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“Contested Registers in Serbian in the Late 18th and Early 19th Centuries: The Case of Avram Mrazović”

Avram Mrazović (1756–1826) was one of the most prominent pedagogues among Serbs in the 18th and 19th centuries. His contributions to the field of education, particularly through his handbooks, were instrumental in shaping Serbian language policy during that era. In the context of the tumultuous period preceding Karadžić's language reform, Mrazović employed a range of linguistic registers, adapting his style to suit the specific content of each publication. Mrazović's idiolect has been the subject of discussion and analysis by numerous scholars, including Kostić (1952), Albijanić (1970), Xruščeva (2003), and Stefanović (2007), among others. Nevertheless, previous works on Mrazović have not sufficiently addressed the issue of stylistic variation within his oeuvre. This is even though Mrazović himself acknowledged the importance of style in his writings. Therefore, this study will analyze Mrazović's idiolect in his publications and will also attempt to identify the underlying sociolinguistic and linguistic ideologies that may have motivated him to alter his stylistic approach.