

# Rudolf Filipović

† 20/12/2000

## Message 1: Obituary: Rudolf Filipovic

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**From:** Alex Hoyt <ahoyt@ffzg.hr>

**Subject:** Obituary: Rudolf Filipovic

Dr. Rudolf Filipovic, the renowned Croatian linguist, died at the age of 84 on December 20, 2000, after a serious illness lasting less than two months.

With his departure we have not simply lost a retired university professor who had left the stresses of dealing with university lectures, examinations, and administration in order to focus quietly upon his scientific interests, but an active leader and collaborator on several research projects of international significance; director and lecturer in the graduate program in linguistics at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb; and a friend and advisor to his younger colleagues, who could reach him by telephone every day till midnight. When a scholar of that age is respected by his younger colleagues not out of politeness, but for his knowledge and academic experience, it is a true accomplishment. He earned this reputation through hard and responsible work and absolute dedication to the study of the English language, linguistics, and the organization of research activity. For this he was equipped with a sharp mind and excellent physical condition.

Professor Filipovic began his career as a member of the first class of students to study English at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Philosophy. There he received his bachelors degree in English and French. Immediately after WWII, he received a scholarship from the British Council to study in Sheffield and London.

In 1945 he became a lecturer in the English Department at the University of Zagreb. In the following years, Professor Filipovic worked together with his former teacher, Professor Torbarina, to lay down strong foundations for the new Department of English.

In his 1948 doctoral dissertation, Professor Filipovic studied the influence of English literature on nineteenth-century Croatia, a topic which required months of hands-on research in Croatian and British libraries.

For the remainder of his life, Professor Filipovic dedicated himself exclusively to the theoretical and practical study of the English language. Beginning with his English grammar for high school students, he sought to create reference materials to broaden public knowledge of this quickly growing world language:

After the Second World War, English was fast on its way to becoming the most important foreign language in Croatia. In this area, Professor Filipovic was on top of things. He set to work on producing learning materials for speakers of Croatian. He started with what was most needed, a textbook for use in secondary schools, then a grammar of English, and finally his English-Croatian dictionary, the first edition of which came out in 1955. Through more than 20 subsequent editions, this particular work made Filipovic practically a household name in Croatia. Professor Filipovic was not only publishing texts and reference books in those post-war years, but together Professor Torbarina, he was also building up Zagreb University's budding English Department with the primary goal of producing top-grade teachers of English as a foreign language.

At the same time, Filipovic was constantly developing his knowledge in linguistics proper. While studying in the Phonetics Department at University College in London, he had developed a strong interest in phonology and phonetics. Upon his return to Zagreb, he set out to apply his knowledge of English phonetics to help Croatian learners of English. By 1954 he had published *Engleski izgovor* (English pronunciation), a text which aided the English Departments language instructors to produce graduates with a sensitivity towards the specifics of English pronunciation in the years when native speakers were hard to come by. Eventually, Filipovic's practical efforts in teaching the sounds of English to speakers of Croatian gave forth a theoretical result: *The Phonemic Analysis of English Loan-Words in Croatian* (1960). With this book, Filipovic shifted his focus to a new field of interest: contact linguistics.

Over the next forty years Professor Filipovic gained an international reputation for his work in the field of languages in contact. In this field he published three books--*Kontakti jezika u teoriji i praksi* (Language contact in theory and practice, 1970), *Teorija jezika u kontaktu* (The theory of languages in contact, 1986), and *Anglicizmi u hrvatskom ili srpskom jeziku* (Anglicisms in the Croatian or Serbian language, 1990)--and countless articles. His great accomplishment in this area, however, lies in the fact that his international project, the English Element in European Languages, united dozens of English scholars from various countries and has prolific results. This could not have happened were Professor Filipovic not a man of extraordinary organizational capabilities.

Through his early experiences in teaching the differences between Croatian and English pronunciation, Filipovic was led to yet another field of interest: contrastive linguistics. Again, his success in this field was primarily due to his talent in organizing people. He gathered a team of specialists, both scholars of Croatian and of English, who produced dozens of publications focusing on the differences between English and Croatian on all linguistic levels. This endeavor, of course, had a concrete practical goal, to aid in the teaching of English to speakers of Croatian and the teaching of Croatian to speakers of English.

