a tractor, a cultivator* ← Fr. *fraisier*, *fraise*; **kišta** || 'ki:ĩšta -e f *an open container, similar to a crate, used for transporting goods on a wooden cart* ← G. *Kiste* ← Lat. *cista* ← OGr.;

**korbelj** || 'kɔrbeɟ -bla m *a container made of interwoven material and with a handle, a basket* ← MHG. *korbe* ← Lat. *corbis*;



Figure 11. Freza



Figure 12. Korbelj

**kvatre** || k'vatre k'va:ter f pl. *a large stubble rake* ← Rom.; **lucerna** || lu'cerna -e f *a forage plant with triple leaves and clusters of small purple flowers, alfalfa (Medicago sativa)* ← G. *Luzerne* ← Fr. *luzerne* ← Lat. *lūcerna*; **mašin** || ma'ši:ɲ -a m 1. *a device for planting*; 2. *a threshing machine* ← G. *Maschine*, Fr. *machine* ← Lat. *māchina* ← OGr.; **sirek** || 'sirek -rka m *a cultivated plant similar to corn (Zea mays) with cyme type inflorescence and tiny seeds, or its seed* ← med. Lat. *syricum*; **traktor** || t'råktor -a m *a motor vehicle used to pull heavy loads, especially farm implements, a tractor* ← G. *Traktor* ← Lat. *tractor*.



A large number of loanwords of Romance origin, especially Latin words and Greek loanwords in Latin, entered the Pannonian vocabulary via the German language. Some of these loanwords can be traced back to Old and Middle High German, for example *korbelj*. From the viewpoint of modern Standard Slovene, such words are marked as neutral, colloquial (*mašin(a)*) or low-colloquial (*kišta*); one word (*freza*) qualifies as a terminological expression.

Two very old Romance loanwords that can be traced back to the Proto-Slavic are *deska* ‘the oblique iron board of a plough for turning and cutting furrows’ and *lagev* ‘a barrel (a utensil for levelling the cut grain stalks to later bind them into sheaves)’.

Five words are borrowed from Hungarian, one of which (*bak*) is of German origin:

**arandaš** || aran'da:š -a m a *tenant* ← Hun. *árendás*; **bak** || 'båk -a m a *sharpening-anvil* ← Hun. *bak* ← G. *Bock*; **fotiv** || 'fotif -va m a *potato tuber that remains in the soil and next year grows into a potato plant* ← Hun. *fattyú*; **rud** || 'ru:t 'ru:da m a *pole on the front part of a cart or plough, over which an animal is harnessed to a vehicle; shaft* ← Hun. *rud*; **telige** || te'lige te'li:k f pl. a *wheelbarrow* ← Hun. *taliga*.

One loanword entered the dialect from English via Standard Slovene (*kombajn*), another was borrowed from the Turkish language via Croatian – *kukorica* ‘an annual plant with a geniculate stem and large corncobs, or its kernels; corn (*Zea mays*)’.

#### 4. Conclusion

New developments and changes in all areas of social life are reflected as a matter of course in the rural environment. Lifestyles are changing rapidly, with repercussions for the vocabulary of each dialect. The Prekmurje dialectal expressions in agriculture and other areas related to rural life still represent a rich stratum of originally Slavic vocabulary.<sup>5</sup> The old Slavic terminology, however, is gradually disappearing from use among the middle generation of speakers (for example, the dialectal expressions for the parts of a wooden cart have almost disappeared from use because draught animals have

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<sup>5</sup> According to the results of this research, loanwords represent over 20 % of vocabulary.

been replaced by tractors) and is practically unknown to the younger generations. Agricultural tools and utensils known for centuries have been replaced by various machines and devices, a phenomenon which leads to the borrowing of vocabulary for denoting them (e.g., *freza*, *kombajn*, *traktor*). Although certain old words like *brana*, *kosa*, or *plug* are still used to designate new devices, they are often replaced by the Slovene equivalents that entered the dialect via the standard language (e.g., *kosilnica*, *obračalnik*, *samonakladalka*). Nevertheless, although the forms and methods of cultivation have changed, the old terminology for farming methods has been preserved.

According to the results of this study, language contact with Hungarian (being of non-Indo-European origin) had less impact on the Prekmurje dialect than German, despite the fact that the Prekmurje region was under Hungarian rule for almost a millennium. Dynamic contact with the German language community has left visible traces in the dialectal vocabulary; via German, many loanwords of Romance origin entered the Pannonian lexicon. While the oldest loanwords of Germanic and Romance origin are no longer perceived as loanwords (e.g., *črešnja*, *deska*, *breskev*), this is not the case with more recent loanwords. Brought into the Pannonian territory by craftsmen, soldiers and pilgrims, such words originated from their journeys across the middle Europe and denoted various tools and professions. Words for cultivated plants and their denotations were borrowed mostly from German, although some of these words were already of Romance origin.

By creating an inventory of the existent and gradually disappearing terminology, we seek to prevent it from falling into oblivion and to stimulate a comparison between terminological vocabulary material of various Slovene dialects. This would allow for a demarcation of the individual lexeme areas and their semantic range, as well as contributing to the realization of the idea of creating discrete Slovene dialectal terminology dictionaries.

### Language abbreviations:

Eng. – English, Aust. – Austrian, Bav. – Bavarian, Ven. – Venetian, Fr. – French, OGr. – Old Greek, Cro. – Croatian, IE. – Indo-European, It. – Italian, Stand. – Standard, Car. – Carinthian, Lat. – Latin, Hun. – Hungarian, G. – German, PGmc. – Proto-Germanic, PS. – Proto-Slavic, Rom. – Romance, Slo. – Slovene, med.Lat. – Medieval Latin, MHG. – Middle High German, O. – Old, OHG. – Old High German, Styr. – Styrian, Turk. – Turkish, Ukr. – Ukrainian, W. – Welsh.

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