Professor Filipovic's organizational abilities were well-known to everyone he knew, and so he was often called upon for help when some new endeavor was started. Thus he founded or co-founded many language-related journals in Croatia (*Suvremena lingvistika*, *Studia Romanica et Anglica Zagrabiensia*, *Strani jezici*, and *Filologija*, to name a few). On the international level, he served one term as president of the FIPLV and was also president of *Societas Linguistica Europea*.

After becoming an associate (1973) and eventually full member (1979) of

the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts (Today's Croatian Academy), he also served as a member of the institutions administration. Upon his retirement from Zagreb University's English Department, he founded the academy's Linguistic Institute and remained its active director until his death.

But no matter how many projects and other responsibilities he had on his mind, Rudi Filipovic always had the time to talk about personal matters. He was always interested in the private lives of his co-workers and their families, regardless of differences in age or status. His younger colleagues and students are aware of an irreplaceable void now that "Filip" has left us. With him, if we may paraphrase Shakespeare, we have been to a great feast of languages and have gathered a few crumbs.

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## Source: Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts

### Professional Experience

- 1945 - 1950 Assistant lecturer in English, University of Zagreb
- 1950 - 1957 Assistant Professor in English and Linguistics
- 1957 - 1961 Associated Professor in English and Linguistics
- 1961 - 1983 Professor of English and Linguistics
- 1961 - 1983 Chairman of the English Department, University of Zagreb
- 1962 - 1972 Chairman of the Graduate School in Linguistics, University of Zagreb
- 1963 - 1983 Director of the Institute of Linguistics, University of Zagreb
- 1972 - 1974 Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb
- 1968 - 1982 Director of the American-Yugoslav Serbo-Croatian-English Contrastive Project, Institute of Linguistics, University of Zagreb
- 1982- Director of the Project: The English Element in European Languages
- 1973 - 1979 Corresponding member of the Yugoslav Academy of Arts and Sciences in Zagreb
- 1979 - 1985 Full member of the Yugoslav Academy /Croatian Academy/ of Arts and Sciences in Zagreb
- 1978 - 1985 Honorary Secretary of the Philological Section of the Yugoslav /Croatian Academy in Zagreb
- 1985 - 1991 Member of the Presidency of the Yugoslav /Croatian Academy in Zagreb
- 1983- Director of the Linguistic Research Institute of the Yugoslav/Croatian Academy in Zagreb
- 1989- Member of the Academia Europaea
- 1965 - 1968 Vice-President of the Federation International des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (FIPLV)
- 1968 - 1971 President of the FIPLV

- 1971 - 1974 Vice-President of the FIPLV
- 1985- Honorary President of the FIPLV
- 1975 President of SLE (European Linguistic Society)
- 1976 Vice-President of SLE

## **Project: The English Element in European Languages**

The aim of the Project is to analyze the contact of about twenty European languages with English as a donor language. The analysis is based on the principles defined in the author's books:

### **Theory of Languages in Contact (1986)**

and

### **Anglicisms in Croatian: Their Origin, Development and Meaning (1990).**

The analysis of Anglicisms is carried out on four levels: orthographic, phonological, morphological and semantic, covering both types of borrowing: direct and indirect. The adaptation on the phonological level, called transphonemization, follows three types: a) zero transphonemization, b) compromise transphonemization, c) free transphonemization. The adaptation on the morphological level, called transmorphemization, has three degrees: a) zero transmorphemization, b) partial transmorphemization, c) complete transmorphemization. The adaptation on the semantic level is based on a new conceptual and methodologically innovative distinction between primary and secondary adaptation. The new expanded pattern of semantic adaptation has five categories. Three categories belong to primary changes corresponding to the transfer of meaning (from English to the receiving language): 1) zero semantic extension, 2) restriction of meaning in number, 3) restriction of meaning in a semantic field. Two categories belong to secondary changes during which the meaning transferred in primary adaptation is further adapted: 4) expansion of meaning in number, 5) expansion of meaning in a semantic field. The project compiles dictionaries of Anglicisms in the selected twenty European languages in which each Anglicism is analyzed on four levels following the above described principles.

## **Most Significant Publications**

1. English-Croatian Dictionary (first edition) 1955, (22nd edition 1994), Zagreb, Skolska knjiga, 1430 p.
2. The Phonemic Analysis of English Loan-Words in Croatian, Institute of Phonetic, University of Zagreb, 1960, 137 p.
3. Language Contacts in Theory and Practice, Skolska knjiga, Zagreb, 1971, xvi+142 p.
4. Active methods and modern aids in the teaching of foreign languages : papers from the Tenth Congress of the federation Internationale des Professeurs de langues Vivantes / ed. by Rudolf Filipović. London : Oxford University Press , 1972.231 p. (Added by Ana Petracic)

5. English-Croatian Literary Contacts, Liber, Zagreb, 1972, XI+445
6. English Words in European Mouths and Minds, *Folia Linguistica* X, Mouton, 1977, 195-206.
7. Croatian Dialects as Markers of Croatian Ethnicity in the United States, *The Role of Ethnicity in American Society*, University of Zagreb and Commission for Educational Exchanges between the USA and Yugoslavia, 99-108 (1980), Zagreb
8. Transphonemization - Substitution on the Phonological Level Reinterpreted. *Europäische Mehrsprachigkeit*, Niemeyer, Tübingen, 1981, 125-133.
9. Morphological Categories in Linguistic Borrowing, *SRAZ XXVI(1-2)*, 197- 207 (1981), Zagreb
10. Phonologization and Activation of Latent Phonemes in Linguistic Borrowing, *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 12, London, 1982, 36-47.
11. Serbo-Croatian in the United States : Croatian Dialects in Contact with American English, *The Slavic Languages in Emigre Communities*, 23-31 (1982), Carbondale-Edmonton
12. Some Basic Methodological Questions of Contrastive Analysis, *Linguistica Contrastiva*, SLI 20, 3-16 (1982), Roma
13. An Etymological Dictionary of Anglicisms in European Languages, *Theory, Methods and Models of Contact Linguistics*, 59-68 (1983), Bonn
14. Can a Dictionary of -isms Be an Etymological Dictionary, *LEXeter'83 PROCEEDINGS*, 73-79 (1984), Tübingen
15. What are the Primary Data for Contrastive Analysis? *Contrastive Linguistics - Prospects and Problems*, 107-117 (1984), The Hague
16. Croatian Dialects in the United States: Sociolinguistic Aspects. *Folia Slavica* 6, Columbus, Ohio 1984, 278-292.
17. The Yugoslav Serbo-Croatian-English Contrastive Project : Theoretical and Methodological Considerations, *Chapters in Serbo-Croatian English Contrastive Grammar*, Rudolf Filipovic (ed.), Zagreb 1985, 9-36.
18. Pseudoanglicisms - a Sociolinguistic Analysis, *Festschrift für Werner Winter*, *Studia Linguistica Diachronica et Synchronica*, 249-255 (1985), Berlin
19. A Theory of Languages in Contact, Yugoslav Academy; *Skolska knjiga*, Zagreb 1986, 324 p.
20. Croatian Surnames in the Process of Dialect-Shift and Dialect-Maintenance, *Festschrift für Els Oksaar*, *Spracherwerb und Mehrsprachigkeit. Language Acquisition and Multilingualism*, 161-171 (1986), Tübingen
21. Research Guidelines for Analysing Anglicisms in Serbo-Croatian, *English in Contact with Other Languages*, *Akademiai Kiado*, 333-343 (1986), Budapest
22. Some Contributions to the Theory of Contact Linguistics, *Yugoslav General Linguistics*, 47-71 (1989), Amsterdam/Philadelphia
23. Anglicisms in Croatian or Serbian: Origin - Development - Meaning, Yugoslav Academy; *Skolska knjiga*, Zagreb 1990, 336 p.
24. Secondary Anglicisms in a Dictionary of Anglicisms in Serbo-Croatian, *The Bell of Freedom, Essays presented to Monica Partridge on the Occasion of her 75th Birthday*, 1-11 (1990), Nottingham

25. Morphological Variants in the Dictionary of Anglicisms in Croatian or Serbian, *Croatica - Slavica - Indoeuropaea*, Wiener Slavistisches Jahrbuch, Ergänzungsband VIII, 35-42 (1990), Wien.
26. Direct Language Contacts in Croatian Dialects in the USA, *Senjski zbornik* 18, Senj 1991, 31-41.
27. Croatian Dialects as Markers of Croatian Ethnicity in the United States, *Dubrovnik* 5, Dubrovnik 1992, 185-193.
28. How Have Croatian Americans Preserved Their Mother Tongue, *Susret svjetova, Hrvati i Amerike*. Zagreb 1992, 159-167
29. Metonymy in the Function of the Formation of Anglicisms in European Languages, *Suvremena lingvistika* 34, Zagreb 1992.